



**Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw**

Squamish Nation

## **Message to Community – St. Paul's Residential School Monument Removal & Repair**

March 16, 2022

Like many of you, we were dismayed and disappointed to see the vandalism of our monument that honours the victims and survivors of the St. Paul's Residential School. The memorial at the intersection of Forbes and Sixth Street has stood for six years and is a place Nation Members could go and reflect. The damage done was upsetting to many of our Nation Members and opened old wounds for survivors and their families.

Today, we would like to inform you that the monument will be repaired by the original artist and St. Paul's survivor Jason Nahanee. On Saturday March 19, the two figures on the monument will be removed, leaving only the supporting pole and base, while they are refurbished. The centre beam and base will be cleaned and repainted. Once Jason has the two figures in his workshop, he will focus on replacing the arm severed by vandals. To do this, Jason will make all efforts to find cedar wood that closely matches the original arm. Most importantly, he hopes to carve a new arm that is as close as possible to the existing arm on the figure.

This is sacred work on behalf of our Nation, the victims, survivors, and their families. We know Jason will do his utmost to repair the damage and return the monument to its rightful place. We know this will take time, but we hope to have the repaired figures back in place in the next four weeks. We want to thank Jason as he takes on this repair.

We also want to thank you, our Members, for your patience as we discussed this repair. We know this has been difficult and hope that the refurbished memorial will once again be a place of peace and reflection.

Chet wanáxwstúmi (respectfully),

Council Spokespersons

Syexwáliya, Ann Whonnock and Sxwíxwtn, Wilson Williams