



# Squamish Nation Housing Allocations Policy Engagement

Ta na wa Shéway I7xw ta Úxwumixw (Planning & Capital Projects) and Wa Ns7eyx ta Temíxw (Community Lands) are working to create a standalone Allocations policy. Between May 22 and June 20, 2024, we invited Squamish People to engage on how we could make improvements in three key areas: **clarity, transparency, and consistency** when it comes to lot and home allocations. We asked about changes to both the policy and the process of allocations. This document presents a summary of key takeaways from this engagement that will be used to identify policy and process improvements.

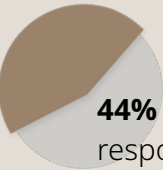
A second round of engagement will be held in late July to share what we heard from community members and proposed updates to the Allocations Policy.

## Engagement at a Glance

Social Media Posts	Website Updates	Newsletters	Background Review	Community Survey	Focus Groups	Pop-up Booth	Housing Policy Community Working Group
Posted 3 updates on the Squamish Nation Facebook page.	Posted 3 updates with project-specific information.	Promoted the engagement process through a paper and online newsletter.	Reviewed <i>Housing Policy Engagement Report</i> and <i>Decolonizing Gender &amp; Sexuality: Recommendations for Greater Inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ Members of the Squamish Nation</i> .	Hosted a survey which gathered feedback from 250 respondents.	Facilitated in-depth discussions at 4 focus groups with a total of 15 attendees.	Joined Indigenous People's day celebrations to raise awareness for the community survey.	Ongoing advisory committee of Squamish People dedicated to Housing Policy updates.
INFORMED			REVIEWED	ENGAGED			

# Key Takeaways from all Engagement Methods

## Improving Clarity



**44%** of survey respondents felt that the Allocations Policy and process were not clear and easy to understand.

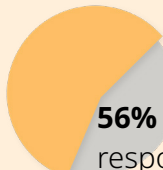
### Key Issues

- **Lack of clarity about how Housing List categories work**
  - How is eligibility determined?
  - Why are allocations distributed as they are?
  - What happens to someone's position if they change categories? How does that affect other applicants?
  - Can a spot on the Housing List be inherited?
- **More information needed about eligibility to apply for the Housing List**
  - Are Squamish People with disabilities eligible to apply for the Housing List?
  - Are Squamish People who are also American citizens eligible to apply for the Housing List?

### Opportunities

- Bring the Housing List to the current year
- Create a visual summary booklet that explains the policy and process
- Improve communications about the Housing List, Allocations Policy, and lot and home allocations

## Improving Transparency



**56%** of survey respondents felt that the Allocation Policy and process were not transparent.

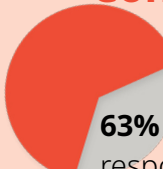
### Key Issues

- Housing List is out of date and does not include all applicants
- Lack of regular updates on the Housing List and allocations
- Poor communication in the past around applications and changes to the Housing List
- Lack of transparency in the past about how the Housing List is maintained and how allocations are made
- Women affected by Bill C-31 have a later application date than they would have if they had been able to retain their Membership
- Some people report being improperly removed from the Housing List

### Opportunities

- Better communication and information sharing, regular communications about the Housing List and upcoming allocations, confirming receipt of new applications, confirming any changes to an applicant's information, more publicly available information (videos, website content, information sessions)
- Opportunity to address past issues, such as a process of appeal

## Improving Consistency



**63%** of survey respondents felt the Allocations Policy and process were not consistent.

### Key Issues

- Some past decisions have been inconsistent with policy, creating concerns about favouritism and improper allocations decisions
- Inconsistent information and communications, e.g., Housing List not published annually, different information provided by different representatives of Squamish Nation

### Opportunities

- Publish the Housing List every year by a certain date
- Create a guide or a flowchart for Council and Staff to use during an allocation to support consistent allocations decisions
- Consistent application of eligibility criteria (no special cases or exceptions)
- Regular and improved communication to Squamish People with a focus on accuracy and consistency