



# Squamish Nation Housing Allocations Policy

## Round 2 Engagement

Ta na wa Shéway I7x̌ w ta Úxwumixw (Planning & Capital Projects) and Wa s7eyx̌ ta Temíxw (Community Lands) are working to create a standalone Allocations policy. Between May 22 and June 20, 2024, we invited Squamish People to provide feedback on what a clear, transparent, and consistent policy and process would look like for the community. A summary from round one can be found here: <https://www.squamish.net/community-initiatives/housing-policy-engagement/>

**Round 2 Engagement** was held between July 20 and August 12, 2024, to share findings from Round 1 Engagement and to understand the level of support for the recommendations that were developed to improve the Allocations Policy and process. The recommendations are listed below.

## Engagement at a Glance

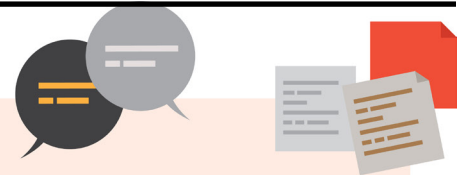
### Community Survey

Hosted a survey which gathered feedback from 97 respondents.



### Pop-up Booths

Held pop-up events at Amalgamation Day and Distribution Cheque Day to share information about the proposed policy changes and promote the survey.



## Key Takeaways

**86%** of survey respondents agreed that the recommendations will help improve clarity, consistency, and transparency.

(7% neither agree nor disagree; 6% disagree)

### Respondents were supportive of:

- Publishing the Housing List and updating it regularly
- Providing Squamish People with more reminders to update their information on the List
- Clarifying the policies and procedures for staff and Squamish People

### Respondents were concerned about:

- The circumstances for being removed from the List (being gifted homes)
- Slow responses to housing inquiries and long housing waitlists

Round 2 Engagement invited Squamish People to share their feedback on the following policy recommendations:

## Improving Clarity

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### Recommendation #1

Update the Allocations Policy to make it clear that allocations are not done annually. Rather, allocations will be considered for approval during the annual budgeting process.

### Recommendation #2

Update the Housing List from the fiscal year of the previous allocation to the present year to eliminate multiple lists and reflect people's current circumstances.

### Recommendation #3

At least annually, remind applicants to update their information. Update the policy to specify the date that updates must be made to reflect accurately on the next publication of the Housing List.

## Improving Transparency

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### Recommendation #4

Publish the Housing List annually by a date specified in the policy.

### Recommendation #5

Create an ongoing communications plan for informing Squamish People about the Housing List, the process for allocations, and information on whether an allocation will take place that year.

## Improving Consistency

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### Recommendation #6

Require everyone to be transferred automatically to the Pensioner category once they turn 65.

### Recommendation #7

Update Housing List eligibility so that a person is removed from the Housing List if they are gifted a house.

### Recommendation #8

Update the policy so that if someone who has inherited a home is also given an allocation, the Nation will select from the following two options based on the condition of the existing home:

1. Build the new home on the existing lot
2. Transfer the existing lot to a family member who will live in the home, and then select a new lot for their allocation

### Recommendation #9

Update verification requirements to require either a marriage license or at least one joint tax filing for people to be in the married/common-law category. Some people in marriage-like relationships may not be able to provide these documents for legitimate reasons. We are working internally to identify alternative methods of verification.

### Recommendation #10

Update the definition of Single Parent to allow people to be in the single parent category regardless of the age of their child or whether the child lives with them.