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## Re: Council Declaration of State of Emergency – Toxic Drug Crisis

Dear Squamish Nation Members,

On behalf of Squamish Nation Council, we are writing with heavy hearts. In recent weeks and months, our community has suffered profound losses to the toxic drug crisis. These losses touch every family, every neighbourhood, and every part of our Nation. We hold our hands up to all families and loved ones who are grieving. We grieve with you.

Our people have carried too many losses for too long. Council acknowledges the deep pain felt across the Nation, and we extend our prayers, strength and compassion to all who are hurting. Therefore, after careful discussion, listening to community concerns and receiving recommendations from staff and health experts, Council has passed a Resolution (BCR) declaring a **Local State of Emergency** in response to the toxic drug crisis. A copy of the BCR is attached for your information.

This State of Emergency is an urgent call to action. It reflects our responsibility to protect the safety, health, and well-being of our people. Key components of this emergency response include:

- Strengthening measures to address drug trafficking and unsafe activity on-reserve.
- Enforcing tenancy and safety standards, including eviction processes for individuals who engage in dangerous or criminal activity that puts community members at risk.
- Establishing a **Task Force made up of Squamish Nation Administration, Council, and community members** to plan culturally grounded, land-based healing and treatment options.
- Collaborating with external partners to address safety, prevention, and recovery supports.

We want to be clear: This State of Emergency is about protecting the vulnerable, promoting healing, and taking decisive action to prevent further harm. Our approach will remain grounded in Skwxwú7mesh values, culture, and teachings of respect, balance, and collective care. All actions will follow trauma-informed principles, cultural protocol, and the guidance from community knowledge keepers and frontline workers. We want to emphasize that **support is available**. No one should walk this path alone. If you or someone you love is struggling, please connect with the Nation's Health & Wellness team: [Health&Wellness-toxic-drug-crisis](#) They are here to help with counselling, harm reduction, family supports, and connections to treatment options.

As we move forward, we ask for your compassion, your courage, and your unity. This crisis affects us all, and we will only overcome it together — with honesty, care, and connection grounded in who we are as Skwxwú7mesh People.

With respect, care, and solidarity,

**Squamish Nation Council**