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Our Ways of Education

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

These frequently asked questions were received from Squamish People and community through engagement throughout 2024 and 2025. With the help of the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), subject matter experts, and those supporting this initiative, we have provided the best available responses.

1. Are interviews and surveys still happening?

- No. **All interviews and the community survey have now been completed.**
- We may follow up with:
 - Another short online survey.
 - A few additional questions, if needed for clarity.
- This would only be to help strengthen what we already heard from the community.

2. What is happening with the information people shared?

- All interview and survey information is now in the data analysis phase.
- The results will be:
 - **Reported back to community in April, 2026.**
 - Shared with North Vancouver and Squamish Valley community, elders, Council.
- These report-back sessions are being scheduled now.

3. What are the Expert Circles and who is involved?

- Expert Circles are the next phase of the process. They will include both:
 - Knowledge Keepers, such as Weavers, Hunters, Fisherman, Gathers, Medicine Knowledge Holders.
 - Education Experts, such as Teachers, School leaders, Education specialists, policy and curriculum experts.
- These circles will:
 - Review the community engagement data.
 - Reflect on what was shared.
 - Provide further guidance to help shape the Education Law.

4. Will regular community members still be able to share input?

- Yes. In addition to the Expert Circles, we will also offer:
 - Community circles in both North Vancouver and Squamish Valley.
 - These will be open to any community member who wants to add further input.
- This is for those who may:
 - Have more to share.
 - Thought of something after the interviews.
 - Or want to deepen what was already discussed.



5. What happens after the circles are finished?

- What we hear through:
 - Interviews.
 - Surveys.
 - Knowledge Keeper circles.
 - Education Expert circles.
 - Open community circles.
- Will all come together to:
 - Guide the first draft of the Education Law.
 - Shape priorities around language, culture, inclusive education, and academics.

6. Will the community get to see the Education Law before it is voted on?

- Yes. Before any vote a draft Education Law will come back to the community.
- Members will have time to:
 - Read it.
 - Ask questions.
 - Share feedback.
 - Suggest changes.
- Only after that process will the referendum move forward.

7. How can I stay involved or share more thoughts?

- You can:
 - Attend upcoming community report-back sessions.
 - Join open community circles when they are announced.
 - Follow updates online.
 - Or email your thoughts at any time: reclaiming.education@squamish.net.

8. Why is this process taking time?

- This work is being done carefully and in the right order:
 - Community voices first.
 - Data analyzed.
 - Knowledge Keepers and Education Experts reflect on what was shared.
 - Community offered another chance to add input.
 - Education Law drafted.
 - Community reviews the draft.