



Syétsem tl'a Sxexelhnát

News of the Week

Monday, August 24, 2026





A Call to Community Members

Join the Squamish Nation Membership Committee

We are inviting Community members to bring their heart, knowledge, and dedication to the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Membership Committee. This committee plays a vital role in carrying out necessary, respectful work related to Membership and our Membership Code, ensuring our Community remains strong, connected, and grounded in our values.

We are seeking those who bring knowledge, experience, or a strong interest in:

- Culture & Traditions: Squamish Nation history, laws, customs, language, and active participation in cultural and community life.
- Connection to Land & Ancestry: A deep understanding of family ties to the traditional lands of the Nation.
- Community Engagement: Active involvement and care for our people, whether you reside in community or away from home.

Honouring Our Elders

Our Elders hold invaluable wisdom and perspective. Elders are strongly encouraged to apply, and priority for Elder appointments will be given in the following order:

- 65 years of age and older
- 60 to 64 years of age
- 55 to 59 years of age

Serving on the Membership Committee is a meaningful opportunity to contribute your lived experience and Community perspective to a remarkable Nation responsibility.

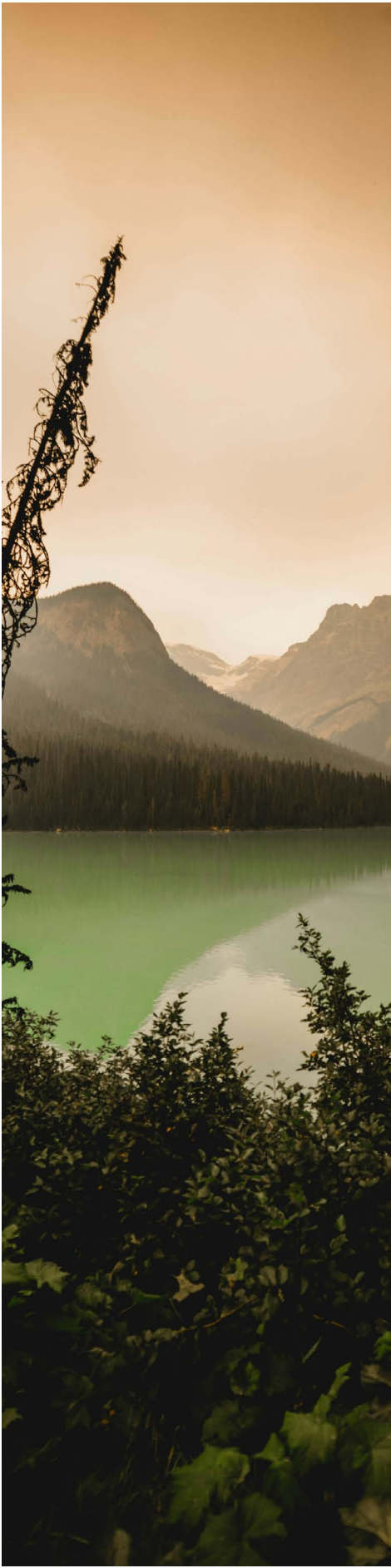
How to Apply

Please submit your Expression of Interest by email to: EOI@squamish.net

➤ **Deadline for applications: September 8, 2026**

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eskéxw chat mi háhalhi7

(We Gather to Heal)

In honour of International Overdose Awareness Day, Yúustway will be hosting 'eskéxw chat mi háhalhi7' (We Gather to Heal), an intimate event featuring speaker Guy Felicella, drum painting, and a screening of the documentary 'Crazywater'.

Open to anyone who has been affected by the toxic drug crisis or touched by addiction and overdose, this is an opportunity for people to grieve and connect in a safe space.

WHEN: Friday, August 28 | 4 – 7 pm

WHERE: Capilano Field

Brushing off will be offered throughout the event, and drums will be provided.

For any questions, contact Yúustway at:
wellness@squamish.net, or
604-982-7835



DEADLINE: AUGUST 31ST, 2026

Disabilities Survey

Squamish Nation is conducting a Disabilities Review Survey to better understand the experiences, needs, and priorities of Skwxwú7mesh Stélmexw (Squamish Peoples) living with disabilities, as well as their families and caregivers.

Your Feedback Matters

Whether you are currently accessing services or have experienced challenges finding the supports you need, your experience matters. Your feedback will help identify:

- Gaps and barriers in accessing services
- Unmet needs and challenges faced by individuals and families
- Priorities for future disability-related supports
- Opportunities to improve programs and services across Nation departments

The survey findings will help inform a Squamish Nation Disabilities Action Plan and guide future service planning and improvements across our community.

Complete the Disabilities Review Survey for your chance to win 1 of 10 \$100 Save-On Foods gift cards!

Scan the QR code to learn more





HELP INFORM THE NATION

Childcare Survey

Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw wants to hear from its People about their childcare needs, and how we can best support our families and children.

Survey results will guide the development of childcare spaces in Squamish Valley and North Vancouver and inform the Nation on how to improve our childcare services.

The survey takes around 15 minutes to complete. All responses and information gathered are confidential.

Optional: Enter your name and contact information after the survey to enter to win one of five \$100 Save On gift cards.

Contact

 778-885-9326

 Isabelle_Espanol@squamish.net



Scan to complete the survey



Caring for Ménmen Art Circle

Join other Skwxwú7mesh caregivers at the North Vancouver Caring for Ménmen monthly Art Circle and talk about your struggles, joys and experiences in caring for Ménmen.

We will explore our relationship to young ones through art, movement and connection.

Facilitated with Elder support, and open to anyone in a caring role. A meal will be provided and childminding available.

WHEN: 1st Tuesday of the month | 10 am – 3 pm

WHERE: Unit 1A, 380 Welch St

Registration required. Scan the QR Code to register



Questions? Contact Sharon Barnes at Sharon_Barnes@squamish.net or call to 604-762-7071



Sequiliem, Master Artist

The story of Stan's Thunderbird

Council recently resolved to incorporate the Thunderbird as a key graphic emblem in Nation work.

The Thunderbird emblem is beloved by the Skwxwú7mesh People. The Thunderbird icon can be seen on Squamish Nation materials, the doors, floors, and walls of its meeting spaces and workplaces. It's tattooed on Skwxwú7mesh bodies young and old.

Recently, the Nation's Nexwsyétsem (Communications & Engagement) team spoke with the Thunderbird's creator, the master artist Sequiliem, Stan Joseph Jr.



Stan Joseph Jr. at CJMC, holding his original drawing of the Thunderbird

Stan, born in 1950, lives on Xwemelch'stn (Capilano Reserve), where he's spent most of his life. A survivor of residential schools, Stan started carving at 12 years old, learning from legendary Haida artists such as Bill Reid and Kwakwaka'wakw carver Tony Hunt Sr. He also learned painting and dancing, becoming deeply skilled at Spirit dancing, specifically the dances of the Eagle and Snake. Stan's art can be seen prominently throughout the Lower Mainland, such as the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Welcome Figure in Ambleside Park (raised in 2001 and restored in 2023) as well as the poles outside the Chief Joe Mathias Centre.

For many, however, Stan is best known as the creator of the Thunderbird emblem. Our current Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw (Chairperson

& Council) recently voted to incorporate the Thunderbird element as a key part in the Nation's branding.

Stan shared the history of the Thunderbird and its use by Squamish Nation Administration. He was asked to design a logo for the Nation back in 1973, by then Chief Khot-La-Cha, Simon Baker, who was also the band manager at the time. Simon walked into the offices of the Nation's Ta7lnewás (Education) Department where Stan was working and asked for a logo because the Nation didn't have one yet. Stan says, "Uncle Si asked me to design a logo that would represent the People and protect the People; past, present, and future."

Stan says he accepted the assignment and chose the Thunderbird because he grew up with the "old-timers" such as Xats'alanexw, August Jack Khatsahlano, Chief Joe Mathias, and Tsee-Qawl-tuhn, Chief Dominic Charlie. These Skwxwú7mesh Elders would regale young Stan with legends, and one of the main legends was about the Thunderbird.

Stan specifically remembers Chief Joe Mathias telling him that the Thunderbird was the Creator's Messenger, sharing gifts of knowledge with the Skwxwú7mesh People, on how to survive. Stan says this oral history dates to when the Skwxwú7mesh were living in caves and the Thunderbird shared wisdom and teachings on how to use the cedar tree, and what plants and animals would heal and feed the People.

Stan's version of the Thunderbird has three distinct tail feathers. One feather represents the past, another the present, and the third represents the future. In the bird's claws, there is a lizard. As Stan explained, the lizard was burnt and mixed with tumuth, derived from cedar, and then ingested before dancing for incredible strength. By incorporating the lizard into the design, Stan was conveying that the Nation must remember its power.

Stan shared his concerns about the Thunderbird emblem changing. Stan says, "Artists nowadays who don't really know what the Thunderbird is want to change it. But they can't change it, because it's power to the People. And that's the reason. And it was given to me by the Old Timers, the story of it. So, if they change it, it's going to disrupt a lot of our People and a lot of our spiritual ways."

The Thunderbird will become more prominent in Skwxwú7mesh branding and reproduced clearly,

with visible detail and not resized too small. The current Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw logo is distinct from the Thunderbird. The logo was created in a design process in 2019 by Nicole Bonnie Retief working for the design firm hcma. The work to create the logo saw intensive input from Community and was done in conjunction with the creation of a style guide, so the Nation could communicate its identity consistently across – back then, 11 departments – and various communication channels.

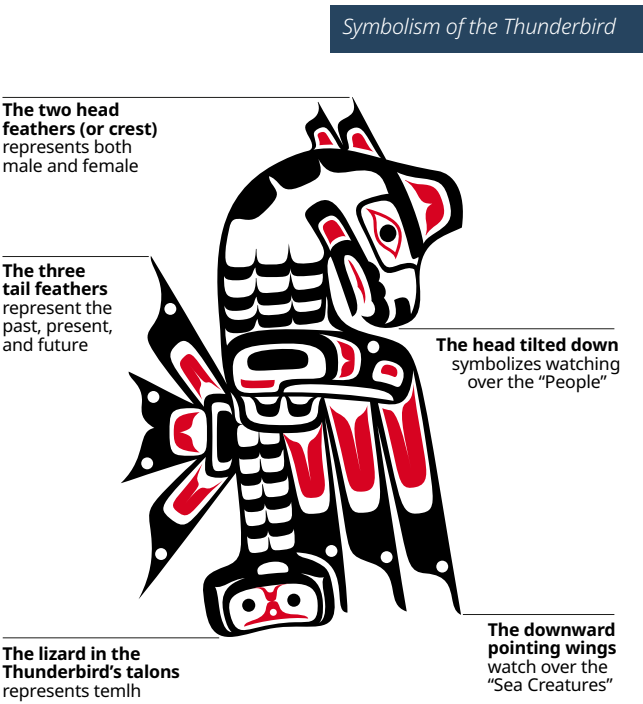
Stan says he wasn't consulted for the logo design. At its smaller size he says it, "takes power away from the People." However, he says he recognizes that the Thunderbird is difficult to see at small sizes, such as is needed in administration, as it becomes a blur.

On the Thunderbird, one feather represents the past, another the present and the third the future.

Stan, who educated Skwxwú7mesh youth through his time working in the Ta7lnewás (Education) Department, and as a mentor to the next generation of artists and dancers, has spent decades imparting wisdom and learnings to all ages of Skwxwú7mesh People.

As recognition of Stan's many contributions to his People, his teachings, his mentoring, and his art, the Nation honoured him with a blanketing ceremony during this year's Amalgamation Day, on July 23 at Chief Joe Mathias Centre.

Council Chairperson Sxwíxwtn, Wilson Williams, brought Stan to the stage at the 103rd edition of Amalgamation Day. In front of the crowd gathered for the special occasion, Stan was blanketed in



ceremony, the Nation's traditional gesture of respect and protection.

As the Thunderbird protects the Nation, so the Nation protected and honoured Stan with his blanketing ceremony.

Stan's creation, skillfully drawn more than 50 years ago, will continue to represent, protect and empower Squamish People.



Stan during his blanketing ceremony at this year's Amalgamation Day.

The power of Temlh on the Thunderbird

The colour red in Stan's Thunderbird represents Temlh, also known as tumulth.

According to the Nation's Archaeology Team manager, "Temlh is usually made from red clay ground down into powder, or sometimes red cedar bark." It can be painted onto bodies or faces, or it can be ingested.

Stan remembers hearing from Elders about a version of Temlh which included the charred remains of a local lizard, which he depicted in the claws of the Thunderbird.

Stan says, "The old timers would get them (lizards) in the mountains, and they would mix it in with their Temlh, which would give them a lot of power, a lot of power. It was like they could fly when they danced."

The choice to include the colour of Temlh was another element of protection Stan incorporated into the design of the Thunderbird. He says, "Temlh was our protection from any evil spirits or anybody that wanted to hurt us physically or mentally. So, this is why I designed it this way. Those stories that my grand uncles told me came back to me because I learned. I learned those stories from them when I was about 10 or 12-years-old and never forgot them."



Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw
Squamish Nation

Chet wa í7sun
We Pull Together

Elders Program Plan
Implementation Project

You're Invited!

4TH ANNUAL ELDERS OPEN HOUSE

Connecting, Sharing and Learning Together!

This day is an opportunity to come together as Ta Síiyuxwa t'l'a Skwxwú7meshulh the Elders of the Squamish People.

The day will include feast and refreshments, cedar brushing, and booths hosted by Squamish Nation Departments and partners where you can learn about supports for Elders.

Wednesday, September 16, 2026
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Totem Hall
1380 Stawamus Rd, Squamish BC

All Squamish Elders (aged 55+) are invited to attend! Elders are encouraged to bring one young person to the event.



Please let us know at eldersproject@squamish.net or **604-987-4646** if you require transportation support to and/or from the event

Huy chexw a
to our generous funders:



**Skwxwú7mesh
Úxwumixw**



**Vancouver
CoastalHealth**



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Sts'its'áp'newas
Employment & Future Skills
Stitsma Career Centre

Stitsma Career Centre
Eslha7an Centre, 345 5th St W, North Vancouver

YOUNG ADULT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

FOR SQUAMISH NATION INCOME
ASSISTANCE CLIENTS ONLY

September 14 - 18, 2026
8:30 AM–4:30 PM

*Hosted by Stitsma Career Centre in
partnership with Bungalow 968*

Ages: 19 - 30

Workshops:

- Food Safe
- First Aid
- Resume & cover letter writing
- Site visits

What is included:

- \$75/day incentives
- Lunch
- \$200 BONUS for participation & perfect attendance

Why participate?

Build real-world skills in a supportive, empowering environment.

Contact us at the phone number or email below to register

Deadline: September 4, 2026

15 spots available!



Empower Your Future with Stitsma Career Centre

Career Services

- Resume Building
- Cover Letter Writing
- Tips on Interviewing
- Career Counseling
- Work Gear
- Job Searching
- Youth Programs



Visit our Facebook page

☎ **604-985-7711**

✉ **Trevor_Billy@squamish.net**

Seeking Applications for Hiýám Housing Board of Directors

Housing is one of the most significant priorities facing Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw today. Through strategic planning, strong governance, and community-focused leadership, Hiýám Housing is helping create safe, affordable, and sustainable housing opportunities for current and future generations.

Board Directors play an important role in guiding the organization's vision, ensuring accountability, and supporting long-term success.

We encourage individuals with diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences to apply.

This call out is to fill three Director seats on the Board (voluntary positions). At least one Director seat must be filled by a Squamish Person. External applicants who feel they align with the Squamish Nation's housing goals are also encouraged to apply.

- **The deadline for applications is September 18, 2026, at 4 p.m.**
- **To learn more about the requirements and how to apply, please scan the QR code.**



Seńákw Updates

As sménhem, Tower Two, prepares for residents, the vision of Seńákw -- returning Skwxwú7mesh People to our ancestral village -- grows stronger.

More Skwxwú7mesh People will be able to once again call Seńákw home when Tower Two opens its doors to residents this fall.

We have several milestones to celebrate with Community, including:

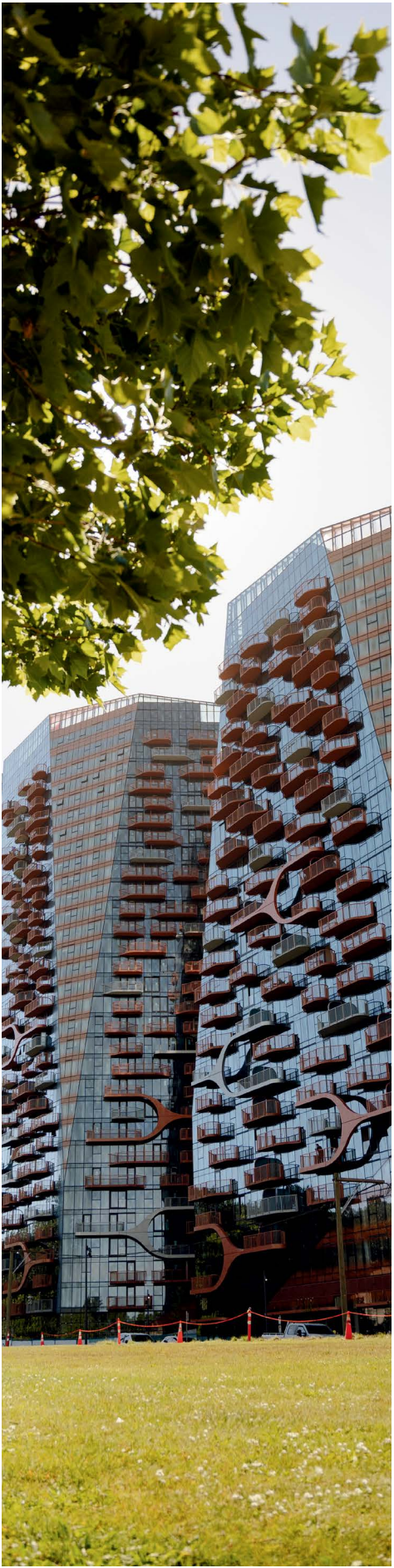
- **Tower One is more than 50 per cent leased, with 165 households already settled in. A majority of residents are Indigenous, reflecting the vision that has guided this project from the beginning.**
- **Tower Two move-ins are expected to begin this fall**
- **Seńákw's Welcome Centre is now open six days a week**
- **Vancity is welcomed as Seńákw's first commercial tenant**

The details on Hiýám Housing's application process for Tower Two will be released shortly.

A Hiýám Housing Navigator can answer any further questions you may have about the application process or eligibility and can be reached at 604-210-9126, or at navigator@hiyamhousing.com.

For more information on living at Seńákw: Senakw.com

Nch'kay guides the leasing and rental processes for Seńákw. Leasing for Tower Two is expected to begin once Tower One reaches approximately 70 per cent occupancy. Skwxwú7mesh People and Indigenous applicants will continue to receive priority access.





NEW EDITION

CJMC 2026 Fall Program Guide

The **2026 CJMC Fall Program Guide**
(September - December) is now available.

All the programs at Chief Joe Mathias
Centre are **free of charge** for Squamish
People and Community.

If you don't have your printed version,
scan the QR code below for the online
copy.



← **Scan me**

 squamish.net/CJMCrecreation



New Job Postings

Squamish Nation

- Special Projects Intern**
Temporary Full-Time | Xetxítayus Ch'áwch'aw
Corporate Services | North Vancouver, BC
- Practice Lead, Clinic Operations**
Permanent Full-Time | Yúustway Health &
Wellness | North Vancouver, BC
- Payroll Specialist**
Permanent Full-Time | Estxwáyusem Finance |
North Vancouver, BC
- Driver**
Casual | Ta na wa Ch'awát ta Sxwéxwel
Squamish Valley Operations | Squamish
Valley, BC
- Membership Driver**
Permanent Full-Time | Ta na wa Ch'awát ta
Sxwéxwel Squamish Valley Operations |
Squamish Valley, BC
- Senior Language Teacher**
Permanent Full-Time | Ta na wa Ns7éyxnitm ta
Snewiyálh Language & Cultural Affairs | North
Vancouver, BC

Hiyám Housing

- Director of Planning and Development**
Full-Time | North Vancouver, BC
- Kitchen Coordinator**
Full-Time | Estítkw Place | North Vancouver, BC
- Tenant Support Worker**
Casual | Estítkw Place | North Vancouver, BC
- Tenant Support Worker**
Full-Time/Part-Time/Permanent/Term |
Eskéxwi7ch t'l'a Sp'ákw'us Place (the gathering
place of eagles) | Squamish, BC

hiyamhousing.com/career-opportunities

Develop your career with the Nation

Questions? Need help applying? 604-985-8335 | careers@squamish.net

Ché́chenstway (Human Resources) connects with all Squamish People who apply
for positions with Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw. We look forward to receiving your
application and supporting your professional growth with the Nation.

squamish.net/careers

W
C O R N E R
R
D

PUZZLE PAGE IS BACK

SUDOKU

Easy

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Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw
Squamish Nation