

Secwépemc Elders Council

May 30, 2019

SECWEPEMCÚLECW



On May 30, 2019 the Elders Council Meeting was held and hosted by Bonaparte. There were approximately 30 elders, elders support and staff in attendance who participated in the meeting. 9 campfires of Secwépemcul'ecw were represented:

- Bonaparte
- Skwlax
- Neskonlith
- Splotsin
- Kinbasket
- Esketemc
- Simpcw
- Little Shuswap
- Adams Lake

Co-Chairs

Started off the meeting with a morning prayer and round table of introductions

Welcome to Territory

Bonaparte Indian Band welcomes Secwepemc Elders to their territory and then shares a presentation on their land use.

Letter to Tribal Council of Chiefs

Secwépemc Elders Co-chair speaks on the Letter to the Council of Chiefs, that will be presented at the next Chiefs Meeting on June 5, 2019. Regarding the Letter of Commitment with the Ministers of Indigenous Relation and Reconciliation and Environment and Climate Change Strategy, signed with Leaders of the 7 bands. (SNTC was not involved with this LOC, just the 7 bands). Elders Council would like the Council of Chiefs to explain the signed agreement so there is a better understanding.

SNTC Elders Council Secwepemc Name

We should be looking for a meaningful name Secwepemcúlcw Elders Council. Please send your name suggestion to Lois Paul govcoordinator@shuswapnation.org

War & Peace Chief, Alexis Harry, Esketemc Nation

I was chosen by the clan mothers and grandmothers, through my blood line. I was taught that if you protect the salmon, you protect the Secwepemc. Protecting the salmon, means we protect the water. Our systems run from the women; the women are the power. I teach our warriors, listen to what the grandmothers have to say. We have family reps, youth reps, that system works for us. I would say 25 years, it was in the talks to follow Traditional Hereditary Governance, but I think it goes back further than that. I follow protocol, I go to the grandmothers for guidance. I went to ask the grandmothers before I came here, they gave me permission to be here. The laws of the land go deeper than the land, law of the universe, law of the moon, law of the sun.

Stk'emplupsemc te Secwepemc Nation

Elders Council would like to invite Stk'emplupsemc te Secwepemc Nation to share with us a presentation on there Aboriginal Rights and Title on their Territory.

Columbia River Treaty

Canada has granted Indigenous Nations Observer Status at the next round of negotiations in Washington D.C. on June 19 and 20, 2019. Main areas of discussions are power generation and flood control. The initial Treaty did not recognize the Aboriginal Rights and Title of the Secwepemc, nor decisions on lands and resources. It is of most importance that the Secwepemc Nation understand the Treaty, participate, and help coordinate us as a Nation. The other Nations (Syilx, Ktunaxa) seem to be organized and have the manpower to fulfill much of the required tasks, such as sharing knowledge pertaining to the Columbia River and its impacts.

A Salmon Ceremony is taking place in Castlegar BC Monday June 24, 2019. It is important to have Secwepemc Spiritual Leaders and Knowledge Keepers in attendance as there will be presence by the other two Nations.

Next Elders Council: June 27, 2019

Hosted by: Adams Lake Indian Band - Adams Lake Gym, 6349 Chief Jules, Adams Lake IB, Chase BC



*About the
Secwepemc Elders Council*

Me7 T'ekstém (*Mission Statement*):
Re stext'ex7é7em élkstmens e st'ekstés k
cwk'úl'tns te m-sq'7est.s re Secwepemc re
tk'wem7íple7tns ell le ts'ílmes le
tk'wen7íple7tns le q'7es te qelmúcw ne
Secwepemcúl'ecw.

*The Secwepemc elders' Council works to move the
nation forward in helping to re-establish and define
our Secwepemc laws and ancestral ways of
governance of the nation.*

Meeting Notice

June 27, 2019
10:00am - 2:00pm
Adams Lake Gym, 6349 Chief Jules Rd
Adams Lake IB, Chase, BC

For any information needed regarding
the meeting, contact:
govcoordinator@shuswapnation.org
or Call 778-471-8200

Four Guiding Principles

Kell7úpekst ell seséle te tsyuqwyéqw
(*Ancestral Campfires*)

Xyemstém xwexwéyt re k'wséltkten-kt ell xwexwéyt re k'wselktknéws-kt tek stet'e7ék te skwel'welt wel m-t'7ek te
cseksek'éwt ne sxuxwiwúlecwems nSecwepemcúl'ecw.
(*Respecting all our families and relatives from the highest peaks and valleys within the territory.*)

Stk'wem7íplems re Secwepemc ell re Stseptékwlls
(*Secwepemc Law & Oral History*)

Tsq'ey' ri7 mell ell, tsq'ey' ne mítk'ye-kt te m-sq'7est.s.
(*It is written and it has always been there in our blood.*)

Secwepemcúl'ecw ri7 re Tmicw-kt
(*Title and Ownership*)

Xwexwéyt re k'wselktknéws te Secwepemc me7 tsyecwemínt.s re tmicw wel me7 yews, Tsyecwemíct.s k stet'e7ék te
se7wít tek Secwepemc.
All our Secwepemc relatives will take care of the land in perpetuity and pass it on to future generations.

Secwepemctsín
(*Language*)

Re xwqweltén-kt ell xwexwéyt- te k'wséltén-kt tsq'ey' mell ne tmicw.
Our language and our people are marked on the land already.