



# Shuswap Nation Tribal Council

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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SHUSWAP NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL TRIBAL CHIEF ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

Secwepemc Territory, BC — On August 18, 2021, the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, (“SNTC”), Chief of Splatsin, Wayne Christian was the only nominee for the position of Tribal Chief, therefore; elected by acclamation in the role for another three-year term ending May 2024.

Kukpi7 Christian is of Secwepemc ancestry and the father of seven children, numerous grandchildren, one great grandchild and the Chief of the Splatsin community which is located near the city of Enderby and is one of the nine-member Bands affiliated with the SNTC.

He has been involved in politics most of his adult lifetime, serving on Council and Chief of Splatsin for 26 years in total. In between those years he dedicated his leadership and worked on healing and community mental health for 20 years, including time with the Round Lake Treatment Centre and the Community Health Associates of BC.

Kukpi7 Christian is focused on promoting, learning the practice of Secwepemc language, customs, and traditions. He strongly believes that the children are the future of our Nation and is currently working alongside communities to advance jurisdiction in relation to child and family services through a Nation based, community driven approach built upon Secwepemc traditions and values guided by traditional laws. Kukpi7 Christian strives to build capacity within the communities to build and develop human resources to create approaches and resolutions to advance constructive change that will benefit the Secwepemc peoples.

Dedicated to achieving resolutions to outstanding land claim issues, he is actively involved in social justice issues, and economic development while protecting the traditional lands ensuring uses remain intact for future generations. He believes that ceremonies, language, and laws are the foundation of rebuilding the Secwepemc Nation and governance structures. Kukpi7 Wayne Christian states, “We need to move beyond reconciliation and into reconstruction of our land, laws, language and families: the genocidal laws and policies perpetrated against our children will never be forgotten. We have been here for thousands of years and shall remain here on our lands until the end of time. Secwepemcul’ecw Wel me7 yews Wel me7 yews.”

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