

# SXTA 1st ANNUAL GATHERING

## SAVE THE DATE!



### September 17th, 2016

10:00am-3:00pm

Tzeachten Sports Field

46770 Bailey Road Chilliwack BC



Stayed tuned! More information to come!

Entertainment!  
Guest Speakers!

## SXTA Upriver Place Names Tour (Yale) — October 1, 2016

Enjoy the majestic mountains and waterways of the Upper Fraser Valley on a tour departing from Chilliwack destined for the scenic Fraser Canyon above historic Yale B.C. Listen and learn about the unique relationship between the Stó:lō, “the River People”, their land and their environment through the narratives provided by Naxaxalhts’i, Sonny McHalsie. Listen and see first hand the special significance of Halq’eméylem place names. Learn about the dialects of Halk-omelem and the two main aspects of Stó:lō oral history including Sxwōxwiyám and Sqwelqwel, and learn about the unique relationship the Stó:lō maintain with their environment through their Shxwelí, or “spirit, life force”. Special stops of interests may include the fishing rock known as Kw’ikw’iyá:la (Coquihalla); the pool of origin for the sacred sxwó:yxwey mask; hear about the s’ó:lmexw or “waterbabies” and the mimestiyexw or the “little people” of the forest; see the remains of a sqémél (pithouse: or in Chinook “keekwillie”) last used in the 1880’s; and see where Xexá:ls the transformers left scratch marks at a place where he did battle with Xéylxelamós, an Indian Doctor; hear about the stl’álegem or spiritual beings. Learn up to 120 Halq’méylem place names including the original names of Lhílheqey: Mt. Cheam, Ts’qó:ls: Hope, Xwoxwelá:lh: Yale, and Xéylxelamós: Lady Franklin Rock, and many other Halq’eméylem Place Names.



**Deadline to register is September 23, 2016, so book now, limited seating!**

**Contact Emily Kelly @ 604-824-5315 (Emily.Kelly@stolonation.bc.ca) to reserve your spot!**

### Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association (SXTA) Representatives:

**Aitchelitz First Nation**— Chief Angie Bailey / Councillor Leona Sam

**Skowkale First Nation**—Councillor Jeff Point / Chief Willy Hall

**Tzeachten First Nation**—Councillor Lawrence Roberts / Chief Glenda Campbell

**Popkum First Nation**—Councillor Cynthia Murphy / Chief James Murphy

**Yakweakwioose First Nation**—Grand Chief Frank Malloway / Councillor Terry Horne

**Skawahlook First Nation**—Chief Maureen Chapman / Councillor Deb Schneider

**Leq’á:mél First Nation**—Chief Alice Thompson / Councillor Sandy MacDonald



## Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association UPDATE

“S’ólh témexw te ikw’elò. Xólhmet te mekw’stám ít kwelát.”  
“This is our land. We have to take care of everything that belongs to us.”

### SXTA Workshop Update!

On June 28 - 29, the SXTA held a workshop that focused on taxation, land and financial transfer priorities, and treaty readiness.

#### Taxation

Grand Chief Joe Hall opened the discussion stating that taxation is like turning down the offer of a new car to still ride the bus, without any reason why.

Taxes will help pay for SXTA government programs, from the SXTA government directly to SXTA citizens.

Taxation will provide the programs you want, under your own government system for your own community.

There will be different taxes that will come to the SXTA Government, including Property and Property Transfer tax, Sales tax, and Income tax. Taxes won’t

just come from SXTA members, but all people who will be living on Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw lands. Right now, all of those taxes go to Canada and BC with a small portion coming back to First Nation Bands. There will be many decisions to be made.

Taxation will provide improved health, dental, home improvement, funeral services, tutoring, education controlled by the SXTA.

“There is no reason why we can’t have our own schools, colleges, elementary schools and educate both aboriginal and non-aboriginal, with non-native people attending.” Councillor Schneider, Skawahlook.

#### Land Transfer Priorities

The SXTA is expecting BC and Canadas response to our Land and Financial Transfer Offer, and the Treaty Negotiations Team (TNT) wanted input, from the SXTA Chiefs and Councillors, on

what lands they should be focused.

Turning to the polling for individual responses, the following are a couple of the questions asked:

**What are the priority of lands?**

- (a) commercial/industrial
- (b) residential,
- (c) recreational,
- (d) cultural,
- (e) combination of A, B, C, or D,
- (f) Balance of all?

72% selected a balance of land use types.

92% stated that the priority should be a combination.

*Continued on pg. 2*



Wordle created using words from the SXTA Chiefs and Councillors.

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Polling questions... *continued from page 1*

We must start thinking as a collective, the big picture, we all benefit in the end.

Collective sharing – support for sure, as long as we keep CP's – as long as everyone has community benefits – membership need to understand thoroughly.

**What is the distribution of lands – close to the Fraser Valley or distributed up and down the Valley?**

100% stated a distribution up and down the Valley.

**Is the fee-simple land purchasing priority near reserves?**

(a) yes  
(b) no

63% said yes, while 17% said no.

**What is the priority of purchasing for fee simple lands?**

(a) commercial/industrial,  
(b) residential  
(c) recreational  
(d) cultural  
(e) combination of a and b  
(f) balance of all

92% stated that the priority should be a combination of commercial/industrial and residential.

#### Readiness for Treaty

During the discussion regarding readiness for Treaty, each community told the TNT what their community has in regard to capacity and knowledge.

Included in that discussion was cultural knowledge, health and well-being, artistic ability, consulting, governance, law-making, medical practitioners and more. The Chiefs and Councillors answered 3 polling questions relating to readiness.

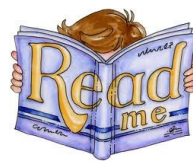
**The results are in!!**

**Are we ready?**

**92% said yes**

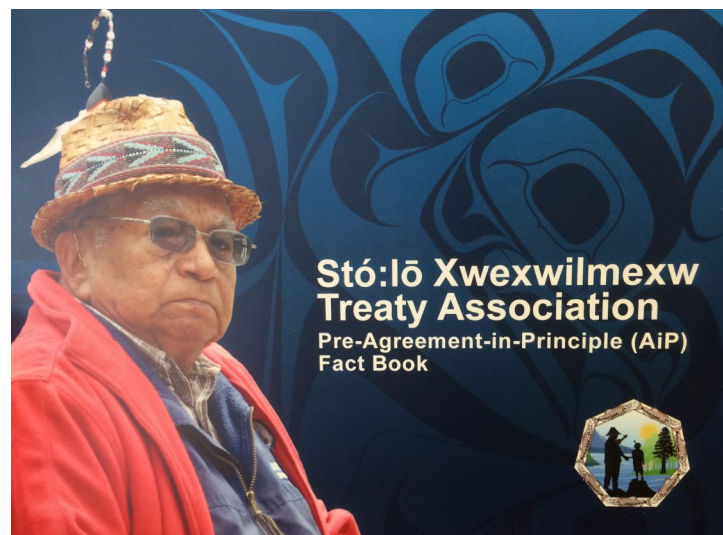


## The Pre-Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) Fact Book!



**"We cannot protect what we have unless we have a treaty, in my view. It's the best protection we've got against the erosion of our rights."**

*Xwelixweltel*  
(Grand Chief Steven Point)



The SXTA Outreach department has created a Pre-AIP Fact Book to inform our community members on where we are at with our treaty! There is a lot of great information in this booklet. Coming soon!

**KEEP YOUR EYES OUT FOR IT!**

## Treaty Quick Facts! Part 1 of 2

By Emily Kelly

**Here are some common questions we hear and want everyone to know the answers to.**

*If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to call the Treaty Outreach office and speak with one of our liaison workers.*

*Part 2 of these treaty quick facts will be published in*

*the next issue so keep your eye out!*

**What is my role as a member?**

Members have a responsibility to inform themselves and be a part of the decision-making process that will result in a treaty. We encourage members to be aware of, and understand their rights and responsibilities in treaty negotiations; be actively involved in the treaty negotiations taking place through meeting participation and; be more involved with the treaty team in charting the path for a treaty and keep up-to-date with negotiations and don't hesitate to speak with your Outreach Liaison.

**What stage are we in?**  
We are nearing completion of Stage 4 – Agreement-in-Principle [of 6 stages] in the BC Treaty Process. We are currently waiting for the Canadian and British Columbian Governments to review and respond to our Land and Capital Transfer offer submitted to them in November 2013.

Stage 4 – the AiP - is not legally binding. It is an agreement to move forward with negotiations.

**Who votes on Stage 4 - Agreement-in-Principle (AiP)?**

The Chief and Councillors of the 7 SXTA bands vote on the Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) proceeding

to Stage 5.

The **SXTA Membership** votes on whether to accept the Final Agreement.

Stage 6 – Implementation. The plans to implement the SXTA treaty are put into effect.



## Youth Page



**Members have a responsibility to inform themselves and be a part of the decision-making process that will result in a treaty.**

**What happens to our First Nation status?**



Going into treaty, you will **KEEP** your status card **AND** any benefits that you

are entitled to as a registered Status Indian under the Indian Act. But remember: **TAX EXEMPTION** is NOT an aboriginal right.

**What happens to our reserves?**

There will be no more reserve lands. We will see a

substantial increase to our land base which will be called Treaty Settlement Land (TSL) that we own and will use as guided by our land use plans.

