



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.

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Temkwíkwexyel "Time for baby sockeye salmon"

BREAKING NEWS

Canadian Federal Government announces in Budget 2018

Non-repayable funds for those participating in modern treaty negotiations!

Prior to this announcement, only 20% of treaty negotiation funds were non-repayable. Moving forward, there will be no more debt accumulated for treaty negotiations. Past loans will be forgiven.

This is exciting news for the Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association!

Supporting the Recognition and Implementation of Rights and Self-Determination

While Canada has advanced a number of modern treaties and agreements since the 1970s, the pace of progress in many cases has been slow and uneven. Negotiations can take a decade or more, and Indigenous communities are forced to take on debt in order to participate.

Budget 2018 outlines new steps the Government will take to increase the number of modern treaties and self-determination agreements in a manner that reflects a recognition of rights approach. These changes, along with the new approach brought forward through the Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination negotiation process, will shorten the time it takes to reach new treaties and agreements, at a lower cost to all parties.

As part of this new approach, the Government

of Canada will be moving away from the use of loans to fund Indigenous participation in the negotiation of modern treaties. Starting in 2018–19, Indigenous participation in modern treaty negotiations will be funded through non-repayable contributions.

The Government will engage with affected Indigenous groups on how best to address past and present negotiation loans, including forgiveness of loans.

Through Budget 2018, the Government also proposes to invest \$51.4 million over the next two years to continue its support for federal and Indigenous participation in the Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination discussion tables.

<https://www.budget.gc.ca/2018/docs/plan/chap-03-en.html>



In this issue

Page 1

Breaking News

Page 2

Debunking the Myths

Page 3

Importance of Education

Page 4

Place Names Tour

Time to debunk the myths around our SXTA Treaty & Answer those Frequently Asked Questions...

As we advance in this new modern treaty process we are finding that so much has changed since we started the treaty process back in 1994. With changes in both the provincial and federal governments over the years we have certainly had our share of frustration with the process.

The question we always hear is, "Why is it taking so long?" but in our case, there are advantages to long-term negotiations and we are experiencing one right now with the new federal and provincial governments. Issues that were no longer or never on the table are back on and this is great news.

A key point negotiated in our treaty is there will be NO extinguishment or modification of our Aboriginal rights & title. This is huge as it has always been a contentious issue among our membership, but the idea of keeping our Aboriginal rights & title intact and recognized in our treaty was never lost at our negotiating table.

Our treaty is not a "full and final settlement" but will be a "living tree" for our Tomiyeqw. It creates a new Nation to Nation relationship.

Another new development is that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) will be incorporated into our treaty.

As noted on the front page another key issue has been the loan. There will be no more loans; the money is now considered a non-repayable contribution and the past loans will be forgiven.

Through this treaty process our leaders will continue to negotiate for more land, cash and resources to secure a better life for our membership and future generations, a life in which we are in full control.

We have heard and read many comments, conversations, blogs, posts and questions about our treaty and treaty in general from

both members and non-members and we realize that there is a lot of misinformation out there.

We understand it is hard to keep up with the ever-changing landscape of the treaty negotiation process. A lot of the comments are based on outdated information. As stated earlier the mandates have changed enormously since 1994 and recently in a positive way, with the changes in both the federal and provincial governments.

So to clear up some of these myths and answer some questions, please read on:

Myth: *Our aboriginal rights and title will be extinguished in treaty!*

FACT: NO absolutely not! Our treaty specifically states that it does not extinguish our Aboriginal rights and title. We will have hunting, fishing and gathering rights.

We will have shared decision-making over the use of land and resources including revenue-sharing, outside of treaty lands and within S'ólh Téméxw.

Myth: *We will lose our status!*

FACT: No, you will maintain your status under the Indian Act. Registration of status will continue if you are eligible.

Myth: *We are not ready to self-govern!*

FACT: Of course we are ready! We will govern ourselves under our own constitution and laws. We will no longer be governed under the Indian Act.

Myth: *We are going into debt with treaty.*

FACT: NO absolutely not! New funding is in non-repayable contributions from the federal government and past loans will be forgiven.

Why are we in treaty?

Our ancestors were denied the tools to settle the land question, now we have the

tools, the knowledge, and the determination to be recognized at a government to government level.

The time is now to increase our land base, protect our culture and heritage while creating a better future for our children, their children and beyond.

Will I have to pay taxes?

We will retain existing tax exemptions. Members will retain their CP lands and will not pay property tax.

I don't live or work on the reserve and I already pay income tax, so what's in it for me?

All of our treaty members living/working off treaty lands will have access to many treaty benefits including the enhanced programs and services. We will no longer be living under the program funding restrictions of the Indian Act.

What happens to the reserves?

In addition to keeping our existing lands, we will add 25,000 acres of land as a minimum. We will have full control and law-making powers on these lands. We will also have a land acquisition fund.

Will I lose my medical/dental, CPP and Old Age Security?

All existing benefits (for example: Health, social security and pensions) will continue. We will have law-making authority over health and social services including children and families.

How will we fund our government?

In addition to annual transfer payments for programs and services we will receive funding for self-government. All taxes paid by non-members living on our treaty lands will come back to our government. As well, the Goods and Services tax (GST) paid at businesses on treaty lands will also come back to our own government.



Importance of Education

Treaty or no treaty, education is very important to create the life you want. So what could be better than choosing a career path that gets you working at a job you love!

Of course, with treaty ratification comes many opportunities for employment. Many fear they will lose their job at the band office if our treaty is ratified, but rest assured in reality the opposite is true. The fact is more jobs will have to be filled with treaty ratification.

So why not check into the field you are interested in and find out what you need to further your education after graduation.

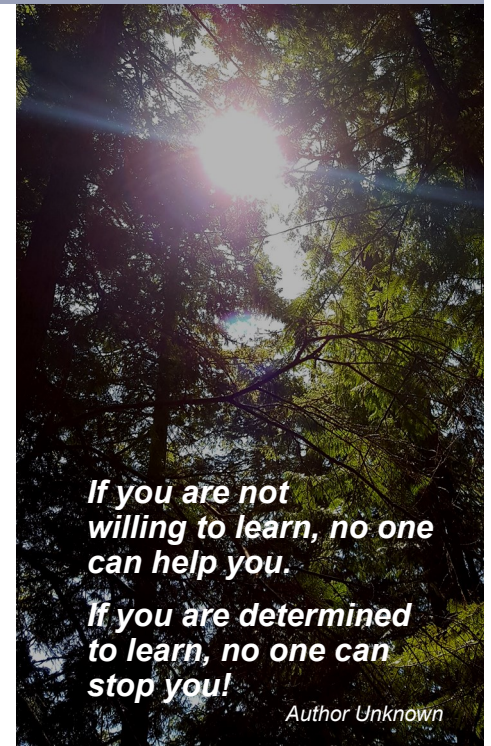
We hosted our Youth Forum 2018 (in the format of a tour of the UBC Campus and the Museum of Anthropology) during spring break on March 28, 2018. Grand Chief Steven Point came along as the guest speaker during lunch.

We understand that not all of our youth live in this area and could not come on this tour, but we hope you will be equally interested in furthering your education to get the job of your dreams. You may decide to move back to the area and work for your nation. Whatever your goal there is a job waiting for you and education is the key!

A few areas of education to look into:

- Health
- Finance
- Administration
- Environment
- Justice
- Trades
- Tourism/Hospitality
- Economic Development
- Social Work
- Police/Fire
- Veterinarian
- Culinary
- Farming
- Child Care
- Industry

As the saying goes: the possibilities are endless!




If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you.

If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you!

Author Unknown

Grand Chief Steven Point shares a few words with our youth:

“When it is time to vote on treaty, it will be you people (youth). With a treaty we will need people to fill jobs. So we need our youth to go to school. You will have to run & drive this self-government bus.

So my thought was to bring you on this trip. University was hard for me, but if I can do it, so can you! It's cool to be aboriginal nowadays. The future is whatever you can think of. You have to start thinking you can do anything. Figure out where you fit in our self-government because it's coming. I'm excited about what you're going to become!” 



Upcoming SXTA Events

Chilliwack River Valley Place Names Tour: Saturday, May 12, 2018



Enjoy this new tour of the Chilliwack River Valley departing from Kwikw'alth'a (Coqualeetza) destined for scenic Chilliwack Lake, 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, who has studied Halq'eméylem Place Names for over 21 years.



Listen and see first hand the special significance of Halq'eméylem place names from the recent award winning Stó:lō Nation publication titled A Stó:lō -Coast Salish Historical Atlas.

Learn about the three main dialects of Halkomelem and the many micro dialects of each, 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 Shxweli, or "spirit, life force".

Special stops of interests may include Sxótsaqel "sacred lake" or "something that's sacred" (Chilliwack Lake); a short hike to the Chipmunk Caves off Chipmunk Creek Forest Service Road; ly'oythel "always a mouth" or "good mouth", Allison Pools recreation site, where pithouses were located; and we hear about many other Halq'eméylem Place Names.

For catering purposes please pre-register by **May 4, 2018**

Contact Emily Kelly @ 604-824-5315 or e-mail: Emily.Kelly@stolonation.bc.ca

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR UPCOMING:



COMMUNITY SESSIONS Treaty Open House



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Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association (SXTA)—Leadership

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Councillors: Leona Sam Gordon George John George	Councillors: Daniel Kelly Sandy McDonald Darrell McKamey Camielle Laslo James Paterson Dawn Styran	Councillors: Deb Schneider	Councillors: Dustin Hall Derek Hansom DarcyPaul Tiffany Silver	Councillors: Nikki LaRock Jason Malloway Hereditary Chief Elaine Malloway	Councillors: Cathy Hall Mel Williams Jr. Loren Muth Ken Malloway

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