



# Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association **UPDATE**

S'ólh témexw te ikw'elò. Xólhmet te mekw'stám it kwelát.

This is our land. We have to take care of everything that belongs to us.

## Moving together in a fleet of canoes



**O**ur six canoes are continuing down the river towards the final goal of a vote on the SXTA treaty.

Our leaders, negotiating team and staff have been working for over 20 years on this goal. In the last two years, we've achieved a remarkable amount – a Land and Capital Transfer Agreement and a renewed approach to treaty negotiations that led to the signing of our MOU on October 12, 2018.

### KEY MILESTONES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Constitution vote –  
**TARGET DATE: October 2019**
- Negotiations complete –  
**TARGET DATE: September 2020**
- Treaty vote –  
**TARGET DATE: October 2020**
- Internal Ratification processes—Canada and BC
- Treaty Signing –  
**TARGET DATE: October 2021**
- Effective Date –  
**TARGET DATE: Fall 2023**

*For more on the Constitution, see page 2*

# WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

"Our rules of conduct, our rules of behavior, the way that we think, our moral values. . . Our Constitution has always been here and it really is written in stone."

*Xwelixweltel Grand Chief Steven Point*

SXTA leadership are in the process of finalizing the details on our Constitution. Their work follows on years of discussions, surveys and studies with members' input. The constitution is the central expression of our self-governance system and is based on these key points:

- The inherent right to self-government is held by the Stó:lō people and then entrusted to either hereditary chiefs, elected chiefs or their proxies.

- The Chiefs, or other chosen representatives from each village (according to their village charters), will come together to form the law-making part of the Xwexwilmexw Government.
- Whatever authorities and services are now delivered by your Village Council will continue under the new SXTA government structure.

In October 2019, SXTA members will be asked to vote on the Constitution and we will be bringing more details about this important aspect of our Treaty to you very soon.



Book a Kitchen Table  
Gathering or a  
One-on-One session



Email:

[Outreach@sxta.bc.ca](mailto:Outreach@sxta.bc.ca)

## Fishing for Ideas

Fishing experts have been meeting since September to provide an SXTA fisherperson's perspective to our treaty table. The group has now become an SXTA sub-committee with Grand Chief Steven Point appointed chair and Shawn Gabriel of Leq'á:mel, as vice-chair. The group's vision is to protect our fish tangibly, constitutionally and culturally while ensuring access to fish for our communities. The group strives to have two representatives from each of the six communities involved and other experts as needed. There is room for two Sq'ewá:lxw members and one more Sq'ewqéyl member. We've been discussing core principles and options for management, enforcement, quotas and more. These discussions will help inform our negotiators.

Contact us if you are an expert in hunting, education, justice or taxation, as these sub-committees will be formed in the coming months.





# BIG QUESTION: Will we have to pay taxes?

**This is one of the most frequently asked questions.** It is also one of the top priorities for our negotiating team. Our intention is that:

1. We will retain our existing tax exemptions.
2. Members will not pay property tax on treaty lands.

These priorities will be taken to the Main Table in the coming months and the outcome has yet to be determined! Our government *will* receive GST paid at businesses on our lands and we *hope* to receive income tax from non-SXTA members on our lands.

**Check out the Q & A videos on our website, or subscribe to our YouTube Channel and Like us on Facebook so you don't miss out on new videos!**

*"I don't want people to become afraid of taxation, but at the same time we shouldn't be over burdening our own people who have been living under poverty for so many years," says Grand Chief Point in one of the Since You Asked video series.*



## The Rock and the Tree - S'ólh Lets'emó:t Xélxeylamós



*Draft drawing by Chief Terry Horne of Yeqwyeqwi:ws*

This concept has been presented at the Main Table and is a new way to think about our core treaty. S'ólh means "ours" and Lets'emó:t means "one thought." The word treaty has a variety of connotations and this is an effort to reframe this important work in our Stó:lō worldview.

Xélxeylamós is the transformation rock and represents the fixed, core part of our treaty. This part will encompass the principles and key commitments and will not change.

Xpá:yelhp is the red cedar tree that grows from the rock and is the living part of our treaty. This part will grow and evolve as our relationship with Canada and BC changes in a new government-to-government relationship.

## Welcome to:



Danya Douglas and Penny Robinson

Our new senior administration support team!

## We're growing...

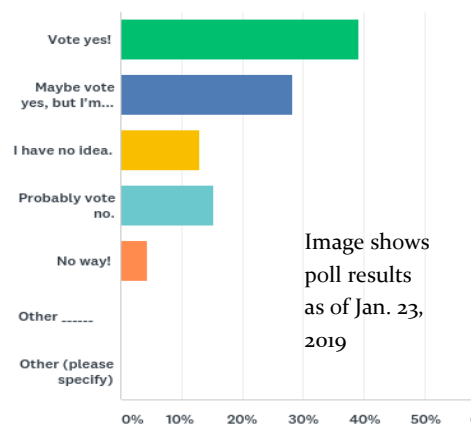
Keep an eye out for news on our new **Treaty Implementation General Manager, Human Resource Recruiter and Registrar.**

Soon to be posted by Outreach:

- Multimedia assistant
- Community Liaison

**Join our team!**

## How would you vote on treaty? Flash Poll EXTENDED to Feb. 8.



**Do the poll and enter your email for a chance to win a \$200 Gift Card @ [www.sxta.bc.ca/why-treaty](http://www.sxta.bc.ca/why-treaty)**

## Ask about SXTA Youth Nights!



Crafts, cedar weaving, paint nights, Treaty movies, and more. Follow our Facebook page and Youth can join our SXTA Youth Facebook Group to stay up-to-date.



**FOLLOW US! @TheSXTA**



## Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association (SXTA)—Leadership

Áthelets <i>Hereditary Chief</i> Angie Bailey Skemi	Leq'á:mél <i>Chief</i> Alice Thompson Mae'xe	Sq'ewá:lxw <i>Hereditary Chief</i> Maureen Chapman Shwetélemel-elhot	Sq'ewqéyl <i>Chief</i> Mark Point Lexhalten	Yeqwyeqwi:ws <i>Grand Chief</i> Frank Malloway & <i>Chief</i> Terry Home Siyémches	Ch'iyáqtel <i>Chief</i> Derek Epp Weli'leq
<b>Councillors:</b> Leona Sam Gordon George John George	<b>Councillors:</b> Daniel Kelly Sandy McDonald Darrell McKamey Camielle Laslo James Paterson Dawn Styran	<b>Councillors:</b> Deb Schneider	<b>Councillors:</b> Dustin Hall Derek Hansom Darcy Paul Tiffany Silver	<b>Councillors:</b> Nikki LaRock Jason Malloway <b>Hereditary Chief</b> Elaine Malloway	<b>Councillors:</b> Cathy Hall Mel Williams Jr. Loren Muth Ken Malloway

### SXTA Outreach

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