

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021



**Stó:lō
Xwexwílmexw**
TREATY ASSOCIATION

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

A Stó:lō guiding principle

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Message from the President

Éy swáyel dear Community Members,

Our Journey to Nationhood is about protecting and exercising our inherent rights. A key part of our work was drafting our Shxwelméxwelh/Constitution. Our community members provided critical input into its creation. Our communities also have the power to approve this work as a guiding document and foundation for our future Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw Government. We have come a long way on the path to Nationhood and are working together to continue our journey – one step at a time.

This last year we set a high bar for ourselves and asked that at least 50 percent of our community members (of voting age) cast their ballot on our Shxwelméxwelh in November 2020. We were pleased by the results of the vote, as the vast majority of those who voted said yes to this step on our path to self-governance.

We met the quorum we set for ourselves in two of our communities. In 2021, we are asking the remaining four communities to continue with the process of addressing their specific interests and needs for supporting our Shxwelméxwelh. Our vision for our future government is that our villages remain strong and look after their own matters and that we share in managing jurisdictions that are too large for one small group to take on themselves. We are also striving to build relations among Stó:lō First Nations and Tribes through our ongoing engagements with our relatives and neighbors.

While Covid-19 hit our communities hard, we continued with our work and received great input and support from our community members – setting new standards of community-based participation. We are adaptive and resilient. Our pathway is clear. Our leadership and communities are connected. The SXTA is in excellent position to achieve our next major milestone of a Self-Government Agreement as a key first step on our pathway to Nationhood and self-determination. Kw'as hó:y!

In unity,

Shxwetélemel-elhót
Chief Maureen Chapman
President, Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw Treaty Association



Introduction

We would like to acknowledge that our Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw communities, along with so many others around the world, lived through an unprecedented crisis and time of self-quarantine and social distancing in 2020. While we all faced a myriad of challenges – from getting COVID-19, to getting groceries, to ensuring our loved ones’ mental and physical health needs were taken care of – the SXTA Leadership and staff remained committed to our goals of self-determination.

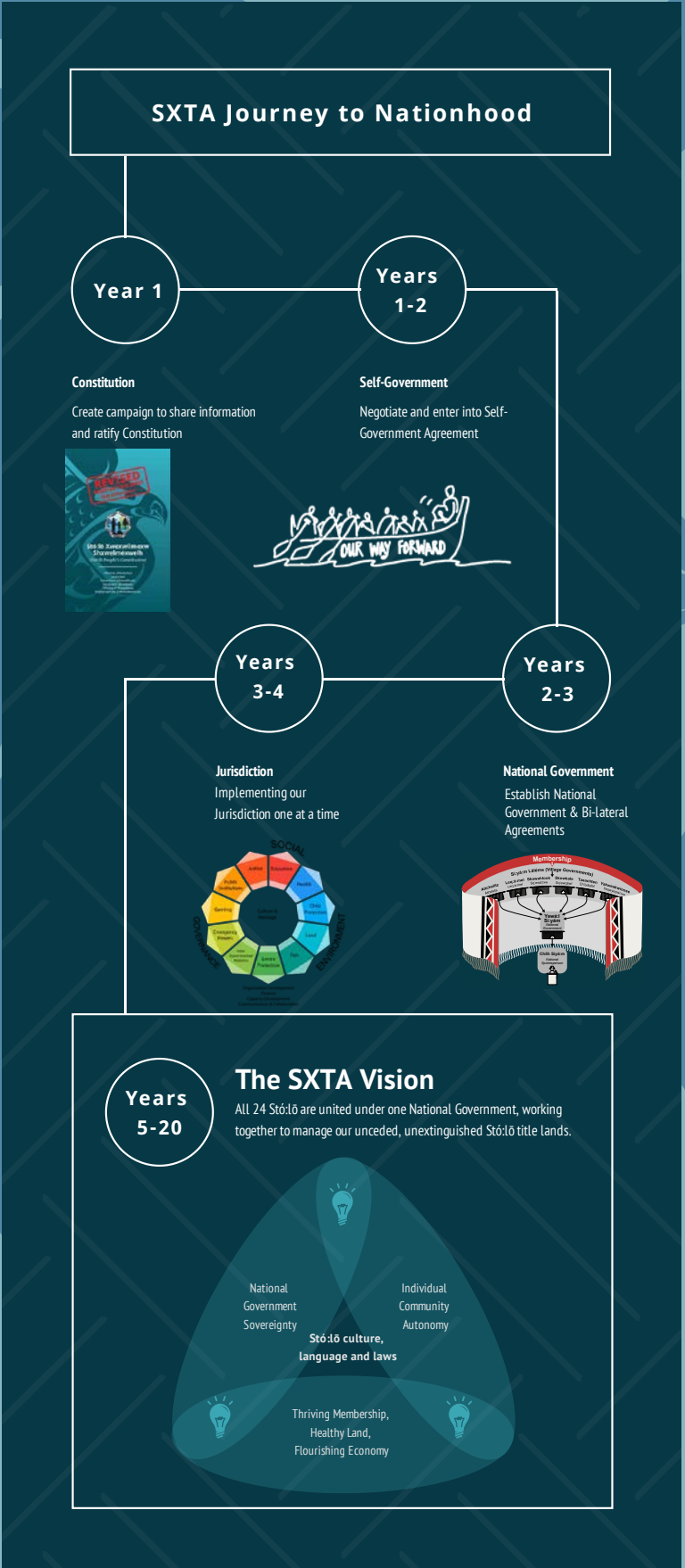
In 2020/2021, one of our most important steps forward involved inviting community members to vote on our Shxwelméxwelh, a document that provides guiding principles for how our six communities will work together in our future Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw Nation. Many thoughts and comments from in-person meetings, door-to-door campaigns and online surveys were taken into consideration before leadership made some changes to the Shxwelméxwelh/Constitution in July 2020. Then, after reaching out again, with new multimedia initiatives and in-person engagements, our community members voted on our governance system in November 2020.

The results of the vote were favourable, but in four of our communities, we did not meet the high bar we set for voter turnout. So together, our leadership decided that in 2021-22, our communities would continue their own processes toward another vote on the Shxwelméxwelh/Constitution.

Another focus for 2020-21 was an effort to restructure the internal organization of the SXTA. We have also worked to further our relationship with Canada and British Columbia in our treaty negotiations and to engage our non-treaty Stó:lō neighbours about our shared land concerns.

Timeline

Our communities continue to move forward on the path to self-government and treaty. Once our Shxwelméxwelh is ratified, we expect to enter into a self-government agreement so that our Yewá:l Si:yá:m Lálém (National Government) can form in advance of our full treaty.



Governing In Our Own Way – Our Achievements

“[I would like to see] a whole section in the foundation of the Constitution on well-being. It should be written specifically that the purpose of the Constitution is for the well-being of the Stó:lō people.”

Comment from the Shxwelméxwelh/Constitution Community Input Report

SHXWELMÉXWELH/CONSTITUTION

Community Engagement

After extensive engagements on the Shxwelméxwelh/Constitution in fall and winter 2019/2020, the results of our community members’ input were collated into the Shxwelméxwelh/Constitution Community Input Public Report and mailed out to all members in June 2020. Leadership took members’ thoughts into consideration and in July 2020 made changes to the Shxwelméxwelh/Constitution that are listed here:

1. The age of members in the Xwexwílmexwó:llh Lálém (Youth Advisory Council) changed from 14-21 to 14-25.
2. No representative can hold more than one position. If a Youth representative is elected or otherwise appointed to a Village Government, they would resign as Youth representative.
3. Four years is the standard term for Sí:yólexwe Lálém – Elders Advisory Council.
4. Alternates are included for both youth and elder representatives.
5. The Grand Chief Advisory Council was deleted.
6. All decision making will be by consensus.
7. “The purpose of the Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw Híkw Lálém (Government) will be to act in the best interests and the well-being of the Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw” was added to the document.



VOTE

FOR OUR CONSTITUTION!

WHO? All members of SXTA communities, age 18 and older as of Nov. 14, 2020.
HOW? Click here for online, mail-in and in-person voting options.
WHY? Have your say about our plans to move forward together.

VOTE DATE

Nov. 4-14 2020

The revised document was mailed out along with a factsheet that explained these changes and a comic book that allowed parents to read about the Shxwelméxwelh/Constitution to their children. Over the subsequent months, newsletters, more comics and vote cards were sent as well. Videos with our spokesperson Chief Terry Horne and our special advisor Grand Chief Steven Point informed members via social media and at our in-person and online engagements about the Shxwelméxwelh. The Outreach team also reached out to community members via text, email, Facebook and telephone in the lead up to the vote. All of this work was done to ensure communities had all the information they needed to make their decisions about the constitution.

Shxwelméxwelh/Constitution Vote

Members of our six communities were able to vote in-person, on-line and by mail-in ballot in November 2020. The majority of those who voted said YES, but four of our communities did not meet the 50% plus one threshold that SXTA leadership set as a goal for approval of this document. Our leaders agreed that the next step was for each of these four villages to lead a community-driven process to achieve the full 50% plus one voter turnout.

First Nation	Total Voters	50% +1	Actual Votes	Quorum Achieved	Online Votes	Mail-in Votes	In-person Votes	Voter %	Yes Votes	Yes %	No Votes	No %	Passed
Aitchelitz	32	17	20	Yes	2	9	9	62.5%	20	100%	0	0%	Yes
Yakweakwioose	58	30	32	Yes	21	0	11	55.2%	26	81%	6	19%	Yes
Leqamel	410	206	132	No	59	27	46	32.2%	114	86%	18	14%	No
Skowkale	192	97	66	No	36	10	20	34.9%	53	81%	13	19%	No
Skawahlook	65	34	24	No	15	8	1	36.9%	23	96%	1	4%	No
Tzeachten	485	244	163	No	78	17	68	33.6%	95	58%	68	42%	No
Total	1242	628	437	2 of 6	211	71	155	35.2%	331	75.8%	106	24.2%	2 of 6

"I designed the pattern on the Swōqw'elh based on a relationship model that allows each party to maintain their own laws, culture and beliefs."

*Siyémches, Chief Terry Horne,
SXTA Chief Negotiator and Political Advisor*

INCREMENTAL TREATY AGREEMENTS

An Incremental Treaty Agreement is an interim agreement reached by the parties before treaty negotiations are complete. In 2020/2021, our leadership and staff continue to work on two different agreements.

Draft Self-Government Agreement

The red on the Swōqw'elh (blanket) represents Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw and the black represents the other governments of Canada. The meeting of the two colours in the middle represents collaboration with mutual respect.

The first step in our self-government agreement will provide a legal framework and funding to allow the Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw communities to implement the Yewá:l Si:yá:m Lálém (National Government) in advance of a full treaty. The other parts of the Híkw Lálém such as the Si:yá:m Lálém (Village governments), Átéllálém (Justice council) and advisory councils will come as we move through the self-government process.



Draft Treaty Land Transfer Agreement

Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw are pursuing early transfers of land. Sections of the Treaty Lands in each of the three tribal areas (Leq'á:mel, Tít and Ts'elxwéyeqw) amounting to 20 percent of our proposed Treaty Lands were included in a proposal submitted to BC in November 2018 and are under negotiations.

This early transfer of land will give the SXTA control over some of our Treaty Lands in advance of Treaty Ratification. The parcels were chosen due to easy access to existing infrastructure, existing economic potential, and support for our residential and cultural needs.



S'ólh Lets'emó:t – Our One Thought

“The Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw are continuing the work of our ancestors to solve issues around how our land came to be taken from us. Although there are many paths to reconciliation, we believe that a nation-to-nation, government-to-government agreement, or treaty, is the clearest way to enshrine our rights.”

*Xwelíqweltel,
Grand Chief Steven Point,
SXTA Legal Advisor*

S'ólh Lets'emó:t is the name for our treaty. S'ólh means “ours” and Lets'emó:t means “one thought.” This approach uses the visual idea of the rock and the tree as a guiding principle. Xélxeylamós is the transformation rock and is the fixed or core part of S'ólh Lets'emó:t. This section will encompass our principles and key commitments. Xpá:yelhp is the red cedar tree that grows from the rock and is the living part of the treaty. This will grow and evolve as our relationship with Canada and BC changes in a new government-to-government relationship.

Our work on this agreement takes place in context of the federal government’s announcement released in 2019, about their revised treaty negotiation policy called, *Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia*. This policy finally falls in line with the following principles that our negotiators have been demanding since talks between our nations began:

- Stó:lō Aboriginal rights and title will not be extinguished and will never be extinguished by any agreements
- None of our rights are frozen and any agreements reached between parties can evolve over time
- Any agreements entered into in the treaty process are not full and final settlements.
- Past loans for negotiating treaty are forgiven and future funding should be in the form of grants and non-repayable

Our continued commitment to these policies in our work with Canada and the BC Treaty Process led to many of these revisions to the federal policy.

Shared Territory Discussions

“We are all Stó:lō. There is a win-win way of looking at this. These are our shared territories, not overlaps and we can figure this out together.”

*Siyémches, Chief Terry Horne,
SXTA Chief Negotiator and
Political Advisor*

The SXTA communities have always been committed to negotiating a treaty agreement that will benefit all Stó:lō, whether they are in the treaty process or not. S'ólh Téméxw belongs to all Stó:lō, and the SXTA leadership want to work in a cooperative and open way. To this end, we hired Dr. Gwen Point as our First Nations Engagement Coordinator in 2020 and throughout the challenges with COVID she worked to meet with other Stó:lō Chiefs and leaders.

We are all families and neighbours and we believe we can work together in a mutually-beneficial way without involving Canada and British Columbia. SXTA leadership are open to a wide range of possibilities for these relationships and are also encouraging other Stó:lō communities to consider re-joining the SXTA treaty in the future.

Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw Treaty Association – Who we are

The Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw Treaty Association was formed in April 2007 to negotiate a treaty for Stó:lō communities. The organization consists of the following inter-related bodies:

1. SXTA Leadership
2. SXTA Executive
3. Treaty Negotiation Team
4. SXTA Committees
5. Treaty Operations

SXTA Leadership as of March 31, 2021

Áthelets/Aitchelitz

Áthelets/Aitchelitz
Chief Angie Bailey – Lax-Wea
Councillor Gordon George – Chelapa
Councillor John George – Quenthleenum
Councillor Leona Sam

Governance system: Hereditary

Leq'á:mel/Lakahahmen

Chief Alice Thompson – Mae'xe
Councillor Barb Leggat
Councillor Camielle Laslo –
Sts'ó:wuselwet
Councillor Darrel McKamey – Nak'aman
Councillor Dawn Styran – Swí:wat
Councillor Phil Sherwood
Councillor Sandy McDonald

*Governance system: Election every
three years. Next election: March 2024.*

Sq'ewá:lxw/Skawahlook

Chief Maureen Chapman –
Shxwetélemel-elhót
Councillor Debra Schneider –
Tá:leyelhot
Councillor Jenn Carman

Governance system: Hereditary

Sq'ewqéyl/Skowkale

Chief Mark Point – Xwemxwe'meleq'
Councillor Willy Hall – Ts'qwelatse
(Hall Family)
Councillor Teresa Galis – Shoy:etelwet.
(Sepass Family)
Councillor Darcy Paul – Th'etsimettel
(Point Family)
Councillor Tiffany Silver – Soliyeliye
(Archie Family)

*Governance system: Election for Chief and
family reps appointed every four years.
Next election: March 2025.*

Ch'iyáqtel/Tzeachten

Chief Derek Epp – Welí'leq
Councillor Sandra Bonner-Pederson –
Í:lhót
Councillor Tony Malloway –
Yexweylem
Councillor Loren Muth
Councillor Melvin Williams Jr. –
Kwelikwitum

*Governance system: Elections every
three years. Next election: March 2023.*

Ye'qweqwi:ws/ Yakweakwioose

Chief Terry Horne – Siyémches
Councillor Nikki LaRock –
Qwe'tó:llhmelhet
Councillor Jason Malloway –
Th'eláchiyatel
Councillor Jazmine Horne –
O:lisiyah (Youth)
Hereditary Chief Elaine Malloway –
O:lisiyah
Elder Mary Malloway – Qwetóseltwet

Governance system: Hereditary



SXTA Executive

The Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw Executive is comprised of one Chief/designate from each community. The Executive makes decisions regarding work plans, budgets, draft materials, and workshop planning. The Executive also signs and reviews project funding applications and final financial reports.



Shxwetélemel-elhót,
Chief Maureen Chapman
*Sq'ewá:lxw/
Skawahlook*
President



Lax-Wea,
Chief Angie Bailey
*Áthelets/
Aitchelitz*
Vice-President



Weli'leq,
Chief Derek Epp
*Ch'iyáqtel/
Tzeachten*
Secretary-Treasurer



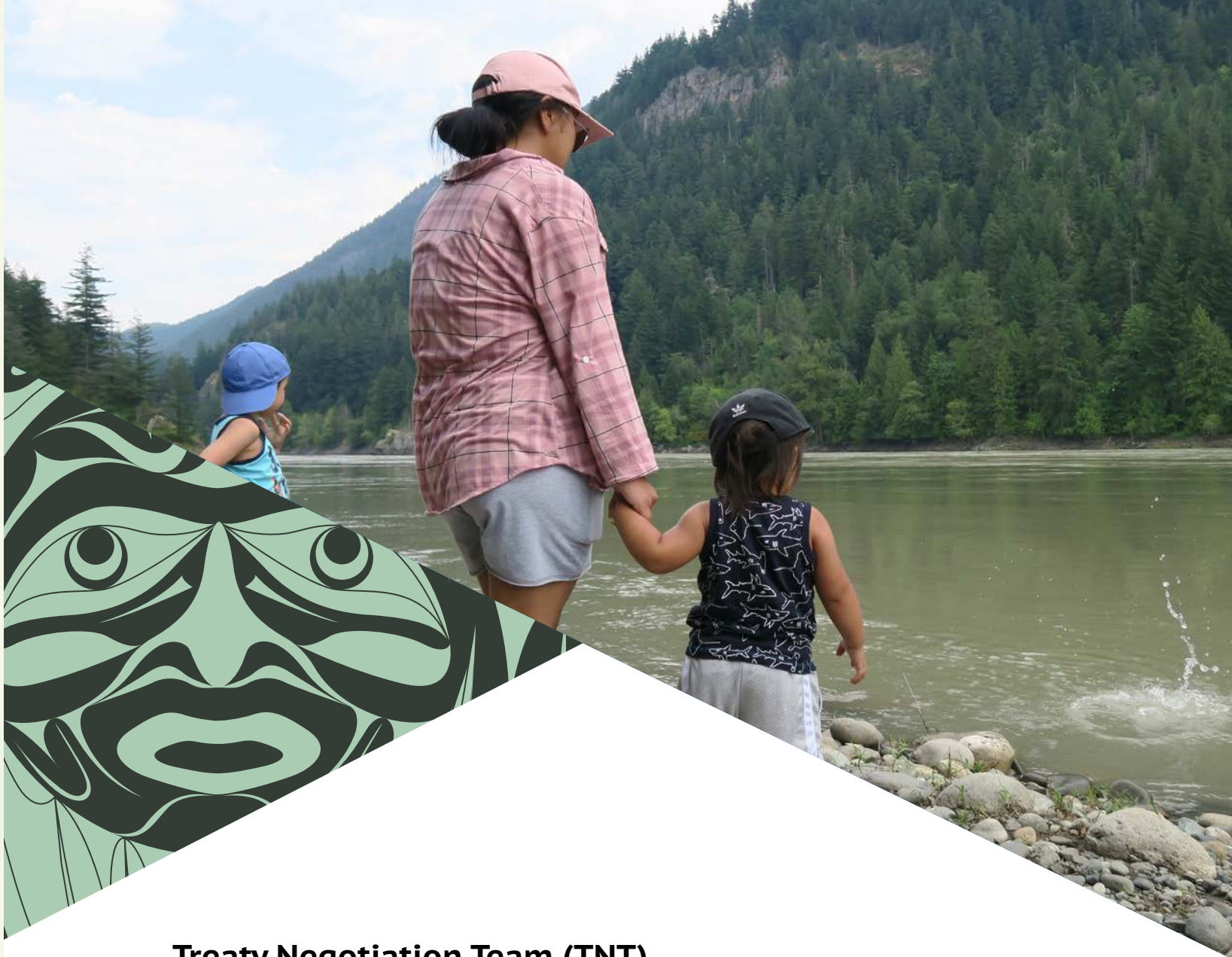
Mae'xe,
Chief Alice Thompson/
Designate
Councillor Barb Leggat
*Leq'á:mel/
Lakahahmen*
Member



Xwemxwe'meleq',
Chief Mark Point
*Sq'ewqéyl/
Skowkale*
Member



Siyémches,
Chief Terry Horne
*Yeqwyeqwi:ws/
Yakweakwioose*
Member



Treaty Negotiation Team (TNT)

The Treaty Negotiating Team (TNT) is directed by the Chiefs and Councils of the six SXTA communities to negotiate a treaty and incremental agreements that represents our current and future needs. The team is composed of five members: Political Advisor and Chief Negotiator Chief Terry Horne, Chief Legal Advisor (Grand Chief Steven Point), Cultural Advisor Sonny McHalsie, Legal Advisor Jean Teillet, and Technical Advisor/SXTA CEO David Schaepe.

In 2020/2021, their key activities included:

- Work towards completing S'ólh Lets'emó:t: Our One Thought Treaty.
- Incorporation of the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples into the Treaty Agreement.
- Continued negotiations regarding Incremental Treaty Agreements.



SXTA Committees

Committees provide input and recommendations to the SXTA on treaty mandates such as: Governance and Fisheries.

Treaty Operations

The Treaty Operations team underwent a shift as we continue to move towards forming a government and creating a related government service structure, in contrast to operating as a non-profit organization.

Treaty Operations and Negotiations Support

Under the direction of the CEO for Treaty Operations, staff assist in meeting the objectives of the treaty table and SXTA’s internal mandates. Many aspects of SXTA Operations are supported by staff of the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre (SRRMC) and supplemented by the professional services of consultants as needed. SRRMC Staff include experts and technicians with expertise in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and database management, cultural heritage and history, genealogy, library and archives management, research, land use and environmental planning, negotiation, outreach, and finance and administration.

Core activities

- Treaty Related Measures project identification, planning and proposal submission.
- Support for the review and development of revamped SXTA Treaty working documents with a focus on Rights and Title recognition and including principles of the United Nations Declaration and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as the Calls to Action.
- Research and support for submission of a proposal for an Incremental Treaty Agreement with British Columbia, which will provide an early transfer of a portion of the Treaty Lands.
- Non-SXTA First Nations Engagement to specifically address the SXTA Treaty Land interests; forestry and referrals on potential Treaty Lands; and the shift to a rights and title recognition-based treaty.

Communications and Outreach

This team is responsible for developing and implementing strategies for effectively sharing treaty-related information with, and gathering feedback from, the SXTA Village membership.

Core Activities

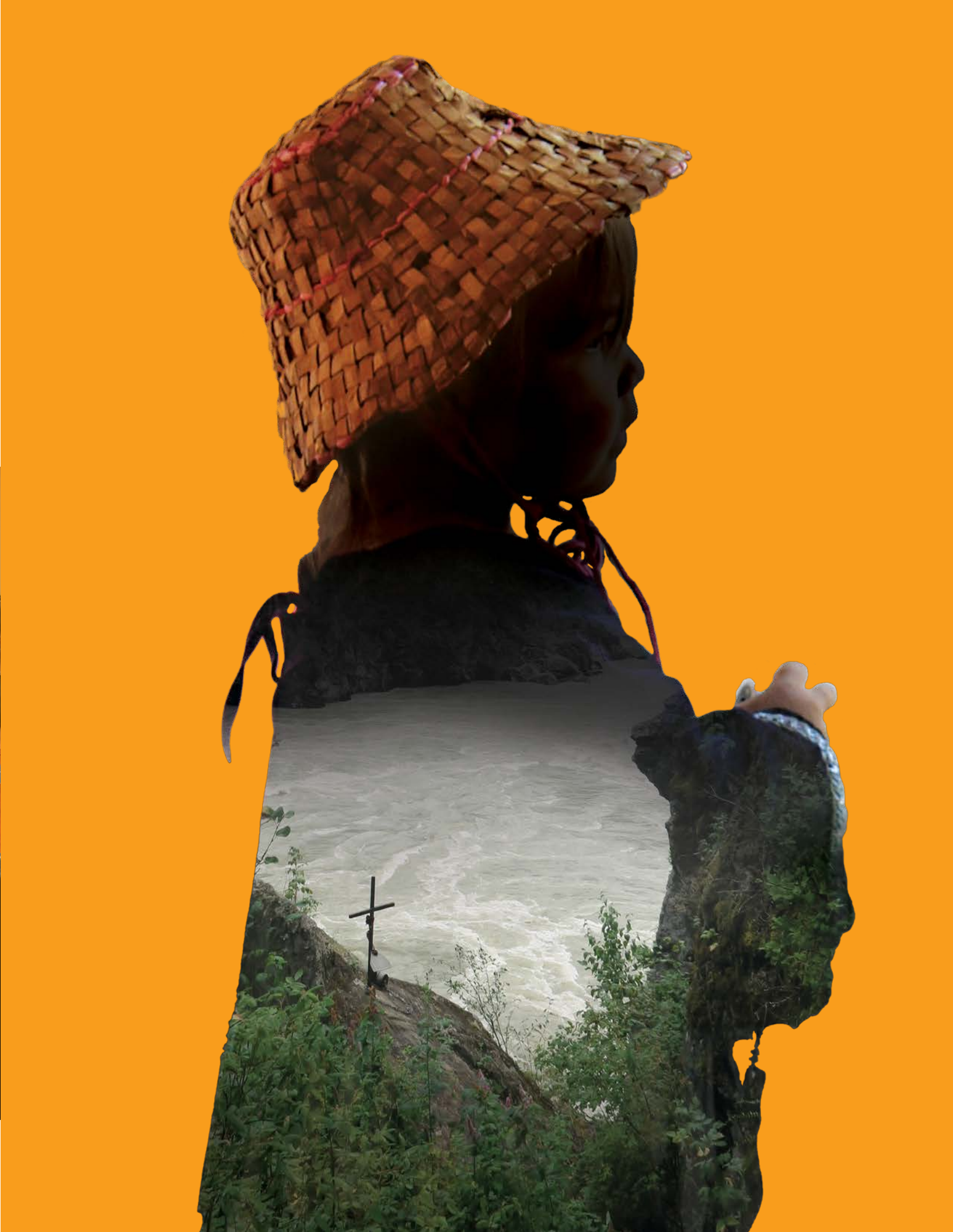
- Development and distribution of easy to understand, visual and multimedia representations of treaty materials including video, podcasts, print materials and social media posts.
- Organization of large and interactive community engagement sessions, one-on-one sessions, kitchen table gatherings, family dinners, and webinars.
- Constitution Community Engagement campaign and vote preparation.
- Supporting the Culture Committee.

Treaty Operations staff in 2020/2021: Dr. Dave Schaepe – SXTA Chief Executive Officer; Christine Jones – Director of Operations; Shana Roberts – Negotiation Technical Support Manager; Tracey Joe – Managing Supervisor/Administrator; Karen Brady – Land Use Planner; Amber Kostuchenko – Researcher; Kristina Ceilli – Researcher; Lisa Davidson – Researcher/Genealogist; Steven Shurgold – Archivist; Colin Green – GIS Analyst; Tara Green – Executive Administrative Assistant; Heather Ramsay – Communications Strategist; Emily Kelly – Community Engagement Coordinator; Danya Douglas – Senior Administrative Assistant; Danielle Munroe – Events Coordinator; Theresa Warbus – Multimedia Coordinator; Sharon Desnomie – Multimedia Assistant.



Conclusion – Striving for Self-Government

We believe in our ability to take control of our own nation and once our Shxwelméxwelh/Constitution is approved we will be one step closer to getting out from under the Indian Act. As part of our movement toward rebuilding our nation, all six communities have worked together to create a plan, based on our s'i:wes (teachings), for how we will govern ourselves. Our Shxwelméxwelh/Constitution describes how the Village and National government will interact and how advisory bodies, made up of community members, will help create the laws and policies that will ensure we all have the opportunity to thrive. We are moving through these steps at a reasonable rate to ensure that we will succeed at taking control of jurisdictions and implementing new systems into our Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw work.





S'ólh Lets'emó:t – Our One Thought



Stó:lō Xwexwílmexw Treaty Association
10 – 7201 Vedder Road, Chilliwack, B.C. V2R 4G5

Tel: (604) 824 3281
Email: outreach@sxta.bc.ca
www.sxta.bc.ca

Follow us @TheSXTA

