

Secwepemc Elders Council

Mission

"We are the Secwepemc."

*"We are keepers of
Secwepemcúl'ecw"*

*"We will recognize and respect
our elders as our teachers to share
their knowledge and wisdom with
Secwepemc."*

Primary Objectives

To unite all 17 Secwepemc bands

1. To share the oral history of the Secwepemcúl'ecw
2. To promote and preserve the Secwepemc language
3. To preserve and document the history of each community
4. To preserve and promote the Secwepemc traditions, culture and spiritual values.
5. To bring youth to all meetings.
6. To help each other out

Representation

SEC meetings are for all 17 Secwepemc Bands.

Youth are strongly encouraged to attend!

November Meeting Notice

Date

Thursday, November 30th, 2017

Time

9:30 am – 2:00 pm

Location

Neskonlith Band Hall

Lunch and refreshments provided.

Mileage costs are reimbursed for
Elders that attend (maximum \$250)

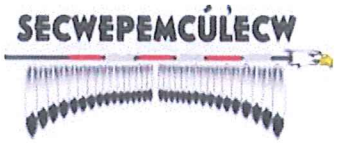
Questions/RSVP to:

778-471-8200 or

artcoordinator@shuswapnation.org

Secwepemc Elders Council Report

October - 2017



The Secwepemc Elders Council met on Oct 26th 2017 in Splantsin. Approximately 15 elders were in attendance and 9 campfires were represented.

The agenda addressed the following items:

1. *Secwepemc Health Caucus & FNHA Updates*
2. *Secwepemc Cultural Education Society Updates*
3. *Nation Governance Updates*
 - a. *Lexlextsenélt*
 - b. *Ceremony*
 - c. *Winter Gathering Agenda*
4. *Elders Council Terms of Reference*

An opening prayer was given by Marianne Lee. Chief Wayne Christian was in attendance and provided a welcome and opening remarks.

Secwepemc Health Caucus Updates

David Archie and Duanna Johnston-Virgo from the Secwepemc Health Caucus (SHC) attended and shared some information prepared by the First Nations Health Authority about the recent changes to the Pharmacare health coverage. David updated on some of the work that the Secwepemc Health Caucus is doing is to help bring our traditional health medicines back. The SHC will be hosting regional meetings with the TWSC where we they would like to have all communities represented to talk about our medicines and ceremony. They have a new mental health wellness coordinator, Duanna Johnston-Virgo, and have just finished interviewing to hire another Traditional Wellness Coordinator. They hope that this will increase the SHC capacity to continue the work that they are doing within Secwepemcúl'ecw.

There were many questions regarding the work and status of the FNHA. At the next Elders meeting there will be a representative available to answer any questions the Elders may have.

Secwepemc Cultural Education Society (SCES) Update

The SCES was unable to attend the council meeting but did share a report outlining the status of the organization thus far (See attached). Bonnie Leonard gave an overview of the vision for working with SCES to be able to access the rich resources specifically regarding language. Bonnie advised that an SCES representative will be attending the SNTC Chiefs meeting on Nov 1st and if any of the Elders would like to attend to hear the update they are welcome too. Bonnie will report back at the next meet with any updated information from the chiefs meeting.



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Elders Council Terms of Reference

In order to continue building on the strength of the Elders Council it was decided that a governance committee was needed to revise and provide recommendations on the council's terms of reference and decision making process. A point was made about ensuring that the committee is careful not to recreate a colonial decision making structure and to follow the traditional way of our ancestors as closely as possible. Further discussion brought forward the idea that we can walk strong in both worlds, and in order to move forward in a balanced way we need to strengthen and implement our traditional governing protocol in the meetings from now on. Volunteers for Governance Committee include Bert Deneault, Julianna Alexander, Carolyn Henry (runner), Marianne Lee, & Richard Lebourdais. It was noted that many of the governance committee volunteers are from the southern territory of the nation and that northern participation is needed to strengthen our unity. Another recommendation was made that the terms of reference created should be translated into Secwépmctsin. If you would like to be involved or have a recommendation please contact Sally at 778-471-8209. A meeting date will be set in November as soon as possible.

Secwepemc Governance Updates

Lexlextsenélt

Sunny Lebourdais circulated a briefing note to the Elders council (see attached) regarding the Lexlextsenélt committee. She shared that the formation of the committee was perhaps rushed and more consideration needed to be given to our ancestor's traditional protocol in selecting representation to sit on this committee. This advisory committee is a group that needs to work together with us (Secwepemc Governance Initiative) to share nation related information across Secwepemcú'ecw. The committee needs to be able to have runners that are able to communicate messages to the community and relay any feedback that might come up from the people. Sunny highlighted the importance of this committee being grounded in the 32 campfires of our nation.

With a few amendments, the elder's council passed the following resolution regarding the Lexlextsenélt committee:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SECWEPENC ELDERS COUNCIL:

1. Fully support the development of the Lexlextsenélt Terms of Reference which reference the following:
 - a. Selection process includes referral of individuals for each be made by the Elder Women of the Secwepemc Elders Council in collaboration with community elders councils and/or traditional governance councils and confirmed through Secwepemc seasonal gatherings;
 - b. Purpose of the committee is to build a group whose role is consistent with the Secwepemc traditional role of the runners who communicate and share knowledge to and from the Secwepemc areas / communities;
 - c. Composition: 32 communities being the goal with alternates proposed for each area and with connection to, respect and consideration for the regional/division campfires
 - d. The committee considers the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects in all communication efforts
2. Secwepemc Elders Council, in collaboration with Elders & traditional Councils from their communities, will begin this selection and confirmation process of the runners including the Secwepemc Winter Gathering to appoint and recognize the initial cohort of runners.

Resolution was moved by Bert Deneault. Seconded by Richard Billy.

*See the resolution attached.

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Ceremony

After lunch, we spoke about the importance of ceremony in this [nation rebuilding] work. That this work is about preparing ourselves, the land, and the spirit for taking on the nation rebuilding and healing in order to ensure it is done in a good way. Chief Wayne spoke about how the wildfires have impacted our lands and that we need to support our spiritual people to gather and do ceremony at each of the corners of our land. Rod Tomma introduced himself. His grandmother is Susan Anthony and his father is Martin Tony from Neskonlith. Rod has been doing ceremonies for over thirty years and has had many mentors both within the nation and outside the nation. Has learned across Canada and throughout the United States. Rod explained that ceremonies are a part of our life and need to be a part of how we do the work. He explains "Spirituality is an everyday thing. We all have many gifts. One of the main components that we need in our governance is our spirituality. Our old ones brought us to this point. We need to begin to strengthen that spirituality again. We need one mind and one heart when we pray. We are scattered within the colonial system and we need to heal." Rod shared that he truly believes that spirituality is the key to the strength of our nation and that we cannot move forward without those ceremonies.

Sunny Lebourdais explained that we need to connect this spiritual work to our governance initiative. With the walking on two legs process we need to strengthen our traditional governance leg. The spiritual coordinators would help bring the people together to do the ceremonies that need to take place and provide that point of contact for the work to get done. And to help open the four doors of the nation. Sunny clarified the request to the Elders; "What we are looking for from the elders council is to have support for a spiritual coordinator role and have Rod Tomma fill that role for us so that he can start gathering the people we need to and begin the spiritual work that needs to get done."

The Elders council supported this requested for Rod to begin coordinating the spiritual work within the nation. The motion was moved by June Kelly and seconded by Barb Lawrence.

Secwepemc Winter Gathering

The Secwepemc Winter Gathering will take place in Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc from December 18th – 21st. The gathering activities will honour the winter seasonal activities of our ancestors like storytelling, feasting, and honouring the relations we have with one another. Sally shared the draft save the date poster for the gathering and asked for continued feedback and guidance from the elders.

A few suggestions were brought forward such as making connect with our children in care to help support them to attend these meetings and connect back to their nation. And another suggestion of developing an interactive map that would show the corners of our territory and any stories that were affiliated with the different regions. The suggestion of doing a flag ceremony to honour the new flag design was also offered. Sally and Sunny committed to each of these action items and will ensure they get followed up on in the gathering planning process. Please find the Winter Gathering poster attached.



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That concluded all of the discussion for this Elders Council meeting. The next meeting will be hosted by Neskonlith and will take place on Thursday, November 30th 2017.

Secwepemc Elders Council Vision

- To unite all 17 Secwepemc bands*
- To share the oral history of the Secwepemcúl'ecw*
- To promote and preserve the Secwepemc language*
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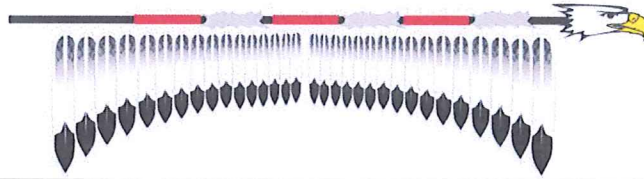
Travel Claim Policy

SNTC will provide reimbursement of mileage to cover the cost of fuel for the driver of the vehicle that transports the Elder(s) to attend Secwepemc Elders Council meetings. Elders are encouraged to carpool.

For more information regarding this newsletter/travel claims or upcoming meetings:

Call Shuswap Nation Tribal Council: 778-471-8200, or E-mail sntcadmn@shuswapnation.org

SECWPEMCÚLECW



BRIEFING NOTE

To: Secwepemc Elders Council
From: Sunny LeBourdais, Director of Governance
Date: October 26, 2017
Re: Lexlexsenélt (Governance Advisory) Committee transition,

Background:

- Lexlexsenélt (Governance Advisory) committee was formed from last year's governance engagement process.
- Committee's purpose was to advise on the 5 identified priority areas and assist with the transition and establishment of the Secwepemc National Government.
- Call out for committee members was shared and approximately 24 community members responded with interest in participating.
- Committee framework was to meet quarterly and provide advice and insight based on their area of knowledge and experience to the technical staff attempting to build on the national governance model and move forward in transitioning to the national governing body.

Issues & Concerns:

- Lexlexsenélt meeting at Revelstoke was challenged with making recommendations under current format.
- Reflecting & learning, we see the traditional selection protocol and involvement of elders in this identification and selection for these advisory roles is critical to its success.
- We see the need to evolve the role and purpose of the committee to that of traditional "runners" of the nation who act as messengers and conduits of information with each community & area of SecwepemcÚleCW
- Framework- we see the need to equitably respect and uphold the 32 feathers of the Secwepemc Nation

Recommendations (Resolution Supporting):

1. Lexlexsenélt committee Terms of Reference be developed to reflect the following:
 - a. Selection process includes referral of individuals for each be made by the Secwepemc Elders Council in collaboration with community elders councils and/or traditional governance councils and confirmed through Secwepemc seasonal gatherings;
 - b. Purpose of the committee is to build a group whose role is consistent with the Secwepemc traditional role of the runners who communicate and share knowledge to and from the Secwepemc areas / communities;
 - c. Composition: 32 communities being the goal with alternates proposed for each area and with connection to, respect and consideration for the regional/division campfires
2. Secwepemc Elders Council, in collaboration with Elders & traditional Councils from their communities, will begin this selection and confirmation process of the runners including the Winter Gathering to appoint and recognize the initial cohort of runners.

DRAFT Resolution:

Whereas, the Secwepemc Elders Council is open to all elders of the Secwepemc Nation;

Whereas, we respect standing up our Secwepemc jurisdiction, laws, protocols, roles and responsibilities;

Whereas, we respect the traditional governance models and groups that are revitalizing these ways;

Whereas, some members of the Secwepemc Elders Council have been part of the Lexlexsenélt;

Whereas, we support respecting traditional protocol and the role of elders in the selection of individuals for specific roles;

Whereas, we support the traditional role of the runners and their importance to our Secwepemc Nation rebuilding process;

Whereas, we support recognition of our traditional 32 communities and the regional governments of our Secwepemc Nation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SECWEPEMC ELDERS COUNCIL:

1. Fully support the development of the Lexlexsenélt Terms of Reference which reference the following:
 - a. Selection process includes referral of individuals for each be made by the Elder Women of the Secwepemc Elders Council in collaboration with community elders councils and/or traditional governance councils and confirmed through Secwepemc seasonal gatherings;
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 - d. The committee considers the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects in all communication efforts
2. Secwepemc Elders Council, in collaboration with Elders & traditional Councils from their communities, will begin this selection and confirmation process of the runners including the Secwepemc Winter Gathering to appoint and recognize the initial cohort of runners.

Resolution moved by: Bert Deneault. **Resolution Seconded by:** Richard Billy.

All were in favour. No abstentions. No opposed.

Motion passed.

Date: October 26th 2017