



# Snuneymuxw

First Nation

**For Immediate Release  
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## **Community Wide Partnership To Support Tribal Journeys 2020 in Nanaimo**

Snuneymuxw First Nation submitted an expression of interest over a year ago and are the successful hosts for Tribal Journeys scheduled to take place on July 27 to August 1, 2020. Themed “Honouring the Salmon; Honouring Our Ancestors,” visitors from around the world will arrive to Nanaimo in traditional canoes at the shores of Snuneymuxw to celebrate Indigenous culture and continue a way of life that has occurred for many generations. The annual event was held in the Lummi Nation this past summer.

Tribal Journeys involve paddlers departing the shores of their home community every year on a traditional canoe traveling the Salish Sea stopping at the shores of many First Nations and Native American Tribes for an overnight stay. Canoe families continue paddling to the host community where they will engage in a landing ceremony at the shores of Snuneymuxw where each canoe will share their Indigenous ceremony as they arrive. Once welcomed, canoe families and visitors will proceed to the Snuneymuxw longhouse for protocol ceremony lasting over five days. Nanaimo is set to welcome more than 100 canoes, hundreds of paddlers and their road crews, and thousands of other visitors to experience the bounty the city has to offer. Everyone is welcome to attend and witness the six days of Indigenous ceremony and celebration!

It is the first time in 30 years for Snuneymuxw to host Tribal Journeys. The City of Nanaimo, the Regional District of Nanaimo, Vancouver Island University, School District 68, the Nanaimo Port Authority, Tourism Vancouver Island, the Nanaimo Hospitality Association, the Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre and Kw’umut Lelum are proud to partner with Snuneymuxw First Nation to make this historic occasion a success.

### **QUOTES**

“We are excited to welcome all of our guests from around the world in July and proud to share our traditional territory in partnership with local stakeholders.”

**Acting Chief Kate Good  
Snuneymuxw First Nation**

“Working with Snuneymuxw First Nation, the City is honoured to help make Tribal Journey 2020 a success and advance reconciliation for all of us in Nanaimo.”

**Mayor Leonard Krog  
City of Nanaimo**



“The Regional District of Nanaimo is pleased to support the 2020 Tribal Journey event to be hosted by Snuneymuxw First Nation next summer. This exciting celebration will have significant cultural and economic benefits for the entire area, and will attract many people to visit our Regional District.”

**Ian W. Thorpe, Chair  
Regional District of Nanaimo**



"VIU is proud to support Snuneymuxw -- one of our key partners in education, truth and reconciliation – in hosting Tribal Journeys 2020. This historic gathering will be another step in our ongoing journey of mutual trust, respect and cultural understanding."

**Deborah Saucier, President & Vice Chancellor  
Vancouver Island University**



"The Nanaimo Ladysmith Public School District is honoured to support Snuneymuxw First Nation as a partner for Tribal Journeys 2020. The district is prepared to support our educational knowledge partners as thousands of participants complete their canoe journey, and we are honoured to bear witness to the sharing of traditional community protocols and celebrations."

**Charlene McKay, Board Chair  
School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith), Board of Education**



"The 2020 Tribal Journey is a significant opportunity for the Port of Nanaimo to honour the vibrant traditions of our First Nations and their connection to the Salish Sea. We are excited to partner with Snuneymuxw to honour the salmon and be part of this cultural tradition welcoming all peoples to their shores."

**Donna Hais, Chair  
Port of Nanaimo**



"We are proud to support the work of Snuneymuxw First Nation in bringing this significant event to our region. This is an important opportunity for residents and visitors to experience and better understand the traditions and ways of the Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast, which is integral to the advancement of truth and reconciliation."

**Karen Bannister, Director of Destination Marketing  
Tourism Vancouver Island**



"The Nanaimo Hospitality Association and our members are pleased to be able to support Snuneymuxw First Nation with Tribal Journeys 2020. Indigenous and cultural events such as Tribal Journeys 2020 are vital to building and sustaining a healthy and vibrant accommodation and hospitality industry within our entire community."

**Dan Brady, Executive Director  
Nanaimo Hospitality Association**



"We are thrilled that Snuneymuxw is hosting the event in 2020 and are eager to support in any way that we can."

**Chris Beaton, Executive Director  
Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre**



"Kw'umut Lelum, situated on Snuneymuxw territory, has paddled in Tribal Journey for the past 11 years. Our canoe family is comprised of Indigenous youth, many of whom are from Snuneymuxw, so we are very much looking forward to supporting our Snuneymuxw relatives as they prepare to host this incredible event."

**Bill Yoachim, Executive Director  
Kw'umut Lelum**



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**LINKS:**

[www.snuneymuxw.ca](http://www.snuneymuxw.ca)  
[www.paddletosnuneymuxw.com](http://www.paddletosnuneymuxw.com)

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