



Snuneymuxw

First Nation

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Thlap'qwum (79 Acre) update from Snuneymuxw

Chief and Council

The Thlap'qwum Specific Claim was first filed in 1992 with Canada and now more than 24 years later Snuneymuxw Chief and Council are proud to announce that the Nation is voting to accept or reject Canada's offer on November 12th, 2016.

On February 3, 2015, Snuneymuxw Chief and Council voted unanimously to submit the July 2, 2014 offer from Canada to SFN members for a vote. This decision was based heavily on the advice of our Elders and SFN members during a meeting held in late January of 2015, and supported by the legal opinions received from our legal team.

On July 24, 2015, Snuneymuxw held their first information meeting regarding the Thlap'qwum Specific Claim. The purpose of this meeting was to share updates regarding the claim and to introduce the Trust Planning Working Group (TPWG), share their terms of reference and answer any questions about the work that they were about to begin.

The TPWG's objective was to engage with the community to receive recommendations on how the Thlap'qwum Trust Agreement could be managed. In order to achieve this objective the TPWG distributed surveys to SFN members asking an array of questions from Community priorities to distribution to the number of Community Trustees. They also held two Community engagement meetings; the first in Vancouver on September 23rd, 2015 and the

second, here in Snuneymuxw on September 27, 2015. The results from the surveys submitted by SFN members' forms the foundation of the Trust Agreement.

As part of their commitment to this file, Chief and Council struck a committee to work with our lawyers to finalize both the Settlement and Trust Agreements. During this time Chief and Council continued to engage with SFN members. In late April/ early May of this year, engagement meetings were held in Suquamish, Washington; Vancouver; and Snuneymuxw.

Recently, information packages have been either mailed or delivered to all eligible SFN members whose contact information is up-to-date with our membership department. If you have not received this package please contact our electoral Officer, Theresa Marion at 604-666-5071 or at Theresa.Marion@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca. Included in the information packages are: mail-in ballots (off-reserve SFN members only) with voting instructions and a voter declaration form; a notice referendum; the Settlement and Trust Agreements; and summaries for the Settlement and Trust Agreement. If you receive a mail-in ballot, it is important that it is filled out correctly.

If you know of any members who have not received Thlap'qwum updates from the Nation in the last 6-12 months, please have them contact Vanessa Wyse at 250-740-2300 or at vanessaw@snuneymuxw.ca immediately to update their contact information. In addition, Chief and Council will be hosting 3 more information meetings to answer questions the membership have about the Settlement & Trust Agreements or voting procedures.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important information, please contact Desiree Harris at 250-740-2300 or at DesireeH@snuneymuxw.ca if you have any further questions or inquiries.

Snuneymuxw Chief and Council