

Wa Iyím Ta Skwxwú7mesh Protocol

BETWEEN

District of Squamish
(the "District")

AND

Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw,

Also known as the Squamish Nation, on behalf of itself and its members as represented by its Council
("Skwxwú7mesh")

(Collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individual as a "Party")

WHEREAS:

- A. Skwxwú7meshulh Territory is the temíxw (lands), xechxáchu7 (lakes), and swelwá7lt (streams), sh'k'weñ (ocean), and stakw (freshwater) within the territory as defined by where Skwxwú7mesh exercised their rights, including rights to ownership, of areas that were governed according to systems of Skwxwú7mesh rules, customs, ways, or laws.
- B. Skwxwú7mesh title and rights exist in Skwxwú7mesh territory, and the Skwxwú7mesh have a unique relationship to and connection with the land and resources throughout Skwxwú7mesh Territory, which are important to the:
 - a. The full enjoyment of Skwxwú7mesh title and rights;
 - b. Well-being of Skwxwú7mesh family, community, culture, economy and health; and,
 - c. Maintenance of Skwxwú7mesh's governance, laws and economy;
- C. The mission of the Skwxwú7mesh is to protect the Amalgamation and enhance the Úxwumixw values and traditions through respect, equality, and harmony for all.
- D. The District recognizes that the Skwxwú7mesh have aboriginal title, rights, and jurisdiction within its territory and will work with the Skwxwú7mesh to develop a framework for reconciliation that will act as a bridging step to support the full enjoyment of Skwxwú7mesh title, rights, and jurisdiction and the reconciliation of those with the District's jurisdiction.
- E. The District and Skwxwú7mesh are committed to building on their existing Government-to-Government relationship based on respect and recognition to advance reconciliation consistent with the articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Provincial Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and Action Plan. Commitment and implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act requires transformative change in the District's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, including the Skwxwú7mesh.
- F. The Parties intend to keep building on this relationship through this Protocol on a path to reconciliation.

Objective of Protocol

The objective of this Protocol is to provide guidance on how the Skwxwú7mesh and the District will engage together to advance reconciliation.

Principles to Guide Reconciliation Process

Skwxwú7mesh lives our commitment to uphold, support, and affirm our rights & responsibilities. Skwxwú7mesh will only engage external entities that recognize and affirm our inherent rights and title and that make space for our priorities.

The process to seek Wa Iyím ta Skwxwú7mesh agreements will be governed by the following principles:

Tkwáya7n iy Nexnewítm

"Listen & Engage"

Wa nexwniwnen chet ta nexwniw t'a Skwxwú7mesh

"Follow the ways of the Squamish"

Tegwálm Ns7eyx

"Genuinely Care"

Chet wa telnexw tina t'a snewiyelh t'a Skwxwú7mesh

"Learn the advice of the Squamish"

Na wa nelhnihtway ta uxwumixw

"The people go through it together"

We7us chet ta Skwxwú7mesh siyámin

"Protect the rights and title of the Squamish"

The parties are committed to building shared understanding of these principles and exploring their application in developing and implementing Wa Iyím ta Skwxwú7mesh agreements.

Generational Goals

Following a Wa Iyím ta Skwxwú7mesh process, the Skwxwú7mesh and the District will work together to determine how the District can support the Skwxwú7mesh in achieving and implementing its generational goals for its:

- People
- Land and Waters
- Government
- External Relations

MOU

Based on the commitments and principles under this Protocol, the parties will develop a memorandum of understanding ("MOU") that will:

- establish a formal process that leads to substantive agreements which support the full enjoyment of Skwxwú7mesh title, rights and jurisdiction within its territory, and
- identify specific commitments between the Skwxwú7mesh and the District regarding meeting the strategic priorities of the Skwxwú7mesh and
- include specific measurable targets that the District will commit to, and accountability measures related to those commitments.

THIS PROTOCOL has been executed on the 100th Anniversary of the Amalgamation of Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw on this 17th day of July 2023.

SKWXWÚ7MESH



Khelsilem, Council Chairperson

DISTRICT OF SQUAMISH



Armand Hurford, Mayor