



COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN
2015 - 2030

tssálem • Message from Si:yá:m Council

The Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) is intended to provide guidance to our community on a number of key areas that are vital to maintain a healthy and sustainable community. The process of developing this CCP has provided our community the opportunity to develop a vision for the future taking us to 2030, based on our core values and principles while also identifying the key actions that will need to be undertaken to achieve our vision.

We are excited about the possibilities that will arise as this CCP is implemented, and as we continue to build our community. It is important to recognize that the community has the most critical role in implementing our Comprehensive Community Plan. Our community must own this plan and participate meaningfully in its implementation in order for it to be successful. While Shxw'ōwhámél Si:yá:m and staff will need to lead many of these initiatives, there are also several actions identified that are best led by community members. We need each and every community member to determine how they can help lead or support the initiatives that are described in our CCP so that we can achieve the vision and goals that we, as a community, have ratified. We look forward to working with the community on this journey.



The Story of the Sturgeon

excerpt from 'I am Stó:lō! Katherine explores her heritage'

Long ago the world was not quite right. Everything was mixed up. Our Elders tell us that animals could talk to people and people could change their shape. Into this world came Xex:áls. Xex:áls came to transform the world and make it right. Some people call Xex:áls the 'transformer,' others say he was the 'Little Christ,' and some call him the 'magician.'

Xex:áls had very special magical powers. He traveled throughout the land transforming things into their permanent shape. He punished wicked people by transforming them into stone, but he also rewarded some good people by transforming them into useful things. As Xex:áls traveled up the Fraser River he transformed people at many places along his journey. It was winter when he reached the village of Shxw'ōwhámél. He saw that the people were starving because it was difficult to find food in the winter months. The salmon and eulachon only came into the river in the spring and summer. In the winter, the river was empty.

Xex:áls wanted to help the people so he transformed one of the village men into a sturgeon. The man's wife was very lonely without her husband and so she was told to stand by the edge of the river. She carried her lunch – a small piece of deer meat tied in her wrist. As she stood there in the snow, her husband called her to join him. She dove into the ice-cold river. She was suddenly transformed into a sturgeon herself. Because she had her lunch tied to her wrist, all sturgeon today have dark tasty meat behind their gills.

About Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation

We, the Stó:lō and Coast Salish people of Shxw'ōwhámél and the Tiyt Tribe have always occupied our territory. We are a community of 200 members with approximately 100 people living on our main reserve: Shxw'ōwhámél (Ohamil) I.R. # 1.

Central to the lives of our ancestors and our community today is the Fraser River (Stó:lō means 'people of the river' in Halq'eméylem, our traditional language). The Fraser River is critical to our community's life as a food source and formerly as a major transportation conduit facilitating trade with other villages. Shxw'ōwhámél means 'where the river levels and widens', which refers to the area around Shxw'ōwhámél. The lands and waters of our territory have traditionally provided many resources of great value to the people of Shxw'ōwhámél including salmon and sturgeon, deer, plants and berries for food and medicines, animals for clothing and drums, and materials such as cedar for constructing buildings such as longhouses and making baskets.

Our traditional life involved hunting, fishing, gathering, and trade with other villages along the Fraser River as well as the practice of various ceremonies such as naming ceremonies, Puberty ceremonies, potlatches, and winter dances. People lived in either longhouses or pithouses depending on the location, time of year, and status of the family. Given the abundance of locally available resources and the prevalence of trade with other nations, the Stó:lō people generally lived

in permanent settlements. An example of this permanency in the area is that family fishing sites in the area along the Fraser River have been passed down in families through generations.

Our traditional life has been disrupted in many ways with the arrival of Europeans in our area and colonization. The people of Shxw'ōwhámél, along with all Stó:lō people, were hit hard by the small pox epidemic in the 1780s which killed up to 90% of people in some villages. Much of the epidemic was spread through trade with other nations emanating from present-day Oregon. The Fraser River gold rush also had a significant impact on our territory as 30,000 miners encroached upon our lands. The residential school system also impacted our community as children were sent to St. Mary's, Coqueleetza and schools far outside our territory, such as Kamloops and Sechelt.

The area around Shxw'ōwhámél has many points of importance, generally in the watersheds of Jones, Lorenzetti, and Hunter Creeks. An area immediately south of the Trans Canada Highway has evidence of many pithouses, some of which date back thousands of years. Another activity of critical importance to the community was the hunting of deer in this area which, in one practice, was done by corralling deer into a narrowing of the land between the mountains and the river. There are also fasting grounds for men and women, and sacred pools located in the mountains south of Shxw'ōwhámél.

Xelhálh (Kuthlalth) (present day I.R. # 3) holds special significance for us. Xelhálh was strategically located with the village overlooking the Fraser River,

protected by a fortress and the river itself as there were several whirlpools and rapids that made it challenging to navigate to shore for those people unfamiliar with the area. In addition to the remnants of the fortress, Xelhálh has evidence of many pithouses and burial grounds. Xelhálh was the home for a large number of people up until the 1850s, when the population was decimated by the smallpox epidemic and our remaining ancestors were moved, by the colonial government, to Shxw'ōwhámél to encourage them to pursue agricultural as way of building a subsistence economy. This shifted people away from relying on fishing, hunting, gathering and trade for feeding the community.

Over the years, our community has re-emerged from the threats posed by colonialism, small pox, loss of land, and residential schools. In the early 1970s, we had approximately 40 members. Currently we have nearly 200 members. While we honour and respect the past Chief and Councils, the re-establishment of the traditional Si:ya:m system of governance in 1994 was an important milestone in our community's development. The construction of new houses and access to services has enabled us to strengthen our community and begin to re-establish our cultural roots.

What is a Comprehensive Community Plan?

A Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) is an approach to community planning that integrates a number of key priority areas for growth and development in the community. Our CCP provides Si:yám Council, staff and the community direction on how key issues in the community should be addressed leading towards self-sufficiency, and provides a community-endorsed plan that can be used to leverage funding and partnerships from external agencies.

Shxw'ówhámél has undertaken significant work in the past 1.5 years to develop this CCP. This includes numerous community engagement sessions with our membership in order to determine what we should do to address a variety of issues. This is critical as our community grows and we forge ahead in a new future where opportunities to negotiate meaningful benefit and accommodation agreements with third parties have significantly improved due to our rights and title are being recognized and upheld. In this new environment, it is important that our visions, goals, and proposed actions are clearly articulated and endorsed by our community.

When defining a **Comprehensive Community Plan**, it is important to consider what each of the words means:

Comprehensive – means that the plan reviews a wide variety of issues in depth

Community – means that the plan is developed and endorsed by the community

Plan – means that next steps have been identified to provide context for growth and improvement

Shxw'ówhámél First Nation's CCP includes the following components:



hí:kw • Our Values

Our vision, goals, objectives and actions are informed and guided by our fundamental values. These core values include:

- Unbroken Aboriginal Rights and title to our land
- Leadership by our respected Si:yá:m Council
- Full engagement of and accountability to our membership
- Mutual support and sharing within and amongst families
- Respect for our traditional cultural values and our history
- Respect for all things
- Management of our community and our lands for future generations

Our vision statement guides all the work that we do.

Our vision statement is:

Shxw'ōwhámél will continue to support each other on working towards a healthy, educated, cultural and self-sufficient community.



SHXW'ŌWHÁMÉL FIRST NATION

t:weséleq • Governance

Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation has a custom electoral system and is governed by Si:yá:m. Si:yá:m Council are respected people in the community who have been appointed, by their families, to provide leadership

Si:yá:m Councillors may consider adopting portfolios in order to keep the Council informed of developments pertaining to Band issues. Si:yá:m Councillors elected as the portfolio holders are not authorized to make decisions in their field, but provide the Council with detailed information and recommendations so the Council can make a decision as a whole group generating equality and fairness. The portfolio holder will be responsible for upholding the decisions and opinion of the Council. The purpose of this governance structure is to provide an organizational structure for the operation of the Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation to maintain harmonious, respectful, effective and efficient relationships between the Si:yá:m, Administrator, and Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation members.

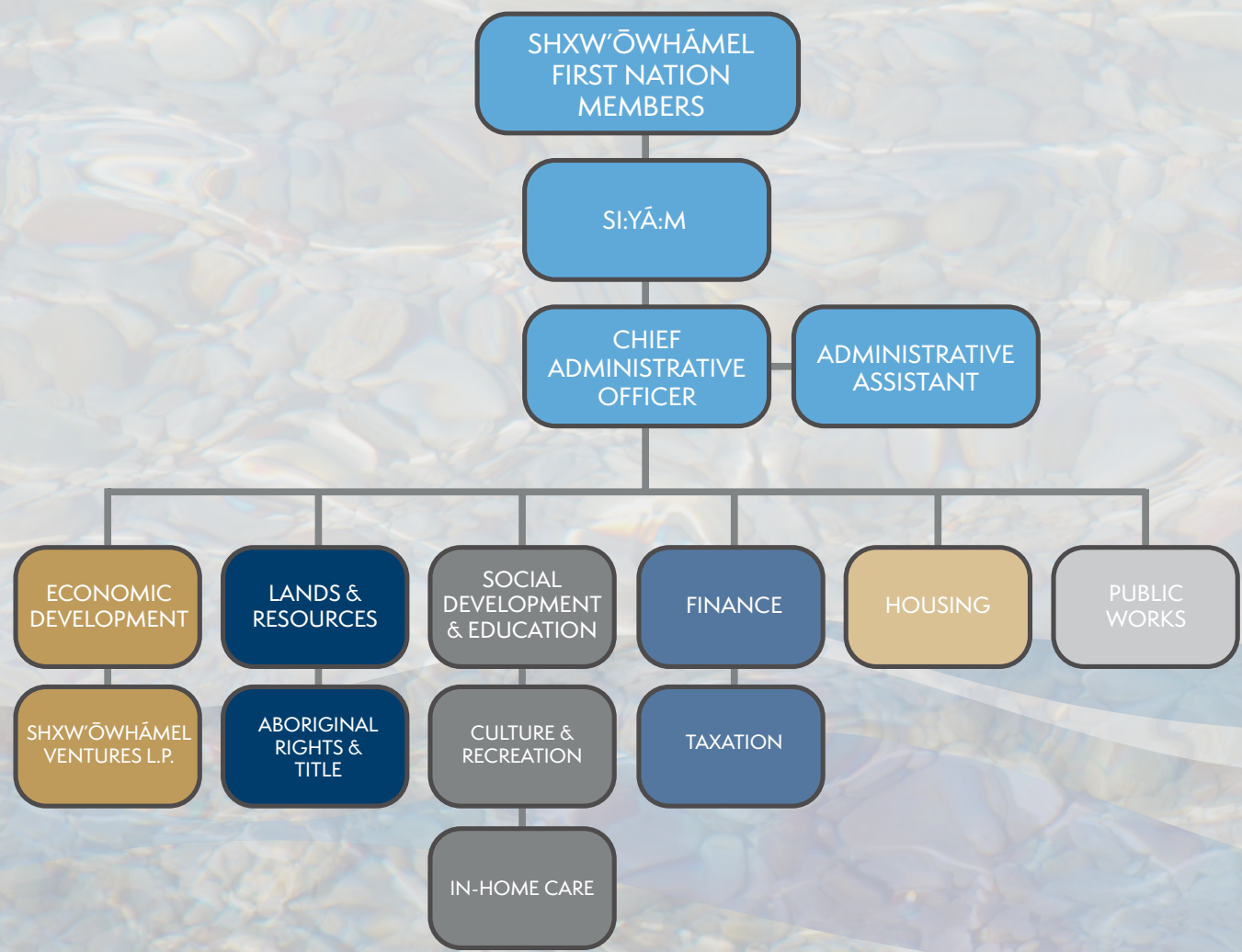
We are actively engaged in re-establishing the Tiyt Tribe. The Tiyt Tribe are upriver Stó:lō people, and are comprised of Chowathel, Skw'atets, Sq'ewqel, Shxw'ōwhámél, Sqewá:lxw, Iwowes, Popkw'em and Xwoxweha:lh. We hold title, rights and interests to S'olh Temexw, which is defined by our Halq'méylem dialect and the five sub-dialects that we speak. Chichelh Siy:am placed us here within S'olh Temexw, and has given us:

- our legal orders, customs, protocols and traditions that define our rights and responsibilities to each other, to others, and to the land, air, water, resources and wildlife within S'olh Temexw;
- our spiritual beliefs, languages and culture; and
- authority and jurisdiction over our title, rights and interests.

Our relationship to S'olh Temexw defines our identity – the health of our members, the vibrancy of our culture, and the welfare of our children are inextricably linked to the well-being of the land, air, water, resources and wildlife within S'olh Temexw.



We operate in a team environment and often times roles and responsibilities fall into multiple departments or programs. Permanent staff members are often supported by the addition of contract employees and summer youth workers. Our organizational structure is summarized in the diagram below:



éíyá • Goal Statement

Ensure consistent, transparent, and trustworthy governance and administration of the community and strengthen relationships with the Tíyt Tribe and the broader Stó:lō community.

sxéles • Objectives

- Build connections between families and on and off reserve membership as well as the Tíyt Tribe, and the broader Stó:lō communities and institutions.
- Implement a robust policy framework that will provide clear guidelines for how Si:yá:m Council and administration should operate.



xét'e • Key Actions

Key actions to achieve the goals and objectives listed include:

- Develop a Communications Strategy which will identify how to increase the level of communications and outreach to membership, both on-reserve and off-reserve, inviting participation in community meetings, discussions, and programs.
- Develop a stronger relationship with the Tíyt Tribe and Stó:lō Bands through regular meetings.
- Finalize and adopt the Draft Governance Policy to formalize the Si:yá:m Governance system and relationships between the Si:yá:m Council, Administration and membership.
- Finalize and adopt Draft Finance and Housing Policies.
- Develop and publish clear terms of reference for all Council Committees.
- Develop and publish Organization Chart, identifying roles and relationships between Membership, Si:yá:m Council, Committees, Administration.
- Pursue certification by the First Nations Financial Management Board.
- Increase staff levels to implement policies and actions.

í:wes • Education and Training

Shxw'ōwhámél currently offers several programs aimed at improving educational outcomes. These include:

- Subsidy for school supplies
- Field trips
- Homework club
- Summer programs
- Reading program
- Cultural Drumming and Singing
- iPads and laptops with educational apps
- Training and employment opportunities through Shxw'ōwhámél Ventures LP

There is funding available for members to enter into post-secondary programs. Unfortunately, the demand for funding far outweighs the funding available meaning that a number of people cannot access these programs in a timely manner.

éíyá • Goal Statement

Ensure that Shxw'ōwhámél people have access to education from early childhood to adulthood and are well-educated and well-positioned to succeed.

sxéles • Objectives

- Ensure that youth have access to foundational educational opportunities.
- Ensure that members have access to post-secondary education.
- Ensure that members possess positive life skills.



xét'e • Key Actions

Key actions to achieve the goals and objectives listed include:

- Continue to support families and children through the Head Start program, Parents and Tots program, Someone So Small, Bear Bus, subsidy for school supplies, field trips and homework club.
- Continue to celebrate and honour children and youth with graduation parties, year-end parties, and achievement awards.
- Direct education support and counseling resources to kids in foster care and youth-at-risk to improve their education outcomes.
- Explore options to increase access to post-secondary education for all members.
- Support and encourage active engagement of parents in children's education such as facilitating on-reserve parent-teacher interviews.
- Provide members with life skills training on household budgeting, healthy cooking, parenting, entering the work force, job retention, and Shxw'ōwhámél values.
- Improve access to, frequency, and confidentiality of employment and career counseling services.
- Develop a job shadow and mentoring program to inspire and develop new talent and consider requiring participation in such a program as a precursor to participation in the summer student employment program.
- Link training and certification programs for members directly to employment opportunities, particularly those for Shxw'ōwhámél Ventures.
- Develop a program to expose youth to a variety of working situations so that they can better understand what they want to do when they begin to pursue employment.
- Develop a volunteers program to get members engaged in community building activities.



Culture and Heritage

Our culture is defined by our relationship to the land and water and our relationship with one another as a community.

The Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation, being a member of the Tíyt Tribe, continue to maintain our aboriginal rights and title to our lands and resources within S'ólh Temexw, our traditional Sto:lo Territory. We honour our past, present and future generations: Xwel mi ay sta:xwelh. Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation has a unique relationship with our Sxoxo:mes (our gifts) lands and resources which is expressed in our Sxwoxwiyam, Sqwelqwel and our Shxweli.

We have a rich culture that must be sustained and enhanced. We also have rich archeological sites with many pit houses on Ohamil I.R. # 1 and pithouses, cemetery, and remnants of a fortress on Kuthlalth I.R. # 3 that we need to protect and enhance.

Many of our members continue to undertake traditional activities including fishing, hunting, gathering, weaving, crafts, story telling, and drumming. Several members have indicated that they have some knowledge of Halq'emēylem, the language of our people.

éliyá • Goal Statement

Maintain Shxw'ōwhámél, Tíyt Tribe, and Stó:lō culture as a vibrant part of everyday life.



sxéles • Objectives

- Engage community members in programs and projects that reinforce traditional values, and share traditional knowledge.
- Build community by integrating language and culture.

xét'e • Key Actions

Key actions to achieve the goals and objectives listed include:

- Expand the Halq'emēylem language program to reach more members including incorporating the language into the daycare and community signage.
- Develop programs to revive traditional skills in fishing and fish preparation, weaving, plant harvesting and processing, hunting and processing, basketry, knitting, drum-making, tool-making and carving.
- Develop an agricultural knowledge program (ethnobotany) for plants and medicinal and cultural uses and distribute a seasonal harvesting program.
- Develop and distribute seasonal harvesting calendar.
- Reintroduce traditions such as holding ceremonies for birth, adolescence and name giving.
- Review options for the long-term use of the church
- Host community building events such as the Shxw'ōwhámél Days which was a celebration that brought people together along the river.
- Develop a Cultural Master Plan.
- Construct a community longhouse.



I caught a great sturgeon

I dreamt of a sturgeon

We are the sturgeon people



S'ólh téwéxw te íkw' elò.

This is our land. We h

A scenic landscape photograph showing a wide river or lake in the middle ground. In the background, there are dark, forested mountains under a clear blue sky. The foreground is filled with a dense thicket of bare, brown branches and shrubs, some of which are out of focus. A few taller, thin trees with light-colored bark are visible on the right side. The overall tone is natural and serene.

Xółhmet te mekw'stám it kwelát

have to take care of everything that belongs to us.

Shxweyó:yes ye xwélmexw qas te skwókwel syó:ys Community Facilities and Infrastructure

Shxw'ówhámél has a number of community facilities and infrastructure that include:

Community Facilities

- Band Office
- Sturgeon Meeting Room
- Youth/Community Centre
- Playground
- Ball Field
- Daycare
- Church

Infrastructure

- Water – Shxw'ówhámél has a water system on Ohamil I.R. # 1.
- Fire Protection – there are fire hydrants and service from local governments.
- Sewer – individual on-site septic systems are provided.
- Roads – Ohamil I.R. # 1 has access to paved and gravel roads while Wahleach Island I.R. # 2 has gravel roads. Access to Wahleach Island I.R. # 2 is limited.
- Solid Waste – Shxw'ówhámél has solid waste collection through the District of Hope.
- Three Phase Power – there is three phase power along the northern side of Highway # 1 and along Highway # 7 at Shxw'ówhámél.
- Natural Gas – is only available on the north side of the Fraser River.
- Erosion/Flood Protection – there is a lack of flood protection on Ohamil I.R. # 1 and Wahleach Island I.R. # 2 and erosion issues on Kuthlalth I.R. # 3.



éliyá • Goal Statement

Ensure that infrastructure and community facilities are maintained and expanded to provide a more livable community.

sxéles • Objectives

- Develop community and recreation infrastructure to support a social, active and healthy lifestyle at all stages of life.
- Ensure that infrastructure supports public safety.
- Ensure that infrastructure is in place to support the growth of the community.



xét'e • Key Actions

Key actions to achieve the goals and objectives listed include:

- Establish a recreational infrastructure plan to consider the feasibility of parks, playspaces, sports fields, and indoor gymnasium.
- Develop a new Community Centre Complex that will include community uses, health services, and administrative offices.
- Assess the feasibility for a daycare facility.
- Construct a community longhouse.
- Establish a community trails system.
- Undertake a road lighting and traffic calming program.
- Develop strategy for paving of all roads in the community.
- Determine the viability of sidewalks and/or trails to provide pedestrians a safer way to walk through the reserve.
- Undertake a development potential analysis for the land base to determine what areas can be developed with less risk.
- Undertake a community sewage feasibility study to address issues of seepage.
- Redo fence on Kuthlalth I.R. # 3 to help with erosion issues.
- Develop an Asset Management Plan.
- Clear existing trails on Kuthlalth I.R. # 3.

thiyéltxwem • Housing

Shxw'ōwhámél has 30 houses on-reserve. These include 24 single family houses and 3 duplexes (6 dwelling units). There are plans to construct new houses in a 9 lot subdivision that has been developed. There are also opportunities to develop housing along St. Elmo Road given the availability of existing water infrastructure..


éliyá • Goal Statement

Ensure that there is an adequate supply of quality houses available to meet the needs of membership.

sxéles • Objectives

- Facilitate the construction of new houses.
- Ensure that there are clear policies and procedures that are implemented consistently to build community trust and manage demand.
- Ensure that housing meets the diverse needs of our community.





xét'e • Key Actions

Key actions to achieve the goals and objectives listed include:

- Develop a comprehensive Housing Strategy to deliver needed housing for new households and people moving onto reserve, and to maintain existing housing stock. Coordinate the Housing Strategy with the development of the Comprehensive Community Plan, Land Use Plan, and Land Code.
- Finalize and implement the Housing Policy. The Policy should address issues such as:
 - Requirements for housing accessibility for people with reduced mobility.
 - Requirements for energy efficiency.
- Aim to ensure that all Band housing units have healthy living conditions by establishing a housing maintenance program that would include:
 - Renovating houses to acceptable standards
 - Educating members on how to undertake simple maintenance of houses.
 - Re-establishing the housing preventative maintenance program.
 - Identifying strategies to address health and safety concerns of housing situated in the flood plain and/or erosion zones.
- Engage with the First Nations Market Housing Fund.

q'páls ts'lhóqw • Economic Development

Currently, economic development activities are limited on our land base. Shxw'ōwhámél generates revenue from leasing of space for billboards along Highway # 1 and by leasing space to Emergency Management BC for the Fraser River Debris Trap. In addition, we generate revenue from the Rights-of-Way for Kinder Morgan and BC Hydro. We also have economic development initiatives for off-reserve activities in forestry and micro-hydro power generation.

éliyá • Goal Statement

Leverage economic development initiatives to increase employment for community members, and generate revenue for Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation.

sxéles • Objectives

- Strengthen the position of Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation to engage in economic development activities.
- Increase revenue for Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation.
- Increase opportunities for employment and training programs for members.



xét'e • Key Actions

Key actions to achieve the goals and objectives listed include:

- Prepare and implement a 5 Year Economic Development Strategy.
- Develop contracting, training and new business opportunities through Shxw'ōwhámél Ventures that reflect Shxw'ōwhámél vision and values.
- Establish a Board of Directors for Shxw'ōwhámél Ventures.
- Continue to negotiate benefit and compensation agreements with third parties that reflect Shxw'ōwhámél's vision and values and align with land use and management plans for development in our territory.
- Leverage our cultural and archeological sites to generate tourism while also protecting these sites.
- Update the Property Assessment Law and Property Taxation Law.
- Develop a comprehensive workforce development strategy to enable Shxw'ōwhámél members to secure employment in existing and new business ventures.
- Engage Seabird College for employment training.
- Provide life skills training to increase the level of job retention.



Shxw'ōwhámél áylexw • Community Health

Providing the services and environment for members to achieve optimal wellness is a critical priority for our community. Shxw'ōwhámél has a Health Transfer Agreement with the Seabird Island Health Services Department which enables our members to get access to key health services. The following programs pertaining to community health are offered to membership:

- Assisted Living Program – this program is primarily directed serving the needs of the elderly and those with chronic illness or disabilities. INAC's Assisted Living Program is offered to individuals ordinarily resident on reserve.
- Parents and Tots Program – this program operates every Monday with one family night per month throughout the school year.
- Someone So Small – this program is offered every other Tuesday.
- Head Start Program – provides early childhood education, health, and nutrition to parents and toddlers.
- Counselling Services – this includes personal and family counselling and addictions counselling.
- Nurses/Community Health Representatives (CHRs) – come into the community during the week and offer a number of healthcare services including patient travel and house visits.
- Community Kitchen – Access to a dietician one day per month who teaches people how to cook healthy and nutritious food.

In addition to formal health services, Shxw'ōwhámél has had an informal food bank in place for a number of years. A number of community health needs have been identified. These include:

- Improved food security through dietary education as well as growing more food in the community.
- More health education delivered in the community including parenting programs; and specialized nutritional programs for pregnant teens, diabetics, and newborns.
- Increased access to health resources including provision of more effective transportation options to and from doctors appointments and pharmacies.
- Increase in the number of doctors and nurses servicing the community.
- Infusing cultural elements into health and wellness programs.

éíyá • Goal Statement

Increase the support of general health and wellness of individuals and our community as a whole.

sxéles • Objectives

- Develop capacity to deliver health services.
- Improve food security and food knowledge in the community to ensure that our community has high nutritional levels.
- Increase the range of health and wellness programs in the community with a focus on preventative health and wellness programs.
- Increase the awareness of health and wellness programs in the community.
- Ensure that health and wellness programs integrate with our culture.
- Ensure that there is sufficient physical space for health services and programs.



xét'e • Key Actions

Key actions to achieve the goals and objectives listed include:

- Undertake the development of a food security strategy that would include:
 - Assessing the feasibility of community ranching or other farming ventures to support local food production and develop agricultural work opportunities.
 - Reviewing the feasibility of developing a formal community food bank.
 - Reviewing the feasibility of developing a food processing facility that would enable the smoking and canning of fish as well as fruits and vegetables.
- Establish a food education program that would include:
 - Educating and supporting members to fish, hunt and harvest traditional foods and to share knowledge and skills.
 - Providing specialized nutritional education targeted at pregnant women, diabetics and elders to ensure their special needs are provided for.
- Developing a community garden at the Community Hall that can be integrated into existing youth programs and can be used to educate the community about how to grow food and to increase the availability of fresh local vegetables and fruits for members and to build knowledge and skills.
- Developing an agricultural knowledge program that teaches community members about traditional medicines.
- Strengthen existing health and wellness education programs by incorporating information pertaining to:
 - Sexual health, birth control, pre-natal health, relationships and parenting.
 - Elder abuse and develop strategies to safeguard and honour our community elders.
 - Nutritional needs for people at various stages of life and with various ailments such as diabetes.

- Increase access to health services in the community by:
 - Working with Seabird Island Health Services Department to increase the availability of services in the community.
 - Providing a monthly health calendar that members can refer to that will identify when there will be access to doctors, nurses, and CHRs in the community.
 - Establishing an efficient transportation program to enable people to access pharmacies and doctors without relying on CHRs.
- Diversify the range of health services offered in the community by:
 - Increasing health care support to parents and their young children focusing resources on good nutrition, dental care, early developmental success and testing, and community supports for special-needs children.
 - Providing greater access to confidential mental health and counselling resources for children and youth, couples, residential school survivors, and elders.



tém:éxw te xwayólem • Lands and Resources

We have lived on this land base since time immemorial. The traditional territory of the Tíyt Tribe, of which Shxw'ówhámél is a part of, stretches along the heights of land and river valleys roughly from Spuzzum and Urquhart Creeks in the northwest, east to the Coquihalla Summit, and southward spanning the areas between Agassiz, Manning Park and into the USA along the Skagit Valley. The watershed areas of Jones, Hunter & Lorenzetti Creeks are particularly important to our community. Shxw'ówhámél First Nation has three reserves including:

- **Ohamil I.R. # 1** is the only reserve developed for community settlement. It is a 181 hectares (ha) reserve located approximately 12 km from the District of Hope. There are currently 30 homes on the reserve with several new units set to be constructed; a band office complex including the Sturgeon Room, a youth building, playground and ball field; cemetery; an old church; and an orchard and other forested lands. Two Shxw'ówhámél families hold Certificates of Possession. Ohamil I.R. # 1 is bisected by rights-of-ways for Highway # 1, BC Hydro, CN Rail, and the Kinder Morgan pipeline which, together, occupy approximately 21 ha of the reserve. Significant portions of Ohamil I.R. # 1 are vulnerable to flooding from the Fraser River making some land not well suited for development.
- **Wahleach Island I.R. #2** is a 63 ha reserve located across the Fraser River from Ohamil I.R. # 1. In the past, some land was cleared for a camping facility but this is not currently in use. The Fraser River debris trap is located in this area. Wahleach Island I.R. # 2 is bisected by Highway # 7 and the CP Rail line which, together, occupy approximately 11 ha of the land. Wahleach Island I.R. # 2 is almost entirely vulnerable to flooding by the Fraser River making it difficult to utilize for any kind of development without mitigative measures.
- **Kuthlalth I.R. #3** is a 160 ha remote reserve located east of the village of Yale, approximately 30 km upriver from Ohamil I.R. # 1 and Wahleach Island I.R. # 2. This reserve has historical and spiritual significance to Shxw'ówhámél and is also an important fishing locale. This reserve is bisected by the CN Rail and BC Hydro rights-of-way, which occupy approximately 24.5 ha of the land. The reserve is most easily accessed by boat.

In December 2014, Shxw'ówhámél First Nation adopted the Land Code which provides us more control over our land base. This will enable us to make timely decisions on how our land is used moving forward into the future. It is our aim to achieve the vision laid out by the community for our land:

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

éíyá • Goal Statement

Ensure that our lands and reserves are all in healthy condition and that future generations can be proud of how we used the land, making sure that there is land available for their use.

sxéles • Objectives

- Increase membership's awareness of and direct experience out on Shxw'ōwhámél lands.
- Assert more control over our land base.
- Implement the Land Code.
- Utilize our land base for social, economic, and environmental goals and values and to exercise and assert our Aboriginal rights and Title.



xét'e • Key Actions

Key actions to achieve the goals and objectives listed include:

- Implement the Land Code by developing and adopting laws and policies that apply to Shxw'ōwhámél's land base.
- Ensure that all laws, policies, regulations, and programs are consistent with the Land Code, where applicable.
- Protect our land base from environmental issues by:
 - Protecting the groundwater zone of influence from contaminants.
 - Reviewing how to use floodplain land more effectively.
 - Working with other governments to protect land from erosion by reviewing the potential to add rip rap to banks.
- Review how to use underutilized land for social, economic, and environmental value.
- Consider the purchase of off-reserve land to expand the land base.
- Consider the development of a community trail system.
- Review options for better erosion control on Kuthlalth I.R. # 3.
- Ensure the federal and provincial governments complete the environmental site assessments for Wahleach Island I.R. # 2.



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