

Skwxwú7mesh  
Úxwumixw  
Ş7ulh kwis  
Úxwumixw

Squamish  
Nation  
**Constitution  
Project**

**Our Voices.  
Our Future.  
Our Way.**



# Today's Meeting Objectives

Today's Kickoff meeting is a great way for Members to learn about the Squamish Nation Constitution Project.

You will leave with a better understanding of what this project means, why it's important, as well as why our Squamish Nation Members should be involved.

It's also a great opportunity to have some early conversations, provide your input, and ask questions like;

- What is a Constitution?
- Why do we need one? Why now?
- When and where are the upcoming meetings?
- How can I get involved?



**WHAT'S THIS PROJECT ALL ABOUT?**

The Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw S7ulh kwis Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation Constitution Project) is an opportunity to look forward and build our future together.

How? By setting out who we are as a Nation and what we stand for as Skwxwú7mesh people.

The Squamish Nation Constitution will guide our people, our decision-makers, and our leaders to shape everything we do as a Nation.





**WHY NOW?**

A resolution to create a Squamish Nation Constitution was brought forward by Paitsmuk Dave Jacobs at the People's Assembly in November 2022.

In response, Squamish Nation People voted in favor to begin working on creating a Squamish Nation Constitution.

This resolution gives Squamish Nation People until the next Council election in September 2025 to create the constitution because that's when it will be voted on in a referendum.





# WHO'S INVOLVED?





# A PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE

The Constitution Project is for the benefit of our Nation.

It will be created by Squamish Nation People and with input from all of us.

As Paítsmuk Dave Jacobs said when he proposed the creation of a Squamish Constitution, it will be "*for us, by us.*"



# Constitution Working Group

## MEMBER SELECTION



2

ELDERS

2

OFF RESERVE

2

YOUTHS

2

ON RESERVE

2

COUNCILLORS

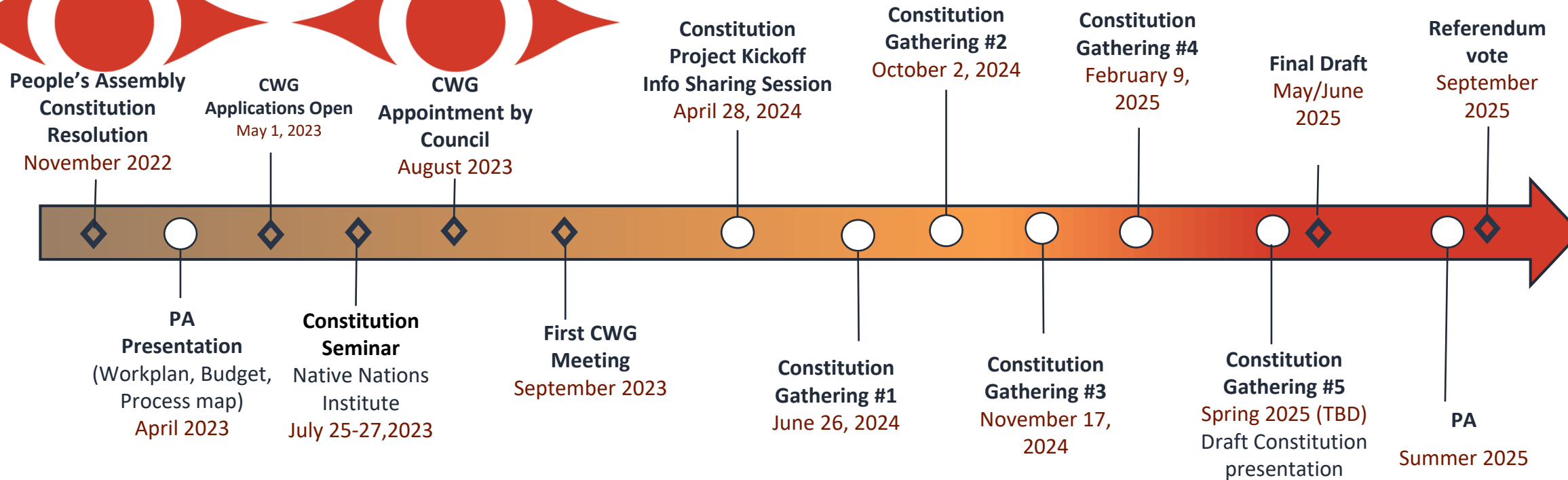
## Constitution Working Group Members

1. Paitsmuk, Dave Jacobs
2. Sisolia, Donna Billy
3. Jessie Williams
4. Syeta'xtn, Chris Lewis
5. Tsúnumut, Brad Baker
6. Monica (MJ) Jacobs
7. Jonny Williams
8. Vacant
9. Khelsilem, Dustin Rivers
10. Syexwaliya, Ann Whonnoak





**WHEN IS THIS HAPPENING?**



**Phase I**  
Groundwork

**Phase II**  
Development

**Phase III**  
Referendum

*Continuous Engagement*



**A TWO YEAR PROJECT**

- The Constitution Secretariate staff has been working hard since the fall of 2023 setting up a solid foundation for this project. Doing surveys, focus groups, online training, as well as coordinating and planning for all the necessary meetings.
- Over the next 17 months, we will be seeking input and feedback from our Skwxwú7mesh People that will contribute to the creation of the Squamish Nation Constitution.
- This includes large info gathering sessions, small group discussions, surveys, feedback sessions, orientations, and finally a vote in September 2025 on whether or not to adopt the Constitution that Squamish Nation people create together.



**WE NEED YOUR HELP**



We want the Constitution Project to represent our community and to support future generations of Skwxwú7mesh people.


That's why it's so important for every single Nation Member to help shape the Constitution.

Your voice matters and we want to hear from you!



## Ways you can help;

- Attend and participate in the project meetings and discussions to provide your input.
- Encourage your Squamish Nation friends and family to get involved, especially the ones who live far away.
- Visit our website and sign up for meetings and get on our email contact list.
- Visit our Facebook page, Instagram, and Twitter pages and be sure to subscribe, like and follow them.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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# WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

The Squamish term that best describes a 'constitution' is S7ulh kwis Úxwumixw (Our Way of Being a Nation).

That term goes to the heart of what the Squamish Nation Constitution Project is seeking to create.

The Squamish Nation has always had constitutions – we've just not always used that word. But constitutions are something we all know.

Constitutions set the foundation for the relationship between a Nation's people and their government.

Constitutions can take many forms – some are written, and others are not. Written constitutions don't all follow the same structure. But constitutions can convey the following;

# A Nation's Vision of Itself

- Who are we?
- Where do we come from?
- Where are we going?

# Its Values;

- What matters to us?
- What kind of relationships do we have with each other?
- With outsiders?
- And with the world around us?



# Its Governance Structures

- How do we organize to get things done?
- How do we choose leaders?
- Who has authority over what?
- How do we hold decision-makers accountable?

And how do we move forward?

How do we make decisions?

How do we deal with disagreements or disputes?

It will be up to the Squamish Nation People to decide what to include – and not include – in the Squamish Nation Constitution.

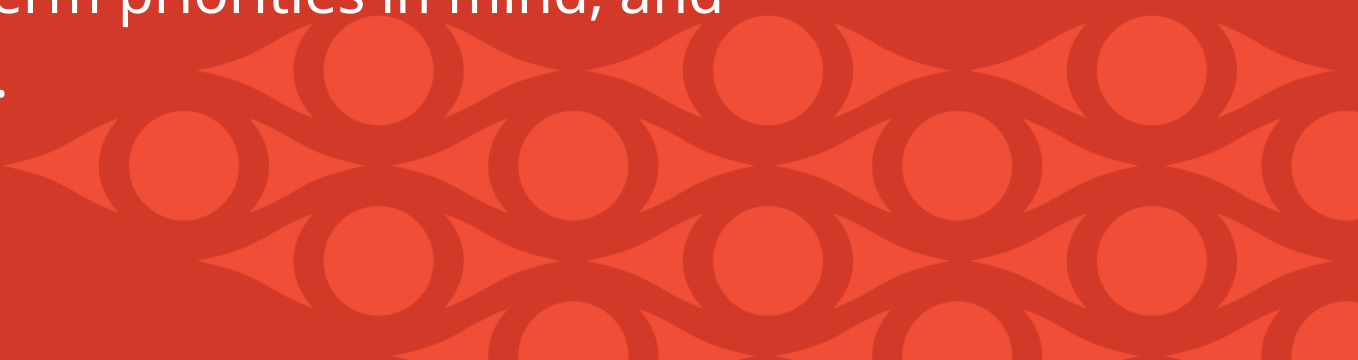
Together, we have to decide what is our way of being a Nation.



**WHY SHOULD THE  
SQUAMISH NATION  
CREATE A CONSTITUTION?**

One of the main reasons for creating our own Constitution is to support our Nation-building and strengthen our system of governance.

Research has shown that there are five main principles that are essential to Indigenous Nations' successful and sustainable development, also known as the "Nation Building" approach.

1. Control over decision-making rests with the Nation itself,
  2. Governing structures have authority and function well,
  3. Governing structures have legitimacy in the community,
  4. Decisions are made with long-term priorities in mind, and
  5. Community-spirited leadership.
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A constitution is central to the Nation Building approach because it supports a Nation in asserting its sovereignty, defining its priorities and governance structures, and ensuring those governance structures function effectively and are focused on the community's long-term priorities.





**IS A CONSTITUTION A  
WESTERN OR COLONIAL  
IDEA?**

A constitution is neither a colonial nor Western idea. In fact, some of the key concepts incorporated into the American Constitution of the United States were inspired by the Iroquois Confederacy and other Indigenous Nations' governance structures. At its foundation, the creation of a constitution is an act of self-determination.

Our constitution will be founded on the Squamish Nation's own values – this will ensure that it reflects who we are, rather being based on colonial or Western concepts.



# SQUAMISH NATION CONSTITUTION PROJECT VIDEO

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5luWUrPKfSU>



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# THANK YOU

- We will now have a short break and move some tables to prepare for the discussion segment of our meeting.
- Tables of 4-5 people per discussion group.
- There are markers, pens, and sticky notes for you to use to write your thoughts, ideas and questions.

# DISCUSSION FACILITATION TEAM



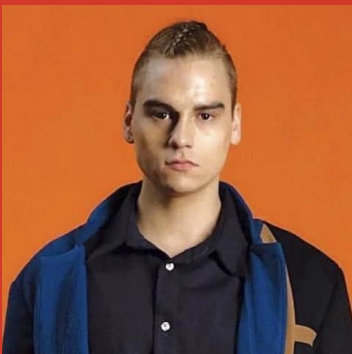
## **Chris Corrigan, Lead Discussion Facilitator**

Chris and his partner operate Harvest Moon Consultants, providing high participatory facilitation and leadership development services to communities and organizations seeking to lift up the voices of their people. Chris has worked with Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw on strategic planning, membership consultations, and community engagement.



## **Amanda Fenton, Zoom Tech Host + Online Facilitator**

Amanda lives with her partner on the territory of the Halkomelem speaking Nations and she grew up on Cree, Métis, and Plains Cree territory (Treaty 6). Amanda owns and operates her own Consulting business specializing in participatory meeting design and Zoom facilitation for online and hybrid sessions.




## **Tyler Baker Xalakiya , Discussion Facilitator Assistant**

Tyler, Xalakiya, is a Squamish Nation Member who also works for the Squamish Nation as the Special Initiatives Manager for the Office of the CAO. Tyler is currently enrolled in a facilitation and leadership training program and is being mentored to facilitate these meaningful and important conversations.



# DIALOGUE QUESTION

**Share a story:**  
What do you love about  
being Skwxwú7mesh?



Harvesting:

What do you  
love about  
being  
Skwxwú7mesh?



or join at  
menti.com  
code 2986 3008