



Qwelminte Secwepemc Seasonal Sku7p (Skoop) Loop

April 2020

2020 #1

Message from our Director

Our Secwépemc Ancestors told us the importance of humbling ourselves and bringing together people with differing ways of being in *Re Skú7pecen re Stseptékwlls* (The Story of Porcupine). It was said that Elk and Swan Nation lived in conflict and were interfering with each other's business leading to difficulties in putting away food and living in peace. Everyone suffered and were pitiful. To breach the divide between Nations, Sk'elép was sent as a messenger, but failed his many attempts in the face of the deep snow and difficulty of the journey. It was Skú7pecen [Skoo-pa-kin] who brought the two Nations together through perseverance and bravery. Only when they humbled themselves and shared their knowledge, were they able to learn from one another and consequently live in peace and prosperity.

We are currently witnessing how people's differing way of being can negatively affect each other, impacting the health and well-being of all who live in Secwepemcúlecw. The Qwelmínte Secwepemc are a collective of 7 southern Secwepemc communities who have come together to embody the spirit and intent of Sku7pecen. To stand up and build recognition of our Secwepemc ways of being and teachings through humility and kindness. We strive to build a team of Sku7pecens who will support a path to peace and respectful co-existence.

Kukwstsétsemc,
Sunny LeBourdais
Director of Transformation

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FEATURED STSEPTÉKWLL of the Season

Each seasonal round we will feature a Secwepemc stseptékwll. This season we will focus on the *Re Sku7pecen re Stseptékwlls* (Story of Porcupine). This version was told to James Teit by Sexwelecken in 1900. Skeetchestn Elders have since re-translated the story into Secwepemcstín.

#TeamSku7pecen – Our INTERN PROGRAM

One of the keys to our path forward is resiliency. Yet we know that our communities' resources and knowledgeable practitioners are stretched. To foster a vibrant and resilient network of practitioners who are grounded in both Secwepemc and Western knowledge, we have created the #TeamSku7pecen intern program. It is first and foremost deeply connected to the Sku7pecen telling. The Skú7pecen (Porcupine) [Skoop-a-kin] telling serves as direction to us in our work. Skú7pcens must have skills, knowledge and wisdom from both the Western and Secwépemc/Indigenous worlds so that we can successfully support building understanding to transform our territories (tmicw) sustainably.

What is the intern program?

The #TeamSku7pecen Intern program is a summer program for university level students where the interns work together in a fast paced and challenging environment on the cutting edge of upholding and supporting the implementation of Indigenous Rights.

Future 'Sku7ps' (Skoops) are supported while being active players for transformation in land and resource management in a manner upholding Secwépemc Law, jurisdiction and governance. These unique and fulsome experiences support their professional growth in a manner which ensures they will become well rounded practitioners of the future with the ability to walk in both worlds (Secwepemc and Western). QS successfully completed our first intern program in 2019 with four university students in the areas of environmental policy, law, anthropology and political science.

What's Next?

- **EXTENSION** of our 2020 Summer Intern Application
Deadline: May 1, 2020
- Adjustment of the Summer Intern program in light of COVID 19- online and safe distancing options for May 2020 including a series of online Applicants Challenges as a lead up to the Summer Intern Program
- Launching of the full summer program in June/July with adaptations as needed to support a safe but collaborative work environment.
- Connect with us today to apply or learn more. Email: Adminassist@qwelminte.ca

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

#TEAMSKÚ7PECEN
2020 INTERN PROGRAM

BUILDING THE SKÚ7PECEN OF THE FUTURE

EXTENDED TO MAY 1, 2020

- » FAST PACED AND STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT
- » SUPPORT IN BUILDING AN UNDERSTANDING IN BOTH WESTERN AND SECWÉPEMC INDIGENOUS WORLDS.
- » YOU WILL BE AN ACTIVE PLAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION IN LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN A MANNER UPHOLDING SECWÉPEMC LAW, JURISDICTION, AND GOVERNANCE.

ELIGIBILITY

*INDIGENOUS/SECWÉPEMC POST SECONDARY STUDENT.

*STUDIES IN LAW, NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, GEOGRAPHY, ANTHROPOLOGY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS.

PLEASE SUBMIT A ONE-PAGE LETTER EXPLAINING WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH US FOR THE 2020 SUMMER SESSION.

SEND TO TAMARA ARCHIE, ADMINASSIST@QWELMINTE.CA

Did you spot this post on our  and  accounts? Find us @QwelminteSecwepemc



FEATURED Sku7p (Skoop) of the Season

Weytk-p, Hunter Thomas Lampreau ren skwekst. I'm a proud member of the Simpcw community on my father's side, and Neskonlith community on my mother's side. I'm currently finishing my third year in my Geography and Environmental Studies Degree at Thompson Rivers University.






In this field of work that has a history of challenges, emotion and wrong doings, I've always referred to my Great Grandmother, Mary Thomas Sr.'s, guiding advice;
Why swing a hammer, when a feather will do?

May we find comfort in her progressive and humble approach to difficult times that can stir up strong emotional responses
- Hunter Lampreau

QS intern graduate Hunter Lampreau is the Qwelminte Secwepemc Strategic Wildlife Coordinator. He will be building our Wildlife Strategy founded on Secwépemc law including the Secwepemc telling of how Chipmunk got his stripes. Hunter will further develop his skills and knowledge as we work to address the transformation required to bring balance back for our relatives and ensure the restoration of our territorial watersheds and way of life. Through his work with QS he has played a vital role at the Provincial Indigenous Wildlife Forum, bring an important Indigenous youth perspective and voice to the table.



TeamSku7pecen at the Secwepemc Winter Gathering.

Check out the latest photos and videos @QwelminteSecwepemc on   



Forestry Transformation

In July 2019, and in light of the changing forestry industry, the QS collective decided to focus on transformation management of our territories with respect to the forestry industry. We will take our instructions from the Tllí7sa telling *stseptékwll* to “Transform the Cannibal Powers on the Land / People-Eaters *Ts’ecélemc.*” The QS Office launched the transformation by gathering information and building a path which includes the standing up of Secwepemc law alongside the Provincial laws governing the forestry industry.

The forests are more than just the trees. Forests are interconnected and support a healthy watershed and ecosystem, including all plants, medicines, and wildlife. The forestry industry only views the forests as a fiber resource for economic gain. We must look beyond seeing trees as mere fiber sources for economic benefits, rather valuing them for the natural living infrastructure they provide to our watersheds, communities and people.
(Transforming the Tree-Eaters, QS Position Paper)

To guide this transformation, the QS and BC started a Forestry Working Group (FWG) which includes technicians and practitioners from the Natural Resource, Title and Rights and Stewardship departments and parallel representatives from the Province. It is Co-Chaired by Mike Anderson (QS representative and

Skeetchestn Natural Resources Corporation CEO) and Rachael Pollard (BC Representative and Thompson River District Manager for Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development). The FWG started meeting in the fall of 2019 and hosted a Forestry Transformation Forum at Splantsin on October 9-10, where different groups and representatives presented on different and innovative ways to transform the management of forestry.

This winter, the information gathered by the FWG worked together to develop proposed action which were summarized into a Forestry Transformation Action Plan. These actions are intended for implementation this coming fiscal year (2020-2021) as well as over the next five-years. To create these actions, the FWG hosted meetings and workshops to brainstorm and discuss priorities, issues, and potential solutions for the transformation of forestry.

What's Next?

- FWG will continue to meet and guide forestry transformation and work on finalizing the Forestry Transformation Action Plan
- Tllí7sa will be the next *featured Stseptékwll*. This summer, we are looking to explore how we can develop Secwepemc law stemming from this telling and specifically with respect to Forestry Transformation and Transforming the Tree-Eaters.




Wildlife / Tmesmescén & Píxem

We are focusing on tmesmescén and píxem issues identified through community leadership and technical staff. The discussions had led to requests for change, support and opportunity for engagement in wildlife management for communities, with the Provincial Government.

Qwelmínte-Secwepemc has also participated in a Province wide initiative called the First Nations – BC Wildlife Conservation Forum under the Together for Wildlife process. Here, Qwelmínte-Secwepemc has a seat as an advisor to the Wildlife and Habitat Branch as the BC Government implements their provincial strategy and develops policy to support it. This has provided a clear way to collaborate on issues with the Province and other BC based First Nations technical staff. It is a timely opportunity to change the approach to wildlife management. The First Nations – BC Wildlife Conservation Forum provides technical advice to ensure perspectives learned from mentors, Elders, leadership and knowledge holders within the collective may be respected.

The QS also had several staff attend last fall's Secwepemc Gathering and hunting camp, hosted by Simpcw. The team really appreciated participating in an event that was well facilitated and connecting with other nation members in attendance. The most rewarding aspect of working toward better wildlife and as well as habitat conservation and management practices is seeing communities have the tools to sustain the land and four legged's that inhabit it.



QS Team honouring Pink Shirt Day
Check out @QwelminteSecwepemc on 

What's Next?

- Enhanced opportunity for Natural Resource Department/Territorial Stewardship offices to fund territorial patrols/guardians' programs.
- Engaging on the review of the wildlife act.
- Developing our own wildlife table to transforming and changing wildlife approach



TMICW (Lands and Waters) Transformation

The Tmicw (lands and waters) Transformation was instructed by our many Secwépemc *Stseptékwll* (tellings) that speak to the importance of the 4 worlds – earth, sky, water, and fire/energy. We're taking transformative action to change the status of Tmicw as instructed by our Ancestors and tellings.

As we delve in, we are focused on transformation in and on the Earth World, particularly our forest environments. Forestry is the first 'cannibal' for transformation as we set about Transforming the Tree-Eaters.

In order to support Tmicw Transformation and the 4 worlds approach we developed the Tmicw Transformation Concept Paper in January 2020. This document was created to describe ideas and aspects on how we are to move forward on transformation, including the importance of standing up Secwepemc law and governance.

Tmicw is a word imbued with the multiplicity of inherent responsibilities of Secwépemc People. Its connection across time to our Ancestors, Tellqélmúcw, and our oral histories / tellings, Stseptékwll, evidence a deeply rooted understanding of the many worlds, beings, places, landforms and interconnections which comprise Secwepemcúlecw.

(QS Tmicw Transformation Concept Paper)

The Tmicw Transformation Concept Paper has been used as a foundation of information for our work with the Province of British Columbia. We are working the BC Government to find ways in which both QS and BC intend to undertake a process to ensure Tmicw Transformation through a series of Transformation Agreements building stepwise on each other over time. We want to ensure that this work respects both Secwepemc and Western/Provincial jurisdiction, authority and ways of being.

What's Next?

- We will be engaging with our signatories and communities to present further information on the Tmicw Transformation work
- We will continue to work on standing up our Secwepemc Laws around transformation focusing on the Tlli7sa Telling.
- We will continue to engage with the Province on the review and changes to their legislation to ensure their laws support implementation of UNDRIP.
- We will continue to support the transformation of activities on our lands and waters in a manner consistent with the Sku7pecen telling and bringing together of the two different groups of people.



QWELMINTE SECWEPENC & COVID-19

On March 17, 2020 our QS Office issued a notification that we were taking preventative and protective measures regarding COVID-19. We took immediate action to halt all non-essential meetings and events and shift to remote and online options.

We fully support and acknowledge taking protective measure such as handwashing, physical distancing, and staying home when sick or at risk. Our QS Office will remain open for staff however we are extending options to work remotely for those who choose to self-isolate at this time. This decision has been made to protect the health and well-being of our kw'séltkten (families), Elders, and communities which is of the utmost importance to us all.

We further took action at the direction of our signatories and issued a notification on March 23, 2020 that we would be halting receiving any referrals or engagement requests while our signatories transitioned under the new COVID-19 operational reality. We stated we will not contribute further strain or stress on our teams and leadership. Our leadership at this time must focus on the protection and well-being of our communities as we go through these troubling times.

We know we will draw on our resiliency to get through these unprecedented times, ever reminded of the unrelenting Ancestral fortitude which connects us to our past and our future.

What's Next?

- The QS Office will continue to operate under a virtual and remote format while COVID-19 health restrictions remain in place
- QS Office will continue to act as a hub for our communities and support them in dealing with referrals and engagement in a way that is fitting to them.

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