

SE'ÁKW PROJECT UPDATE

Construction Update

Construction on Se'ákw continues to progress on schedule with Phase 1 wrapping up bulk excavation and Phase 2 continuing soil remediation. The gate on 1st and Fir Street remains the primary entrance to the site for construction activities but once Phase 2 excavation begins, the primary entrance will be off Chestnut Street, just north of Greer Street.

In September, the final BC Hydro poles in Phase 1 were removed and the new electrical feed to the Parkview Towers was completed. This cleared up the site to allow the shoring wall and soil anchor installation to continue to the Tower 1 and District Energy Plant portion of Phase 1. Phase 2 will undergo a similar process with BC Hydro poles needing to be rerouted.

Currently, there are cranes for Tower 3 and Tower 2 on site, with the Tower 1 crane being installed later this Fall. The footings of both Towers 3 and 2 have already been poured and work is also underway on the Tower 3 parkade slab.

Residential Tenancy Act now in effect at Se'ákw

As of September 1st, 2023, the BC Residential Tenancy Act (BCRTA) is in effect on the Se'ákw reserve. Through the Government of Canada's First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act (FNCIDA), the Squamish Nation can now implement safer practices for future tenants of Se'ákw.

Tenants that move into Se'ákw, once Phase 1 is completed, will be protected by the BCRTA as they would in any other rental property in the province. This will benefit both Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents of Se'ákw.

Questions about the Residential Tenancy Act?

Scan this QR code to watch an explainer video on the Squamish Nation website



Refurbishment of Ƙanáƙeltn's Welcome Figure at Seńáƙw

On June 22, the Squamish Nation held a ceremony to honour artist Ƙanáƙeltn, Darren Yelton, before lowering his welcome figure at Seńáƙw for refurbishment. Our hands go up to Xayil, Jacob Lewis III; Kwítelut, Lorraine Louis; and their teams for organizing this special event, and to the speaker, Ƙetxímtn, Alroy Baker for his work to honour Ƙanáƙeltn in a good way. The figure had to be taken down to allow construction activities to continue on-site, including sewer and water connections in this area.

Following the lowering ceremony, Ƙanáƙeltn and his brothers then worked on site to restore his carving to its original glory. The figure will remain at Seńáƙw until a final installation site is determined.



Member Employment & Contracting Opportunities

At Nch'ƙaý, we chair the Seńáƙw Procurement Committee, which reviews all tender submissions for construction work on Seńáƙw, as well as the Seńáƙw Employment and Training Committee, which ensures Nation member participation and opportunities throughout the Seńáƙw project.

All of the subtrades working on Seńáƙw are subject to the requirements of an Indigenous Participation Plan (IPP), which imposes requirements on project partners to employ Nation members. This policy is also enforced on all subcontractors who bid on the project.

This policy is meant to benefit Squamish Nation members first and foremost. It also includes members of the broader Squamish community who are not members, as well as members of the Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and other Indigenous peoples.

If you own a business and wish to be contacted when procurement opportunities become available at Seńáƙw, please ensure you are registered with the Nch'ú7mut Endorsed Business Registry (NEBR) or listed on the Member Business Directory. *(Note: The NEBR requires a formal application and review process whereas any member owned business can be listed without application or obligation on the Member Business Directory hosted on the Nch'ƙaý website.)*

Please visit the Nch'ƙaý website or email bom@nchkay.com if you have questions or require assistance regarding procurement opportunities.



Employment Support through the Stitsma Career Center

There are many career opportunities at Señákw and elsewhere, but some Indigenous people may face barriers in taking advantage of these opportunities. The [Stitsma Career Centre](#) offers employment and training services to assist Indigenous clients who are Status, Non-Status, Métis or Inuit, helping them overcome barriers, upgrade their skills, secure credentials, and eventually gain employment.

Members who want support for employment at Señákw should email the Stitsma Career Centre at stitsma_career@squamish.net. You can also call our North Vancouver office at 604-985-7711 or the Squamish Valley office at 604-84842202

Members who are interested in long-term training to be able to obtain employment on the project should contact the Training and Trades Centre at 604-980-7946 or email us at tradescentre@squamish.net.

NEW ONLINE JOB BANK!

Looking for a new job? Stitsma has introduced an online job bank with weekly updates on new job openings exclusive to Squamish Nation Members.

With positions ranging from Peer Support Worker to Indigenous Storyteller, and nearly everything in between, new posts are up almost daily.

Visit often to ensure you don't miss out on the perfect opportunity for you!



Señákw Mentorship Program

Nch'káy West is now offering a short-term mentorship opportunity for Squamish Nation members interested in Real Estate Development or learning more about the development of Señákw. The Mentorship Program will provide members with an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at what a career in the field of Real Estate Development could look like for them.

Candidates are matched up with a key member of the Señákw project team at either Westbank or Nch'káy and spend 10 days job-shadowing them.

They will do things like visit the development site, sit in on meetings with consultants, meet team members involved with different aspects of the project, and more.

The program pilot will kick off this fall and we're excited to see how subsequent iterations of it will grow and evolve to meet the needs of members.

Stay tuned for more information to come on this exciting opportunity for Squamish members!





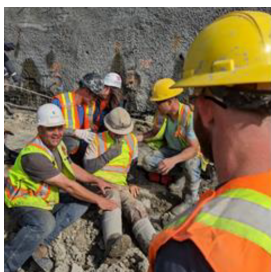
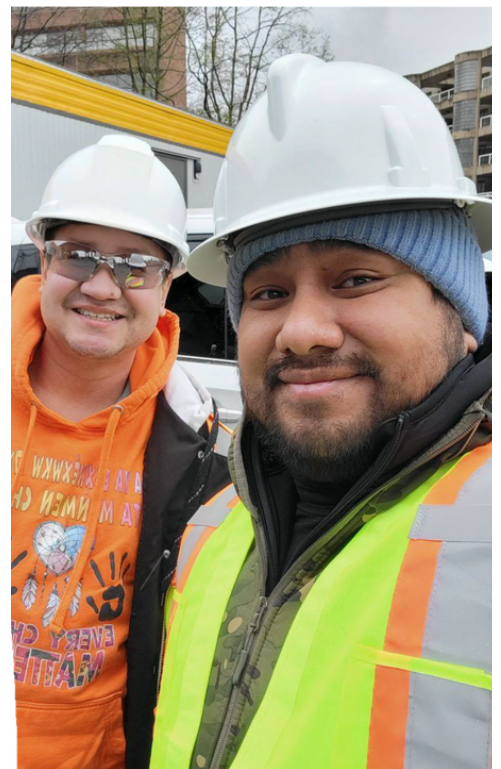
Meet Tijash Ruiz, Tijax B'alam, Señákw's dedicated Job Mentor

Meet Señákw's dedicated Job Mentor: Tijash Ruiz, Tijax B'alam. Tijash descends from Indigenous Mayan ancestors and grew up learning knowledge from his adopted Secwepmec family in Surrey and Chase. Being immersed in the traditional culture and wisdom of his Mayan and Secwepmec family was fundamental to his upbringing. He now takes every opportunity he gets to pass that rich heritage on to his own 2.5 year-old son.

As the Job Mentor on site, Tijash helps workers in Señákw's Priority Workforce shape their future careers by connecting them to support and training that's available in the present. He works to identify people's individual needs and provide them with counsel and guidance to realize their full potential at Señákw and beyond.

Tijash appreciates the chance to help reconnect Squamish Nation Members to the history and Medicine of Señákw. "It's an incredible feeling when I come to work knowing that where I stand is literally where the ancestors stood," Tijash says. Being connected in that way is a powerful experience that can be bittersweet for some because it also comes with the awareness of the pain and the forceful disconnection that happened at Señákw. But he reminds folks that the village of Señákw was never surrendered; it was taken. And it's up to them to rebuild it.

"I love this job, I really do", says Tijash. What he enjoys most is seeing people's resilience and knowing that the ancestors are watching and witnessing the strength and tenacious spirits of their descendants. Even in the middle of a construction site Tijash tells people to tune in with the trees, connect with their breath, and remember the deeper story they're telling there.





Member Housing at Señákw

A total of 250 affordable units have been set aside for Squamish Nation members wanting to live at Señákw. 128 of those units will be available in the first two phases – Phase 1 is expected to be complete by Winter 2025 and Phase 2 is anticipated to be completed in late 2026.

These member units will be managed by the non-profit housing society of the Nation, Hiýám Housing. The application process — which will open roughly six months before buildings are complete — will also be managed by Hiýám.

Please reach out to info@hiyamhousing.com if you have any questions in the meantime.

Member Housing in Phases 1 & 2	Phase 1 SN Units	Phase 2 SN Units	Phases 1 & 2 Combined
Studio	5	TBD by Hiýám	5+
1 Bedroom	16	" "	16+
2 Bedroom	24	" "	24+
3 Bedroom	18	" "	18+
Total	63 units	65 units	128 units





Señákw Cultural Advisory Panel

Celebrating and honouring the Skwxwú7mesh cultural identity is at the heart of the Señákw Development, and we are thrilled to provide members with some exciting updates on this work.

We are excited to introduce the Señákw Cultural Advisory Panel (formerly referred to as the Cultural Working Group). The mission of the Advisory Panel is to define the values, structure, individuals, and desired outcomes for the infusion of cultural identity into the Señákw Development.

This dedicated panel will oversee all matters concerning cultural design, ensuring the integration of cultural sensitivity, diversity, and inclusivity into every facet of the project — including the common spaces of the buildings, the interior finishes of the units, and the landscaping of the Señákw site.

The Advisory Panel will also ensure that the public art selection process is fair and transparent. All Nation members who would like to contribute to public art on the project will have a fair and equal opportunity to do so.

Currently, the Panel is working on completing a comprehensive Public Art Masterplan document. The Panel is also developing Request for Proposals (RFPs) and a timeline for upcoming art calls, which will allow members to contribute their artistic talents to the development.

All interested artists will go through either an expression of interest or an RFP process to apply. The timeline for the application process is still being finalized. Once we have more details, they will be posted on the Señákw and Squamish Nation websites.

Lastly, we are pleased to share that the panel has successfully secured a dedicated artist workspace, including a residency at Granville Island, where Squamish artists will have the opportunity to showcase their talents in a high-profile public location.

As we move forward with this exciting project, we look forward to involving the Skwxwú7mesh community in the cultural decision-making process, and keeping members updated on our progress.





Señákw Project Operations & Oversight

Procurement Committee

The Señákw Procurement Committee has a mandate to facilitate procurement opportunities for the Nation's members, businesses, and partners in relation to the Señákw development. This includes ensuring Nation-member-owned businesses have the opportunity to work on the Señákw development.

The Committee also reviews all bid submissions for contracts on the Señákw development to ensure that any awarded scopes will be taking the necessary steps to maximize indigenous participation on the Señákw project.

The Committee consists of two representatives from the Nation/Nch'káy Development Corporation and two individuals from Westbank.

The Committee also works closely with the Nation's Employment, Education, and Training department (EET) to train Nation members who want to work on the project.

The aspirational employment target on the Señákw project is for 20% of the project workforce to be priority workforce. The Committee continues to make progress on the development of the mandatory employment target for the project called for in the partnership agreements.

Employment & Training Committee

The E&T Committee has a mandate to facilitate employment and training opportunities on the Señákw development, including the employment of Nation members. This includes reviewing Indigenous participation within each of the contractors that are working on the project.

The Committee works with the Señákw Job Mentor who is on site at Señákw Monday through Friday to support priority workforce individuals (Squamish members, then other MST Nation members, then other Indigenous individuals, in that order).



Finance Committee

The Seákw Finance Committee reviews and provides updates to the Master General Partnership regarding all financial matters of Seákw. This includes ensuring transparency and efficiency in financial reporting, ensuring accountability, and fostering the building of capacity within Nch'káy and the Squamish Nation on the Seákw project.

The Committee meets quarterly to review project budgets, proformas, quarterly reporting, and financial statements from the project. The Committee consists of two representatives from the Nation/Nch'káy and two individuals from Westbank.

Communications Committee

The Seákw Communications Committee supports the commitment to transparency, and to maintain regular communication and engagement with Squamish Nation, Nch'káy, and Westbank. More specifically, the committee aims to improve accountability, build trust and credibility, enhance business achievements and results, and promote stakeholder inclusion in the progress and status of Seákw.

The Committee reviews all communications materials, plans, and any other external correspondence on the Seákw project. The Committee consists of two representatives from the Nation/Nch'káy and two individuals from Westbank.