

In This We...

Journey Together

Newsletter of **swiyaya Reconciliation Movement**

SPRING 2022



Time for Action

In 2022, some of the Calls to Action of the National Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada are finally getting traction. However, the Commission's Final Report also asks for action on the part of each of every Canadian, to learn about the history of colonization and the legacy of residential schools. Call to Action #92 asks Canadians to: "Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships." It advises that "This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism." So the question remains: how are each of us living within the swiya (homelands) of the shishalh Nation doing to respond to these compelling Calls to Action?

The swiyaya Reconciliation Movement is designed to provide opportunities for all people in the shishalh swiya to explore this question. Like everyone in our community, the swiyaya Reconciliation Movement has been challenged to fulfill our commitments during the past few years. Even so, we are continuing to build relationships, plan projects, facilitate educational opportunities about colonization through the Blanket Exercise and book studies.

Now, swiyaya Days are coming up between Indigenous Day on June 21st and Canada Day on July 1st. swiyaya Days are the result of collaborative planning between the shishalh Nation, swiyaya Reconciliation Movement, and the District of Sechelt. Through dialogue circles, interactive learning experiences, drumming circles, films and much more, we will celebrate together, and for the first time, link these two National Days of Celebration. In September on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we will work together again to honor Survivors and all who did not make it home with the installation of a Reconciliation Crosswalk.

We invite you all to learn more about Reconciliation in the weeks and months to come and join us in declaring to the country as a whole that the Sunshine Coast swiya is a reconciliation community:

"In this we journey together."



Weaving "Paddling Together" by Shy Watters

"It may take a million steps to reach reconciliation between our peoples in the shishalh swiya, and right now, we may only be on step 500... but we're on our way."

ʔakista xaxanak Garry Feschuk

Visit our new website: swiyayareconciliation.ca

Reconciliation Crosswalk

The shishalh swiya will make visible its commitment to walking with Survivors of residential schools through the installation of a Reconciliation crosswalk in September of this year. The crosswalk will be installed at the Tsain-Ko Mall and Sechelt Hospital intersection, which borders the property of the former Residential School in Sechelt.

With identification of graves on the sites of many residential schools in Canada, many survivors are having to relive their trauma each day. The shishalh Nation is in the early stages of the ground penetrating radar investigation (GPR) on the site of the former St. Augustne's Residential School. The installation of the crosswalk is part of the syiyaya Reconciliation Movements commitment to anticipating that the profound pain experienced by Survivors will only deepen when the GPR is completed and engaging the entire community to support and honor the Survivors and their families.

Learn more about this very timely project at our new website syiyayareconciliation.ca



Recipe for This Season

kelx kwukwe?alhwu (Fish soup)

Peel and chop 3 potatoes and dice to bite size

Bring to boil

When its a bit soft, add cut up Salmon a half side and drop into pot with potatoes

Take one sac of salmon roe, break apart and drop in soup

Cut one small yellow onion and dice small

Add to soup

Put dry seaweed into soup, leave for 20 minutes

Add pepper and salt to taste

Serve with bannock



Volunteering – Putting Your Action Where Your Heart Is

On April 24 and 25, residents of the shishalh swiya learned about the wide range of volunteer opportunities on the Sunshine Coast at a Volunteer Fair coordinated by the Sechelt Rotary Club. Participating in this important event, syiyaya had an opportunity to share about its role in building a caring community. Co-chair Garry Feschuk gave an inspiring keynote talk about the importance of reconciliation to our community and the role of each member of our community in supporting it. Attendees learned about the syiyaya Reconciliation Movement and many signed up to volunteer.

If you would like to volunteer with us, please contact us at scsyiyaya@gmail.com



This recipe, given to us from syiyaya Committee Member ti'talus Audrey Joe, is a recipe from her great grandfather, popi Basel Joe. Starting when ti'talus was 5 years old, her great grandfather would say, "come on, let's cook some food together." He taught her to make what he called 'brain food' which involved cutting up the vegetables and fish and dropping them safely into the pot. ti'talus says the best way to eat this is while also dipping bannock into the soup.



Completing the Reconciliation Pole Project

The “Carving Tears into Dreams of Reconciliation” Project will be completed this summer. The project began in 2019 and has been an integral component of the reconciliation work undertaken by the *siyaya* Reconciliation Movement. To date over 1,500 members of our community have visited the public pole carving to learn about the pole’s design and help carve the pole under the watchful eye of Master Carver *ʔantuni*, Tony Paul. However, not surprisingly, the pandemic slowed down the project considerably.

In June 2020, the partially completed Reconciliation pole was moved to a new location to make way for the new House of Clans. In 2021, Tony began again to work on the pole, assisted by his grandson, Jaden. Tragically, however, Tony and his wife Cindy died from complications of COVID 19 later that summer.

siyaya’s intention now is to complete the pole in a way that honours *ʔantuni* Tony’s beautiful design, his work and his dedication to Reconciliation. Based on recommendations from *shishalh* members, Xwalactun Rick Harry master carver of the Squamish Nation, has been invited to lead the completion. *shishalh* carvers and artisans will collaborate with Xwalactun, learn from him and support the pole’s completion. As well, the project will provide mentorship opportunities for young family members to begin learning their grandfather’s artform, supported by their community.



The completed Reconciliation Pole will be raised on the site of the former St. Augustine’s Residential School as a symbol of our commitment to walking together on the path to Reconciliation. The pole will be unveiled at the House of Clans in 2023 in a ceremony to honor Survivors.

Watch for public viewing opportunities to be offered during *siyaya* Days.

Who Will?

Who will cry for the little girl in pain
and all alone

Who will cry for the little boy in pain
and all alone

Who will cry for the little girl who died
and died again

Who will cry for the little boy who died
and died again

Who will hold the little girl

Who will hold the little boy

Who will comfort the little girl

Who will comfort the little boy

Who will cry for the little girl inside the woman

Who will cry for the little boy inside the man

Who will hold up the little girl inside the woman

Who will hold up the little boy inside the man

We will hold up the little girl inside the woman

We will hold up the little boy inside the man

We will walk with the little girl inside the woman

We will walk with the little boy inside the man

We will help heal the little girl inside the woman

We will help heal the little boy inside the man

ʔakista xaxanak Garry Feschuk

siyaya Days: June 21 – July 1, 2022 “In This We Journey Together”

A multi-day celebration is coming to ch'atlich (Sechelt) with the theme of “In This We Journey Together.” siyaya Days is a celebration of Indigenous culture, histories, and ways of knowing and will include 11 days of activities kicking off with National Indigenous Peoples Day on Tuesday, June 21.

The District of Sechelt worked in partnership with the shishalh Nation and the siyaya Reconciliation Movement to design events and activities with something for everyone. “We named it siyaya Days, which means family days, because it’s time to start walking together and planning events that we can all enjoy. It’s in the true spirit of reconciliation,” said ʔakista xaxanak Garry Feschuk, former chief of the shishalh Nation, and co-chair of the siyaya Reconciliation Movement. Mayor Darnelda Siegers agrees: “This is a different time; a new time where we honour the traditional lands we are on, remember our past and aim towards a bright future for all.”

National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration TUESDAY JUNE 21, 2022

Street banners by Manuela Salinas, Cowrie St.

Street banners by Ali & Bella Casey

Talking Trees and Spoken Treasures walking tours (register through Talaysay Tours)

Storytime: “White Raven”, Seaside Centre

Métis jigging and fiddle performance along with beading display, Seaside Centre

“Ladies of the Inlet” Film Screening, Raven’s Cry

Unity within Diversity: Shain Jackson & Friends art exhibition, GPAG

In the days following, learn more about the history of Indigenous people in Canada and on the shishalh swiya (homelands) at some of the following activities:

JUNE 22 - 24

tems Swiya Museum guided tour

Unity within Diversity: Shain Jackson & Friends art exhibition, GPAG

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22

KAIROS Blanket Exercise, St. Mary’s Church

SATURDAY JUNE 25

Talking Trees Tour - Pride Month – register through Talaysay Tours

Weaving Hearts in Memory, Weaving A Gathering Place studio

Unity within Diversity: Shain Jackson & Friends art exhibition, GPAG

SUNDAY JUNE 26

KAIROS Blanket Exercise, Nation Community Hall

Indigenous Drumming Circle led by Terry Coyote Aleck

Unity within Diversity: Shain Jackson & Friends art exhibition, GPAG

MONDAY JUNE 27

Dialogue Circle with the Restorative Justice, Seaside Centre

Unity within Diversity: Shain Jackson & Friends art exhibition, GPAG

JUNE 28 - 30

tems Swiya Museum guided tour

Unity within Diversity: Shain Jackson & Friends art exhibition, GPAG



shishalh Nation Councillor Corey August raises his hands to the drumming circle in Snickett Park, July 1, 2021, Remembrance/Reconciliation Walk. Photo credit: Sophie Woodrooffe

Canada Day Celebration FRIDAY JULY 1, 2022

The day will begin with an Orange Shirt Walk from the dock to celebrate resilience and acknowledge that Every Child Matters and then the parade will begin. Everyone is invited to celebrate as siyaya (family). The events include:

Lion’s Club Pancake Breakfast at the Dock

Concert by SunCoast Community Orchestra at the Dock

Orange Shirt Walk/Parade

Official protocol ceremony and grand opening of the new outdoor performance stage at Hackett Park

Performance of tl’ikw’am dance group at Hackett Park

Free Family Fun at Hackett Park with live music, dance, vendors, bouncy castles, and fun for the whole family

Weaving Hearts activity at Sunshine Coast Arts Centre

