

LEQ'Á:MEL FIRST NATION INTEGRATED COMMUNITY PLAN



Lhí:Ittset sq'eq'ómet (Weaving Together) | Discussion Guide



Table of Contents

EY SWÁYEL, EY KW'ÁS XWE'Í!	2
<i>Good day. It's good that you are here.</i>	
WHAT IS INCLUDED IN AN ICP?	3
OUR LANDS TODAY	4
WHAT HAS CHANGED?	5
SEVEN SACRED VALUES AND LAWS	6
S'ÍWES	8
<i>Teachings (Culture)</i>	
SHXWEXWÁ CHELCHÁLÉX	9
<i>Hard-working hands (Economic development)</i>	
TSQWÁ:Y TÉM:ÉXW	10
<i>Green spaces</i>	
LALÉM	11
<i>Housing</i>	
QP'Á:THET	12
<i>To close</i>	

We're using traditional Halq'eméylem language in this discussion guide. For pronunciations and more information, access the Stó:lō Shxwelí dictionary by scanning the QR code.



Ey swáyèl, ey kw'ás xwe'í!

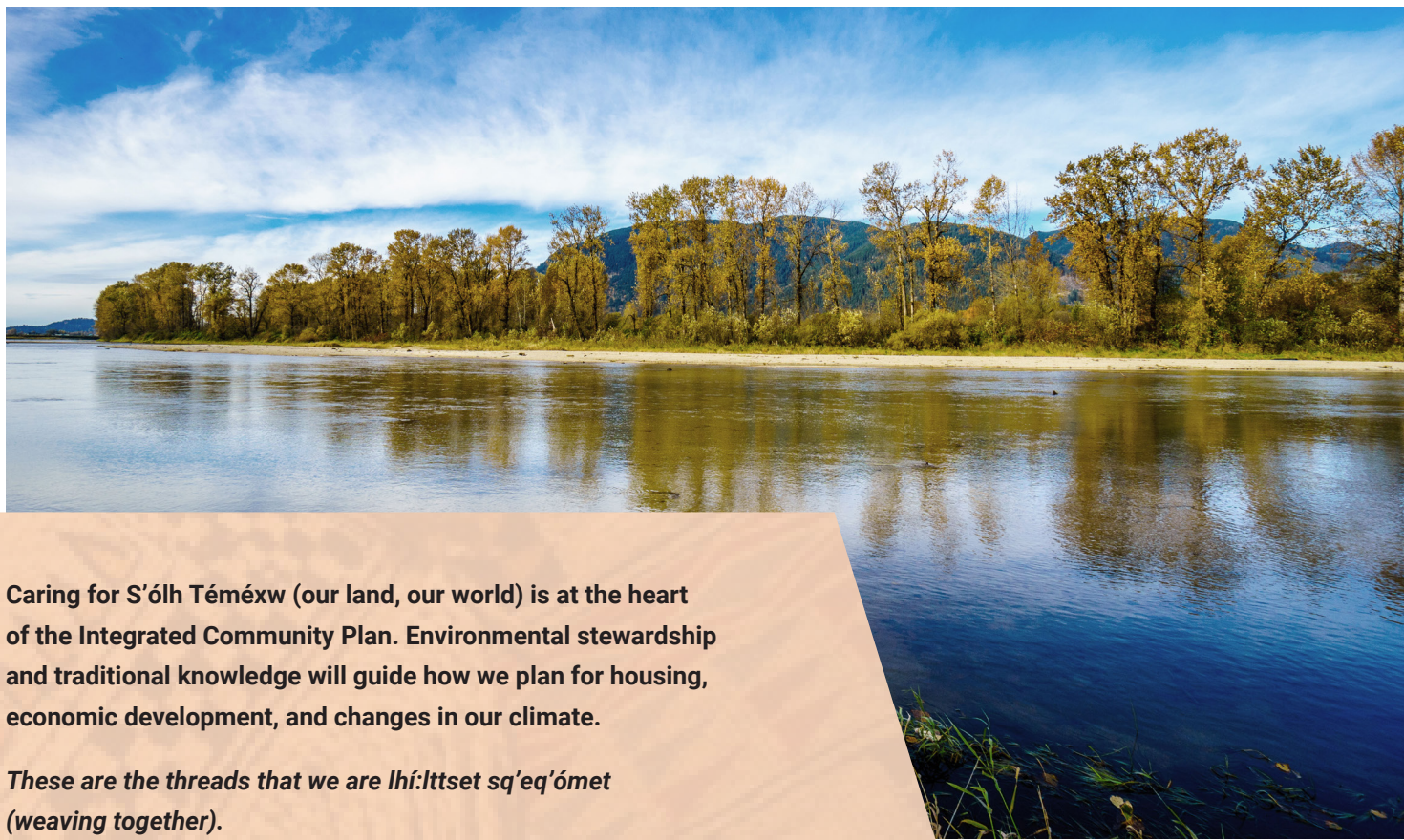
Good day, it's good that you are here.



Leq'á:mel First Nation is creating an Integrated Community Plan to guide how our lands are used, protected, and cared for, for the next 20 years and beyond. This work is about making thoughtful decisions today so the next seven generations can live, grow, and thrive on our lands.

Our current plans were created more than 10 years ago, and a lot has changed since then. Housing needs have shifted, the climate is changing, and new economic opportunities are emerging. **Updating our plan helps make sure our land use decisions reflect where we are today.**

This will be a collaborative process made with input from many sources, including Leq'á:mel xwexwélmexw (Leq'á:mel People).



Caring for S'ólh Téméxw (our land, our world) is at the heart of the Integrated Community Plan. Environmental stewardship and traditional knowledge will guide how we plan for housing, economic development, and changes in our climate.

These are the threads that we are lhí:lttset sq'eq'ómet (weaving together).

What is included in an Integrated Community Plan?



When the Integrated Community Plan is complete, it will show how different parts of our land fit together like a blanket. It will help answer:

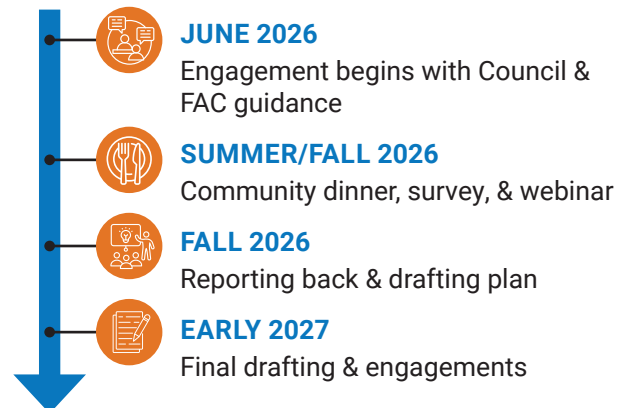
- Where new homes can be built
- Where economic development could happen
- Which areas should be protected for environmental reasons
- Which areas should be protected for cultural uses
- Where future infrastructure investments may be needed

Together, these pieces form a clear picture of how our lands will be used. It's important to know that the Integrated Community Plan does not approve specific projects. It works as a long-term guide for land use over many years, helping the Nation move forward in a clear, coordinated way.

TIMELINE

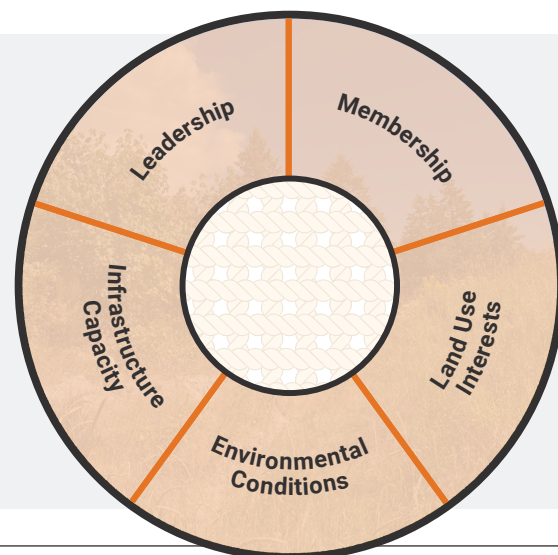
This project is in its beginning phase. Nothing has been written or finalized at this point. We are coming to you for your input first. Leq'á:mel xwexwélmexw (Leq'á:mel People) will have opportunities to learn how land use decisions are made and how lands are protected, and to help decide how our lands will be used.

The Integrated Community Plan project will include multiple opportunities to provide input in-person and online.



How will decisions be made?

This process will be woven together by many hands. Not all lands can support all uses. Community input will be used along with criteria such as infrastructure capacity, environmental conditions, and existing land interests to shape what is possible.



Our lands today



Leq'á:mel means “level place where people meet.”

Our community has always been a natural gathering place for families from up and down the river. For thousands of years we have been thriving, self-governing people living in one of the richest environments in the world.

Leq'á:mel has lived on a vast territory around the Stó:lō (Fraser River) from time immemorial. In 1864, the reserve system was imposed and Leq'á:mel was divided into reserves spanning 14,800 acres. These holdings were reduced to 1,185 acres in 1879.

Today, we have 10 reserves. These reserves span 515.5 hectares (1,274 acres) of land, centered on and around the Stó:lō.

Si:yám have asserted our rights on our lands for generations, and continue to advocate for Leq'á:mel's lands and people.

sxe'ath'tels te'i téméxw | Map of this land



What has changed?



A lot has changed since 2015. A few of those key changes include:

- Developing the gas station
- Building a daycare
- Growing our guardian program
- More housing, renovations, and maintenance; in 2016 we had 76 homes and now we have 91

There is still work to be done, and we will build on past successes to keep moving into the future.

OUR LENSES

There is a lot that goes into planning the community. There are four key lenses that we are using to create this Integrated Community Plan. They include:

s'íwes

Teachings (Culture)

- ? Which lands are important for cultural uses?
- ? What types of cultural buildings or spaces do we want to see?

tsqwá:y tém:éxw

Green spaces

- ? Which lands are important for plants and animals?
- ? Which lands should be protected?
- ? How might climate change impact our community and our lands?

shxwexwá chelcháléx

Hard-working hands (Economic development)

- ? What types of economic opportunities (like businesses or industries) do we want to pursue as a Nation?
- ? Where could economic development opportunities go?

lalém

Housing

- ? How many new housing units do we need?
- ? What types of housing do we want to see?
- ? Where can new homes go?
- ? What infrastructure is needed?

Seven sacred values and laws

1. stqóye

stqóye = tl'íls
wolf = love

Lexwtl'íls kw'e kwíyxml wiyótha.
Always act in love, love the creator.

Tl'ílsmet kw'e Chíchelh Síyam,
tl'ílsmet te slheq'ómet, tl'ílsthet,
tl'el'ílsmet ye tselhsq'áleq'o qas
mekw' ye malstíyexw.

*Love yourself, love your family
and fellow beings.*

3. spá:th

spá:th = sey'álwes
bear = courage

Xwelalámet te th'á:le.
Listen to your heart.

Tl'os se'yalwes kw'es ye sthethíy.
It takes courage to do what is right.

2. sp'ó:q'es

sp'ó:q'es = s'ólhmet
eagle = respect

S'ólhmet s'ólhstexw kw'e mékw'
i'áylexw íte slháq'emex.
Respect all life on Mother Earth.

S'ólhstexw ye selyólexwe qas
ye mestíyexw láts'ómexw kw'es
s'olh qe'su shxws'am.

*Respect elders and people of all
races. To respect is to give.*

4. pípehóm

pípehóm = lexwsthe'ít
frog = honesty

E'éwé kw'as mets'elqéylem qew
qwíqwelatstexw.
Never lie or gossip.

Lexwsthe'ít-thet qas xwelá kw'e
wátes.
Be honest with yourself and others.

Teli ta' th'á:le kw'es qwál.
Speak from the heart.

Lexwsthe'ítqel xwela ta' sqwál.
Be true to your word.

5. sásq'ets

sásq'ets = selawa'im
sasquatch = humility

Thetíwel xwelá kw'e wátes yewál
telí tl'lewe.

Think of others before yourself.

Selá:wathet xwela kw'e Chíchelh
Síyam kw'as lexwch'ít.

*Humble yourself to the Great
Spirit by being thankful.*

7. spól

spól = lexwsthe'ít
crow = truth

Súwq't kw'e lexwsthe'ít wiyóth.
Always seek the truth.

Áylexwstexw kw'e lexwsthe'ít tl'ó
áylexw.

Living the truth is living.

6. smímeyath

smímeyathsmímeyath =
slílexwelh

butterfly = peace

Mekw'wát tse sxexómes.

Everyone has a special gift.

Hokwex ta' sxexómes chasu
slíleqwélstexw ta' slheq'ámel.

*Use your special gift to build a
peaceful world.*

These are the laws of Creator and of everything. They underlie everything that we do and guide our planning for the future.



Leq'á:mel will continue to provide opportunities for all Leq'á:mel xwexwélmexw (Leq'á:mel People) to feel welcome in learning and teaching culture, through language, hunting, harvesting, drumming, canoeing, dancing, crafting, making art, and other ways. A cultural centre is planned for Skweahm in the coming years.

The Integrated Community Plan presents an opportunity to identify what kinds of cultural spaces we want to see and where they could go.

Key questions

- Are there important cultural areas that should be protected?
- Could any of our current cultural spaces be improved?
- Do you have any thoughts or questions about the future cultural centre on Skweahm?
- In addition to the cultural centre, what cultural spaces would support future generations? *E.g., a smokehouse, gathering places, language spaces, arts.* Where could they go?

shxwexwá chelcháléx

Hard-working hands (Economic development)



Economic self-sufficiency is one of Leq'á:mel's core goals. By strengthening our own revenue, building up financial resources, and pursuing innovative partnerships, we can invest in our own infrastructure and programs. Economic development is what will help us make the money we need to build new infrastructure, fund more housing, or create new programming for our community.

The community has seen success in economic development in recent years with the development of an industrial agricultural site in Zaitschullachan and a commercial site in Skweahm. Plans are also underway for an industrial and riverfront development at Papekwatchin.

The Integrated Community Plan will help shape what types of economic development opportunities we want to pursue and where they could be located.

Key questions

- What kinds of economic opportunities would you like to see Leq'á:mel pursue? *E.g., local businesses, tourism, industrial, commercial, agriculture, employment opportunities.* Where could they go?
- What benefits should economic development provide to the community? *E.g., jobs, revenue, housing support, cultural programming, services, infrastructure.*
- Do you have any concerns about future economic development?



Leq'á:mel has several areas that are environmentally protected. Right now, the goal for these areas is to keep them as close to their natural state as possible, while supporting recreation, like fishing. Guardians are the eyes and ears of Leq'á:mel, combining traditional knowledge with modern tools to protect the land for generations to come.

Environmental stewardship is important. Protected areas will remain off-limits to economic development, now and in the future.

The Integrated Community Plan will help protect important lands and sensitive habitats.

Key questions

- Which lands are environmentally sensitive and should be protected?
- What environmental changes concern you the most in the future?
E.g., flooding, erosion, climate, habitat loss.



Leq'á:mel's total population is 822. Growth in our community is exciting- it brings new energy, changes, and challenges.

In the past, the community planned for 85% of new housing to be single-family, and 15% to be multi-family (like duplexes).

Today, Leq'á:mel is prioritizing new infrastructure (like water and sewer) that we need to support diverse housing needs, including housing for Elders.

Leq'á:mel's Housing Strategy (2015) notes the importance of diverse housing opportunities, growth in existing areas, Elders' housing, and traditional use activities like smoke houses.

The Integrated Community Plan will guide where future housing (and infrastructure) could be located.

Key questions

- What are your housing needs?
- What types of housing units are needed in our community for Elders, young adults, future generations, people with diverse abilities, and families?
- Where could new houses be built?
- What should future neighbourhoods look and feel like?



The Integrated Community Plan is an opportunity to build on past planning that has been done, come together, and create a vision for what our lands will look like for future generations.

When you think about Leq'á:mel 20 years from now, what is the most important thing you hope has been achieved?

What else needs to be considered?

Any comments that you have can be submitted to lands@leqamel.ca. For more information, visit leqamel.ca/project/integrated-community-plan

