

Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation and BC advance reconciliation and treaty negotiations with land and economic development transfer

X^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səllwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) VANCOUVER – The BC Treaty Commission congratulates the Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation (SXFN) and the Province on a unique transfer of land, licenses, and transition support.

This weekend it was announced that ownership of approximately 7,800 hectares of ranch lands, and grazing licenses for 56,000 hectares of land will be transferred to SXFN. In addition to the purchase, the Province will provide transition funding, which includes: up to \$2.25 million for livestock and equipment; grant funding up to \$750,000 for first-year operating costs; and a \$600,000 payment for additional ranching assets.

SXFN and the private seller have also committed to maintaining biodiversity and environmental stewardship of the land through a trust funded by the proceeds of the sale, demonstrating how a private citizen can also contribute to reconciliation.

The acquisition demonstrates innovation and the flexibility of the Made-in-BC treaty negotiations process. It is an example of how modern agreements can transform the landscape of Indigenous rights recognition in BC and in Canada.

“This unique transfer advances reconciliation in many ways – a personal call to action, historic land reclamation, and strengthening community and government-to-government partnerships. This is the latest milestone for the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw treaty table and demonstrates commitment to advance and conclude negotiations. We applaud SXFN and the Parties for their dedicated work, which benefit the entire region, as well as the Nation,” says Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane.

Quick Facts:

- The [Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw \(NStQ\)](#) is comprised of four communities: Xatśúll First Nation, Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation, Williams Lake First Nation, and Canim Lake Band.
- On December 16, 2022 SXFN and BC entered into the [Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation Umbrella Agreement](#).
- Since 2018, as a part of treaty negotiations the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation has been working toward buying ranches for NStQ First Nations.
- In July 2018, the Parties (Canada, BC and NStQ) signed the [Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw Agreement in Principle](#).
- For the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation news release click [here](#).

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ABOUT THE BC TREATY COMMISSION

The Treaty Commission is the independent body responsible for overseeing treaty negotiations among the governments of Canada, BC and First Nations in BC. It has three roles: facilitation, funding, and public information and education.