

# Snuneymuxw News

Informing the people of the Snuneymuxw First Nation about issues that matter

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*Newsletters also available online at: [www.snuneymuxw.ca/newsletter](http://www.snuneymuxw.ca/newsletter)*

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[communications@snuneymuxw.ca](mailto:communications@snuneymuxw.ca)

**February 2026**



***yusel'uqínun***

*(February)*

***'uy'uy'mut***

*(beautiful)*

***tli't stamu cun***

*(I hold you dearly)*





## JOINT NEWS RELEASE

Distributed February 17, 2026

### **City seeking boundary change to include Snuneymuxw First Nation reserve lands**

Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) and the City of Nanaimo (City) have jointly requested support from the Province of B.C. in initiating a municipal boundary change that would see Snuneymuxw reserve lands included within the City of Nanaimo. This work supports the City's commitment to advancing Truth and Reconciliation and reflects direction in City Plan, which encourages collaboration with SFN, the Province and the Regional District of Nanaimo to strengthen opportunities for SFN members to participate in City elections. The City is taking steps to amend the municipal boundary in advance of the next municipal election, which will be held in October 2026.

Currently, SFN members living on reserve vote for a Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Area Director and school trustees. If reserve lands were brought into the City's boundary, SFN members living on those lands would have the option to vote for the Mayor and Council of Nanaimo and take part in municipal assent voting processes.

A recent transfer of land from the Government of Canada to SFN has highlighted the need for a consistent and equitable approach. Because the recently transferred land is now reserve lands and already within the municipal boundary, SFN members living there in the future would be eligible to vote in City elections, while SFN members living on other reserve lands outside the boundary would not. Existing servicing agreements for infrastructure, transportation and other assets located on SFN reserve lands will not change as part of this process. These services continue to be delivered through agreements between SFN and other governments.

Under the Local Government Act, approval of the electors is required before municipal boundaries can be extended to include new lands. A report seeking approval to proceed with an elector approval process will be brought forward for Council's consideration at the February 23, 2026 Regular Council meeting.

### **Quotes**

"The City Plan guides us as we address yet another priority, this time to provide a means for all those living in Snuneymuxw to vote for candidates that directly make decisions for the community in which they live. This change, unique for B.C., will align with future City growth and provide an equitable opportunity for all Snuneymuxw living on reserve lands."

Leonard Krog  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

"It makes sense that Snuneymuxw people are able to vote in municipal elections in the City that is named after us. This proposed boundary change is a practical step toward equity, ensuring our members who live on reserve lands have the same opportunity to participate in municipal decision-making as their neighbours. Arbitrary boundaries within our territory have limited our voices for too long. This work affirms the role of our communities in shaping the future of our shared city."

Michael Wyse  
Chief  
Snuneymuxw First Nation



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SNUNEYMUXW FIRST NATION DEMANDS INVESTIGATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY AFTER OIL SPILL AND LONG-STANDING TOXIC DISCHARGE AT DUKE POINT**

**Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo), B.C. (February 19, 2026)** — **Snuneymuxw First Nation** will not stand for continued contamination of Snuneymuxw waters, and is calling for a full environmental investigation following two separate contaminations at Duke Point within Snuneymuxw territory: a hazardous oil spill caused by Environmental 360 and long-standing discharge of toxic sawmill effluent by Western Forest Products (WFP).

In two formal letters sent to federal, provincial and municipal authorities, Chief Mike Wyse expressed zero tolerance for non-compliance and described both incidents as “yet another example of systemic failure by government and industrial operators to prevent, identify and address long-standing environmental harm in our territory. Our shared lands and waters are not disposal sites for corporate waste, and we will not tolerate continued destruction of our treaty rights to fisheries as formerly.”

The waters affected by these incidents are not remote or abstract. The Northumberland Channel and surrounding Salish Sea shoreline are home to many, including the Snuneymuxw People. These are the marine areas where Snuneymuxw villages and fisheries as formerly sites are located. This area is central to Snuneymuxw law and economy, and is the oldest economic ecosystem known in Canada.

Families swim at Salish Sea beaches. Recreational and commercial fishers depend on healthy shellfish populations and fish-bearing waters. The marine ecosystem that sustains orca, seals, otters and seabirds is the same one that draws tourists, supports local economies and puts food on tables across the region. When industrial operators pollute these waters without accountability, every community on this coastline pays the price.

“The impacts caused by contamination in our territory and marine areas are not theoretical,” said Chief Wyse. “The toxic pollutants affect livelihoods, food security, cultural practices, treaty rights and the long-term health of marine life and the marine economy that so many Island communities rely on. Snuneymuxw People continue to exercise their rights to fisheries as formerly which has been directly impacted as a result of these two contaminations. Our Nation



was denied the opportunity to be a part of a solution, including deploying trained responders and containment equipment when it mattered most.”

Environmental 360 has failed to contact Snuneymuxw First Nation despite the magnitude of the spill and its direct impact on Snuneymuxw rights and interests.

“You can't operate in Nanaimo, benefit from the community and the land and then fail to notify neighbours after toxic spills of this magnitude,” said Chief Mike Wyse. “That raises serious questions about due diligence, compliance, respect and basic decency.”

Snuneymuxw First Nation has formally called on federal, provincial and municipal authorities to take immediate and specific actions to hold wrongdoers accountable, ensure future pollution is averted, engage comprehensive remediation and clean up, and restore the solemn constitutional Treaty promises.

-30-

### **About Snuneymuxw First Nation**

Snuneymuxw are a vibrant First Nation of the Coast Salish People, located in the centre of Coast Salish territory on the eastern coast of Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the Fraser River. Snuneymuxw territory encompasses one of the most productive and resource-rich areas at the heart of the Salish Sea. On December 23, 1854, the Crown entered the Snuneymuxw Sarlequun Treaty of 1854, constituting solemn promises and obligations to forever and always protect Snuneymuxw villages, enclosed fields and the right to hunt and fish. To learn more, please visit [www.snuneymuxw.ca](http://www.snuneymuxw.ca).

### **Media Contact**

**Stephanie Hagenaaars**

50th Parallel Public Relations, representing Snuneymuxw First Nation

E: [stephanie@50thparallelpr.com](mailto:stephanie@50thparallelpr.com)



## BACKGROUND

### **Toxic Effluent from WFP Sawmill: Four Decades of Unregulated Pollution**

The first case involves long-standing and significant toxic effluent discharges from the Western Forest Products sawmill at Duke Point. Decades of toxic stormwater effluent from WFP's sawmill had placed the receiving marine environment at high risk of severe ecological degradation.

Snuneymuxw has been misinformed by the company about the scale and severity of the issue and has recently become informed there was a high likelihood of severe ecological damage, a near complete impairment of benthic habitat within the Northumberland Channel Rockfish Conservation Area and a significant underestimation of environmental risk by WFP.

"We are alarmed to learn that the environmental harm is far greater than previously represented," said Chief Mike Wyse. "For more than 40 years, toxic effluent has entered waters where we harvest, fish, swim and exercise protected rights. These waters are not an industrial dumping ground; they are the lifeblood of this coast. Island families depend on Salish Sea waters. Our children grow up splashing and paddling in them. Our economy is built around them. Irresponsible waste is not the cost of doing business. It is a failure of leadership."

### **1,800 litres of hydrocarbons originating from Environmental 360**

The second incident involves a spill of up to 1,800 litres of oil products originating from a waste management facility operated by Environmental 360 at Duke Point. The spill entered the marine environment through a municipal stormwater system and spread through fish-bearing waters, including the Northumberland Channel and Cable Bay.

Although the spill may have occurred as early as **January 2, 2026**, Snuneymuxw was not formally notified until **January 5**, after the critical early containment window had passed. As a direct result of the spill, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has imposed an indefinite closure of Snuneymuxw's commercial, food, social and ceremonial shellfish harvesting areas. The economic cost to Snuneymuxw from the closure of these harvesting areas alone is estimated to be at least **\$30,000** per week.

Beyond shellfish closures, the spill has:

- Contaminated municipal stormwater infrastructure, requiring costly remediation
- Disrupted Nation-led environmental restoration initiatives, including kelp out-planting, green gravel habitat sites, and marine monitoring programs
- Compromised the health and safety of the public, forcing beach closures.
- Compromised the health and safety of marine life, including seals, otters, seabirds and orca populations that frequent the affected waters



# February UPDATES



## NUWÍLUM RAYANNE!

Hi everyone, I'm excited to introduce myself as the Financial Controller for PDG. I come from a background in public practice accounting and hold a Diploma in Finance, a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, and a Master of Professional Accounting. I'm also a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA). Outside of work, I love staying active. I play hockey, ski, and I'm currently learning how to mountain bike.



A few fun facts about me:

- I have a dog named Porter (a dachshund-chihuahua mix)
- I have an identical twin sister
- I grew up in Nanaimo and have lived on Vancouver Island my whole life (apart from a short time while completing my master's).

I'm grateful for the opportunity to support Snuneymuxw's economic development and to contribute my skills in support of community priorities.

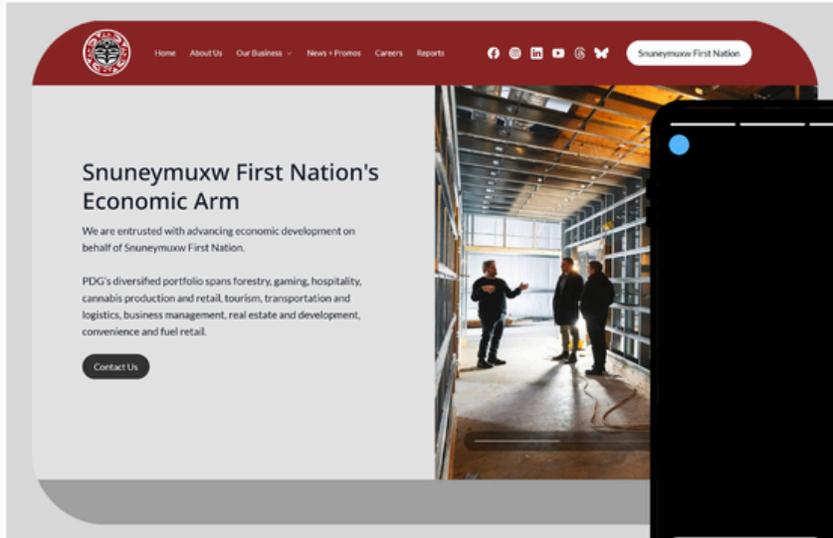




**PETROGLYPH**  
DEVELOPMENT GROUP



## OUR NEW WEBSITE



We're excited to introduce our new PDG website. Designed to be engaging and easy to navigate, it offers a closer look at our projects, companies, and the work underway across our growing portfolio.

Carefully built with you in mind, the site provides more in-depth information about PDG, our developments, and how we are working alongside Snuneymuxw First Nation to create future opportunities and support long-term economic growth.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

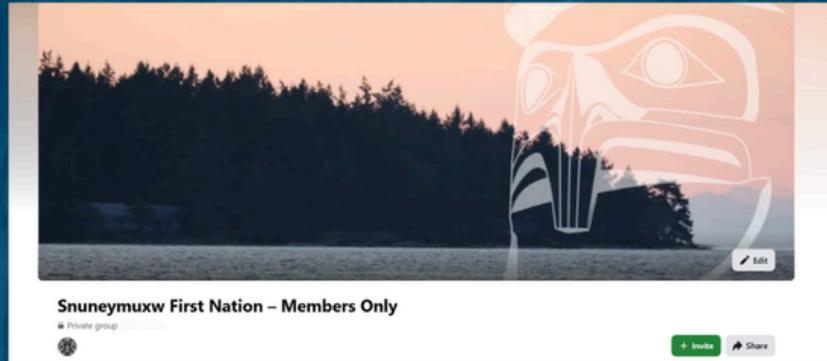
Interested in joining the PDG family? We're always looking for passionate and talented individuals to be part of our growing team. Send your resume to [hr@petroglyphdg.com](mailto:hr@petroglyphdg.com) or visit our website to learn more!

Stay updated: [petroglyphdg.com/careeropportunities](https://petroglyphdg.com/careeropportunities).





# Announcing our new PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP



This is one of the steps our Nation is taking to ensure information is getting to members directly & effectively.

**Our team will do our best to add members directly.  
But, if you would like to request access to the group:**

**STEP 1**

Go to: [www.facebook.com/groups/sfnmembersonly](https://www.facebook.com/groups/sfnmembersonly)



**STEP 2**

Click "Join Group"

 Join group

**STEP 3**

Allow 1 week for membership approval process

**QUESTIONS?**

[communications@snuneymuxw.ca](mailto:communications@snuneymuxw.ca)



**WE'RE HIRING!**

**ON-CALL RECEPTIONISTS**

**BAND FAMILY DESIGNATE**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR**

**LEARN MORE + APPLY**

**[www.snuneymuxw.ca/jobs](http://www.snuneymuxw.ca/jobs)**



# SACRED SIDEKICKS

*young mens group  
with Marty W and Nan*

✦ *For ages 10-14*

 *Every Monday*

 *3:30-5:00pm*

*Start Date:  
February 9<sup>th</sup> 2026*

 669 Centre St  
(Education Portable)

Please contact Nan at  
[nancys@snuneymuxw.ca](mailto:nancys@snuneymuxw.ca)



# GIRLS EMPOWERING GIRLS



✦ **For ages 11-13**

 **Every Wednesday**

 **4:00 - 5:30pm**

**Start Date:**

**February 11<sup>th</sup> 2026**

Please contact Chenoa at  
[Chenoap@snuneymuxw.ca](mailto:Chenoap@snuneymuxw.ca)  
OR call 250-740-2316

 **669 Centre St  
(Education Portable)**





**WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY**



FREE IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS IN NANAIMO

# Airtight On-Budget Training for Building Professionals

High-performance building doesn't have to cost more—you just need the right techniques. These hands-on sessions will give you practical, proven approaches to improve airtightness without adding complexity or unnecessary expense.

**What you'll get by attending:**

- Live, interactive demos showing real-world air barrier continuity
- Practical tactics you can use on site immediately
- See how small mid-construction changes shift whole-building performance
- Why mid-construction blower door tests matter and prevent rework

»» FUNDAMENTALS OF AIR SEALING  
 FEB 19 | 5:30 P.M.  
 VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY  
 Windsor Plywood Trades Discovery Centre

»» HANDS-ON AIR SEALING STRATEGIES  
 MAR 5 | 12:30 P.M.\*  
 NANAIMO GOLF CLUB

\*This workshop is held as part of CHBA-VI's main event **Building Resilience: Safeguarding Your Business, Optimizing Your Builds**. Registration for the whole event is required.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

Suitable for professional builders, contractors, trades professionals and energy advisors, as well as owner builders.  
**2 CPD credits available with each session.**

SCAN CODE TO REGISTER



RSVP

[rdn.bc.ca/industry-training-opportunities](https://rdn.bc.ca/industry-training-opportunities)  
 ☎ 250-390-5422



**ONGOING NOTICE**



**FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

## **COMMUNITY NOTICE: DRONE ACTIVITY (IR#3)**

**Snuneymuxw is well under way with the second phase of the waste coal pile project.**

**Please be advised that drones will be flying over the construction site on a consistent basis in order to measure quantities of materials being moved within the project envelope (please see aerial photo of construction zone and flight area for drones).**

**Both Snuneymuxw and the awarded general contractor (Hazelwood Construction Services Inc.) will be flying drones to map the material quantities.**

**PLEASE NOTE - the drones will fly only over the designated construction area per the aerial provided.**

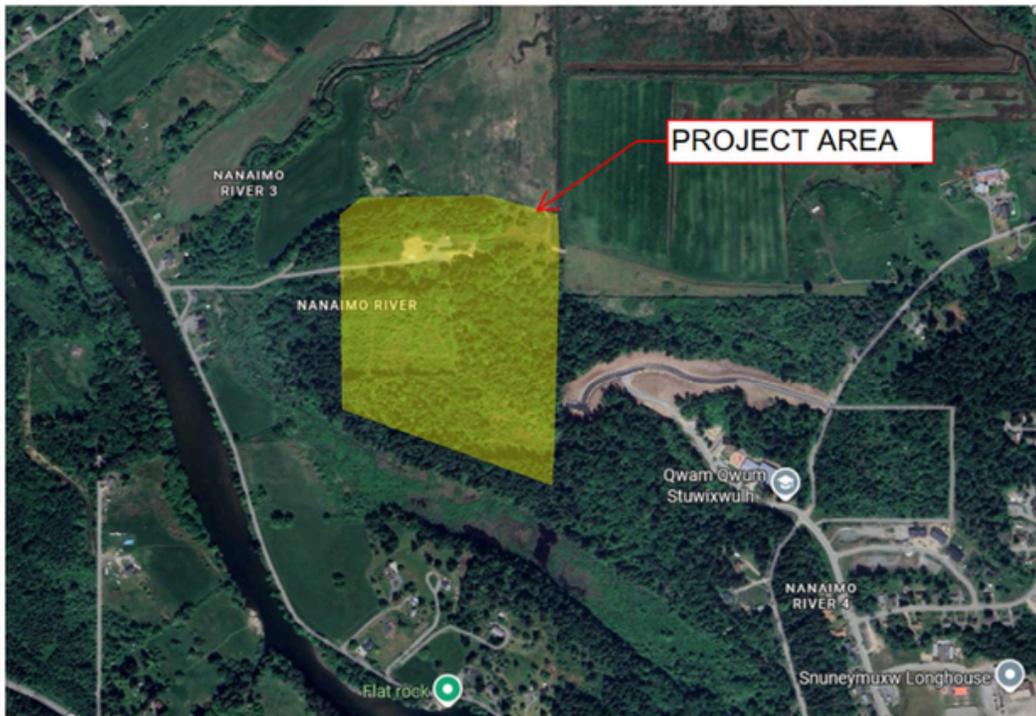
**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Brandon Gillis or John Thomas.**

**Brandon Gillis: 250-802-3985 and / or John Thomas: 778-269-2305**



**FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

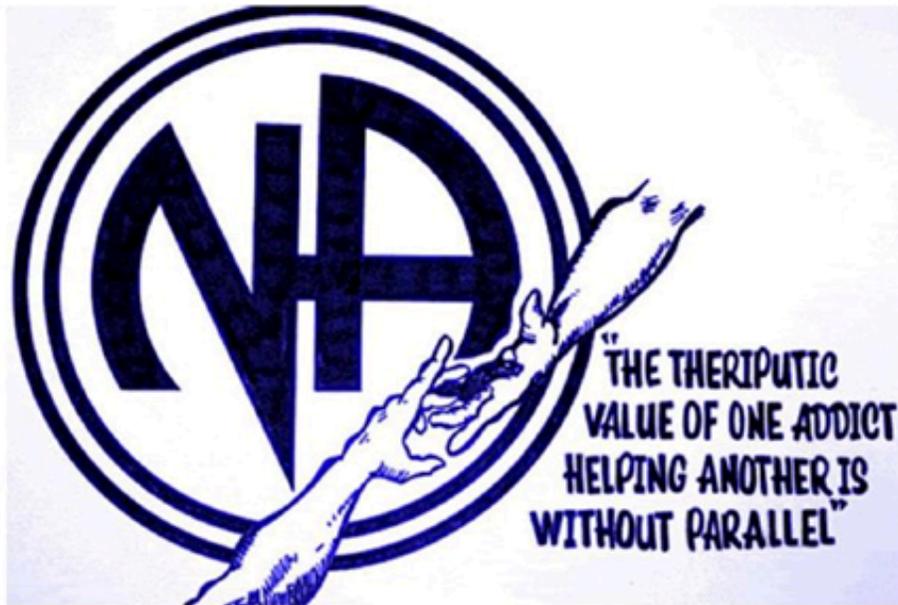
**COMMUNITY NOTICE:  
DRONE ACTIVITY (IR#3)**



**📍 Affected areas are highlighted in yellow on the attached map.**

**Thank you.**

**Brandon Gillis: 250-802-3985 and / or John Thomas: 778-269-2305**



**When : Wednesdays @ 7pm**

**Where : 669 Centre Street**

**(in the Portable)**

More info  
about NA  
programs:



[www.cviana.ca/who-we-are](http://www.cviana.ca/who-we-are)

Info about the  
importance of  
anonymity:



Find more  
local  
meetings:



[www.cviana.ca/current-meetings](http://www.cviana.ca/current-meetings)



## HOW TO ACCESS SFN COUNSELLING

**1.**

Call SFN hulit leum  
and ask to speak  
with a counsellor.  
250-740-2337



**2.**

We connect you with  
a counsellor.



**3.**

We book your first  
appointment and  
look forward to  
welcoming you.



SNUNEYMUXW HULIT LELUM  
1451 MACMILLAN RD.,  
NANAIMO, B.C.  
Reception: 250 740 2337



## HOW TO GET HELP FOR SUBSTANCE USE

- 1.** Call SFN hilit leum and ask to speak with a counsellor. 250-740-2337
- 2.** We book your first appointment and look forward to welcoming you.
- 3.** You and a counsellor have a confidential conversation to discuss the following:
  - a) Your physical and mental health.
  - b) Whether detox support is needed before starting treatment.
  - c) Review treatment options including treatment centres.
  - d) The support we can provide while you wait for additional help.
- 4.** Plan for ongoing and post treatment support.



SNUNEYMUXW HULIT LELUM  
1451 MACMILLAN RD.,  
NANAIMO, B.C.  
Reception: 250 740 2337



## 2026 SOCIAL ASSISTANCE DATES

### MID-MONTH

### INCOME ASSISTANCE PAYMENT DATES

JAN. 07/26

JAN 21, 2026 (for February)

FEB. 04/26

FEB.25, 2026 (for March)

MAR. 11/26

MAR. 25, 2026 (for APRIL)

APR. 08/26

APR. 22, 2026 (for MAY)

MAY. 06/26

MAY 27, 2026 (for JUNE)

JUN. 10/26

JUN. 24, 2026 (for JULY)

JUL. 08/26

JUL. 29, 2026 (for AUGUST)

AUG .12/26

AUG.26, 2026 (for SEPTEMBER)

SEPT. 09/26

SEPT. 23, 2026 (for OCTOBER.)

OCT.07/26

OCT. 21, 2026 (for NOVEMBER)

NOV. 04/26

NOV. 18, 2026 (for DECEMBER)

DEC. 02/26

DEC. 16, 2026 (for JANUARY)



## SNUNEYMUXW HULIT LELUM SUPPORT SERVICES

### SFN Counselling Services

**SNUNEYMUXW HULIT LELUM**  
**1451 MACMILLAN RD., NANAIMO, B.C.**

**Front Desk:**                      **Appointment Line:**  
**250-740-2337**                      **250-740-2345**

Our counsellors at SFN hulit lelum have completed trauma-informed, master's level university education and are certified counsellors.

Our counsellors are available Monday to Friday to support Snuneymuxw members.

Some of the areas that our counsellors may be able to help with include, but are not limited to:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Grief & Loss
- Loss of relationships (friends, partners)
- Coping with anger
- Dealing with difficult emotions
- Coping skills / emotional regulation
- Self-esteem / self-worth
- Communication
- Creating healthy boundaries
- Coping with racism and discrimination
- Coping with impact of residential school and day school
- Concerns about your own, or someone else's substance use

If our counsellors determine that you may be better supported by another service provider (for example, someone who specializes in a particular area) they can help you navigate other options.



### ADDITIONAL HELPFUL RESOURCE INFO:

#### **SNUNEYMUXW EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

If you are employed with Snuneymux First Nation, you may be eligible for extended health benefits, such as confidential counselling services through the Employee & Family Assistance Plan. Please refer to your benefits package and/or speak to Human Resources to find out more and to verify if you are eligible.

#### **FNHA MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS:**

If you are a status First Nations person living in B.C., you can access certain health & wellness benefits through First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) such as confidential counselling services. There are numerous counsellors to choose from on their mental health provider list. SN counsellors are happy to support you with navigating the FNHA mental health provider list. For more information, please visit: [www.fnha.ca/benefits/mental-health](http://www.fnha.ca/benefits/mental-health)

#### **SNUNEYMUXW FAMILY ADVOCATE:**



Jake Dietrich supports families in Snuneymuxw who are connected with Child & Family Services.

*Remember, you are not alone. You have options.*

### **CRISIS / DISTRESS RESOURCES:**

#### **KUU-US Crisis Line Society (24-hour)**

Adults/Elders: 250-723-4050

Child/Youth: 250-723-2040

Toll Free Line: 1-800-588-8717

#### **Vancouver Island Crisis Society (24-hour)**

Phone: 1-888-494-3888

Text: 250-800-3806 (6pm - 10pm)

Online chat: [www.viccrisis.ca](http://www.viccrisis.ca) (6pm - 10pm)

#### **National Residential School Crisis Line (24-hour)**

1-866-925-4419

#### **Hope For Wellness Help Line (24-hour)**

Offers immediate help to all Indigenous peoples across Canada

Toll-free Help Line: 1-855-242-3310

Online Chat: [www.hopeforwellness.ca](http://www.hopeforwellness.ca)

#### **Crisis Line Association of B.C. (24-hour)**

1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)



## GARBAGE & RECYCLING

**RECYCLING PICK UP:  
WEDNESDAY**

**GARBAGE PICK UP:  
MONDAY & THURSDAY**

Please have your garbage and recycling out by 8:00 am on the day of the service.

Please remember that all recyclables **MUST** be in a clear plastic bag or in a bin.

(The recycling depot does not accept anything in a dark garbage bag.)

## MEMBER CONTACT INFO:

**Has your email, phone number, or address changed?**

Please update your contact information, with our membership team. This helps us keep you informed about important updates.



**ONLINE FORM:**

[www.snuneymuxw.ca/membership](http://www.snuneymuxw.ca/membership)

**? QUESTIONS?**

Contact our membership team at:

**250-740-2300**

[membership@snuneymuxw.ca](mailto:membership@snuneymuxw.ca)

*hay ch qa' (thank you) for your help!*

## HEALTH CLINIC & EMERGENCY

**Health Centre Front Desk:  
250-740-2337**

**Health Centre  
Appointment Line:  
250-740-2345**

**Cheryl Mooney  
250-668-2644  
cmooney@snuneymuxw.ca**

**Marina White  
250-668-5244  
marinaw@snuneymuxw.ca**

**Regan Seward  
250-616-3582  
regans@snuneymuxw.ca**

**Housing:  
250-740-2354**

**Are you interested in  
delivering the  
Snuneymuxw News?**



If so, please call the Main Office **250-740-2300** and ask for your name to be added to the list of people who deliver the SFN Newsletter.

**Check out the latest  
Nation Job Postings:**

[www.snuneymuxw.ca/jobs](http://www.snuneymuxw.ca/jobs)

**Follow us on Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/  
SnuneymuxwFirstNation](http://www.facebook.com/SnuneymuxwFirstNation)

## SFN NEWSLETTERS

Also available on the website as PDFs:

[www.snuneymuxw.ca/  
newsletter](http://www.snuneymuxw.ca/newsletter)

Visit [www.snuneymuxw.ca](http://www.snuneymuxw.ca) for more info, and to sign up to have the newsletter sent to you by email.

## HANDY NUMBERS

**SFN Admin Office:  
250-740-2300**

**Joan Brown: 250-740-2300  
Health Centre: 250-740-2337**

**QQS School: 250-754-3033**

**Daycare: 250-740-2348**

**Tuytaxun Store:  
250-753-4214**

**Saysutshun:  
1-866-788-6243**

**RCMP/ Non-Emergency:  
250-754-2345**

