



THE SNUNEYMUXW MEMBERSHIP CODE

Snuneymuxw Membership is about family, identity, responsibility, and our relationship to Snuneymuxw. Establishing a Snuneymuxw Membership Code is an important part of our inherent right to govern ourselves. It affirms that Snuneymuxw must have the authority to decide who belongs to our Nation. By developing our own Snuneymuxw Membership Code, grounded in our laws, values, and Snawayalth, we take another important step in exercising our authority as Snuneymuxw people. This document explains some of the different terms that we may use when talking about how to determine who qualifies for membership, or how different people may be accepted as members by Snuneymuxw. These terms are being used for the purposes of engagement with Snuneymuxw members and may not be terms that are used in the final Membership Code that is drafted.



BLOOD QUANTUM

Blood quantum is a fraction-based approach to measure how much Indigenous blood or ancestry a person has.

Because of how the Indian Act has been applied, it is not possible to measure actual blood quantum in Canada.

In the context of the Snuneymuxw Membership Code, this could mean:

- How much Snuneymuxw ancestry a person has; OR
- How much First Nations ancestry a person has.



BLOOD LINEAGE

Blood lineage means someone who has a direct, vertical bloodline to a Snuneymuxw ancestor.

Lineage travels vertically through parents, grandparents, etc.

- Blood lineage does not include horizontal bloodlines through cousins, aunts and uncles, etc.
- Blood lineage does not include a connection that comes through adoption or marriage.



ANCESTRAL MEMBER

An ancestral member is a person who has a direct bloodline connection to a Snuneymuxw member through their parent(s) or grandparent(s).

The Snuneymuxw Membership Code proposes that the ancestral member must also have a connection to Snuneymuxw.



CONDITIONAL MEMBER

A conditional member is someone who has a bloodline connection to a Snuneymuxw member but does not (yet) have an established connection to the Nation.

Conditional membership acts like a temporary citizenship pathway to allow those members who are disconnected to establish a connection.



CUSTOMARY MEMBER

A customary member is a person who is the adopted child or the spouse of an ancestral member.

The Snuneymuxw Membership Code will require a person to have an established connection to Snuneymuxw to apply as a customary member.

Connection to Snuneymuxw (examples):

- Connection to the Land
- Living or being raised in community
- Participation in community events
- Knowledge of / participation in culture
- Knowledge of the language
- Working for the Nation
- Carrying a traditional name