

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## CITY JOINS SKWXWÚ7MESH ÚXWUMIXW IN HONOURING THEIR JOURNEY, RESILIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER—July 11, 2023 Recognizing the historical significance of the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) amalgamation, the City of North Vancouver has accepted an invitation to support celebrations, providing a unique opportunity for residents to learn and honour the Nation's history, unity and success. The July 23rd 100-year anniversary recognizes the joining of 16 Skwxwú7mesh villages in 1923 to form one Nation.

The City will support the upcoming <u>Skwxwú7mesh Days Festival</u> in various ways, including hosting a daylong celebration at The Shipyards on July 15 and contributing \$25,000 to help support dozens of other events across the North Shore throughout July.

"The Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw has a deep and rich history," said City of North Vancouver Mayor Linda Buchanan. "This historic 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their amalgamation as a Nation is an opportunity for people across the North Shore to come together to learn and celebrate. The City is pleased to contribute to the Skwxwú7mesh Days Festival as we continue to strengthen our government-to-government relations and build important community relationships."

A special commemoration of the 1923 amalgamation will happen at Ambleside Park in West Vancouver on July 23, where the North Shore community can come together to observe this historic milestone. More than 30 other events will also happen throughout July, offering diverse experiences and opportunities for connection. These events will include healing ceremonies, guided tours of Squamish Nation lands, concerts, the captivating voices of Elders.

Working closely with the Squamish Nation, the City is grateful to be hosting one of these special events on July 15 at The Shipyards, which will include a welcome ceremony featuring the Eagle Song Dancers, a special fashion show featuring the iconic designs of <a href="Pam Baker">Pam Baker</a>, music and dancing. There will also be woodcarving demonstrations, children's activities, a wide-range of vendors and a traditional salmon barbeque among other culinary delights.

"The Shipyards is a place for community gatherings," added Mayor Linda Buchanan. "I am so pleased this amenity can serve as the venue for this festival. The 100-year anniversary of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw amalgamation is a special day of reflection and celebration, it's an honour to be invited to support such an important occasion."

The City's ongoing efforts toward Reconciliation reflect its vision for a City for all people.

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We respectfully acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional and unceded territories of the Skwx wú7mesh (Squamish) and Səl ílwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. The City of North Vancouver is committed to Reconciliation with these Nations, who have lived on these lands since time immemorial.