



SUMAS FIRST NATION

Semá:th DECLARATION

The Semá:th acknowledge that the Creator provided us with our territory and resources, S'ólh Téméxw. The Creator gave us laws that govern all our relationships to live in harmony with nature and mankind. The Creator gave us laws that define our rights and responsibilities.

The Creator gave us our spiritual beliefs, our languages, our culture and a place on Mother Earth which provided us with all our needs to sustain ourselves. The Creator has given us the right to govern ourselves and the right to self-determination. The rights and responsibilities given to us by the Creator cannot be altered or taken away by any other nation.

The Semá:th continue to exercise our rights and fulfill the responsibilities and obligations given to us by the Creator for the land upon which we were placed. The Semá:th have maintained our freedom, our languages and our traditions from time immemorial.

The Semá:th openly and publicly declare and affirm to the people and government of Canada, British Columbia and United States of America:

1. That the Semá:th have held and still hold aboriginal title, and aboriginal rights to all land and resources within our Tribal territory.
2. That the Semá:th have never reached any agreement or treaty with the governments of Canada and British Columbia concerning the occupation, settlement, sovereignty or jurisdiction over our land.
3. That the Semá:th affirm our inalienable right of aboriginal title and aboriginal rights to the land, the mountains, the minerals, the trees, the lakes, the rivers, the streams, the sea, the air and other resources of our land.
4. That our aboriginal title and aboriginal rights have existed from time immemorial, exists at the present time and shall exist for all future time and generations.
5. The Semá:th declare that we shall do all in our power to see that the governments of Canada, British Columbia and the United States of America recognize in law and in practice, our aboriginal title and aboriginal rights.

OUR VISION

Semá:th is prosperous and self-sufficient, reclaiming our Xwe'lmexw way of life and maintaining governance over S'ólh Téméxw.

OUR MISSION

The Semá:th are committed to improving the quality of life for present and all future generations through encouraging healthy living and embracing responsibility to ensure a safe environment, while preserving and exercising our rights, language, culture and traditions.

OUR VALUES

Balance. Respect. Culture, history & tradition. Caring for the land and for all living things. Giving back. Speaking for our people and speaking for the land, fish and all living things. A sense of community with the recognition that we are one – “Lets'emot”.

LEM XAYLETUK
Chief Dalton Silver

KWILOSINTUN
Councillor Murray Ned

SALISI:YA
Councillor Jackie Bird

Councillor Clint Tuttle