



TE'MEXW
TREATY ASSOCIATION



PRESS KIT



TE'MEXW TREATY ASSOCIATION

The Te'mexw Treaty Association (TTA) is a non-profit society formed by five Coast Salish Nations: Beecher Bay (SC'IA'NEW), Malahat (MÁLEXEŁ), Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose), Songhees and T'Sou-ke. The five Te'mexw member Nations have come together to support one another and to collaborate under one organization, in negotiating five Nation-specific modern treaties with the federal and provincial governments in the B.C. Treaty Process. The Nations' traditional territories are located in two main areas now known as southern Vancouver Island (the Greater Victoria area) and on the east coast of Vancouver Island (around Nanoose Bay).

The Te'mexw Treaty Association (TTA) is currently in Stage 5 of the Six-Stage BC Treaty Process.

VISION

Unified in our pursuit of self-governance — united culturally, socially and economically for future generations.

MISSION

Negotiate just, modern-day treaties, ensuring our Citizens are knowledgeable and prepared to make informed decisions.

Chief of Negotiations



Chief Ron Sam

Chief of Negotiations
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MEMBER NATIONS



BEECHER BAY (SC'IA̱NEW) NATION

Beecher Bay (SC'IA̱NEW) Nation's community sits on Beecher Bay in East Sooke, 30 kilometres southwest of Victoria, on the south coast of Vancouver Island. For thousands of years, SC'IA̱NEW peoples have used and occupied these lands and waters, and the Nation's lands today extend to Fraser Island, Lamb Island, Long-neck Island, Twin Island, Village Island and Whale Island.

The place name "SC'IA̱NEW" (pronounced CHEA-nuh) translates from the Klallam language as "the place of the big fish." The name reflects the Nation's close connection to the waters of the Salish Sea and its identity as the Salmon People. As with other First Nation names in the region, it identifies what the inhabitants needed to know about the locale: here, the richness of sea life sustains the Nation's community.

Part of SC'IA̱NEW Nation traces its ancestry to people who spoke four different dialects, and the community recognizes all four languages today, although they are not all currently spoken. Today, the SC'IA̱NEW community continues to apply its long knowledge of environmental management in its land and marine resources, including through the Cheanuh Marina and a marine spill-response partnership that has cut emergency response times from days to hours.

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MALAHAT NATION (MÁLEXEŁ)

Malahat Nation is located south of Mill Bay, along the western shores of Saanich Inlet, approximately 40 kilometres northwest of Victoria, with reserve lands nestled beneath the mountain. The Nation is named as one of the most sacred sites on southern Vancouver Island.

Malahat is a proud Coast Salish community and one of the five W̱SÁNEĆ (Saanich) Nations. Prior to European contact, W̱SÁNEĆ ancestors of the modern Malahat (MÁLEXEŁ), Pauquachin (BÓKEĆEN), Tsartlip (W̱JOŁEŁP), Tseycum (W̱SÍ,ĶEM) and Tsawout (STÁUTW) First Nations owned and occupied numerous village sites and resource areas across a large traditional territory. That territory included the Saanich Peninsula, the western shores of Saanich Inlet from Goldstream to Hatch Point, and the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands beyond. Malahat Nation members hold family ties with the W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples of the Saanich Peninsula and with members of the modern Hul'q'umi'num' Treaty Group.

The name “Malahat” comes from the SENĆOTEN word “MÁLEXEŁ” and the Hul'q'umi'num' word “Ma'le-'h'xe'l,” both derived from the word for “caterpillars,” recalling a historic infestation in the area. The traditional languages spoken were SENĆOTEN, Hul'q'umi'num' and Samish, and the Nation continues to record and share these words and phrases, alongside the snuwuyulh — the ancestral teachings that guide the community toward a better future.

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SNAW-NAW-AS (NANOOSE) FIRST NATION

Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation is located on the east coast of Vancouver Island in Nanoose Bay, between Parksville and Nanaimo and adjacent to the city of Lantzville. The Nation's traditional territory once spread across village sites throughout the mid-island region of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

The Snaw-naw-as name commemorates the sole survivor of a historic 19th-century battle and derives from the Halkomelem word "Naus," meaning "the way in the harbour" — a fitting reference to the sheltered shape of Nanoose Bay. The traditional language is Hul'q'umi'num', one of three branches of Halkomelem spoken from Nanoose to Oregon, and the community is one of the most northern Coast Salish peoples on the east side of Vancouver Island.

Guided by the belief that "we have always been here," Snaw-naw-as governs through policies grounded in its own values and traditions, and works alongside Malahat, Songhees, T'Sou-ke and Snuneymuxw and 18 other Nations of the Salish Sea as a member of both the Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council to revitalize language and preserve tradition.

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SONGHEES NATION

Songhees Nation of the *ləkʷəŋən* (pronounced le-KWUNG-en) people is located beside Esquimalt and View Royal on Vancouver Island, five kilometres from Victoria. Songhees Nation's peoples are the descendants of the *ləkʷəŋən* people, the original inhabitants of the Greater Victoria region, who have hunted, fished and gathered here for thousands of years. This area, with its temperate climate, natural harbours and rich resources, was a trading centre for a diversity of First Peoples; when Captain James Douglas anchored off Clover Point in 1842, he saw the result of careful *ləkʷəŋən* land management, such as controlled burning and food cultivation, practices woven inseparably into *ləkʷəŋən* culture and the land itself.

Songhees is a Coast Salish Nation whose historic language, *ləkʷəŋiɬnəŋ*, the community is actively reawakening through its Language Revitalization Program. Before contact, *ləkʷəŋən* families lived seasonally in cedar plank houses, moving between village sites across a traditional territory that reached over the southern tip of Vancouver Island, including present-day Victoria and Langford, and out across the Gulf Islands and the San Juan Islands. Songhees Nation, to this day, remains one of the two *ləkʷəŋən*-speaking governments and its reserve lands extend beyond its home on Esquimalt Harbour to Halkett Island, the Chatham Islands and Discovery Island. Within Victoria itself, seven bronze markers, the Signs of *ləkʷəŋən*, cast from cedar carvings by master carver Butch Dick and his son Clarence Dick Jr., mark culturally significant sites including Songhees Point, Beacon Hill, and the grounds of Fort Victoria, itself built by *ləkʷəŋən* men and women.

Rooted in thousands of years of history, the *ləkʷəŋən* homeland remains a place of cultural strength and resilience. Each September, Songhees Nation welcomes visitors to the annual South Island Powwow, held in honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Treaty Negotiators



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T'SOU-KE FIRST NATION

T'Sou-ke First Nation is located 36 kilometres west of Victoria, near the town of Sooke, on the south coast of Vancouver Island. In the Nation's SENĆOTEN dialect, "T'Sou-ke" is the name of the Stickleback fish that lives in the estuary of the Sooke River. Contact with Europeans through the Hudson's Bay Company saw the name changed first to "Soke" and then to "Sooke" — the anglicized version now used for the neighbouring town, river, basin and main road alike.

T'Sou-ke Nation's traditional territory centres on Spring Salmon Place (KWL-UCHUN), the Sooke River, along with Face Mountain and Sacred Mountain, regarded as spiritual and sacred places for the T'Sou-ke people. Their territory extends across deMamiel, Charters, Ayum and Muir Creeks and the Jordan River, where the Nation's Fisheries Program continues to steward seafood and habitat today.

T'Sou-ke Nation has become a national leader in renewable energy, recognized as the most solar-intensive community in Canada, and welcomes visitors each summer to the Spring Salmon Place Campground within Sooke Potholes Regional Park, where the Sooke River carves its pools and canyons through the Sooke Hills.

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LOGOS



TE'MEXW
TREATY ASSOCIATION



Beecher Bay
(SC'IANEW) Nation



Malahat
Nation (MÁLEXEŁ)



Snaw-naw-as
(Nanoose) First Nation



Songhees
Nation



T'Sou-ke
First Nation