

# NEWS RELEASE

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Shuswap Nation Tribal Council

## **Secwepemc Chiefs: Accountability to the Ancestors.**

"Secwepemc Chiefs and Councilors live up to our ancestor's teachings and expectations of us as leaders," said Chief Wayne Christian (Tribal Spokesperson, Shuswap Nation Tribal Council).

"A chief's reality means seven-day work weeks and 12-hour days, on the road and on the land," said Chief Christian. "To be a chief, I have to be a lawyer, a businessman, a community leader, and a political representative who bridges two worlds," he added.

"Most of the federal funding that we receive goes into the community for programs like trades training and education for our young people," said Chief Terry Porter (Bonaparte). "Our Councilors are only paid a modest honorarium for the many hours of work that they do. Their commitment to our people is invaluable," he added.

"Governance is about people," said Chief Christian. "It's about our people making informed decisions about the life they want to lead. It's about freeing ourselves from the Indian Act. It's about Secwepemc leaders who are accountable to those who were here before us and those yet to come," he added.

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