

## **SNTC Chiefs' Meeting Updates May 2009**

*The first Wednesday of each month marks the coming together of the chiefs of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council (SNTC) to voice their concerns and ideas, setbacks and successes, their community's needs and wants.*

Adopted in principle was the external boundary of the draft Secwepemc Map, further research will be spearheaded on the southern boundaries in order to successfully complete the map.

The Grand Opening of the First Nations Gallery at the Revelstoke Dam was brought to the attention of the Chiefs. The ceremony will take place Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 10:00 am.

Work on the highway expansion project in the Neskonlith territory which uncovered ancestral remains last month has ceased until further notice. The Neskonlith Indian Band is defining its position on road expansion/infrastructure, access, frontage road, environmental, safety, economic interests, and reconciliation/past infringements. Also, the council of chiefs has resolved to appoint one of the Upper Columbia Aquatic Management Partnership Technical Working Group seats to a member of the Shuswap-Arrow Lakes Division Technical Working Group.

It was moved that a representative from the Elder's Council would have a permanent voting position at the council of chiefs' monthly meetings.

Regarding the Recognition and Reconciliation Act, the chiefs resolved to "use the time in the lead-up to the 2010 Winter Olympic Games to pressure the government of Canada and the province of British Columbia to ensure full recognition of Aboriginal Title and Rights and the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."

An amendment was made to an earlier Tribal Council Resolution (TCR) that maintained the role of the SNTC in the referral process for large forestry related referrals and any overlapping issues between bands.

Presentations were made by both the fisheries and forestry departments of the SNTC, as well as a presentation outlining a communications strategy designed to improve information sharing within the SNTC, the council of chiefs and Secwepemc communities which was adopted by the council and will be added to the SNTC Human Resource Policy pending amendments. The Secwepemc Fisheries Commission as a part of the Fraser Rivers Aboriginal Rivers Secretariat planning committee will host a meeting that will be held in Kamloops June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The SNTC Annual General Meeting dates have been selected for September 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Lastly, it was determined that consultations will be held with each community to determine support and participation in the SNTC Sustainable Homeownership System and Mortgage Support Program.

Chiefs in attendance were Chiefs Wayne Christian, Michael LeBourdais, Nelson Leon, Judy Wilson, Rick Deneault, Keith Matthew, Terry Porter and Paul Sam as well as representatives from Tk'emlups, the Elder's Council and SNTC staff.