



LOCAL INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

From Snuneymuxw website¹

The Snuneymuxw are a vibrant First Nation of the Coast Salish People, residing in the centre of Coast Salish territory on the eastern coast of Vancouver Island, with villages on the Fraser River and waterways in the Gulf Islands. Snuneymuxw territory encompasses one of the most productive and resource rich areas at the heart of the Salish Sea.

Since time immemorial, the Snuneymuxw People have resided in Snuneymuxw Territory as the first peoples, sustaining their lands, resources, and cultural and spiritual way of life.

Now, in the midst of a climate crisis, Snuneymuxw is driven by the urgent need to heal the Land and its communities. Snuneymuxw First Nation warmly welcomes you to continue the Snuneymuxw legacy of learning from, caring for, protecting, and enjoying the unsparing blessings of this sacred place.

Our Snawayalth are our Teachings – they govern and guide all aspects of our lives. Snawayalth are our laws, values, beliefs, spiritual guidance, and principles for action. They are comprehensive in that no aspect of our lives, and the actions and choices we make, can be understood apart from our Snawayalth.

At the heart of our Snawayalth is a worldview that sees the interconnected relationship between all living things in creation. Seeing this interconnectedness teaches us that all things must be honoured and respected, for they all have a spirit and purpose. This guides us in our daily lives, and in the decisions we make as a community. For example, from our worldview to speak of the “impact” of a decision, means to view the impacts holistically through a lens that recognizes the living spirit within all things, and how everything is connected and relates to one another.

We often express our Snawayalth through stories. The Story for Fish identifies the laws, values, beliefs, spiritual guidance, and principles of action that govern our relationship with fish. Through that story, what it means to fish, how we should fish, the stewardship and governance of our fisheries, and how we relate to the abundant fish communities of our Territory.

¹ <https://www.snuneymuxw.ca>