

# Esquimalt Nation Community Plan

Volume I | Issue 4 | February 2010



*The Chief and Council are pleased to provide this update on the Esquimalt Nation Vision and Community Plan. This process will be an opportunity for the community to embrace our future in the context of change and planning for a better community.*

## WHAT IS THE SACRED TRUST?

The *Sacred Trust* defines the inter-relationship between the Land, Water and Resources, the Community and the Spiritual Path (*Read more on the next page*).

### WORK TO DATE

- The Chief and Council and staff have continued to meet with our consultants on a weekly basis.
- Newsletter Volume 1, Issue 3 was published in January of 2010.
- Open House #1 was held on January 28, 2010 (*See highlights below*).
- Preparation of remediation plans for the commercial lands are in progress.

## Process Phases

### 1 GETTING STARTED:

Confirming the work plan and launching the planning process.

*(Sep-Oct 2009)*

### 2 DEFINING THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE SACRED TRUST:

Identifying the key elements of the Sacred Trust and the Teachings.

*(Nov 2009-Jan 2010)*

### 3 MAPPING THE VISION:

Moving from the Sacred Trust and the Teachings to identifying Values and developing a Vision Statement.

*(Jan-Feb 2010)*

### 4 DRAFTING THE PLAN:

Preparing the Community Plan.

*(Feb-Mar 2010)*

## OPEN HOUSE #1 HIGHLIGHTS

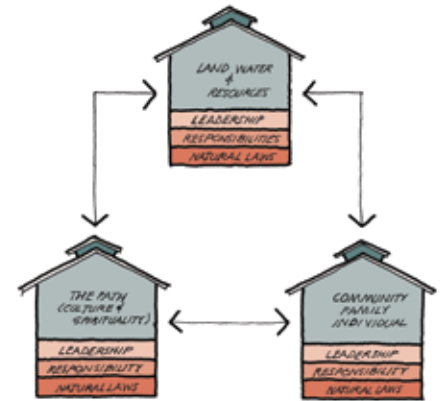
- Approximately 40 individuals attended and 33 people signed in
- 12 feedback forms were completed
- 100% in favour of developing a Community Plan now
- Most important topics were: Health, Education, Culture and Economic Development
- Least important topics were: Recreation, Sustainability and Governance
- Majority thought the Plan should take 9 to 12 months to complete
- Over 75% were willing to volunteer or work on the Special Projects
- 90% live on reserve and wish to do so in the future
- Respondents represented the age distribution of the Nation



## THE BIG HOUSE

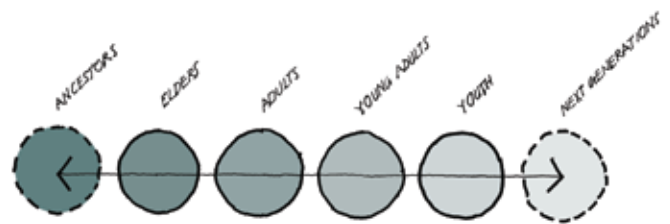
This diagram illustrates the inter-relationship between the Land, Water and Resources, the Community and the Spiritual Path. Each of these have Natural Laws, which define the responsibility of individuals and the role of leadership. The following table highlights some of the Laws, Responsibilities and Role of Leadership.

	Land, Water & Resources	The Community	The Spiritual Path
Natural Law	Take care of the Land, Water & Resources	The Community comes first	The Creator put us here for a purpose
Responsibility	Take only what you need	Help others before yourself	Discover your purpose
Leadership	Ensure everyone has enough	Ensure everyone is treated equally	Provide guidance



## GENERATIONS FORWARD AND BACK

A unique aspect of the Esquimalt Nation is the relationship between the generations. Decisions must take into account the ancestors, the living generations and the generations to come. This view will effect the goals, objectives and policies of the Plan.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

Small group meetings, including meetings with the Heads of the Families, will continue through January and February, as required. The intent of these meetings will be to document the Teachings and Natural Laws that will form the basis for the Community Plan.

Work will begin on drafting the Plan.

We will continue to publish monthly newsletters. The response to the Special Projects — the Nation Chronology, the Language Dictionary, the Photo Album and the Nation's Family Tree — was very positive. We will be looking for volunteers to head up each of these projects.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 9 and 23**

Heads of the Families Meetings

**February 23**

Website Start-up Meeting

**February 23**

Youth Meeting #2 (tentative)  
Special Project Meetings (tentative)

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

- **Talk with the Heads of the Families.**
- **Volunteer for a Special Project.** Contact Michael McCarthy at: [fusioninc@hotmail.com](mailto:fusioninc@hotmail.com) or sign up at the office.
- **Help with the website.** A start-up meeting will be held this month.
- **Make sure everyone in your family reads the newsletter.**
- **Plan to attend the next Open House.**

