

ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ REVITALIZATION PROJECT VIDEO FORUM FEEDBACK RESULTS

Included are the results from the ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ Forum. 22 responses were received which represents less than 50% of the participants attending the event.

1. Did the forum meet your overall expectations? Yes: 21 No: 0 No Response: 1
Comments (Filled out by 9 participants) (The “no response” didn’t have specific expectations)

- Very moving
- Such a humbling and powerful day
- Even cooler than I thought
- It was an honor to attend today
- I had hoped to learn – which I did
- Amazing, deep, difficult, but super ignorant
- Appreciated the ceremonial opening and the way we were made to feel welcome.
- The organization worked well with the space & changes. Good lunch. Breakout group was a plus.
- It offered a comprehensive opportunity to learn more about Indigenous history and history specific to Mayne Island and spiritual beliefs surrounding the land.

2. What parts of the forum were the most useful in giving you a better understanding of ᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ history and culture? (Filled out by 21 participants)

- Every part. I loved meeting everyone.
- Everything, especially the all-to-brief conversations in the breakout groups
- Mr. Elliott’s introduction – so moving.
- The personal stories
- The films
- The movies are so deep and moving. J’SINTEN speech super important, discussion very important. Everything!.
- The films, the blanket ceremony, the speaking of the elders.
- The films themselves and John Elliott and our breakout discussion.
- Video and speeches by elders (J’SINTEN)
- The films, the stories told by presenters, the conversation in the breakout group.
- Films, stories, and group work were all fantastic.
- The videos and the speakers of the ᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ Nation and the examples of cultural practices.
- The visual and spoken knowledge in the films, the history and stories, and the sharing of ceremony during the event itself.
- The language, the films, the honesty, the respect paid to everyone in attendance
- The cultural expressions & dancing, singing, and drumming protocol of speaking ᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ first.
- Listening to all you shared- your personal sharing at the end as powerful. Your personal pain.
- Teaching us how to pronounce words, telling us creation stories.
- Reflections and ideas conversation
- Really appreciated the creation story (2)
- All of it. Didn’t know much.

3. What parts of the Forum did you think were weakest or didn't work? (filled out by 10 participants)

- None
- Outstanding
- It all worked really well. Great job to everyone.
- I'm biased. Everything went exceedingly well.
- Some of the video's were repetitive – but generally great.
- Some organizational challenges
- It felt a little rushed throughout.
- Timing of activities. More time needs to be allocated in the future to ensure things are not rushed/visitors do not have to stress about transportation.
- Emotionally exhausting for all. Could it be divided into a full day event – morning and afternoon?
- Would have liked more time to fill out answers to the questions.

4. What recommendations/suggestions do you have to improve future Forums of this nature?
(filled out by 14 participants)

- It was perfect as it was
- Start earlier.
- More time/Longer break out groups /conversations (2)
- More compatible small groups – table would be nice. More time for small groups and more distance between groups (hearing)
- Could a WSÁNEĆ member be a facilitator in each of the small groups? It would have been wonderful to be able to talk with them.
- Have more time for eating the delicious lunch.
- Need to communicate adjustments to schedule and mindfulness to ferries.
- Who can we call? – a liaison person?
- Live stream so more people can learn from the speakers and the films
- We need regular meetings and friendship building.
- Would love more age diversity from the planners
- Maybe hear from the youth.
- It would be great to see ??? tour to other communities on the South Island.

5. Did the videos offer hope of reconcili-action and a way forward – living in harmony with the land
Yes: 21 No: 0 No Response: 1
Can you suggest ways you can personally support reconcili-action? (filled out by 12 participants)

- See reflections (2)
- Learn more about the land I live on and its traditional uses. Tell others about this history. Learn about the lands I travel to and the First Nations culture of those regions.
- Indigenous plants, sharing land, opening to ceremony
- Install native plant garden, learn names of places I travel to daily.

- Stay connected. Keep listening and learning. Respectful relationship building. Language and culture support.
- Continue to unlearn colonial practices and views, become more attuned to the environment and engage in greater action to combat larger industries that have overtaken the environment in destructive ways in order to preserve and create a better and sustainable future.
- I don't know what the ways are yet, but the inspiration I got today will make the ways come.
- Support W̱SÁNEĆ presence on their Island homelands
- Land back; language learning; building relationships; taking accountability to protect the land and join the fight with W̱SÁNEĆ against colonial government.
- Continue learning and listening; looking for opportunities and invitations to do actual work to help; pass what I learn along, especially to my kids; donate and help fundraise when invited or when I see the opportunity.
- Encourage more opportunities to see these films by many others; listen and learn and practice knowledge learned from the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples.

Please rate the following on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is poor, 3 is average and 5 is excellent. Here are the ratings from 22 evaluation forms returned. The 0 category means the item was not filled in.

A) **Video: “ĆELÁÑENS TFE TETÁĆES”**

0 1 2 3 4 5

Was interesting and informative	3			1	5	13
The storyline flowed well and was well told	3			1	4	14
The video gave a clear history of how colonization disrupted the traditional WŚÁNEĆ way of life and their traditional connection to TETÁĆES	3			2	4	13
The video offers hope of a way forward – living in harmony with the land	3		1		5	13

A) **VIDEO: “Specific Island Stories”**

0 1 2 3 4 5

Was interesting and informative	3			2	2	15
The storyline flowed well and was well told	3			1	5	13
The video highlighted the importance of the Island to WŚÁNEĆ life & culture	3			1	2	16

A) **VIDEO: “The Creation Story”**

0 1 2 3 4 5

Was interesting and informative	3			1	3	15
The storyline flowed well and was well told	3			1	2	16
The video highlighted the importance of “Islands of the Deep” to WŚÁNEĆ life and culture	3				4	15

B) **THE FORUM: Organization and impact**

0 1 2 3 4 5

The forum was well organized and moderated	2			2	5	13
The forum was impactful	2				5	15
The forum gave ample time to ask questions and share opinions	2		2	5	6	7
The forum raised reconcili-action items for future discussion	5			1	4	12

6. Do you have any other comments to share with us to expand on your responses above or to help us in evaluating the Forums? (Filled out by 6 participants)

- Thank you so much. Such important awakening!
- Thank you so much for your kindness, for sharing so much with us, for bridging a way forward for all of us.
- I was so touched to witness WŚÁNEĆ ceremony – greetings, singing, dancing, storytelling, blanket ceremony, . Respect shows through so clearly. It was powerful at the end to hear the fight of generations – it calls us settlers into action. Time passes so fast, but so slow too. To take responsibility, not pity. Take time to share the reconcili-action responses - the groups didn't have time to read, only the moderators.
- The films should be shown to as wide an audience as possible.
- More time is always good, but I understand the logistics can be tricky.
- We didn't get enough time to fill out the many pages of the evaluation

Could you please tell us a little about yourself? (2 not filled in)

a. Forum You Attended: S,DÁYES (Pender): SKƆÁƆ (Mayne): 20 ƆƆƆƆƆƆƆƆ(Saturna)

b. Island Connection: Island Resident: 11 Visitor: 9 WƆÁƆƆƆ Participant :0

c. Age: Youth (Under 20): 0 Adult: 8 Senior (+60): 11

Of note: There were almost as many visitors as Island residents in attendance The Island residents were all seniors over 60. The visitors were all adults between 20 and 60 except for one senior. There were no youth in attendance.

BREAKOUT GROUP RESPONSES

A. Your reflections and thoughts on the films

#1 What did you learn?

- reinforced and expanded my understanding of the creations of these Islands
—
- the black stones - when I see one I will be reminded of the creation story of these territories
- how important the whole land (and not just the “closet” are and need to be respected
—
- language pronunciation
—
- they deepened the understanding I thought I already had, which I now see as superficial
- I was struck between the strength of this connection between language, culture and land- they are one and the same
—
- how beautiful the native language is
- that we have so much to learn
- It will be possible to work and learn together and move forward (your genuine kindness will make this possible)
—
- That I have a deep responsibility to and for this place in W̱SÁNEĆ
- the good work that is possible when we lean in and learn the ways of W̱SÁNEĆ
—
- How to pronounce **T**
- The story of mountains growing from smooth black stones
—
- how to say Mayne Island in the W̱SÁNEĆ language
- that the W̱SÁNEĆ people have their own school board
—
- creation story and traditional uses of the island
- hearing about the soil samples and the depth of history that was discovered with the progression
—
- the importance of the relationships between the indigenous people and their lands
- the process of colonization overcoming overtime those relationships in a thoughtless and compassionless manner, which affected the indigenous peoples’ ability to continue to live in harmony with the lands and openly practice their cultural traditions.
—
- nicely and gently presented
—
- How the land was shaped by the W̱SÁNEĆ living here on S̱ḴFAḴ - the modification of landscape
- the story of W̱SÁNEĆ resurgence through recovery of the SENĆOTEN language
—

- so much
-

- that the W̱SÁNEĆ people are kind and caring, that the environment and health of the community is important, that they genuinely care
-

- How to pronounce some important words of S,ƷFAƷ

- some of the history of S,ƷFAƷ
-

- didn't know about the Douglas treaties - the signing of blank papers

- reef net fishing
-

- Mayne was the exclusive territory of the W̱SÁNEĆ people

- historic archaeological evidence of flattened village sites
-

- The magnitude of trauma of colonization

- the connection of W̱SÁNEĆ people to the land and nature - the urgency of stewardship
-

- where these islands came from

- J,SINTEN understanding of reconciliation-“peace of mind, for us and for you”
-

- loved the history

- the reef net fishing

- loved the creation story, it was new to me
-

- the deep roots of W̱SÁNEĆ wisdom

#2. What did you feel

- enriched
-

- deep respect for language revitalization and cultural maintenance
-

- calm and gratitude to know the history

- happy to learn about the language program in the school
-

- impressed by the beautiful W̱SÁNEĆ culture

- eager to learn more

- eager to have friendship with the W̱SÁNEĆ people, learn the language
-

- excited
-

- relief that injustices have started to be addressed

- honoured to hear stories

—

- humbled, grateful, uninformed, clumsy, learning

—

- I am honoured and humbled to be a part of this process

—

- sadness, anger, hope, awe, respect

—

- surprise, sorrow, respect, encouragement, shame, loss, gratitude

—

- humbled, sadness
- what unfairness - that needs to be shared

—

- how one often feels when injustice is laid bare to see
- frustrated, upset
- from the resilience: hope, encouragement

—

- I felt quite emotional and partially responsible for the actions of my ancestors whom were colonizers. It feels heartbreaking to know that I come from people who have inflicted so much unnecessary damage onto others and on to the land we live on today.

—

- a strong sense of connection to the land and for this whole region
- a drive to take more actions towards reconcili-action and to have hard conversations to those that are part of my community that may not be aware
- of the work that needs doing

—

- inspired that the WŚÁNEĆ people are keeping their language and culture alive
- Sad that the ability to be connected to the land is diminished

—

- a deep appreciation for the WŚÁNEĆ enduring presence in the SGI and area.

—

- hope and grief simultaneously
- I felt sorry for the wrongdoings of the colonial ways
- I felt privileged to be a mother to the most beautiful people I have ever known
- My husbands SWELOKE ,my family ♡

—

- humbled by the welcome
- ashamed of how much was taken
- inspired by energy
- inspired by how much energy & emphasis in children's education
- informed

—

- I feel a little bit at a loss about what actions I can take to make things better

- At the same time my sympathy is much more real so that, I hope, will motivate me to find a way
—
- uplifted and discouraged - so much pain to overcome
—
- regret for not knowing better
- inspired that we can move forward in a good way together
- thankful for the work being done to benefit all
—
- very moved
- honoured to be seeing the films in this setting - they will do much

#3 any other comments

- I hope these films will be seen by many, many people, both indigenous and settlers
—
- such a beautiful event.. Thank you
- so many ideas
—
- brilliant animation!, absolutely brilliant
—
- Thank you for your kindness, your sharing, your ATDL for yourselves
- It was wonderful to share a meal, to laugh and cry together. HÍ,SW̱KE
—
- create communication materials that point out the important legal history and rulings
—
- loved putting faces to the voices and seeing all ages of children and adults
- multiage presentations next time
—
- A fabulous afternoon
- we need more opportunities to communicate with each other
—
- Thanks to the organizers and the W̱SÁNEĆ Elders!
—
- conundrum -population of settlers much larger than Indigenous people - power discrepancy
—
- appreciate the opportunity to connect
—
- so impressed by the huge work done around the tribal school
- urgency to give more voice to W̱SÁNEĆ people on land stewardship
—
- Great work!

- I'm working with our volunteers at dogwood. I know that many, many people (settlers) are looking for a way to take "reconciliation". We're in Victoria → please let me know what we can work with you on!
cheryl@dogwoodbc.ca

- the films are a lasting tribute to the power of CELÁNEN - WSÁNEĆ Worldview - "what we received from our ancestors"

B. Your reconcili-action ideas

1: Personal reconcili-actions- "what is a reconcili-action you are thinking about for yourself?"

- continual learning, curiosity, accepting the truth
- passing what I learn to my kids
- pay a portion of my taxes to the FN whose territory I live in
- learning some of the language
- a translation of Tsartlip children's counting book "One Green Tree" with a pronunciation guide
- continue to learn SENTOCEN
- educating myself - reading cultural practices
- special places - whether to share or not place names
- concrete actions to make S,KTAK a welcoming place
- bringing my property back to a native natural space
- how much we lost through colonization
- incorporating actions into my non-profit organizations constitution
- language learning
- more invasive species removal
- learning to pronounce F and SENCOTEN words
- learning the FN history of the location of my family's cabin
- learning Indigenous words/place names
- learn about the land I live on and tell others
- learn about the lands I travel to and the people and cultures there
- attune to the environment to reconcile with the land that was taken from the indigenous people
- learn more about indigenous peoples' connection with the land and bond with that

- advocate for increased self governance
- learn more about WSANEC territories

—

- learning to speak more SENCOTEN
- learn more stories and cultural practices
- learn more place names on S,ƘƑAƘ

—

- reading more about it

—

- learn language
- cultivate a native plant garden
- Thank the creator for the bounty of the earth

—

- get a copy of the films for our library
- learn to pronounce important words
- attend future events.

—

- educate myself more
- ensure indigenous history in the curriculum
- vote for politicians who support more \$\$\$ for indigenous people

—

- continue to be an active learner about the true history of this land
- offer opportunities to mentor in my studio

—

- education at UBC as a professor
- better land management
- more friendship and connection with WSANEC people

—

- is this the language for me to learn?
- am I stealing capacity?

—

- supporting initiatives of local indigenous people as they desire
- pressuring colonial govts to expedite

—

- hosting in big and small ways on S,DAYES
- inviting WSANEC people, Elders and youth to our land, to our homes for gathering medicines.
- supporting them at their reserves with water, food and transportation
- becoming familiar with more SENCOTEN words and phrases

—

- support youth focused events through WSANEC and Island school programs

#2 Next steps: What do you think would be a good next step for reconciliation for community to community engagement between WSANEC and Mayne Island community?

- The Kiros blanket exercise for community members

- Island place names/assessment
- put S,ḴFA̱Ḵ on the ferry terminal
- create a community fund for projects like this

- annual joint events
- fundraise to support the Tribal School
- more voice in protecting historic sites

-
- build opportunities for community participation
- opportunities for youth to interact

- continue with National Indigenous day celebrations and acknowledgements

- ask real estate agents to give every new buyer a copy of these films
- continue on with Mayne Island Reads
- change the name of the library to S,ḴFA̱Ḵ/Mayne Library
- share the films and speeches at the school

- more focus on environmental actions that help bring the natural world into balance
- more respect and recognition -place names

- another forum like this

- sharing cultural and social occasions in the Mayne Island community
- making connections between island students and Tribal School students

- sharing of island governance, an equal decision making power between CRD, IT and W̱S̱ÁNEĆ.

- informative seminars that offer a safe learning environment to unlearn colonialist practices and celebrate Indigenous practices and cultures
- potentially renaming parks to original indigenous names
- community action to plant more indigenous plants in the community and on “private property”

- I’m from Victoria so I will leave this for local people

- I don’t live here, not sure

-
- to meet on a regular basis and walk either in conversation or in silence
 - create a shell fish garden together to show visitors the heritage
-

- more on new truth circles
 - cultivating safe spaces for each other
 - agenderless meetings, listen with discipline
-

- educating our children in W̱SÁNEĆ history
 - could our children work with children in Saanich 1st nation school?
-

- to be more welcoming as an individual to W̱SÁNEĆ individuals
 - create opportunities to do things together
 - invite people to dinner to just be together without an agenda
-

- seed exchange - reciprocal
 - educate in Mayneliner 2 lines -did you know?
 - healing plants, connections between plants and animals
-

- connect Mayne island youth and W̱SÁNEĆ youth - school to school activities
 - greater visible presence of W̱SÁNEĆ on S,ƷTAKƷ + ethno garden
-

- renaming Mayne I. sites, buildings, parks, etc in SENCOTEN
-

- find out what has already been asked for
- ask W̱SÁNEĆ Nations what they want from neighbouring communities and people on their lands

#3 What kind of reconcili-actions are you enthusiastic about

- listening & learning and compensating for people's time
 - being helpful and of service
 - fundraising
-

- more & expanded conversations like we had today
 - language training in the island school
-

- ethnobotany garden to educate
 - protection of forest and natural spaces
 - understanding natural plants in natural settings in context
-

- asking W̱SÁNEĆ what can we do
- what do W̱SÁNEĆ see as good reconcili-action
- land protection in ways that bring together settlers and W̱SÁNEĆ
- ethnobotanical protection
-
- everything that moves us forward
-
- gatherings without expectations
- “genuine curiosity” - Kevin Paul
- ones between and with diverse beliefs and worldviews.
- to hear and see each other in our uniqueness
-
- learning more about the language, history and the current status of rights for the W̱SÁNEĆ people
-
- traditional foods becoming more mainstream
- Indigenous names on street signs
- Indigenous language taught in schools
-
- economic initiatives that flow funds to First nations d.g a % of land transfer tax going to local FN, maybe even all of it
-
- learning more about the land we live on, how to unlearn colonized beliefs, assumptions and ways of living
- re-creating curriculums in school settings
- more money added to indigenous supports, opportunities to work in healthcare, mental health to breakdown barriers, that are perpetrating intergenerational trauma with indigenous communities
-
- expand governance backed with necessary finance/income streams
- encouraging local cuisine, art, culture
-
- kindness between communities, more invitations
-
- language, art, social, story-telling, celebrations, philisophical conversations
-
- bringing the film series to the larger community
- environmental restoration
-
- learning more history especially about S,̱TFA̱
- anything the library can do
-
- that it is even happening
- hard to feel good about a country that has treated people so poorly (and continues to).
- hard to feel good about living in racist society
-

- building relationships
—
- joint activities, learning, fundraising, land protection
—
- opening/sharing land for ?? and harvest
—
- signage for SENĆOŦEN names in places where they exist
—
- st, e.g. SMONEC
—
- youth focused
—

#4 Have you any other ideas or thoughts on reconciliation for our community

- presentation by W̱SÁNEĆ on reefnet fishing, & 13 moon calendar
—
- form a dogwood volunteer team to push our government to act responsibly
—
- publish a W̱SÁNEĆ history book
—
- feel honoured to be included in some of the W̱SÁNEĆ celebration and ceremonies
- would like this to continue
—
- try to reach others who are not here
—
- follow through on the work that has been planned
- continue to build on the work that has been done over the last 5 years
—
- have a joint education day with the Saanich school and the Mayne I school
- more awareness of what Mayne Islanders can do
—
- working with the Mayne library to promote SENĆOŦEN literacy
—
- SENĆOŦEN word -vocabulary development
—
- actions with measurable, quantifiable outcomes
—
- part of my property tax going to First Nations
—
- new homeowner package showing 5 native plants of S̱ḴFA̱Ḵ
- be offered the chance to volunteer at W̱SÁNEĆ events
—

- individuals and businesses should financially support/fund and promote collaborative community events and initiatives - Stand with W̱SÁNEĆ!

—

- It is going to be challenging to get the good energy in the room today out into the whole community

—

- we all have to work hard and learn from each other especially settlers