

ŪSÁNEĆ / S,DÁ,YES RECONCILI-ACTION THEMES

1. INFORMATION PACKAGES AND DISPLAYS DOCUMENTING THE CONNECTION OF THE ŪSÁNEĆ PEOPLES TO THEIR HOMELAND

The goal of this project would be to raise awareness and understanding in the non-Indigenous community of ŪSÁNEĆ Indigenous history and ĆELÁÑEN on S,DÁ,YES:

This would include:

- the reconcili-action goal to provide a resource list of information, literature, videos, about ŪSÁNEĆ history, culture, language, and place names.
 - the SPHS goal to develop a series of storyboards to be displayed at various community events.
 - The Pender museum's goal to include a major section on WSANEC culture and history.
- All materials and resources would be overseen and approved by the ŪSÁNEĆ advisors..

IMMEDIATE TERM

1. organize an advisors committee to include members of the ŪSÁNEĆ community, Museum Society, South Pender Historical Society, reconcili-action group and possibly the Pender Library. This group would make recommendations and decisions on what type of information to include in information and displays for the community.

SHORT TERM

1. The advisors committee with approval of the ŪSÁNEĆ Leadership Council would decide on what is appropriate to include in information and displays.
 - Approve a resource list of books, brochures, videos, place names, etc. that can raise awareness and understanding of S,DÁ,YES Indigenous history and ĆELÁÑEN for residents and visitors to S,DÁ,YES and other Southern Gulf Islands. A draft of this information has already been compiled.
 - Approve relevant information to be included in SPHS display panels depicting the ĆELÁÑEN and historical separation of the ŪSÁNEĆ peoples from their homeland. An initial draft of possible display panels has already been compiled.
 - Approve concepts and guidelines for an Indigenous section to be undertaken by the Pender Museum society. Meetings are being arranged to reach consensus on how to proceed.

MEDIUM TERM

Once approved Pender reconciliation and SPHS members would complete packages and displays, and make these available to the community at the library, bookstore, Saturday markets, and other special events)

1. Undertake interviews and podcasts with First Nations elders to capture the connection of W̱SÁNEĆ families to S,DÁ,YES and other Gulf Island Communities to preserve the memory of these events.

LONGER TERM

1. Once approved the Museum Society would begin making changes to their displays incorporating a significant First Nations section, possibly creating mobile or living exhibits.
2. All groups continue to update the information and displays as new information comes available.

2. SENĆOŦEN PLACE NAMES/SIGNAGE

The goal of this project would be to facilitate the return of the SENĆOŦEN place names and signage to S,DÁ,YES in recognition of the essential connection between language and land:

SHORT TERM:

Request a copy of a W̱SÁNEĆ map of S,DÁ,YES with SENĆOŦEN place names from the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council and learn the pronunciation/meaning and history of these location names. This information would also be used as part of the Information and Displays information packages and could be done concurrently.

MEDIUM TERM:

1. In collaboration with W̱SÁNEĆ knowledge keepers and the Information and Display advisory group, develop a hand-out map and related information that can be shared with the general community including Island organizations, businesses, and placed on appropriate venues throughout the community.
2. Consult with community, government, and park authorities to get agreement to make proposed changes in community signage.

LONGER TERM:

Construct SENĆOŦEN signage to be placed at the locations on S,DÁ,YES that the Elders consider to be most significant. This could include a WELCOME TO S,DÁ,YES sign at the T Junction in front of the community hall or at the ferry terminal, and include carving and totems created by W̱SÁNEĆ artists.

1. Provide remuneration to WSÁNEĆ artists to design and create the map and signage.
2. Create an interactive audio-visual display of the S,DÁ,YES map with place names and related history to be shared in the community (i.e.. the Museum, Library, Community Hall, Driftwood, Ferry Terminal, Poets Cove or Church of the Good Shepherd)
3. THE ULTIMATE GOAL: change the name Pender Island to S,DÁ,YES.

3. WSÁNEĆ CONNECTION TO HOMELAND

The goal of this project would be to address the barriers that the WSÁNEĆ face in coming to their homeland by developing ways to welcome them on S,DÁ,YES:

IMMEDIATE TERM:

1. Develop an on-call group willing to offer support to WSÁNEĆ peoples who come to S,DÁ,YES for a project (i.e. transportation on island, meals, host homes, etc.).
4. List Islanders willing to provide any of the above supports (names. contact information, location on N or S Pender). A partial list has been developed, and individuals will be confirmed before sharing list.
5. Share list with a designated WSÁNEĆ contact person. That person will let their community members know who they can call when visiting S,DÁ,YES.
2. Acquire Experience cards for WSÁNEĆ members who wish to travel to their homeland.
 - It is confirmed that BCF Community Support will issue travel vouchers when they are supplied with numbers, names and dates of desired travel. This will require Islanders and/or WSÁNEĆ members to initiate when they plan to visit, S,DA'YES, SKTAK and TEKTEKSEN.
3. Offer use of public facilities (i.e. Church of the Good Shepherd or the Firehall) for visitors as a gathering place adjacent to the reserve.
 - Provide a contact # for South Pender Historical Society and/or the Firehall to WSÁNEĆ contact person if/when an indoor meeting space is required.

SHORT TERM:

1. Identify with WSÁNEĆ Elders and an Advisors Group possible infrastructure projects that could be developed on QENINEW to support WSÁNEĆ connection to their homeland (such as a shelter, carving shed, and/or refurbishment of existing outhouse).

MEDIUM TERM:

1. Approve and design any supported infrastructure projects.
 - Identify and list potential sponsors and donors of materials, machinery, labour, and mentors on S,DA'YES

LONGER TERM:

1. Collaborative construction on QENINEW of any approved infrastructure projects identified from the above process.
 - Where possible involve youth from both Island and W̱SÁNEĆ communities in projects.
2. Support W̱SÁNEĆ guardian presence on S,DÁ,YES indigenous land (i.e. youth)

4. NATIVE CULTURAL PLANTING AND HARVESTING

The goal of this project would be to promote the resurgence of native plant life on S,DÁ,YES and to encourage ecological thinking/practices and relational restoration among islanders:

IMMEDIATE TERM:

1. Create a S,DÁ,YES native plant committee to promote native cultural planting on S,DÁ,YES. This list is presently being compiled.
 - Consult with Native Plant groups at the Tribal School and Mayne plant nursery.
 - Develop a list of important native plants to be grown on S,DÁ,YES.

SHORT TERM:

Establish a network of Islanders who are or want to grow native plants on their land.

- Identify the location of existing native plants for possible native harvesting (i.e.: salmonberries, salal berries)
- Organize community workshops to learn about native plants, how to identify and propagate them.
- Continue ongoing S,DÁ,YES community involvement in removal of invasive species on reserve land at QENINEW.

MEDIUM TO LONG TERM:

Establish a native plant nursery on S,DÁ,YES.

1. Establish a native plant garden with signage on S,DÁ,YES.
2. Undertake land restoration and harvesting with ethical practices.
3. Provide advanced training for interested people to increase their understanding.

5. W̱SÁNEĆ / S,DÁ,YES YOUTH CONNECTION

The goal of this project would be to build a strong connection between W̱SÁNEĆ and S,DÁ,YES youth:

SHORT TERM:

1. Connect the principals of the 2 schools together to strengthen connections.
2. Connect with Raincoast for future Achiever sailboat activities.
 - Identity priority activities, possible sponsors, and beginning planning.

MEDIUM TERM:

Promote a range of possible activities to share together including:

- music exchanges
 - outdoor education events
 - cedar harvesting
 - visiting farms and harvesting foods
 - camping trips
 - sailing and canoe trips
 - summer exchanges
 - food classes
 - language and art exchange
 - knowledge exchange: share/receive
 - electronic pen pal connections
 - reef net fishing
1. Promote interchange between schools for special events and ceremonies.

Youth presence on the land, Reef Net Fishery and other W̱SÁNEĆ led events can be supported by contacting the Pender Call Out List, identifying Pender School or Epicentre contacts for possible Islander youth social interactions with W̱SÁNEĆ youth.

6. W̱SÁNEĆ/S,DÁ,YES CULTURAL REVITALIZATION

The goal of this project would be to undertake workshops and events focussed on revitalizing and strengthening W̱SÁNEĆ art, music, and culture that has been lost on TETÁĆES due to the removal of the W̱SÁNEĆ people from their homeland:

Essential considerations to be considered include the issue of appropriation, W̱SÁNEĆ capacity for involvement, W̱SÁNEĆ guidelines for what is shared or not shared, the necessity of W̱SÁNEĆ over-seeing on all aspects of these endeavors and funding/remuneration for all W̱SÁNEĆ involvement in projects.

IMMEDIATE TERM:

1. Identify groups or individuals willing to help organize and support ongoing workshops and events. Workshops and events that have taken place in the past and have community interest in being repeated include:
 - SENĆOŦEN language workshops to share the alphabet, pronunciation, the meaning of local place names and important cultural concepts. The library is planning a workshop to happen in the April of 2023.
 - 13 Moon calendar workshops to recognize cycles of life and spirituality.
 - Blanket Exercises to witnessing the history of colonization on W̱SÁNEĆ peoples and culture.
 - Reef Net Fisheries involving youth.
 - Salmon Pit Cooks especially involving the School and youth.

MEDIUM TERM:

1. Organize 1 or 2 events each year to continue the revitalization already begun.
2. Connect W̱SÁNEĆ musicians, drummers, dancers, and artists with S,DÁ,YES groups in performing and sharing traditional culture with the community.
 - Involve Ptarmigan Arts Society to organize possible art workshops with W̱SÁNEĆ teachers and artists, or to arrange shows featuring W̱SÁNEĆ art in their gallery. .
 - Arrange possible visits to W̱SÁNEĆ territory to learn the stories and history behind their art.
 - Plan artistic workshops including protocol for use in such areas as carving, drum making, weaving, knitting, mural making.
 - Connect W̱SÁNEĆ musicians, drummers with S,DÁ,YES community choir, Ptarmigan Arts, and the Community Hall to collaborate on possible joint concerts, and or dances with artists performing and sharing traditional culture with the community.
 - Encourage youth participation and collaboration whenever possible.

LONGER TERM:

1. Create a dedicated space for W̱SÁNEĆ workshops and cultural revitalization.
 - **acquire Poet's Cove for an Indigenous retreat and art centre.**
 - Commission a W̱SÁNEĆ welcome pole with interpretive signage to complete the 13 Moon calendar.