

Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation

June 2013





This media kit was designed as a means of making the most often requested information readily available. The kit provides a brief profile of the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation (KHFN). It is a collection of information that sets out general information about our reserves, governance structure, geography, registered population statistics and other relevant information.

BACKGROUND

The Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation are Kwakwaka'wakw peoples, affiliated with the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council. The traditional territory of the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis consists of pristine lands and waters, which encompassing one of the most resource rich areas in the province.

The Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation is actively engaged politically, economically and on day-to-day issues. We continually seek ways to develop prosperity in and around our territory and to help our families to succeed. In carrying out these activities are continually mindful of the role of our traditional laws governing our territory, waters and traditional economy.

QUICK FACTS

Governance

- Currently, the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation exercises governance under provisions of the Indian Act.
- Election System: Indian Act Election System
- Council Quorum: 3 officials (one Chief Councillor and two Councillors)

Administrative offices

Office at Alert Bay

Box 10, Alert Bay, BC V0N 1A0
Telephone: (250) 974-3004

Office at Gwa-yas-dums

Telephone: (250) 974-3001

Population (as of May 2013)

- 296 registered members
- Currently, over 200 Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis members are living off reserve lands and approximately 27% of the total membership currently living in Gwa-yas-dums Village on Gilford Island.

Language Spoken

- English
- Kwak'wala

Lands

The main village site of the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation is located at Gwa'yas'dums (Gilford Island), which is approximately 382 square kilometres (147 sq mi). Gwa'yas'dums is an island located between Tribune Channel and Knight Inlet in British Columbia, Canada. In addition, the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis have several other village sites including:

- Ahta: at mouth of the Ohta River, on Bond South, on Tribune Channel, North of Gilford Island;
- Alalco: located at the mouth of the Wakeman River, north end of Wakeman Sound;
- Dakiulis: at the tip of Islet Point, on the Westside of Gilford Island;
- Dug-da-myse: on the West Shore of Wakeman Sound;
- Kakweken: located at the mouth of the Kakweken River at the head of Thompson Sound off of Tribune Channel;
- Kye-Yaa-la: at Sail Island in Retreat Passage, West of Gilford Island (including the smaller off-shore islands);

- Kyidagwis: on the Westerly shore of Wakeman Sound, Kingcome Inlet;
- Kyimla: at Trafford Point, East of Gilford Island;
- Meetup: at the head of Viner Sound, Gilford Island.

Access

There is no year-round road access to any of the villages of the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation. Access is only by boat and all consumables and household products must be shipped in. Given this reality, the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation experiences a very high cost of transportation and living.

Community Services and Facilities at Gwa-yas-dums

- Band Office
- housing services
- water treatment facility
- community big house.

BIOGRAPHIES



Chief Robert Chamberlin, Owadi

Title: Chief Councillor

Tel: (250) 974-8282

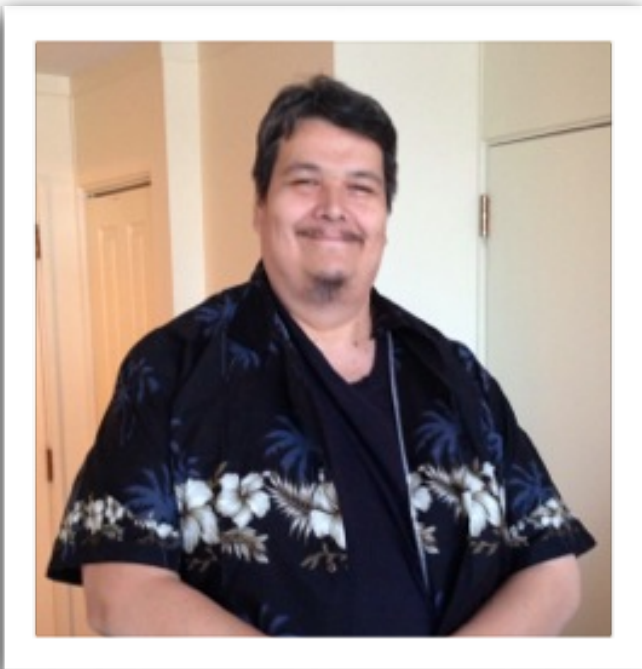
Email: bobc@khfn.ca

Chief Robert Chamberlin was elected Chief Councillor of Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation in 2005. Since that time, he has been actively involved in the community's comprehensive community planning process, undertaking major capital development projects and engaging in activities for nation strengthening. Currently, Chief Chamberlin also sits as Chair of the Musgamagw-Tsawataineuk Tribal Council and a serves on the Board of Directors for the Inter Tribal Health Authority.

As the elected Vice-President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Chief Chamberlin takes an active role in the defense of Aboriginal Title and Rights and is committed to overcoming the challenges and impacts of fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago. Further, he frequently engages in lobby efforts at both the provincial and federal levels to ensure the protection of First Nations water rights and safe drinking water for our communities.

As the Co-Chair of the First Nation Child Family and Wellness Council, Chief Chamberlin also works to address key issues facing First Nations children and families in British Columbia.

Chief Chamberlin is the son of Stella Smith, brother to three siblings and grandson of Perlie Smith. In his free time, Chief Chamberlin enjoys spending time with his son, staying connected with new and emerging music and improving his overall fitness.



Councillor Herb Chamberlin

Title: Councillor

Tel: (250) 974-3001

Email: herbc@khfn.ca

Councillor Herb Chamberlin has served a number of terms as an elected councillor for the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation. Currently, Herb works part-time in the Gilford office as part of the administrative team and represents the Nation on the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council. Herb brings a number of years of experience and knowledge on fisheries-related issues, as well on social services and health issues.

Herb is the eldest son of Stella Smith's four children and grandson of Perlie Smith. In his free time, Herb leads by example and is actively working towards improving his overall health and life-style.



Councillor Sandy Toby Johnson

Title: Councillor

Tel: (250) 974-3001

Councillor Sandy Johnson has served a number of terms as Councillor and one term as Chief Councillor. Sandy has a number of years of experience and knowledge on all fisheries-related and forestry issues. Currently, in addition to his role as Councillor of the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation, Sandy serves on a number of committees and boards including: Sasamans Society (Voices of Our Children); IMAG and on the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council.

Sandy is the son of Sam and Lena Johnson, and husband of Grace Johnson. Sandy has one daughter and enjoys spending time with his grandchildren. In his free time, Sandy also enjoys wood carving and painting. Recently, Sandy has also begun to work with carving silver jewelry and creating acid etchings.