

# Esquimalt Nation Community Plan

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



## Goals and Objectives Update

The Community Plan Process continues. Last May, Newsletter Vol. 1, Issue 7 explained the purpose of Goals and Objectives in the Community Plan. The draft Goals and Objectives have been reviewed by staff. This newsletter highlights how the Goals and Objectives are being used in developing Program Initiatives. The following is an example of a topic area:

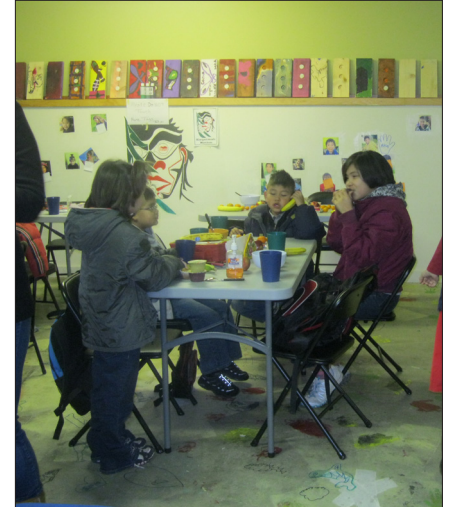
### 2.3 Education

Education has been a long standing issue for the Esquimalt Nation. Like many other nation communities, the negative effects of the residential school system still resound throughout the community.

**Goal:** To ensure the opportunity for sound and culturally-relevant school programs is available to Nation Youth within the public school system and other supplemental programs.

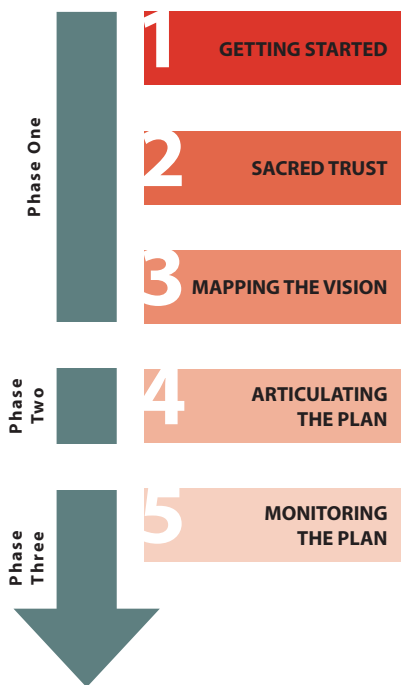
**Objectives:**

- To encourage youth attendance and participation in the public school system;
- To increase graduation rates from the secondary school system;
- To increase opportunities for post secondary education;
- To increase the participation of Nation Youth in post secondary education; and
- To increase opportunities for supplementary educational programs that are culturally-relevant. *(continued on next page)* ►



Breakfast Club participants (right).

### PROCESS PHASES AND STEPS



We have refined the phases and steps of the planning process to better reflect the work to date and the work to be completed. This includes the ongoing monitoring and refinement of the plan into the future.

### WORK TO DATE

- The Chief, Council and staff continue to meet with our consultants on a weekly basis.
- The Nation has launched a Breakfast Club – Breakfast is served in the Family Centre from 7 a.m. daily.
- The Nation has started a Homework Club in the Family Room from 3 p.m. onward each week day.
- Newsletter (Volume 2, Issue 2) was published in December 2010.
- We have continued to update the Community Plan website. ([www.esquimaltnation.ca](http://www.esquimaltnation.ca)).
- Discussions are ongoing with the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority on matters related to the Nation's interests.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

**A field trip to Washington State for the Elders** is planned for the spring.

**Drop-in Tuesdays** have been formalized for the third Tuesday of each month. This is an opportunity to drop-in, meet the planning team, ask questions, make suggestions, or just see how we're doing.

**Elmer George** has joined the Esquimalt Nation team as our language instructor. He is fluent in our Lekwungen language/dialect, and will be offering classes to Youth and others who are interested. Please sign up at the front desk.

The next **Community Open House** is planned for March to review the draft Goals and Objectives. Previous Open House presentation boards can be viewed at the Nation's offices.

The **Community Profile** research has begun. This research will be done on a household-by-household basis to identify the needs of the community.

We will continue to publish monthly **newsletters**.

Work has started on the **Nation's Photo Album**. We are looking for a small group of volunteers to seek contributions from each family – do you have any old photographs of people or special events?

### Programme Initiatives:

- Breakfast Club
- Homework Club
- Individual Learning Plans
- To-School Transportation Program

## RECENT ACTIVITIES AROUND THE COMMUNITY

- The Elders Lounge is set up and is welcoming Elders to just come and sit, and enjoy a cup of tea.
- The Toddler Room is complete with toys.
- The Family Centre is complete, and is being used for the Breakfast Club, the Homework Club and Birthday Wednesdays.
- The Employment Centre area is now set up next to the reception area of the Nation's offices.
- The Headstart program is up and running.
- Two funding applications have been submitted to INAC for the Community Plan and Economic Development.



Homework Club participants (above).



Christmas Break Youth Workshop participants (above & left).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Nation's Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Open House Review

**March, (date TBD)**  
Workshop/Open House  
Goals and Objectives Review

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

- **Talk with the Heads of the Families.**
- **Volunteer for a Special Project.** Contact Michael McCarthy at: [michael@esquimaltnation.ca](mailto:michael@esquimaltnation.ca) or sign up at the office.
- **Make sure everyone in your family reads the newsletter.**
- **Drop by the Nation's offices to see the Open House boards.**
- **Drop in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month to talk with our Planning Consultant (starting in January).**
- **Visit the website: [www.esquimaltnation.ca](http://www.esquimaltnation.ca)**

