

Secwépemc Indigenous Guardians Program Questionnaire

Thank you for your interest in the Secwépemc Indigenous Guardians Program. The Secwépemc Indigenous Guardians Program is happy you're here!

In this questionnaire, we want feedback from Secwépemc communities on how to run the Indigenous Guardians Program. The Program is in four National Parks: Glacier, Revelstoke, Yoho, and Kootenay. Your answers will help create the Program.

National Parks have a history of treating Indigenous Peoples unjustly. Your answers will support Indigenous-led park management for future generations.

If you are completing the questionnaire and have any questions or concerns, please contact the Guardian program representative from your band:

- Shuswap Band:** Josh Martin jmartin@shuswapband.ca
- Splatsin:** Jimmy William jimmy.william@splatsindc.com
- Skw'lx te Secwepemculucw:** Dianne Francois dfrancois@slb.ca
- Adams Lake:** Dave Nordquist dnordquist@alib.ca
- Neskonlith:** Brad Arnouse bradarnouse@neskonlith.net

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone Number: _____

Band (please circle)
Shuswap Band, Skw'lx te Secwepemculucw, Splatsin First Nation, Neskonlith, Adams Lake Indian Band

Age (please circle)
0-18, 18-25, 26-40, 40-55, 56-70, 70+

1. How do you think your community could benefit from a Guardian Program working within the four National Parks?

2. How could a Guardian Program contribute to the stewardship of your lands?

*The following five questions relate to proposed Guardian activities. Activities have been separated into four themes: 1) Cultural, 2) Mentorship, Education, and Outreach, 3) Environmental Monitoring, and 4) Gathering and Traditional Use.

3. Please select the top 3 proposed Cultural activities you believe should be practiced through the Guardian Program

- Identifying culturally modified trees in old growth
 - Archaeology site protection and monitoring
 - Cultural area identification: surveys, Elder visits, interviews
 - Pit house, smokehouse sweat lodge, cultural area construction
 - Traditional trail survey/research
 - Tool-making and resource-gathering (i.e., stone)
 - Storytelling
 - Other, please specify: _____
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4. Please select the top 3 proposed Mentorship, Education, and Outreach activities you believe should be practiced through the Guardian Program

- Community education/visitor education through Traditional knowledge sharing
 - Traditional stories review with Elders
 - Day trips and site trips with Elders
 - Language education to use in the field
 - Youth mentorship with Guardians
 - Community knowledge sharing and transmission
 - Other, please specify: _____
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5. Please select the top 3 proposed Environmental Monitoring activities you believe should be practiced through the Guardian Program

- Food sovereignty surveys
 - Stream assessments: habitat, fish count, species, ecology, water quality, rate of flow
 - Wildlife inventory: species at risk, animal crossings, avian surveys
 - Medicinal plant surveys: bear root, bitter root, etc.
 - Wetland surveys
 - Reforestation: planting Indigenous use plants, working with other Guardian programs
 - Environmental monitoring: glaciers, kettle lake levels, stream flow rates, and effects of drought
 - Danger tree/wildlife tree assessments
 - Surveys for illegal gathering: firewood, wildlife, berries
 - Post-impact assessments
 - Other, please specify: _____
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6. Please select the top 3 proposed Gathering and Traditional Use activities you believe should be practiced through the Guardian Program

- Plant management: gathering (for food and/or medicine), planting, watering, weeding, and community distribution
- Ceremonies, feasts, and other cultural event organization
- Surveys to identify: old gather areas, medicinal plants, berry patches, and other Traditional use areas
- Guardian research to review: medicinal plants, archive materials, and Traditional knowledge and use areas for community records
- Other, please specify: _____

7. Are there any other activities you believe should be practiced through the Guardian Program that don't fit in these categories?

*The following set of questions are related to the geographic area of the proposed Guardian Pilot Program.

8. The Guardian Program pilot is located within four National parks: Mount Revelstoke, Glacier, Yoho, and Kootenay. Are there any areas within Mount Revelstoke/Glacier you would like Guardians to focus their work?

9. The Guardian Program pilot is located within four National parks: Mount Revelstoke, Glacier, Yoho, and Kootenay. Are there any areas within Yoho/Kootenay you would like Guardians to focus their work?

10. The Pilot program could focus on communication that is externally focused (visitor and settler community education) or internally (working with communities, sharing and relaying information to and between community members and communities). Which one is more important to you?

- Visitor and settler education about culture and cultural history
- Community-centered activities (e.g., reconnecting to lands and medicinal plant areas, transmission of knowledge)

11. Guardians will be working to create more understanding about the relationships between animals and humans as part of their work. Is there anything else they should focus on?

*Gathering Elder and/or Traditional knowledge supports communities in protecting and conserving areas that are important. The Guardians could help in gathering Elder and/or Traditional knowledge. All the data collected will be owned, stored, managed, etc. by the communities. Parks Canada will retain no Indigenous knowledge generated by Guardians or community work under this program unless the communities want Parks Canada to have it. The following set of questions speaks to this theme.

12. Do you support gathering Elder and/or Traditional knowledge for communities?

- Yes
- No
- It depends, please specify: _____

13. How should Elder and/or Traditional knowledge be gathered? (select all that apply)

- Voice Recording
- Written Documentation
- Video
- Photography
- Other, please specify: _____

14. Do you support sharing Elder and/or Traditional knowledge (such as place names, stories, or knowledge about plants, stars, etc.) with the public during interactions Guardians may have with the public? This would be only information that can be shared, not information that should not be shared (e.g., ceremonial or sacred). Rules can be developed as part of the program.

- Yes
- No
- It depends, please specify: _____

*The following set of questions are related to education and information sharing through the Guardian Program.

17. What type of information should be shared with the public through signage in National Parks?

18. Do you support updating signage to include Secwépemc language and information about Secwépemc people and culture?

- Yes
- No
- It depends, please specify: _____

*The following questions are related to financial management and administrative duties.

19. The Guardian Program is currently designed for the Shuswap Band to handle financial management and administrative duties, while each Band has one appointed lead to assist in invoicing and processing operations. Do you support this method?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

20. If you answered “no” or “maybe” to the previous question, please provide a response on how you would like to see financial management and administrative duties handled.

*The following questions include general information gathering about the program.

21. Do you have anything else you’d like to add that may have been missed?

22. How would you like to be informed about the work being completed through the Guardian Program? (select all that apply)

- Email updates
- Newsletter sent to my home address
- Phone call
- Bulletin at community center
- Facebook
- Band website
- Community meetings
- None - I don't want to be informed
- Other, please specify: _____

23. How often would you like updates about the Guardian Program?

- Every month
- Every 3 months
- Every 6 months
- Once a year
- Never
- Other, please specify: _____

24. Would you like to be contacted during the pilot program regarding progress and future opportunities to engage?

- Yes
- No

25. If you would like to be contacted and haven't already provided your email, please add it here.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.
We deeply value community input in the development of the Guardian Program. We look forward to creating a meaningful Pilot!



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