

SQ'ÉWLETS



A STÓ:LŌ-COAST SALISH COMMUNITY
IN THE FRASER RIVER VALLEY

The Scowlitz VMC Project: Newsletter no. 2

The Scowlitz Virtual Museum of Canada Project is into its second year! Since our first newsletter in June, we have been very busy developing the website and working together in the community. In August, we held a 4-day Youth & Elders Camp at Scowlitz. As we gathered each day, both youth and Elders brought their ideas, photos, and cultural treasures to share. We interviewed over a dozen community members, young and old, about their knowledge of Scowlitz history, the cultural activities they are a part of, the healing they are seeing, and their hopes for the future. We had several all-ages soccer matches and enjoyed many wonderful meals made by Lucuille Hall and blessed by Reg Phillips. On the final day, Sonny McHalsie took a large group of youth on his place names tour.

We documented a lot of knowledge and learned many things during the camp. The video footage is being produced into mini-documentaries for the website. We have also been busy writing the text for the website in a way that reflects Scowlitz views and ideas of history.



Sonny McHalsie with Scowlitz participants on the Stó:lō place names tour. Photo: Reese Muntean.



Vi Pennier, Nancy Pennier, Joey Chapman, Reg Phillips & Kat Pennier look at historical photos. Photo: Aynur Kadir.

In November, we held another workshop to show the emerging website and to have community members choose photos and view their video interviews. This gathering was sponsored by the Intellectual Property in Cultural Heritage Project at Simon Fraser University. Two experts, Kim Christen Withey from Washington State University and Jane Anderson from New York University, joined us to discuss traditional knowledge labels and how they might be applied to the Scowlitz website (next page).

This gathering also gave us the chance to shoot more video interviews, this time with Vi Pennier, Betty Charlie, Chief Andy Phillips, and Alicia Point, the artist who produced the beautiful sturgeon logo for the project. Many Elders brought in historical photos to share and be photographed; we will create photo galleries on the website to showcase both historical and current photos of Scowlitz families.

November 2014



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What are TK (Traditional Knowledge) Labels?

TK Labels are meant to help people outside your community understand the importance and significance of your cultural heritage. They include information that might be considered missing from the current public record, such as community and family names, what conditions of use are considered appropriate, how to contact relevant family or community members and how to arrange the right kind of permissions. You can use these labels to help educate other people, such as those that might visit the Scowlitz website, about the rights and responsibilities related to Scowlitz knowledge and cultural heritage.

How do they work?

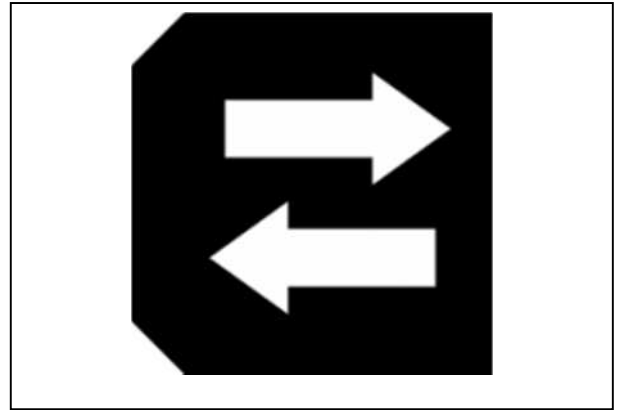
TK Labels work like any other kind of label you might come across. For example a label on your clothing tells you where it was made. A label on your bread tells you its contents. The difference with TK Labels is that you get to choose which one, or which combination, should be used to help people outside the community understand and respect your cultural heritage.

How are they being applied to the Scowlitz VMC website?

In our workshop discussions, Scowlitz community members had clear ideas about how these labels could be useful to the website. They said that traditional knowledge is “Our world, our teachings. How we use the land, the resources. How to look after the plants, animals, birds, the harvests. It’s what comes down from our ancestors. We have to learn and respect the teachings.”

The community decided to use the attribution, non-commercial and outreach labels throughout the website site. *Attribution* refers to who produced the knowledge. Scowlitz is a tribe of Stó:lō, the holders and caretakers of the knowledge who look after what belongs to them. *Non-commercial* refers to the fact that the knowledge on the website is not to be used for commercial purposes. *Outreach* specifies that this knowledge is shared to educate other Stó:lō and non-Stó:lō about the teachings of this community. Other labels may be used for specific purposes on the website. For example, the *Verified* label shows that a certain image or piece of knowledge was approved for use through a community decision-making process. The *Sacred* label would suggest that this knowledge is restricted in some way.

Stay tuned for more discussion on this work and the website project in the spring of 2015!



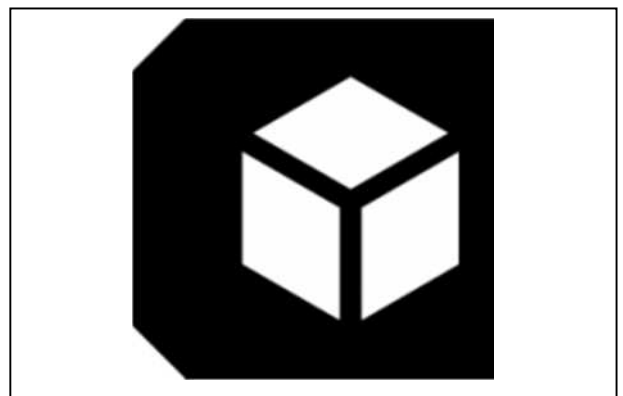
Attribution TK Label



Non-commercial TK Label



TK Verified Label



TK Sacred Label