

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE



400+

youth, elders, artists,
 women + men
 engaged through
 19 Syilx Nation Rising
 discussions & events
 March > July 2019



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k^wu mis k^wæcæck^wact k^wu ʔat ʔuluʔs
SYILX NATION RISING
We are stronger together

EVERYONE WHO JOINS THE CONVERSATION HELPS REBUILD OUR SYILX NATION. HERE'S A SAMPLE OF WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

"Our children and our communities will be better off under our own Nation's governance. That's the challenge before us."

"Remember where we come from, our *captikwł*, water, land, and ancestors. The knowledge and solutions are there."

"Our Nation really still does need to come together. We need to decolonize our minds and not act as single communities."

"I want to see the land, women and water be part of this process."

"I hope that all generations show up to make change."

"We can lift each other up through this."

"I envision a strong Syilx Nation that cares for our peoples, land and waters for all time."

"We all have to be leaders. We all have to be champions. We all have to get out and promote this Constitution and Nation rebuilding process."

"We have to try different things. Even if we fail, we learn."

"There is healing through connection."

4500+

views of NINE short videos produced for social media sharing members' views on Nation rebuilding



5

presentations made to
Chiefs and Councils
(of seven) to date

1

**Nation Rebuilding
Project Manager hired
April 2019**

1

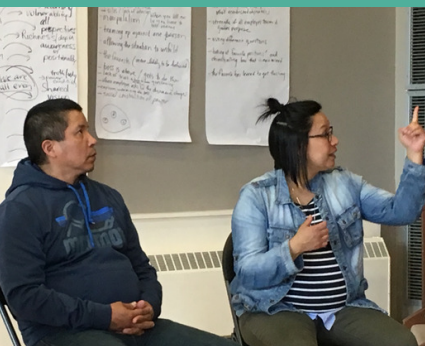
original Syilx Nation
Rising logo designed

MULTIPLE webpages,
banners, stickers,
conversation kits &
fact sheets produced
& distributed



20

people trained in two
Transformative
Community
Engagement
workshops



MARCH-AUGUST 2019 >>

GROWING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Syilx Nation Rising is our people's work - the ongoing process through which we continue the Nation rebuilding work of our ancestors.

This is about rebuilding for today's and future generations, whether or not a Recognition agreement happens with the federal government.

The community-led engagement mandated by the Chiefs Executive Council to discuss and decide *ankc'x̣ẉ ipla?tṇṭat uł̣ ỵʕat i? kṣ ṣactx̣aṭstim*—our laws and responsibilities [constitution] will take however long is needed.

NEXT STEPS:

- The Syilx Nation Rebuilding Project Manager is keeping the conversations growing, working with communities to plan the next round of discussion circles with elders and knowledge keepers, youth, women, men, artists, Band and ONA staff, Language Houses/Nests, and Band schools.
- Online resources, short videos featuring Syilx leaders and members, information materials, and social media updates continue to be produced.
- Resources are being sought to support Syilx Nation artists and local Syilx communities to work together on Nation rebuilding arts projects.

For more information and to schedule a conversation in your community, please contact:

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E: PM-Nation.Rebuilding@syilx.org

syilx.org/syilxnationrising

SEPTEMBER 2019-MARCH 2020

MAIN THEMES OF SYILX NATION MEMBERS' INPUT TO DATE:



1. REGAINING STRENGTH & UNITY - CONTRIBUTING TO A COMMON VISION

Participants in Nation rebuilding discussions to date have been overwhelmingly supportive of this vital work with comments such as "It's about time!"

ACTION Continue to increase community engagement capacity through funding and community facilitation training and coordination opportunities in each community, together with Nation level coordination and reporting, as resources allow.

2. SYILX NATION RISING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The community discussion circles are designed to be inclusive. Every person's voice and views are welcomed and encouraged in the spirit of *en'owkin'wixw*. As a Syilx Nation participant notes: "We need to hear from all the people—Chiefs Black Bear, Speetlum, Salmon, Siya Berry—then we can have consensus. I try to be the Fly and advocate for *Syilx Nation Rising*."

ACTION Continue to expand ongoing open, inclusive and safe Nation rebuilding dialogue across every community. Deepen engagement with all Syilx Nation members, including young people, elders and knowledge keepers, artists, women and men. Continue to practice and learn from diverse Syilx governance concepts.

3. REBUILDING GOVERNANCE & CULTURE

Our values, principles and laws are held in our stories and in our *nsyilxcən* language. What sustained our culture for millennia continues to evolve to ensure our stability and prosperity. The strength of Syilx governance was in knowing and accepting those ways as taught to us by our parents, grandparents and community. We accepted our responsibility and authority in our areas and understood and took seriously our relationships with each other, our lands and those on our borders.

The passing on of that law to future generations was interrupted by colonialism, racism and genocide. Calculated and sustained attacks on our culture, identity and our very existence were carried out by the Canadian settler government and continue today under the *Indian Act*.

Syilx Nation Rising participants are clearly supportive of change led by community voices. They recognize that healing, unity and education are needed to rebuild relationships with each other and the land. Stories are shared by those doing this work in their families, communities and on the land. Hunting, fishing and berry camps heal relationships, teach and stand up our responsibilities to care for our people. Protection of these areas is critical to Syilx practices.

The Okanagan Nation Alliance has applied important steps in governance practice by ensuring policies for Nation level programs and services include the responsibility to establish Syilx presence in all areas of work, and programming development is based in Syilx ways of being and knowing. As Syilx Nation members, we're supported by CEC leadership vision to work together to rebuild our new Syilx Nation government - one created by and acknowledged by Syilx people.

ACTION Support greater education on our Nation's history, governance ways, training and ceremonies, including creating learning materials with our fluent speakers and knowledge keepers.

Work with Syilx artists in each community and at Nation level to create Nation rebuilding works of art and culture that increase knowledge sharing and stronger identity as members of the Syilx Nation.