

# axá i? sccuntət i? tł ǵa?xítət ǵł i? nəqsiltət

## FAMILY<sup>1</sup> DECLARATION

i? k'łncutn na?ł snkłip<sup>2</sup> mninmícalx i? k'ntisəlx i? scǵwǵwípla?  
łł k'cawtsəlx i? sqilxw. kcǵa?ǵa?stím i? sc\_ǵaǵwəlx i?  
kł\_ǵxwłwłtans, kł kł\_nǵstans i? sqilxw, kł tǵ sǵwıys.

i? trıxw\_úla?xw<sup>3</sup>, i? tmıxw<sup>4</sup> na?ł mninmítət tı? k'wı snaqsx.

ł scwǵys i? trıxw\_úla?xw kı? k'wı sǵalá?x axá i? k'wı  
sqilxw / syilx / sǵukw\_naqınx, ixı? i? stǵwukw\_xıxtət i? tł k'łncutn.  
ks\_sǵcǵıxwstm i? xmintət i? tł a? nǵwłxwłtantət uł kckłqıxwstm uł  
kctxǵstım i? trıxw\_úla?xw tət uł a? nqılıxw\_cn. pıntk ǵckw\_ılmstm a?  
nq'włq'ıltntət uł a? nk'w\_ılmntət ... nákw\_ılamntət<sup>5</sup>. lut pǵnkın tǵ x'wıǵxmntm, t  
tǵwmıstmntm, i? k'wı tǵk'wıtm tł k'łncutn na?ł snkłip ... kł tǵ sǵwıys.

i? k'wı nǵqsılt, i? k'wı q'wısq'w\_sǵam,  
i? k'wı stmáli?s, yǵat i? k'wı sqilxw.

ł tǵ sǵwıys ... wǵy i? k'wıllı ... nıxw i? lutı i? k'wıllı ... ǵáǵa?ǵəlx ... ǵcpǵatəm  
... k'wı yǵayǵat cǵxǵstım i? scǵcmalá?tət na?ł i? nǵqsılxw\_tət.

tı? mninmítət, mı k'wı ǵccut stım i? kł\_ǵǵwǵwıpla? s i? scǵcmalá?tət,  
i? kł\_nǵstans i? kł\_ǵst scxwłw\_ıltı, uł i? kł kł\_ǵspǵıwıts  
i? scǵcmalá?tət na?ł i? nk'wıwılxw\_tət uł i? sqılxw\_ıcawtət.

Creator and Coyote laid down our laws/responsibility for us, sqilxw/syilx/sǵukw\_naqınx,  
to carry for all time. We hold in high regard their decree and teachings of accepting  
the responsibility to be keepers of our waters, territory, lands, foods, and resources.

The Land, all creation, and us, as sqilxw/syilx/sǵukw\_naqınx People, are one.

From time immemorial, We, the sqilxw/syilx/sǵukw\_naqınx,  
(Okanagan Peoples) have inhabited our territory  
– we defend and look after our lands and resources.

We speak our language, live our customs, traditions and  
our way of life. We have not and will never cede, release,  
or surrender our lands or resources ... for all time.

We define family, as our immediate family, our extended  
family, and all those that we accept as family.

From time immemorial, our children now, those yet to be born, are sacred.  
We revere our children. We all care for our children and our families.

It is our inherent right, that we are the only ones to say what governs  
us, for what are the best interests, the good health, and well-being of our  
children and people, and our sqilxw/syilx/sǵukw\_naqınx ways.

i?\_kscıxwstustət (Article) 1  
mninmítət nıǵáyp  
ǵckılmxw\_ıpla?stım i?  
sqılxw\_ıcawtət. i? k'wı sqılxw /  
syilx / sǵukw\_naqınx cǵxǵstım  
yǵat ǵł i? kł\_nǵstans, i?  
kł yǵat i? nk'wıwılxw. i?  
ǵıaǵwıpsǵıx i? sǵǵǵcmınnıwıys.

We are the decision-makers of  
our sqilxw, syilx, sǵukw\_naqınx  
ways. Our ways are central to  
the health and well-being of  
all sqilxw/syilx/sǵukw\_naqınx  
Peoples, including our children  
and families. We ensure this  
is intertwined with who  
they are and their roots.

i?\_kscıxwstustət (Article) 2  
k'wı sǵcǵxǵstıxwıxw\_ǵw i? kł  
kł\_nǵstántət ... kł tǵ sǵwıys.  
Since time immemorial,  
we look after one another,  
our best interests for all  
time, for our resilience and  
continued prosperity.

i?\_kscıxwstustət (Article) 3  
i? tł skłtıtáitət6 tł tǵ sǵwıys  
i? scǵwıltm kckılmxw\_ıpla?stım  
... i? sqılxw\_ıcawtət ...  
ıxı? i? stǵwukw\_xıxtət.

From generation to generation,  
we make decisions to teach  
and instill discipline<sup>7</sup> to our  
sqilxw/syilx/sǵukw\_naqınx  
children and families. This  
is our inherent right.

i?\_kscıxwstustət (Article) 4  
i? k'wı sqılxw / syilx /  
sǵukw\_naqınx i? cawtət uł i?  
kł\_cawtət, ǵal i? nǵqsıltət,  
kctxǵstıxw i? sq'wıǵaıǵatət,  
ıwá? tǵ\_ka?kılı, uł  
kcxwstıstm ta\_cłk  
snǵá?cunstət i? nqılıxw\_cn /  
nsılxwcn uł i? sqılxw\_ıcawtət

The sqilxw/syilx/  
sǵukw\_naqınx inherent right  
to self-determination and  
jurisdiction includes:  
The protection of our familial  
connections; caring for  
our children; regardless of  
residency (where they are)  
and our inherent right to  
share and teach our language,  
traditions and way of life.

i?\_kscıxwstustət (Article) 5  
i? k'wı sqılxw / syilx /  
sǵukw\_naqınx cǵaǵa?stım  
i? sqılxw\_ıcawtət kł tǵ  
sǵwıys. i? samá? k'wınsǵlx  
k'wı ks\_k'ıltm uł k'wı  
ks\_plstıltm i? sqılxw\_ıcawtət,  
naǵıłı lut tǵ qınsǵlx

We, the sqilxw/syilx/sǵukw\_naqınx,  
have the responsibility and  
the right to heal through  
our own ways, for all time.  
The governments tried to  
take and beat from us, our  
ways, but were not able to.

i?\_kscıxwstustət (Article) 6  
i? k'wı sqılxw / syilx /  
sǵukw\_naqınx k'wı  
ǵcǵxǵstıxw\_ıltm uł  
k'wı nq'wıq'ınlı lut  
swıt ta\_cınlıpǵt,  
ǵckılnxwıxwıstm i?  
stǵwukw\_xıxtət uł i? kł  
kłnǵstans i? k'wı sqılxw  
/ syilx / sǵukw\_naqınx  
i? k'wı nk'wıwılxw ...  
ks\_sǵckılnxwıxwıstm ixı?

We, the sqilxw/syilx/sǵukw\_naqınx  
Peoples are responsible for  
providing for one another; no  
one is left in need. We share  
what we have unconditionally,  
and we all share in the rights and  
responsibilities which ensure  
the collective well-being of our  
sqilxw/syilx/sǵukw\_naqınx Nation.

i?\_kscıxwstustət (Article) 7  
i? k'łncutn na?ł snkłip  
mninmícalx i? k'ntisəlx  
i? kł\_ǵcawtsəlx i?  
sqılxw. kcǵa?ǵa?stım i? sc  
\_ǵcǵwǵəlx kł kł\_nǵstans  
uł i? kł\_ǵxwłwłtans i?  
sqılxw kł tǵ sǵwıys nıǵáyp  
ǵckw\_ılmstm i? scǵwǵwıpla?

From the Creator and Coyote,  
they laid down our laws/  
responsibility for us to carry  
for all time, through our  
captıkwı. Creator has given us,  
the sqilxw/syilx/sǵukw\_naqınx  
Peoples, the responsibility to be  
keepers of our waters, territory,  
lands, foods, and resources,  
and we continue to do so.

We live by what is stated here.

Note: This glossary has been prepared as an accompanying  
document to the Family Declaration. The purpose of this glossary is  
to describe central principles of the syilx worldview. A knowledge  
and understanding of the syilx worldview, in addition to linguistic  
competency, is required to properly articulate the values and laws  
embedded within *syilxwcn* – our laws live within our language.

### 1 family

The term "family" is understood that our sqilxw families, include  
biological, non-biological, and those that we have accepted  
as family. This includes all the old people, the adults, the  
children, and those yet to be born, that are defined as family.

### 2 snkłip

The empowered essence to carry out the Creator's  
laws, that comes from all our captıkwı.

### 3 trıxw\_úla?xw

This term is central to syilx worldview; its three parts all  
together describe all living things that are inextricably  
connected like a spiraling thread interconnected with the  
earth. All living things in this world are interconnected/  
interdependent in relation to one another, with no ending.

trı is part of the *nsılxwcn* root word *tmıxw* meaning "all living things".

xw\_ılt is part of the *nsılxwcn* root word *x'wıǵwıla?*  
meaning "spinning... top-like".

la?xw is part of the *nsılxwcn* root word *ıxw\_ıla?* meaning "soil" or  
"earth" therefore the polymorphic *nsılxwcn* word is *trıxw\_úla?xw*.

### 4 tmıxw

This term is central to syilx worldview; its two parts all  
together describe inter-connectedness and attachment  
between all living things. It is not a collection of individual  
strands; rather, it references that all living things are attached  
to one thing, "that which gives us life". For example, all living  
things (humans, animals, plants, medicines, birds, etc) are  
all attached to the earth – we are all interconnected.

The first letter in this word is the letter "t" and it is  
from the *nsılxwcn* word to meaning "the".

*mıxw* is a *nsılxwcn* word that means "many strands that is attached  
to...". For example: each strand of hair that is attached to the head  
or the fringes that is attached to a fringed buckskin jacket or the  
fringes on a shawl. That word means all of the living things that  
are attached to the polymorphic *nsılxwcn* word *trıxw\_úla?xw*.

### 5 nákw\_ılamntət

This term comes from the captıkwı referred to as an  
old word used by snkłip. It means "what is usually  
done", "what we were instructed to do by snkłip".

### 6 skłtıtáitət

This term describes our relativity and connection from the  
beginning of the captıkwı to present and into the future. It  
is like a spiraling thread that interconnects all things. It runs  
through us ever spiraling like DNA and celestial bodies. It  
embodies all things and connects all things to one another.  
It binds our children to us, no matter where they are.

### 7 discipline

This term is used in context, meaning "ways of teaching" that are  
used to inform, correct, guide, and train our children and families.

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Signed July 26, 2022 Okanagan Nation Annual General Assembly snkǵy kntn, Revelstoke, BC