



Yecwminte re Xqwillint

Take Care of Baby Basket Society

January 30 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

HISTORIC STEP TOWARD SELF DETERMINATION BASED ON TRADITIONAL LAW

SECWPEMC TERRITORY – Three communities within the Secwèpemic Nation have come together to establish the Yecwminte re Xqwillint, Take Care of Baby Basket Society, marking a historic step toward self-governance in child and family services. The Society includes Sku7pecan (board) representatives from Bonaparte, Tk'emlúps te Secwèpemic, and Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band.

The Society's purpose is to implement the *Secwepemic Law of Stsmémelt and Kw'selkten* and assert Indigenous jurisdiction in an area that has long been controlled by Provincial and Federal governments.

This initiative began in 2009, when Chiefs from across the Secwepemic Nation supported a Declaration directing the Nation toward a community driven approach to child and family matters. After years of research, community engagement, and drafting the final *Secwepemic Law of Stsmémelt and Kw'selkten* was completed in 2024.

This law was developed utilizing traditional stories that have been passed down through the generations. These stories contain teachings and provide guidance to the Secwepemic highlighting rights, responsibilities, and obligations to each other and our children and families. These teachings were examined and analyzed, and the core principles were used to draft the law, grounded in the wisdom of our ancestors.

The Society's Yecweminem (Board of Directors), or Sku7pecan (Directors), as appointed by each Band, are providing the necessary leadership and determination, making decisions that will improve the outcomes for our children and families for the future. The Society has provided BC and Canada with notice of intention to assert jurisdiction as required by federal legislation, *An Act Respecting First Nation, Metis and Inuit Children, youth and families*. They will be engaging in discussions with Canada and BC to best transition the programs, services, and jurisdiction from delegated agencies and the Ministry to the Society. It is anticipated this process could take up to one and half years to finalize all details at which time a celebration will be held to declare our Law to be in force.

On February 1, 2026, a film entitled "Bringing Our Children Home" will premiere at 6pm at the Paramount Theatre, 503 Victoria Street, Kamloops, BC. This film will showcase the work that the Secwèpemic have completed to reach this monumental achievement.

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