

# Repatriation of St'át'imc Ancestors

Early 2012 St'at'imc was informed the Museum of Vancouver has held 18 ancestors, including adults & children/ males & females. They believe they are from Sekw'el'was, T'it'q'et, and Xwisten. Sekw'el'was has made it a priority to bring them home and has formed a Committee for that purpose.

- Committee members to date are from Sekw'el'was, T'it'q'et & Xwisten.
- Sekw'el'was: Chief Michelle, Lois A, Trudy R, Rebecca H, Linda R, Perry R, Henry T, Philomena T
- T'it'q'et: Marie B & Ceda S
- Xwisten: Gerald M & Carl
- Others: Chief Garry J, Leonard M (the list will continue to grow)
- Colleen Jacob has been asked to coordinate the process, please contact her if you would like to help @ 256 – 4136 or by email colleen.sekwelwas@gmail.com

**Meetings:** We had a number of meetings to help us make the initial arrangements.

All meetings have been held at Sekw'el'was office usually @ 3:30 on Thursdays – others are welcome to attend.

We expect our meetings will be more frequent i.e. weekly. The next meeting is on April 4, 2013 @ 3:30 focusing on bringing them home

All the formalities at the Museum have been done, & the ancestors could be brought home anytime. As the committee began preparing we contacted a few people to help us get started.

A trip was made to the Museum on March 9, 2013 by a few Committee members to help make the initial preparations.

A date has been set for **May 3, 2013** to bring them home with a one night wake to be held at Sekw'el'was, and the reburial to take place on **May 4, 2013**

We also acknowledge there are others who play a role in the Nation during funerals and welcome people to come forward to help.

The committee would also like to let St'át'imec know that everyone is welcome to become involved in whatever way they are able. A few areas we need support with are cooking, drumming, spiritual work, transportation, handmade giveaway items, etc.

Kúkwstu'íc

## Location of Reburial

We looked at four possible sites in Sekw'el'was. The site most recommended is located at an "old gravesite" by the Fraser River which has remained undisturbed