



Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Becomes Canada's 19th UNESCO Biosphere Region

The community-managed Biosphere Region—home to ancient glass sponge reefs and two million-year-old volcanoes—champions local solutions to global environmental challenges.

Squamish, BC (Sḵw̱w̱ú7mesh Úxwumixw Territory)

Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound, an area renowned for its rich Indigenous culture, biodiversity and distinct geography, has become Canada's 19th UNESCO Biosphere Region, the International Coordinating Council for the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) announced today.

As jurisdictions around the globe face the profound impacts of habitat loss and climate change, the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region (AHSBR) is an international showcase for how regional coordination can create a place for humanity and nature to thrive.

Share the good news with your network!



Comments From Our Collaborators



Joyce Williams, S̓kw̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw Councillor and Co-Chair of Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society Board

"My hope is that it will effectively bring all communities in Átl'ka7tsem together for effective decision making but also to help people get out on the Land. Building that connection, to the territory and the Land, will help people better honour and to respect the environment but also the Life that lives in that environment. Átl'ka7tsem is really about beauty and hope, as much as it is about sustainable development."



Ruth Simons, Lead, Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society

"This Biosphere Region exists to promote conservation and sustainable development in our area for generations to come. This designation, five-years in the making, is really a testament to the hard work, collaboration, and consensus-building efforts of our community. We plan to carry this momentum forward as we reconvene all partners to develop the long-term vision for Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound, leveraging UNESCO's powerful international network of regions."

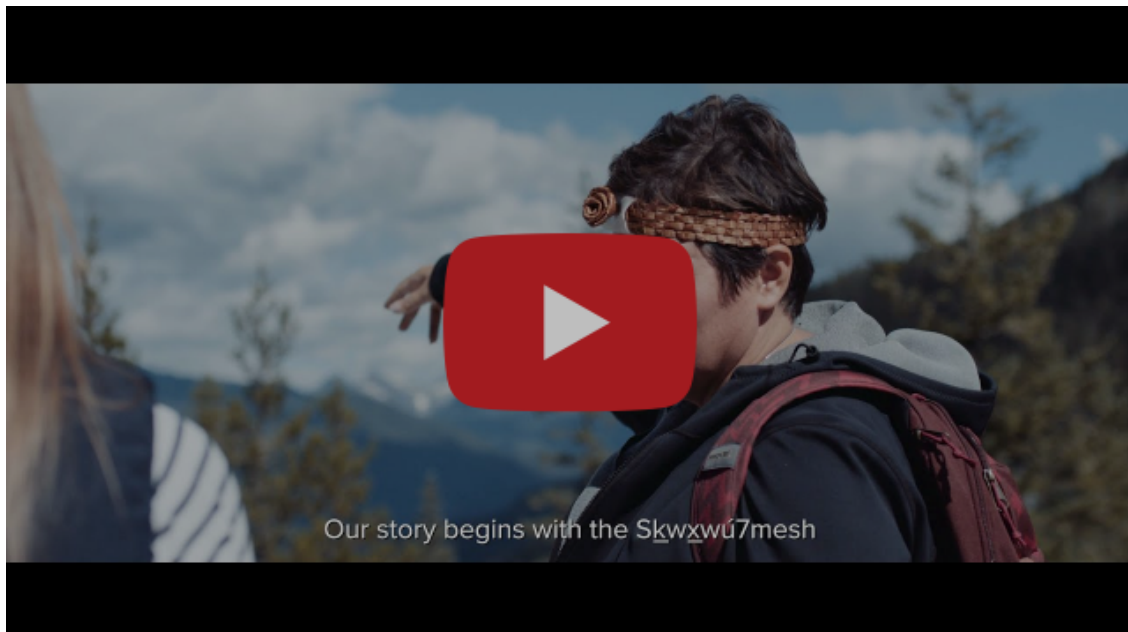


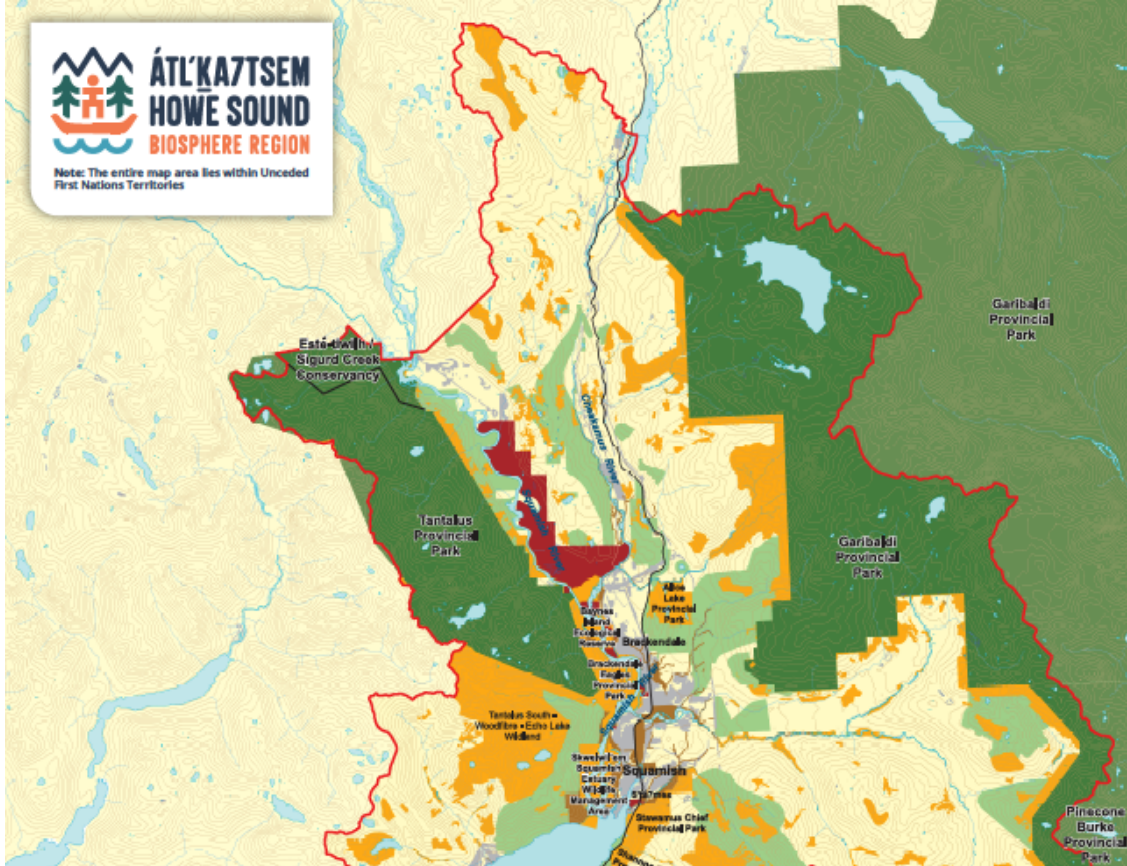
Karen Elliott, District of Squamish Mayor

"The designation of Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound fills me with optimism, providing new momentum to continue our work together to create a sustainable future for the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound region. It also represents the collaborative and tireless efforts of individuals, organizations, governments and First Nations. The

climate emergency is one of our greatest challenges and the Át'l'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region designation will help us work with partners regionally to develop the solutions we need. The designation also amplifies the significance of our local environment and showcases to the world our region's incredible beauty, biodiversity and cultural richness. Biosphere Regions have the unique ability to bring people together through common ground, based on a shared vision and goal. I look forward to Squamish playing an active role in the collaborative effort to create a sustainable future for the Át'l'ka7tsem/Howe Sound region."

Get to Know Át'l'ka7tsem/Howe Sound





The Biosphere Region, located on the territories of the Coast Salish people, covers a 218,723-hectare swath of land and sea encompassing the entire Howe Sound watershed. Its zoning boundaries begin near Point Atkinson (Sk'íwitsut) in West Vancouver, running north to Black Tusk (T'ekt'aqmúyin t'l'a In7inyáxa7en) near Whistler, and as far west as Gower Point on the Sunshine Coast. The core protected area traverses five BC Provincial Parks, one BC Provincial Conservancy, and several marine refuges. AHSBR is dotted by many iconic landmarks; such as Mt. Garibaldi (Nch'kaý), a diamond-shaped peak towering over the Squamish landscape.

More Info

Media Enquiries?

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Atl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound region is the unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh
Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) people.



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