



ÁTL'KA7TSEM
HOWĒ SOUND
BIOSPHERE REGION



What's Next?



Thank you for the many positive messages received following the UNESCO designation announcement on September 15th. We [were proud to host](#) Dr. Eleanor Haine from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO on a tour of the region.

As the organization responsible for the management of the UNESCO designation, the hard work continues. In ten years we will undergo a rigorous periodic review. Maintaining the designation depends on the continued collaboration and commitment towards the objectives of a Biosphere Region. We now begin creating that roadmap to 2030, a management plan for the Biosphere Region. Stay tuned for more information.

[Read more](#)



Your Donations at Work



Until December 31st, the West Vancouver Foundation's Give Where you Live Campaign is matching donations towards **Searching for Slhawt' (herring) in the Squamish Nation territory.**

This project advances Indigenous youth leadership, ocean exploration, and cultural teachings in Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound. The project will be led by the Marine Reference Guide in partnership with the Howe Sound Biosphere Region and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) to study and share the activity of slhawt'/herring within the Nation's territory.

Photo from Bridget John

Donate Today!

Inspiring Volunteer



Minna Koselka-Wild - " Shortly after moving to Squamish, the [United Nations World Oceans Day](#) called out to me as a fun way for the community and students to learn more about oceans and to find ways to take action to look after them. so I took my life experiences and observations to tell stories. Together, with a dedicated and passionate team of educators and parents at Mamquam Elementary School, we delivered the first World Oceans Day events inviting all students, teachers, and families to take part. It was amazing!" [Keep reading this story here](#)

Interested in Volunteering? Contact us

The Howe Sound Community Forum



It had been two years since Forum members had met in person due to COVID-19 restrictions. After three virtual forums held over Zoom, Forum members were delighted to once again gather for a hybrid - in person/virtual meeting. On Friday, October 22, 2021, forty-seven people attended the Alt'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Community Forum, hosted by the Bowen Island Municipality with 20 more joining in by Zoom.

The elected officials around the table provided updates on initiatives and challenges ongoing in the communities.

[Read more](#)

Featured Project Director



Fiona Beaty has been the Project Director of the [Howe Sound/Át'ka7tsem Marine Reference Guide](#) for the past three years. Recommendations from the 2017 Ocean Watch Howe Sound Report produced by Ocean Wise on the health of Howe Sound led to the creation of an interactive map that would bring together people and information about our marine environment. Fiona took on this community-building role and turned the project into success on time and on budget. Congratulations Fiona and thank you for delivering this important community science-based tool!

Community Sustainability Leadership



While climate resiliency is top of mind for all communities given the dramatic weather events we are experiencing, the Town of Gibsons is taking the lead on taking care of its natural assets. In November, Mayor Bill Beamish hosted a Watershed Dialogue, inviting agencies and stakeholders together virtually about the importance of protecting the Gibson's aquifer: Gibsons is the first community in Canada to create a position of Natural Assets Technician. The town is making good progress on its Source to Sea project and much more. [Read more here about the Town's philosophy and action on Sustainability](#)

Photo from Rick Gustavson

Vulnerable Species Spotlight



Xwexwsélken/Mountain Goats - photo courtesy of Tim Cyr

Activities in the high elevation areas of our region pose threats to these wild creatures. [From the BC Government website](#): Tracking populations of mountain goats in remote mountainous terrain is challenging at best. Current estimates indicate that while some populations appear to be stable others are in decline and are therefore particularly vulnerable. For this reason, mountain goats were categorized as [Blue](#) by the B.C. Conservation Data Centre in 2015. Mitigating threats to mountain goats is important to help maintain and/or recover their populations.

Biologists have noted that activities, such as timber harvesting and road building, impact mountain goat habitat. Mountain goats are also sensitive to disturbance from both ground-based forestry/industry and helicopter activities. The increasing popularity of helicopter-based recreation is having a detrimental effect on mountain goats as it is causing human disturbance in areas that are intended to offer refuge and security for goats.

During these rainy days, we hope you stay safe.
Please enjoy our Social Media pages and Youtube Channel.

We always like to hear from you.

We appreciate your donations. Help us continue this legacy for future generations.

[Learn more here.](#)

Atl'katsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region encompasses the unceded territories of

the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw and Coast Salish people.

Photo by Wayne Kaulbach



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The Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society is a BC registered non-profit Society.

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