

ALL MEMBERS MEETING NOTICE

The Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala Nation Leadership are currently reviewing the leadership structure and would like to gather input from the membership.

The following information is intended to provide you with some background about our current governance system, why it's being reviewed, other governance options, and how to have your voice or input included.

1. What is Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala Nation's Current Leadership Structure?

Throughout our history, our Nation was led by hereditary chiefs who occupied the top rank of our social system. Hereditary chiefs carry the responsibility of leading and governing our people, and ensuring our traditions and protocols are respected. Under our strict cultural laws, the title of hereditary chief is passed down to the chief's eldest son during a potlach.

Our traditional governance structure was interrupted under Canada's early colonial policy that imposed the *Indian Act* elected Chief and Council system. However, by a membership vote in the early 1970s, our Nation returned to its hereditary system. Since then our Nation has been led by a band council comprised of a hereditary chief (formerly Chief William Glendale, now his eldest son, William Gordon Glendale) and two elected councillors (currently Anne Glendale and recently elected Michael Jacobson Weston).

2. Why is the current leadership structure being reviewed?

Our current Custom Code states that our hereditary Chief and two elected Councillors will form our leadership, until the members decide to change this. Recently some concerns have been raised about whether or not the Nation should replace its hereditary leadership with an elected chief. The current leadership decided to seek community input on the system to ensure the voices of the members were heard, and to ensure continued community acceptance over our leadership selection process.

3. What is the process for the review?

Community Meeting will be Held

- A community meeting is being held on January 21 in Campbell River at the Coast Discovery Inn at 2:00-6:00. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss our leadership system and decide on our form of leadership.

Facilitator

- The meeting will be facilitated by a third party neutral facilitator, Richard Dawson. Mr. Dawson from Dzawataineuk First Nation and is well respected for his work in First Nations governance matters.

Options: Forms of Leadership

- Three forms of leadership systems will be discussed: the current custom code with a hereditary chief and two elected councillors; current custom code with hereditary chief supported by family leadership council; and elected chief and two elected councillors.

Meeting Agenda

- The facilitator will describe the leadership structure options.
- Members will have an opportunity to voice their opinions about which form of leadership will best meet the needs of the community.
- The question of leadership structure will be asked and members present will have final opportunity to have their choice recorded.

Decision Making Procedure

- All on and off reserve registered band members who are 18 or older. Check age with leadership
- Qualifying members are required to provide their full name, status registration number and date of birth.
- At the end of the meeting, a show of hands will be held to record the input of the community regarding the current form of leadership.
- Qualifying members are also permitted to provide a written submission if received by January 27.
- Written submissions should be delivered to the band office at:

P.O. Box 330 Alert Bay, BC V0N1A0

Email to: molly@danaxdaxw.com or trishn@danaxdaxw.com

Fax to: 250-974-2706

Form of Leadership Determined by Majority of Membership

- The leadership structure will be determined by the majority of the membership in favour of one of the proposed structures.

- For the decision to be valid at least 1/3 of qualifying community members must participate. If that number is not achieved, the decision will be sought at a rescheduled meeting.

Post Decision

- The current leadership agrees to be bound by the wishes of the community and will facilitate any necessary leadership change should the wishes of the community be different from the current form of leadership, including working with the community to prepare a written leadership selection code that reflects the wishes of the community.
- After broad community consensus on the preferred structure is achieved, a community meeting will be held to discuss any transition or process matters.

4. What will the members be asked?

1. What form of leadership do you prefer?
 - a. Hereditary Chief and two elected Councillors
 - b. Hereditary Chief supported by Family Leadership Council
 - c. Elected Chief and Councillors
 - d. I would like the Nation to engage in a longer process to discuss the different options.