



## SEABIRD ISLAND BAND

# Traditional Land Holdings

### Interviews

TENTATIVE DATES:

November 17 & 18

TIME: 9 am—8 pm

DURATION: Half an hour - 1.5 hours.

PENDING COVID

RESTRICTIONS

LOCATION: SIB Gym

Questions?

Please contact Lands:

604-796-2177

lands@seabirdisland.ca

Seabird Island Band (SIB) is honoured to **work with members to define and identify Traditional Land Holdings (TLH)**. Seabird Lands is funded to research traditional land holdings and plan next steps for Seabird Island, as a whole.

### TLH project key goals are:

- Define Traditional Land Holdings;
- Research historical documents, identify TLH areas, identify families with TLH;
- Identify any unresolved Estates and create a list; and
- Draft laws and/or policies, if needed.

Together, Seabird wants to work with you, to create our path forward. **SIB respectfully requests your participation** to share historical knowledge to help identify TLH areas, families and resolve legacy issues.

Call or email to book  
an appointment

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## SEABIRD ISLAND BAND

# Traditional Land Holdings Project Disclaimer

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*"Historically, the Minister of Indian Affairs sometimes granted Certificates of Possession to First Nation members who had cleared land. This was not a legal requirement, it was just a policy. Under the Indian Act, the only way to get ownership of Reserve land was through a CP granted by the Minister. In recent decades, the Minister stopped granting CPs to individuals or families who had cleared lands. After the Seabird Island Land Code was passed, the only way to receive a CP is under a Seabird CP law passed by Council with input from Membership. Anyone who has cleared lands in recent decades did not gain ownership or a right to a CP merely by clearing the lands.*

*We are trying to respect Seabird customs and traditions while also finding a way to determine legal ownership of our Reserve lands. The information and oral history we are collecting under our Legacy project will help us sort through the confusing history of Reserve lands and recommend policies and a law to for fairly deciding on ownership of individual or family parcels of land."*



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### Invitation to share your story in an interview:

#### **Purpose:**

1. To gain Seabird Island historical and cultural knowledge.
2. To help us better understand the history of the various family landholdings on the island.

#### **Methods:**

1. Scheduled one-on-one or family / group interviews with community members. Questions will be circulated in advance.
2. We will share with you some older maps, images, and archival records.
3. Two people will be interviewing you (Keith Carlson of UFV and working for SIB, and assistant) – one will ask the questions, and the other will take notes, and manage any other needs like recording device.
4. Interviews will be recorded and possibly videoed, with permission, for accuracy, and future reference. We will also be including some in an exhibit in the new culture center building, so that future generations can hear your voice, your story, told by you.
5. The interviews will take place in a private room at the Band Office (unless a different location is requested by you).

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## SEABIRD ISLAND BAND

# Traditional Land Holdings

### Invitation to share your story in an interview:

#### **Safety:**

1. Please let us know what you might need in order to feel safe – family member present, private home interview etc.
2. You can withdraw from, or stop, the interview process at any time.
3. We will book a second time slot if you want to continue at a later date.

#### **Confidentiality:**

1. Please share what you are comfortable with sharing. Do not share information if you do not want it to be known or shared with others.
2. The information you share will be available to others. It will be used by Seabird staff and leadership to better manage and protect traditional family land holdings and to do community land planning.
3. You will receive a digital and paper copy of your interview transcript when they have been completed.

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## SEABIRD ISLAND BAND

# Traditional Land Holdings

*Participant Interview Consent Form (2 copies\*)*

***\*One for the participant, and one for the project team files.***

- ☐ I understand the description provided.
- ☐ I consent to participate in the interview process.
- ☐ I understand that my name will be used, and that parts of this interview may be directly quoted in the research report and publications.
- ☐ I agree to have this interview recorded, and preserved in a secure way controlled by Seabird Island Band.
- ☐ A copy of this Consent Form has been given to me for my records.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Participant Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Researcher Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

### **Questions or concerns:**

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact either of the following:

Lands Department

[lands@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:lands@seabirdisland.ca)

604-796-2177

Dr. Keith Carlson

[kthorcarlson@gmail.com](mailto:kthorcarlson@gmail.com)

604-845-5710

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*Participant Name*

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*Signature*

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*Date*

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*Researcher Name*

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*Signature*

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*Date*

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### Interview Guide

Today is \_\_\_\_\_, 2021. My name is \_\_\_\_\_  
[interviewer] and my co-researchers are \_\_\_\_\_.

We're here at the \_\_\_\_\_ building interviewing  
\_\_\_\_\_ [name of interviewee] for a Seabird Island  
**Traditional Land Holdings project**. Before we get started I want let anyone  
who is listening to this recording in the future know that I've discussed the  
project with you, and that you have read and signed the consent form.

Thank you for coming here to talk today.

The community history that we are going to record with you today will help  
us better understand the history of family land holdings as we work towards  
resolving conflicts. We do not know yet if any decisions will be made about  
these holdings but we want to try and record the history of them as  
accurately as we can. In this interview we are going to start with some  
standard questions that get at **more factual information** (your name, when  
you were born, who your parents are etc), then we will shift to **more  
open-ended questions** relating to your family's traditional land holdings.  
We will be sharing historical maps, images, and archival records with you  
and also asking you to identify spaces and places on maps that are associated  
with different family holdings. It will likely take **a half hour or more**. We can  
stop at any time to take a break.

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# Traditional Land Holdings

We are going to start with questions about you, and then move to the more general 'story-telling' discussion.

We'll begin with **Biographical** questions:

1. What is your full legal name? (For married women, do you have a maiden name?).
2. Do you have a nickname?
3. Do you have a Xwelmeqw / Halq'emeylem / Indian name? Does anyone else in your family carry the same name? Where does it come from?
4. What is your date of birth?
5. Where did you grow up?
6. What is your mother's full legal name? (Did she have a different maiden name?)
7. Is your mother a member of Seabird? If not, is she a member of another First Nation?
8. Does your mother have a Xwelmeqw / Halq'emeylem / Indian name?

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9. Does anyone else in your family carry the same name?

Where does it come from?

10. Does your father have a Xwelmexw / Halq'emeylem / Indian name?

11. Does anyone else in your family carry the same name? Where does it come from?

12. Do you know your mother and father's dates of birth? (When did they pass on? How old were they when they died?).

13. Where did your mother grow up?

14. Where did your father grow up?

15. Do you have brothers and sisters?

16. What are their names and what order were they born in? (Which brothers and sisters are still with us today?).



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For the **main part of the interview** please look at these copies of historical maps, images, and archival records, that we have.

17. Using these to help orientate yourself, could you point out on the map where your family traditional holdings are?

18. Can you share some family history about who originally cleared these lands?

19. Did you family members or ancestors ever build homes, sheds or fences? If so, do you have any details about what was built, who built it, and where it was located?

20. Could you draw lines on the map depicting the rough boundaries of the land holdings as you understand them and any homes, sheds or fences that were located on them?

21. Do you know if your traditional family lands overlap with traditional family lands from other families? If so, do you know if there were historical arrangements with these families?

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