Snewíyalh tl'a Staḵw (Teachings of the Water)

Language Resources

***Snewíyalh tl'a Staḵw* (Teachings of the Water)** [snoˈwɛːiʃʰ tɬa stakʰ] is in the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) [ˈskʰxoːʔ mɪʃ] language, spoken by the Squamish Nation, a vibrant and dynamic Coast Salish Nation of 4,200 members with a strong culture and rich history. The largest proportion of Squamish Nation members reside on urban reserves in the Canadian cities of Vancouver, North Vancouver, and West Vancouver and the municipality of Squamish, BC. The Coast Salish peoples collectively reside in the Pacific Northwest region of North America, which includes British Columbia (Canada) and Washington and Oregon (United States).

Movement Titles: Squamish Text, English translation, International Phonetic Alphabet

1. ***Ḵeḵsín ti syatshn*** *(The Natural World)* [ḵʌḵ ˈseːin ti siaʧn]
   (literally: all of us in the same basket)
2. ***Kwis na xwey*** *(Birth)* [kwis na xweːi]
3. **Shúkw'em** *(Ceremony)* [ˈʃoː kwʌm]
4. **Slúlum** *(Song)* [ˈsɬoː ɬʌm]
5. ***Úxwumixw*** *(Identity)* [oː xwo ˈmɛxʰ]
   (explains both which village and which family I come from)

Sung Words and Phrases: Squamish Text, English translation, International Phonetic Alphabet

eslhelhá7ḵwhiws (how everything is connected) [ɛs ˈʃʰaʃʰaːʔ kʰw ˈheʊs]

kwis (you) [kwis]
na (modifies the previous word to past tense) [na]
xwey (showing yourself, being born) [xweːi]
kwis na xwey (when you were born) [kwis na xweːi]

shúkw'em (spiritual cleansing) [ˈʃoː kwʌm]
xwip'i7án (brushing off or cleansing with wet cedar boughs) [ˈxwe peʔ ɑːn]

lúlum (to sing) [ˈɬoː ɬʌm]
slúlumcht (our song) [ˈsɬoː ɬʌm ʧɪtʰ]

*i7x*w (everything) [ɛʔ xʰ]
wa (modifies "everything" to clarify that it's happening right now) [wa]
méymeẏem (ripple) [ˈmeː mejːʌm]
i7xw wa méymeẏem (everything is a ripple) [ɛʔ xʰwa ˈme mejːʌm]

Language Resources continued

Stress mark, or accent (á, é, í or ú) indicates that the vowel should be realized as louder and slightly longer. Give the vowel its full resonance: do not drift off to a neutral vowel as in English. Vowel letters have several pronunciations according to the consonants around them.

Phonetic [ʌ]: *up*. Phonetic [ʃ]: *shoe*.

Glottal stop [ʔ]: a gentle break or pause in the breath before the following vowel or consonant: English *an|apple*, not *a napple*.

Pronounce letter *h* as [h]: *home*. Phonetic diacritical [ʰ] indicates release of air after the consonant: *bat* [batʰ].

Letters l, k, k̲, x, x̲, w

Phonetic [ɬ]: under the soft palate. English *all*.

Letter unit *lh*: approximate phonetic [ʃʰ]. Position the tongue broadly across the back teeth as if for [l], lips spread, teeth closed. Say a very soft [ʃ] while blowing air of [h] along the sides, or one side, of the tongue.

Phonetic [k]: under the hard palate: *king*.

Phonetic [k̲]: back of the tongue rises to the soft palate. A deeper sound.

Phonetic [x] a gentle *Hugh* or slightly farther back on the hard palate, Scottish *loch*. Pronounce lightly "like the wind."

Phonetic [x̲]: as with [k̲], back of the tongue rises to the soft palate and with release of air.

Letter w after [k], [k̲], [x], [x̲]: pronounce as [w]: [k/k̲w] / [x/x̲w]. Or pronounce as [ʰ]. Use rounded lips of [w] after [k] or [x]. Release air as in *wh* of *what*: [kʰ], [k̲ʰ] / [xʰ], [x̲ʰ].

International Phonetic Alphabet transcriptions by Elizabeth Brodovitch.

Additional source: Kwi Awt Stelmexw: A language & arts society for the Squamish People: kwiawtstelmexw.com/language_resources/

See also video language guide featuring Squamish speaker Rebecca Duncan at elektra.ca (type "teachings" in the search bar).