Join us to witness our declaration of the Ashnola as a sməłqmíx protected and conserved area upholding our inherent jurisdiction to protect and manage our territories according to sməłqmíx / syilx law for the water, the land, all beings, the ancestors and future generations.

The sməłqmíx responsibility to protect and manage our territory according to sməłqmíx / syilx law is grounded in our inherent jurisdiction as set out in the captikwɬ, where the truths and knowledge of laws are made active through story.

The declaration of the Ashnola as a sməłqmíx protected and conserved area on April 28, 2022, signals the sməłqmíx peoples' intent to enforce our inherent governance responsibilities. From this day forward, we expect that all who interact within nʔaysnúlaʔxʷ (the Ashnola) will take the necessary steps to bring themselves into good standing with the siwƛkʷ (water), tmxʷulaxʷ (land), sluxʷluxʷncut (air), and the tmixʷ (life force within all four sacred ecosystems), in accordance with sməłqmíx / syilx law.

We welcome all governments, organizations and individuals who wish to learn more and to work with us, to take advantage of this historic opportunity to align their efforts with our inherent title, laws and management plans.

Canada, British Columbia and the sməłqmíx have agreed in our National Park Reserve discussions, to a framework of naqscn / knʔxtwix (collaboration) amongst the Parties, which recognizes that:

- In negotiating the protection of lands in the South Okanagan – Similkameen region, the Parties will be mindful that all social and ecological management will

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1 Memorandum of understanding for proposed National Park Reserve in the South Okanagan – Similkameen region of British Columbia, online: https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/cnpn-cnnp/okanagan/pe-mou (“Park MOU”)
Discussions are ongoing regarding existing and proposed protected areas in the South Okanagan – Similkameen region, including federal, provincial and Indigenous protection initiatives which could lead to the achievement of larger conservation goals and support ecosystem connectivity (Park MOU s 9), and related carbon benefits.

- The smałqmíx elders have directed that the proposed national park reserve cannot be seen in isolation and that other priority areas of protection include the nʔaysnúlaʔxʷ (Ashnola) watershed, the Olalla Highlands, the Skagit, and the Tulameen, as part of active smałqmíx management of our entire territory.

- The work of the smałqmíx to uphold our responsibilities is sustained and ongoing, including:
  - Written expression of our siwɬkw (water) law
  - Water quality and forestry standards grounded in smałqmíx / syilx law
  - Watershed planning
  - Written expression of our tmixʷ law
  - Ongoing land management, including ceremonial burning and other TEK processes
  - Establishment and management of smałqmíx campsites in the Ashnola Corridor
  - Installation of a kiosk and interpretive signage to enhance visitor experience
  - Enhanced economic opportunities grounded in smałqmíx legal principles

Please RSVP by April 21, 2022
RSVP: Matilda Allison at execassist@lsib.net & Tracy Lawlor at skulqalt@lsib.net
Questions? Contact: Lauren Terbasket at laurenterbasket@gmail.com

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We stand up our sovereignty and laws. We have upheld our responsibilities since the time of creation and we continue to do so for all time.