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December 2, 2016

Chief and Council  
Snuneymuxw First Nation  
668 Centre Street  
Nanaimo, BC V9R 4Z4

**Re: Snuneymuxw Citizens Ratify Thlap'qwam Specific Claim Settlement**

Dear Chief and Council:

The Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee would like to acknowledge your hard work and perseverance, and to congratulate you on the recent ratification of your Specific Claim settlement for the loss of the 79-acre Thlap'qwam reserve in downtown Nanaimo.

We see this as an important step for all of us towards a journey for a more just and fair settlement of land issues in British Columbia. It is especially heartening to see Snuneymuxw compensated as the First Nation with one of the smallest land bases in Canada.

Although we realize there is much we do not understand about the connection Snuneymuxw people have to the land and waters of this area, we are sincere in our desire to better understand this connection. Islands Trust has inherited a colonial system of land use but, even with the tools we have right now, we want to improve the ways we identify and protect places of significant value to the Snuneymuxw Nation. Our hope is that we can start a dialogue with you to listen and learn about your Nation's connections to the Trust Area.

We look forward to congratulating you in person soon and continuing this journey with you towards a more just and fair sharing of land values.

Respectfully,

Laura Busheikin, Chair  
Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee

Copy to: Heather O'Sullivan, Gabriola Island Local Trustee  
Melanie Mamoser, Gabriola Island Local Trustee