



**Date:** January 23, 2014  
**To:** Membership  
**From:** Intergovernmental Relations, Natural Resources and Revenue (IRNR&R)  
**Regarding:** New Brighton Port

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*The purpose of this memo is to keep membership fully informed about the work of the IRNR&R Department to protect our land and resources, also known as our Aboriginal rights and title, as mandated by Squamish Nation Chiefs and Council. On June 12, 2013, Chiefs and Council passed a motion to approve the transfer agreement for the New Brighton Port with the federal government, as represented by Transport Canada.*

“Quawlka” is the Squamish name for the area now called New Brighton on Chá7elknech (Gambier Island). This site is adjacent to Ch’ekw’élhp (Gibsons Landing), an ancient village which was home to the 1<sup>st</sup> ancestors Ts̓kanchtn and Sx̓eláitn. Squamish people have always owned and managed the island with thousands of years of constant use of the entire island, utilizing resources throughout the area.

As with all the islands in that geographical area our people owned and enjoyed these areas since time immemorial. The entire area of Atl’kátsem (Howe Sound) is laden with mythology, place names, village sites, burial grounds, spiritual areas, and resource gathering areas.

On November 12, 2013, the Squamish Nation (via an SN numbered company) signed a “transfer agreement” with the Federal government to acquire a federal port on Gambier Island, in BC known as “New Brighton Port”. The New Brighton Port was one of 15 docks the federal government divested over a 2 year period following an announcement in Ottawa in early 2012. The Port facility is located on the largest of four islands (Chá7elknech, Gambier Island) in the Howe Sound, BC. Howe Sound is located between the Lower Mainland and the Sunshine Coast, and incorporates many islands, the largest island being Gambier.

The port facility is the primary access for the islands southwest peninsula providing moorage for an estimated 15 - 20 boats. Approximately 125 residents live on Gambier full time however, the number of residents living on the island increases to 600 people during the summer months.

The signed transfer agreement provides the Squamish Nation (via numbered company) contribution funding from the Federal government for the operation and maintenance of a port facility for 5 years. One of the conditions of the signed transfer agreement is that the dock is operated as a port facility for at least two years.

Currently, the port and public dock sits on a provincial water lot. The Squamish Nation (via SN Marine Group) will develop and assess viable business plan for consideration for Chiefs and Council over the next several months. Once the business plan has been reviewed, finalized and approved by Chiefs and Council, membership will receive another update notice.

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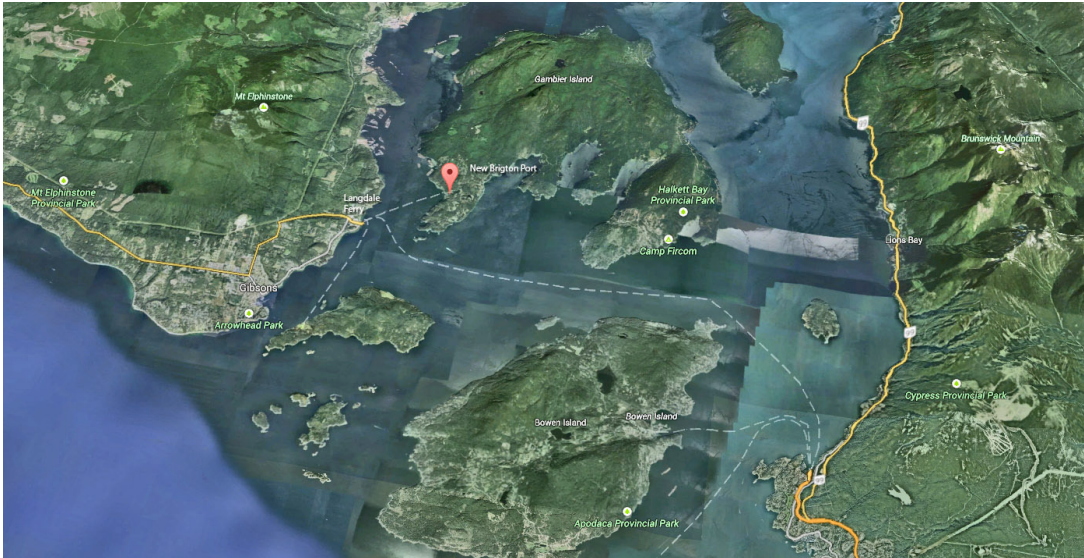


If you have any questions, please contact Donny Mekilok, Marina Manager, at the Squamish Nation Marine Group. Email: [donny\\_mekilok@squamish.net](mailto:donny_mekilok@squamish.net) or call 604-987-4113 or toll free at 1-977-628-2288

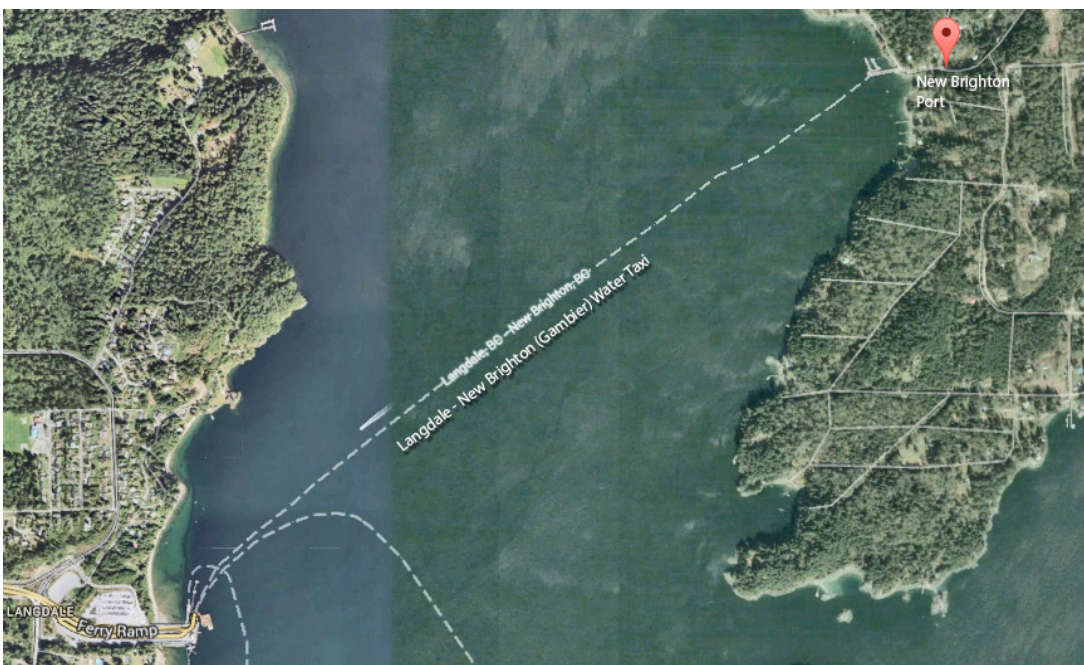
Chen kwen mantumi  
Sincerely,  
SQUAMISH NATION



KáKeltn Siyám (Chief Gibby Jacob), Executive Operating Officer  
Intergovernmental Relations, Natural Resources & Revenue Department (IRNR&R)



Map showing location of Gambier Island and relevant ferry routes.



Map showing location of New Brighton Port on Gambier Island and relevant ferry

