



PATHWAYS
EXECUTIVE SEARCH



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



CH'ÍYÁQTEL
TZEACHTEN FIRST NATION



About Ch'iyáqtel

Ch'iyáqtel (formerly known as Tzeachten First Nation) is a proud affiliate of the Stó:lō Nation (People of the River) and member of the Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe. The name Ch'iyáqtel means “Place of the Fish Weir”, honouring the ingenuity of their ancestors, who built fish weirs to provide for the community. Today, fishing and land stewardship remain central to Ch'iyáqtel life and culture.

The Nation is home to 752 members. Their language, Halq'eméylem, is the Upriver dialect spoken by 24 Stó:lō First Nations along the Fraser River, from Matsqui to Yale. Rich in culture, natural beauty, and resources, Ch'iyáqtel ancestors travelled the territory to hunt, fish, and gather berries. Guided by their teachings, Ch'iyáqtel leadership continues to prioritize decisions that support the well-being of both current and future generations.

Ch'iyáqtel holds 362.6 hectares of reserve lands located within the municipal boundaries of the City of Chilliwack. These lands are surrounded by residential and commercial developments. In response to the needs of their members and the local community, Ch'iyáqtel has supported the development of a mix of commercial businesses and light industry on reserve.

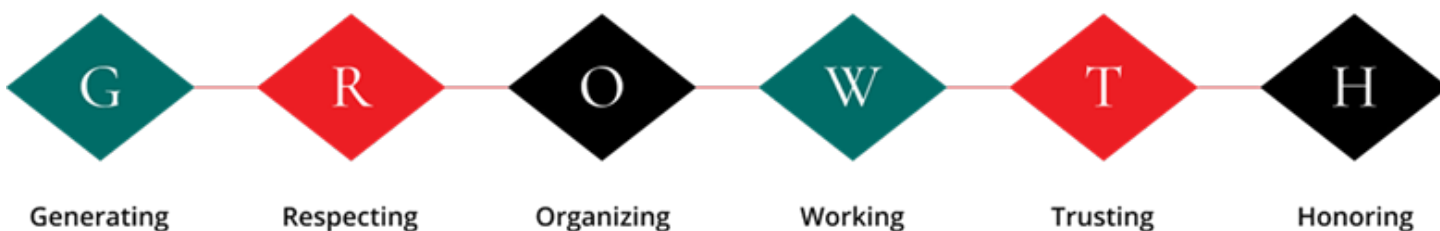
With limited land available and ongoing development pressures, expanding the land base for future community growth remains a key priority. In 2016, Ch'iyáqtel partnered with Skowkale First Nation and Yakwekwioose First Nation to acquire an additional 28.8 hectares of land. This land is managed cooperatively and with a shared vision of creating a vibrant, welcoming residential neighbourhood that includes commercial, retail, and community amenities. It is currently under a long-term lease designated for residential use.

About Ch'íyáqtel continued

Vision

Ch'íyáqtel remains the keeper of our traditional territories—a sacred responsibility passed down by our ancestors and upheld through sound cultural, environmental, and socio-economic stewardship.

Mission



Generating wealth and prosperity for our community through the creation of cultural, environmental, and socio-economic opportunities.

Respecting the needs of our members and staff by proactively promoting a healthy, safe community and workplace.

Organizing ourselves for success through effective administration, management, and governance.

Working together in the spirit of collaboration and partnerships.

Trusting that our team has the inherent ability to succeed at our ambitious goals.

Honouring our past as we position ourselves for a future that pays respect to who we are as a people.

Core Values

We are grounded in culture—never losing track of who we are, where we come from, and where we are going as Ch'íyáqtel people. We believe that respect is the foundation of all that we do. We value transparent and accountable communication, which builds trust and keeps our members and staff informed and engaged. We practice a strong work ethic, modelling attitudes and behaviours that inspire those around us. We recognize that a safe, active, inclusive community supports the health and well-being of individuals and families.



About Ch'íyáqtel continued

Our Focus Areas

- Finance & Administration: Empowering our organization to achieve sustainability to better serve the community.
- Economic Development: Building a sustainable economy that enables self-governance, empowers our people, and secures community prosperity. Land &
- Environment: Stewarding and safeguard our land and environment—honouring our responsibilities to future generations.
- Housing & Infrastructure: Planning, delivering, and maintaining the housing and infrastructure needed to support the community.
- Health & Wellness: Empowering our members to define and implement their health and wellness needs.
- Culture & Community: Delivering high quality programs and events the promote our language, traditions, and ceremonies.

To learn more about Ch'íyáqtel First Nation, please click [here](#).

The Role: Chief Executive Officer

Reporting directly to Chief and Council, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for leading and implementing strategies that drive economic growth, foster business development, and create opportunities that enhance the financial sustainability and prosperity of the Ch'íyáqtel community. This role requires a strategic thinker with strong skills in planning, stakeholder engagement, and project management, particularly with a focus on land development and business analysis. All duties and responsibilities are carried out in alignment with Ch'íyáqtel policies, standards, and procedures. The ideal candidate is culturally sensitive, respectful of Indigenous cultures, and demonstrates a genuine openness to learning and honouring Ch'íyáqtel culture and protocols.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Planning and Economic Growth

- Develop and implement economic development strategies aligned with Ch'íyáqtel's vision, mission, and goals.
- Conduct market research and economic analysis to inform decision-making and guide policy recommendations.
- Advocate for community interests in regional economic planning and policy discussions.
- Apply knowledge of Indigenous governance structures, economic policies, and community development frameworks.
- Leverage experience in land and resource management to support sustainable economic growth.

Business and Investment Development

- Identify and secure funding opportunities, grants, and partnerships to advance economic initiatives.
- Oversee business development projects, including feasibility studies, investment opportunities, and entrepreneurship programs.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with local businesses, investors, government agencies, and community organizations.

Project & Financial Management

- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of economic development programs, adjusting strategies as needed.
- Prepare and deliver detailed reports, proposals, and strategic plans to leadership and stakeholders.
- Ensure compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and funding agreements.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

The Candidate

Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Bachelor's degree in Economic Development, Business Administration, Public Administration, or another related field (master's preferred)
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in economic development, business management, or a related role.
- Strong knowledge of economic trends, market analysis, and investment strategies.
- Experience working with Indigenous communities and organizations is an asset.
- Proven ability to develop and manage projects, budgets, and funding applications.
- Excellent communication, negotiation, and leadership skills.
- Ability to build and maintain strong partnerships with key stakeholders.
- Strong problem-solving skills and ability to think strategically.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office and relevant economic software.
- A strong understanding of land development and procurement on reserve.

Working Conditions

This is a hybrid role, offering flexibility to work from home. May require flexible hours, including evenings and weekends, to accommodate meetings and community events. Occasional travel may be required.

Location and Territory

Chíyáqtel is a strong, thriving, and engaged member of the Stó:lō Nation (People of the River) and proudly part of the Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe. The Ts'elxwéyeqw are the First Peoples of the Chilliwack River Watershed, located in what is now known as the Central Fraser Valley in southwestern British Columbia. The tribal name 'Ts'elxwéyeqw' is commonly recognized in English as Chilliwack. The traditional territory encompasses the entire Chilliwack River Valley, including Chilliwack Lake, Chilliwack River, Cultus Lake, and parts of the present-day City of Chilliwack.

The Chíyáqtel reserve lies within this territory and is part of the Ts'elxwéyeqw land base, which spans approximately 95,000 hectares across the Chilliwack River Valley. In addition, Chíyáqtel shares 64.8 hectares of grass reserve land with eight of Chilliwack's surrounding First Nation groups. One of Chíyáqtel's key social and economic priorities is to expand its reserve lands by acquiring adjacent properties, supporting community growth and sustainability.



To Apply

Ch'iyáqtel is an inclusive and equitable organization and encourages applications from qualified applicants, including persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities. The position offers a competitive compensation package for eligible candidates, with a salary range starting at \$135,000-170,000 with benefits and pension.

The position is open to all qualified applicants, although preference will be given to candidates of Indigenous ancestry.

To apply, please submit a Cover Letter and Resume, in PDF format, directly to Pathways Executive Search outlining your interest, qualifications, and experience to Applications@PathwaysExecutiveSearch.com

For more details or to further explore this important leadership opportunity, please contact:

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Pathways Executive Search is an international executive recruitment firm, known for its ability to attract and recruit talent in culturally grounded ways. Guided by Indigenous values and principles of Indigenous inclusion, Pathways walks with those looking to broaden candidate pools, find qualified and experienced candidates, and live out their values and commitment to creating workplace cultures where people can thrive.