

May 31, 2012

Chief Ernest C. Campbell
Musqueam Indian Band
6735 Salish Drive
Vancouver, BC
V6L 4C4

Re: Open Letter Supporting the Musqueam Nation's Efforts to Preserve ɛsnaʔəm

Dear Chief Campbell and the Musqueam Nation,

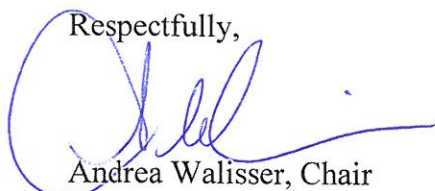
We, the History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) of Simon Fraser University, extend to you our full support of your campaign to protect and preserve ɛsnaʔəm, the ancient village and cemetery, a site of deep local historical and cultural significance for Musqueam people and for their neighbours.

As we all know, the Canadian government designated ɛsnaʔəm a National Historic Site in 1933, confirming its importance to the nation, the province, and the city. Like you, we are adamant that ɛsnaʔəm continue to be accorded the recognition it is due, and we urge our elected officials to ensure that this historic site is not destroyed. To date, these officials have failed to respond to the Musqueam Nation's good faith efforts to negotiate this issue.

Most importantly, the HGSA applauds your efforts and affirms the strong position that you have taken to honour and care for your ancestors. We are inspired by the sustained political will of the Musqueam Nation to remember and respect your ancestors and protect your cultural heritage.

We pledge our ongoing support for the protection of ɛsnaʔəm, and call on others to do the same.

Respectfully,



Andrea Walisser, Chair
On behalf of the History Graduate Students' Association
Department of History
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

CC. Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Moiria Stilwell, MLA Vancouver-Langara
Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver