

Sq'ewqel



SEABIRD ISLAND



SQEWQEL

# Sq'ewqel (Seabird Island) Referendum Information

**MONDAY**  
**2 JUNE 2025**



# WHAT IS THE **SEABIRD ISLAND REFERENDUM?**

Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island) members are being asked to vote on two important decisions about **land use and development** and **affordable housing**.

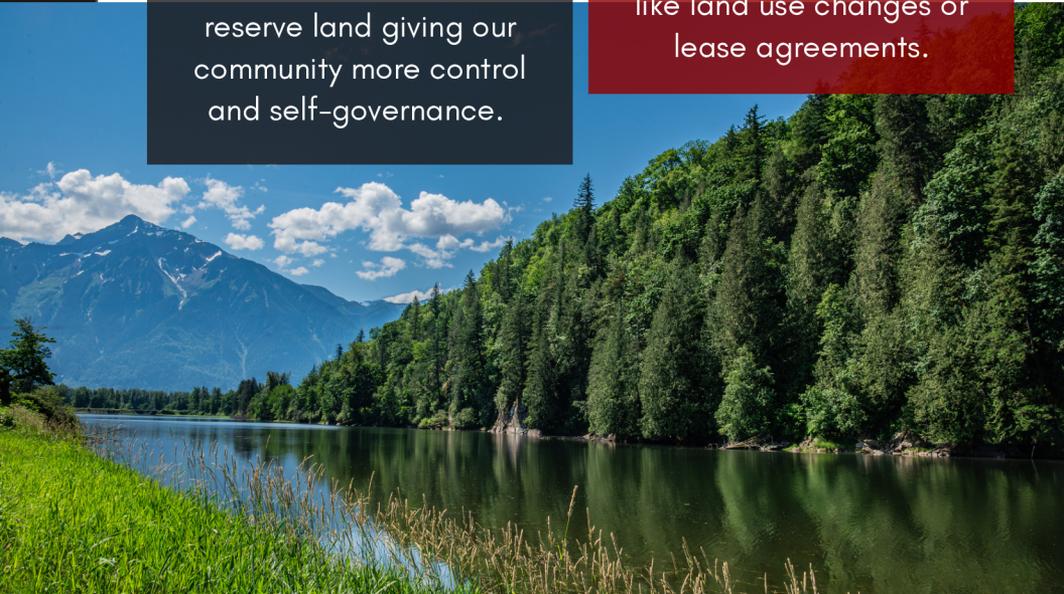
These votes help guide the future of our Nation and ensure decisions reflect our Members voice.

## **What is Land Code?**

The Land Code is Seabird Island's own set of rules for how we manage and make decisions about our reserve land giving our community more control and self-governance.

## **What is a Referendum?**

A referendum is a community vote. It gives members the power to approve or reject important decisions — like land use changes or lease agreements.



# WHY VOTE?

- Help decide what happens to our land.
- Your voice matters in big decisions.
- Make your choice on housing and leases.
- Shape the future of Seabird Island.
- Stay informed. Stay involved.
- Every vote makes the process stronger.
- Show up for your community.
- It's your right and responsibility.
- Decisions today affect tomorrow.

**Your Voice**



**Your Vote**



**Your Future**





# BC HOUSING

## LEASE FOR NEW HOMES

Seabird Island received funding from BC Housing to build 34 new affordable housing units along Pípehò:M Road.

To meet funding requirements, Seabird Island must lease the land to the band-owned Seabird Housing Society for 42 years, including 2 years for construction.

### **Why a vote is required**

According to Seabird Island's Land Code, any lease over 25 years must be approved by eligible voters in a referendum — even if it's with one of Seabird's own groups.





## Project Overview

- 34 housing units: mix of townhomes and apartments, including an Elders' building with accessible units for Seabird Island Members.
- Lease term: 42 years (40 years + 2 years construction)
- The land would be leased to the Seabird Housing Society
- Funded by a **forgivable loan** of approximately \$21.3 million from BC Housing, meaning the loan does not need to be repaid if the Housing Society follows the agreement.
- The Housing Society will operate and manage the units under an agreement with BC Housing



## Ballot Question

Do you approve of Seabird Island leasing land on Pípehò:M Road to ourselves through our Seabird Housing Society for a term of 42 years, for the BC Housing Affordable Housing Project?



# AE CONCRETE

## LEASE EXTENTION

AE Concrete (AEC) is asking to extend its lease in Sq'ewqel Business Park from 25 years to 75 years. This would support long-term jobs, training, and community benefits.

AEC pays \$80,000/month in rent and also pay annual property taxes to Seabird Island. Extending the lease means 75 years of income, economic growth

### Ballot Question

Do you approve an extension of the Seabird Island lease for AE Concrete from the present 25 years to a 75-year term?



# What AEC Brings to the Community

- Hires community members when possible.
- Works with Seabird College and the Community School for job training opportunities.
- Gives a \$20,000 education bursary every year to Sq'ewqel Band Members.
- Plans to create 25-45 new jobs in the next 5 years.
- Brought gas access and other infrastructure to the site that benefits the community.
- Helps attract more businesses to the Business Park. With more commercial tenants like AEC, Seabird Island doesn't have to lease out as much land to non-member farmers. This means more land can be kept for local food production and community needs.





**Sq'éwqel**  
*Seabird Island*



## HOW TO VOTE

If you have never voted before, register at [www.onefeather.ca](http://www.onefeather.ca)

1. Click on "Sign Up" on OneFeather.ca
2. Enter in your personal email and a password
3. Check your email for your verification
4. Click on "Vote Now" on the homepage
5. Select our community
6. You will then see all available voting events



## WHEN TO VOTE

Monday, June 2, 2025  
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.



## WHERE TO VOTE

Seabird Island Mill Hall

**Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island) Referendum 2 June 2025**

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