

Summary of Responses

1. What is the first word or phrase that comes to mind when you think of the Tsawout community today?

Many respondents highlighted the reserve's natural beauty – the lands, beach and waterfront – as the first thing that comes to mind when they think of Tsawout. Other respondents commonly described the Tsawout Nation as an 'emerging' place or as having potential to become a better place to live. On the other hand, several respondents described the community as lacking respect and trust for one another. Many feel that the community is divided and vulnerable because of this.

2. What three things make Tsawout a good place to live?

People feel that the reserve's location by the beach and waterfront are its strongest assets. Family, home, and the language/culture were also frequently listed as things that make Tsawout a good place to live.

3. What three things would make Tsawout a better place to live?

The most frequently expressed desire is for improved health in the community, in particular the elimination of drug and alcohol abuse, especially by youth. Increased housing, employment and use or knowledge of the SENCOTEN language was also repeatedly addressed. Other common responses included:

- Greater availability of recreational services and programs for youth and elders;
- A greater sense of pride in the community or better care of the land and homes; and
- Greater availability of land to address overcrowding issues.

4. What are our most treasured cultural traditions, values and principles that we want to preserve and practice into the future?

Almost everyone identified the SENCOTEN language as the most treasured cultural tradition, along with the longhouse and the continual teachings of hunting, fishing, and use of traditional plants and medicines. Respect for elders is also highly valued.

5. What do we want our community to be remembered for by generations to come?

The survey showed that people would like their community to be remembered as a clean, healthy, and a united community where people respect one another and work together. They expressed that they would like to become a First Nation band that other bands could admire and where the SENCOTEN culture flourished.

6. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life at Tsawout?

Very good		4	5%
Good		22	28%
Poor		29	36%
Very poor		24	30%
Don't know		1	1%
Total		80	100%

Over two thirds of the survey respondents rated the overall quality of life in Tsawout as either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor.' Just under one third of the people viewed quality of life as 'Good.' Only 5% of the respondents viewed quality of life as 'Very Good.'

7. Please provide reasons why you selected this rating.

The majority of the survey respondents feel that the poor quality of life is attributed to substance abuse and the general lack of cleanliness around the homes. They do not feel that their children are safe in the community. Poverty and unemployment also contributed to the poor rating. Some respondents feel that they do not have enough assistance or communication from the band nor the government and an improvement in governance and transparency is necessary.

The aspects that make the quality of life good include people's access to the beautiful environment, Tsawout's land and water and support from family.

8. Please indicate how important the following are to you:

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Preserving and enhancing our heritage	74 89%	6 7%	2 2%	0 0%	1 1%
Preserving and enhancing our culture	73 88%	7 8%	2 2%	0 0%	1 1%
Preserving and enhancing our language	77 93%	4 5%	2 2%	0 0%	0 0%

The majority of people (93%) regarded the preservation and enhancement of the SENCOTEN language as very important to them. Equally large proportions of people feel that the preservation and enhancement of the Tsawout heritage (89% of the people) and culture (88% of the people) are also very important.

9. Please indicate how important the following are to you:

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Improved health services such as a dentist's office	67 80%	9 11%	4 5%	2 2%	2 2%
Improved health services such as a doctor's office	65 77%	11 13%	4 5%	2 2%	2 2%
Improved health services such as a health clinic	62 74%	11 13%	5 6%	3 4%	3 4%
Improved health services such as a pharmacy	59 70%	11 13%	9 11%	3 4%	2 2%

The majority (80%) indicated that a variety of health services are all very important for the community, with a dentist's office as the highest in importance.

10. Please indicate how important the following are to you:

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Providing housing for members currently living on and off reserve	59 70%	14 17%	5 6%	2 2%	4 5%
Housing possibilities on other Tsawout Reserves (ie Fulford Harbour, Saturna Island)	32 38%	25 30%	14 17%	9 11%	4 5%
Providing housing for elders	67 81%	12 14%	1 1%	3 4%	0 0%
Developing buildings that are sustainable (last the test of time, are less costly to maintain and use environmentally friendly materials)	73 88%	10 12%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%




The majority of survey respondents (88%) identified the development of quality buildings that are sustainable and cost-effective is of high value to them. Provision of housing for members, particularly for elders, was also identified as very important by a large number of people. Providing housing on other Tsawout reserves (i.e. Fulford Harbour, Saturna Island) was of less importance.

11. Please indicate how important the following are to you:

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know/Unsure
Creating jobs for Tsawout members by the Band	65 77%	14 17%	3 4%	2 2%	0 0%
Creating jobs for Tsawout members by private businesses	28 33%	28 33%	13 15%	9 11%	6 7%
Big box retail (ie Home Depot, Ikea)	21 25%	29 35%	12 14%	11 13%	10 12%
Specialty retail (ie Maticks Farm)	17 21%	24 29%	16 20%	14 17%	11 13%
Market housing - condominiums	17 21%	15 18%	19 23%	17 21%	14 17%
Market housing - patio homes and mobile homes	20 24%	19 23%	20 24%	15 18%	10 12%
Market housing - single family	38 48%	19 24%	8 10%	7 9%	7 9%
Casino or bingo hall	40 49%	9 11%	16 20%	14 17%	3 4%
Marina	17 20%	13 16%	7 8%	29 35%	17 20%
Hotel or Resort	33 39%	20 24%	7 8%	12 14%	12 14%
Industrial operations (warehousing and storage)	12 15%	23 28%	14 17%	15 18%	18 22%

Most of the people (77%) thought that creating jobs for Tsawout members by the Band was of highest priority and a lot more important than jobs created by private businesses. Among the various types of development options presented above, the majority of people thought that single-family market housing and a casino/bingo hall were very important for the success of the community.

12. Please indicate how important it is to you to create economic opportunities for Tsawout on IR #5 (Fulford Harbour, Salt Spring Island).

Very important		44	54%
Somewhat Important		24	29%
Not very important		6	7%
Not at all important		5	6%
Don't know/unsure		3	4%
Total		82	100%

Over half of the respondents answered that it is very important to them to create economic opportunities on Fulford Harbour IR 5.

13. Please indicate how important the following are to you:

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Adapting to climate change and sea level rise and the impact of erosion on our lands	76 90%	7 8%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%
Protecting and enhancing the marine environment	70 84%	11 13%	1 1%	1 1%	0 0%
Preserving important environmental areas (marsh, streams, trees, steep slopes)	68 83%	14 17%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Protection of conservation areas - I.E. medicinal plants and sensitive eco-systems in our community	70 84%	13 16%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

When asked about environmental protection, most respondents agreed that preservation and conservation of important environmental areas and resources on the reserve was very important. In particular, the majority of survey respondents (84%) indicated that adapting to climate change, sea level rise and the impact of erosion on Tsawout lands was of very high importance.

14. Please indicate how important the following are to you:

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Improved bus service to the Reserve (more stops)	62 74%	14 17%	7 8%	0 0%	1 1%
Introduction of a community shuttle	54 64%	16 19%	7 8%	2 2%	5 6%
Improved roads for driving, walking and cycling	67 82%	11 13%	3 4%	0 0%	1 1%

With regards to transportation and access issues, the majority of respondents (82%) answered that improved roads for driving, walking and cycling are very important for the community.

15. Please indicate how important the following are to you:

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Establishing a village centre within our community	43 52%	28 34%	4 5%	3 4%	4 5%
Community safety	78 93%	6 7%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Enforcement of Tsawout Laws	76 90%	4 5%	3 4%	0 0%	1 1%
Safe parks & play areas for children	77 92%	6 7%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%
Sports facilities for the community	72 86%	11 13%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%
Creating a beautification program (ie sidewalks, streetlights, landscaping with native plants)	68 83%	12 15%	1 1%	0 0%	1 1%

Ninety percent or more of the respondents indicated that the enforcement of Tsawout laws, provision of safe parks and play areas for children, and community safety were the most important of the community's social aspects. The provision of sports facilities for and the beautification of the community were also identified as very important by more than 80% of the respondents. The establishment of a village centre within the community was given the lowest ranking in importance amongst the options presented.

16. What other priorities do you feel are important to our community?



Many of the concerns and issues previously stated in the survey were reiterated, including:

- The need for more and better housing; and
- The need to teach traditional ways of life, such as how to prepare fish, the language.

Other important concerns related to employment and the band office/council was consistently brought up in this question, including:

- The need for jobs, and in particular the opinion that band members should be given employment priority especially for jobs in the band office;
- The need for training so Tsawout members can develop important job skills; and
- The lack of sensitivity and care from the band office and staff and the community's desire to be heard and listened to was also repeatedly noted.

17. Where do you live?

On Reserve		74	89%
Off Reserve		9	11%
Total		83	100%



Most of the survey respondents (89%) were Tsawout members living on the reserve.

18. Which age group do you fit into?

Under 18		4	5%
18-24		6	7%
25-34		13	16%
35-44		18	22%
45-54		18	22%
55-64		11	14%
65 or older		11	14%
Total		81	100%

There was generally a good representation of all age groups amongst the respondents, including youth and elders. The majority were between the ages of 25 and 54 years.

19. What is your gender?

Male		38	49%
Female		40	51%
Total		78	100%

A fairly even number of males (38) and females (40) responded to the survey.

20. Additional Comments.

Over 70 additional comments were provided, and most of them reflected the feelings that were already expressed throughout the survey. There is a common and strong desire for a healthier, more caring, and united community where people respect one another and are listened to by their leaders.

Several people expressed their appreciation for this survey, saying that they valued their opinions being heard.

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