

July 5th, 2023



Community Notice Re: Big House Tours



To reduce the amount of unannounced groups that walk into the Big House, the Heiltsuk Tribal Council Economic Development Department and the Gvakva'aus Hailzaqv Team have entered into an agreement to filter official Big House Tours through the Qatuwalas, our Heiltsuk Visitor Information Center. The Department Leads have formed this revenue sharing agreement as part of their plan to deliver respectful, paid, tours of the Gvakva'aus Hailzaqv to individuals and entities who are interested.

This agreement will ensure that our Nation members lead and facilitate respectful tours that share the history and cultural aspects of the Gvakva'aus Hailzaqv and revenue is retained and supports the respective departments operations.

The Qatuwalas, will lead the following activities:

1. Facilitate, and Lead, Big House Tours
 - a. Will communicate with the Manager of the Big House to secure dates and times to share with community and visitors.
 - b. Will schedule daily tours (1-2 on set days) and group tours by request, for interested individuals and entities (i.e. Health Center, Heiltsuk Hospital, Shearwater, etc).
2. In the future, sell merchandise on behalf of the Gvakva'aus Hailzaqv.

Tours scheduled

1. Drop-in tour schedule will be available, at the Qatuwalas, a week in advance.
2. Group tour, minimum of 4 participants, will need at least one days notice.

Process to book a tour:

1. Email info@heiltsuk.ca or Call 778-213-8368
2. Our Qatuwalas Team will;
 - a. Inform individuals of the next scheduled daily tours
 - b. Work with Big House Team to arrange group tour (4 participant minimum)
3. Tours, pay by:
 - a. In person, cash, debit, or credit card
 - b. On the website, via square

Tour content, will include:

1. Begin at the Qatuwalas
 - a. With introductions of staff and overview of Heiltsuk History
 - b. Introduction to Big House Protocols
 - c. Staff will then accompany tour guests to the Big House
2. Arrival at the Big House
 - a. Introduction to lead tour guide and reaffirming of Big House Protocols
 - b. Overview of history of our Nation, Big House, Territory, and Community
 - c. Wrap up with some q&a

Please note:

- No cultural songs or dances will be shared, this tour is informational and lead by Max Johnson Sr who will be mentoring our youth.
- Revenue will be divided 50 – 50, to support the Big House operations and the Qatuwalas Operations, tour prices vary and can be inquired through the Qatawalas.
- All Big House tours are to be filtered through the Qatuwalas, and individuals who inquire with the Big House Staff or Admin will be redirected to info@heiltsuk.ca or call 778-213-8368 during seasonal Qatuwalas hours.
- This is to help limit the amount of people and groups who sporadically show up throughout the day, it is a way to keep our house safe and help all of our staff prevent burn out from providing numerous unexpected tours daily.
- There will be 2 scheduled tours on available weekdays, and group tours set up by request to info@heiltsuk.ca or call 778-213-8368 during seasonal Qatuwalas hours.

Other walking tours available soon will include Community and Trail Tours. Any additional inquires in regards to Qatuwalas tours and operations can be directed to the Economic Development Officer, Evangeline.clifton@heiltsuk.ca .

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