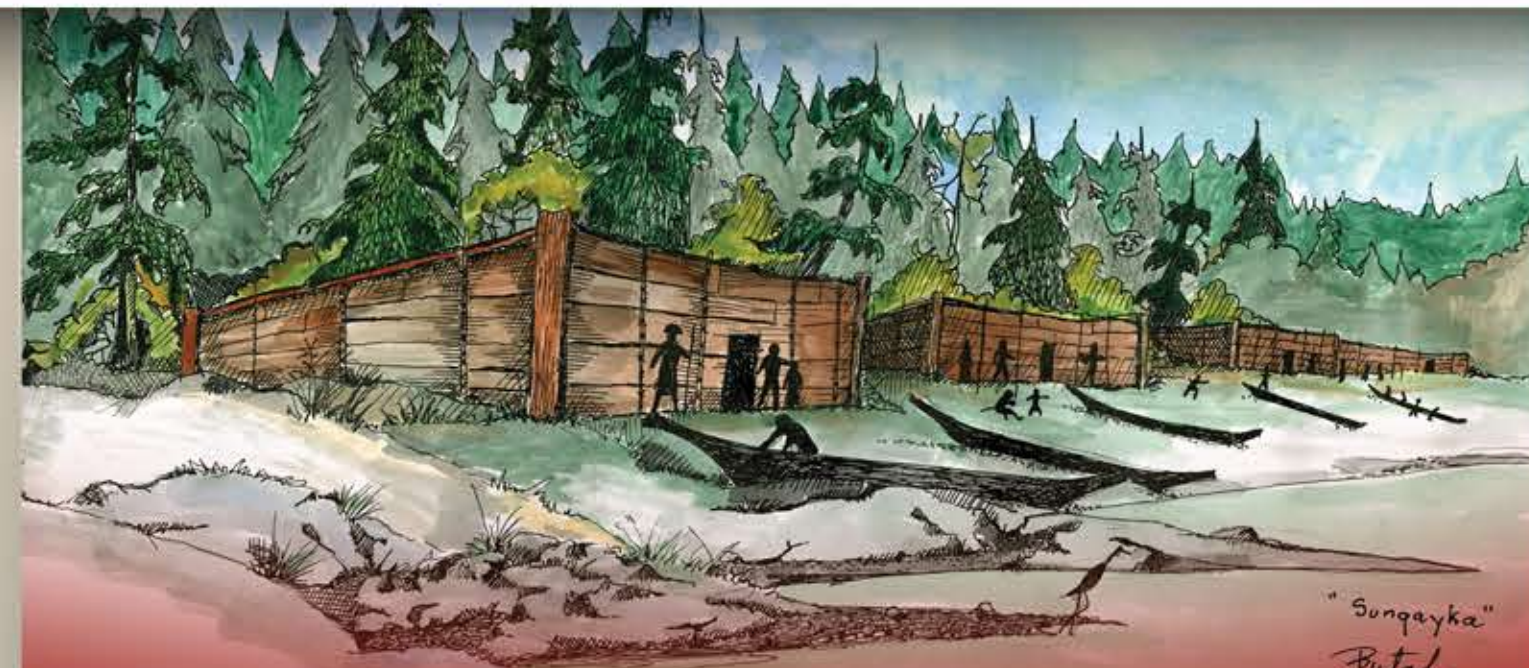


# Lkwungen Tung'exw



Coast Salish woman wearing a traditional woven blanket. Blankets were typically made from sheep's wool and perhaps dog fur. Photo courtesy of Chemainus Valley Historical Society.

## The Traditional Territory

The traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations (Lkwungen) incorporates land from the shores of the southern entrance of Haro Strait from Open Bay to Eagle Cove and on to San Juan Island. Eight distinct families – the Chewhaytsun, Kakyakaan, Teechamitsa, Whyomilth, Chekonein, Chilcowitch, Kosampson and Swengwhung lived, fished, hunted and harvested these lands. Situated in the protected Cadboro Bay, Cadboro-Gyro Park is near Ququ'leq' – a village site of the Chekonein family.

## Bay Villages

Two families, the Chilcowitch and Chekonein traditionally lived in temporary settlements found in protected bays along the waterfront running from Turkey Head (present day Oak Bay Marina) to Cordova Bay (also known as Sungayka) including campsites along the west coast of San Juan Island.

Larger villages were located at McNeill Bay and Willows Beach. Families lived in cedar-plank communal dwellings. Sitchananlth was the name given to the large permanent settlement located at Willows Beach, approximately 3km to the south of Cadboro Bay.

A modern example (circa 1900) of a Coast Salish woman harvesting clams on the beach. Prior to colonization, the basket and tools used would be hand made. (Saanich Archives 1981-019-098)

## Traditional Greeting

**A'si'em nu'shwala'kwa**  
(Oh-sea-em new-shwa-la-kwa)  
My honourable close family

**A'si'em nu schala'cha**  
(Oh-sea-em new-chayla-cha)  
My honourable friends

**Hay'sxw'qa gwns âne 'techul Lkwungen Tung'exw'**  
(Hy-sh-kwa gwns ana techul Lakwunen too-nulth)  
Thank you for coming to Xwsepsum and Lkwungen land, the land of the smoked herring

**Hay'sxw'qa si'em nakwilia**  
(Hy-sh-kwa sea-em na-kwil-ia)  
Thank you my honourable people



Traditional and Treaty Territories of the Lkwungen People

## Sustaining Life

The pristine environment was rich with natural resources such as fish, shellfish, waterfowl, and seal that were hunted and used for food and clothing.

During the annual salmon spawning season, the Lkwungen people traveled further afield to such places as San Juan Island and the Fraser River to find sockeye salmon, a staple of their diet. Locally, Bowker Creek, Goldstream River and the rivers in Sooke were a source of spawning salmon and fresh water for the families.

Archival examples of tools used for harvesting various resources. (Photos courtesy of Songhees Nation)

## Living Culture

Songhees and Esquimalt Nations are a living culture governed by the foundation and legacy left by their ancestors and elders. In keeping with the spirit and resiliency of the original inhabitants of this area, today's generation supports our new future together by promoting mutual respect and understanding between all communities.

For more information, visit the following websites.

- [www.songheesnation.ca](http://www.songheesnation.ca)
- [www.esquimaltnation.ca](http://www.esquimaltnation.ca)
- [www.bcafn.ca](http://www.bcafn.ca)
- [www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca)

(Information sourced from the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations signs on the Craigflower Bridge, the "Keeping Culture Alive – the Chekonein Family" sign in Uplands Park and the 2015 Sno'uyuth pole brochure.)



Inside look on how a Chekonien family may set up their space inside a cedar-plank communal dwelling. (Use of model courtesy of the Aboriginal Nations Education Division)

