

## Secwepemc Calendar

Long ago, the Secwépemc had their own calendar. An annual seasonal round, termed **swuct** (“snow”) consisted of thirteen months or moons (**mégcen**), with the month names derived from the activity people were carrying out at that time of the year or the characteristics of the weather or nature at that time.

The annual seasonal cycle started with the late fall month,

**Pellc7ell7ú7llcwten**, the “**entering month**”, when people first entered their **c7istkten** or winter underground home, and ended with **Pesllwélsten**, the fall-month, when people hunted and trapped game in the mountains.

Here are the names of the thirteen lunar months in the Secwépemc Calendar.

1. **PELLKWEŦMÍN – JANUARY**  
“Remain at Home”
2. **PELLCTSÍPWENTEN – FEBRUARY**  
“With Cache-Pits”
3. **PELLSQÉPTS – MARCH**  
“Spring Wind”
4. **PESLLÉWTEN – APRIL**  
“Snow Melt”
5. **PELL7ELL7É7LLQTEN – MAY**  
“Root Digging Moon”
6. **PELLTSPÉNTSK – JUNE**  
“Mid-Summer”
7. **PELLTQWELQWÉLT – JULY**  
“Everything Ripens”
8. **PELLCTÉXEŁCTEN – AUGUST**  
“Salmon Runs Up Stream”
9. **PESQELQLÉLTEN – SEPTEMBER**  
“Many Salmon Moon”
10. **PESLLWÉLSTEN – OCTOBER**  
“Fall Begins”
11. **PELLC7ELL7Ú7LLCWTEN – NOVEMBER**  
“Entering the Winter Home”
- 12-13. **PELLTETÉQEM – DECEMBER**  
“Fall and Winter Merge”

