



# Annual Report

## 2022-2023



Stó:lō Service Agency, 7201 Vedder Road, Chilliwack, BC V2R 4G5



604-858-3366 • [www.stolonation.bc.ca](http://www.stolonation.bc.ca)

# STÓ:LŌ SERVICE AGENCY

## Vision

A healthier, stronger, brighter future for all communities.

## Mission

We empower, support and contribute to the health and well-being of all people by providing leadership and delivering a broad range of quality services.

## Values

We strive to act in accordance with our seven core values at all times.

<b>Honesty</b>	We communicate internally and externally with clarity, honesty and openness.
<b>Accountability</b>	We accept responsibility for our decisions and actions and answer to our partners in an open and transparent way.
<b>Pride</b>	We feel and demonstrate pride in our actions and accomplishments.
<b>Professionalism</b>	We act professionally as an outward reflection of our internal values.
<b>Integrity</b>	We do our best work, hold ourselves to the highest standards of conduct and act in the interest of our communities and partners.
<b>Empathy</b>	We work to understand and relate to the feelings, experiences and situations of others and are non-judgemental.
<b>Respect</b>	We respect others' ideas, experiences and ways of thinking and treat all people as equals.



A:Imélhawtxw Early Education Centre



Shxwt'am:etsel Aboriginal Supported Child Development



Stó:lō Health Services



Qwi:qwelstóm



Mémiyelhtel and Youth Services



Stó:lō Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training



People of the River Referrals Office



Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre



Stó:lō Dental Clinic

- 160 Employees
- 50 Programs
- Serving Langley to Boston Bar
- Average Clients Served: 5, 000 per year
- Federal Revenue
- Provincial Revenue

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# MESSAGE FROM THE STÓ:LŌ SERVICE AGENCY BOARD



From left to right: SSA Board Chair Sharron Young, SSA Board Vice Chair Rhianna Millman, SSA Board Member Jessie Ramsay, SNCC President David Jimmie, and SSA Board Member Angie Kermer.

The 2022-23 fiscal year is the eleventh year the Stó:lō Nation Chief Council (SNCC) and communities have entrusted the Stó:lō Service Agency (SSA) Board to do work on their behalf.

The SSA Board held regular scheduled meetings to support the Office of the Executive Director (OED) to ensure programs and services are carried out in alignment with the Vision, Mission, and Core Values of the organization. The Board takes pride in the valuable work of supporting and brainstorming new strategies to enhance the service delivery of existing programs and promoting positive change with potential new partnerships. We have seen what hard work and perseverance can accomplish.

SSA Board of Director accomplishments this fiscal year included:

- Providing support to OED and guidance as staff return to the workplace.
- Fostering relationships with member Nations by providing SSA operational updates to the SNCC through regular attendance at meetings.
- Passed resolutions for various proposals from programs/departments.
- Reviewed and approved the 2023-24 SSA Budget, Organizational charts and Workplans for implementation.
- Attended and supported various SSA events.

- Attended staff Christmas gathering to present years of service awards and sent personalized letters to staff we could not connect with in person.
- Continued to implement the 2022-2027 strategic plan and timelines set. This was completed under the guidance of the SSA Board of Directors, Office of the Executive Director, Department Directors, and staff.
- Attended Cultural Safety training workshops.
- Reviewed and provided updates on the SSA Operational Policy Manual.
- Worked in partnership with the SNCC President for the finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding for the SSA Board of Directors.

SSA Board goals for the 2023-24 fiscal year include:

- Providing support and guidance as we continue the on-going project of updating and finalizing SSA policy and procedures for all programs.
- Unifying and streamlining all on-site policies including format, structure, and content.
- Continuing Board and staff training and development.
- Review ways to continue to support the growth in programs and departments in collaboration with the OED.
- Relationship building with service providers to review services currently available off-site and ensure our on-site services meet community members' needs in a culturally safe, trauma informed way.
- Review possible avenues for increasing term contracts into permanent positions within the Mémeyelhtel program, reducing waitlist referrals.
- Approval of on-going capital projects such as the Stó:lō Government House (SGH) renovations; and
- Attending the SSA new staff orientation for introduction of the Board of Director members.

We would like to thank the OED, Directors, Management and staff for their professionalism and dedication. We wish everyone positive health and wellness as we continue to commit to our work in a respectful way as the Board of Directors for the SSA.



**Left picture from left to right: SSA Board members: Vice Chair Rhianna Millman, Chair Sharron Young, and Board Member Jessie Ramsay.**

**Right picture: Executive Director Willy Hall and SSA Board members congratulating Indian Registry Administrator, Leona Sam on her 25+ years of service.**

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Executive Director, Willy Hall.

As our fiscal year draws to a close, it's time to reflect on the array of challenges we have encountered: the impacts from Covid-19 closures to the restart plans, then to the gradual opening of offices and back to in-person meetings. The events that SSA has overcome will forever remind us how resilient our staff are in coming together to support one another and offer guidance to communities in sharing policies and ensuring continuity of services.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Senior Management team and staff for their caring, kindness, and empathy as they supported one another to remain open so that we could continue face-to-face support for clients and families with Covid-19 safety protocols in place. I could not do this work without their dedication and passion in striving to make SSA a H.A.P.P.I.E.R (core values) workplace and challenging ourselves to continue finding ways to provide the best services possible.

This Annual report provides a snapshot of the many various programs and services SSA was able to offer over this past year. As we adapt to the changes and challenges of hybrid meetings, this new normal that we have come to embrace has provided us the ability to remain connected and keep the lines of communication flowing.

While serving as the Executive Director, I am forever thankful for the encouragement and leadership I continue to receive from the SNCC and SSA Board of Directors while serving as the Executive Director, contributing to the development of meaningful connections within the work environment and communities. We continue to see relationships with communities move forward in a good way.

We live in a fast-paced world that is constantly challenging us to adapt and learn new ways contributing to mental fatigue which allows little time to practice self-care and mindfulness. SSA is making every effort to foster a positive work environment that enriches its employees and supports their mental health. My wish for you this year is, while spending time with family and friends, you can slow down, enjoy every moment life has to offer and appreciate the little things, while celebrating the beauty of life.

# FINANCE

- SSA and SASET 2021-22 audits were completed in July 2022 with unqualified (clean) opinions.
- Hired consulting company Strategies North to assist with updating the Finance Policy.
- Hired new Finance Clerk Ashley White-Fougere who started in January of 2023.

## GIFT SHOP

- This year was another year of growth in all areas for the gift shop! We increased our hand-crafted artisans and products available significantly, many of which were hand crafted by local Artists. Added higher end carvings, new silver jewelry, a designer clothing line made in Canada, beading and bath & body line which has been a big hit.
- Added another full-time staff member, Rhonda Bouzovetsky, back to the gift shop in July.
- Expanded our library with more reference materials, children’s cultural stories, Fiction and Art books.
- **Supporting Culture & Awareness:** excited to help support the Stó:lō



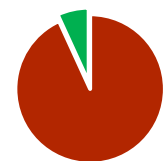
Shxweli Halq’eméylem Language program, through selling ‘Every Child Matters’ t-shirts and teddy bears. It was a very successful campaign donating over \$12,000 to the program.

- We were very honored to have Phyllis Webstad, Executive Director of Orange Shirt.org, come by the shop twice in the past year. She was so gracious to sign her books we had in-store and shop for her gifts she was taking back home. We look forward to seeing her again soon.

- This year we added in some features to assist in the safety of our guests and staff: adding in security cameras was something that needed to happen with the growth of inventory and higher end items. Also, adding in our mechanical door assist was very overdue, now anyone can safely get into our shop at the push of a button.
- This year we were very happy to see the continued growth of our retail sales. Having the ability to shop both online and in-store offered shoppers both locally and abroad the opportunity to buy their favourite items anytime! We have shipped across Canada and the USA this year, many of those purchases were gifts for others. Combined sales for the year topped over \$800,000. We look forward to offering more opportunities to locals Artists and Community partnerships as we continue to grow.



Gift Shop Sales



■ In-store purchases

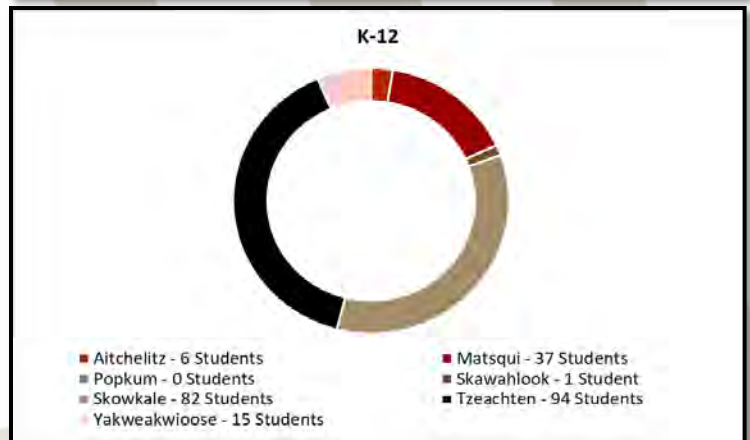
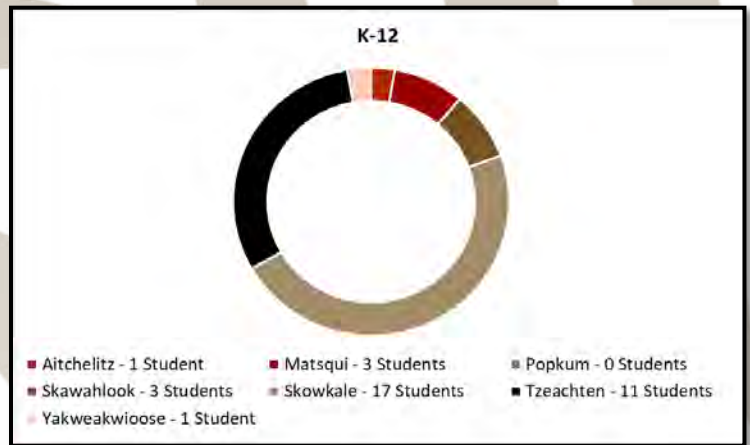
## EDUCATION

### Post-Secondary – 36 Students

- UCEP: 6
- Certificates & Diplomas: 7
- Bachelor Programs: 16
- Master's Programs: 6
- PhD Program: 1

### K – 12 – 235 Students

- Aitchelitz – 6
- Matsqui – 37
- Skawahlook – 1
- Skowkale – 82
- Tzeachten – 94
- Yakweakwoose – 15



## OPERATIONS

- Through SASET funding, hired part-time receptionist /mail delivery clerk, Jeanette Archie.
- Hired Administrative Assistant-Communications, Michelle Van Tongeren in September.
- Organized a staff appreciation day luncheon and treat day for all staff in June and July.
- In collaboration with Health, held a 2-day Ambassador/Reception training session at Harrison Hot Springs hotel in which 13 staff attended.
- Hosted an Orientation session for the SSA departments to provide an overview of what programs and services are provided.



Executive Director, Willy Hall presenting at the Ambassador/Reception training session.



Finance Director, Eric Sather presenting at the SSA Orientation session.



## EVENTS

- **SSA Golf Tournament:** after a 2-year hiatus due to Covid-19, once again hosted the SSA Annual Golf tournament with over 100 participants. Thank you to our sponsors and partners who helped make this years' event a big success. Gold Sponsors included: Bridal Veil Mountain Resort (also donated a raffle prize of a helicopter ride for two), Ts'elxwéyew Tribe Management Ltd, and Miller Titerle & Company. Hole sponsors included: Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Government and Eagle Bay Financial Services.



Chief Mark Point and Skowkale team at the SSA Golf tournament.

- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:** SSA Cultural team, in collaboration with Stó:lō leadership and the Sts'elemeqw Residential School Thrivers Society, organized and assisted with the preparations of the September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which hosted over 250 attendees.



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Coqualeetza.

- **ShakeOutBC:** Many staff and tenants took part in the October 20 ShakeOutBC, both at Coqualeetza property and at the new S.A.Y building on Skowkale.
- **Stó:lō Veterans Remembrance Day:** On Friday November 11, 2022, the SSA Cultural Committee team hosted the in-person Stó:lō Xa:yxeleq Há:kw'eles Swáyel (Stó:lō Veterans Remembrance Day) to honour the Stó:lō servicemen and women who fought for Canada and the Stó:lō people. The event hosted over 350 attendees.



ShakeOutBC



Remembrance Day Ceremony held at Coqualeetza.

- **Christmas Luncheon:** Hosted an all-staff Christmas luncheon where 36 employees were presented with their 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25+ years of service ribbons by the SSA Board of Directors. Over 80 staff packed into the Stó:lō Government House to enjoy a catered turkey lunch.



SSA employee, Breanna Miller (Youth Services Manager) receiving her 10 years of service ribbon.

## HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)

	2022-23 Total
Job Postings	37
Interviews	118
New Hires including Summer Students	55
Summer Students	18
HR consultations with Staff/Supervisor	117
Pension and Benefit Enrollment	30
WCB/Short/Long Term Disability Applications	7
Maternity Leaves	1
Criminal Record Check Applications	72
Community Postings/Consultations	2
Pension & Benefits Education Sessions	10

## INDIAN REGISTRY (IR)

- Indian Registry services over the fiscal year:

	Births	Deaths	Band Transfers	SCIS Applications	CIS Cards	Marriages	MISC
Aitchelitz		1			3		
Cheam	5	6	3		15		2
Kwaw'Kwaw'Apilt	6			1	3		
Matsqui	3			1	11		
Popkum					1		
Shxwhà:y Village	5		4	5	23		2
Shxw'ow'hamel	1			1	6		3
Skawahlook				4	3		
Skowkale	3			3	34		
Soowahlie	2	1	1	5	17		1
Sumas	2	2		8	24		1
Tzeachten	5			13	55	1	2
Yakweawkwoose	3				7		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>

- Collaborated with Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) who came out to Chilliwack Coast Hotel for 4 ½ days in April to assist with the backlog of Certificate of Indian Status cards for any registered status Indian. Over the course of the 4 ½ days, 592 status cards were issued.
- Began succession planning and trained for backup IR administration.
- Attended a 2-day online Certified Integrity Document (CIDO) training provided by ISC as well as a 2-day training course on Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS). Received certificates for both. These 2 courses were required as a prerequisite to taking the Digital Application Process training. These courses have been made available to select IR Administrators in a pilot project to advance the IR process.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

- Setup new virtual private network (VPN) which made it easier for staff to connect remotely and work at home. The VPN system uses multi factor authentication to enhance security.
- Changed the spam/phishing mail filter over to SpamTitan to better protect us from malicious email.
- Assisted Skowkale/S.A.Y in their IT migration to their new Health and Community Centre building.
- Assisted Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Government (SXG) with their technology migration project.
- Completed migration of all email mailboxes from Exchange Server to Microsoft 365.

### PROPERTY AND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

- Upgraded the alarm systems throughout the property.
- Finished the repairs to the Stó:lō Elders Lodge from the Fire suppression system leak in December. The repairs required replacing the flooring in the common area on the east wing, and to keep consistent in the building, all common area floors were upgraded.
- Finalized deconstruction of building 1.



Building 1 demolition.

- Installed new cameras on the Coqualeetza property to provide increased security.
- Added colored theme lights to Building 7. In October, the lights were set to purple in support of Purple Light Nights bringing awareness to the continued fight against domestic violence.
- Participated in First Aid training.



- Upgraded the Vedder Road sign with a larger 2-sided digital display.
- Repaired and paved some areas on the Coqualeetza site: the parking lot in front of the old building 1 site to prepare for the new Modular building that is arriving in December 2022, widening of the Wells Road entrance, the parking lot in front of the Gift Shop, and expanded the outdoor gathering space north of the Longhouse.
- Installed new program signage around the property.



- Completed the work on the new storage portable in the vehicle compound.
- Installed the new Health Meeting Room Portable and completed the decks, power and utility hook ups.



**New Health Portable**

- Finished the upgrade of the sewer lift station at Pekk'xe:yles making our septic system compatible with the District of Mission's sewer system.
- Graded the roads around Pekk'xe:yles.

- Upgraded the camera system at Pekw'xe:yles to increase security measures.
- Rented the North Wing Second Floor to Little Willows Daycare and they now have become our largest tenant at Pekw'xe:yles. They upgraded the second floor to add new colours and a fresh new look.



Little Willows 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor St. Mary's Daycare

- Upgraded the parking lot at Xá:ytem to allow for traffic to park off the highway and walk around the property.
- Added a maintenance routine for repairs and maintenance at the Xá:ytem site: fixed broken skylights on the pit houses, painted the trailers to provide a better first impression for tours coming to the site, repaired south entrance of building that was damaged due to a roof leak.



Xá:ytem site repairs.

## RECORDS MANAGEMENT

- There were 2,708 files created, 18,009 files edited, 1,023 boxes edited, and 108 boxes archived.
- InfoShred was hired for on-site shredding to destroy 193 boxes from the Records Centre that had reached their retention period.



Thanks to staff from SASET, Operations, and Health for their assistance with the yearly destruction day.

# STÓ:LŌ HEALTH SERVICES (SHS)

## ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS/PRIMARY CARE

- The front door of Building 7 was unlocked, and guests could walk-in to access services without a COVID-19 screening and masks were no longer mandatory unless required in a program/service.
- Service Navigator had 630 client calls during the fiscal year: 316 of those are ongoing clients. The most common requests were for Counselling, Mental Health (MH) Services, and connection to other services.
- Partnered with Winchester Victor to provide Somatic Training to support staff and community to identify ways that trauma shows up in our bodies.
- Counselling services available in building 7. Bel Bhushan is a First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) approved Counsellor and Austen Renaud is a Mental Health & Substance Use Clinician.
- Mindful Drumming program with Austen Renaud began in the fall with approximately 10 people per session in attendance.
- Participated in multiple community events: SAY Career Fair at The'í:tsełíya, SASET Career Fair at Tzeachten hall.
- Community Health Central meetings were held May 17 at Tzeachten hall and February 14 at SAY gymnasium with 8 communities represented.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HOME CARE

- Stats for the fiscal year:
  - 60-64 active Footcare clients.
  - 70-78 active Homecare clients.
  - 10-15 active Maternal/Child clients.
  - 7-8 active Elder's Day Program clients
- Community COVID-19/Booster Clinics were held in communities throughout the year at Sumas, Matsqui, Tzeachten, Skowkale, Aitchelitz, Yakweawkwoose, and Shxwhà:y Village.
- Immunizations – between 60-70 clients.
- Baby time program continued every Thursday.
- Staff attended Health and Wellness events in Sumas and Shxwhà:y Village in March, and more being planned in the new fiscal.
- Elders Day Program occurred every Friday.



SSA Staff at Shxwhà:y Village Health Fair.

## DENTAL

- New additions to the team included Sheila Harte, and Dani Selley.
- Monthly Revenue Production varied over the year between \$90,000 and a record high of over \$102,000 in February.
- Free Dental Clinics were held in December and January. Volunteers supported 30 people.



Dental Team Art Workshop

## SHXWT'AM:ETSEL FAMILY SERVICES

*Aboriginal Family Place (AFP), Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD), Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP)*

- Over 200 families were served throughout our programs this year.
- ASCD consultants delivered 35 backpacks which included plenty of supplies to children that were entering kindergarten.
- In April, our manager partnered with the Fraser Valley Child Development program to give a presentation to the Chilliwack school district on how to best serve and transition our children into the school system. The presentation was approximately 25 minutes long and was given to 5 groups of approximately 15 participants in each group. The presentation was very well received and there was lots of good feedback.
- Attended the Open House at the Central Sockeye Family Connections Hub, the health fair at Mission, the walk for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, ASCD– AIDP regional meetings and other networking events.
- Christmas resource packages were delivered to ASCD and AIDP families including lots of activities and treats.
- Christmas Dinner was attended by 8 families at the Aboriginal Family Place.
- Various activities held throughout the year included language circles, field trips to places such as the zoo and waterslides, drumming, and more.



Drumming with the young ones.



Playing around!

## Á:LMÉLHÁWTXW EARLY EDUCATION CENTRE

- On-going connections with BC Aboriginal Childcare Society (BCACCS), Fraser Salish Early Years Community of Practice meetings with FNHA, Community Care of Practice meetings with Chilliwack Child Care Resource and Referral and Chilliwack Early Years meetings.
- Approved through the Government of B.C. for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) and Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement (ECE-WE). This brings lower childcare fees directly to our families who access our programs and supports our ECEs.
  - Family Program drop-in from 1:00pm-3:30pm where we offered a healthy snack and bus transportation. The children and families participated in fun learning activities and enjoyed meaningful conversations. Our monthly in-house family night dinners were well received.



Enjoying the sunset



Taking in the view.

- 4-year-old BBQ graduate celebration was held on Friday June 17 with 9 children graduating.
- End of summer activity for head start family program was a trip to TransCanada Waterslides.
- Approved for the Health and Safety Grant for 2022 from the Government of BC to help with additional costs associated with adhering to the BC Centre for Disease Control and Ministry of Health, due to the pandemic.
- Received funding (minor capital) from BCACCS to repair our roof and get a small new playground for our Butterfly program.
- Our preschool programs opened September 12 for the 2022-23 school year. There were 20 children enrolled: 8 band affiliated children with the rest of the enrollment being children of Aboriginal ancestry, self-identified Aboriginal or Metis.

### **QWÍ:QWELSTÓM (WELLNESS SERVICES)**

- Day Treatment and Respectful Relationships programs continued throughout the year.
- There were 18 clients who received services from the Qwí:qwelstóm Sexual Violence Response team.
- Participated in the March for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) on May 5.
- First Responders training had 3 sessions with 23 participants.
- Qwí:qwelstóm Wellness Coordinator received Third Party Reporting Training and certification to support people harmed by sexual violence through the Third-Party Reporting process.
- Moved into the new The'í:tseíya (S.A.Y) building in July.
- Monthly Elders panels meetings were held.
- Went medicine harvesting for sage and tea leaves.
- Held an Aboriginal Justice Liaison Committee (AJLC) Open House Event in October, where over 70 justice and wellness representatives and community members attended. The AJLC members consist of Provincial and Federal agency members from around the Fraser Valley, in addition to the Qwí:qwelstóm staff and Elders.
- Restoring Our Voices event in Cultus Lake from March 13-16 with 16 participants. Guest speakers were Theo Fleury, Elaine Alec, and Carrielynn Victor.

- Held an Elder's Christmas Soc-Hop at S.A.Y building in December. Over 50 elders attended from multiple communities. Many staff members helped to make the event happen and be successful.



**Representing Domestic Violence Awareness Month with custom shirts.**



**Graduation ceremony from Restoring Our Voices.**



## YOUTH SERVICES

### *Mémiyelhtel*

- Caseload consisted of 30-40 youth with the same amount of youth on our waitlist.
- Representation at the Board of Directors table for the Chilliwack Youth Health Centre (CYHC). Youth Services Manager provided supervision and cultural training to the intern counsellors, once monthly, as guest supervisor.
- Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF) – Chilliwack – Leadership Table. 5-year strategic plan with the Tamarack Institute.



Nothing like Summer canning!

- Ran multiple activities for our youth including rattle making workshop, road clean-up, paintball, medicine bag workshop, trampoline park, canoeing with the RCMP and more.

- Year end Graduation Ceremony – 7 youth graduated this year. We stood all youth up & gifted them with a certificate and a dog tag to show appreciation of all their hard work. We had approximately 150 people in attendance.

- Monthly dinner service at the Cyrus Centre – Youth Homeless Shelter.

- Development of interactive website with Partner & Hawes brand engagement agency (community partnership): [www.memiyelhtel.ca](http://www.memiyelhtel.ca)

- Home Depot selected our program as a charitable partner for the Spring Orange Door Project Campaign. This campaign provided housing and/or supportive services to homeless youth. All donations made come straight to our program.



Cleaning up our Adopt-A-Street.

### *National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS)*

- For Mental Health Awareness month in May, hosted weekly drop-ins' for community members to feel a support was in place should they wish to speak with volunteers about mental health issues and resources. Several service providers also came by to introduce themselves and their services.
- Supported community members through Wednesday Drop-In group with a focus on anxiety, depression, and grief & loss.
- Provided a SafeTALK (Suicide Awareness for Everyone) workshop for the Stó:lō Dental and Community Health/Nurse teams. Twenty staff members earned certificates, with another session being planned to accommodate the remainder staff schedules.
- The ASCIRT continued to attend and support local events to expand the network and be a presence at meaningful events including Land Based Healing gatherings, Xyólheméylh's Setting the Table, Soowahlie and Chilliwack Pride, and Overdose Awareness at Shxwhà:y Village.

## FAMILY EMPOWERMENT TEAM (FET)

- Caseload varied between 20-30 clients for the year.
- Pop-up events were held for the Overdose Prevention Education Network (OPEN) project in April, May, June, and December providing the vulnerable with harm reduction supplies, food, tents, and sleeping bags.
- Traditional Parenting ran a session May 24-26 for Stó:lō Health which included the communities of Skowkale and Sts'ailes.
- Family Day at Cultus Lake Waterslides with 55 participants and their children in attendance.
- OPEN coordinator arranged for foot clinics at Ann Davis Outreach with Stó:lō Community Health in attendance.
- A cooling/harm reduction event was hosted at Salish Park in the Summer. 100 people were provided food, harm reduction supplies and cooling items (i.e., cooling towels, hats, flip flops).
- Held the annual FET Christmas brunch for the participants in the program. Hampers and gifts were provided. Santa was in attendance and a delicious catered brunch was provided.



Waterslides with the families



Summer cooling pop-up event



Christmas brunch

## STÓ:LŌ ELDER'S LODGE (SEL)

- Infection Prevention Control twice daily.
- Quarterly infection prevention audits included hand washing, environmental, and PPE donning & doffing.
- Staff and tenants daily screening once per day.
- All visitors screened (fully vaccinated) prior to entering building.
- New Spa tub installed.
- Income tax support with Diane Kelly-Anderson.
- Began updating Tenants Handbook and SEL Operations Manual.
- Elders Support with Frank Charlie.
- Finalist in A-list Chilliwack for best In-Home Care & Facility.
- Six staff completed all four modules of Positive Behavior Support
- Activities over the year included:
  - Monthly Tenants Meeting
  - SAIL program twice per week - group & individual
  - In-house hairdresser for seven clients
  - Monthly foot care



Saying goodbye to long-time tenant, Clay Charlie.

- Celebrated Chinese New Year, and St. Patrick's Day
- Mammogram clinic: three clients and two staff
- Live music, trivia, bingo, bean bag toss, and badminton
- Team Building: Art therapy & Healing touch (six staff) facilitated by Hospice



Art therapy team building!

## STÓ:LŌ ABORIGINAL SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING (SASET)

### EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES

- All three full-time SASET funded Employment Centres opened to walk-in clients or by appointment.
- SASET on-site services resumed at 14 outreach employment sites: Boston Bar, Cheam, Chawathil, Leq'á:mel, Katzie, Mission Friendship Center, Shxw'ōwhámél, Skwah, Spuzzum, Soowahlie, Squiala, Sumas, Tzeachten, Chilliwack WorkBC and Abbotsford WorkBC one day a week on a regular schedule.
- Co-ordinated the Service Canada Mobile Clinics at Shxw'ōwhámél, Katzie, Tzeachten, Chawathil, Spuzzum, Cheam, SASET Chilliwack Outreach office on SSA grounds, Squiala, Leq'á:mel, Boston Bar, S.A.Y Lands office, Mission Friendship Centre, Xa'xtsa (Tipella/Douglas), Seabird Island Band and Sts'ailes. These clinics offered information and assistance with: Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement, Social Insurance Numbers, Information on T4 slips and personal tax account overview, Information and help with benefits and credits such as the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), GST/HST credit, Canada Workers Benefit, and Disability Tax credit, Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP), and other federal programs and services.
- Attended the Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation Grand Opening Ceremony, Tzeachten Affordable housing Grand Opening, and Chawathil First Nation Telte Yet Grand Opening.
- Hosted a Fraser Health Staffing Clerk hiring and training Information Session with Shannon Hanson, the Fraser Health Indigenous Recruiter.
- Participated in the Black Press Career Fair in Langley, Peardonville House and Kinghaven Construction Career Fair in Abbotsford, Mission Secondary School Career Fair, BC First Nation Forestry Conference, Mission Career Expo and Job Fair, Abbotsford Career and Post-Secondary Career Fair, Abbotsford WorkBC Career Fair, Qwí:qwelstóm Aboriginal Justice Liaison Open House, Shxwhá:y Village Career Fair, Leq'á:mel Health Fair Mission Secondary School Career Fair, Mission Youth Transition Fair, Abbotsford WorkBC Career Fair, Hope WorkBC Career Fair, Chilliwack WorkBC Career Fair, Kw'iyqel Secondary School Career Fair, Seabird Island Band Career Fair, and Little Pebbles Daycare Open House.

- Excited to host the return of the annual SASET Career and Hiring Fair on February 22, 2023, at Tzeachten Hall with 54 exhibitors featuring employers, trainers, unions, community services, and Service Canada Mobile Services. There were 470 people who attended the event. Thank you to Chief Derek Epp for the opening and welcoming to our event and to all the sponsors for the donations and door prizes.



Chief Derek Epp opening the SASET Career Fair.



Lucinda Louie at the SASET table.



SASET Team

- SASET staff completed a two-day Mental Health Strategies workshop for Employments Counselors with Douglas College. The workshop covered selfcare, strategies to support mental health, appropriate referrals and how to handle mental health conversations.
- Employability workshops facilitated by SASET at the SSA Employment Resource Centre:
  - Getting your “L” preparing for securing your Driver’s License: 88 participants.
  - Basic Computer Training every Tuesday and Thursday: 39 participants.
  - True Colors Workshop: 9 participants.
  - Money and Budgeting: 15 participants.
  - Resume and Cover Letter: 10 participants.
  - Dress for Success: 8 participants.
  - Communication for Success in a Workplace: 7 participants.
  - Interview Skills: 15 participants.
  - All SASET staff attended the following: 2022 BC Labour Market Conference on June 2-3, 2022, which focused on identifying job opportunities, and reviewing the BC Labour Market and industry Sectors in the wake of the pandemic and post-pandemic world; Digital Literacy “Train the Trainer Certificate Program” offered in partnership with Stó:lō Community Futures (SCF); Historical Impacts Workshop; and Lateral Kindness Workshop.



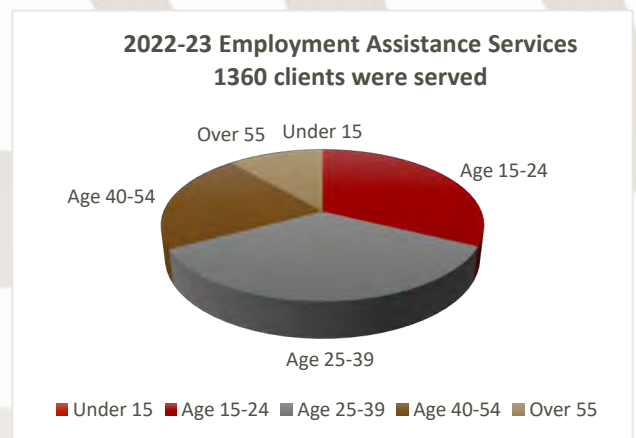
Getting your L workshop hosted at SSA.

***SASET would be happy to facilitate employment skills workshops at any Indigenous community in our catchment area. Please discuss with the employment counselor at your community site to arrange or call Amber Smith at 604-858-3691.***

- Partnered with SSA Health Department for the Christmas Hampers. In total, there were 150 Christmas hampers delivered. From SASET, there were 60 Christmas Hampers delivered to the following members: Skowkale-7, Shxwhà:y Village-9, Tzeachten-29, Yakweakwioose-7, Skawahlook-1, Aitchelitz-1, Chawathil-2, Cheam-2, and other-2.
- SASET Client statistics for the year:
  - Served 1360 clients (with 10,307 interventions) averaging 7.58 appointments per client.
  - There were 691 male and 669 female clients.
  - 4 clients were under 15 years of age; 436 clients between the ages of 15 and 24; 477 between the ages of 25 and 39; 293 between the ages of 40 and 54; and 150 clients over the age of 55.
  - Of the 1360 clients: 878 individuals found employment, and 222 individuals returned to school or further training.



SASET's Sandra Malloway and Nicole Silver putting together the Christmas Hampers.



## VOCATIONAL TRAINING SUPPORTS

- Vocational Training Supports were received by client application. The employment counselor assisted clients with filling out the necessary forms for the training funding supports.
  - 175 individuals received Transition to Work supports: assistance with clothing, work gear, transportation/food allowances to assist the transition to employment.
  - 29 individuals received Short-Term Vocational Supports (2 to 30 days of training).
  - 65 individual received Long-term Vocational Supports.
- In 2022-2023 fiscal year, the employment sectors with the highest vocational request from clients:
  - Transition to Work: General Labour, Construction Worker, Security, Environmental Monitors, Food Service, and Rebar Worker.
  - Short-Term Vocational Supports: Traffic Control, Occupational First Aid Level 3, and Food Safe
  - Long-term Vocational Supports: Addiction Worker, Health Care Assistant, Fire Fighting, Emergency Responder, Forestry Related, Trades Related, and Administration.

Community	VOCATIONAL TRAINING # of Clients April 2022 to March 2023					
	TTW	STT	LTT	In School	at work	Total
Leq'á:mel	4	0	3	3	4	14
Matsqui	2	1	3	4	4	14
Sumas	4	0	3	3	8	18
Shxwhà:y Village	4	0	2	1	4	11
Skowkale	7	0	1	2	8	18
Squiala	5	0	0	0	5	10
Tzeachten	8	3	3	7	13	34
Yakwekwioose	1	0	0	0	1	2
SASET	45	9	20	28	57	159
LSTC	6	0	4	3	7	20
Aldergrove/Langley	0	1	0	1	0	2
Seabird	9	0	5	6	8	28
Sts'ailes	12	1	2	2	13	30
Boston Bar	13	1	1	2	13	30
Spuzzum/Yale	12	1	0	1	12	26
Cheam	10	3	0	3	13	29
Mission/Abbotsford	12	1	8	7	14	42
Katzie / Maple Ridge	10	2	5	6	13	36
Chawathil/Shxw'ow'hamel/Hope	10	6	4	7	15	42
Kwantlen	1	0	1	1	1	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>569</b>

Transition to Work (TTW); Short-term Training (STT); Long-term Training (LTT)

### SASET SPONSORED TRAINING PROGRAMS

- Training Certifications classes offered throughout the catchment area include SASET facilitated workshops that cover: Employer/Employee Expectations, resume/cover letter, interview skills, and job search workshops:
  - **Landscaping Training April 19-29, 2022:** 7 individuals attended and completed receiving their certification in: Scaffold & Ladder Safety, Preventing Heat Stress, Occupational First Aid, Respiratory Safety, Confined Space, Fall Protection, WHMIS, Skid Steer, and basic landscaping skills.
  - **Landscaping Training April 19-29, 2022:** second program was held in Sts'ailes where 8 individuals attended and completed the program.
  - **Wildfire Training April 25-May 6, 2022:** 6 individuals completed the 2-week training program that included First Aid, Transportation Endorsement, WHMIS, Power Saw Operations, S-100 Fire Suppression, S-232 Pumps & Water Deliver, S-185 Fire Entrapment & Avoidance, S-212 Radio Communications, S-230 Crew Leader, ICS100 Incident Command, and SPP-115 Structure Protection and Site Preparation.



Landscaping Training participants at SSA.

- **Traffic Control Training May 16-17, 2022:** 10 applicants completed the 2-day training here at SSA grounds.
- **Warehouse Training June 6-17, 2022:** 12 individuals completed the training, receiving their certifications in Foodsafe, WHMIS, WCB Awareness, First Aid, Fall Protection, Scaffold & Ladder Safety, Confined Space, Respiratory Protection, Forklift, Aerial Boom Lift, Scissor Lift, and Skid Steer.
- **Occupational First Aid Level 3 training June 6-17, 2022:** 10 participants attended, and 8 participants completed the two-week program.
- **Warehouse Training June 20-30, 2022:** due to popular demand a second program was held with 12 individuals attended and completed the program.
- **Youth in Trades Program July 11-August 12, 2022:** Provided 12 Indigenous Youth the opportunity to explore the trades and apprenticeship Sector. The participants gained hands-on experience in the Construction, Automotive, Welding and Culinary Arts trades. Participants learned the foundations around basic safety techniques in each trade and how to apply them in the workplace. They also received employment workshops on team building, professional communication, employer/employee expectations, First Aid Certification, Food Safe Certification, Worker Compensation Board Young and New Worker Awareness Certification program, Power Pallet Jack Certification and Back Awareness Certification.



Linda Edwards taking the Traffic Control training.



Congratulations to Aaliya P, Blake G, Oakley F, Kameron P, Gracie P, Justin K, Kiara F, Ziyah D, Marcus F, Jordan S, and Malachi J for completing the program. All the best in your future endeavors!!

- **Occupational First Aid Level 3 July 25-August 12, 2022:** 7 participants completed the 2-week training at Cheam First Nation.
- **Food Safe training August 22, 2022:** 8 participants completed the 1-day training here at SSA.
- **First Aid Level 1 training August 23, 2022:** 6 participants completed the 1-day training here at SSA.
- **First Aid Level 1 and Food Safe Training August 30-September 1, 2022:** 10 participants completed the 2-day training at Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation.
- **Traffic control Training September 8-9, 2022:** 10 participants completed the 2-day training here at SSA grounds.
- **Warehouse Training September 19-29, 2022:** 10 individuals completed the training, receiving their certifications in Foodsafe, WHMIS, WCB Awareness, First Aid, Fall Protection, Power Pallet Jack, Respiratory Protection, Forklift, Aerial Boom Lift, Scissor Lift, and Skid Steer.

- **Emergency First Aid training October 13, 2022:** 8 participants completed the 2-day training here at SSA and 5 individuals successfully completed the 1-day training at Cheam First Nation.
- **Employment Preparation Certification Program October 17-28, 2022:** 10 individuals completed the 2-week training program included First Aid, WHMIS, Fall Protection, Food safe, Traffic Control, and Forklift.
- **Employment Preparation Certification Program October 31-November 10, 2022 at Spuzzum First Nation:** 10 participants completed the 2-week training program included First Aid, Transportation Endorsement, WHMIS, Confined Space, Foodsafe, Traffic Control, and Mini Excavator and Skid Steer.
- **Food Safe training November 3, 2022 at Cheam First Nation:** 9 individuals successfully completed the 1-day training.
- **Traffic control Training November 3-4, 2022:** 9 participants completed the 2-day training here at SSA grounds.
- **Employment Preparation Certification Program November 14-25, 2022 at Seabird Island Band:** 14 participants completed the 2-week training program included First Aid, WHMIS, Fall Protection, Food safe, Customer Service, WCB Awareness, First Aid, Fall Protection, Power Pallet Jack, Respiratory Protection, Forklift, Aerial Boom Lift, Scissor Lift, and Skid Steer.
- **Food Safe training November 29, 2022 at Sts'ailes First Nation:** 12 individuals successfully completed the 1-day training.
- **First Aid Training December 15, 2022:** 19 individuals successfully completed the 1-day training at Tzeachten First Nation.
- **Foodsafe Training January 5, 2023:** 14 individuals successfully completed the 1-day training at Sts'ailes First Nation.
- **Snow Removal Training January 9-20, 2023:** 15 participants completed the 2-week training program which included WHMIS, WCB Awareness, First Aid, Fall Protection, Skid Steer, Bobcat Operations, proper salting and brining techniques, and proper snow removal skills here at SSA.
- **Culinary Arts Pre-Trades Program at UFV January 9-March 17, 2023:** 9 individuals completed the 12-week training at the UFV.
- **Forestry /Construction Certification Program January 16-27, 2023:** 13 participants completed the 2-week training program that included First Aid, WHMIS, Confined Space, Ground Disturbance Level 1 and level 2, Chainsaw Safety training, Mini Excavator and Skid Steer here at SSA grounds.
- **Health Care Assistant Program at Sprott Shaw College (Abbotsford and Chilliwack Locations) January 23-August 18, 2023:** 11 participants started the program, and all are doing very well in the program.
- **Heavy Equipment Operators Training in Maple Ridge:** 7 participants completed the 12-week training program. The machinery covered in the program was the Hydraulic Excavator Operator Course, and Loader Backhoe Course.



Snow removal group at SSA.



Squiala member Brayden J



Boston Bar member Adrian A



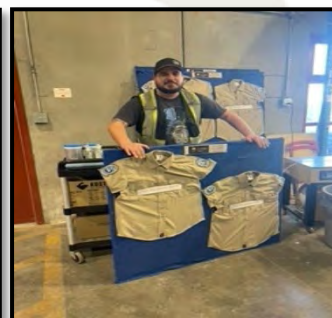
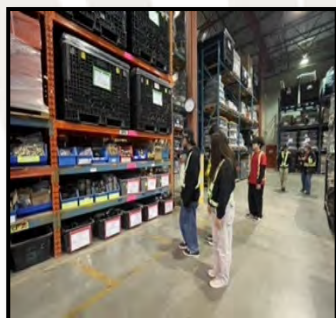
- **Warehouse Training January 16-27, 2023:** 12 individuals completed the training, receiving their certifications in Foodsafe, WHMIS, WCB Awareness, First Aid, Fall Protection, Scaffold & Ladder Safely, Confined Space, Respiratory Protection, Forklift, Aerial Boom Lift, Scissor Lift, and Skid Steer at Katzie First Nation.
- **Reaching Independence Through Employment (RITE) January 16-February 3, 2023:** 7 individuals completed the 4-week employment readiness workshops that included True Colors, Value and Beliefs, Communication Skills, Boundaries, Self-Esteem, Learning Styles, and Accountability in a Workplace.
- **Basic Security Training February 6-13, 2023:** 7 participants completed the program. For the participants that completed the program at Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation, SASET sponsored the cost of each participant's criminal records check, and the purchase of the Basic Security Licensing for the individual to commence employment.
- **Traffic control Training February 9-10, 2023:** 9 participants completed the 2-day training here at SSA grounds.
- **Employment Preparation Certification Program February 27-March 10, 2023:** 11 participants completed the 2-week training program that included First Aid, WHMIS, Fall Protection, Food safe, Conflict Resolution, First Aid, Fall Protection, Superhost, Respiratory Protection, and Forklift.
- **Self-Care 4-day Workshop February and March 2023 at Chilliwack (2 Groups at SSA) , Tzeachten, and Sts'ailes:**
- **Employment Preparation Certificate Program March 7-10, 2023:** 19 individuals completed the 4-day training program that included Psychological First Aid, Occupational First Aid Level 1 and Foodsafe at Seabird Island Band.
- **Building Service Worker Certification at UFV March 7- April 5, 2023:** 9 individuals started the program, and all are doing very well in the program.
- **Student Spring Break Program March 20-31, 2023 at Chilliwack ( 2 Groups-SAY Lands was moved to SSA grounds), and Sts'ailes:** 34 students completed the program. The programs included Resume and Cover letter workshop, Interview Skills, local business presentations of employment opportunities, Superhost, Customer Service, Heat Stress, Back talk awareness, and Young Worker WCB.



Kwantlen member Tristan D enjoying the RITE Program.



Skowkale member Jermaine D in Employment Prep.



Student Spring break program visiting local business. Thank you to the Home Depot, Cedar Contracting, Kosmetae, Wibly Wobble Childcare Centre, Innu shuck, Westbow Contracting, and Ministry of Forest for tours and presentations on employment opportunities.

## SASET Success Stories

**Crystal C** completed the **Chemical Addictions Certificate Program** through Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) in the spring of 2021. She was working as the A:yeleyxw Case Manager/Supervisor at Seabird Island while taking the Certificate training. Crystal wanted to further her education and decided to build on her certificate by pursuing the NVIT Indigenous Holistic Wellness in Addiction Diploma program from September 2021 to April 2022. The decision to pursue higher training coincided with new developments in her employment. In October of 2021, Crystal started her new job as the Cultural Trauma Counsellor at Shxw'eyelhtexw, the Trauma Treatment Centre at Seabird. Crystal was referred to SASET by her Band. She initiated the vocational training application and was able to secure funding for tuition, books, and fees. The next challenge was to balance working full-time and taking the training - fortunately she had a strong support network in her family and her workplace which helped her to accomplish her educational goal. The training provided her all the necessary "tools to carry in her backpack for the rest of her life." The Diploma training opened more avenues in her career – including facilitation and incorporating what she learned in her training into her workplace. Crystal's PowerPoint presentations on impacts of historical and intergenerational trauma form the foundation of Cultural Sensitivity and Trauma training. She has been asked to assist other communities in starting programs as well as to share her knowledge and presentations in prison facilities.



In reflecting on her career path, Crystal says: *"As addictions and wellness has been a struggle for many and having a better understanding with no judgement, I would definitely promote this program. It helped me be a better helper in the field, and it helped me understand the trauma my ancestors went through from colonization."* In May of this year Crystal received a letter from NVIT congratulating her on earning "a place on the Dean's List for excellent academic performance during the previous semester."

**Kristina K – Sprott Shaw Addictions Worker Diploma Program** - Kristina wanted a career that would give her a sense of purpose and meaning, in addition to providing for her children. She was made aware of SASET's employment services and started her career search by making an appointment with an Employment Counsellor. After a year of hard work and schooling, Kristina successfully completed the Addictions Worker Diploma Program. Since then, she attended a Fraser Health Information Session and met with a Fraser Health Indigenous Recruiter.



Here is what Kristina K shared about her training experience: *"One of the toughest challenges I faced was the fact that the course was accelerated or condensed. It meant a lot more reading over a shorter period of time. I overcame this challenge by making school my number one priority. Workers are taught to be non-judgmental and empathetic to those they are helping. Respecting an individual's autonomy was my favorite part of the training. I have learned that there are numerous options for employment after completing this training. Addictions Worker Training can be used for crossover into many different fields in community services. I recommend this training for anyone interested in understanding and helping humanity. I got the job I wanted right after graduation. Thank you SASET for offering the training and supports through my program. You have given hope to me and my daughters in ways I cannot fully express. Brings tears to my eyes. I finally have real hope for our future together. Words cannot express my gratitude."*

**Daniel B - Heavy Duty Mechanical Foundations at UFV -**



*“I recently found out about SASET before I applied into my training as my cousins have gone through them before. It wasn’t until a few weeks before I applied when I found out about SASET, and it was a quick process for the training. I am currently still enrolled in my training at UFV, and I love every bit of it. The program I am enrolled in is Heavy Duty Mechanical Foundations. This program is filled with lots of knowledge and experience for individuals that like hands-on work. My reason for picking this program was that my family were all inclined to the trades and in particular heavy-duty mechanic was the trade that caught my eye. I enjoy every aspect of the training; I’ve learnt a lot within the 7 months I have been in training, and it is only getting better. Training is great but can be stressful. My challenge coming into training was being anxious for exam days as its always the biggest day knowing if you*

*retain everything you’ve been taught. I have overcome this by being well organised and changed my habits studying. I would study for a few hours take a break then come back to studying again and asked myself questions to see if I am retaining what I’m studying. This technique has helped me a lot and I can say my marks are doing just fine. Another factor that comes with training is the endless job opportunities you have once training is completed. You will open a portal to many great jobs that give you a successful career path and be financially stable once you have obtained that said job. This can be with any trade not just heavy mechanical in specific for example plumbing, carpentry, electrician, etc... I would totally recommend anyone hesitant about training to take that leap as it will definitely be a life changer.*

*As my training comes to an end there will be many employment options to choose from. My end goal for this career is to maybe one day own my own service truck and be able to work my own hours fixing equipment on my own time. For this specific goal it will take many years of learning and gaining the work experience to know how to properly work on equipment have enough income to get it started. Overall, my whole experience has been great, and I couldn’t ask for more. To conclude I couldn’t have done this without the help of SASET, and I couldn’t have asked for a better sponsor; their support and communication helped make me succeed in my journey. Best part is they prioritize us students in training with the most upfront respect. If you’re hesitant or not knowing where to start defiantly reach out to SASET and they’ll make your dreams become actions.”*

**Julia C - Forest and Natural Areas Management Diploma Program at BCIT with partnership with BC First Nation Forestry Council -**

*“I chose to go into forestry because of my connection to the outdoors. Growing up I spent ample time in the forests of B.C exploring and learning how interconnected all forms of life are. Going into this industry, I hope to be able to contribute to protecting and managing our forests so future generations can learn from our natural worlds as I did. Being anywhere in the woods of B.C, I feel I’m at home and take any chance I get to go into the field. My first year in BCIT’s Forest and Natural Areas Management Diploma program has made me incredibly happy and excited to start my career. Having such hands-on experience and a large support system in the teachers, the staff at SASET, and the First Nations Forestry Council I have a good base to continue into my last year of this program. BCIT’s schedule has kept me busy learning and trying new things everyday and connects me with many resources to start my career. “*



## COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

- In the 2022-23 fiscal year SASET delivered funding for:
  - **Student Employment Program (SEP):** a total of 36 contracts were funded for community student hiring. In total 136 youth experienced employment through the SEP this year.
  - **Targeted Wage Subsidy Program (TWS):** 41 programs were funded in our catchment area which provided employment for 87 individuals whose last barrier to employment may be work related experience.



S.A.Y Lands office Summer Students.



Katie FN summer students.



Jennette A, TWS Admin  
Assistant at SSA

## DAYCARE AGREEMENTS

- SASET continued to administer three daycare agreements: SSA, Seabird Island and Sts'ailes, where “grandfathered” funding provided seat allocated supports.
- Budget 2021 announced 264 million dollars over 4 years, starting 2022-2023, and \$24 million ongoing, to repair and renovate existing federally funded IELCC centres. SASET worked with the three childcare centres through the application process and submitted to Service Canada. The funding available this year is for Indigenous Skills Employment Training (ISET) agreement holders (SASET) who provide FNICCI funding to daycares. SASET administers this funding to the centres listed above. SASET is happy to report that all three centres received funding for much needed improvements to their centres.
- On August 22, SASET welcomed Service Canada Director of Indigenous Program Delivery, Charan Bullar and Manager of Indigenous Program Delivery, Mahtab Hussain to visit some of the community projects.



Service Canada visit to the Á:lméłháwtx Early learning Centre, SASET Outreach Employment Office, Sts'ailes Early Learning Centre, Sts'ailes Employment Centre and meeting the participants working on all SASET projects.

## SASET CULINARY ARTS FOUNDATION PROGRAM

- 25 individuals completed the 12-week training at UFV. The program included Food Safe, First Aid level 1, WHMIS, WCB Awareness, Occupational Skills, cooking and preparing stocks, soups and sauces, vegetables and fruits, starches, meats, poultry, seafood, Garde-mange, eggs, breakfast cookery and dairy, baked good, desserts and beverages and basic kitchen management.
- Of the 25 students, 4 wanted to continue with the Professional Cooks Level 1 Program at UFV.
- In 2022-23 there was an 80% employment rate after completing the Culinary Arts Foundation Program.



Culinary Arts Foundation Program at UFV.

## INCOME ASSISTANCE (IA)

- Eligible Income Assistance (IA) clients continued to receive an additional \$100 monthly food allowance for the 2022-23 fiscal year.
- ISC provided a one-time Hardship Inflation Relief Benefit to eligible IA clients. Eligible clients received an additional \$300 per month over a 6-month period from October 2022 to March 2023.
- Hosted Employability/Life Skills Workshops:
  - **Lead within Workshop October 17, 2022 at SSA:** topics covered were goal setting, building confidence, job search strategies, and how to market oneself. In attendance were IA Clients from the following communities: Tzeachten (2), Skowkale (2), and Shxwhà:y Village (1).
  - **Resume Review and Interview Etiquette Workshop October 28, 2022:** at SSA with IA clients from Tzeachten (2), Skowkale (2), and Shxwhà:y Village (1).
  - **Customer Service Training Workshop November 22-24, 2022:** at SSA with IA clients from Tzeachten (1), Skowkale (1), Yakweakwioose (1) and Shxwhà:y Village (1).
  - **Self-care Workshop in February and March at SSA Chilliwack (2 groups) and Tzeachten:** topics covered understanding of self-care, identifying support networks, resources available, and how to manage your mental health. IA clients from the following communities: Tzeachten (6), Skowkale (3), Yakweakwioose (2) and Shxwhà:y Village (2).
  - **Customer Service Basics March 7, 2023:** on SSA ground with IA clients from Tzeachten (3), Skowkale (2), Yakweakwioose (1) and Shxwhà:y Village (2).
  - **Basic Nutrition and Special Diet March 15, 2023:** on SSA ground with IA clients from Tzeachten (3), Skowkale (2), Yakweakwioose (1) and Shxwhà:y Village (2).
- 8 exited IA due to finding employment or other reasons (moving, no contact, did not renew application). SASET Employment Counselors worked with “employable” IA clients to put in place a workplan to employment.

- Average clients from April 2022 to March 2023:

Band	Employable	PWD	PPMB	Average Monthly Total: 70
Aitchelitz	1	0	0	1
Matsqui	3	2	2	7
Skawahlook	0	1	0	1
Skowkale	5	2	2	9
Shxwhà:y	3	9	0	12
Tzeachten	17	10	5	32
Yakweakwoose	4	3	1	8

- Employable – no barriers to attain employment, these individuals work with SASET employment counselors
- PWD- Persons with Disability
- PPMD- Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers

## STÓ:LŌ RESEARCH AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CENTRE (SRRMC)

### CULTURAL HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP AND ARCHAEOLOGY

- Worked on 46 heritage overview and impact assessments, mitigations, cultural monitoring projects, and traditional use studies and continued to ‘occupy the field’ of heritage resource management within the framework of the Stó:lō Heritage Policy, in the service of the Stó:lō community.
- Activities included:
  - Archaeological/cultural monitoring and investigations by Stó:lō archaeological assistants
  - Unmarked Graves Investigations
  - Drone flights
  - Remote Sensing and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Seminars
  - First Aid training
  - Multiple training courses for Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP)
  - Enbridge Pipeline orientation
  - Leadership and Supervisory workshops through Douglas College
  - Hiring of 3 co-op students, two of which continue to work with as full-time employees
  - Repository cataloging, accessioning, and uploading to Reciprocal Research Network (online visual database of belongings in the SRRMC Repository, donation, and loans.



Lougheed Highway AIA



Lithics recovered from Bench Road Shovel Test

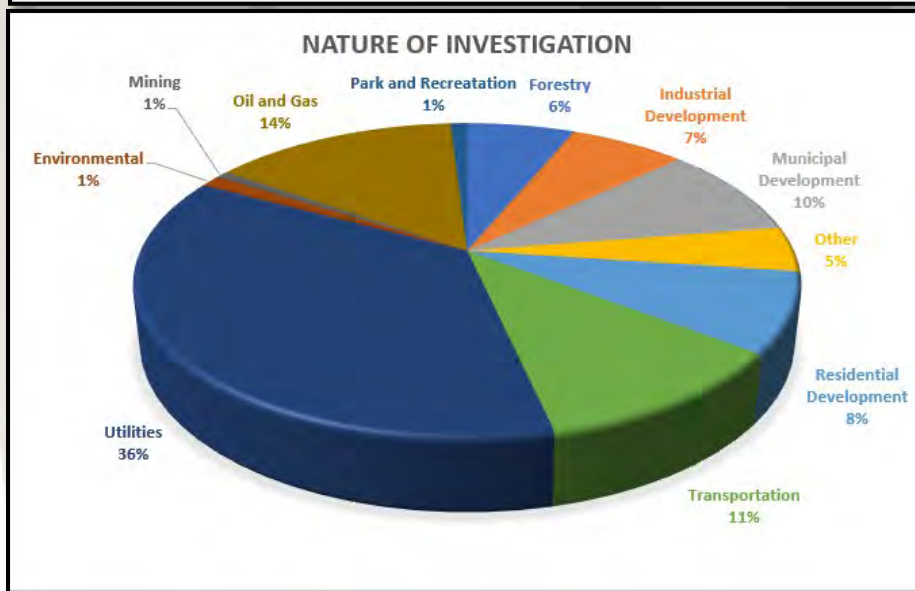
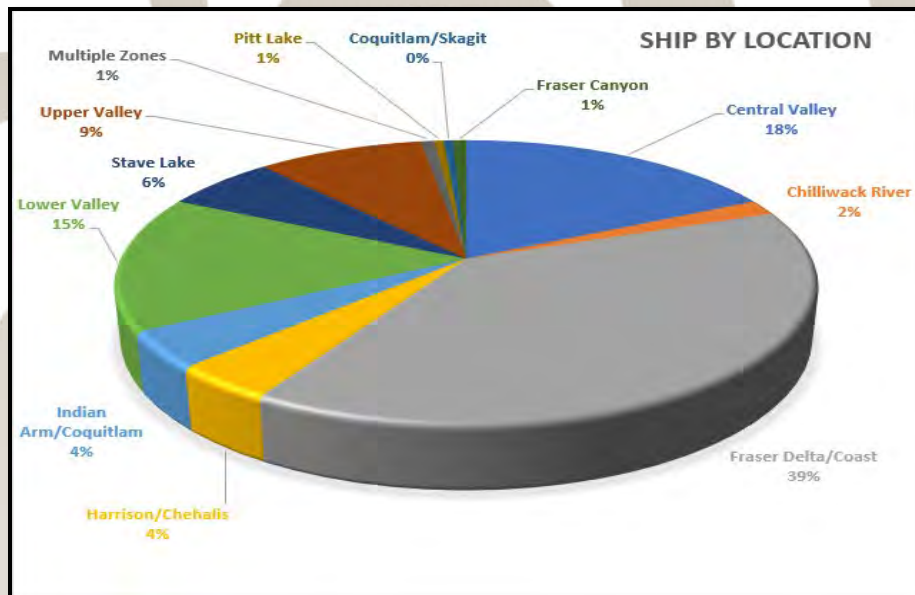


Hydro Pole Survey



Machine excavation at Worth Road

- From April 2022 to March 2023, the Unit reviewed and assessed 364 Stó:lō Heritage Investigation Permits (SHIP-18 more than the previous fiscal year).
- Below are two graphs that summarize the permits by Nature of Investigation, and by Location.



**S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE (STSA) SUPPORT SERVICES**

*People of the River Referrals Office (PRRO)*

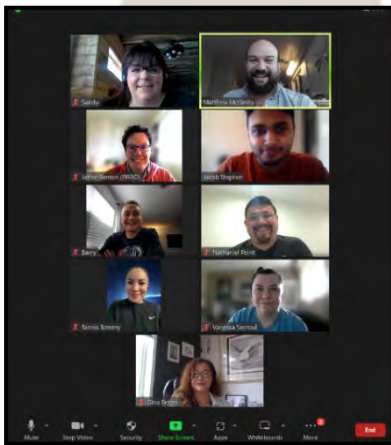
Measure	STSA SEA Referrals	Federal Referrals	Other Referrals (Industry, Regional, Civic, etc)
Referrals Received	568	121	89
Final Response Timelines Met	84%	n/a	n/a

### *S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA)*

- STSA-BC Annual Executive Government to Government meeting between STSA leadership and The Crown as represented by the Honourable Minister Murray Rankin, Minister George Heyman, and Minister Bruce Ralston held April 20, 2022.
- Seabird Island First Nation and Shxw'ówhámél First Nation joined STSA, increasing membership to seventeen Stó:lō First Nations, the largest assembly in the STSA's decade and history.
- PRRO Federal Referral Officer Jamie Benton hired in August 2022. Began to regain traction in implementing the STSA-Canada Consultation and Engagement Protocol (STSA CCEP). The agreement negotiations were finalized in late 2019, but implementation was stalled by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Held 43 meetings with various federal departments. Reactions have been positive, providing background and clear direction on next steps for Federal Agencies to initiate STSA CCEP negotiations.
- Presented STSA CCEP and PRRO process overview to the Pacific Federal Aboriginal Consultation Network and Community of Practice sessions. This increased STSA CCEP visibility and brought many new Federal staff and managers into the conversation.
- Met with Vancouver Port Authority (VPA) representatives Mar 15, 2023, to discuss their onboarding with the STSA CCEP. Positive agreement to advance negotiations with monthly meetings established.
- Parks Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Infrastructure Canada, Environment & Climate Change Canada and the Canada Energy Regulator are all in various stages of advancing relationships with STSA.
- Awaiting confirmation of the 2023-24 ISC Capacity Funding for STSA CCEP Implementation including the top up for Seabird and Shxw'ówhámél First Nations.
- The Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) sec. 4 Pilot Agreement between STSA and BC was implemented into PRRO and StoloConnect processes.
- PRRO and the BC Ministry of Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation (MIRR) engaged in the negotiation of STSA SEA Amendment to update our agreement prior to the conclusion of the current 2019-24 term. Major topics included:
  - Updating STSA Stó:lō Signatory Communities to include Seabird Island First Nation and Shxw'ówhámél First Nation.
  - Add BC Hydro to the agreement via an appendix; the first Crown Corporation to join the STSA SEA. In this way, BC Hydro will follow the STSA SEA process but not as a full Party to the agreement.
  - Add BC Environmental Assessment Office (BCEAO) to STSA SEA as a new Provincial Agency.
  - Revisit STSA SEA funding mechanisms and amounts in light of increased communities, agencies, and subsequent workloads.
  - Exploration of an 'evergreen clause' to extend the terms of our agreement.
  - Incorporation of DRIPA/UNDRIP language and mandates.
  - Updating language throughout agreement.
- PRRO's top priority in 2022-23 was to recover from staffing losses over the Covid-19 pandemic; for some months we were operating at 50% Referral Officer capacity. As of 2022-23 Q4, PRRO completely recovered its staff, and moreover, has added two new positions: a fifth Referral Officer and an Assistant Communications Officer.



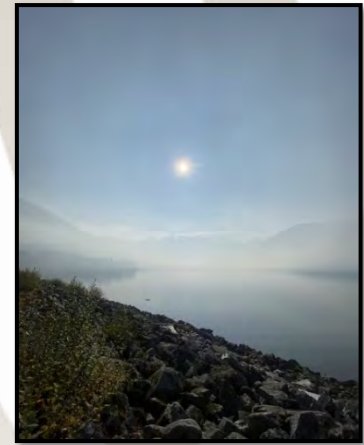
- Grizzly Bear Recovery efforts continued. A new working group was formed to discuss public outreach and communications regarding grizzly bear recovery in the Skagit and Manning Park areas.
- 2022-23 STSA Direct Community Capacity Survey was conducted in March to solicit feedback and needs from STSA communities for direct capacity funding from BC.
- In 2022-23 Q4 both FortisBC and Enbridge announced their intentions to expand their existing pipelines through S'ólh Téméxw. PRRO began implementing lessons learnt through our experiences with Trans Mountain to set a clear course for the necessary inclusion of Stó:lō perspective, decision making, and assertion of rights from the very beginning of these projects.
- Stó:lō Guardians 'Monitoring' features were further developed/integrated into StoloConnect system.
- StoloConnect training sessions were ongoing for new community staff, SRRMC staff, leadership, proponents, and other interested/relevant parties.



PRRO team at weekly staff meeting.



PRRO staff tour the BC Hydro facilities at Wahleach Lake, Oct. 19, 2022



Forest fire smoke on the water at Wahleach Lake, Oct. 19, 2022

## LAND STEWARDSHIP

- **STSA-BC Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF) Management:** completed its fifth year of operations. It now includes 41 projects and continues to have \$1M in base annual funding. The Land Stewardship Unit successfully provided overall management of the STSA-BC CSF, including program coordination, budgeting, and reporting.
- STSA-BC Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF): Provided lead, coordinator, and team member support for projects related to air quality, forest health and wellbeing research, climate change, the stewardship of old growth habitat and the deferral of logging in these areas, park stewardship planning for Sxótsaqel / Chilliwack Lake Park, forestry planning, analysis of mining activities within S'ólh Téméxw, and the repatriation of Stó:lō ancestral remains, and the establishment of a SRRMC SharePoint site.



House of Respect Caretaking Committee visits the Museum of Anthropology.

- Carried out field work for the CSF Forest Systems and Wellbeing Project, including soil sampling, water sampling, and vegetation surveys.
- The House of Respect Caretaking Committee visited the Museum of Anthropology as part of the CSF Repatriation Project.
- Successfully applied for and received a \$50,000 First Peoples' Cultural Council Repatriation Grant to support the ongoing repatriation work.
- Organized Seabird Island Band group visit to the SRRMC to learn about the Grave House.
- Provided CSF introduction and overview to Seabird Island Band staff, new SRRMC staff, and new BC staff.
- Presented at the STSA-BC Annual Executive Government-to-Government Meeting on the work of the STSA-BC Collaborative Stewardship Forum and the STSA's S'ólh Téméxw Guardians Program.



Jillian Spies (SRRMC Land Stewardship) taking slope readings at a 50+ year old forest site.



Mariano Mapili (UFV) and Aiden Haagen Sen (UFV) doing vegetation surveys and soil sampling at a young forest site.



Jillian Spies collecting water samples from Depot Creek as part of the CSF Forest Systems and Wellbeing Project.



S'ólh Téméxw Guardians, Danya Douglas and Dion Weisbrod, fish sampling with Mike Pearson as part of a Cheam restoration initiative.



### *S'ólh Téméxw Guardians*

- Hired Keegan Paterson as the new Guardians Supervisor.
- The application for federal funding was successful and we were awarded \$250,000 to support day-to-day operations of the S'ólh Téméxw Guardians Program.
- Presented to the STSA-BC Annual Executive Government-to-Government Meeting on work of the Guardians.

- Completed the Environmental Restoration Planning Project funded by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation that provided resourcing support for the Guardians and produced an initial prioritization of environmental hot spots requiring restoration within S'ólh Téméxw as identified by STSA member First Nations and Tribes.
- Completed the Emergency Response Planning Project funded by the Indigenous Monitoring and Advisory Committee that provided training to the Guardians, emergency response resourcing support for Sq'éwlets, Sqwá, and Yale First Nations, and produced an initial emergency response communications plan.
- Continued monitoring on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project with particular focus on inspections of Stó:lō cultural heritage sites to ensure mitigations measures are being followed.
- Joined Mike Pearson and Resilient Waters to help with a Cheam restoration initiative that explored options for restoring fish passage to a small tributary of the Fraser off Rosedale Ferry Road that was blocked several years ago. The area was historically important fish habitat. They did some freshwater fish sampling with a seine net, set some minnow traps and went out in canoes. They learned how to ID juvenile fish, and all improved their ID skills. They also conducted some fish sampling on Hope Slough as part of an ongoing ecosystem assessment.
- Joined species at risk biologist, Kym Welstead with the Coastal Painted Turtle Project as part of the SRRMC Research and Special Project Unit's ECCC Species at Risk Project. Western Painted Turtles are a federally listed species at risk and Kym is part of a long-term initiative focused on enhancing western painted turtle populations in areas that have seen severe declines throughout the Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley area. The S'ólh Téméxw Guardians participated in releasing 20 juvenile western painted turtles at Browne Creek Wetlands in Chilliwack
- Joined the STSA for Trans Mountain Expansion Project visit in Hope to better understand the risk the pipeline poses to Stó:lō cultural heritage sites and the mitigation measures needed.
- Worked together with the BC Natural Resource Officers to inspect an illegal campsite impacting community members cultural practice in the Chilliwack River Valley.
- Met with Seabird Island Band to discuss building in-community Guardian capacity, curriculum training, and safety protocols. Started trial of the Guardians curriculum with staff and guardians from Seabird Island Band.
- Met with SAY Lands to discuss building in-community Guardian capacity.
- Received the final report on The Case for Enhancing S'ólh Téméxw Guardians Enforcement Authority Under Canadian Law produced as part of a research project with the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre.



Dion Weisbrod and Danya Douglas, participating in the release of juvenile western painted turtles.

- **Climate Change:** Continued work on the Chilliwack River Watershed Climate Change Assessment Project with Soowahlie First Nation and Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe. Started archival research on the documented community members' experience of extreme weather events and the changing climate.
- Participated on the BC Indigenous Climate Adaptation Working Group, an advisory committee for the provincial Climate Action Secretariat.
- **STSA-BC Species at Risk Collaboration:** Continued work on the Conservation of Species, Ecosystems & Indigenous Values in S'ólh Téméxw Project. Carried out Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping field work at Cultus Lake with the S'ólh Téméxw Guardians.
- **Forestry:** Attended the BC Old Growth Consultation Forum as well as the Association of BC Forestry Professionals annual conference.

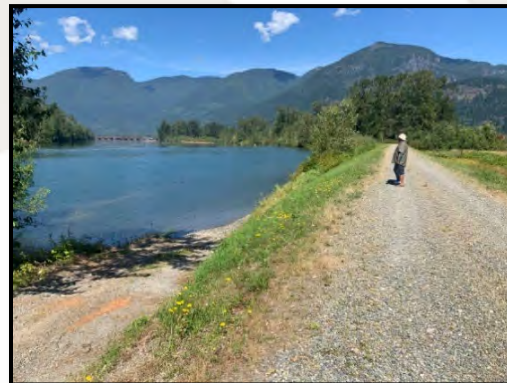


Jillian Spies and Laurie Benton (Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe) looking for trees to core at high elevation as part of the Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe's Terrestrial Studies Initiative Project.

- **Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe's Terrestrial Studies Initiative Project:** Participated in field work to collect tree core data at high elevations.
- **Bridal Mountain Ski Resort Integrated Cultural Assessment:** Provided coordination and research support for the project.
- **Sq'éwlets Traditional Use and Occupancy Study:** Toured Sq'éwlets traditional lands with project team.
- Finalized the **Cascade Skyline Gondola Traditional Use and Occupancy Study.**



Jillian Spies, Program Coordinator, obtained her designation as a Registered Professional Forester!



James Leon guiding the Sq'éwlets Traditional Use and Occupancy Study Project team on a tour of Sq'éwlets traditional lands.

## RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

- The Research and Special Projects (RSP) Unit grew over the past year adding new staff members:
  - Jessica Lukawiecki – Research Supervisor
  - Sasha Tuttle – Senior Researcher
  - Thomas Kervin – Research Coordinator
- **Species at Risk and culturally significant species research:** prepared to launch a wolverine monitoring program within S’ólh Téméxw designed in collaboration with carnivore specialist Jocelyn Akins. The scope is to deploy up to 10 wildlife camera monitoring stations to learn more about wolverine populations, their breeding patterns, and areas that could be designated for conservation to protect wolverine in collaboration with Stó:lō communities, starting in June 2023. Conducted a literature review on wolverine and archival research to learn about wolverine-related places that are important to Stó:lō.
- A scoping report and activity plan was developed to identify Great Blue Heron rookeries and monitoring activities. Conducted a literature review on Great Blue Heron and are developing an archival report on the cultural significance of the species to Stó:lō peoples. In collaboration with UFV professor Carin Bondar to develop a research program around Great Blue Heron.
- A preliminary report on Coastal Giant Salamander was developed, and initial fieldwork to support the development of an eDNA (environmental DNA) primer for the species was conducted. This primer is currently being developed by the University of Victoria, and will be ready for fieldwork this fall. We will utilize the primer and field surveys to identify presence of Coastal Giant Salamander in S’ólh Téméxw, and to better understand the impacts of drought and climate change on this culturally significant species. We are currently conducting a literature review on Coastal Giant Salamander to support this work.
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** reviewed and revised the methodology, launching a new, three-fold methodology: (1) habitat monitoring in source waters using macro invertebrate analysis, (2) continuous monitoring equipment relocated, (3) source water samples sent to lab analysis at strategic time and place. Established and developed a collaborative relationship with Living Lakes Canada (LLC), a non-governmental organization that helps support monitoring, restoration, and policy development initiatives related to water quality. The LLC supported and subsidized training for water quality team members in the CABIN/STREAM technique, resulting in three Research and Special Projects members and three Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance members being trained and certified in CABIN/STREAM. The LLC is also providing support for rolling out the CABIN/STREAM component of habitat monitoring and is developing a water quality monitoring plan with Sqwá First Nation including training and certification of community members.



Coastal Giant Salamander sampling.

- CABIN/STREAM data collection and analysis began in Summer/Fall of 2022. The CABIN Database study was established, and the initial CABIN results uploaded. Initial analysis is being conducted by Raegan Mallinson, Living Lakes Canada and we are awaiting results from STREAM samples.



CABIN/STREAM training.

- Site selection for continuous water monitoring was reviewed by the team. New equipment will be located at selected sites with collaboration from local communities.
- **Xá:y Syí:ts'emílep (Gill Bar Restoration and Management Plan):** An extensive project plan and funding application was developed in collaboration with Sqwá First Nation, Xwchíyò:m First Nation, Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance, the City of Chilliwack, Salmon Watershed Watch, and BCIT. We applied to the BC Salmon Restoration Initiative Fund scheme, with a \$1.5 million budget. The application has successfully passed all technical stages of review and is awaiting Ministerial approval.
- **Other research project updates:** Conducted a review of climate change adaptation strategies and plans being implement locally and by Indigenous communities across the country. The review contains a potential pathway for Stó:lō/STSA communities to develop adaptation programs.
- Processed the results from a plant inventory and designed a soil sampling approach for Sumas Prairie, which will be launched in Spring 2023.

#### Major Projects

- 7 major projects, which included environmental assessments and impact assessments. Funding was secured for all projects, from a combination of proponents capacity support and funding from provincial and federal agencies.
- **Roberts Bank Terminal 2:** This Federal impact assessment project is in the final stages with Federal conditions reviewed and a final decision pending.
- **Delta Port Berth 4:** Assessment is in the development phase. Reviewed the proponents studies, which are incorporated in their application. Secured approximately \$420,000 in funding for Stó:lō engagement in the review process.
- **Skagit Valley Seattle City Light hydropower relicensing:** Began conducting a study of “traditional cultural properties” or places that are affected by Seattle City Light’s operations. This study will inform Seattle City Light’s application and a relicensing decision made by regulators in the USA.

- **Tilbury Fortis gas expansion:** this provincial environmental assessment project is in the application development phase. Began working with Fortis to co-draft chapters of their application with the aim of incorporating Stó:lō values, interests, and guiding principles.
- **Fraser River Tunnel Project:** This provincial environmental assessment project is in the application development stage. The Ministry of Transportation Infrastructure (MOTI) is engaging with the STSA on the development of the application.
- **BC Hydro Wahleach Lake Dam water use plan operations review (WUPOR):** Engagement in the WUPOR process, and collaborating with Seabird Island Band to ensure that BC Hydro operations are updated to support thriving fish populations in Wahleach Creek and the Fraser River.
- Supported STSA participation in the **First Nations Water Caucus**. The Caucus continued to meet with the province at BC Water Table – a tier 2 space for steering policy directions on freshwater water governance.

## **LANGUAGE, ARCHIVES, CULTURAL EDUCATION AND TOURS (LACET)**

### *Stó:lō Shxweli Halq'eméylem Language Program*

- Received funding from First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) through five separate grant programs. These funding opportunities supported the program to offer language support, through technology, in-person community events, archival language preservation, and Halq'eméylem revitalization.
- FPCC's Language Technology Grant supported the relaunch of the Stó:lō Shxweli website, stoloshxweli.org, in June 2022, with a wide range of Halq'eméylem stories, songs, lessons and resources. Each month the website has reached 800-1000 views, at least 30 clicks/navigations per day, and user have been accessing our sound files daily. Additionally, we continued providing words and audio files to FPCC's "First Voices" website. The Language Technology grant also supported the digitization and preservation of Halq'eméylem sound files, and helped us digitally, file, organize, and archive our digital resources.
- With funding from FPCC's Pathways to Language Revitalization program, Stó:lō Shxweli facilitated a workshop twice a month called S'íwes ye Syewálelh Sq'ep. The group of twelve dedicated Halq'eméylem teachers practice immersive language learning, and teaching methodologies for enhanced fluency. This year, three language champions were invited to facilitate specialized topics.
- As UFV's Halq'eméylem program out-grew the Language Classroom in the Stó:lō Resource Centre, we were able to make better use of the Language Classroom, including inviting the public to come visit with the team through quarterly themed Open Houses (June, September, December, March). The first event brought in 20 attendees, but through word of mouth, our Facebook group and the Stó:lō Bulletin, we had quadrupled that number to 80, who came to share in the love of Halq'eméylem, play games, learn about our resources, and socialize. The Open Houses have been a great way to reach out to the community, with lots of attendance by youth, adults, and elders. We aim to create a welcoming environment for all and encourage language learning, along with sharing learning tools. We also were able to hold two Halq'eméylem language retreats this year.

- Winter 2022, delivered the first Braided Knowledge Series, with funding from FPCC; these events were designed to intertwine language and culture through song, slahal, weaving, and art. There were 12 events with a total of 125 participants.
- Continued work on a draft Stó:lō Shxweli Halq'eméylem Language Program plan, a continuation of the work started last fiscal. Funding for this work came from FPCC's Language Revitalization Planning Program. The draft plan is based on input from Halq'eméylem teachers and learners.



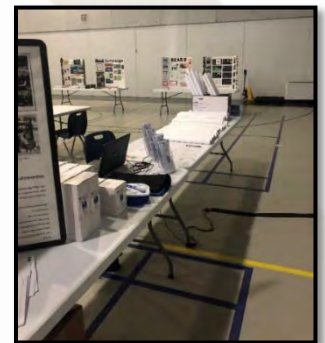
Summer 2022 Braided Knowledge Session with Good Medicine Songs.



Stó:lō Shxweli Team Members and Halq'eméylem mentors, Immersion Retreat 2023

### *Genealogy*

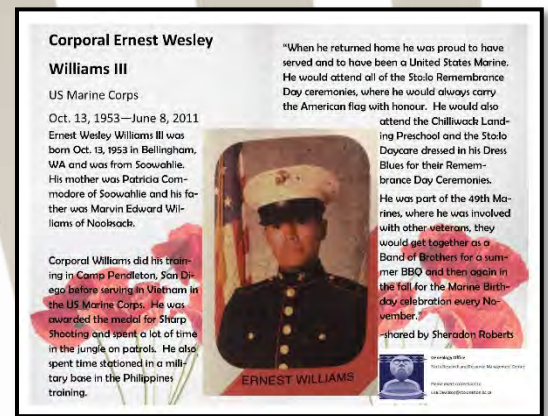
- Two part-time Genealogy staff were hired under the Listen, Hear Our Voices funding, allowing for genealogy research to take place five days a week: Guyweeyo Mason, Genealogy Research Assistant and Jacqueline Silver-Ned, Genealogy Student.
- Stó:lō Family Tree Database had 53,331 names and 16,073 marriages recorded. This year we hit the 53,000 mark for names entered.
- Completed numerous research requests from communities and community members. Assisted students with school projects about their family history and provided research and charts to Xyólheméylh Child and Family Services to help connect children to their extended families. Research was also completed to try and help former foster care children reconnect with their birth families.
- Covid put a pause on community visits for a few years, but Genealogy staff managed a few visits this year to share family history and to update family trees. Staff participated in family tree events at Seabird Island and SAY Lands.
- **Stó:lō Veterans Research:** Provided a connection between community members and the Last Post Fund (LPF). The LPF provided funding for Veterans' families to assist with placing grave markers for their loved ones who served. Research continued for: Stó:lō Veterans' and Stó:lō Warriors' names to be added to the memorial site; service information details; newspaper articles; family information; and other information staff could find to add to the ongoing project.



Open House at Seabird Island - August 2022.



- In the month of November, the Stó:lō Genealogy Office posted special Stó:lō Veteran biographies using photos and family history shared by their families, on the Stó:lō Genealogy Facebook page. Other newspaper articles and information was also shared during November.
- **Listen, Hear Our Voices:** Successful in obtaining funding through the Library and Archives Canada for a special digitization project. Hired two part-time staff and purchased a large format printer/scanner to digitize archival handwritten charts and preserve them for future generations. The work included the digitization of family history records in the Genealogy Office filing cabinets. Records were scanned, renamed, and filed in their digitization folder. Any xwélmexw names, placenames, or other names were then researched to ensure they are in the Stó:lō Family Tree Database or other applicable databases. To date, 62 large charts have been scanned, 372 documents have been scanned, 1548 xwélmexw names and name variations have been researched or recorded, and 717 other names have been researched or recorded.



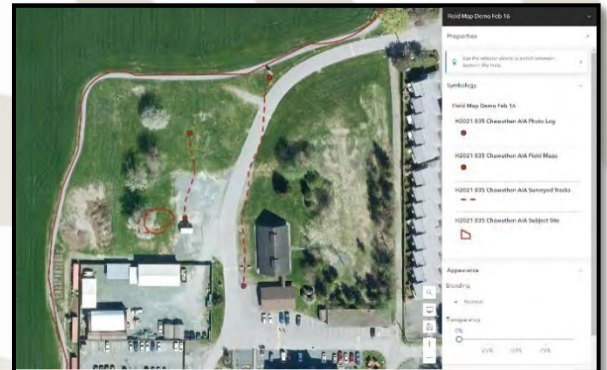
**Corporal Ernest Wesley Williams III  
Biography as shared by Sheradon Roberts.**

#### *Xyólhmet ye Syéwiqwélh [XYS] (Taking Care of Our Children)*

- Continued to support the Xyólhmet ye Syéwiqwélh [XYS] (Taking Care of Our Children) Project. This work included family connections research for loved ones who passed away at Coqualeetza, St. Mary's II, St. Mary's III, Coqualeetza Hospital, or All Hallows in the West (Yale). Research was internal using publicly available information and using BC Archives documents (death certificates, baptisms, marriages, births), public Federal documents (RG-10 Residential School records, Census Records), burial information (death certificates, FindAGrave, Ancestry), and newspaper articles. This information is being kept in special XYS specific folders. Family trees are created for each loved one as the research is completed.
- Began researching specific final resting place locations to support GIS mapping project surrounding mapping of the cemeteries and final resting places of all loved ones who passed at the schools and hospitals within S'ólh Téméxw.
- Names from the NCTR school lists continued to be entered into the database as well as specific research requests were completed as requested from the XYS Research Team.
- Received 933 requests for family history, up from 533 last fiscal year. These came in the form of emails, phone calls, and Facebook messages.
- During these requests new information was received and entered into the Stó:lō Family Tree Database. There were 1,691 names added and 678 marriages entered this year. The total number of data entries edited was approximately 818. A lot of this information was thanks to the digitization work through the Listen, Hear Our Voices project.

## GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND GEOMATICS

- Ongoing through the year, spatial data was digitized and uploaded to the PRRO web portal, StoloConnect. This kept the referrals up to date with any changes spatially or in contact information as well as published out all the referrals to the appropriate communities.
- Stó:lō Heritage Database: Cultural sites work took place within the Stó:lō Heritage Database (SHeD). Maintenance on sites included reworking current sites, editing sites, harmonizing sites, creating layer files for the archaeology department, adding information from past projects, and creating new sites as needed.
- Assisted in the planning of LiDAR collection for several areas, including field and office support. Following a training session, more support will be provided in the processing and analyzing of LiDAR and Photo data.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent out covering the digitizing of a 1996-97 TUS project that has only partially been added. The Firelight Group was the successful applicant, and operations are underway to add this valuable data to the SHeD. The Firelight Group completed the first phase of this work, and the remainder will be split with the GIS unit, as we now have internal capacity to take on some of this work. A Sharepoint site was set up for data control and sharing on this project.
- Provided ongoing mapping support to the Archaeology department of the SRRMC. This included assisting individual archaeologists with GIS related questions/issues. Repairing templates and creating maps/figures. As all archaeology staff are using ArcGIS software, this is a small but growing work item.
- Led a plan to incorporate the ArcGIS Field Mapping App into the Archaeology field operations. Worked closely with Archaeology staff on a pilot project to demonstrate the application, and show how it can simplify the collection of field data.
- Community Mapping: Maps were provided in consultation with Chawathil First Nation for ongoing projects near IR#4 and Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation for wildfire impact information.
- Began working with Sqwel'ets to support ongoing TUS project, working with Urban Systems (consultant).
- Completed several sessions of live mapping for Seabird Island Band as part of their Traditional Family Holdings project. Digitized the historic maps found during the data compilation phase of the project, and researched and provided historic air photos from the National Airphoto Archive in Ottawa.
- Began onsite GIS training for the Tzeachten Lands person.
- Received spatial information for TMEP Permits which was uploaded to the Major Projects Module after comparing it to the permit documentation to ensure it matched. This is an ongoing task, of high importance due to the impactful nature of the Project. There was a backlog of permits being entered into the TMEP online Module caused by some internal staffing changes.
- BC Species at Risk Gap Analysis (COVIST Project): Worked with the SRRMC Project Team and the BC Government team to identify areas of overlap between species at risk data and cultural sites data.

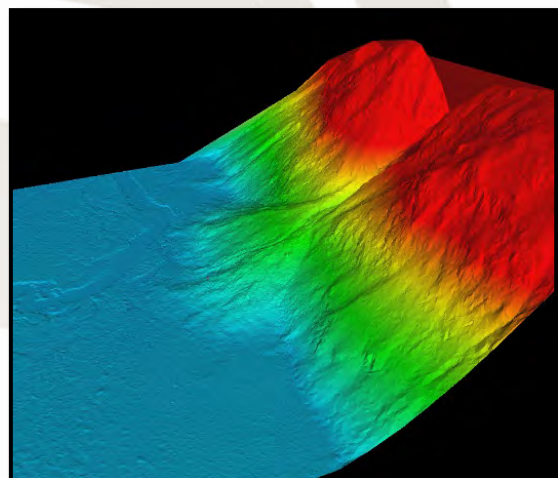


Proof of Concept of Field Mapping App.

- Bridal Veil Mountain Resort TUS for TTML: Held first meeting for TTML TUS study for Chipmunk watershed/Mid Chilliwack Valley (Ski area proposal). Base GIS project started with data layer compilation, and work planning with TTML and Urban Systems. Provided data entry template for Urban Systems to ensure all data collected is in a format for entry to StoloConnect. Note that this is a separate project from the past Gondola study, however the footprints and impacts are going to be very similar.
- Air and Water Quality monitoring project: Imported and provided support of water quality data to the cloud (Hydro-Vu). Oversaw the data collection web pages for both air and water instruments. Several site maps were produced for applications to get the 2 other AQ towers up and running.
- Mineral Tenure Analysis project: Project team meetings were held for Mineral Tenure Inventory and Analysis. Work on the new data Dashboard tool was delayed, due to staffing shortages, but will be an ongoing part of the project. First draft was presented to team for discussion. Following revisions and bringing new Senior GIS Technician into the project, a second draft was presented to the team.
- Jones/Wahleach watershed pilot study: Continued project meetings, data compilation and preliminary maps production. BC opened their LiDAR data sets to the public, and we started working to familiarize with the data portal. Culturally significant plant inventory data collected as part of this project was digitized and made available through the Stolo Connect portal.
- Forest Systems Wellbeing project: Compiled existing LiDAR data for study area and started a Sharepoint for project data, working on allowing access to collaborators outside of SSA.
- Xyólhmet Ye Syéwiqwélh (XYS) Project: Sourced and ordered historic air photos from National Archives. Historical maps were digitized to create feature classes depicting the buildings at the St. Mary's residential school sites. Maps were created to assist in the interviews and for general information. Testing of new data storage unit for YYS/LiDAR data with IT and set up Sharepoint for 5TWG associated with the Provincial gathering on Residential Schools and Indian Hospitals.



Estimated Building Sites Compared With 1928 Air Photo.



Forest Wellbeing Project - Lidar Scan Near Main Area



## Stó:lō Service Agency Society

7201 Vedder Road  
Chilliwack, BC V2R 4G5  
(604) 858-3366

**Stó:lō Nation Chiefs Council (SNCC)**  
Chief David Jimmie, President



### **ATHELETS (AITCHELITZ - 558)**

Chief Angie Bailey  
Councillor Gordon George  
Councillor Leona Sam

Administrator: Chief Angie Bailey

PO Box 2130  
Chilliwack, BC V2R 1A5



### **PÓPKW'EM (POPKUM - 585)**

Chief James Murphy  
Councillor Cynthia Murphy

Band Manager: Brandon Murphy

54951 Julseth Rd.  
Popkum, BC V0X 1X0



### **SQ'EWQÉYL (SKOWKALE - 571)**

Chief Mark Point  
Councillor Darcy Paul  
Councillor Teressa Galis  
Councillor Tiffany Silver  
Councillor Willy Hall

Executive Director: Stacy McNeil

7256 Chilliwack River Rd.  
Chilliwack, BC V2R 4L9



### **CH'YÁQTEL (TZEACHTEN - 575)**

Chief Derek Epp  
Councillor Sandra Bonner-Pederson  
Councillor Tony Malloway  
Councillor Loren Muth  
Councillor Melvin Williams Jr.

General Manager: James Atebe

45855 Promontory Rd.  
Chilliwack, BC V2R 0H3



### **SEMÁ:TH (SUMAS - 578)**

Chief Dalton Silver  
Councillor Chris Silver  
Councillor Clint Tuttle  
Councillor Troy Ganzeveld

General Manager: Brian Jones  
Administrator: Patricia Ned

2788 Sumas Mtn Rd.  
Abbotsford, BC V3G 2J2



### **SXWOYEHÁ:LÁ (SQUIALA - 574)**

Chief David Jimmie  
Councillor Alvin Jimmie Jr.

Administrator: Lauren Wilde

45005 Squiala Rd.  
Chilliwack, BC V2P 7Z9



### **LEQ'Á:MEL (LEQ'Á:MEL - 579)**

Chief Alice Thompson  
Councillor Barb Leggat  
Councillor Camielle Laslo  
Councillor Darrel McKamey  
Councillor Dawn Styran  
Councillor Phil Sherwood  
Councillor Sandy McDonald

Receptionist: Marjorie Sonnenberg

43101 Leq'á:mel Way  
Deroche, BC V0M 1G0



### **SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE (SKWAY - 570)**

Chief Robert Gladstone  
Councillor Sandra Corpuz  
Councillor Tyrell Kenworthy  
Councillor Michelle Roberts  
Councillor Bonnie Russell

Receptionist: Shawna Williams

44680 Schweyey Rd.  
Chilliwack, BC V2R 5M5



### **YEQWYEQWI:WS (YAKWEAKWIOOSE - 576)**

Chief Terry Horne  
Hereditary Chief Elaine Malloway  
Youth Councillor Jazmine Horne  
Councillor Nicole LaRock  
Executive Assistant Tyriesha LaRock

7256 Chilliwack River Rd.  
Chilliwack, BC V2R 4L9



### **MÁTHXWI (MATSQUI - 565)**

Chief Alice McKay  
Councillor Brenda Morgan  
Councillor Ryan Bird

Family Reps – Cynthia Collins, Haley Julian, Gary Talbot, Garry Silver, Stan Morgan

Administrator: Chief Alice McKay

5720 Julian Drive, PO Box 10  
Matsqui, BC V4X 3R2



### **SQ'EWÁ:LXW (SKAWAHLLOOK - 582)**

Chief Maureen Chapman  
Councillor Debra Schneider  
Councillor Jenn Carman

Managing Director: Sharron Young

Office Manager: Michael Suedfeld

58611A Lougheed Hwy  
Agassiz, BC V0M 1A2

### **STÓ:LŌ SERVICE AGENCY BOARD**

Sharron Young	Chairperson
Rhianna Millman	Vice Chairperson
Angie Kermer	Board Member
Jessie Ramsay	Board Member

### **STÓ:LŌ SERVICE AGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Willy Hall	Executive Director
Kelly Willmets	Executive Assistant/SSA Board Support
Sharlene Charlton	Operations Director
Brianna Nakagawa	Finance Supervisor
Eric Sather	Finance Director
Kelowa Edel	Health Services Director
Lauralee Campbell	Health Services Co-Director
Sue Griffin	Health Services Co-Director
Carol Raspberry	SASET Manager
Dave Schaepe	SRRMC Director
Tracey Joe	SRRMC Managing Supervisor



# Annual Report

## 2022-2023



Stó:lō Service Agency  
7201 Vedder Road  
Chilliwack, BC  
V2R 4G5

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