



# Stó:lō Service Agency Performance Report

April - August 2023

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (OED)

- Hosted the Stó:lō Service Agency (SSA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June with the preparation of the Annual Report and completion of the 2022-23 Audit. A big thank you to all the staff for meeting the early Annual Report and Audit due date.
- Began preparing for the Xá:ytem AGM for 21 communities – required for continuing the charitable status. Meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2023.
- Continued working on the Additions to Reserve status and the Right of way finalization.
- Collected endorsement emails for the SSA workplan and Annual report from member bands as per the Tribal Council funding yearly requirements. OED will be setting up a meeting with Indigenous Services Canada regarding the current reporting requirements and will discuss alignment to SSA's deadlines.
- Continued to provide administrative support to the SSA Board of Directors, Stó:lō Nation Chiefs Council and the Senior Management team.
- Hosting Stó:lō Collective meetings for updating communities on the Additions to Reserve process and Stó:lō shared land.
- Attended and provided support to various SSA hosted events such as the SSA Golf tournament, Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce Battle of the Businesses Softball tournament and the Chilliwack Ford charity golf tournament which supported our youth program.



SSA Team at the Battle of the Businesses Annual Softball tournament.



June 28, 2023 AGM held in the Building 10 boardroom.

## FINANCE

### GIFT SHOP

- Added a few new features in the shop to help both customers and staff, the first being an update to the point-of-sale. The new additions to the system made payments totally integrated within the sales process for more seamless check out for the customer both online and in store. Another big new feature was the store gift shop Gift Cards which included:
  - Reloadable cards
  - Cards could be used both in store and online, for our out of town shoppers.



- Excited to have a bicycle rack and new bright red trash can installed outside the gift shop.

- Welcomed some new talented artists to our shop;

- Stan Greene - Woven Cedar Hats
- Jenn Carman - Beading
- Heidi Henderson - Designer clothing
- Jamie Davis - Jada Creations Jewelry



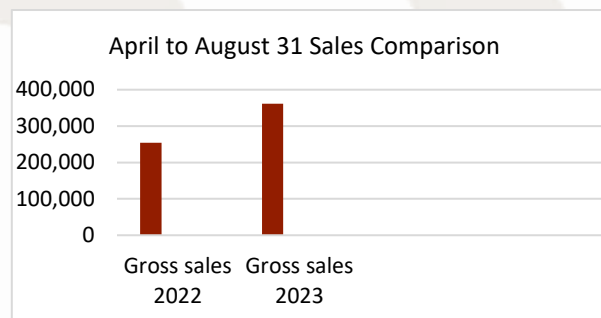
- **Giving the gift of comfort** - BC Cancer reached out to us for lap blankets for their Indigenous patients to bring them comfort during their treatments. They had a tight budget but wanted to supply some bright and artistic blankets. We felt honoured to assist and donated what they needed. It was amazing how much it meant to them.



- It was a summer of heat waves and booming tourist visits to the gift shop. Shoppers were excited to share the beauty of the culture with their home communities including Germany, New Zealand, Japan, Italy and Spain. Students from the area also flooded in to take gifts to their host families across the seas, with the main gift purchased being the smoke salmon we carry from Rivers Select – a local Indigenous fisheries that practices cultural methods of fishing and is a sustainable fishery.



- April to August 2022 to 2023 Sales Comparison:



## OPERATIONS

### HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)

	April	May	June	July	August	TOTAL
<b>Job Postings</b>	11	2	10	3	3	29
<b>Interviews</b>	8	8	8	7	11	42
<b>New Hires</b>	7	7	6	8	2	30
<b>Staff Retirement/Resignation/Release</b>	1	1	5	1	3	11
<b>WCB/EI Disability Applications</b>		1	3	1	1	6
<b>HR consultations with Staff/Supervisor</b>	12	7	12	9	13	53
<b>Pension and Benefit Enrollment</b>	6		25	6	5	42
<b>Criminal Record Check Applications</b>	15	9	3	5	3	35

- Submitted and approved by Service Canada for the one-year EI subplan to replace Short-term disability. All staff were notified of the change which went into effect April 1, 2023
- Pension and Benefits Education session in May facilitated by Eagle Bay Financial. First one held in person since Covid.
- Held an Operations team BBQ to kick off the summer.



- Organized a staff appreciation day luncheon for all staff in July.



Staff appreciation luncheon with some fun outdoor games.

- Hosted the Annual SSA Golf Tournament with 29 teams that came out to try their hand at a fun-filled day. It's always great to see the community's come together and raise money for our SSA Christmas Hamper fund. This year, we were able to raise \$2,725. Thank you to our sponsors and partners who helped make this year's event a big success.

Gold Sponsors included:

- Bridal Veil Mountain Resort (also donated a raffle prize of a weekend for two at the Spirit Ridge Lake Resort in Osoyoos)
- Baker Newby LLP
- Miller Titerle & Company, and
- Manning Elliot LLP.

Hole sponsors included:

- Eagle Bay Financial Services
- Next Level Financial
- Hub International Insurance, and
- Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre.



Tzeachten Chief, Derek Epp, welcoming golf participants.



The many teams that came out to enjoy the beautiful sunshine and a round of golf.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

- Begin rollout and testing of Windows 11.
- Wiring upgrades and installation in Buildings 1A, 2B, 2D and planning for Building 8B.
- Testing of new password management system.
- Planning for storage migration to Sharepoint/Teams.

## INDIAN REGISTRY

- Continued succession planning and training for backup Indian Registry administration.
- Indian Registry services over the months of April to August:

	Births	Deaths	Band Transfers	SCIS Applications	CIS Cards	FTR
Aitchelitz	2	1		2	2	3
Cheam		1	1	2	9	
Kwaw'Kwaw'Apilt					1	
Matsqui	2			1	10	
Shxwhà:y Village					9	1
Shxw'ow'hamel				4	17	
Skawahlook				2	2	
Skowkale				1	2	
Soowahlie			2	7	14	
Sumas	2			1	18	
Tzeachten		2		2	6	
Yakweakwoose	1		1			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>4</b>

## PROPERTY & CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

- Fixed the road drainage which was producing a very large amount of water in front of building 10.
- Upgraded the aging HVAC units in Building 8.
- Painted parking lines in front of new Health Portable 1A.



- Repaired the woven cedar skirt on the Welcome Figure in front of building 10.
- Cleaned up various gardens at Pkw'xe:yles and Stó:lō Elder's Lodge (SEL).



## RECORDS MANAGEMENT

	Apr-Aug Stats
Files created	751
Files edited	1959
Boxes created	31
Boxes edited	91

- InfoShred was on-site to destroy a grand total of 165 boxes in mid-July. Updates were then completed to reflect the changes in the Omni database.
- Access to Citrix and Indian Registry System (IRS) was acquired for registry updates as back-up for Indian Registry. Certificate of Indian status (CIS) card appointments were completed, and all were entered into the IRS database system immediately.

## HEALTH SERVICES (HS)

### ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS/PRIMARY CARE

- Created a weekly Wellness Wednesday event to connect staff and have them focus on their health and wellness. Activities to-date included sharing a meal, lawn games, walking groups, crafting, and somatic training.
- Hired 2 Licenced Practical Nurses (LPN's) to be float positions between SEL and Community Health and Home Care.
- New health portable completed in June which provided three new meeting spaces available for Health programming.
- Renovations in building 7 were completed to convert the first-floor kitchen into two new offices for Acupuncture, Registered Massage Therapy (RMT) and Physio.
- Nurse Practitioner (NP) with Fraser Health Authority (FHA)- Lianne Bjonerud who also works at Sumas First Nation began seeing clients on Monday and Tuesday at SSA Primary Care Centre out of building 7.



Staff attend Wellness Wednesday 'Anything but a Cup'.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HOMECARE

- 81 Homecare clients received services such as wound care, chronic disease health checks, exercises, housekeeping, friendly visits, meal prep, bathing, and medication review.
- Elders Day Program: 17 ongoing clients.
- Maternity/Child Program: 13 clients as people started to feel more comfortable opening their houses for home visits.

- Immunizations: 97 clients.
- Footcare provided to 59 clients every 4-6 weeks in homes as well as at the Stó:lō Health building.
- On-going client connections and referrals for mental health/grief/ substance use support to Austen Renaud, Bel Bhushan, and other FHA and First Nation Health Authority (FNHA) counselors.
- Dietitian, Mana Bayanzadeh: 40 clients on-going.
- Babytime has been occurring every Thursday in building 7, supporting 10 families. Outings included a Baby Welcoming Ceremony in Seabird and Skwah, and a field trip to Cheam spray park.



Baby Welcoming Ceremony in Seabird.



Babytime at Cheam Spray Park.

## DENTAL

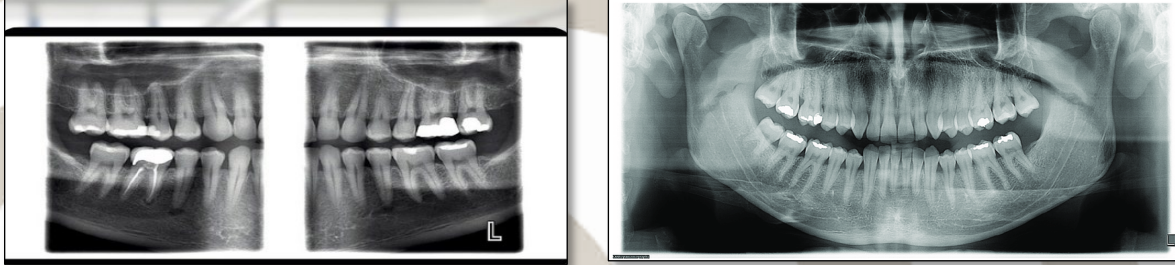
- Monthly Revenue Production:
  - April: \$143,288 \*all time high\*
  - May: \$138,258
  - June: \$112,213
  - July: \$97,594
  - August: \$94,830 \*closed one week\*
- Doubled up on doctor time twice per week lessening the wait time for emergency dental treatments.
- Our online recall system, with texting and patient reminders has been a great access point for clients to reach us and over 2000 clients are using this platform.
- Hired a part-time Certified Dental Assistant (CDA), Shaelynn Hamm.
- Added an Itero Intraoral Scanner to the practice. This is a key feature which expanded our services, lessening time in the chair for patients, enhancing patient oral education and maintaining the clinic's performance quality.



New CDA, Shaelynn Hamm



SSA Dental Team



Example Results of Itero Intraoral Scanner.

- As we are growing, the need for expansion has risen. We currently operate 3 dental chairs daily and the need for another chair to accommodate our patients every 3-6 months is necessary for our recall system. Our Hygiene program is fully booked until the end of 2023.

**Á:LMÉLHÁWTXW EARLY EDUCATION CENTRE**

- Child Care: April and May 2023 was our highest attendance with 31 children in the ages 3-5 Spáth and Sp'óq'es Programs and 11 children attending the infant and toddler Smímeyáth Program.
- June and July 2023 the numbers dropped with 27 children in the ages 3-5 Spáth and Sp'óq'es Programs and 10 children attending the infant and toddler Smímeyáth Program.
- August was a quiet month with 27 children in the ages 3-5 Spáth and Sp'óq'es Programs and 8 children attending the infant and toddler Smímeyáth Program.
- Head Start Preschool: May saw 14 preschool children attend regularly and June had 13 children.
- April 28 all staff participated in a Land Based Tour at Skawahlook First Nation. Staff enjoyed spending the morning on the land, learning about indigenous plants, and walking the trails at the Syéxw Chó:leqw Adventure Park.
- An Elder from Skawahlook First Nation visited with each childcare program. She spent time reading, and singing with the children.
- May 12 was Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day when we thanked our Educators with staff treats, flowers and thank you cards as a small token to show them how much we appreciate them and all they do for our children and families.
- May 15 the new infant and toddler climber was open for use. We were lucky enough to receive funding from BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) to build this much needed climber.
- In June, we received a generous donation to purchase outdoor furniture for our playground. The donation of early years funds came from Skawahlook First Nation and we were able to purchase outdoor tables, benches, tunnels, bridges for the children that have a lifetime warranty and will not be damaged by the weather.



Awaiting the new climber!



- Held the end of the year Preschool celebration on June 16. We had 30 adults, and 20 children attend the BBQ and summer wrap up. It was a great success!
- In August, met with families and children and started fall Preschool registration on August 10.
- August 30 was the kindergarteners last day! 13 children left our centre for their next adventure! We had a pizza party with all the children to mark this occasion. Special goodbye books were made for each kindergarten child with pictures of their time here and notes from all our Educators.
- In the summer, we grew a butterfly garden and a fruit and vegetable garden with the children.
- Staffing continued to be a challenge. One staff went on Maternity Leave in August, and two other staff resigned.



Our First Watermelon!



Land-Based Tour in Skawahlook with staff.



Pizza party for the kindergarten's last day.



Fun Painting Activity!

**SHXWT'AM:ETSEL FAMILY SERVICES**

***Aboriginal Family Place (AFP)***

Month	Participants	Family Night	Outreach
April	119	114	118
May	110	110	114
June	28	31	31
August	5	5	5

- Worked through the 7 Sacred Teachings using an informal circle and activities.
- Monthly Cultural and Language circle with Jessica Malloway learning Halq'eméylem words.
- Moccasin making workshop facilitated by Brenda Seymour with six families in attendance for three days.
- A new vegetable garden was planted and continued to be maintained by the staff and the families.
- Family field trip to Bridal Falls Water Park.

**Aboriginal Infant Development (AID)**

Location	April	May	June	July	August
Mission	39	33	36	35	31
Abbotsford	35	33	32	33	38
Chilliwack	60	65	70	62	67

**Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD)**

Location	April	May	June	July	August
Mission	32	35	36	39	41
Abbotsford	35	33	36	32	34
Chilliwack	60	65	70	74	74

- Summer Packages consisting of resources, activities, and toys/treats were created and delivered to all families on caseload of AID and ASCD.
- Kindergarten Backpack Program continued to deliver backpacks with activities, resources, and a book about going to kindergarten.
- Play and Connect proved to be a fantastic partnership project with the Fraser Valley Child Development Center started in Mission and Abbotsford. The purpose of this group is for families to be able to connect with therapists in comfortable settings and be screened for services or referred to service providers.
- Year-end barbeque party for the ASCD and AID families in Chilliwack was a huge success with approximately 150 participants. They enjoyed a presentation from Salish Dancers, face painting, crafts and games along with a meal provided from an Indigenous owned and operated food truck.
- With the extra full-time consultant added to the ASCD program we were able to eliminate our waitlist.



Many activities of AIP and ASCD programs.



## QWÍ:QWELSTÓM (WELLNESS SERVICES)

- Women of Stó:lō: The Qwí:qwelstóm Wellness team began collaborating with the 'Violence Against Women in Relationships' (VAWIR) Committee for Purple Light Nights Domestic Violence Awareness month in October. The VAWIR Committee are selling Purple Light Nights shirt and 100% of the proceeds will go to better support Indigenous women and children fleeing violence.
- Successful in receiving core funding for the 'Restoring Our Voices' program. Our Sexual Violence team facilitated the 'Responding to Sexual Violence in Indigenous Communities in S'ólh Téméxw' training.
- Coordinated the Indigenous Justice Association annual strategic planning event in Vernon, BC.
- Hosted the 'Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women' (MMIW) Solidarity Walk in May.
- Respectful Relationships program was offered from May to July.
- Hosted the Sexual Violence Awareness event in Sts'ailes.
- Created National Indigenous People's Day videos with Qwí:qwelstóm Elders on, 'What does Indigenous People's Day mean to you?' The videos were shared on social media outlets.
- Held monthly Qwí:qwelstóm Elders' Panel meetings.
- Held 'Sit with an Elder' Team time events once a month and provided one to one Elder support.



Sexual Violence Responders Training.



Qwí:qwelstóm Elders



MMIW Solidarity Walk



MMIW Solidarity Walk Ceremony

- Hosted monthly meetings with RCMP and Xyólheméylh.
- Attended the following events and activities:
  - Violence Against Women in Relationships Committee Meetings in Hope, Chilliwack, and Abbotsford.
  - Gender Based Violence Webinar.
  - Elaine Alec’s Cultivating Safe Spaces training.
  - The film Slhá:lí (Woman) filmed and directed by Á’a:líya Warbus. Slhá:lí follows the journey of Saylesh Wesley, who was the first to break ground as a trans woman, and to start reshaping her Stó:lō community by confronting its rigid gender roles.

## YOUTH SERVICES

### *Mémiyelhtel*

- 40 youth currently on the caseload.
- Attended the Chilliwack Ford Charity Golf Tournament in August at the Sandpiper Golf Resort. The funds were donated to Mémiyelhtel.
- Home Depot Chilliwack completed another Orange Door Campaign and donated funds to Mémiyelhtel.
- Mémiyelhtel received a Family Affordability Fund grant from School District 33. This provided 32 families with food hampers.
- New hires: Social Engagement Worker and a new Intensive Support & Resource Worker.
- Continued partnership with the City of Chilliwack to increase outreach for youth experiencing a risk of homelessness. Weekly meal service and walks in the downtown area with the Cyrus Center.
- Adopt-A-Road – ‘Mémiyelhtel’ stewardship, road clean-up (Knight Road, Shaw Avenue, Gaetz Street).
- Monthly dinner service at the Cyrus Centre – Youth Homeless Shelter.



Working to provide 32 families with food hampers.



Chilliwack Ford Golf Tournament.

## FAMILY EMPOWERMENT TEAM (FET)

- Currently serving 29 clients with no waitlist.
- Family Day at Cultus Lake Waterslides on July 12. 70 clients and their children were in attendance.
- 3 Pop-Up Harm Reduction events were held in Salish Park. 80-100 people were supported with each event and many service providers (PCRS, Ann Davis, IHART, FNHA) attended the events to provide supports and resources. Food, hygiene supplies, harm reduction supplies and resources to the vulnerable population in Chilliwack were supplied.
- New advocate hire in May.
- **Traditional Parenting:** completed a 'Train the Trainer' session with three communities in attendance; Soowahlie, Sumas, and Shxwhà:y Village.
- **Overdose Prevention:** 10 community outreach events, with harm reduction supplies and sandwiches, were done in collaboration with Dr. Greidanus.
- Foot clinic was held at Ann Davis: 22 people received foot care. A successful interagency collaboration with Ann Davis and Stó:lō Community Health.



Family Day at Cultus Lake Waterslides.



Pop-up Event at Salish Park.

## STÓ:LŌ ELDERS LODGE (SEL)

- Total suites occupied were 14 of the 15 available.
- New computer donated for the Residents by Chilliwack Learning Society.
- Grease pit replacement and kitchen refreshed with new paint.
- Prepared processes for quality assurance.
- Annual Kitchen Inspection.
- Sensors installed on automatic doors.
- Monthly foot care.
- Staff education: Code White and Lateral Kindness.
- Weekly chair fit.
- Highlights from April to August:
  - Mother's Day Social at Dickens Store
  - Fathers Day Social
  - Car show @ the Lodge
  - Aboriginal Day and Canada Day barbeques
  - Garden flourishing



Sandy making pies.

- Blueberry pie making.
- Twice monthly scenic drive with residents.
- Resident monthly shopping trip.



Vivian Car Show



Gladys and Grandson



Lorne and Lucy



Rosemary Making Pie



Gladys and Diane



Theresa using the new computer

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

### EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES (EAS)

- Provided full-time Employment Assistance Services (EAS) at SASET Chilliwack Outreach Employment Services office located at SSA, and provided funding for full-time employment services to Seabird Island Band and Sts'ailes First Nation.
- The SASET Chilliwack Outreach Employment Services employment counselors continued with on-site services at 17 outreach employment sites in Boston Bar, Cheam, Chawathil, Leq'á:mel, Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, Mission Friendship Center, Shxw'ōwhámél, Skwah, Spuzzum, Soowahlie, Squiala, Sumas, Tzeachten, Hope WorkBC and Abbotsford WorkBC one day a week on a regular schedule.
- Provided certified employment counselors who assisted with career decision making, essential skills assessment and development, labour market information, job search, developing resumes and cover letters, interview skills, job posting board, resource library, education and training information and facilitated employment workshops.

- Co-ordinated the Service Canada Mobile Clinics at the following locations: Boston Bar, Chawathil, Cheam, Katzie, Leq'á:mel, SASET Chilliwack Outreach office on SSA grounds, Shxw'ōwhámél, Skwah, Soowahlie, Sumas, Spuzzum, Seabird Island Band, and Tzeachten. These clinics offered information and assistance with the following:
  - Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan & 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).
  - Other federal programs and services.

- Participated in the following Career Fairs: Cheam, Kwi'yeqel Secondary School, Mission Secondary School, Education and Career Fair Abbotsford, Mega Job and Career Fair Maple Ridge, Hope School District 78 Career Exploration Fair, Langley Hiring and Education Expo, Seabird Island, and University of the Fraser Vally (UFV).



James Woyke at the Career Fair.



Adrienne Silver sharing SASET information at Spuzzum Fish Salmon Ceremony.

- Attended the following events: Spuzzum First Fish Ceremony, The'itselyia S.A.Y Open House, Seabird Health Fair & Sq'ewqéyl Days, Skwah First Nation Meet and Greet, and BC First Nation Forestry Conference.

- Employability Workshops facilitated by SASET Staff:

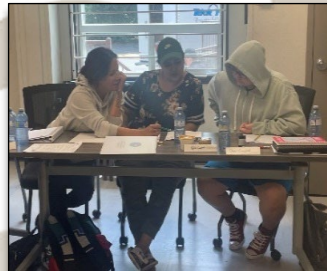
- **Getting your "L" preparing for securing your Driver's License:** 87 individuals participated at one of the following locations: Boston Bar, Chawathil, Chilliwack Outreach Office at SSA grounds (5 groups), Cheam, Kwi'yeqel Secondary School Shxw'ōwhámél, and Seabird Island Band.
- **Basic Computer Training:** 52 individuals participated at one of the following locations of Boston Bar, Spuzzum, Chilliwack Outreach office at SSA grounds (7 groups), and Seabird Island Band.
- **Resume and Cover Letter Workshop:** 7 individuals participated at Sts'ailes Community School.
- **Interview and Job Search Workshop:** 10 participated at the Chilliwack Outreach Office at SSA.
- **Leading from Within Workshop:** 8 participated at the Chilliwack Outreach Office at SSA.



Congrats Victoria for getting your L!!



Basic Computer Training at Boston Bar.



Interview Skill Workshop at SSA.



Basic Computer Training at Spuzzum.

- All SASET staff attended a Trauma Informed Practice and Self Care Course through Douglas College on August 16-17 which focused on recognizing trauma, applying trauma informed care and the concept of post Trauma growth which includes self-care plans.

### EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING SERVICES

Community	# of Clients April to August 31, 2023					
	TTW	STT	LTT	In School	at work	Total
Aitchelitz	2	0	0	0	2	4
Leq'á:mel	1	0	0	0	1	2
Matsqui	2	0	1	1	3	7
Sumas	1	0	1	1	1	4
Shxwà:y Village	2	0	1	1	2	6
Skowkale	0	0	1	1	0	2
Squiala	3	0	0	0	3	6
Tzeachten	0	1	0	1	1	3
Yakweawkwoose	1	0	0	0	1	2
SASET	35	0	12	12	38	97
LSTC	0	0	3	3	1	7
Seabird	2	1	2	3	3	11
Sts'ailes	11	0	1	1	11	24
Boston Bar	5	0	0	0	5	10
Spuzzum/Yale	2	0	0	2	3	7
Cheam	4	0	0	0	4	8
Mission/Abbotsford	2	0	8	9	1	20
Katzie	5	1	0	1	6	13
Chawathil/Shxw'ow'hamel/Hope	11	3	2	4	14	34
Kwantlen	0	0	2	2	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>271</b>

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

- Served 1028 clients (with 3998 interventions) averaging approximately 3.89 appointments per client.
  - 535 male and 485 female clients and 8 unspecified.



- 7 clients were under 15 years of age; 369 clients were between the ages of 15 and 24; 330 were between the ages of 25 and 39; 204 were between the ages of 40 and 54; and 118 clients were over the age of 55.
- Of the 1028 clients: 448 individuals found employment, and 105 individuals returned to school or further training.

### SASET SPONSORED TRAINING PROGRAMS

- Training certification workshops offered throughout the catchment area covered: employer/employee expectations, resume/cover letter, interview skills, and job search workshops.
  - **Microsoft Office April 4-25, 2023:** 25 participants completed the online training through UFV which covered Minute taking, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Microsoft Teams.
  - **Traffic Control Training April 17-18, 2023:** 14 applicants completed the 2-day training at SSA.
  - **Employability Skills Training Program April 17-28, 2023:** 7 participants completed the 2-week program which covered team building, accountability, communication skills, true color, career decision making, self-esteem and conflict resolution.
  - **Warehouse Training April 24-May 1, 2023:** 13 individuals completed the training and received certificates 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.
  - **Traffic Control Training May 1-2, 2023:** 9 applicants completed the training at Katzie First Nation.
  - **Wildfire Training May 15-30, 2023:** 3 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.
  - **Basic Security Training June 5-9, 2023:** 13 participants attended and completed the training. All participants received a two-year security licensing after completion of the program.
  - **Occupational First Aid Level 3 June 17-30, 2023:** Due to popular demand, SASET hosted 2 groups here at SSA. There were 28 applicants who attended and completed the 2-week training.



Eijah J Firefighting.

- **Basic Security Training June 19-July 3, 2023:** 12 participants attended and completed the training at Chawathil First Nation. All participants received a two-year security licensing after completion of the program.
- **Landscaping/Trail Building Training June 20-30, 2023:** 7 individuals attended and completed the training program at Seabird Island Band. The individuals received 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.
- **Traffic Control Training June 22-23, 2023:** 9 applicants completed the training here at SSA.
- **Occupational First Aid Level 3 July 3-14, 2023:** due to popular demand, SASET hosted another group at SSA grounds with 12 applicants who completed the training.
- **Employment Preparedness Certification July 10-21, 2023:** 12 individuals completed the training, receiving their certifications in FoodSafe, WHMIS, WCB Awareness, First Aid, Fall Protection, Forklift, Superhost, and WHMIS.
- **Basic Security Training July 10-14, 2023:** 14 participants attended and completed the training. All participants received a two-year security licensing after completion of the program.
- **Customer Service Training July 17-21, 2023:** at Seabird Island Band, 7 individuals completed the training, receiving their certificates in First Aid, FoodSafe, Customer Service, Serving it Right, WHMIS and Back Talk.
- **Forestry/Construction Certificate Program July 17-28, 2023:** 8 individuals completed the 2-week training program at Sts'ailes First Nation. All participants received their certificates in First Aid, Confined Space, WHMIS, Ground Disturbance Level 1 and 2, Chainsaw Safety, mini-Excavator, Back talk, and Heat Stress.
- **Youth Employment Program July 24-August 4, 2023:** 12 students attended and completed the 2-week program which included Communication, Resume and Cover letter, Interview Skills, Career Decisions Making, WHMIS, First Aid and Time Management.
- **Occupational First Aid Level 2 July 24-28, 2023 (Group 1):** 12 applicants attended and completed the training here at SSA.



Basic Security Group at SSA.



Landscaping/Trail Building in Seabird.



Chainsaw Training.



Youth Employment Program  
visiting local businesses.

- **Occupational First Aid Level 2 July 24-28, 2023 (Group 2):** 11 applicants attended and completed the training here at WorkSafe Solutions in Chilliwack.
- **First Aid, Food Safe, and WHMIS Training July 26-28, 2023:** at Katzie First Nation, 12 applicants attended and completed the 3-day training.
- **Employability Skills Training Program July 31-August 11, 2023:** 7 students completed the 2-week program at Matsqui First Nation which covered team building, accountability, communication skills, true color, career decision making, self-esteem and conflict resolution.
- **Customer Service Training August 17-25, 2023:** held at Matsqui First Nation, 6 individuals completed and received certificates in FoodSafe ,First Aid, Customer Service, WCB Awareness, WHMIS, Heat Stress and Back Talk.
- **Occupational First Aid Level 2 August 21-25, 2023:** 13 applicants attended and completed the training here at SSA.
- **First Aid, and Food Safe Training August 28-29, 2023:** 13 applicants attended and completed the 3-day training here at SSA.
- **Basic Security Training August 28-Sept 1, 2023:** 12 participants attended and completed the training here at SSA and received a two-year security licensing after completion of the program.
- **Advance Security Training August 30-Sept 1, 2023:** 11 participants attended and completed the training.
- **Wildfire Certificates August 21, 22 28, and 29, 2023:** 7 participants attended and completed S100, S185, First Aid, and Transport Endorsement.



Advance Security Training.

## COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

- **Student Employment Program:** a total of 25 contracts were funded for community student hiring. In total 126 youth will experience employment through the Student Employment Program this year.
- **Targeted Wage Subsidy Program:** 26 programs were funded in our catchment area which provided employment for 77 individuals whose last barrier to employment may be work related experience.



SAY Lands Summer Students.



Matsqui Summer Students.



SRRMC Summer Students.

## DAY CARE AGREEMENTS

- Continued to administer three-day care 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 Indigenous Early Learning Child Care centres. SASET continued working with the three childcare centres through the application process. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the three centres proposals will be compiled by SASET for submission to Service Canada.

## SASET Success Stories:

- **Aaron Joseph** applied for funding supports to take **Heavy Equipment Operator Training** with Interior Heavy Equipment School in Winfield, near Merritt. He focused on training with the Articulated Rock Truck, Dozer, Excavator, Grader, Loader, and Rubber Tire Backhoe training. He had over 8 years’ experience with skid steer, forklift and pallet jacks, and over one year experience operating a rock truck. He wanted to further his training with the goal of working for a mining company – and for that he needed help. Aaron successfully worked out a partnership between his Band, SASET and some savings to cover the training and living allowance costs for the 3-month training period.



**Congratulations Aaron for your hard work and focus on pursuing your dream job!**

Aaron excelled in the HEO training, receiving 96% on the written exam. He completed the training in March 2023, got hired on with a company as a Forklift Operator and sent out resumes to a few mines that he wanted to work for. In May, he had a video interview for a Rock Truck position with Heda Mining Company in the Yukon; the following day he received a job offer from the company and completed the next steps of drug and alcohol testing. By June, he was up in the Yukon working for one of the mines and moving forward with his career.

- **Amanda Dmytruk** completed the online **5<sup>th</sup> Class Power Engineering course** at the British Columbia Institution of Technology (BCIT). She has been working for Beaver Plastics Ltd for 2 years and the employer expressed that there was a need for more engineers. The employer supported her to take the training so she reached out to SASET. SASET supported her with tuition, books, and tutoring supports for the course.



**Amanda Dmytruk in the Class Power Engineering course at BCIT.**

“SASET helped me get everything I needed. I am so grateful! Since this was an online course, it was more difficult for myself as I am a hands-on kind of learner. One of the best things was that I was still working for the company. It was great to have hands-on learning while I took the course. My company also allowed me to operate the machines. SASET continued to check in with me weekly to see how my course was going. I struggled tremendously with quiz/exam taking, and with studying. SASET quickly assisted with a tutor. The tutor I worked with was amazing and had shown me several different ways on how to study and I use what works best for myself. The tutors showed me techniques how on how to prepare for a quiz/exam as I always get so nervous before an exam that my brain just goes blank and I forget everything. After I worked with the tutor, I took my first quiz and I got 92%. I was so proud of myself because I had never gotten a high score like that EVER. My tutor had also introduced me to a math tutor since I am the worst at math. He has helped a lot. I am very confident and proud that I succeeded in my studies to be a certified power engineer. Thank you SASET for all your help and support.”

### INCOME ASSISTANCE (IA)

- There were 9 individuals who exited Income Assistance (IA) due to finding employment or other reasons (moving, no contact, did not renew application).
- There is a significant increase of the number of clients on IA due to:
  - Increased cost of living off-reserve and members having to move back home to their communities.
  - Community growth with new building complexes and affordable housing options on-reserve.
  - An increased of non-indigenous clients living on-reserve collecting IA.
- Average clients from April to August 2023:

Band	Employable	PWD	PPMB	Average Monthly Total: 92
Aitchelitz	2	0	0	2
Matsqui	5	2	3	10
Skawahlook	0	1	0	1
Skowkale	3	2	2	7
Shxwhà:y Village	7	10	0	17
Tzeachten	29	11	5	45
Yakweakwioose	5	4	1	10

- 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)

### HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP AND ARCHAEOLOGY

- April through June 2023, worked on 50 heritage overview and impact assessments, mitigations, cultural monitoring projects, and traditional use studies (TUS).
- Provided field support for Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP).
- Supported the Xyólhmet ye Syéwiqwélh (XYS) -Taking Care of Our Children Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) fieldwork.
- Repository: cataloging, accessioning, upload to RRN, donation and loans.
- Issued 74 Stó:lō Heritage Investigation Permits
- Employed four summer grant students.



Jonathan Brignall from SRRMC, conducting heritage assessment on Forestry Cutblocks.

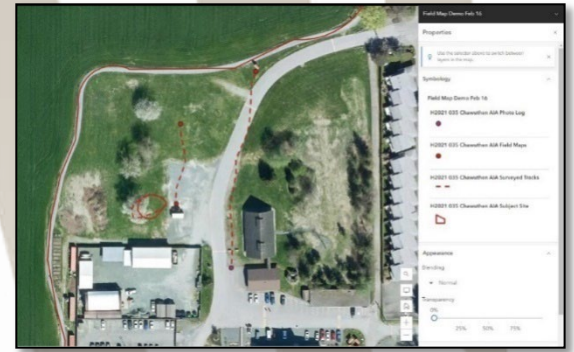


Leq'á:mel First Nation and SRRMC conducting heritage assessment in Deroche.

### GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

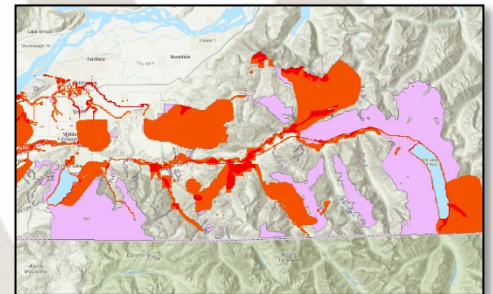
- People of the River Referrals Office (PRRO) - Spatial data was digitized and uploaded to the PRRO web portal, StoloConnect. This kept the referrals up to date with any changes spatially or in contact information as well as published out all the referrals to the appropriate communities. Corresponded with referral applicants to ensure the right shape was uploaded/digitalized for the submission.
- Cultural sites work took place within the Stó:lō Heritage Database (SHeD). Maintenance on sites included reworking current sites, editing, harmonizing, creating layer files for the archaeology department, adding information from past projects, and creating new sites as needed.
- The digitizing of a 1996-97 TUS project was substantially completed by 'The Firelight Group' and operations are underway to add this valuable data to the SHeD. This newly digitized data will be imported into The SHeD and made available through StoloConnect, with assistance from Culture Code developers.
- Assisted in the planning of LiDAR collection for several areas, including field and office support.
- Began working with Sqwel'ets to support ongoing TUS project, working with Urban Systems (consultant).
- Historic data and air photos were compiled and digitized for the Traditional Family Holdings project for Seabird Island and is awaiting presentation to leadership.

- Began leading a plan to incorporate the ArcGIS Field Mapping App into the Archaeology field operations, working closely with Archaeology staff on a pilot project to demonstrate the application, and show how it can simplify the collection of field data. This was tested in the field over the summer and improvements and adjustments have been made as it was incorporated into wider use in the Archaeology group.



Proof of Concept of Field Mapping App.

- Set-up field maps for Sqwa agriculture data collection in consultation with SRRMC Special Projects team.
- **Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP)** - 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.
- **BC Species at Risk Gap Analysis (COVIST Project)** – continued working with the SRRMC Project Team and the BC Government team to identify areas of overlap between species at risk data and cultural sites data. Worked on data sharing guidelines and prepared the data that will be used in the modelling software. Worked through several test case scenarios using the Prioritizr ‘R’ scripting tool with the aid of a consultant.

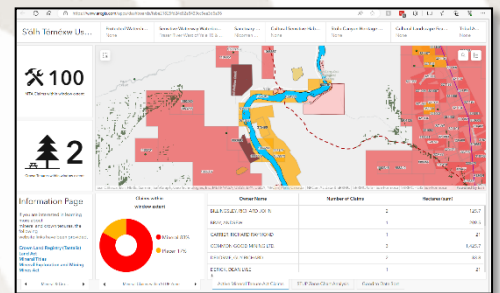


Sample Prioritizr Output.

- Worked with the SRRMC Special Projects team on several projects, including Wolverine and Great Blue Heron habitats, the Sqwa agriculture mapping work, and the Skagit headwaters project as part of the Seattle City and Light project.

- **Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF) Projects:**

- **Mineral Tenure Analysis project** - Inventory and Analysis. Work on the new data Dashboard tool was completed, with several sets of revisions. Now available for the team to test.
- **Sxótsaqel (Chilliwack Lake) Project** - Continued planning and mapping support with CSF team and Ts’elxwéyqw Tribe Management Ltd. (TTML).
- **Forest Systems Wellbeing project** - Compiled existing LiDAR data for study area, analyzed results and prepared tree height and terrain evaluation for the project.
- **Xyólhmet Ye Syéwiqwélh (XYS) Project** - Geo-referenced air photos from the Archives, surveying for the grid layout, and checking of the GPR raw data downloads. Drone flights were conducted with GIS assistance to gather LiDAR and photogrammetry for the St. Mary’s III sites (Pekw'xe:yles).



Mining Inventory Dashboard.

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

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

- Successful in receiving another Pathways to Language Vitality grant from First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) for a further \$250,000 for the 2023-24 fiscal year.
- On June 13, 2023, held a language celebration to mark the conclusion of our Language Technology Program in the community at the Sqwá Band Hall where we were able to showcase our whole team and all the projects and programs that come under the Stó:lō Shxweli umbrella.
- On National Indigenous Peoples' Day, Stó:lō Shxweli Team Members Lori Kelly and Bibiana Norris participated with the Good Medicines Songs group's performance of songs in both English and Halq'eméylem with students at Imagine High. The performance was featured by online newspaper, 'The Tyee': <https://thetyee.ca/News/2023/06/22/Students-Make-History-English-Halqemeylem-Song/>
- Received another \$100,000 grant from FPCC from their Language Revitalization Planning Program and will be using it for some strategic planning as we look to the future.

### ***Stó:lō Library and Archives***

- Received two boxes of papers from Dr. Bruce Miller, recently retired from UBC's anthropology department. In the 1990s, he ran an anthropology field school with the support of Stó:lō Nation and local First Nations. The papers he donated included copies of student papers, as well as fully typed transcripts from interviews with Stó:lō Elders. Dr. Miller also has many interviews with Elders that he recorded on tape and will be donating those to the archives as well.
- Completed a grant application to FPCC's Heritage Stewardship program for \$75,000 for the 'Oral Histories Inventory Revitalization Project' which will allow us to create a proper inventory for our oral histories collection, make entries into our Past Perfect database, and listen to and improve our key word descriptions to increase accessibility of the collection and accuracy of the inventory.

### ***Stó:lō Genealogy Office***

- Received 71 requests for information this period, through walk-ins, phone, Facebook contact, and by email, leading to the sharing of 120 documents (charts and reports).
- For the "Listen, Hear our Voices" project, funded by Library and Archives Canada, we scanned and entered 10 handwritten family charts; increased the entries of genealogy resources in Past Perfect by 245, recorded or researched 257 names, and researched 6 Xwélmexw names. One very large chart that was digitized resulted in the addition of nearly 300 names to the Family Tree Maker database.

### ***Cultural Education***

- Completed the last of the Xá:ytem tours for the Abbotsford School District, and met with District staff in order to begin planning for next year as they are wanting as many tours as we can offer.



- A request from Abbotsford School District for a short presentation and to lead a discussion with two classrooms on the theme of respect from the Stó:lō worldview.
- Wrapped up the final few days of the Longhouse Extension Program for Chilliwack School District.
- Continued with two days/week of Steqó:ye programming.
- Hosted 17 tours of Xá:ytem for the Abbotsford School District.

***Xyólhmet Ye Syéwíqwélh (Taking Care Of Our Children) Residential Schools Project***

- Held a virtual meeting of the Technical Working Group of BC Lead Communities on April 19. Among other items, the group finalized a draft letter to go to political and bureaucratic leads at the Federal and Provincial governments to request long-term, sustainable funding for this work.
- Submitted a funding request to the Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver for additional support for archival research into the Oblate Cemetery at Fraser River Heritage Park and other Catholic cemeteries in the Fraser Valley which might have burials of children from the residential school.

***Tours***

- Conducted 12 placenames tours, one Xá:ytem tour, 18 St. Mary’s tours, one Coqualeetza tour, three Semá:th/downriver tours, and four boat tours on the Harrison River this quarter. Demand for tours and presentations remains very high.
- Along with LACET Manager Amber Kostuchenko, Historian/Cultural Advisor Albert McHalsie (Naxaxalhts’i) attended the Indigenous History and Heritage gathering in Ottawa June 5-7 where Naxaxalhts’i gave a presentation on Bad Rock Tours on a session about placenames.
- Proud to announce that on June 21, Naxaxalhts’i received a second honorary doctorate degree, this time from UFV.

<https://www.theprogress.com/news/sonny-mchalsie-gets-honorary-degree-from-ufv-for-sharing-stl-culture-history/>



Naxaxalhts’i receiving his honorary doctorate degree.

**LANDS STEWARDSHIP UNIT**

***Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF)***

- Provided support for projects related to forest health and wellbeing research, the stewardship of old growth habitat and the deferral of logging in these areas, park stewardship planning for Sxotsáqel/Chilliwack Lake Park, analysis of mining activities within S’ólh Téméxw, and the repatriation of Stó:lō ancestral remains.
- Started the 2023 field work season for the Forest Systems and Wellbeing Project including water testing, soil sampling, vegetation surveys, and tree coring.

- Participated in the Annual Gathering of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and Collaborative Stewardship Forums in Vancouver.



(L-R) Ayesha Carew, Karen Brady, Jillian Spies, Jill Levine, Keegan Paterson, and Ray Douglas.

### ***S'ólh Téméxw Guardians***

- Successfully awarded \$250,000 in federal Tier 3 First Nations Guardians Initiative funding to support the S'ólh Téméxw Guardians Program operations in fiscal year 2023-24.
- Attended the 2023 National First Nations Guardians Gathering.
- Participated in the recently re-established provincial Guardians Working Group to guide development of stewardship training opportunities.
- Successfully negotiated a contract with Enbridge/Jacobs to support the S'ólh Téméxw Guardians participation in the pre-construction biophysical field assessments being carried out as part of the Enbridge Sunrise Expansion Program. These assessments will collect baseline environmental data to better mitigate impacts from the planned capacity expansion of the gas pipeline.
- Continued monitoring on the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project.
- Met with Guardians from Seabird Island Band to check-in on their experience taking the Guardians Curriculum as part of the pilot training carried out at Seabird Island Band earlier in 2023. Their feedback will be used to further refine the Guardians Curriculum.
- Met with Seabird Island Band to visit the college and continue discussions to explore possibilities for delivering stewardship-focused educational courses.
- Met with Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation to discuss the S'ólh Téméxw Guardians Program and related stewardship-focused training opportunities for their staff.
- Joined James Leon from Scowlitz First Nation, on a visit to the submerged canoe in Elbow Lake and discussed ways to protect the canoe from damage.
- Joined Stó:lō youth for the Semá:th land tour led by Naxaxalhts'i as part of the STSA CSF Stó:lō Land Stewardship and Governance Summer Course (Pilot). It was an opportunity for Stó:lō youth to meet with and find out what it's like to work as a S'ólh Téméxw Guardian.
- Joined the CSF Forest Systems and Wellbeing Project team for fieldwork including water testing, soil sampling, vegetation surveys, and tree coring.



SRRMC staff, Ayesha Carew, Dion Weisbrod and Jillian Spies in the field.



SRRMC staff, Ayesha Carew and Dion Weisbrod.

- Continued work on the Chilliwack River Watershed Climate Change Assessment Project in partnership with Soowahlie First Nation and TTML.
- Continued work on the Conservation of Species, Ecosystems & Indigenous Values in S’ólh Téméxw Project, including starting the field work for the mapping of culturally significant plants on Vedder Mountain.

### S’ÓLH TÉMÉXW STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE (STSA) SUPPORT SERVICES

Measure	STSA SEA Referrals	Federal Referrals	Other Referrals (Industry, Regional, Civic, etc.)
Referrals Received	159	23	24
Final Response Timelines Met	74%	n/a	n/a

- Currently comprised of 17 Stó:lō First Nations, the largest in our 11-year history.
- Continued work to address STSA safety concerns along BC Highway 7 corridor.
- In collaboration with colleagues at Crown Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) produced a joint letter outlining the requirements and opportunities in agreeing to use the STSA-CCEP. This joint letter has been received favourably by Federal Agencies.
- Developments picked up with relations between PRRO and several agencies and we continued to make progress with several meetings between Infrastructure Canada and PRRO, in person meetings with Environment & Climate Change Canada and Department of Fisheries Office (DFO), as well as meetings at Fort Langley with Parks Canada.
- Began to make the most progress with Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA), establishing monthly meetings which has led to VFPA agreeing to become the first Federal Authority to agree in principle to use the protocol. Meetings have concentrated on devising a pilot process for federal engagement and agreement of funding for the next 16 months.
- In August 2023, as preparation for the upcoming G3 STSA Annual Executive Meeting, PRRO shared a list of 336 outstanding Crown Decisions with BC Ministry staff. We hope this gives BC the requisite time to notify PRRO of decision outcomes, as is required under the STSA Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA), prior to our reporting out on these numbers at the Oct. G3 meeting.
- The 2023 Major Amendment to the STSA SEA continued, with October 2023 as the target completion date. Negotiations include:
  - Incorporation of DRIPA/UNDRIP language;
  - Formal addition of new STSA Communities (Seabird Island and Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation);
  - Addition of new Provincial Signatories (BC Hydro, BC Environmental Assessment Office);
  - A connection between STSA SEA and Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) s.4 engagement processes;

- Addition of new detailed Engagement Frameworks to allow for special processing of referrals from a Crown Corporation (BC Hydro, a first in BC SEA's) and the unique processes of the BC Environmental Assessment Office;
- New funding mechanisms and increased funding amounts for:
  - SEA / PRRO funding amount (base capacity funding)
  - Direct STSA Community Capacity Funding amount
  - Funding arrangements for BCEAO and BC Hydro Major Projects
- 'Evergreen Clause' to automate agreement renewals (with review);
- Clarifying and streamlining approval processes for amendments to minimize the need for major amendments that require signatures from the Parties (BC and STSA); and
- Other minor updates such as BC Ministry name changes, updating the HCA engagement process to better clarify the requirements of the Stó:lō Heritage Impact Permits (SHIP), general clarity and language improvements, and other updates if requested by the signatory Provincial Agencies or STSA.
- Continued to strategize growing the PRRO team to meet and handle the growing workload.
- April PRRO Team Building Day was held to pick fresh young stinging nettles and process them into a pasta lunch. We had a great time!
- Update to Decision Consensus Tracker report to isolate and highlight the ongoing issue of BC HCA Permits, issued by the Crown without SHIP's.
- StoloConnect Training Sessions were held for the follow organizations/groups:
  - April – new SRRMC Staff
  - May – SRRMC contractors (Enviro. Engineer & Enviro. Educator)
  - July – new staff at Seabird Island, Squamish First Nations