



# Stó:lō Service Agency (SSA) Performance Report

September - November 2023

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (OED)

- Assisted with and attended the third annual September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation ceremony as well as the November 11 Stó:lō Xa:yxeleq Há:kw'eles Swáyel (Stó:lō Veterans Remembrance Day) at the Coqualeetza site.
- Hosted a successful Xá:ytem (Stó:lō Heritage Trust) AGM on September 28, 2023. This meeting is held to update communities on the work that continues to be done at the Xá:ytem properties site, which in turn keeps Stó:lō Heritage Trust Society's charitable status current.
- Reached out to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) regarding the timeline for signatures and reporting requirements from the SSA communities for the endorsement of the SSA Workplan and Annual Report due into ISC twice a year. A meeting will be set up in the upcoming months to discuss this requirement and the OED will look to negotiate the terms.
- OED and SSA Board of Directors (SSABOD) held a strategic planning session in Harrison Hot Springs in October and invited Helen Joe to open the session to start the work in a good way.
- SSA Management Team attended the November 15, 2023 Pole Raising Ceremony at Skawahlook First Nation and held the monthly management team meeting there after the ceremony.



Setting up for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation ceremony.



SSA BOD and OED strategic planning session.



Skawahlook Managing Director and SSA Board Chair, Sharron Young speaking at the Skawahlook Pole Raising Ceremony.



SSA Management team L-R: Eric Sather, Willy Hall, Sharlene Charlton, Brianna Nakagawa, Kelly Willmets, David Schaepe, Abby Duncan, Kelowa Edel, Carol Raspberry and Sue Griffin.

## FINANCE

### EDUCATION

- Post-Secondary for the 2023/24 Fall term:

	UCEP	Certificate/Diploma	Bachelor	Master's	PhD	TOTAL
Aitchelitz						0
Matsqui	1	4		1		6
Popkum						0
Skawahlook			4			4
Skowkale	2	3	5	3	1	14
Tzeachten	1	5	4			10
Yakweakwioose			1			1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>

- K-12 Students:

Aitchelitz	Matsqui	Popkum	Skawahlook	Skowkale	Tzeachten	Yakweakwioose	TOTAL
6	39	0	1	80	103	17	246

### GIFT SHOP

- For the second year we were honored to share the artwork of Jared Deck on the orange shirt supporting Stó:lō Shxweli. This shirt was very thoughtfully designed with the artwork “Eagle Mother” for National Truth and Reconciliation Day awareness. Stó:lō Shxweli was presented with 100% of proceeds from the sale of their shirts totalling \$7,393.
- The gift shop also sold Orange Shirt Pins and donated 100% of proceeds to the Residential School Survivor Society totalling \$2,000.
- Promotional time!** We are always so proud to promote all artists that



Coast Salish Artist, Simone Diamond giving her time and sharing her work with all!

have work in our shop. We had the honor of having Coast Salish Artist Simone Diamond in our shop for an afternoon. The customers work! Good vibes day for sure!!



2023 Orange shirt artwork by Jared Deck of Tzeachten First Nation.

- Author Peggy Janicki stopped in the shop and signed all our copies of her book, “The Secret Pocket”. We so appreciate her cutting into her shopping time to sign a stack of books!!
- Our second annual Halloween promotion was very popular again this year! Congratulations to Angeline Isaac who won our customer appreciation gift basket!



- Proudly recognized as one of the top 3 gift shops in Chilliwack by threebestrated.ca - thanks for sharing what we do!



## OPERATIONS

### EVENTS

- 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. This event was well attended with many staff and volunteers doing the work in providing an opportunity for others to learn about, recognize and commemorate the legacy of Residential schools in Canada and to acknowledge the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation.



Left: Tzeachten First Nation Chief, Derek Epp speaking at the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Coqualeetza.

- Held an SSA Orientation session on October 19 in which the Executive Director and Department Directors provided an overview of the programs and services SSA provides. There were 12 new staff and 3 from member bands (2 - Sumas, 1 - Shxwhà:y Village) in attendance.
- Many staff and tenants took part in the annual October 19 Shake Out BC on the Coqualeetza property which provided an opportunity to practice how to be safe during a big earthquake.

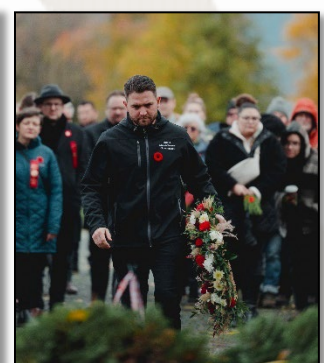


Orientation session held in building 10.



Shake Out BC at SSA.

- SSA hosted a Halloween costume and door decorating contest for all staff. Lots of fun and creative doors and costumes were submitted by the staff and departments.
- On Saturday November 11, 2023, the SSA Cultural Committee team hosted the 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 close to 300 attendees.



Remembrance Day at SSA. Left photo: Procession to the cenotaph. Middle: Skowkale First Nation members, Phil Hall doing the roll call and Darcy Paul, Master of Ceremonies . Right: Tzeachten Chief, Derek Epp laying a wreath.

## HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)

	September	October	November	TOTAL
Job Postings	3	11	4	18
Interviews	6	2	13	21
New Hires	4	3	2	9
Staff Retirement/Resignation/Release	5	7	0	12
WCB/EI Disability Applications	3		1	4
HR consultations with Staff/Supervisor	9	11	6	26
Pension and Benefit Enrollment	10	7	3	20
Criminal Record Check Applications	4	5	3	12
Pension & Benefits Education Session	1			1

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

- Upgraded room booking tablet software and added new tablets in the new Health Portable 1A.
- Developed PowerShell scripts to manage Microsoft 365 accounts.
- Upgraded Mission tenant network with monitoring and remote management; installed fiberoptic link to west wing of the building.
- Upgraded all remaining Server 2012 R2 systems to Server 2019.
- Setup 11 new desktop computers and 17 laptops to replace outdated equipment.

## INDIAN REGISTRY

- After 42 years of service (beginning with the Chilliwack Area Indian Council), Indian Registry Administrator, Leona Sam retired. Leona was instrumental in bringing the Indian Registry program to Stó:lō many years ago and has been the face of the program here at SSA since. The Operations team held a small celebration and luncheon to honour Leona's 42 years of dedication and hard work. We wish Leona all the best in her retirement. She will be greatly missed!



Retirement celebration for Leona Sam included Operations team fun at Prism Studio and a dinner at Bozzini's Restaurant where Leona was blanketed and thanked for her dedication to the Agency.



- Indian Registry services over the months of September to November:

	Births	Deaths	Band Transfers	SCIS Applications	CIS Cards	FTR
Aitchelitz				3		1
Cheam					3	
Kwaw'Kwaw'Apilt				1	2	
Matsqui				2	3	1
Shxw'ow'hamel	2			1	2	3
Skawahlook					3	
Soowahlie			2			
Sumas	2			3	12	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>

### PROPERTY & CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

- Commenced the upgrades and repairs at the Xá:ytem site, making the site safer and wheelchair friendly.
- Upgraded the aging structure of portable 2d, creating an up-to-date multi-functional workspace.
- Installed a light standard at Pekw'xe:yyles for the use of delivering 40-amp service and fiber optics to an open field for a SRRMC presentation.



Civil engineers install conduits into light standard.



Metal roof in the process of being installed at the Stó:lō Elders Lodge.

- Officially completed Portable (1a) utility service install. (electrical distribution kiosk).
- Through funding from Aboriginal Housing Management Association, a new metal roof has begun to be installed at Stó:lō Elder's Lodge (SEL). Along with some other energy saving measures.

### RECORDS MANAGEMENT

	Sept-Nov Stats
Files created	434
Files edited	329
Boxes created	21
Boxes edited	18

- Extensive testing on the Omni Rim records database was needed after the IT department recently upgraded to a new version of Windows.
- Spent time self-learning the Citrix and Indian Registry System (IRS) to be a key part for registry updates and inquiries, as well as to assist the new IRA. Certificate of Indian status (CIS) cards were directly entered into the IRS for the most current information, and to decrease fraudulent cards.

## HEALTH SERVICES (HS)

### ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS/PRIMARY CARE

- Involved in providing support at the ‘Taking Care of Our Children’ event at Pekk’xeyles on September 21, and was also involved in providing support at 2 separate events on the weekend of Sept 30 (Sumas and Heritage Park).
- Wellness Wednesday held every week to connect and support staff. Various activities have included games, crafts, costume parties, and food.
- In collaboration with SASET, over 200 Christmas Hampers were prepared for those in need and delivered in mid-December.
- Skawahlook First Nation donated a vehicle full of toys for the Youth Mentorship program. These gifts will be for the younger children in the youth lives.



Halloween Wellness Wednesday.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HOMECARE

- 88 Homecare clients currently receiving services in their homes. The team provided wound care, chronic disease health checks, exercises, housekeeping, friendly visits, meal prep, bathing, medication review as well as referral to other resources.
- The Elders Day Program currently has 18 ongoing clients and continued to meet every Friday in Building 7.
- Maternity/Child Connection – 17 clients supported with home visits for ongoing pre/post natal support as well as health guidance for infants and young children.
- Immunizations – 179 clients were supported, both in the clinic setting as well as through home visits. Covid and Flu vaccine clinics were held in Sumas, Matsqui, Tzeachten, Skawahlook, SAY, Shxwhà:y Village as well as at Building 7.



Donations from Skawahlook.



Produce donations for Community.

- Footcare team provided service 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 FNHA counselors.
- Dietitian Mana Bayanzadeh saw 34 clients on a 1:1 basis, published nutritional information regularly on the Home and Community Care Facebook page, and created connections at local community gatherings.
- Babytime currently supports 7 young families every Thursday in building 7.



Overdose Awareness Day.

## DENTAL

- Monthly Revenue Production:
  - September: \$106,140.14
  - October: \$105,652.96
  - November: \$126,336.59
- Added 2 walk-in afternoons for clients on a first come first served basis.
- Staff updated their CPR/ AED and BLS training on November 21 with Red Cross. Ongoing training courses with staff occur on a regular basis. Continuing education on implant therapy, Invisalign and Intraoral scans are some of the topics staff have recently updated.
- Dental will be closed for the Holidays starting December 21 and reopening on January 8.



Dental visiting the Headstart Program!

## Á:LMÉLHÁWTXW EARLY EDUCATION CENTRE

- Childcare from September to November 2023 – 8 children each in our 3-5 Spáth and Sp'óq'es Programs and 8 children attending our infant and toddler Smímeyáth Program.
- In the Head Start Preschool, 15 children accessed our Preschool Program each week.
- In October the Family Drop-in Program started up again where we invited families back to program.
- The new shade cover was installed and completed in September which provided a lovely structure that we are excited to use in the sunny months!



New Sunshade at the daycare.



- September Professional Day, staff engaged in an Early Years workshop with Julie H from Inspired ECE. It was fantastic to have Julie join us in person for this workshop.
- October Family Night included pumpkin carving and pizza making where 9 participants joined us.
- October Professional Day, staff participated in an earring making workshop and enjoyed lunch together.



Julie L- Elder Visit

- Monthly Elder visit, Julie L from Skawahlook First Nation visited with each childcare program and the Preschool and spent time reading, singing, and spending time with the children.

- Hosted a PJ party and a potluck lunch for the children on Halloween.

- Chilliwack Community Votes 2023 – this year our Early Years Centre won the “**platinum**” award for best in Childcare Services and best in Daycare Services.



Platinum Award received for Best in Childcare services.

November Professional Day, all educators participated in a Center Piece making Workshop and spent time together doing a winter activity and sharing a meal after.

- The Centre got a new Sign! This sign completes the new driveway that was created.



New sign

### SHXWT’AM:ETSEL FAMILY SERVICES

#### Mission Aboriginal Family Place (MAFP)

Month	Session	Outreach	Family Night
September	79	12	6
October	146	8	31
November	140	12	28

- 6 new families joined the program over the last three months.
- Added a drop-in day on Tuesdays to accommodate parents that may have either forgotten to sign up or just want to drop in last minute.
- Incorporated more cultural activities and outreach in the community of Mission so that more families are aware of our program.
- Field trip to the Pumpkin Patch followed by a Halloween Party the following week.
- Drumming Circle and story time continued to be a regular part of the program which families engaged in.



Pumpkin Patch

- Special Delivery Family Nights were well received by the families with lots of positive feedback.
- Field trip to the Greater Vancouver Zoo was very successful. Many of our families cannot afford the cost of admission to the Zoo and are grateful for the opportunity.
- Staff and families participated in the “Sharing of the Findings” that was held on September 21 and decided to paint Truth and Reconciliation rocks to honor the survivors and those who didn’t make it home from their time from Residential School.
- Visited SARA (Support, Acceptance, Resources, Action) for Women to do a short presentation on the MAFP program.
- Visit to the Baby Time program at Mission Community Services was also a good outreach activity and made people more aware of the program.
- Staff collaborated with the Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) and Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP) in Mission and Abbotsford to put on a family Christmas event.

**Aboriginal Infant Development (AIDP)**

Ages 0-6	Sept	Oct	Nov
Mission	21	25	28
Abbotsford	28	28	32
Chilliwack	60	62	70

Ages 6+	Sept	Oct	Nov
Mission	9	7	8
Abbotsford	8	9	10
Chilliwack	12	12	12

**Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD)**

Ages 0-6	Sept	Oct	Nov
Mission	25	27	30
Abbotsford	37	38	40
Chilliwack			

Ages 6+	Sept	Oct	Nov
Mission	9	7	8
Abbotsford	8	9	10
Chilliwack	12	12	12

- Play and connect in Mission and Abbotsford started up again in October with huge success giving them the ability to connect with a Speech and Language Therapist, an Occupational Therapist, or a Physical Therapist in a comfortable environment.
- All regions applied and were successful in getting cases of good quality children’s books (including books with Indigenous content from Indigenous authors) from First Books Canada for distribution at Christmas, Intake, and other times during the year.
- Chilliwack hosted the ASCD/AIDP Regional meeting in October in the new portable. Great time for collaboration with other consultants and programs.



**Pumpkin Carving!**

- Other events that were attended included Fraser Valley Child Development Centre (FVDC) workshops, FVDC holiday party, Unique Get Together Society (UGTS) Open House and the Little Pebbles Family Night.

- **Quotes from parents:** “I appreciate everything you have done for the boys and I over the last few years. I can’t imagine how far behind we would be without your drive to help others and desire to see the whole process through. I hope we get a chance to work together in the future or at least have tea and a visit. I know the boys miss you, especially or youngest son.”

“She cried in the car because she wanted to stay. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. You do so much for my child, and she has grown because of it.”

- Continued with advocacy on the part of the consultants and the manager due to school aged children not receiving the required EA support that is needed for them to succeed.
- Numbers of referrals for children continued to increase across the three regions and the complexity of the children’s needs has become difficult to manage.



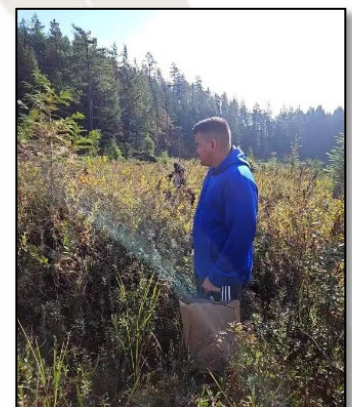
Our Drum Group!



At Willow View Farms.

### QWÍ:QWELSTÓM (WELLNESS SERVICES)

- In September, Qwí:qwelstóm held a Sexual Violence Response Training session with 6 participants.
- Staff took part in various Truth and Reconciliation-Residential School ceremonies in September that took place throughout S’ólh Téméxw as follows:
  - St. Mary’s grounds
  - Stó:lō Nation grounds
  - Pkw’xe:yles (St. Mary’s) Heritage site
  - Meetings with Stó:lō Research & Resource Management team
  - Semá:th for Residential School survivors gathering
  - Skawahlook Residential school survivors gathering
- Some Qwí:qwelstóm staff attended Vancouver Native Court workers Association; Indigenous Gender-Based Violence gathering where they presented about the Sexual Violence project.
- Supported families through the process of planning ceremonies and grief and loss as well as cultural support in various ways whenever sought to do so.
- The team went out and harvested Moqwém tea as part of a self care day.
- Day Treatment program ran for 6 weeks in September with 4 participants.



Darren Charlie picking tea.

- On October 27, the team held a Purple Light Nights (PLN) gathering at the Stó:lō Longhouse. This was to honour those who lost their lives to domestic violence; to support survivors; and to give hope to those still living with abuse.
- Respectful Relationships (RR) ran for 6 weeks with 5 participants.
- Sit with an Elder Teatime was held on October 24.
- Networking with RCMP and the Restorative Justice Coordinator of BC.
- Held monthly Qwí:qwelstóm Elders' Panel Meetings.
- On November 20 as part of the National Addiction Awareness Week (NAAW) recognition, the staff put together and handed out packages for the ones who are struggling in downtown Chilliwack.
- Some staff went and spoke to UBC Law Students about restorative justice and sexual violence.
- Provided Seabird Community Justice Program with bi-weekly drop-in's.
- Hosted the Aboriginal Justice Liaison Committee (AGLC) open house to network with other service providers.



Purple lights night at the Longhouse.

### FAMILY EMPOWERMENT TEAM (FET)

- Currently serving 29 clients with no waitlist.
- Strategic planning was done October 2-5, 2023.
- Traditional Parenting - Completed a community session with 6 clients in attendance.

### YOUTH SERVICES

#### Mémiyelhtel

- 50 youth currently on the caseload with 41 on the waitlist.
- Chilliwack Ford held a charity golf tournament in August & presented us with a \$11,468.00 cheque.
- Home Depot Chilliwack started a Holiday Orange Door Campaign and will be donating the funds to Mémiyelhtel.



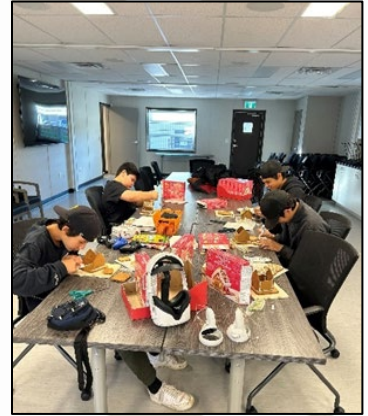
Youth outing to Greendale Acres.

- Greendale Acres held an orange shirt event and will be donating the funds to Mémiyelhtel.



Chilliwack Ford presenting a donation.

- Started a partnership with Sidekick where we have reserved seating and discounted food/drink for team building and networking with community partners.
- Attended the district wide professional development day at The Coliseum: “Our Journey to Truth and Reconciliation.”
- Started our Christmas Campaign for our Shoebox gifts and a toy drive.
- Adopt-A-Road – ‘Mémihel’ stewardship, road clean-up (Knight Road, Shaw Avenue, Gaetz Street).
- Monthly dinner service at the Cyrus Centre – Youth Homeless Shelter.



**Making gingerbread houses with the youth.**

### **STÓ:LŌ ELDERS LODGE (SEL)**

- Total suites occupied 14 with 1 available suite.
- Under Enhanced Monitoring November 4 -19.
- Hired 2 full-time Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN’s).
- Sail & chair fit program.
- Tenant Engagement monthly.
- Fraser Health Quality Assurance Process - Received Gold Standard.
- Education for Code Red, Diabetes and Nasopharyngeal Swab.
- Transportation of dangerous goods education.
- Activities for the Elders included:
  - Pumpkin Farm outing
  - Blue Heron Reserve outing
  - Maybell Musical at the Cultural Centre
  - Halloween costume and pumpkin carving contest
  - Health Care Aide Day celebration
  - In-house bingo & TV bingo
  - Christmas crafts
  - Residents Christmas party



**SEL Staff- Eva, Nina, Rowena, and Monica.**



**Halloween fun at SEL.**



**Elders enjoying Maybell Musical.**

## 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.
- Participated in the following Career Fairs: Abbotsford Career Fair, Surrey Fall Career Fair, Education and Career Fair Maple Ridge Pathways to Success Career and Hiring Fair, Fraser Valley Job Fair, and Mission Youth Transition Information Fair.
- Attended the following events: Tzeachten Open House, Surrey Trades Expo 2023, and the Chilliwack Community Poverty Reductions Engagement Session.
- Employability Workshops facilitated by SASET at the SSA Chilliwack Employment Resource Centre:
  - **Getting your "L" preparing for securing your Driver's License:** 17 participants
  - **Basic Computer Training:** 14 participants
  - **Resume and Cover Letter Workshop:** 10 participants
  - **Interview and Job Search Workshop:** 10 participants
  - **Employer Employee Expectations Workshop:** 8 participants
  - **True Colors Workshop:** 9 participants
  - **Money and Budgeting Workshop:** 8 participants
  - **Dress for Success Workshop:** 8 participants
  - **Self-Care Workshop:** 12 participants



SASET Facilitator, Leah with her workshop group.

## EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING SERVICES

Community	# of Clients September to December, 2023					
	TTW	STT	LTT	In School	at work	Total
Matsqui	1	0	0	0	1	2
Shxwhà:y Village	1	0	0	0	1	2
Squiala	2	0	0	0	2	4
Tzeachten	2	0	2	2	3	9
SASET	13	6	2	11	15	47
LSTC	1	0	0	0	1	2
Seabird	3	1	0	1	4	9
Sts'ailes	6	0	1	2	5	14
Boston Bar	4	1	0	2	5	12
Spuzzum/Yale	6	0	1	1	6	14
Cheam	3	1	0	1	4	9
Aldergrove / Langley	1	0	0	0	1	2
Mission/Abbotsford	6	2	3	6	7	24
Katzie	3	0	1	1	3	8
Chawathil/Shxw'ow'hamel/Hope	5	0	0	0	5	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>168</b>
Transition to Work (TTW); Short-term Training (STT); Long-term Training (LTT)						

- Served 818 clients (with 2,736 interventions) averaging approximately 3.3 appointments per client.
  - 422 male and 396 female clients.
  - 3 clients were under 15 years of age; 246 clients were between the ages of 15 and 24; 278 were between the ages of 25 and 39; 194 were between the ages of 40 and 54; and 97 clients were over the age of 55.
  - Of the 818 clients: 360 individuals found employment, and 104 individuals returned to school or further training.

## SASET SPONSORED TRAINING PROGRAMS

- Training certifications classes offered throughout the catchment area included facilitated workshops that covered: employer/employee expectations, resume/cover letter, interview skills, and job search workshops.
  - **Occupational First Aid Level 1 September 5, 2023:** 10 applicants attended and completed the 1-day training here at SSA.
  - **FoodSafe Training September 6, 2023:** 11 applicants attended and completed the 1-day training.
  - **Pre-Trades Culinary Arts Program September 11-November 28, 2023:** 8 participants completed the training at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV).

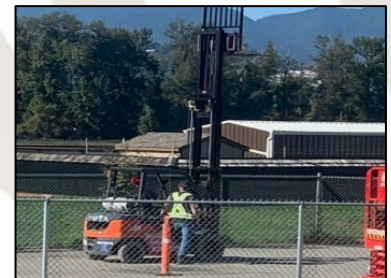
- **Occupational First Aid Level 2 September 11-15, 2023:** 12 applicants attended and completed the training at SSA.
- **Advance Security Training September 15-17, 2023:** 8 participants completed the 3-day training at SSA.
- **Microsoft Office September 11-October 10, 2023:** 18 participants completed the online Microsoft Office Training through UFV which covered Minute taking, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and MS Teams.
- **Warehouse Certificate Training September 18-29, 2023:** 11 individuals completed the training and received certificates 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.
- **Warehouse Certificate Training October 3-13, 2023:** 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.
- **Customer Service Certificate Training October 16-20, 2023:** 12 participants completed the 1-week training program which included First Aid, WHMIS, Food safe, WCB Awareness, Back Awareness and Customer Service Skills.
- **Occupational First Aid Level 1 October 23, 2023, at Cheam First Nation:** 12 applicants attended and completed the 1-day training.
- **Construction Certificate Program October 23-November 3, 2023:** 14 individuals completed the 2-week training program. All participants received their certificates in First Aid, Traffic Control, Confined Space, WHMIS, mini-Excavator, Back talk, Forklift, Skid Steer, and Heat Stress here at SSA.
- **Basic Security Training November 13-17, 2023:** 9 participants attended and completed the training receiving a two-year security licensing after completion of the program.
- **Employability Skills Training Program November 20-30, 2023:** 12 participants completed the 2-week training which included First Aid, WHMIS, Fall Protection, Mini Excavator, Respiratory Protection, Forklift and Skid Steer, Customer Service and Food Safe.



Advance Security training.



Warehouse Training.



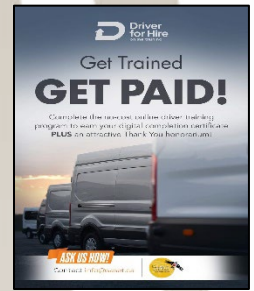
Construction Training.



Employment Skills Training.



- **Advance Security Training November 27-29, 2023:** 8 participants completed the 3-day training here at SSA.
- **Online Driver for Hire Training Program (limited seats ongoing intake):** This is a pilot project in partnership with the Canada Safety Council. This program is designed to advance essential driving school and on-the-road safety skills for workers who transport clients, delivery drivers, ridesharing, and others. There is a \$300.00 honorarium for completion of the course. SASET filled 107 of 150 seats available. If you are interested, please contact SASET at [info@saset.ca](mailto:info@saset.ca).



### DAY CARE AGREEMENTS

- Continued to administer three-day care agreements: SSA, Seabird Island and Sts'ailes, where “grandfathered” funding provided seat allocated supports.

### SASET CULINARY ARTS FOUNDATION PROGRAM

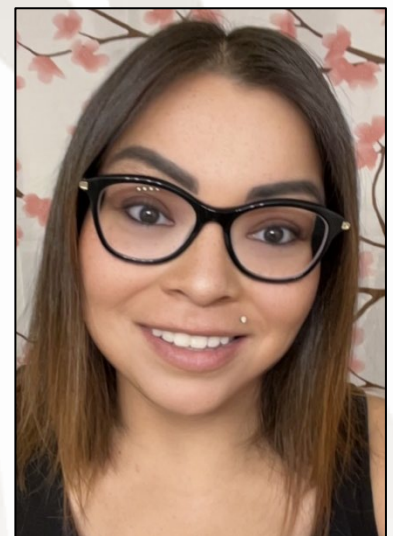
- 8 individuals completed the 12-week training at UFV. The program included Food Safe, First Aid level 1, WHMIS, WCB Awareness, Occupational Skills, cooking and preparing stocks, soups and sauces, vegetables and fruits, starches, meats, poultry, seafood, Garde-mange, eggs, breakfast cookery and dairy, baked good, desserts and beverages, and basic kitchen management.



### SASET Success Stories:

- Christine learned of SASET vocational training supports through the Mission Friendship Centre. She had some work experience with recovery centres but lacked formal training. Her training is partner funded – she is receiving financial supports through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Employment and Assistance Office, and SASET is covering the tuition and books costs.

“I am from Manitoba; I moved to BC in 2018. I wondered what my next move would be in life. I had tossed the idea around of going back to school but have been out of school for 24 years and was unsure if I was ready for the challenge. I surpassed my expectations of myself now that I have gone back. It was hard at first getting used to all the digital changes online classes and e-texts. I am so motivated to finish my course and get out into the world and help others. I like the fact that my class is really diverse. Lots of international students. (South Africa/ India/Africa) Get to hear their stories and perspectives of their home country. All people from all walks of life with different experiences.



**Christine Coughlan – Community Support Worker Diploma.**

The training is broad and employment opportunities range from working in daycares through to providing support services in shelters for victims of violence or recovery homes.”

On a personal level, Christine is really benefiting from *“learning about social work in Canada- residential schools. Finding more about my Indigenous family of origin- as I was adopted at 13 months old. Connecting more with family. My sister is providing information of family. Finally know where I come from. Thank you SASET for all your help and support.”*

### INCOME ASSISTANCE

- Effective August 1, 2023, the maximum shelter rates increased by \$125 per family unit.
- 5 exited Income Assistance due to finding employment or other reasons (moving, no contact, did not renew application).
- There is a significant increase in the number of clients on Income Assistance due to:
  - The cost of living off-reserve have increased and members are moving back home to their communities.
  - Communities are growing with new building complexes and affordable housing options on-reserve.
  - An increase of non-indigenous clients living on-reserve collecting income assistance.
- Average clients from September to November 2023:

Band	Employable	PWD	PPMB	Avg Monthly Total Clients: 93	Total Band Members
Aitchelitz	3	0	0	3	3
Matsqui	5	4	2	11	10
Skawahlook	0	1	0	1	1
Skowkale	4	2	2	8	5
Shxwhà:y Village	7	10	0	17	13
Tzeachten	26	13	6	45	27
Yakwekwioose	4	3	1	8	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employable – no barriers to attain employment, these individuals work with SASET Employment Counselors</li> <li>• PWD-Persons with Disability</li> <li>• PPMD- Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers</li> </ul>					This column shows the number of registered Band members from the total clients served in each community.

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

### HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP AND ARCHAEOLOGY

- Worked on 47 heritage overview and impact assessments, mitigations, cultural monitoring projects, and traditional use studies.
- Archaeological/cultural monitoring and investigations by Stó:lō archaeological assistants with outside consultants.
- Field support for Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TEMP).
- Repository: cataloging, accessioning, upload to RRN, donation and loans.
- Supported the XYS Project Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) fieldwork.
- Issued 50 Stó:lō Heritage Investigation Permits.
- Provided drone support.



Conducting Heritage Assessment at Cultus Lake: Left: Toni Baran, Rodney Tommy, Right: KC Roberts

Conducting Heritage Assessment on Vedder Mountain: Donna Crilly, Asia Mazereeuw, Teresa John, Lily Angus-Pender

### 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.
- Working with Matsqui First Nation on preliminary work for cemetery mapping project.
- The Traditional Family Holdings project for Seabird Island was finalized for presentation to leadership.
- Cultural and archaeological sites for various communities were mapped out.
- **Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP)** - mapping of Chance Finds locations and outcomes was compiled and produced.

- **BC Species at Risk Gap Analysis (COVIST Project)** – worked through several test case scenarios using the Prioritizr ‘R’ scripting tool with the aid of a consultant. Second set of runs was done following direction from full team.
- **Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF) Projects:**
  - **Mineral Tenure Analysis project** - Dashboard was presented to tier 1 team, and is awaiting meeting with Provincial partners.
  - **Sxótsaqel (Chilliwack Lake) Project** - Continued planning and mapping support with CSF team and Ts’elxwéyeqw 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** - Completed all the grid layouts for the GPR surveys, and managed the data collected prior to processing. Assisted with drone flights for LiDAR and photogrammetry. Sqwa cemetery mapping was completed early October.

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

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

- Held an open house on September 19, with the theme of Truth and Reconciliation. Team members performed a song for the occasion written by team member, Chris Thomas.
- Met twice with our language coach from First Peoples’ Cultural Council (FPCC), Maggie-Mae Adams to finalize our draft Halq'eméylem language revitalization plan with a 5-year outlook, with the budgeting piece to be completed in early 2024.
- Team members attended FPCC’s Digitization Training in Richmond, September 25-29.
- Began our “cohort 0” pilot of Lesson Book One from our newly developed language immersion program for adults which is an adaptation of the “Paul Creek” method. Our pilot cohort is made up of Stó:lō Shxweli team members and a few close friends of the program, and so far we have received very positive feedback from instructors and learners alike.



Stó:lō Shxweli team members shared Orange Shirt Day language resources at the SSA’s National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Ceremony Sept 30, 2023.

### *Stó:lō Library and Archives*

- Welcomed Raymond Kobes, a practicum student from the Indigenous Studies department at UFV. Raymond is completing several hours of volunteer work per week as part of his graduation requirements.
- Helped with several special events: September 12, burning and moving of ancestors to Grave House; September 21, XYS day of sharing; September 30, Truth and Reconciliation Day ceremony at Coqualeetza; and Pkw’xe:yales Gathering, September 29 to October 1.

- Co-coordinated the Repatriation Gathering on November 16, an event that brought together representatives from First Nations all across BC in a discussion of the challenges and opportunities of repatriating ancestors and belongings from museums.

### ***Stó:lō Genealogy Office***

- Provided great assistance preparing maps and other graphics for the Xyólhmet Ye Syéwiqwélh Qwólqwel Swáyel (“Day of Sharing”) on September 21.
- Completed the final report for our Phase 1 “Listen, Hear Our Voices” grant from Library and Archives Canada, which allowed us to digitize large format handwritten trees for preservation and to record the information on Xwélmexw and other names in the Family Tree Database. Phase 2 of the project, which continues the work, began this quarter as well.
- Met with a director from the Last Post Project, which is a national program to ensure that all veterans have a marked gravestone or other memorial as well as to add traditional names for Indigenous vets. We also updated/added to the list of Stó:lō veterans read out at the Stó:lō Xa:yxeleq Há:kw’eles Swáyel ceremony on November 11.

### ***Cultural Education***

- Participated in a day of learning on September 7, at Vedder Elementary, providing instruction on weaving to over 200 children.
- Supported the cultural work for the September 12 fall burning and ceremony to move the ancestors from Building 10 out to the Grave House.
- Started twice weekly tours of Xá:ytem for the Abbotsford School District in the month of October and halfway through November.
- Worked with Alongside Research and Consulting for two days of Teacher-Education professional development with teachers in training at UFV on November 28, and 29, hosting an elementary/middle and a secondary teacher cohorts.
- Repairs and improvements to the Xá:ytem site were started, and included an accessible path between the buildings and up to the rock, an extended covered picnic shelter, relocating and reconnecting the propane tank, and rebuilding the deck at the back of the longhouse.



**Renovations at Xá:ytem included extending the picnic shelter for the many school groups that take in educational programming provided there by SSA’s Cultural Education Team.**

## **Tours**

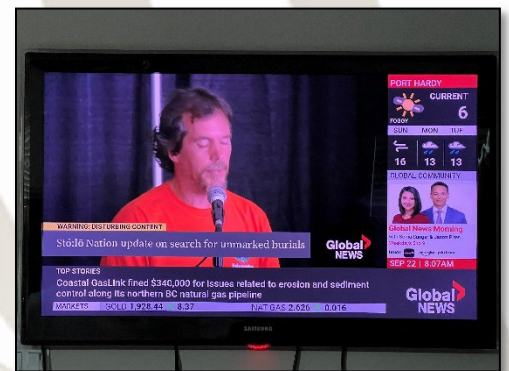
- Si:yémiya (Albert “Sonny” McHalsie) gave five Bad Rock placenames tours, three Sumas placenames tours, one Chilliwack Valley tour, ten St. Mary’s tours, five Coqualeetza Grounds tours, one Xá:ytem tour, and one Fraser River boat tour.
- Attended the BC Museums Association annual conference in Haida Gwaii September 25-28.
- In November, attended and presented with Dr. Keith Carlson and Dr. John Lutz at the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States conference in Washinton, DC on the small pox research project that the SRRMC is assisting with.
- Continued to work on adding/correcting placenames information in the Stó:lō Heritage Database.
- As a mentor for various discussions, met with the Stó:lō Guardians who are working through the online Guardians curriculum.

## **Xyólhmet Ye Syéwiqwélh (Taking Care of Our Children) Residential Schools Project**

- September was very busy preparing an information tent, presentation, and logistics for the September 21 Qwōlqwel Swáyel where we shared information from Phase One of our research (the 2022 field work season results, and archival/genealogical research results until August 2023).
- Continued GPR work at Pekw’xe:yles and Fraser River Heritage Park, and wrapped field work up for the 2023 season in October.
- Supported the SSA’s Cultural Committee for this year’s Truth and Reconciliation Day Ceremony at Coqualeetza on September 30.
- Continued to support the BC Lead Communities Technical Working Group.
- SRRMC staff, Remy Benoit and Lindsay Foreman attended an “Excavation & Identification Dialogue Session” for lead communities hosted by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation held at Simon Fraser University November 22-23.
- Presented an update on our work to the SNCC on November 22.

## **Cultural Committee**

- September 12, the fall burning was taken care of by the SRRMC’s Cultural Education Team in combination with cultural work to transport 31 Ancestors and two sets of related belongings from the SRRMC-stewarded Repository to the outdoor Coqualeetza Grave House on Coqualeetza Grounds.



**SRRMC Director, Dr. David Schaepe presenting information from Phase 1 of the XYS Project research.**



**Information session held on September 21 at Pekw’xe:yles.**

- Hosted SSA's Truth and Reconciliation Day Ceremony at Coqualeetza on September 30 where several survivors spoke and shared their stories and a good meal afterwards.
- Planned and hosted the Stó:lō Xa:yxeleq Há:kw'eles Swáyel ceremony on November 11 with close to 300 people in attendance including veterans, elders, cadet groups, the RCMP, and the general public.



Phil Hall gets ready to read the names of Stó:lō veterans at SSA's Stó:lō Xa:yxeleq Há:kw'eles Swáyel ceremony on November 11.

## LANDS STEWARDSHIP UNIT

### *Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF)*

- Provided lead, coordinator, and team member 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 Sxótsaqel / Chilliwack Lake Park, stewardship planning for the newly protected lands at Skagit Headwaters / Silverdaisy, and the repatriation of Stó:lō ancestral remains.
- Soil and water sampling field days were held at Sxótsaqel / Chilliwack Lake Park and Cultus Lake in September.
- Provided coordination and notetaker support for 'Sharing Our Paths': Repatriation Gathering on Networks, Challenges, and Policy Standards which was held on November 16, 2023, bringing representatives from over 15 First Nations in British Columbia to S'ólh Téméxw for recorded small group discussions on repatriation policy recommendations and on how to work better as a collective.
- Research and team member support for the development of the Sxótsaqel / Chilliwack Lake Park Management and Stewardship Plan with TTML. The draft Park Plan was sent for internal staff review in November 2023, representing a major step towards plan finalization.

### *S'ólh Téméxw Guardians*

- Participated in Guardians Curriculum planning work with Seabird Island College, Guardians Tier 1 Team, and Alongside Consultants to pilot an in-person training course in September 2024.
- Continued monitoring on the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project.
- Started onboarding and field surveys with the Enbridge Expansion Project.
- Joined the CSF Forest Systems and Wellbeing Project team for fieldwork including water testing, soil sampling, vegetation surveys, and tree coring.



SRRMC workers Dion Weisbord, Ayesha Carew, Danya Douglas out in the field.

- Attended and supported Ancestor caretaking work in September linked to the CSF Repatriation Policy and Practice project.
- Attended and supported Chilliwack River Watershed site visit attached to the Chilliwack River Watershed Climate Change project.
- Attended a four-day Conservation Officer / Natural Resources Officer training in October which included de-escalation tactics and evidence collection for enforcement.
- Sheila Joe was hired as Guardians Supervisor in October.
- Supported ECCC Species at Risk: wolverine monitoring project helping reset bait and camera traps.
- Checked CSF Air Quality monitoring station at Sxótsaqel / Chilliwack Lake Park after a report of a potential breach in November 2023.
- Continued work on the Chilliwack River Watershed Climate Change Assessment Project in partnership with Soowahlie First Nation and TTML.
- **STSA-BC Species at Risk Collaboration:** 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.



(L-R): Elliot Tonasket (Okanagan Nation Alliance), Jillian Spies (SRRMC), Andrea Glickman (Union of BC Indian Chiefs).



L-R Keith Grier (ISC), Tom Duncan (FN Adapt), Jessica Reeves (ISC), Monica Mannerstrom (NHC), Robin Fenn, Bill Davis (Soowahlie), Jane Watt (NHC), Jill Levine, Ayesha Carew, Dana St. Denis (Soowahlie).

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

Measure	STSA SEA Referrals	Federal Referrals	Other Referrals (Industry, Regional, Civic, etc.)
Referrals Received	176	36	40
Final Response Timelines Met	96%	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. Frustration with BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) has been relayed to BC by PRRO on behalf of STSA (MOTI have resisted formal membership in the BC-STSA Strategic Engagement Agreement for 11 years). We will continue to advocate for the STSA communities.



- STSA-Crown Annual Executive G2G Meeting held October 10 at the new S.A.Y. Building, The'í:tse'liya. This was another positive session for STSA community leadership to connect and deliver feedback directly to BC Ministers.
- Hired Frank Andrew as the new PRRO Federal Referral Officer to replace Jamie Benton who now manages SRRMC Research and Special Projects (RSP) unit.
- Vancouver Fraser Port (VFP) Authority and PRRO have negotiated a draft funding agreement; a first for STSA/PRRO at the Federal level.
- The 2023 Major Amendment to the STSA Strategic Engagement Agreement (STSA SEA) continued. In our negotiations to date, we have achieved the following:
  - \$650,000 uplift in annual funding. This reflects the growth of STSA to 17 member communities, increased Direct Community Capacity funding need, and increased capacity needs at PRRO.
  - Formal addition of recent STSA Community additions, Seabird Island and Shxw'ōwhámél.
  - Inclusion of new Provincial Agencies: BC Hydro, BC Environmental Assessment Office). Special negotiations have been necessary to include BC Hydro as a Crown Corporation; a first in BC SEA's.
  - Incorporation of DRIPA/UNDRIP language.
  - Establish a connection between STSA SEA and HCA s.4 engagement processes.
  - '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.
- **Climate Change:** Provided coordination support for a site visit to the Chilliwack River Watershed with Soowahlie First Nation staff, Northwest Hydrologic Consulting engineers and technicians, and representatives from ISC and CIRNAC's First Nations Adapt for the Chilliwack River Watershed Climate Change Assessment.
- Participated in the 2-day SRRMC Strategic Planning session and strategized on how to best grow and PRRO team to meet and handle the growing workload.
- StoloConnect Training Sessions held for the follow organizations/groups:
  - September – New BC staff, SXG staff
  - October – New Semá:th staff, West Kelowna FN staff



PRRO Referral Officer, Gina Peters with Grizzly Bear biologist, Tony Hale and SRRMC RSP Ecologist, Jessica Lukawiecki out assessing potential grizzly bear habitat in S'ólh Téméxw.

- November – Falkirk Contractor staff, new STSA Guardians Supervisor and Guardians staff



SRRMC Managers at their annual 2-day Work Planning Session for the 2024-25 year.

## RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

- RSP Unit Manager, Jamie Benton started early September.
- Team assessment completed and added new Senior Researcher, Jillian Spies in early November.
- Strategic Planning session with SRRMC Director and Managers completed in November looking at future direction and structure of teams and work.
- Projects include:
  - **Seattle City Lights** - The final Hydroelectric Project' report was submitted November 13 on behalf of the STSA CR-04 'Inventory of Historic Properties with Traditional Cultural Significance Related to the Skagit River. Good case presented for a Traditional Cultural District to be made – next steps to develop a historic properties management plan.
  - **Gill Bar Restoration Project:** The project is underway in its first year of agreed funding through DFO with work to identify a terrestrial and aquatic base assessment of the project area. Working in conjunction with Cheam and Skwah First Nations of the Pilalt Tribe. Ultimately goal to gain protective status through an Indigenous Protected Conservation Area.
  - **Species at Risk Act work:** Continued to engage with STSA First Nations about Species at Risk and priorities. Successfully released Western Painted Turtles in the Fraser watershed in partnership with DFO and consultants.
  - **Fortis Tilbury Major Project:** Continued to engage with Fortis and consultants through an Environmental Assessment Act process for the expansion of the Tilbury site for Liquid Natural Gas and protecting STSA indigenous interests in the area.
  - **Fraser River Tunnel Replacement:** Continued to engage with the MOTI project team about the replacement of the George Massey tunnel and what this will mean for the area and impacts on the Fraser River. Project is nearing completion of the Draft Application Information Requirement stage of the Environmental Assessment Act requirements.