



STÓ:LŌ BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2025

REMINDER: If you see any suspicious activity, please contact **Allegiance Security** at either **604-701-1692 OR 604-392-1692** and please state which property (Coqualeetza or St. Mary's) you are reporting from. If you believe it to be an emergency, please call 911.

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (OED)

The Office of the Executive Director (OED), SSA Board of Directors (SSA BOD) and staff prepared for the Chamber of Commerce - Battle of the Businesses baseball tournament hosted on Tuesday, August 12 at Tzeachten sports field. Staff dusted off their cleats and put on their baseball gloves working hard to represent the Stó:lō Service Agency (SSA). Pictured are a few SSA staff showing off their skills at SSA's wellness Wednesday baseball game at Tzeachten and Chamber of Commerce tournament.



SSA staff at Wellness Wednesday ball game at Tzeachten sports field.



SSA Board Member Anna Celesta, Operations Director Sharlene Charlton, at Wellness Wednesday baseball.



SSA staff representing at the Chamber of Commerce ball tournament.

The OED and SSA BOD attended the Chilliwack Ford Golf Tournament which raises money for the SSA Youth Mémiyelhtel Program.



SSA Board of Directors participating in the Chilliwack Ford golf tournament.



Chilliwack Ford winners of longest drive, Sharlene Charlton and Closest to the pin, SSA Board member Angie Kermer.

The SSA Golf Tournament was held on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at the Cultus Lake Golf Course with money raised going towards the SSA Christmas Hampers. A big thank you to the Operations team who organized and worked hard to make this event happen.





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Pictures from left to right: Operations team volunteers June Jimmie and Carol Biccum. Austin Hall testing his putting abilities. Many of the golfers enjoying a meal. Operations team volunteers, Jenn Kemp and Jenn Love handing out prizes.

The next few months ahead OED are preparing for;

- The upcoming Stó:lō Collective, Management team, Board of Directors and OHS meeting;
- Hosting the Stó:lō Heritage Trust Society (SHTS) AGM for the Xá:ytem Properties in Mission on Wednesday, September 17th at 11am via Zoom; and,
- Helping with the Truth and Reconciliation ceremony at the Coqualeetza site on September 30th in collaboration with Stó:lō leadership and the Sts'elemeqw Residential School Thrivers Society.

Hopefully you took some much-needed time off to enjoy the warm weather with family and friends.

XYÓLHMET YE SYÉWIQWÉLH (Taking Care of Our Children) – [Community Update](#) **Investigating Unmarked Graves at Multiple Sites Associated with Three Former Residential Schools in S'ólh Téméxw**

Stó:lō Nation Chiefs' Council (SNCC), under the leadership of Chief David Jimmie, President of the SNCC, has launched a broad-based and inclusive initiative to investigate potential unmarked graves and missing children related to three of the former Residential School sites within S'ólh Téméxw: the former St. Mary's, Coqualeetza, and All Hallows institutions in Mission, Chilliwack, and Yale. The project team will carry out archival, oral historical, and on-site remote sensing work in search of identifiable unmarked graves. We are also working with local Stó:lō First Nations including Sqwá, Sq'ewqéyl, and Ch'íyáqtel regarding unmarked burials known to have been relocated to each of their cemeteries from the Coqualeetza Grounds.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL UPDATE:

This CBC article recently came out about the destruction of residential school records of abuses taken during the Independent Assessment Process. If Survivors provided a statement as part of the IAP, their records will be destroyed in 2027 unless they request their files for themselves or consent to send them to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. This would be good information for you to know and be able to share with anyone who this may affect. Contact Kathleen.Bertrand@stolonation.bc.ca with any questions.

[CBC News: Files documenting worst abuses at residential schools to be destroyed unless survivors ask otherwise](#)



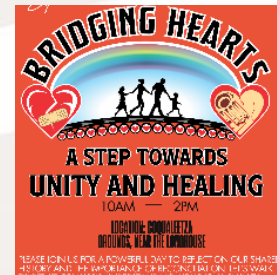


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NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION: BRIDGING HEARTS

September 30th 2025, from 10am-2pm on the Coqualeetza property. There will be Indigenous guest speakers, cultural performances, and Indigenous vendors. We encourage everyone to wear their orange shirts. Let's walk together in honour, truth, and reconciliation.



STÓ:LŌ CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

You're Invited!

Thursday September 18th, 2025 6pm-8pm

Building 10 – 7201 Vedder Road



YOGA WEDNESDAYS WITH INNER VISION YOGA

Every Wednesday, 11:30 - 12:30 pm

SSA staff are welcome to attend FREE yoga sessions on campus in Building 2C portable with instructors from Inner Vision Yoga, supported by the Stó:lō Research and Research Management Centre.

STÓ:LŌ GIFT SHOP

Online shopping is available 24/7 with in-store pickup!

Storefront is open Monday through Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Located at Building #19-7201 Vedder Rd. Chilliwack, BC

Email us with any inquiries to: sales@stologiftshop.com



STÓ:LŌ ABORIGINAL SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING (SASET)

Upcoming SASET Training Program

Youth in trades are offering weekly completion incentives. Carpentry program dual credit with school district!

- [Level 1 Lather Training](#) - FTI Surrey, Sept. 8 – Oct. 17, 2025
- [Employment Training](#) - Various communities & dates
- [Basic Computer Training](#) - Call to book! 604-858-3691
- [Service Canada](#) - Various locations & times
- [Welding Foundations](#) - Hope Secondary School, Starting August 2025
- [Carpentry Foundations](#) - Trades Centre, Sept. 8 – Mar. 20, 2026
- [Indigenous Labour Market Survey](#) \$50 gift card for every completed survey!



SASET CDP Outreach Schedule





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SSA MEMORANDUM – INCOME ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT (SASET Client Memo)

A **friendly reminder** that you will need to continue to submit your monthly renewals and Monthly Employment Action Plan (EAP). You can arrange a meeting with a SASET Counsellor by calling 604-858-3691 or emailing info@saset.ca. Please see the letter regarding inflation relief benefits.

To view the full Income Assistance client memos:

Employment Action Plan

Food Allowance Memo

STÓ:LŌ HEALTH SERVICES

STÓ:LŌ DENTAL OFFICE

Walk-in Dental Clinic: September 23, 2025, noon registration.

Dental Office is open September 29 & closed September 30.

Fall: Open on Saturday dates. Click on the flyer for more information. Fall wellness walk October 8, 2025.

Call to book your appointment 604-824-3234.



QWÍ:QWELSTŌM Events

Language Class

Every Wednesday

9:00-10:00am

WellBriety

Every Wednesday

4:30-6:30pm

Men's Respectful Relationships

Tuesdays from Sept. 9 – Nov. 13, 2025

1-2:30pm

Pathway to Redroad Program

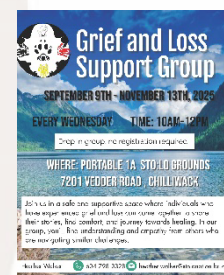
Tuesdays & Thursdays Sept. 9 – Nov. 13, 2025

10am-12pm

Grief and Loss Support Group

Every Wednesday Sept. 9 – Nov. 13, 2025

10am-12pm





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Á:LMÉLHÁWTXW: Early Education Centre

Head Start, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00am – 12:00pm
Please call for more information, 604-824-6505



Head Start Newsletter



Head Start Calendar

Á:LMÉLHÁWTXW: Early Education Centre would like to welcome to new staff members:

Allison Russell - A recent graduate of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), Allison joined us in April 2025. She previously completed her ECE practicum with us, and we're thrilled that she chose to return as a full-time Educator at Á:lmèlhàwtxw Early Education Centre.



Emma Kassam – Emma joined our team at Á:lmèlhàwtxw Early Education Centre in June 2025. After returning from maternity leave at another centre, she made the leap to continue her career with us as an Early Childhood Educator.



STÓ:LŌ ACUPUNCTURE

Dr. Karen Smith, Dr. TCM, R.AC, offers appointments on Monday's, 9am to 4pm at Building 7 for the month of September. Book NOW! Jane App: [Book an appointment with Dr. Smith here:](#) or 604-824-3200.

CASCADE THERAPY

Massage Therapy & Chiropractor
S.A.Y Health Building- 8256 Chilliwack River Road
Call to book your appointment: 604-792-0158



STÓ:LŌ COUNSELLING

[Book an appointment with Bel Bhushan here:](#)
or call 604-824-3200



Looking for Nutrition Advice?

Mana Bayanzadeh, Registered Dietitian
Call or text: 778-926-9451



PHYSIOTHERAPY

Call 604-824-2681 to book an appointment



MÉMIYELHTEL PROGRAM





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STÓ:LŌ COMMUNITY FUTURES

Ranching for Profit Workshop

November 18-20, 2025

New online booking! See poster for information



CLASS ACTION SUPPORT:

Indigenous Community Legal Clinic Intake Line: 604-822-1311,

These UBC Law Students assist with drawing up Wills, and filing Class Action Lawsuits, beginning July 1, 2025.

Please call as needed. ICLC@Allard.UBC.CA

Researchers working on the Kamloops Indian Residential School are starting to conduct interviews with former students and family members and help former students find their records



HOMEWOOD HEALTH

Effective May 1, 2025, Homewood Health is the new provider for the employee assistance and workplace mental health program. All employees and dependent family members will have access to a range of employee assistance, mental health and wellness services. For over 140 years, Homewood Health has been Canada's leader in mental health services. If you are currently utilizing the Telus EFAP, you can continue until your issue is resolved (within the maximum plan). To connect with EFAP for a new situation after May 1, 2025 please contact Homewood Health. [Click here for updated articles.](#)

SSA GROUP BENEFITS PLAN MENTAL HEALTH NAVIGATOR

The Best Doctors Mental Health Navigator program offers you a discreet and confidential way to seek mental health support. If you or an eligible family member struggle with feelings such as depression, stress, or anxiety, contact Best Doctors. Supported every step of the way by your personal Mental Health Navigator and expert health professionals including psychiatrists and psychologists, we provide an assessment of your diagnosis and recommend an appropriate treatment plan, from the comfort of your home via phone or video conference. Your Mental Health Navigator will also provide you with support along your journey through the complex mental health care system. Please see the [MHN Employee Flyer](#) for more information.





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CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS CARD AND ASSISTANCE WITH THE APPLICATION FOR THE SECURE CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS CARD

Building 8A, 1st Floor, 2nd door

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Email June.jimmie@stolonation.bc.ca or call 604-824-3266 to book

Building 8A – North Side Entrance | Registry is on the Main Floor, 2nd door

PROTOCOLS FOR THE APPOINTMENT

- Give yourself enough travel time
 - Arrive on time
 - No walk-ins

CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS CARD

- Two pieces of valid ID, one with a photo
- Bring your own 1"x1" picture

ASSISTANCE WITH APPLYING FOR SECURE CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS CARD

- One valid picture ID
- Two recent passport photos

Valid Identification is required for applying for Status Cards, Registration, & other Personal Information Updates.

ISC is **no longer accepting expired ID** for registration, status card issuance, or for requests to update personal information in the Indian Register. All ID must be valid, that is, not expired.

Since provincial and territorial authorities that issue ID (such as health care cards and driver's licenses) across Canada have reopened, applicants with expired ID are encouraged to obtain valid ID as soon as possible.

For more information on the ID, requirements to apply for registration, and the status card, visit [What is considered valid acceptable identification.](#)

Bands that will be issued Certificate of Indian Status Cards and assistance with the Secure Certificate of Indian Status Cards

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|
| Aitchelitz First Nation | (558) | Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation | (587) |
| Kwaw Kwaw Apilt First Nation | (580) | Skawahlook First Nation | (582) |
| Matsqui First Nation | (565) | Soowahlie First Nation | (572) |
| Popkum First Nation | (585) | Sumas First Nation | (578) |





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STÓ:LO WORKPLACE INCIDENT REPORTS

A friendly reminder to All Staff:

If a workplace Incident occurs, please follow the link to follow the procedure on how to report an incident:

[Workplace Incident Report Form](#)

FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

For meeting-room bookings, staff are encouraged to **book meeting rooms in the building they have an office in**. For bookings, please contact the following:

- Building 7 Boardrooms – [Sheradon Roberts](#) / [Heather Walker](#) / [Lauralee Campbell](#)
- Building 8B Small and large boardrooms- [Abby Duncan](#) / [Kelly Willmets](#)
- Building 10 Floor 1- [Tracey Joe](#) / [Tara Green](#)
- Building 10 Floor 2 – [Tracey Joe](#) / [Tara Green](#)
- Longhouse Bookings -[Tracey Joe](#) /[Tara Green](#) / [Jade Point](#)
- To Request new or changes to existing access cards, please complete the online Access Form at: www.stolonation.bc.ca/access
- Tent rentals please contact June Jimmie at June.Jimmie@stolonation.bc.ca
- Cell Phones and Landlines! Contact Brianna Nakagawa for all things related to cellphones and landlines.
- **To review current operational policies and other general information, please go to N:\Info.**
- Reminder for all staff to submit any announcements/invitations to [Michelle Van Tongeren](#) for the monthly bulletin and to refrain from sending “all-staff” emails.
- Staff are reminded to avoid publishing phone numbers – work or personal – on Facebook or any other social media. Recently SSA experienced harassing phone calls from someone who obtained a staff’s cell number – as well as their relative’s numbers - on Facebook.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM MAINTENANCE:

USE THE MAINTENANCE REQUEST FORM (www.stolonation.bc.ca/mrf) for sending all requests to the Maintenance Team. Verbal, phone, or email requests not on the form will not be accepted.

You can also use the QR code for easy access to the form.



COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

SSA continues to reinforce preventative measures. Variants of COVID-19 spread the same as the original COVID-19 so the measures already in place continue to be effective at reducing the spread. Please be diligent in doing your part to help reduce the spread which includes doing your daily health check, staying home when feeling sick, using available space to spread out and respect personal space, wearing masks if required, cleaning hands, and disinfecting work surfaces regularly. If you are feeling ill or test positive for COVID-19, notify your supervisor and staff.





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STÓ:LŌ SERVICE AGENCY

VISION

A healthier, stronger, brighter future for all communities.

MISSION

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

VALUES

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

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





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Sonny McHalsie's Retirement after 40 years and 1 day

Congratulations!

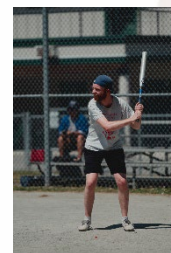
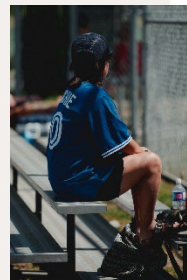
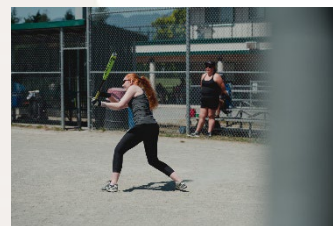
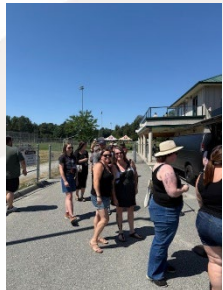




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SSA Staff Baseball Game and Lunch





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SSA Golf Tournament Winners



Opening Ceremony: Thank you, Chief Darcy Paul



Closet to pin-Women: Cassie Reid



Closet to pin-Men: Josh Garcia



Putting Contest: Cassie Reid



Longest Drive Men: Graham Hutton



Longest Drive-Women: Cassie Reid



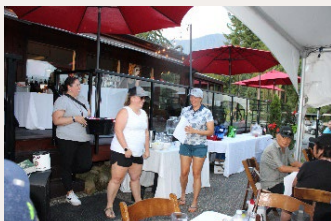
50/50 Winner: Stephanie Johnston



Sandpiper Golf Day: Saylesh Wesley



Most Honest Team: Wrong hole dirty birds



Abby Canucks booth- Bev Keswick



Best Team Spirit: The ParTees



Best Team Score: Hubba Hubba





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SEPTEMBER 2025

SSA Golf Tournament

August 21, 2025

