



STÓ:LŌ BULLETIN

JANUARY 2026

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)

We wanted to start out with a big thank-you to the Board of Directors (BOD) for approving via Board Resolution, the Stó:lō Service Agency (SSA) Christmas bonus days of December 22, 23, 24 and 29th. We truly appreciate the kind gesture.

The BOD presented the Years of Service ribbons to eligible staff at the All-Staff Christmas luncheon on December 5, 2025, at the Shxwhá:y Village Band Hall. This event was well attended with over 160 staff sharing a meal together and getting to know their fellow co-workers from various departments. The staff enjoyed a few fun ice breaker games before the lunch was served which we heard was one highlight of the luncheon. The Board of Directors presented long-term staff members Jewel Francis, Education Clerk of the Finance Department and Tracey Joe, Admin/Office Manager of the SRRMC department, with their 30 yr. plaques. Thank you, ladies, for your continued dedication to SSA! Your work and commitment do not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for your years of service!



It was great to enjoy some fun Christmas festivities before the holidays started, with the Office of the Executive Director, Management team and Operations staff.

As work commences in the new year, the OED is preparing for;

- The upcoming Management Team, OH&S Committee and Stó:lō Collective Meetings;
- The 2026-27 Budget & Workplan preparations have begun, and department/programs have been working hard to finalize drafts for review and final approval at the SSA Board of Directors meeting in March.
- Working with ISC and McElhenney on obtaining funding for the Sewer Project at Coqualeetza properties.

Hopefully you all had a chance to enjoy time with family and friends over the holidays.





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INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS

With the winter season upon us, a friendly reminder that if the Chilliwack School district is closed due to inclement weather, then the SSA Offices will be closed.

HOMEWOOD HEALTH

Click beside to see updated information.



Homewood
Health

Experience
the power
of care

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) is directing a broad-based and inclusive initiative to investigate missing children and potential unmarked graves related to three former Residential Schools and one Federal Indian Hospital within S'ólh Téméxw: All Hallows Boarding School in Yale, Coqualeetza Industrial Institute and Coqualeetza Hospital in Chilliwack, and St. Mary's Residential School in Mission.

The investigation team has been conducting archival, oral historical, and on-site remote sensing work since the fall of 2021. We are also working with local Stó:lō First Nations including Sqwá, Sq'ewqéyl, and Ch'íyáqtel regarding burials known to have been relocated to each of their cemeteries from the Coqualeetza grounds.

TakingCareOfOurChildren@stolonation.bc.ca

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](#)

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 Portable 2C 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!

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

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





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STÓ:LŌ ABORIGINAL SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

SASET Training Programs

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

- [Employment Training](#) – Various communities & dates
- [Basic Computer Training](#) – Every Friday at SASET Chilliwack office
- [Service Canada](#) – Various locations & times
- [Carpentry Foundations](#) – Trades Centre, Sept. 8 – Mar. 20, 2026
- [ECE Training](#) – School of your choice, call 604-858-3691 or email info@saset.ca
- [Getting your L](#) – SASET Chilliwack office, Jan 23, 2026
- [SASET Career Fair](#) – Chilliwack Landing Sport Centre, February 4, 2026
- [LMI Survey](#) – \$50 Gift card for every completed survey!
- [First Aid Training](#) – Chawathil, Jan 28-29, 2026
- [Customer Service Training](#) – SASET Chilliwack office, Jan. 27-30, 2026



SASET CDP Outreach Schedule



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.

STÓ:LŌ HEALTH SERVICES

STÓ:LŌ DENTAL OFFICE

Happy New Year! Our next walk-in clinic will be Tuesday February 10, 2026. We will be closed for Family Day on February 16, 2026. We are open on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 8am-4pm. Bookings requested on text to 604-824-3234 or email:

dental@stolonation.bc.ca or website: <https://www.stolonation.bc.ca/dental>

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 January. Book NOW! Jane App: [Book an appointment with Dr. Smith here](#): or call 604-824-3200.





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STÓ:LŌ COUNSELLING

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



QWÍ:QWELSTŌM EVENTS

Language Class

Every Wednesday
9:00am-10:00am

WellBriety

Every Wednesday
4:30pm-6:30pm



Á:LMÉLHÁWTXW: Early Education Centre

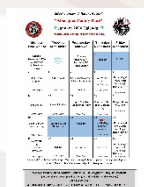
Head Start, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00am – 12:00pm
Please call for more information, 604-824-6505



Head Start Newsletter

Head Start Calendar

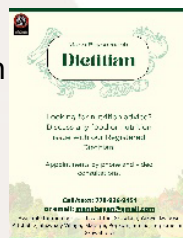
ABORIGINAL FAMILY PLACE



Family Place Calendar

NUTRIION Advice?

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



PHYSIOTHERAPY

Call 604-824-2681 to book an appointment



MÉMIYELHTEL PROGRAM



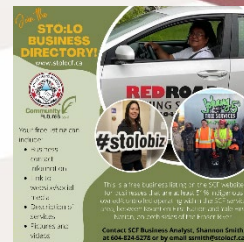


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STÓ:LŌ COMMUNITY FUTURES

Indigenous entrepreneur who is thinking about starting or growing a business to connect with us for free support (advice, workshops, loans, and referrals). Phone 604-858-0009. We are encouraging Indigenous business owners to sign up to be on the Stó:lō Business Directory. Click on the graphic for direct link.



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.





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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)
		Squiala	(574)





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STÓ:LŌ WORKPLACE INCIDENT REPORTS

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 & 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.
- 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.



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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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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SSA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



**Congratulations Jewel Francis Leon and Tracey Joe!
Thank you for 30 years of service!**





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SSA Christmas Door Decorating Contest. Congratulations to Lisa Lorraine and CherieLynn Wagar!



Happy 60th Birthday to Garrett MacAskill!

Happy 50th Birthday to Art Adams!

