



Stó:lō Service Agency Performance Report

September - November 2024

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (OED)

- Hosted a successful Stó:lō Heritage Trust Society (Xá:ytem Properties) AGM on September 18, 2024, for the 21 communities. The meeting provided updates on the work that continued to be done at the Xá:ytem properties, which is required for our charitable status designation.
- After a great deal of work, it is with excitement and enthusiasm we announced that the Coqualeetza property located at 7201 Vedder Road, Chilliwack, BC has been registered as a Reserve jointly owned by the 21 Stó:lō Communities. We received the Ministerial Order for the Coqualeetza properties on November 20, 2024 and the OED sent emails to the 21 communities informing them of this wonderful news.
- Work continued with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in the application process to secure funding for the St. Mary's (Pek'xe:yles) property. An update on the demolition and deconstruction process was emailed to the communities on October 16, 2024, with a Band Council Resolution requesting support. OED is meeting with the project manager monthly on this project.
- Hosted a successful SNCC meeting where the SNCC President, David Jimmie accepted another term, won by acclamation.
- Attended various work events including the Truth and Reconciliation ceremony, Wellness Wednesday, Wreath making and Board of Director Christmas dinner with the Management team in November.



Christmas dinner with OED, SSA Management team and SSA Board members, Anna Celesta, Jessie Ramsay, Derek Hansom, Sharron Young, Rhianna Millman and Angela Kermer.

- Office of the Executive Director, staff member Kaylee Vogelaar (Bonnar) welcomed her son Elliot on November 17, 2024.



FINANCE

GIFT SHOP

- Introduced NEW cedar weaver Roberta Malloway to our shop.
- Expanded our library with more reference materials, children’s cultural stories, Fiction and Art books.
- We are always on the lookout for cool new items that have amazing art and might be appealing to a younger demographic. We were excited to add some fun inventory to our shop! Crystal and Rico Worl



have brought Trickster Co. to the spotlight with these fun Basket Balls (5 designs to choose from) along with Skateboard and longboard decks all styled with beautiful Authentic Indigenous art of their own. They have been a big hit in the shop, and several adults have purchased a board to simply “Hang up” as artwork in their space!

Trickster Co. line of basketballs and skateboard decks.

- Recorded slightly over \$223,000 in gross sales for this quarter and continue to look for connections with Artists who are creating, new books and traditional hand-crafted items.



POST SECONDARY

- Post-Secondary for September to November:

	UCEP	Certificate/Diploma	Bachelor Program	Master’s	PhD	TOTAL
Matsqui		5		1		6
Skawahlook			3			3
Skowkale	1	4	7	4	1	17
Tzeachten		3	6			9
Yakweakwioose	1		1			2
TOTAL	2	12	17	5	1	37

OPERATIONS

- Finalized the SSA website refresh and migration and launched the newly designed site. <https://www.stolonation.bc.ca>
- Along with the Finance Director, attended an information workshop hosted by the Financial Management Board which assists First Nations with their financial governance systems and provides the eligibility pathway for First Nations to get the New Fiscal Relationship Grant (formerly know as the 10 Year Grant). ISC opened the eligibility for Tribal Councils and First Nation Not-for-Profit Organizations to obtain the NFR 10 Year Grant as well.
- Enjoyed a fun team building day making wreaths.



Wreath making at the Bouquet Farm in Yarrow.

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 fourth annual September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This event was well attended with 300+ in attendance and 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: Squiala Chief David Jimmie speaking at the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Coqualeetza.

- 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.



Shakeout 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.



Halloween at SSA.

- On November 11, 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.



Left photo: Darcy Paul, Master of Ceremonies. Middle: Procession to the cenotaph. Right: Squiala Chief Dave Jimmie laying a wreath.

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)

	September	October	November	TOTAL
Job Postings	5	6	11	22
Interviews	13	14	7	34
New Hires	8	9	4	21
Staff Retirement/Resignation/Release		1		1
WCB/EI Disability Applications	1	2		3
HR consultations with Staff/Supervisor	6	13	12	31
Pension and Benefit Education Sessions	1			1
Pension and Benefit Enrollments		11	12	23
Criminal Record Check Applications		1	21	22
EI Top-up				1

- Welcomed new HR hire, Lisa Lorraine as the Recruitment and Selection Administrator in the Operations department.
- Continued working with MNP on updating employee job descriptions as part of the overall SSA compensation review.



Recruitment and Selection Administrator, Lisa Lorraine.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

- Assisted setup of new audio-visual systems in Building 8B.
- Set-up new Cohesity cloud backup system which will aid in protecting the data on all our Microsoft 365 and Azure virtual systems.
- Assisted SRRMC's web developer Culture Code in setup of new XYS web database system.
- Setup various security hardening policies in our Microsoft Entra/Azure tenant to protect against cyber attack.
- Begin testing migration of onsite Unification and Omni databases to Microsoft Azure with our web developer Lewis Point.

INDIAN REGISTRY

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

	Births	FTR	SCIS Applications	CIS Cards
Aitchelitz	1	1	3	2
Matsqui	1	1		3
Shxw'ow'hamel	1	1	5	3
Skawahlook		5	6	
Soowahlie			4	
Sumas		1	5	6
TOTAL	3	9	23	14

PROPERTY & CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

- Added crush and leveled some spots around the Coqualeetza site to improve parking areas and walking areas.



- Cleared away the overgrowing brush from the roadway and lift station at St. Mary's.



- Met with ISC and Encora Engineers to review the utilities at St. Mary's in preparation for future demolition.
- Met with Elite to do regular building inspections and provide updated fire safety plans.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

	Sept - Nov Stats
Files created	659
Files edited	398
Boxes created	23
Boxes edited	28
Purged Files in Omni Database	197

- Held office visits to assist staff on the policy and procedures to archive their records.
- Archived boxes for Xá:ytem/Health/Dental departments.

HEALTH SERVICES (HS)

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS/PRIMARY CARE

- Stó:lō Elders Program saw up to 15 Elders attend every Friday for exercise, a social and sharing a meal.
- Several staff supported the Truth and Reconciliation events on September 29 at Sumas and September 30 at Coqualeetza.
- Skowkale First Nation and Stó:lō Health held two events with Dr. Gabor Mate who presented via zoom on November 12 and 14 with over 400 people in attendance for both days. Day 1: The Hungry Ghosts: A Biopsychosocial perspective on addiction and Day 2: Peer Orientation: why children are stressed and how to restore a healthy balance in adult- child relationships.
- Wellness Wednesday gatherings continued to be held weekly. Activities included rock painting for Truth and Reconciliation Day and Remembrance Day, Halloween costume contest, games and sharing a meal.



Wellness Wednesday activities in Portable 1.

- Born from the community's need for more culturally informed, timely, and flexible mental health support, SSA devoted the past few months to establishing a new Mental Health Team (Austen Renaud, Santana (Chino) Julian and Leslie Picton). At the heart of our approach is the Halq'eméylem word ikw'elo, meaning "Here", which carries a profound message: "We are here for you and we support you in being here - present, authentic, and connected". The program helps bridge critical gaps in mainstream mental health services. By operating with greater cultural sensitivity and responsiveness than traditional publicly funded services, we are creating pathways that truly respond to our community's needs. Through dedicated advocacy and culturally informed support, the team aims to reconnect people with themselves and their community.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HOMECARE

- 84 active footcare clients
- 95 active Homecare clients
- 14 active maternal/child clients
- 16 clients regularly attended Elder's Day program
- 278 immunization clients
- 5 families attended Babytime program

DENTAL

- Monthly Revenue Production:
 - September 2024- \$115,652.56
 - October 2024, \$ 121,231.11
- Once a month, the dental clinic dedicated an afternoon for “Walk in Clinic Time”.
- Clinic was closed from December 23 to January 6, 2025.
- Continued the monthly one Saturday open clinic as this is quite a success to help the working folks receive their dental treatment.
- Dr. Prabhleen Singh finished a University of British Columbia (UBC) training course on placing Dental Implants.
- Added a digital scanner to the practice last year and will aim to be placing implants in the near future.
- Dental Team will be recertifying their CPR, Dental Office emergencies and AED training in December.
- Installed a Panorex Machine which will reduce the number of referrals sent out for this film (detects decay, wisdom teeth, TMJ disorders etc.).



Panorex machine sample photo.

Á:LMÉLHÁWTXW EARLY EDUCATION CENTRE

- Monthly Elder visits continued with Julie L from Skawahlook First Nation spending time connecting with families and children, as well as assisting Karissa in the program.
- Continued Nature Friday for the Family program, which was a scheduled time for families to join on a walk of SSA grounds or out in community.
- Book Worm Wednesdays were held where new books were sent home with our preschoolers to provide a way to engage the children in reading with their families.
- Preschool enrollment boasted 18 children in total for two classes.
- Head Start activities included pumpkin patch field trip, apple baking, Stó:lō Health guest speaker about hand washing, monthly hot lunch provided by Baby Time staff, Stó:lō Health guest speaker about cough and cold season, Stó:lō Dental guest speaker on teeth brushing demonstration, pumpkin baking, guest speaker from Child Care Resource and Referral, cooking baking, Stó:lō Health guest speaker – topic Gut Health, and a field trip to Chilliwack River Fish Hatchery.
- September welcomed four new families into Child Care, and November welcomed one new family into Child Care.
- Our Centre won two categories for Chilliwack Community Votes 2024 – this year our Early Years Centre won the “gold” award for best in Daycare Services and “silver” in Child Care Services.



Early Years Centre awards.

- In September we welcomed one new ECE and two new ECE Assistant to our programs. We also had one ECE move on to work for a private childcare centre.
- October was the start of a fully funded construction project (thanks to Service Canada) for all cement walkways and cement play areas to be redone. The project was done in stages, putting safety plans in place, closing areas of the walkways and play areas as needed and working around nap/rest time.
- In October À:lmèlhàwtxw Early Education Centre hosted UFV / Chilliwack School District Dual credit students on a Saturday. This day was planned by Supervisor, Monique, and was funded by SVP Vancouver.



Professional Day staff gathering.

- In November, had a winter staff gathering where the team got together to make Christmas present tags with dried flowers, and spend a lovely evening connecting.



Winter staff gathering.

- November Pro Day – the early years team spent the day diving deeper into learning about The Early Learning Framework.

SHXWT'AM:ETSEL FAMILY SERVICES

- The Shwt'am:etsel Family service team consisting of: Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD), Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP) for 0-6 and 6+, and the Aboriginal Family Place (AFP) in Mission continued to serve all Indigenous Families in the Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and Mission Areas.

	ASCD Ages 0 - 6	ASCD Ages 6+	AIDP	AFP
September	138	16	95	96
October	139	18	99	99
November	142	21	106	102

Aboriginal Family Place (AFP)

- AFP enjoyed a field trip, to the Pumpkin Patch, an outside Water Party, and their Big Halloween Party.
- The WOW literacy bus continued to visit monthly where the children got to step into the bus for an activity and take a free book home with them.
- Attended the Open House of our Neighbors at Future 4 Nations and chatted with current families and met new prospective families.

- Lots of outreach was done this year including helping a family get to a few appointments; one being at the hospital.
- The visit to Sara for Women was a success making new families aware of the program.
- All attending children received orange shirts for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.



Crafts at the Centre.

Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) and Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP)

- The bi-monthly Play and Connect sessions, which link families to other therapy services they may need from the Fraser Valley Child Development Center, were enjoyed and well attended.
- Enjoyed a large collaboration meeting with the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre which included all service providers. It was great to meet new staff and discover more services that our families can also benefit from.
- Staff attended the Saint Mary's tour and the Gabor Mate event.
- The team connected through team building where we made rattles, enjoyed social time, and did some planning in September.
- The Centre Manager took part in the strategic planning interviews for the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre as well as an interview with the University of Victoria (UVIC) to discuss service gaps. UVIC is doing a research project for MCFD to discover service gaps and hopefully provide some advocating to reduce these.
- ASCD Mission consultant and Manager were guests at a parent session at Future 4 Aboriginal Head Start to educate parents about development and explain our services and how they work.



New van for the Centre.

QWÍ:QWELSTÓM (WELLNESS SERVICES)

- Respectful Relationships Program was held from September to November (10 weeks) and was very impactful. We were able to honour three graduates.
- Weekly Halq'eméylem Classes (Fridays) grew extensively and now has up to 30 participants between Stó:lō and Fraser Health staff.
- Grief and Loss Support Group - 8 sessions.
- Monthly Qwí:qwelstóm Elders' Panel meetings were held.
- Responded to 19 sexual violence disclosures.



Honoring our graduates.

- The team actively participated in various events and activities which included committee meetings, webinars, training sessions, and cultural ceremonies to enhance knowledge and skill base in addressing issues related to gender-based violence, justice, harm reduction and wellness.

YOUTH SERVICES

Mémiyelhtel

- 51 youth are currently on the caseload with 63 youth on the waitlist.
- Hired a coordinator, Kenrae Dorsey, for the new **Lyáqthet (to transform yourself)** – Recreation and Land-based Healing Project.
- Launched the first Lyáqthet cohort, hosting weekly sessions on Thursdays which included:
 - Omada Team building: shared in activities that focused on self-discovery, problem solving, and sharing within a group setting.
 - Greendale Acres: groups worked together to find their way through the corn maze. Also enjoyed dinner around a campfire, roasted smores, and shared stories.
 - Pizza Party and assistance preparing for Halloween night.
 - Chilliwack River Rafting: hosted the first overnight camping trip on the Chilliwack River. Participants set up camp (tents), had a sauna, and spent time sharing stories and laughs around the campfire. Stó:lō teachings and history was also shared about the area. On the second day they went river rafting on the Chilliwack River.



Lyáqthet camping trip.



River rafting.



At the Cirque du Soleil production.

- Planet Lazer: Youth worked together to complete challenges in laser tag.
- Cirque du Soleil: youth travelled together to Vancouver, shared a meal and attended the Cirque du Soleil production, Echo.
- Axe Throwing.

- Elders' Advisory lunch hosted in October.
- Team building and wellness day in October.

- The team attended two live on-line sessions with Dr Gabor Mate.
- Launched the Holiday Shoe Box Campaign for personalized gifts for youth in the program. All boxes accounted for within the first week.
- Received gift donation from Skawahlook First Nation for siblings of youth in program.
- Adopt-A-Road – ‘Mémíyelhtel’ stewardship, road clean-up (Knight Road, Shaw Avenue, Gaetz Street) continued.
- Continued growth of local partnerships (i.e., Sidekick Brewing, Smoking Gun Coffee).
- Continued sponsorship with Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe Management Ltd.
- Collaboration continued with Partners & Hawes and The Amazing Brentwood to create an art exhibit to highlight Truth & Reconciliation. Team members and youth were able to attend the unveiling in September and the exhibit was on display until the end of October.



FAMILY EMPOWERMENT TEAM (FET)

- Had 27 clients.
- Strategic planning was held in September in Victoria.
- Staff attended the Doula conference: Caretakers Earthside, at Harrison Hot Springs in October.
- Traditional Parenting was hosted by Chehalis in September and Sumas in November

STÓ:LŌ ELDERS LODGE (SEL)

- Snow guards were installed to prepare for the winter weather.
- All Lighting inside SEL was changed to LED.
- Parking lot lines were freshly painted.
- Staff/Training included:
 - CPR recertification - 7 staff
 - Palliative Approach workshop - 3 LPN
 - Code Red Fire Drill
 - Code Orange Earthquake Drill
- Hired a full-time cook, 2 casual RCA's, 2 term RCA's (night shift), and 2 youth Internship Indigenous housing workers.

▪ Activities included:

- Incorporating self-care activities: foot care and having a hairdresser for tenants every 4-6 weeks
- Thrift store and Walmart shopping
- Hosted Squamish Elders Luncheon 35 Elders
- Elders Halloween Party at SAY Building
- Elders Bingo at Soowhalie
- Fishing
- Bingo and Board games
- Flu & Covid vaccine clinics
- Resident Engagement meeting



STÓ:LŌ ABORIGINAL SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING (SASET)

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES (EAS)

- The SASET Chilliwack Outreach Employment Services employment counselors continued with on-site services at 19 outreach employment sites in Boston Bar, Cheam, Chawathil, Leq'á:mel, Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, Mission Friendship Center, Shxw'ōwhámél, Skwah, Spuzzum, Soowahlie, Squiala, Sumas, Shxwhà:y Village, Tzeachten, Chilliwack WorkBC, 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, Kwantlen, Leq'á:mel, Matsqui, SASET Chilliwack Outreach office on SSA grounds, Shxw'ōwhámél, Skwah, Soowahlie, Sumas, Spuzzum, Squiala, Seabird Island Band, Sts'ailes, 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
 - Registering for the Canadian Dental Plan
 - The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)
 - Other federal programs and services
- The three full-time EAS offices received Forestry Connect Stations from the BC First Nations Forestry Technology Council. These stations will provide a hands-on way for individuals to access career development resources tailored to the forestry industry.
 - Participated in the Mission Career Expo and Job Fair, University of the Fraser Valley Trades & Technology Opportunity Fair, Abbotsford Hiring Fair & Post Secondary Expo, Mission Youth Transition Fair, and Seabird Island Career Exploration & Information Fair.
 - Attended the Chawathil AGM/Open House, and Matsqui Halloween Community Gathering.
 - Employability Workshops facilitated by SASET at the Chilliwack Employment Resource Centre:
 - **Getting your “L” preparing for securing your Driver’s License:** 31 individuals participated at the Chilliwack Outreach office at SSA (4 groups).
 - **Resume and Cover Letter:** 7 individuals participated at the Chilliwack Outreach office at SSA (4 groups).
 - **Basic Computer Training:** 52 individuals participated at one of the following locations: Chilliwack Outreach Office at SSA (every Friday), Tzeachten, Kinghaven Treatment Centre in Abbotsford, and Kekinow Native Housing.
 - **True Colors:** 9 individuals participated at Chilliwack Outreach Office at SSA.
 - **Money and Budgeting:** 7 individuals participated at Chilliwack Outreach Office at SSA.
 - **Dress for Success:** 9 individuals participated at Chilliwack Outreach Office at SSA.
 - **Interview Skills:** 9 individuals participated at Chilliwack Outreach Office at SSA.
 - All SASET staff attended the Career Development Practice: Building a New Era Course which focused on providing an in-depth, foundational overview of the field of career development.



Forest Connect Stations at the three EAS offices.



Basic computer training at Tzeachten First Nation.

EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING SERVICES

Community	# of Clients September to November 30, 2024					
	TTW	STT	LTT	In School	At work	TOTAL
Leq' á:mel	0	1	0	1	0	2
Matsqui	0	3	0	3	3	9
Sumas	2	0	1	1	2	6
Skowkale	0	0	1	1	1	3
Squiala	3	2	0	4	3	12
Tzeachten	1	0	0	0	1	2
SASET	21	8	3	11	21	64
LSTC	2	0	0	0	2	4
Seabird	3	0	0	0	3	6
Sts'ailes	3	3	2	4	6	18
Boston Bar	1	1	0	1	1	4
Spuzzum/Yale	1	0	0	0	1	2
Cheam	2	0	0	0	2	4
Mission/Abbotsford	5	2	2	4	5	18
Katzie/Maple Ridge	5	2	0	2	5	14
Chawathil/Shxw'ow'hamel/Hope	5	1	0	0	5	11
Kwantlen	2	0	0	0	2	4
TOTAL	56	23	9	32	63	183

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

- Client statistics September 1, 2024 to November 30, 2024:
 - Served 829 clients (with 2, 711 interventions) averaging approximately 3.27 appointments per client.
 - There were 428 male and 401 female clients.
 - 243 clients were between the ages of 15 and 24; 327 were between the ages of 25 and 39; 192 were between the ages of 40 and 54; and 67 clients were over the age of 55.
 - Of the 829 clients: 207 individuals found employment, and 66 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.

- **Medical Office Assistant Certificate September 9, 2024 - March 25, 2025:** 12 participants began a 28-week training program at the UFV Campus in Chilliwack. This seven-month certificate program included a two-week practicum and teaches students to handle daily administrative tasks in doctors' offices, medical clinics, hospitals, and other healthcare settings. Upon successful completion of the program, students will be equipped to manage office activities in various healthcare environments.



Medical Office Assistant students.

- **Occupational Health and Safety Joint Committee Training September 26, 2024:** 10 individuals completed a one-day training session at Tzeachten. All attendees received the necessary tools and education to effectively serve as committee members, emphasizing the importance of making decisions that benefit both employees and the company.

- **SASET Foundations Culinary Arts Program October 1, 2024 - December 6, 2024:** 9 participants will continue a 12-week training program at UFV which includes certifications in Food Safe, First Aid Level 1, WHMIS, and WCB Awareness, as well as training in Occupational Skills. Participants will learn how to cook and prepare stocks, soups and sauces, vegetables and fruits, starches, meats, poultry, seafood, Garde-manger, eggs, breakfast dishes, dairy, baked goods, desserts, and beverages.



SASET Culinary class.

Additionally, the program covers basic kitchen management. This comprehensive training equips participants with essential culinary skills and knowledge for the industry.

- **Business Administration Certificate Training October 7, 2024 - June 20, 2025:** 13 individuals in this training, both virtually and in person, at Sprott Shaw College in Chilliwack. The focus of this program includes effectively using MS Office applications such as Word, Excel, and Access, developing and managing project plans, performing accounting activities, understanding accounting statements, and communicating effectively.
- **Building Service Worker October 18, 2024 - November 22, 2024:** 9 participants successfully completed this 10-day training program hosted at Seabird Island College. The course introduced students to custodial and housekeeping operations through both theoretical knowledge and practical applications. Key topics included cleaning procedures for various surfaces, chemical safety, waste handling, WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System), and other safety protocols. This training is based on green cleaning practices as outlined by the Canadian Sanitation Supply Association (CSSA) and the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Green Building Rating System.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

- **Student Employment Program:** 27 contracts were funded for community student hiring. In total 125 youth will experience employment through the Student Employment Program this year.
- **Targeted Wage Subsidy Program:** 29 programs were funded in our catchment area which provided employment for 62 individuals whose last barrier to employment may be work related experience.



Cheam TWS Program: Lesley-
Public Works Worker



TWS Ucwalmicw All Nations Services
Society: Shannon-Administrative Assistance.



TWS Chawathil: Georgina-
Executive Assistant

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

- Partnership funding from Skills Trades BC enabled 9 individuals to start a 12-week training program at UFV in October. 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. This comprehensive training equips participants with essential culinary skills and knowledge for the industry.

SASET Success Stories:

- **Elissa Trudell attended Health Care Assistance Certification:** *"I decided to pursue training as a Health Care Assistant (HCA) for several reasons. My deep empathy and compassion for others have always driven my passion for helping people. The high demand for HCAs ensures solid job prospects, and the potential to advance into nursing offers opportunities for growth in my career. A personal experience also played a role in my decision: I was deeply touched by the care and compassion my grandfather received from hospice workers during his time in their care."*

Initially, it took me some time to adjust to the training, but once I found my footing, I realized I had made the right choice. I discovered that the range of HCA responsibilities is broader than I had anticipated; it extends beyond just elder care in facilities. HCAs can work in hospitals, offer support to disabled individuals, and operate in various other environments, which is truly exciting.

Having recently completed my training and submitted the necessary paperwork for my registry number, I am eager to embark on the next steps of my career and make a meaningful impact in the lives of those I will care for.

I am incredibly grateful for the support SASET provided throughout the program, consistently checking in on my progress. Thank you to the SASET team for all your assistance!”



- **Rye Piche attended Fire Investigator Certification:** *“I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible opportunity that SASET has offered me to pursue my Fire Inspector and Investigator courses. As I continue my journey as a firefighter, this additional training is crucial for my advancement into the field of fire prevention, which I am truly passionate about. I am currently about one-third of the way through the Fire Inspector 1/2 course and aim to complete everything by mid-December.*

Growing up as a young Indigenous boy, I dreamed of becoming a firefighter, but I seldom saw anyone in that role who resembled me. Thanks to this support, I am now closer to realizing that dream. I also aspire to be a visible mentor for young Indigenous boys and girls, demonstrating that they, too, can achieve their aspirations.

Thank you once again for this incredible opportunity. It means the world to me, and I am excited to apply what I learn to serve our community and inspire the next generation. I hope this aligns with what you were hoping for, and I am grateful for the support from you and SASET.”



INCOME ASSISTANCE

- Nine clients exited Income Assistance due to finding employment or other reasons (moving, no contact, did not renew application).
- There was a significant increase of the number of clients due to:
 - The cost of living off-reserve increased and members moved back home to their communities.
 - Communities were 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 2024:

Band	Employable	PWD	PPMB	Average Monthly Total: 130	TOTAL BAND MEMBERS
Aitchelitz	4	0	0	4	4
Matsqui	2	4	0	6	5
Skowkale	8	1	2	11	8
Shxwhà:y Village	9	10	0	19	15
Squiała	15	10	3	28	23
Tzeachten	35	15	6	56	36
Yakweakwioose	3	2	1	6	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employable – no barriers to attain employment, these individuals work with SASET Employment Counselors • PWD-Persons with Disability • PPMD- Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers 					Number of registered Band members from the total clients serviced in each community.

STÓ:LŌ RESEARCH AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CENTRE (SRRMC)

HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP AND ARCHAEOLOGY

- Continued work on 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.
- Repository: cataloging, accessioning, upload to RRN, donation and loans.
- Supported the XYS Project GPR fieldwork.
- Hired an Archaeologist, 2 Junior Archaeologists, and an additional Operations Assistant.
- Finished the fieldwork for the Vedder Mountain project and provided drone support.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS GEOMATICS (GIS)

- Coordinated a file transfer protocol with Archives, and all XYS field data was collected and prepared for transfer to UFV.
- Began coordination with Culture Code to import Traditional Use Study (TUS) data and prepare for test run first week in October.
- Updated RAAD layer from BC Archaeology Branch.
- Attended XYS team meeting, presented first draft of OMI cemetery mapping.
- Reached out to Geoscan for update on new data and received magnetics data from Peter Takacs.
- Began looking at Lucky 4 claims group as part of a further study of claims above 1400m in the territory. Preliminary report was submitted for comment.
- Met with Enbridge Environmental person and GIS team to coordinate data transfer. Received first dataset and began to load it as a layer into the Major Projects Module.
- Survey team completed the GPR grids for the 2024 field season.
- First section of 1996 TUS is QC'ed and ready for import.
- Completed mapping support request for Geohazard project.
- Senior Tech reworked the Enbridge LiDAR we received into a more usable form and made the maps available to the field team.
- Provided Semá:th with spatial cultural data for the main reserve area.
- Sent Sqwá cemetery maps and dataset to Lands officer.
- Set up and tested SHeD data connection for internal use, added GIS and Arch & Heritage users to working installation.

SQWÉLQWEL STEWARDSHIP AND SUPPORT UNIT

Stó:lō Shxwelí Halq'eméylem Language Program

- Continued to focus on preparation for our community immersion Halq'eméylem Book 1 cohort in the fall. There were a large number of responses to our request for expressions of interest in the class, so decided to have two cohorts start in September, having both a daytime and an evening class. Also finalized Book 1 to go for printing.
- Set up an information booth at the SSA Truth and Reconciliation Day event on September 30.
- The United Church of Canada donated \$200k to Stó:lō Shxwelí from its "Bringing Home the Children" fund in recognition of the harms it caused to Indigenous peoples through the residential schools it ran.



Participated in September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

- Two community immersion classes started in October, with 31 participants in total. Each cohort attended classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, one in the mornings and one in the evening.
- Applied for a \$25k grant from First Peoples’ Cultural Council from its Cultural Practices Grant fund in support of further adult and youth immersion classes to be held in 2025.
- Team members and the S.A.Y. language program team jointly participated in a “Where Are Your Keys?” training October 21-25. Where Are Your Keys? is a comprehensive method for revitalizing endangered languages and skills where learners learn language through being teachers.

Stó:lō Library and Archives

- Met with Coqualeetza Cultural Education Centre to discuss collaborating on an upcoming Museums Assistance Program grant to support work on each organization’s oral history collections.
- Led two tours of the Library and Archives for UFV students.
- Met with Semá:th Traditional Use and Occupancy lead researcher, Meagan Gough to discuss further work and cultural restrictions on the oral histories and information gathered through this work.
- Archivist-Librarian, Stephen Shurgold attended a session at the UBC First Nations Information Studies to present on our work and see if students would be interested in a work placement with us. We received three applications and will be conducting interviews and narrowing it down to one or two placements.
- Participated in the inaugural meeting for the Indigenous Matters Committee of the Association of Canadian Archivists.
- Submitted an application to Heritage Canada’s Museums Assistance Program for a collaborative project with the Coqualeetza Cultural Education Centre. The Stó:lō Labour History Project will see both institutions develop finding aids for their archival/oral history materials related to Stó:lō labour history that are housed in each institution to best archival standards, to be developed jointly
- Provided an interim report for the 2024/25 Library and Archives’ Canada’s Documentary Heritage Communities Project, under which the building 1 records are being processed and added to the Archives.

Stó:lō Genealogy Office

- Had 37 email inquiries, one walk in, and 7 phone requests.
- Some updates on the Stó:lō Family Treemaker Database:
 - Total # of names: 57,765 (up 363 this month alone)
 - Total # of marriages: 17,500 (up 112 this month alone)
 - Entries updated or merged: 50

Cultural Education

- Continued hosting the summer Cultural Experience Series events at Coqualeetza and at Xá:ytem.
- Finished preparing for the upcoming school year.

- Participated in the Chilliwack School District’s September 27 Professional Development Day, which included giving a presentation on the SSA’s Cultural Education Program and joining in the other professional development activities.

Tours

- Participated in meetings with the Seabird Island led “geohazard risk signage project.”
- Led two Chilliwack Valley Tours; two Coqualeetza ground tours; a special tour of Xelhlalh village site for the Seabird Island College Guardians course; a Xá:ytem tour; and six St. Mary’s tours.
- Gave two guest lectures to UFV history students of Dr. Alessandro Tarsia.
- Participated in the discussion panel about XYs work on September 30.

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

- Web developers Culture Code began work on the web-based XYs research portal, which will be hosted internally on SSA servers for maximum confidentiality and security, including the migration of existing data into the portal.
- Hosted an information tent and presented on the work we are doing at two events: Walking Forward, Semá:th FN, September 29, hosted by the Sts’elemeqw Thrivers Society, and SSA’s National Day for Truth and Reconciliation ceremony on September 30 at Coqualeetza.

S’ÓLH TÉMÉXW STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE (STSA) SUPPORT SERVICES

- StoloConnect Referrals Management Web-Portal maintenance and operations continued with ongoing addressing of occasional bugs and/or minor fixes as facilitated by contracted web developers at Culture Code.
- StoloConnect Training Sessions held/scheduled for the following organizations/groups:
 - Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Guardians
 - 6 newly hired SRRMC staff



Gina Peters participating in the Teal Jones forestry company internal audit.



Nathaniel Point, Dani Kent, Gina Peters, Jacob Kunnathuparambil, and Olive the dog at the top of Mt. Thom.

ENVIRONMENT STEWARDSHIP AND RESEARCH

- Hired, Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF) Program Coordinator, Raymond Kobes.
- Held a successful meeting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Cascades National Parks Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs about Seattle City Lights and CSF projects. Supportive of new networks and potential joint project partners.
- Kicked off Upper Skagit interviews and already have about 12 people signed up!
- Continued to participate in upcoming surveys for Enbridge and to collate as many findings as possible for the assessment of potential impacts.
- Year 1 report successfully submitted to DFO for the Gill Bar project.
- Down to the last few surveys for Enbridge study for this calendar year with just spawning surveys left.
- Started to collate as many findings as possible and completed a survey from subject matter experts on the validity and methods used in surveys completed to date. A final report is underway that will be passed on to Enbridge and STSA leadership.
- Gill Bar clean up was a success with over two tons of garbage removed from an illegal encampment.



Enbridge Old Growth study – large cedars noted near to Othello area and trees with potential bat habitat



Gill Bar fish and invertebrate study – Mountain sucker and ponded area with tadpoles.