



Stó:lō Service Agency Performance Report

December - March 2026

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (OED)

- The Stó:lō Service Agency Board of Directors (SSA BOD) recognized long-term staff members by presenting years-of-service ribbons for milestones ranging from five to 30 years of service. Honorable mention went to Jewel Francis, Education Administrator and Tracey Joe, Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre (SRRMC) Office Manager, with their 30-year plaques; Jenn Carmen, À:lmèlhàwtxw Manager, with 15 years of service; and Lauralee Campbell, Health Services Associate Director, Mary Ghostkeeper, Aboriginal Infant Development Consultant and Nicole Silver, Financial Aid worker with 10 years of service. Your work and commitment do not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for your dedication to SSA!



SSA BOD members Jessie Ramsay, Rhianna Millman and Derek Hansom presenting years of service awards at the SSA Christmas luncheon.

- The Stó:lō Collective website has received some inquiries and continues to be updated with meeting material and information on upcoming events held at the St. Mary's Pkw'xe:yles site. The link is provided here for review. <https://www.stolocollective.ca>
- Working with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and McElhenney on obtaining funding for the Sewer Project at the Coqualeetza property.
- Hosted SNCC meeting on March 5, where OED started the process of nomination and elections for the new SNCC President position with nominations closing on March 31, 2026. Electronic vote submissions are due April 13, 2026, with the announcement of the new SNCC President on April 14, 2026.
- The Tribal Council report has been sent to our communities for review and approval. ISC requires endorsement of this report each year.



A Big thank you to the Christmas Party luncheon crew/helpers: Left to Right; Jordan Sepass, Richard Amatorio, Art Adams, Carol Biccum, June Jimmie, Michelle VanTongeren, Abby Duncan, Kelly Willmets.

FINANCE

EDUCATION

POST SECONDARY	UCEP	Certificate/ Diploma	Bachelor Program	Master's	PhD	PS TOTAL	K-12
Aitchelitz							5
Matsqui		3	3			6	38
Popkum							
Skawahlook			3	1		4	
Skowkale		7	3	4	1	15	83
Tzeachten		6	6	1	1	14	97
Yakweawwoose			1			1	12
TOTAL		16	16	6	2	40	236

GIFT SHOP

- In December held the 4th Annual 12 days of Gifting celebrations in our shop! Fun was had and twelve lucky customers drew the Joker and won a basket of goodies!



- Indigenous Business of the Year!** Excited to announce we won Indigenous Business of the Year for 2025 at the Business Excellence Awards put on by the Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce. It was a huge honor and a big thank you to all our artists and customers who made this happen!



- **Supporting local Entrepreneurs:** In March we were asked to participate with Sto:lo Community Futures in a workshop for Indigenous Entrepreneurs, “Prepare your small business for retail.” The workshop was full of energy and talent; it was a pleasure to have them over to the gift shop and talk about how to prepare for approaching retailers with their products.
- What better way to end March but to share just a few shots taken in our shop by a local photographer through the local Chamber of Commerce.



The many items for sale at our gift shop.

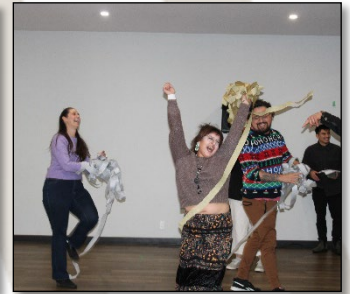
OPERATIONS

- Operations staff celebrated two special birthdays in December: IT's, Garrett MacAskill and Capital Management's, Art Adams both had milestone birthdays.



EVENTS

- **STÓ:LŌ CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:** SSA staff enjoyed a lunch, fun games, and Service awards on December 5, 2025, at Shxwhá:y Village Band Hall. This event was well attended with over 160 staff members from various departments. The SSA Board of Directors were in attendance to present staff with their service awards.



SSA staff enjoying a delicious meal and fun games at the annual Christmas luncheon.

- Operations and Finance staff prepared for the Christmas holidays with some fun games and pre-Christmas meals.



HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)

	December	January	February	March	TOTAL
Job Postings		4	4	5	13
Interviews		7	8	6	21
New Hires	2	3	2	3	10
Staff Retirement/Resignation/Release	1	2	1	4	8
WCB/EI Disability Applications		2			2
HR consultations with Staff/Supervisor	3	4	6	3	16
Pension and Benefit Education Sessions		1	1	12	14
Pension and Benefit Enrollments		1	1	12	14
Criminal Record Check Applications	8	1	4	3	16
Long Term Disability Application	2				2
SUBP Plan		2	1	2	5

- Completed Compensation Review project with MNP and held meetings with the Directors to review the results.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

- Deployed Microsoft Defender for Cloud for auditing and security of Azure cloud database and web servers.
- Unification database moved from on premise to Azure cloud with improved multifactor authentication.
- Setup water/flood monitoring and alerting system in mechanical rooms for Maintenance staff.
- Removed older NTLM Windows security protocols and migration to more secure SNMPv3 protocol for network monitoring. Arctic Wolf continued to rate SSA's IT security posture improvements as above industry standards.
- Migrated purchasing and asset data from our old IT management system to ManageEngine for better tracking of hardware/software assets.

INDIAN REGISTRY

- Received the hardware and software from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to complete the Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) applications in-house. The application is completed on a surface pro (provided by ISC), and submitted directly to the processing center, which shortens the time it takes to receive the card since the application form does not have to be mailed. Passport photos are now taken in the office which assists the clients from having to purchase their own. Once the application is submitted, the client receives a confirmation email, and an approximate date for when they can expect to receive their card in the mail. This new digital process reduces wait times and paper usage.

- Indian Registry services over the months of December 2025 to March 2026

	Births	FTR	SCIS Applications	CIS Cards
Matsqui	2	2		4
Shxw'ow'hamel	4	4		5
Soowahlie				1
Squiala	9	7	21	14
Sumas	1	1	1	
TOTAL	16	14	22	24

PROPERTY & CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

- Due to the very wet winter, a few repairs were required in the buildings and around the Coqualeetza and Pekw'xe:yles sites.



- Cleaned up and pressure washed areas at Xá:ytem to prepare for the spring tours.



RECORDS MANAGEMENT

	Dec- March Stats
Files created	545
Files edited	621
Boxes created	17
Boxes edited	36
Purged Files in Omni Database	119

- Eighty-nine boxes are currently in the RC to be classified and archived.

HEALTH SERVICES (HS)

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS/PRIMARY CARE

- Health staff held a Christmas celebration at Fraser River Lodge.
- Hosted an engaging table at the SASET Career Fair where we were able to network and share the work we are doing in community.
- Wellness Wednesdays continued with more focus on self-care and self-reflection to provide staff with tools to manage workload.
- Worked on staff wellness activities for “Pink Shirt Day” on February 25.
- Renamed the “Babytime/Family Room” in building 7 to “The Gathering Space” for more drop-in programming.



SSA Health Table at Career Fair.



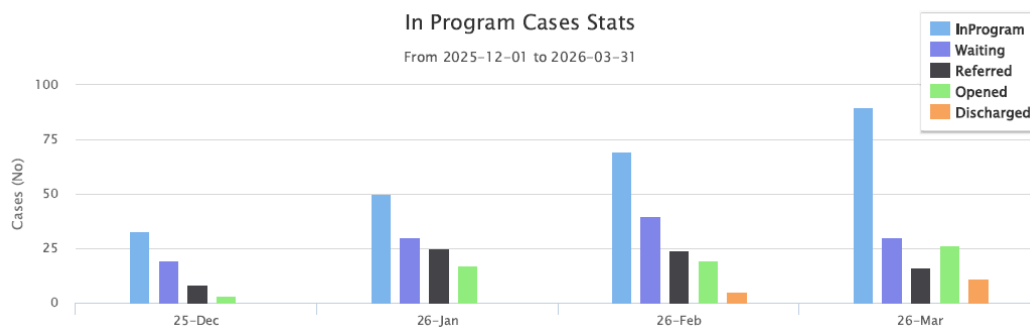
Pink Shirt Day Gathering.

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE (MHSU)

- ÍMEXYÓSEM (“to go for a walk”): continued to reflect our approach of supporting clients on their wellness journey. Mental Health case managers, assessed needs, provided advocacy, and connected clients to services such as counselling, psychiatry, crisis supports, and substance use programs.
- A new Caseworker joined the team, as well as two contracted roles (Peer Support and Youth Support) to assist with programming and group development.
- A new Referral and Intake form and program overview were launched.
- A Women’s Group was launched to support connection and shared experiences.
- From December to March 73 new referrals were received.

Case(s) From 2025-12-01 to 2026-03-31 ÍMEXYÓSEM Mental Health Stats Summary

No. of Cases	25-Dec	26-Jan	26-Feb	26-Mar	Total
1. In Program	33	50	69	90	95
1.. Waiting	19	30	40	30	53
2. Referred	8	25	24	16	73
3. Removed	0	3	6	1	10
4. Opened	3	17	19	26	65
5. Discharged	0	0	5	11	16
Average Monthly Number of Case(s): 0.00 Average Age at Referral: 37.06 Average Age at Open: 35					
Avg Days in Program: 76.50 (16 Cases Discharged) Avg Days Wait: 26.89 (65 Cases Opened)					



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HOMECARE

- Programs stats for December to March:
 - Footcare clients: 75
 - Homecare clients: 270
 - Maternal / Child Clients: 33
 - Elders Group participants: 26
 - Immunization clients: 57

DENTAL

- Production Revenue:
 - December 2025 - \$72,215.22 (closed over Christmas; reopened January 5, 2026)
 - January to March 2026 - \$101,680.83 - \$118,248.37
- High volume of end-of-year crown and bridge cases completed.
- Added extra hygiene days to meet demand.
- Fully booked in March, no walk-in clinic.
- Additional hygiene days and Saturday staffing added.
- New sterilization equipment purchased through BCDA funding.
- Attended the Dental Conference in Vancouver.
- Celebrated Dental Assistants Recognition Week (March 1–7) and Dental Appreciation Day (March 6).



Dental team at SSA Health Christmas Luncheon.

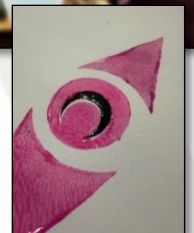


Dental Conference

Á:LMÉLHÁWTXW EARLY EDUCATION CENTRE

Head Start Program

- Delivered educational and cultural activities to support community learning.
- Hosted guest speakers (dietician, speech pathologist).
- Facilitated food preservation workshops (e.g., pancake mix, crockpot meals, iron-rich foods).
- Integrated cultural programming (Halq'eméylem language use, cedar work, beading, Salish shapes).
- Organized field trips and land-based learning at local community sites



Salish Shapes Workshop.

Child Care Program

- Continued strengthening relationships with children and families.
- Hosted a family engagement event with dinner and grocery support for families in December.

- Ye Stíteqóye (Little Wolves) program incorporated daily Halq'eméylem language, drumming, and singing.
- Ongoing planning to fill Summer and Fall 2026 spaces due to high demand and waitlist.
- This was the first year the centre remained open during Spring Break.
- On March 7, hosted the 6th Dual Credit Gathering with 65 participants (35 students). Students connected with educators, professionals, and an Elder through experiential learning.

The event was funded by Social Venture Partners Vancouver–Early Years Innovation Fund.



SHXWT’AM:ETSEL FAMILY SERVICES

Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP), Aboriginal Family Place (AFP), and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD)

	December	January	February	March
ASCD 0-6 yrs	111	104	105	TBD
ASCD 6+ yrs	36	38	39	TBD
AIDP	103	114	109	TBD
AFP Drop-in	35	31	64	TBD
Outreach	8	13	10	TBD
Family Night	6	4	11	TBD

- ASCDP/AID delivered 24 Christmas hampers to families across Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission.
- Hosted Christmas events in Abbotsford/Chilliwack with 80+ families, and in Mission with 130+ families.
- Implemented a waitlist (12 children) due to increased demand and limited funding.
- Continued bi-monthly Play and Connect Groups to support families and connect them to services.
- AFP received additional funding to enhance cultural programming and support family needs.
- Hosted cultural activities including drum making, Powwow dancing night, bannock making, beading, baking, and drumming.



Playing drums with the children.



Staff at Family Christmas Party.

QWÍ:QWELSTÓM (WELLNESS SERVICES)

- Delivered core programs with number of attendees:
 - Respectful Relationships (9)
 - Pathway to Red Road (17)
 - Wellbriety (49)
 - Grief and Loss (39)
 - Halq'eméylem Class (20)
- Supported 110 clients across justice, wellness, mediation, and sexual violence services.
- Program graduates: 6 from Respectful Relationships and 17 from Pathway to Red Road.
- Provided support services including justice circles, mediation, 1-on-1 wellness and elder support, conflict resolution, workshops, and community support.
- Ongoing monthly services included Elders Panel, Elders Lodge visits, mobile shifts, and Indigenous Court.
- Hosted AJLC in February (30 participants) for networking and program updates.
- Continued program growth and a successful Grief and Loss ceremony with strong staff and client participation.

YOUTH SERVICES

Mémiyelhtel

- 64 youth currently on caseload.
- Welcomed a University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) practicum student supporting programming weekly.
- Hosted 150 attendees at the annual holiday event with meals, gifts, activities, and community donations supporting families and youth.
- Continued receiving ongoing monthly donations from AIM of menstrual products for youth.
- Program merchandise sold in the Stó:lō gift shop, including a fundraising teddy bear initiative.
- Purchased driving lessons to support youth in preparing for their N test.
- Continued growth in partnerships with local organizations and businesses.
- Ongoing support from Westbow Gives, including sponsorship for youth.
- New partnership established with FortisBC \$25,000 in funding for reconciliation efforts.
- Team presented at the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) 2026 Traditional Wellness Gathering.
- Received a grant from FNHA to support a youth-focused film project.



New swag at the Stó:lō gift shop.



Presenting at Wellness Gathering.



Teddy Bear Fundraising Initiative.

Iyáqthet: Recreation & Land-Based Healing Project

- 16 youth participated in weekly sessions including skiing/snowboarding at Sasquatch and other group activities.
- Strong community support provided instruction and donated gear; most youth were first-time snowboarders and gained proficiency.



Snowboarding at Sasquatch.

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT TEAM (FET)

- 35 clients and no waitlist.
- Christmas brunch with clients and their families with 35 people in attendance.
- Distributed Christmas hampers to 35 clients.
- Life skills teachings - baking and budgeting: 8 clients and their children in attendance.
- Staff attended FNHA Traditional Wellness Seasonal Gathering.

STÓ:LŌ ELDERS LODGE (SEL)

- Christmas dinner was held in January due to the poor weather in December.
- Squiala school came to sing for the Elders.
- Common area aquarium bought with residents recycling fund.
- Drumming and singing with Dionne McGrath and youth from Traverse.
- Community Nurses and Care Aides came to sing carols for the Elders.
- Elders prepared handmade Christmas gifts and medicinal bags.
- Elders continued to join the Elders Group every Friday in Building 7.
- Fraud and online Scam Prevention Education was provided by the Police Department.



The many activities at SEL.

STÓ:LŌ ABORIGINAL SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING (SASET)

- Received an award thanking SASET for their partnerships with School District 78 and the Thompson Rivers University (TRU) Welding Program which was held at Hope Secondary School in the 2025-2026 school year.



SASET Christmas paint day!!

- SASET staff held their Christmas staff day on December 19 and hosted a paint day and lunch at Bozzini's.



SASET Manager Carol Raspberry with Stan Watchorn, SD78 Principal Trades.

- SASET launched the **Indigenous Labour Market Information (LMI) survey** at the end of June, with funding support from Service Canada. The survey is available to all members of the 31 communities served under the SASET agreement. Eligible participants may live either on or off reserve but must be a registered member of one of the 31 communities. The goal of the LMI survey is to close the gap in reliable labour market data for Indigenous communities—particularly for those living on reserves—where traditional surveys (such as the Labour Force Survey) often do not capture accurate information. Since its launch on June 28, 2025, through to March 2026, a total of 1,197 surveys have been completed.



Clients Participated from the 11 SSA Bands			
Community	Estimate of 15+ Population (# provided by Service Canada)	Completed Survey	% of Completed Survey
Aitchelitz	33	10	30.30%
Leq' à:mel	452	47	10.39%
Matsqui	264	18	6.82%
Popkum	12	2	16.67%
Shxwhà:y Village	417	79	18.94%
Skawahlook	78	3	3.85%
Skowkale	242	84	34.71%
Squiala	151	50	33.11%
Sumas	318	60	18.87%
Tzeachten	506	133	26.28%
Yakweawkwoose	76	13	17.11%
Total	2,549	499	

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES

- 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 21 outreach employment sites in Boston Bar, Cheam, Chawathil, Leq'á:mel, Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, Mission Friendship Center, Shxw'ówhámél, Skwah, Spuzzum, Soowahlie, Squiala, Sumas, Shxwhà:y Village, Tzeachten, Chilliwack WorkBC, Hope WorkBC, Maple Ridge WorkBC, Langley 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.
- SASET Annual Career Fair was held on February 4, 2026, at the Chilliwack Landing Sports Centre in Chilliwack. The event featured 115 exhibitors, including employers, trainers, unions, and community service organizations with a total of 657 people who attended the fair. SASET would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the door prizes and attended our event.



SASET Annual Career Fair held at Chilliwack Landing Sports Centre.

- SASET participated in the Kwantlen Career Fair, Katzie Career Fair, Chawathil Education Fair, Shxw'ówhámél Career Fair, Seabird Island Career Fair, Seabird Information Session/AGM, Seabird College Open House, WorkBC Pathways to Success Maple Ridge Career Fair, SD42 Trades Showcase, Career Fair Abbotsford, Fraser Valley Career Fair, Mental Health Fair at Agassiz Elementary Secondary School, Temxeytl Winter Gathering (Shxw'ówhámél), Mission Youth Transition Information Fair, and UFV Open House Fair.
- Employability Workshops facilitated by SASET staff:
 - **Getting your "L" preparing for securing your Driver's License:** 87 individuals participated (6 groups at SASET Chilliwack, 1 Group Katzie, 1 Group Matsqui, and 2 Groups Sts'ailes).
 - **Resume and Cover Letter:** 17 individuals participated at the SSA Chilliwack Outreach office, Cheam, and Matsqui.



Congrats Jadalynn on getting your L!

- **Basic Computer Training:** 20 individuals participated at the SSA Chilliwack Office every Friday.
- **True Colors:** 9 individuals participated at SSA Chilliwack Outreach Office.
- **Career Decision Making:** 7 individuals participated at SSA Chilliwack Outreach Office.
- **Employer/Employee Expectations:** 9 individuals participated at SSA.
- **Money Management and Budgeting:** 25 individuals participated at one of the following locations: SSA Chilliwack Outreach Office and Matsqui.
- **Dress for Success:** 9 individuals participated at SSA Chilliwack Outreach Office.
- **Interview Skills:** 17 individuals participated at SSA Chilliwack Outreach Office, Cheam, and Matsqui.
- **Employment 101:** 17 individuals participated at the SSA Office (3 groups), Tzeachten, and Cheam.
- SASET staff participated in the Skills for Success Essential Skills Certificate course to build capacity in key areas such as communication, collaboration, and adaptability. This professional development opportunity enhanced staff effectiveness and supported the delivery of high-quality, client-centered employment and training services.

EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING SERVICES

Community	VOCATIONAL TRAINING SUMMARY					
	# of Clients December 2025 to March 2026					
	TTW	STT	LTT	In School	at work	Total
Sumas	0	1	0	1	0	2
Shxwhà:y Village	0	2	0	2	0	4
Skowkale	3	1	0	0	2	6
Squiala	2	0	0	0	2	4
Tzeachten	2	1	0	1	3	7
SASET	18	10	7	23	24	82
LSTC	0	1	0	1	1	3
Aldergrove/Langley	0	1	0	1	0	2
Seabird	0	3	2	5	2	12
Sts'ailes	1	1	0	1	1	4
Boston Bar	4	1	1	0	4	10
Spuzzum/Yale	6	2	1	3	6	18
Cheam	3	0	1	1	3	8
Mission/Abbotsford	3	10	0	13	4	30
Katzie / Maple Ridge	0	2	1	3	0	6
Chawathil/Shxw'ow'hamel/Hope	3	2	0	2	4	11
Kwantlen	0	1	1	1	0	3
TOTAL	45	39	14	58	56	212
Transition to Work (TTW); Short-term Training (STT); Long-term Training (LTT)						

- Client statistics December 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026:
 - Served 1025 clients (with 4, 282 interventions) averaging approximately 4.18 appointments per client.
 - There were 554 male and 471 female clients.
 - 23 clients were under 15; 331 clients were between the ages of 15 and 24; 368 were between the ages of 25 and 39; 204 were between the ages of 40 and 54; and 99 clients were over the age of 55.
 - Of the 1025 clients: 287 individuals found employment, and 105 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.
 - **Welding Foundations August 5, 2025 - January 30, 2026:** 7 students attended and completed the welding program at Hope Secondary School as a dual-credit program while completing Grade 12. The program was in partnership with School District 78 and Thompson River University. Upon completion, participants achieved Level 1 Welding certification.
 - **Carpentry Foundations at UFV Chilliwack September 8, 2025 - March 20, 2026:** 15 students completed the six-month Carpentry Foundations Program. This program, delivered by UFV, prepared participants for entry into the carpentry trade and progression into the provincial apprenticeship system. Training components included reading and interpreting construction drawings, use of specialty tools and equipment, site and building layout, construction of concrete forms, structural framing, and interior and exterior finishing practices.
 - **Early Childhood Education (ECE) Certification in partnership with BC Aboriginal Childcare Society November 17, 2025 - October 2026:** 9 students currently enrolled in the ECE Certification Program delivered through Sprott Shaw College. Participants are actively progressing through the coursework and practical training required to obtain their ECE certification. The program provides students with the foundational knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to pursue employment in the ECE field.



Carpentry Students meeting with Interfor Forest Products for employment opportunities!!

- **Basic Security Training December 1-5, 2025 in Seabird:** 10 participants attended, completed and received a two-year security licensing after completion of the program.
- **Customer Service Certifications December 12-15, 2025:** 15 participants successfully completed a one-week training program which included certifications in Customer Service, Selling It Right, Serving It Right, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), and First Aid.
- **Mental Health First Aid Training January 12-13, 2026:** 17 participants successfully completed the Mental Health First Aid training program in Sts'ailes. The course provided practical knowledge and skills to recognize, understand, and respond to mental health challenges and crises. Participants learned how to offer initial support and guide individuals toward appropriate professional help, promoting mental wellness within their communities.
- **Occupational First Aid Level 3 Training January 23 - February 1, 2026 in Pemberton:** 10 participants successfully completed the two-week training program which provided comprehensive instruction in advanced first aid, emergency response, patient assessment, and life-saving techniques. Participants developed the skills and confidence required to respond effectively to workplace and remote emergency situations.
- **Customer Service Certifications January 27-30, 2026:** 15 participants successfully completed a one-week training program which provided certifications in Customer Service, Selling It Right, Serving It Right, WHMIS, and First Aid.
- **Occupational First Aid Level 1 and CPR Training January 28-29, 2026 in Chawathil:** 17 individuals attended and completed the training.
- **Heavy Equipment Operators Training February 2 - April 25, 2026:** 7 participants are currently attending a 12-week Heavy Equipment Operators training program at the Operating Engineers Training School in Maple Ridge. The program provides hands-on and classroom instruction in the safe and effective operation of heavy machinery. Training includes the Hydraulic Excavator Operator Course and the Loader Backhoe Course, equipping participants with practical skills for employment in the construction and related industries.
- **WHMIS Training February 10, 2026 in Shxw'ōwhámél:** 10 individuals attended and completed the training.
- **Occupational First Aid Level 1 February 18, 2026 in Sts'ailes:** 15 individuals attended and completed the training.
- **Wilderness Training February 25-26, 2026:** 22 individuals successfully completed a comprehensive wilderness training program which focused on essential outdoor skills, including navigation, survival techniques, risk assessment, and emergency preparedness. Participants gained practical, hands-on experience to enhance their confidence and safety in outdoor environments.



Wilderness Training with SRRMC.



SASET Spring Break training.

- **Spring Break Certificate March 16-20, 2026:** 12 individuals completed this one-week training program which offered certifications in WCB (Workers' Compensation Board) Awareness, WHMIS, Food Safety, First Aid, and Customer Service.
- **Spring Break Certificate Training March 16-20, 2026 in Cheam:** 12 participants attending this one-week training program which covered WHMIS, First Aid, and Customer Service certifications, along with valuable employability skills workshops.
- **Occupational First Aid Level 1 and CPR Training March 18, 2026:** 18 individuals attended and completed the one-day training in Leq'á:mel.
- **Chainsaw Certification Training March 19-20, 2026 in Yale:** 8 participants successfully completed this two-day training program hosted at Scowlitz First Nation. The training provided both classroom instruction and hands-on experience, focusing on safe chainsaw operation, maintenance, hazard assessment, and proper cutting techniques. Participants gained the skills and knowledge required to operate chainsaws safely and effectively in forestry and land-based work environments.
- **Babysitting Certification March 20, 2026 in Matsqui:** 4 participants completed this one-day training which covered essential topics such as child development, emergency procedures, basic first aid, age-appropriate activities, and strategies for handling challenging situations. The course ensured that participants were well-prepared to provide safe and responsible care for children.
- **Food Safe Certificate Training Chawathil March 30, 2026:** 16 individuals attended and completed the one-day training in Chawathil.



First Aid Training in Leq'á:mel.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

- **Student Employment Programs:** 27 contracts were funded for community student hiring. In total, 127 youth will experience employment through the Student Employment Program this year.
- **Targeted Wage Subsidy Programs:** 29 programs were funded in our catchment area which provided employment for 58 individuals whose last barrier to employment may be work related experience.



Odis, Maintenance worker for Leq'á:mel.

DAY CARE AGREEMENTS

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

BLADERUNNER PROGRAM

- In partnership with the Province of BC, the BladeRunners program is an employment-readiness initiative for young adults (typically aged 15–30) who are unemployed or underemployed and facing various barriers. Its objective is to support these at-risk youth in gaining and sustaining meaningful employment. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, SASET received support for 72 youth participants and provided training and certification opportunities across several sectors, including construction, health care, and customer service, to enhance job readiness and support successful employment outcomes.

SASET CULINARY ARTS FOUNDATION PROGRAM

- Partnership funding with Skills Trades BC, 9 participants completed a 12-week culinary training program at UFV. The program provided foundational certifications, including Food Safe, First Aid Level 1, WHMIS, and WCB Awareness, while developing practical skills in stocks, soups, sauces, vegetables, fruits, starches, meats, poultry, seafood, Garde-manger, eggs, breakfast cookery, dairy, baked goods, desserts, and beverages. Participants also gained basic kitchen management skills, equipping them with the knowledge and experience needed to pursue careers in the culinary industry.



SASET Culinary Graduates!!

SASET Success Stories:

- **Kasaundra C-NVIT Indigenous Human Service Program:** *“Over the past year, my educational journey has been about more than academics—it has been a process of healing, growth, and rediscovery. As someone with lived experience of addiction, returning to school has meant rebuilding my life and creating a more stable future for myself and my family.*

I am currently enrolled in the Indigenous Human Services program at NVIT, where I have maintained a 4.33 GPA and achieved the Dean’s List. Alongside my studies, I have reconnected with my identity and culture, participating in community events, women’s drum circles, and learning more about my family’s history, including the impacts of residential schools.

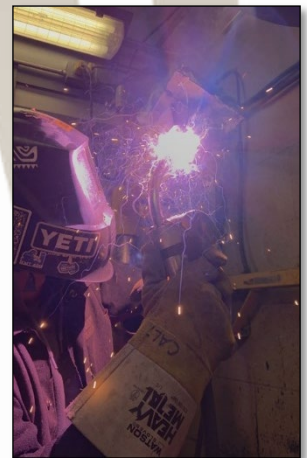
With the support of SASET and my community, I have gained a stronger sense of purpose and direction. I am committed to using both my lived experience and education to support others in their healing journeys.



I would like to thank SASET for their continued support in helping me achieve my educational and personal goals.”

- **Calvin Douglas- Foundation Welding at UFV:** “I chose to pursue welding to build on my current role as a structural ironworking apprentice. After gaining experience working alongside welders on construction sites, I enrolled in welding school and am now nearing completion, with only seven weeks remaining of the 28-week program.

Throughout my training, I have developed strong skills in TIG and GMAW welding, successfully completing bend tests and required projects. This experience has helped me identify my career goals, including continuing my work as an ironworker while working toward starting my own welding business and completing my Red Seal certification.



I would like to thank SASET for their support throughout my journey—it has made a meaningful difference in helping me reach my goals.”

INCOME ASSISTANCE

- Seven clients exited Income Assistance due to finding employment or other reasons (moving, no contact, did not renew application).
- There continued to be a significant increase of the number of clients on Income Assistance due to:
 - The cost of living off-reserve 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 December 2025 to March 2026:

Band	Employable	PWD	PPMB	Average Monthly Total: 152	TOTAL BAND MEMBERS
Aitchelitz	6	0	0	6	5
Matsqui	2	6	0	8	8
Skawahlook	2	1	0	3	3
Skowkale	9	6	2	17	9
Shxwhà:y Village	12	12	0	24	22
Squiala	14	12	3	29	23
Tzeachten	39	20	4	63	46
Yakweakwoose	2	2	2	6	6

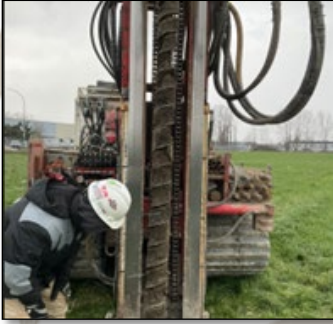
- Employable – no barriers to attain employment, these individuals work with SASET Employment Counselors
- PWD-Persons with Disability
- PPMD- Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers

This column shows the 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

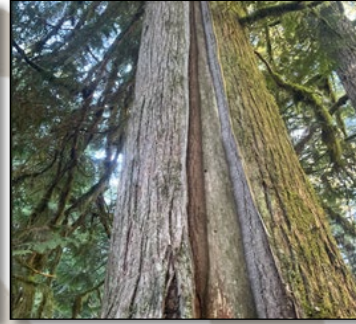
- Actively supported communities in preserving their cultural heritage by leading 15 internal projects, including heritage overviews, impact assessments, mitigation efforts, and cultural monitoring across S'ólh Téméxw. Several of these projects were dedicated to directly serving the community through on-reserve impact assessments for both residential and commercial developments.
- Highlights from community-based service projects included:
 - **Chowéthel Qaqelstexw LLP:** Assessment of proposed cut blocks.
 - **Semá:th:** Conducted drone flight for a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of proposed commercial development.
 - **Skwah First Nation:** Monitored trenching for proposed modular building and parking lot.
 - **Xyólhmet ye Syéwiqwélh (Taking Care of Our Children):** Conducted office research.
 - **Shxw'ow'hamel:** Provided support in caring for their village disturbed by the Trans Mountain Pipeline (TMP).
 - **Aitchelitz:** Monitoring of excavations for residential subdivision,
 - **Yakweakwioose:** Supported the nation by monitoring ground disturbance in preparation for an interception ditch.
 - **Yale-Stullawheets:** Conducted the AIA to support the nation for socio-economic investigation.
- Contributed to the Enbridge archaeological assessments through active fieldwork, research, and permitting support. We hosted a cultural heritage training program to enhance the capacity of external field staff involved in the Enbridge Program. The Unit also provided direct support to both Cheam and Seabird who are managing for potential direct effects of the pipeline on their reserves.
- Played a key role in heritage resource management under the Stó:lō Heritage Policy framework. Community field technicians contributed to around 24 external projects across various industries, including forestry, oil and gas, residential and commercial development, utilities, and parks and recreation.
- Participated in the 2026 Chilliwack Career Fair and provided wilderness first aid training to staff, financially supported by SASET.
- Collected cedar boughs for our facility, and supported Shxw'ōwhámél by attending a cultural event as a part of caretaking of a material cultural place.
- Presented at the University of British Columbia (UBC) Decolonizing Workshop and the UBC 2026 Archaeology Day.
- Our repository was actively engaged in cataloging, accessioning, and uploading items to the SRRMC Repository on the Reciprocal Research Network ([RRN](#)), an online visual database. Between January and March 2026, the Unit processed and approved 112 Stó:lō Heritage Investigation Permits, reinforcing best practices in Stó:lō heritage stewardship.



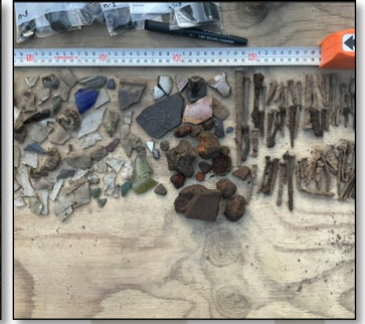
SRRMC's Simon Solomon conducting geotechnical monitoring for Red Bull Project in Chilliwack.



SRRMC's Kelsey Raab conducting monitoring for Schweyey Road Force Main Project.



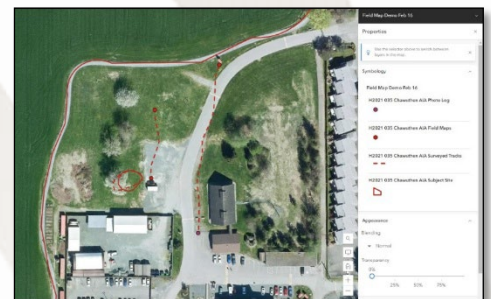
Conducting assessment of Wildfire Risk Reduction activities.



Conducting excavations for park site on Front Street in Yale: image of items recovered from an excavation unit.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS GEOMATICS (GIS)

- On-going project support continued:
 - **People of the River Referrals Office (PRRO):** spatial data for referrals was digitized and uploaded to the PRRO web portal, StoloConnect. This year to-date has over 400 referrals, to mid-March. Upgrades to the StoloConnect system were planned and implementation started rolling out.
 - **Stó:lō Heritage Database:** maintenance on sites included reworking current sites, editing sites, harmonizing sites, creating layer files for the archaeology department, adding information from past projects, and creating new sites as needed. Responded to requests from the communities for access to some of the SHeD data for their own internal work and worked with the bands and their representatives to provide as much help as possible, within the constraints of the original data providers.
 - **StoloConnect system:** work continued on the Guardians module with the goal of having all outstanding monitoring reports loaded. The Major Projects module (currently Enbridge) is live with ongoing data uploads and improvements as needed. The new Landing Page is live and other major updates to the system are ongoing. Scoping meetings were held and data layer evaluation work is ongoing.
 - **SRRMC Archaeology Mapping Support:** ongoing ArcGIS support as more users come on board. The Field Mapping App was improved and adjusted as it was incorporated into wider use in the Archaeology group. It is now used across the unit.
 - **Enbridge Sunrise Expansion Pipeline (SEP) project:** all workplace spatial data received from Enbridge was imported and loaded into the StoloConnect Major Projects module. Ongoing uploads of Archaeological (Deep Trenching and Fine Tilling results) and Biophysical survey data continued as new data is made available.



Proof of Concept of Field Mapping App.

- **Community Mapping:** working with the Heritage and Culture unit, flew a successful LiDAR mission for the Semá:th Lands department. Also, completed third party map editing and compiling for the Cheam lands department, working with some flood mapping data done by another consultant.



Community mapping shows agricultural activity and overgrowth near the Sumas River.

- **Sumas Mountain Holistic Stewardship Planning:** compiled data layers in support of the Sumas Mountain Holistic Stewardship project and completed preliminary prioritization runs.

- **Collaborative Stewardship Forum:** Silver Daisy/Skagit Headwaters Stewardship planning project. Several projects that fall under the Integrity Analysis umbrella, included Mining inventory project, the Jones/Wahleach pilot project, the Sxótsaqel (Chilliwack Lake) Park co-management project, the Forest Systems Wellbeing project, including LiDAR data management and Field Mapper data collection. Provided data collection and Field Mapper support for the Guardians program, including taking part in the discussions around the online module.

- **Xyólhmet Ye Syéwíqwélh (XYS) Project:** ongoing mapping support, including collaborating on the base maps for the online portal, and cemetery mapping in support of the genealogical and archival research teams. Troubleshooting archival databases prior to import into the online portal was ongoing. Secure data storage for GPR results including backups. Continued to work as part of the XYS team to improve and test the XYS portal with Culture code.

- **Ongoing GIS activities:**

- Continued supporting the SHIP process for Archaeology, adding users and managing licensing and access to an enterprise database.
- Initial work with the LFFA and with the EPS (Geohazards) was completed, and next steps for both projects are pending.
- GIS technicians passed the Advanced Pilot certification exam, and Flight Reviews which now gives us two certified Advanced level pilots in the GIS/Geomatics unit.
- Attended ground penetrating radar (GPR) processing and interpretation training.
- Provided ongoing support for the remodeling of the StoloConnect portal into a multifunction web tool. The Major Projects module is most advanced, with work advancing on the Guardians module, and preliminary studies beginning with the Stewardship and Inventory modules.

SQWÉLQWEL STEWARDSHIP AND SUPPORT UNIT

Stó:lō Shxwéli Halq'eméylem Language Program

- Supported Chilliwack Tourism for Halq'emeylem words for Thewelmal-Veddar Trail signage.
- Accepted an additional \$75,000 from First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC) in support of our language programming.
- Applied for SASET's Targeted Wage Support funding, with an aim of bringing on a youth to learn the language and help support the program. We were successful and look forward to welcoming a new team member in this role for the 2026/27 fiscal year.
- In January staff attended a work outing to the Museum of Anthropology with other Unit team members.
- Had t-shirts printed for purchase to support Stó:lō Shxwéli, with two great designs by team member Jared Deck.
- Worked on a draft partnership agreement with UFV to agree to have community members taking Stó:lō Shxwéli Indigenous Language Fluency System (ILFTS) courses, receive UFV credit.
- On January 28, held an open house for the community, supported by the FNHA Winter Wellness Grant.
- Met with staff from FPCC to discuss their First Voices website (what's working with their website and what can be improved).
- Our latest community cohort of Halq'emeylem 1 class finished in February; 9 of 11 students passed with the 80% requirement. Cohort 0 (our test cohort) also completed Halq'eméylem Stories 1 in February. This is now the first Cohort to officially pass/complete Level 1 of our 4 level Indigenous Fluency Transfer system! We held a small ceremony on March 8 for the first set of students who completed both modules of Level 1 of our Indigenous Language Fluency Transfer System (ILFTS). It was wonderful to celebrate their achievements with students and their families, and the Stó:lō Shxwéli team.
- Gave a presentation during the FPCC's webinar on March 10, 2026 on the Halq'eméylem Language Revitalization Plan. There were 30 attendees present and we received many compliments on the comprehensiveness and thoughtfulness of our plan.
- Started the first community cohort of Halq'eméylem Stories Book 1, the second module in the ILFTS Level 1 at the end of March.
- Team members attended the Gathering of Sister Dialects 2026 language gathering at UFV on March 27 where a few of the teachers presented on our ILFTS.



T-shirts designed by artist, Jared Deck.

Stó:lō Library and Archives

- Applied to UBC's Historical Digitization Program Grant application for a project based on digitizing Place Names records and found out we were successful!

- Assisted in the repatriation of ancestors from the Grave House back to Cheam.
- Took part in the Archives Association of Canada's Indigenous Matters Committee meeting which seeks to Indigenize the archival practices and assist Indigenous archives throughout Canada.
- Opened the library and archives to the public as part of the Stó:lō Shxwéł open house on January 28.
- Attended an online workshop in March, meant to better understand the Indian Hospital Settlement process, in anticipation of an influx of requests for Coqualeetza Hospital from former patients.

Stó:lō Genealogy Office

- In December, we received 44 genealogy inquiries from community members resulting in the printing/sharing of 109 documents/reports.
- Work continued supporting the Xyółhmet Ye Syéwiqwélh (Taking Care of Our Children) Residential Schools Investigation with genealogical research.

Cultural Education

- Assisted SD #33 Indigenous Education departments with some classroom support.
- In December we met with Stó:lō Health, Mémiyelhtel, and Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe to discuss opportunities for expanded land-based and cultural education for Stó:lō youth.
- Continued supporting Seabird Island School with their drumming and singing program for elementary and high school students.
- Began the School District #33 Longhouse Extension Program tours in March, with a tour scheduled for every day during the first two weeks. We are pleased to be joined again with the Sardis Elementary dancers for performances during the LEP tours.
- Met with the Indigenous Education staff from the Chilliwack School District in March to check in and discuss the need to begin negotiations on the next iteration of the Partnership Agreement for cultural education services, as our current agreement expires at the end of this school year (June 2026).
- Applied for a Summer Course Program Assistant summer student position to SASET's Student Employment Program, which would support the S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance's Síwes te S'ólh Téméxw summer youth course on land stewardship and governance.

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

- In December, met with Simon Fraser University (SFU) students working with Dr. Wenona Hall, as well as a number of our survivor's group. The students presented on some of their photos and their reflections on their visit to St. Mary's back in November.
- On January 22, XYS project team members Dave Schape, Amber Kostuchenko, Kristina Celli, Kathleen Bertand, and Keith Carlson were joined by Grand Chief Clarence Pennier at a public dialogue session on the XYS investigation. The dialogue was facilitated by Winchester Victor and held at UFV's Abbotsford campus. Approximately 90 participants attended.

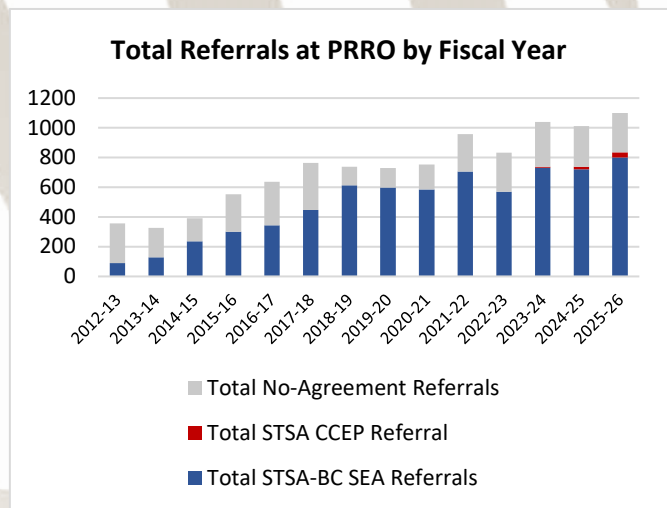
- The next three “Indian Residential School (IRS) local perspectives” public dialogue sessions were set to be held April 22 at Xáytem, September 9 in Hope, and November 18 at the Gathering Space, UFV Chilliwack Campus.
- The Technical Working Group met again this month with updates on investigations from around the province.
- Amber Kostuchenko and Dave Schaepe met with an acting Director General for Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) regarding an export of metadata from the federal government’s research database in support of our archival research.
- Met with Dr. Cody Groat, Western University and member of the Six Nations of Grand River. Dr. Groat is working with the Woodland Cultural Centre – the former Mohawk Institute residential school – in pursuing United Nations Heritage Site status for residential schools in Canada, including St. Mary’s and Coqualeetza.
- This quarter we found out that our application to Canadian Heritage proposing work to combat anti-Residential School denialism was successful. This funding will allow us to work on localized k-12 school curriculum, develop a website and resources for the Declaration Against IRS Denialism, and continue our public residential school denialism series. We will be receiving \$60,000 per year over the next three years to work on these aims.

S’ÓLH TÉMÉXW STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE (STSA)

Measure	STSA SEA Referrals	STSA CCEP	Other Referrals (Industry, Regional, Civic, etc.)
Referrals Received	239	14	85
Final Response Timelines Met	95% (exceeds target of 80%)	n/a	n/a

- STSA is a collective of 17 Stó:lō First Nations, the largest in our 14-year history, who work collaboratively to steward and safeguard the land via their three primary arenas: the People of the River Referrals Office (PRRO), the Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF) and the S’ólh Téméxw Guardians.
- Planning for the 2026-27 STSA-BC Government-to-Government Annual Executive Meeting began as well as for the Federal Initiative of Consultation Partnership Event for April 28-29, 2026. The event is being held by Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) in partnership with STSA and is the fifth National Workshop on the Implementation of the Federal Initiative on Consultation.
- STSA continued to work BC’s Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT, formerly BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, MOTI) on the question of Road Safety along Hwy 7.
- Awaiting a final funding agreement to implement the STSA-Canada Consultation and Engagement Protocol (STSA CCEP) with Transport Canada.
- STSA – BC Water Stewardship Working Group met December 8, 2025, January 16, 22, and March 6, 2026, to further our work addressing concerns around Water Stewardship in S’ólh Téméxw.

- February 17, 2026, visited the CIRNAC offices in Vancouver to present at the STSA-Canada Interdepartmental Forum Inaugural Meeting. We shared a history of STSA, PRRO, and the STSA Canadian Consultation and Engagement Protocol (CCEP) with representatives from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Canada Energy Regulator, Transport Canada, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada, Public Service and Procurement Canada, the Department of National Defense, Canada Border Services Agency, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada Wildlife Services, Indigenous Services Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Parks Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The presentation was warmly received, and a note of thanks and congratulations was issued to SRRMC Director Dave Schaepe from Kristen Miller, Director at CIRNAC, in follow up.
- 2025-26 has been the busiest year at PRRO by a substantial margin: 17% increase in Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA) referrals from 2024-25.
- In December, Althea Victor was hired as PRRO Referral Officer for the Tyet Tribe communities. Her addition makes the PRRO a 10-staff member team. To aid management in supporting this expanding team, Nathaniel Point was made PRRO Supervisor.
- Work continued on the major restructuring of the StoloConnect system, with our web development partners at Culture Code. We are looking to unify the various StoloConnect systems developed over the last decade (ie. StoloConnect ‘classic’ referrals platform, the major project modules for Trans Mountain and Enbridge, the Guardians module, the Sto:lo Heritage Investigation Permit [SHIP] module, etc.). We now have a single, central landing page at www.StoloConnect.com, from where users can navigate to whatever version they need.
- Began working with Sts’ailes First Nation to develop a Sts’ailes-exclusive version of StoloConnect and a supporting agreement.
- Started working with Seabird Island First Nation who are developing a ‘landPlanner’ portal and where linkages to StoloConnect and/or SRRMC data would be appropriate and useful.



Bar graph showing referrals processed by PRRO over time, and the continual growth of our workload (excluding the slight dip during the Covid-19 pandemic).



PRRO Staff at the SRRMC Xmas Party.

ENVIRONMENT STEWARDSHIP AND RESEARCH

- Welcomed a new project coordinator, Carolyn Pegura to the team towards the end of January. In early March we also welcomed Pearl Hare to the team for a temporary position as an Environmental Technician for around 15 weeks. Pearl is helping with a number of wildlife projects funded through the Together for Wildlife program.
- Successful in receiving several funding grants this quarter: these included renewed funding for the Timber Supply Review (\$255,000), the Fraser River Tunnel Project (\$100,000), Arramat funding (\$80,000), two pots of money for the Climate Gathering (BCAFN - \$62,500) (PICS \$5,000), VFPA (Robert Banks and other port projects (\$10,000).
- Enbridge Sunrise Expansion Project has seen the team focus on the drafting of an Integrated Cultural Assessment for the Off-reserve section of the project. A knowledge session was held with elders in January, which we can build upon with data and sources of information.
- In March, biophysical surveys for the 2026 calendar year began again with Owl surveys and Oregon Spotted Frog surveys.
- CSF Water Quality was busy supporting sampling at Kilgard Creek with Semá:th First Nation. In February water quality sampling was carried out with Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe Management Ltd. (TTML) at Frost Creek together with BC Environmental Hydrometric team and their field measurements.
- Reconnaissance of Ascaphus Creek with TTML for water and air quality monitoring options was undertaken.
- Due to an oil pollution in Hope in December, a water quality report was shared with Emergency Planning Secretariate for Chetlámtleq (Councillor Norman Florence), Councillor Tim Peters, (Chawathil First Nation), and Myles Andrews, Emergency Coordinator, Shxw'ówhámél First Nation.



Surveying for Oregon spotted frogs.



Hydrometric station Frost Creek



Frost Creek, Cultus Lake



Air quality sensor at Sxótsaqel



Air quality sensor on roof of SSA bldg. 8

- CSF Air Quality project had a contractor assist the team with replacing the air quality sensor at Sxótsaqel / Chilliwack Lake Park. At Coqualeetza we installed an AQ 420 and AQ560 air quality sensor to compare the results next to each other which will help determine how many sensors to install next season.

- In February, hosted the Lower Fraser Watershed Climate Gathering at Sqwá First Nation Community Centre. The two-day gathering on February 5 & 6, saw over 65 attendees come together to share their perspectives on how climate change is affecting First Nations and S’ólh Téméxw. It brought together leadership, elders, and indigenous youth with First Nation technical staff and community members. A video is currently in production which captured the event and told the stories of 12 individuals who were interviewed.
- Several members of the ESRU unit attended the Wilderness First Aid training.



S’ÓLH TÉMÉXW LAND GUARDIAN UNIT

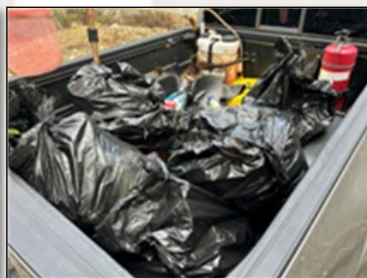
- Accepted an invite to the Pelolwx monument unveiling at Five Corners.
- Called out to assist with a spill site in Hope at the boat launch used by Chawathil First Nation. Guardians attended the site with staff from Chawathil and Shxw’ow’hamel.
- Inspected a cut block in the Chilliwack River Valley.
- Training: NRTG - Avian Nest sweep course, Scat ID, Water Quality Monitoring, Wilderness First Aid.
- Enbridge Sunrise Expansion Project- fine till deep trenching survey, screech owl.
- Continued hotspot monitoring in three STSA administrative areas, Liumchen and Elbow Lake Clean-up,
- Guardian Symposium Keynote speaker.
- Presented and were part of a panel board at the Indigenous Invasive Species Network gathering.
- Presented at the Sacred and Strong Youth Gathering hosted by FNHA.
- Attended the Climate Change Forum, Leq’á:mel Flood Infrastructure gathering.
- St’oqweleqw project wrap up and celebration.



Wilderness First Aid Training.



Fraser river spill – emergency response.



Taking care of the land – Hot spot clean-up.



Cut block assessment – Dion Weisbrod.



Water quality training – Santana McKay.