

Stó:lō Collective – 21 Communities

June 12, 2025 | 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Government House, Building 8B, 7201 Vedder Rd, Chilliwack

And via ZOOM

Present:

Chawathil	Chief Norman Florence
Cheam	Councillor Lisa Douglas
Leq'a:mel	Councillor Lance Campo
Seabird Island	Councillor Rodney Peters (Zoom)
Shxwha:y	Councillor Michelle Roberts (Zoom)
Shxw'ōwhámél	Lands Manager Peter Andrew Si:yam Lenora Fraser (Zoom)
Skawahlook - Sq'ewá:lxw	Office Manager Michael Suedfeld (Zoom)
Skowkale - Sq'ewqéyl	Chief Darcy Paul (Zoom)
Skwah - Sqwá	Councillor Tana Mussell (Zoom)
Sumas – Semà:th	Band Manager, Brian Jones (Zoom)
Yakweakwioose - Yeqweqwí:ws	Chief Terry Horne (Zoom)
Project Coordinator	Val Sam
Assistant	Murray Sam
Executive Assistant	Kelly Willmets (Zoom)
Administrative Support	Abby Duncan

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm.

1.0 Introductions and Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with an opening prayer led by Chief Norman Florence, followed by Val Sam introducing herself as the Stó:lō Collective Coordinator and explaining the meeting's agenda.

2.0 May 1, 2025 meeting notes accepted with the following amendments

The meeting focused on reviewing and correcting meeting minutes from previous sessions, including the addition of new participants and clarification of attendance details. It was confirmed that all 13 meetings since 2021 have their notes documented, with one correction which should have been 68 hectares. The group discussed the need for representatives from First Nations and band members to confirm their leadership and participation, as some nations had not yet selected or submitted their representatives.

Quick recap

The meeting focused on reviewing and updating representative lists, decision-making mechanisms, and quorum requirements for 21 First Nations involved in the Sto:lo Collective. Discussions included plans for the demolition of St. Mary's residential school, outreach to survivors, and the development of new terms of reference for property management and land use. The group also addressed website development, scheduling of future meetings, and potential renaming of the Sto:lo Collective to better reflect the ownership and stewardship of the lands by the participating nations.

3.0 First Nation/Band appointed representative Discussion (attachment)

- [Val to update the list of representatives and decision-making preferences for each First Nation.](#)
- [Rod Peters to check with Chuck and Jim regarding Seabird's decision-making preference and report back.](#)
- [Brian Jones to confirm Sumas' decision-making preference with council and report back.](#)
- [Peter to provide updated list of CMs at Shxwowhamel to Val.](#)
- [Val to follow up with Aitchelitz regarding their BCR for St. Mary's demolition.](#)
- [Lisa to review minutes from May 30th STC leadership meeting and bring forward relevant requests to the next meeting.](#)
- [Kelly to gather financial reporting, current list of leases, lease terms, and assessed property values for St. Mary's properties.](#)
- [Val to invite Willy Hall \(Executive Director\) to the next meeting.](#)
- [Kelly to start developing the Sto:lo Collective website with preliminary information.](#)
- [Rod to have Sadie McPhee contact Valerie regarding the Indian Residential School Society.](#)
- [Kelly to coordinate with Dave and Amber from XYS project for an update at the next meeting.](#)
- [All attendees to review the terms of reference shared during the meeting for potential use by this group.](#)

4.0 First Nations Quorum Decision Meeting

The meeting focused on finalizing representative lists and decision-making mechanisms for 21 First Nations. Val led the discussion, clarifying that a 50% plus one quorum is preferred for in-person meetings, with some nations opting for 75%. Participants reviewed and updated the representative list, with several nations confirming their representatives and decision-making preferences. The group agreed to simplify the decision-making options by removing a confusing third column from the quorum chart.

5.0 Quorum Requirements and BCR Updates

The meeting focused on establishing quorum requirements for collective meetings, with most communities supporting a 50% plus one decision-making model. Several communities, including Shx'wow'hamel and Yakwekwioose, confirmed their quorum preferences, while others like Sumas and Tzeachten were still consulting with their councils. The meeting also discussed the status of BCRs for St. Mary's demolition, noting that 8 out of 21 had been received, with Aitchelitz still pending their submission.

Informing Survivors About School Demolition

The group discussed how to inform survivors from other nations about the demolition of St. Mary's residential school. Val emphasized the importance of contacting survivors to allow them to mark this significant event in their healing journey, even if they weren't directly involved in the decision-making process. The group explored various methods to reach out to survivors, including social media, media releases, and contacting other tribal councils. They also discussed plans for a memorial site at the school's location, even if the buildings are eventually torn down.

Building Project and Cultural Updates

The meeting discussed ongoing conversations about a building project, with Kelly noting that Dave and Amber should be included in future updates. The group explored connections to the XYS -Taking Care of our Children project and discussed potential interviews with Sadi McPhee from the Indian Residential School Society. Val shared insights from a May 30th STC leadership meeting and mentioned finding old terms of reference for Coqualeetza and Pekweyls properties. The group considered renaming the Sto:lo Collective to better reflect the ownership of the lands by 21 nations, and discussed historical information about the properties, including the stories shared by elders during previous ATR meetings.

6.0 ATR Process and Land Management

The group discussed a Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Additions to Reserve (ATR) process and land use management, with Val suggesting they could use existing templates from previous reserve additions. They agreed to develop new TOR for

property management and land use, while also requesting financial reporting and current lease information.

7.0 Website Development

Kelly reported on plans for a Sto:lo Collective website development, which will include property information and events, though they'll wait for XYS's spiritual assessment before adding more content. The group also discussed concerns about using the term "collective" in the website name, with Val suggesting they consider more culturally appropriate terms that reflect their role as caretakers rather than owners of the land.

8.0 Scheduling

Hybrid Meeting: July 3rd at Government House, Building 8B, 7201 Vedder Rd, Chilliwack

The group discussed scheduling their next meeting for July 3rd at 1:30 PM Government House, which will be a hybrid meeting. They agreed to invite the XYS group, Dave Shaepe and Amber Kostachenko as guest speakers. The meeting time was confirmed to be 1:30 PM, and Val encouraged community members to attend in person and share the information with their neighbors. Brian Jones shared his experience as a property manager of the St. Mary's residential school and mentioned its history of relocation.

9.0 Scheduling

Next meeting had to be moved from July 3rd, 2025 to July 17th, 2025 at 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

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Meeting concluded at 3:15 pm.