

Stó:lō Collective – 21 Communities

July 17, 2025 | 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

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

And via ZOOM

Present:

Aitchelitz	Chief Angie Bailey (Zoom)
Chawathil	Councillor Audrey George
Leq'a:mel	Councillor Lance Campo
Seabird Island	Councillor Rodney Peters (Zoom)
Shxwha:y	Chief Robert Gladstone (Zoom) Councillor Michelle Roberts (Zoom)
Shxw'ōwhámél	Si:yam Lenora Fraser (Zoom)
Skowkale - Sq'ewqéyl	Chief Darcy Paul (Zoom)
Skwah - Sqwá	Councillor Tana Mussell (Zoom)
Sumas – Semà:th	Band Manager, Brian Jones Councillor Troy Ganzeveld (Zoom)
Tzeachten – Ch'iyáqtel	Pravina Bartlett (Zoom)
Yakweakwioose - Yeqwyeqwí:ws	Chief Terry Horne (Zoom)

11 / 21 communities in attendance.

Project Coordinator	Val Sam
Assistant	Murray Sam (Zoom)
Executive Director	Willy Hall
Executive Assistant	Kelly Willmets (Zoom)
Administrative Support	Abby Duncan
SRRMC Director	Dr. Dave Schaepe
Sqwélqwel Stewardship and Support Unit Manager	Amber Kostuchenko

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm.

1.0 Opening Prayer

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

2.0 June 12, 2025 meeting notes accepted with the following amendments

The June 12, 2025 meeting notes were accepted as presented with the following suggestion: Councillor Rod Peters suggested adding the total number of attendees to future meeting notes.

3.0 Coqualeetza Elders Group Modular

The Executive Director gave a summary of the logistics of the proposed modular plan on the Coqualeetza site, potentially located behind the new modular building 1. When previous building 1 was removed, the services were kept for future installations. It was mentioned that any new building additions must be modular, so that they are movable. Skowkale donated \$15,000 to assist Coqualeetza with their move, and other communities were encouraged to contribute. Sumas expressed interest in sending a donation. The ED mentioned Xyólheméylh's plans to purchase a modular building, as well as the need for a land lease agreement on Coqualeetza site.

4.0 St. Mary's Former Residential School 'Survivor's Group Cultural Work' – Dave Schaepe and Amber Kostuchenko

Dave Schaepe provided an update on the St. Mary's former residential school site, including ongoing investigations and demolition planning. He highlighted the collaboration with Stó:lō Tribal Council and various survivor groups, emphasizing the importance of cultural work and spiritual considerations. The immediate plans involve demolishing three condemned buildings on the east side due to health and safety concerns, while longer-term plans include documenting the site and potentially repurposing some buildings. A research project with Dr. Wenona Hall at SFU is pending approval to further document the site's history through photography.

The group discussed the documentary about St. Mary's Residential School and the fate of its contents, with Dave confirming that some band instruments and a couple of uniforms were preserved in their material culture repository. Councillor Rod Peters shared information about a 1971 plaque in St. Mary's and suggested it be discussed in a future meeting regarding its fate when the building is demolished. Val mentioned ongoing work on a memorial for children who died trying to escape the school, with plans to create a shelter-like structure to remember those who perished. The conversation ended with a reminder about the outstanding St. Mary's demolition BCR submissions.

The meeting focused on the demolition and redevelopment of the St. Mary's building and explained that all current tenants will be relocated by March 31, 2027. Discussion about the challenges of finding new space for the existing daycare facilities due to limited options including higher rental cost. The group also reviewed financial statements for both properties, noting that St. Mary's rent rates were below market value due to the building's condition. It was suggested that the first step should be to conduct a highest and best use study for both properties, St. Mary's and Coqualeetza before considering new construction.

5.0 Update on First Nation appointed representatives (attachment)

The group reviewed the representatives list and the chairperson reminded the group to send in their chosen representatives.

6.0 Update on Decision making mechanism (attachment)

The group discussed two (2) quorum options:

1. 50% plus one (11 out of 21 First Nations)
2. 75% (15 out of 21)

7.0 Update on BCR – St. Mary's Demolition (attachment)

The group discussed several key topics, including the St. Mary's demolition BCR list, which needs to be obtained from First Nations before 2027.

ACTION#1: The group agreed they would like to have a document created of a summary/history of attendance of the Sto:lo Collective meetings – SC Admin Support

8.0 Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) discussion (attachment)

The TOR was emailed 2 weeks prior to the meeting for review. Any edits are welcome and will be discussed at the next meeting.

9.0 'Stó:lō Collective' website development

The website development for the Stó:lō Collective was also addressed, with Kelly reporting that the site is being updated and will be launched in October 2025.

10.0 Scheduling

Next meeting Thursday, September 4th, 2025 at 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Government House Building 8B
7201 Vedder Rd, Chilliwack

Meeting concluded at 3:15 pm