

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022-2023**



Sq'éwqel
SEABIRD ISLAND



S'ólh Téméxw, Tselhxwelméxw yóyes sq'eq'ó

Our Communities, Our Families Working Together

*Sq'éwqel is the traditional name for Seabird Island,
which translates to "turn in the river."*

*Together, we honour Mother Earth, Grandfather Sky
and generations of united Communities,
who to form one unified Family - Seabird Island Band.*

*Through respectful preservation of Sq'éwqel culture,
including our formative and collective history,
we endure towards an everlasting Future.*

*Chief and Council, Community, and Administration
are all walking together and working together
as an evolving, independent Seabird Island Family.*

An aerial photograph of a community, likely Seabird Island, showing a large, modern building with a white roof and a brown roof, surrounded by green fields and trees. In the foreground, there is a large green sports field with white markings. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island Band) Council Mission Statement

Sq'éwqel exists to promote a healthier, self-sufficient, self-governing, unified and educated Community. We believe that a healthy Community is one that has achieved physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and cultural balance.

We work towards building a Community, where communal pride and respect are based on family values and consideration for other people's values, views and ideas. We want to co-exist with other communities and governments, while exerting our right to be a self-governing nation.

Sq'éwqel promotes full employment, the development of our local economy and improved housing conditions. We want our Community to be a safe and prosperous place for our people. We aim at achieving a good standard of living for all our Band Members.

Sq'éwqel will accomplish this mission with the energy of our Youth, the wisdom of our Elders, the strength of our families, the vision and determination of our political leaders, the guidance of our spiritual and cultural leaders, and the contributions of our staff Members.

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JIM HARRIS
CHIEF

- Chair - Council Executive Committee
- Co-Chair - Cheque Signer

ALEXIS GRACE
COUNCILLOR

- Chair - Justice
- Co-Chair - Council Executive Committee
- 3rd-Chair - Inter-Governmental Affairs/Ab Rights & Title
- 3rd-Chair - Cheque Signer

ASHLEY BOBB
COUNCILLOR

- Chair - Health & Social Development
- Co-Chair - Early Childhood
- Co-Chair - Infrastructure /Lands Committee
- 3rd-Chair - Child & Family Jurisdiction

CHAUNDINE FISHER
COUNCILLOR

- Chair - Education - K-12, Post Secondary, College
- Co-Chair - Child & Family Jurisdiction
- 3rd-Chair - Early Childhood

MARCIA PETERS
COUNCILLOR

- Chair - Infrastructure /Lands Committee
- Chair - Cheque Signer
- Co-Chair - Justice
- 3rd-Chair - Administration Department / Audit Committee
- 3rd-Chair - Development Corporation Board (Sqewqel)

PAUL ANDREW
COUNCILLOR

- Chair - Child & Family Jurisdiction
- Chair - Development Corporation Board (Sqewqel)
- Co-Chair - Child & Family Jurisdiction
- 3rd-Chair - Council Executive Committee

RODNEY PETERS
COUNCILLOR

- Chair - Early Childhood
- Co-Chair - Inter-Governmental Affairs/Ab Rights & Titles
- 3rd-Chair - Education - K-12, Post Secondary, College
- 3rd-Chair - Justice

SALLY HOPE
COUNCILLOR

- Chair - Inter-Governmental Affairs/Ab Rights & Title
- Co-Chair - Administration Department / Audit Committee
- Co-Chair - Education - K-12, Post Secondary, College
- Co-Chair - Development Corporation Board (Sqewqel)

WILLOW WALKER
COUNCILLOR

- Chair - Administration Department / Audit Committee
- 3rd-Chair - Health & Social Development
- 3rd-Chair - Infrastructure /Lands Committee

CHIEF & COUNCIL



Photographs:
Minister Child & Family Presentations
MAY 2022



CHIEF,

James (Jim) Harris

Hello, everyone.

I would like to introduce myself to those who may not know who I am. My name is James (Jim) Harris. My parents were Don Harris Sr. and Ethylene (Gabriel) Harris. My grandparents were Vincent and Beatrice Harris from Seabird Island, and Norman and Victoria Gabriel from Port Douglas; where my brother Don Harris Jr. serves as chief.

In my role as Chief here at Seabird (Seabird Island), I oversee various portfolios. I also hold the position of Chair of the Council Executive Committee, which is responsible for setting the agenda for our monthly Council meetings. These meetings take place on the first Tuesday of every month, while the Council meetings themselves are held on the third Tuesday.

Throughout the past year, I have had the opportunity to attend various meetings. I particularly enjoy attending meetings with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, plus one of our Seabird Members, Tyrone McNeil, is Chair. Additionally, I sat in on meetings with the First Nations Health Authorities, Fraser Health Authorities (Fraser Salish Region) and the Assembly of First Nations.

Recently, there was a BC Ministers Cabinet meeting with our First Nations. I attended this meeting alongside Alexis Grace and one of our Youth, Octavius Billy.

Another meeting the three of us also had the privilege of attending was hosted by the "Gathering of Wisdom" conference in Vancouver. Alexis attended as part of her work, while Octavius was being recognized, along with other Youth attendees, which was an honour to witness.

This conference saw the participation of 197 out of just over 200 First Nations communities, making it the largest gathering of its kind. It was truly inspiring to see Octavius shine in front of such a diverse audience. Additionally, during the conference, a vote was held and the next 10-year Health Plan was approved.

It is heartening to see that, as we gradually emerge from the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our Members are beginning to resume their travels for vacations, sporting events and/or entertainment such as hockey games and concerts.

I hope all our students have successfully returned to school and settled back into their regular routines.

These are just some of the highlights that come to mind as I reflect on the past year at Seabird.

Thank you,

Jim Harris
Chief



COUNCILLOR, Rodney Peters

I am Rodney Peters, and I am currently serving my third Term as a Councillor for Seabird Island. My portfolios include: Infrastructure; Public Works; Seabird College; Elders; Youth; Sq'ep Culture and Language; and Fishing.

Attending mandated and portfolio meetings was a priority. They were mainly conducted virtually. As we neared the end of my term, we transitioned back to in-person meetings.

In Housing and Public Works, I actively participated in: staff meetings; reviewing financial reports; renovations; new construction projects; and ensuring regular maintenance in the Community Core.

For Elders and Youth, we combined monthly meetings with staff, organized newsletters, coordinated activities, facilitated Meals-on-Wheels programs, and arranged various events and outings. The Youth's engagement in the Skateboard Club has been inspiring, while promoting an active lifestyle.

The Sq'ep Culture and Language Committee consistently sought new Members and engaged in ongoing planning for graveyard clean-up, traditional burnings, and cemetery maintenance.

As Co-Chair of the Lower Fraser Fishing Alliance, alongside Ken Malloway, Co-Chair of Tzeachten, I represented Seabird Island. Additionally, I am a Member of the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society and the B.C. Water Table Tier 1 Working Group, assisting with Lower Fraser River Leadership and Members to participate in the Ghost-Net recovery. In 2022/23, five (5) million dollars was allocated for the improvement of water resources throughout BC.

In March, the Water Stewardship S'ólh Téméxw workshop, hosted by the Cheam Indian Band and Stó:lō Nation, involved various stakeholders. A Strategic Plan and Financial Budget will support water resource enhancement for First Nations Bands in BC.

In 2022, we conducted a Dry-Rack Fishery and a Chinook Fishery for food, ceremonies and gatherings.

From March 18 - April 28, 2023, the Eulachon Fishing season was open, but the population has been declining.

Further projects include: enhancing the Maria Slough for the return of chinook, chum and trout; approving new housing units for families and Elders; organizing a Spring Community Clean-up; installing new road signs; and acquiring eulachon nets.

In conclusion, I express my gratitude to the Community Members on and off Seabird Island. It has been a privilege to provide leadership alongside Chief Jim Harris and the elected Council Members.

Respectfully,

Rod Peters
Councillor



COUNCILLOR SIYOLWELH,

Marcia (Marcie) Peters

This has been an exciting year as we witnessed the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and resumed face-to-face meetings. I would like to extend my gratitude to all the departments in my portfolio for their hard work in supporting our families.

There were notable highlights and accomplishments from various departments:

Child and Family Services Portfolio

- Continued work on Seabird's Jurisdiction to assume responsibility for its own Children and Families from the Ministry for Children and Family Development.
- Strengthened relationships with Community Living BC to advocate for our Members with disabilities.
- Collaborated closely with other departments to meet the needs of Seabird's children and families.

Finance & Administration Portfolio

- Achieved Financial Management System certification, which demonstrates Seabird's strong financial standing.
- Successfully reviewed and approved Year 4 of our 10-year Grant Funding.
- Approved the revised Human Resources Policy.

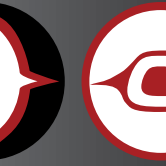
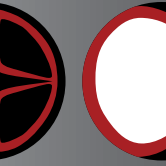
Infrastructure Portfolio

- Broke ground on the new Cultural Centre with the approved design and ongoing site work.
- Approved the BC Housing Project to proceed to the design phase.
- Commenced the rebuild of the Seabird Fire Hall.
- Indigenous Services Canada approved the Housing programs application for twenty-four (24) new rental homes.
- Signed a contract with Select Property Management to oversee the day-to-day maintenance, renovations and rent collection of all rental housing. They assumed responsibilities on July 1, 2022.

It has been a productive year, and these accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our teams.

Thank you all for your contributions.

Marcie Peters
Councillor



COUNCILLOR, James (Jim) Bobb

It is with pride and gratitude that I reflect upon my time serving as a Councillor over the past year. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to my Council Members, especially Jim Harris and Rod Peters, for their supportive mentorship throughout this journey. Their guidance has been invaluable.

Although my limited time on Council spanned a relatively brief fourteen (14) months of the 3-year term, I am thankful for the opportunity to represent and serve my Community. My portfolios included the Sq'ep Culture and Language Committee, as well as the Fishing portfolio. These responsibilities allowed me to actively contribute to the preservation and enhancement of our culture, heritage and natural resources.

One of the notable achievements during my term was the expansion of the Fishing portfolio to include Hunting and Gathering. Recognizing the importance of these traditional practices to our Community's identity, I supported the inclusion of these activities. As part of this expansion, I worked on the hunting portion of the portfolio, and recommended a gun safety and licensing course for our Community Members. This initiative aimed to equip adults with the knowledge and skills necessary for safe, responsible hunting practices.

Furthermore, with our commitment to knowledge sharing, I supported the establishment of Youth hunting and gathering exercises. With more adults licenced to use guns for hunting, the training field of mentors and trainees will expand. These initiatives serve as a means to pass down the knowledge of hunting, fishing and gathering to our future generations, which ensures these time-honored traditions are shared to preserve our culture for years to come.

Regrettably, due to family priorities that demand my attention at this time, I have chosen not to seek re-election for another term. I want to express my gratitude to each Member of our Community for the trust and encouragement you have provided me.

Tsel ch'í:thòmè.

Thank you,

James Bobb
Councillor



COUNCILLOR,
Alexis Grace

- Chair - Justice
- Co-Chair - Council Executive Committee
- 3rd-Chair - Inter-Governmental Affairs/Ab Rights & Title
- 3rd-Chair - Cheque Signer



COUNCILLOR,
Ashley Bobb

- Chair - Health & Social Development
- Co-Chair - Early Childhood
- Co-Chair - Infrastructure /Lands Committee
- 3rd-Chair - Child & Family Jurisdiction



COUNCILLOR,
Chaundine Fisher

- Chair - Education - K-12, Post Secondary, College
- Co-Chair - Child & Family Jurisdiction
- 3rd-Chair - Early Childhood



COUNCILLOR,
Paul Andrew

- Chair - Child & Family Jurisdiction
- Chair - Development Corporation Board (Sqewqel)
- Co-Chair - Child & Family Jurisdiction
- 3rd-Chair - Council Executive Committee



COUNCILLOR,
Sally Hope

- Chair - Inter-Governmental Affairs/Ab Rights & Title
- Co-Chair - Administration Department / Audit Committee
- Co-Chair - Education - K-12, Post Secondary, College
- Co-Chair - Development Corporation Board (Sqewqel)



COUNCILLOR,
Willow Walker

- Chair - Administration Department / Audit Committee
- 3rd-Chair - Health & Social Development
- 3rd-Chair - Infrastructure /Lands Committee



COUNCILLOR,
Ronald (Zack) Joe



COUNCILLOR,
Janice Parsey (Harris)



COUNCILLOR,
Mathew Point



COUNCILLOR,
Stacy McNeil

*On behalf of Seabird Island Band, thank you to our Chief and all our
Councillors for their dedicated time and work from 2022 - 2023.*



Photographs:
Christmas Dinner
December 2022





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jason Campbell

Ey'swayel / Greetings,

It has been a year of collaborative, forward movement. As we resume normalcy post-pandemic, Seabird Island has been able to make significant progress in many areas. It has been both rewarding and humbling to be a part of our Community's leadership and overall journey through 2022-2023.

Our Community experienced an intense series of atmospheric rivers, which led to unusually high rainfall levels resulting in significant flood damage to our roadway and sections of Highway 7. As we ensured the general safety of Seabird Island remained a top priority, successful road remediation efforts were put into action.

As a result of various environmental disasters, strategic planning took place regarding future preparation for emergent situations to elevate our ability to troubleshoot as these crises arise. Our Community's resilience is heartwarming, but to help bolster our Emergency Services we had additional staff complete Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) training.

Furthermore, we warmly welcomed our new Director of Community Infrastructure, Khalid Safi, in August of 2022, and Ryan Chariot as our new Deputy Fire Chief. Together, through their keen attention to detail and shared values towards building a safer Community, Seabird is now better equipped to handle and persevere through unexpected natural disasters.

Upon careful review, it became apparent there were overlapping collaborative services, which demonstrated a clear need for the newly created Culture and Community Services Department. To lead this department, which was designed for both the preservation and future of Seabird, we welcomed our new Manager, Roy Bedford, in January of 2023.

I commend all the collaborative measures taken to secure a finalized Educational Jurisdiction Agreement with the governments of BC and Canada. Through this initiative, our Community has the autonomy and authority to exercise our inherent right of educational law-making for the 4K-12 program and curriculum at Lalme' Iwesawtexw (Seabird Island Community School).

Successfully, through another Jurisdiction Agreement, our Community's inherent right and power of authority over the care of our children and families has officially been recognized by the federal

government as federal law. Furthermore, the Child and Family Jurisdiction Agreement ensures our own governing takes priority over provincial child and family services laws.

Finalizing these two jurisdiction agreements, especially in a single year, is a significant milestone for our Community's future. With both initiatives commencing in tandem, our People's traditional practices and values are becoming reincorporated in greater ways to support our children, Youth and future generations to come.

The need for available, affordable housing remains a priority for many families, which means it is of paramount importance to Seabird's administration. The BC Housing Project was initiated, which is an exciting endeavour, because it will open doors of opportunity to Community-based families. Additionally, a new feature that may directly benefit families is the addition of outdoor fitness equipment around the running track.

Ensuring our loved ones are cared for extends evermore. The Lands department undertook a revitalization project for Seabird Island's cemetery. The initial stages met with success, which then allowed for the project's initiative to continue.

In early fall of 2022, Fortis organized a Clean River Day. This venture was valuable and produced a favourable outcome for our waterways. Together, we were helping Seabird's ecosystem continue in a cleaner environment.

An ongoing relationship was formulated between the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) and Seabird Island Band. As a part of this new connection, I have had the opportunity as a guest speaker in several classes to appropriately dispel myths, while educating students of Indigenous truths dating back to our beloved Ancestors. I appeared as a representative of Seabird Island, as well as Indigenous Communities and People in general across British Columbia and Canada.

In the fall, we participated in a Cultural Exchange Program with UFV, which was a great experience as we hosted a wonderful group of French-speaking individuals from around the world, including Congo and France. The group of students was new to Canada and conveyed an avid interest in learning about Indigenous Culture and history. It was rewarding to be able to share some of our stories and values with international attendees, who would then be sharing their learnings within their own communities and homelands.

It was an incredible feeling coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially when special events were able to resume in person. The Events team organized and implemented Halloween and Christmas celebrations. For the first time, since 2019, Community Christmas dinners were able to be hosted for several hundred Members and their families at a time, so we opted to host multiple dinners to help ensure everyone had to opportunity to collectively enjoy the holidays.

Moving forward in 2023, I am optimistic for upcoming projects and initiatives becoming realities for Seabird Island, and the resulting opportunities for our Community. I am grateful for our Chief and Council's unwavering leadership, as well as all the hard work and forward-thinking of our staff.

Kwas'hoy / Thank you,
Jason Campbell
Executive Director

HUMAN RESOURCES



The Human Resources (HR) department continued to be encouraged by the progress and improvements made to support leadership and staff to do their best work every day. The HR team works to create practices that reflect organizational culture, to evaluate existing job positions to ensure our organization functions efficiently, and to participate in strategy and capacity planning, as well as ensure recognition and engagement is enacted across teams. Another HR goal is to help prevent and resolve problems or disputes between employees, and assist in creating and re-enforcing policies that are fair and consistent for everyone in the workplace.

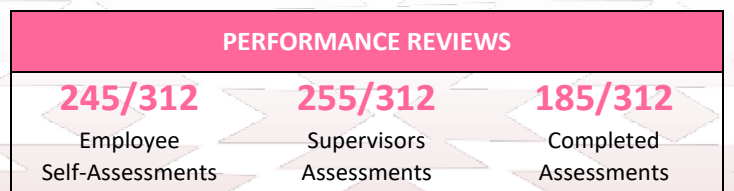
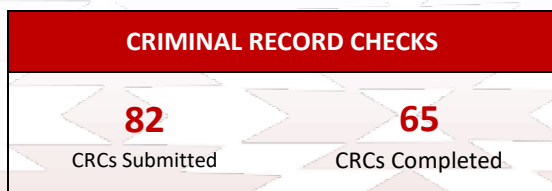
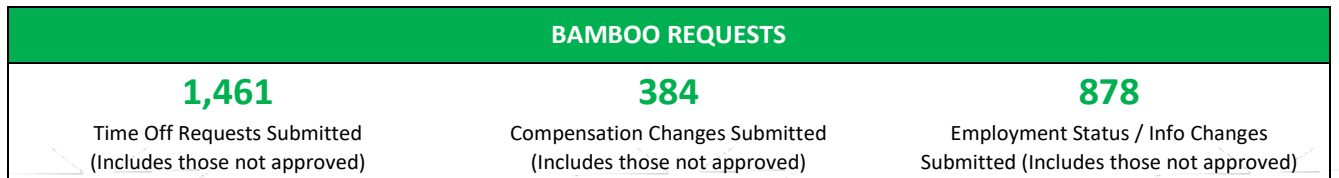
Seabird's HR team has worked hard to recruit candidates in a tight labour market. The recruitment team has worked on developing positions, classifying for compensation, sourcing candidates, creating job descriptions, posting jobs, screening applicants, scheduling interviews, and reference checking. Additionally, we oversee onboarding selected hires and following up with probation. In the coming year, there will be work towards reinforcing onboarding and orientation processes.

As Seabird continues moving forward, HR will be working towards filling Seabird's open positions, creating new *onboarding* processes, changing our *salary grid* structure to account for company growth, begin rolling our *career planning* with staff and implementing a *success planning program*. Furthermore, upcoming implementations and changes relating to all medical leaves, all other leave types and training tracking programs will be through the staff portal with "How To Guides" to assist employees with all HR functions.

Scheduled training through *HR Downloads* for all Seabird Island employee:

- **Employees** were provided with thirty-two (32) scheduled training sessions online to complete. These effective training tools were distributed to all staff in three (3) month increments of approximately ten (10) to complete.
- **Supervisors/Manager** were given sixty-one (61) scheduled sessions to work through. Their online training was performed by completing approximately twenty (20) modules every three (3) months.
- **Directors** were held to the same expectation as they had sixty (60) scheduled training sessions to complete. Like all staff, the *HR Downloads* were provided every three (3) months, and like all levels of management, approximately twenty (20) were provided at a time.

HUMAN RESOURCES



CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Culture and Community Services Program (CCS) underwent reformation in January, 2023, to consolidate overlapping program areas and enhance service delivery efficiencies for Seabird Island. This newly established program now holds the responsibility of implementing culture and recreation programming for the Community.

Under the CCS umbrella, the Events program coordinates various smaller events, alongside the annual Seabird Island Festival and Christmas events. Unfortunately, the festival was cancelled in May, 2022, due to regional flooding.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 restrictions, the Christmas activities were bustling, culminating in three Community dinners that served nearly six hundred (600) people. The Events program unit also facilitated over seventy (70) Band Office Gym bookings and organized caterers for fifty-three (53) different events.

The Communications team provides comprehensive support to all departments, handling a significant number of different promotional requests, forms and more throughout the 2022-23 period. This program is also responsible for various publications, including, but not limited to: the monthly Yoo Hoo newsletter; maintaining the Seabird Island Website; Facebook pages; and visual information TV monitors.

Culture and Community Services has been assigned the task of developing a comprehensive listing of events and programs to be distributed within the Community.



COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications program was established in 2010, which initially started with a basic newsletter consisting of photocopied event flyers and hard-to-see pictures. Over the years, we transitioned to a custom-designed and printed monthly newsletter featuring articles, calendars, stories, tips and upcoming events.

We then expanded our services to include in-house print services, such as large run printing, large format printing and laminating of posters, maps, and house plans. We also developed a photo archive which currently dates back to 1862.

During the past eight years, we ventured into the realm of social media, establishing numerous Seabird social media accounts and websites, all of which experienced significant growth. Currently, we manage over fourteen (14) social media sites and provide content to four (4) websites.

This year, we introduced a dedicated Communications section on the Seabird Website, providing detailed information about our services. Visitors may access Seabird newsletters and annual reports dating back to 2010.

Additionally, we created an Elements Archive for Seabird, featuring artwork from Ciara Busby and other Communications staff. These elements are incorporated into our advertising and promotional designs for Seabird, eliminating the need to download copyrighted materials from the internet, which could potentially harm our computer systems or violate copyright laws.

For more information about the Seabird Communications Program, please visit: www.seabirdisland.ca/communications/



Emergency Preparedness Communications

Over recent years, there has been an increasing frequency of natural disasters. To ensure Seabird is prepared and adequately safe-guarded going forward during these unforeseen circumstances, continued training and preparation efforts have been implemented. For example, numerous staff Members including Sandra from Communications completed a series of training courses in Emergency Preparedness.

The Communications team provided the Community with several notices pertaining to emergency preparedness. The team also put out several alerts about wildlife activity.

Notably, there was a wildfire that burned behind Seabird on Bear Mountain across the slough, near the power lines. We issued air quality alerts due to the smoke from the wildfire, and surrounding wildfires, in the area.

We experienced a few office closures during winter due to power outages and unsafe road conditions. As the year drew to a close, we aimed to distribute the final COVID-19 notices, while the pandemic gradually eased up.

Please see pages 42-43 for information on Seabird Island's Emergency Services.



Communications Team from left to right:

Ciara Busby, Jasmine Paul-Louis, Zorana Edwards, Sandra Bobb, Kristy Johnson

FINANCE & ADMIN





FINANCE DIRECTOR

Nigel Selvadurai

As we transition towards normalcy post pandemic, it has been a year of adjusting to the new normal and stability in day-to-day operations. Over the past year, we have been able to continue to maintain the same level of service as we transition to more in-person service offerings as staff return to office, while ensuring the health and safety of our staff and Community Members.

Seabird Island has once again been able to persevere and improve its overall financial position. We have continued to see increased revenues and programming. We proceed to focus on long-term financial success and stability as we invest for future generations.

We have incorporated the 10 Year Grant funding model and the Financial Administration Law (FAL) over the past few years. We have now attained a higher level of financial management certification from the First Nation Financial Management Board (FNFMB) called the Financial Management Systems (FMS) Certification. This was conducted with extensive review of Seabird Island's financial operational processes and systems by auditors from FNFMB from November 2022 to January 2023.

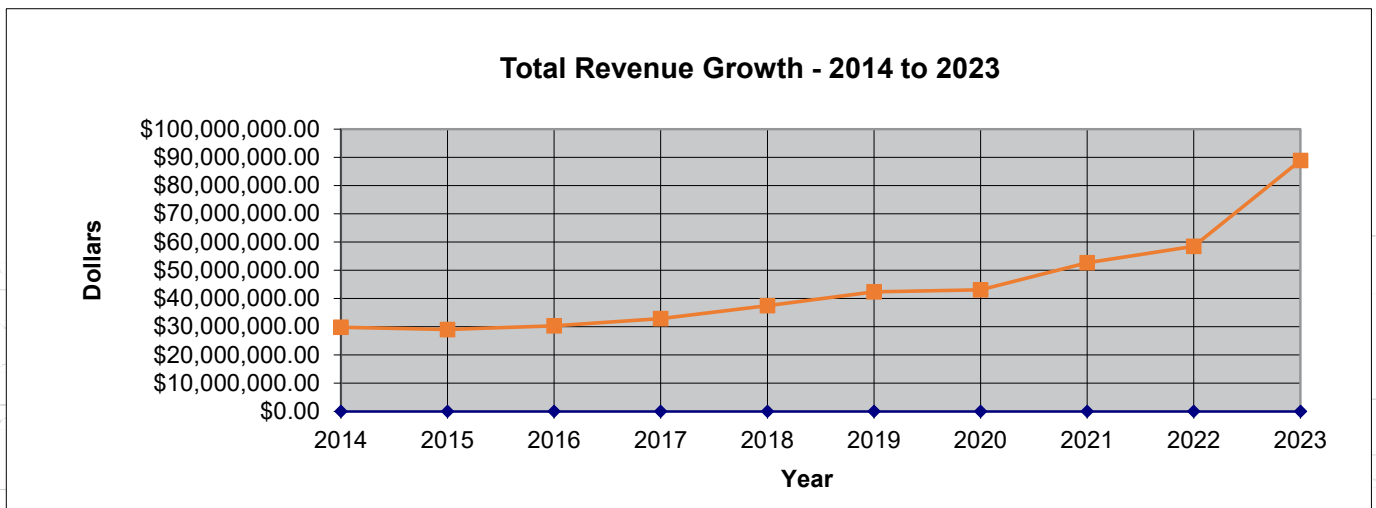
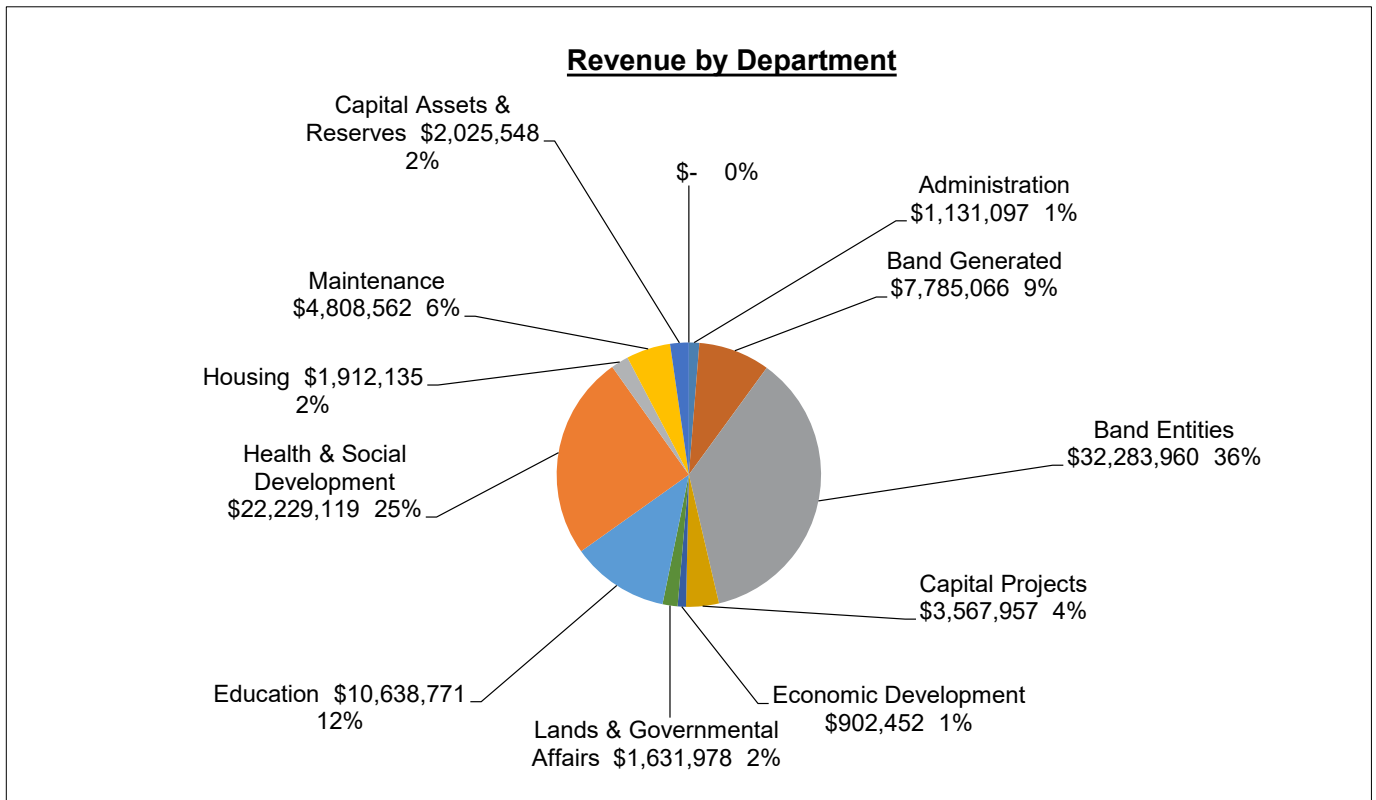
Our focus in the upcoming year will be long-term financial planning and to secure all other long-term core funding, especially in areas of Health and Education. In addition, with the completion of Phase One (1) of the Seabird Island Business Park, we continue to focus on expanding our own source revenue base through lease income and property taxation.

Revenues and accumulated surplus have continued to grow for Seabird Island for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023. The result of this has strengthened Seabird Island's financial position and strengthened the Net Financial Assets of Seabird.

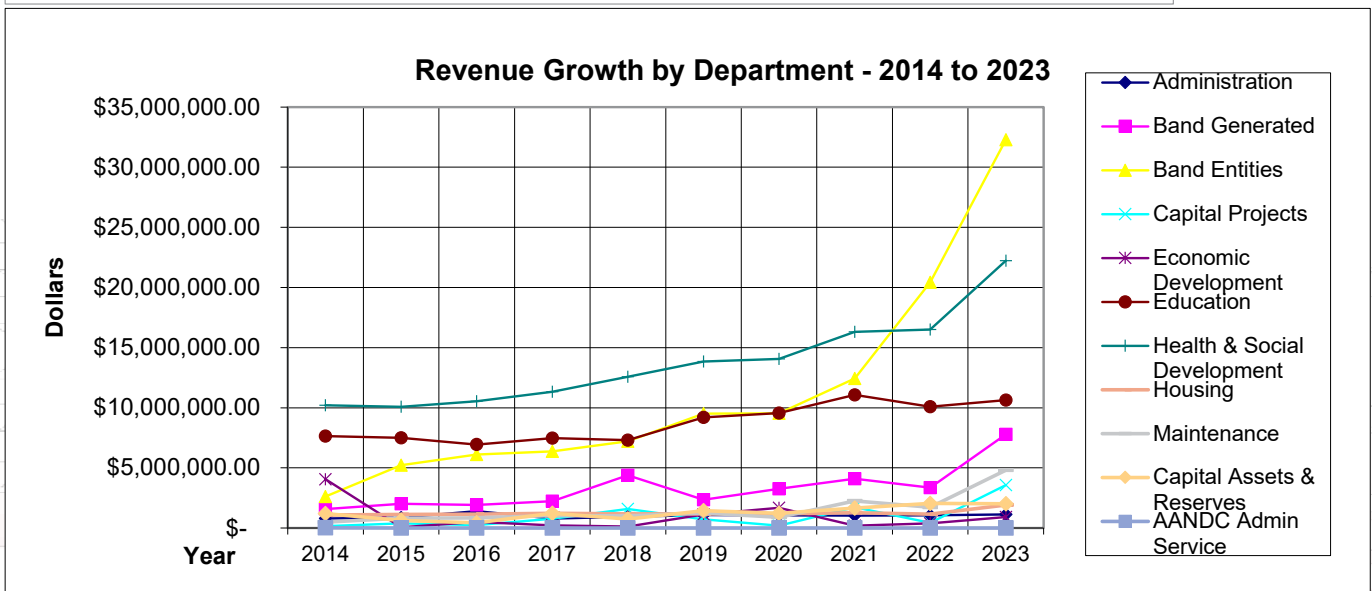
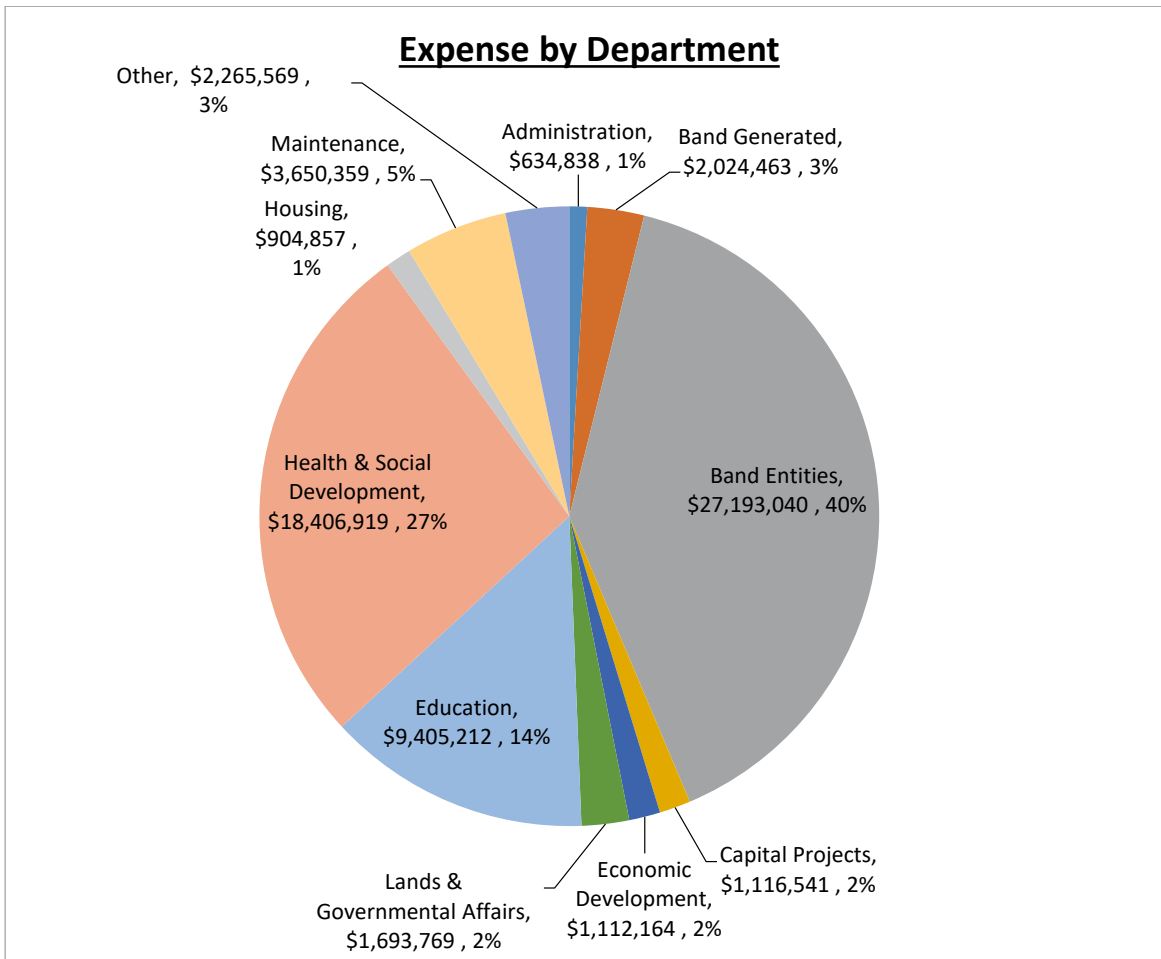
The Health and Education departments continue to be the two largest sources of revenue for Seabird Island as they continue to grow and expand to provide additional services to the Community and the neighbouring regional First Nation communities. As our financial position grows, Seabird Island continues to invest for future generations both on and off reserve real estate assets and financial instruments.

During the past fiscal year, the Finance department has made the transition back to more in-person service delivery to the organization and the Community as part of our transition to a post COVID-19 era. We would like to thank everyone for working patiently with us and for your understanding during this transition period.

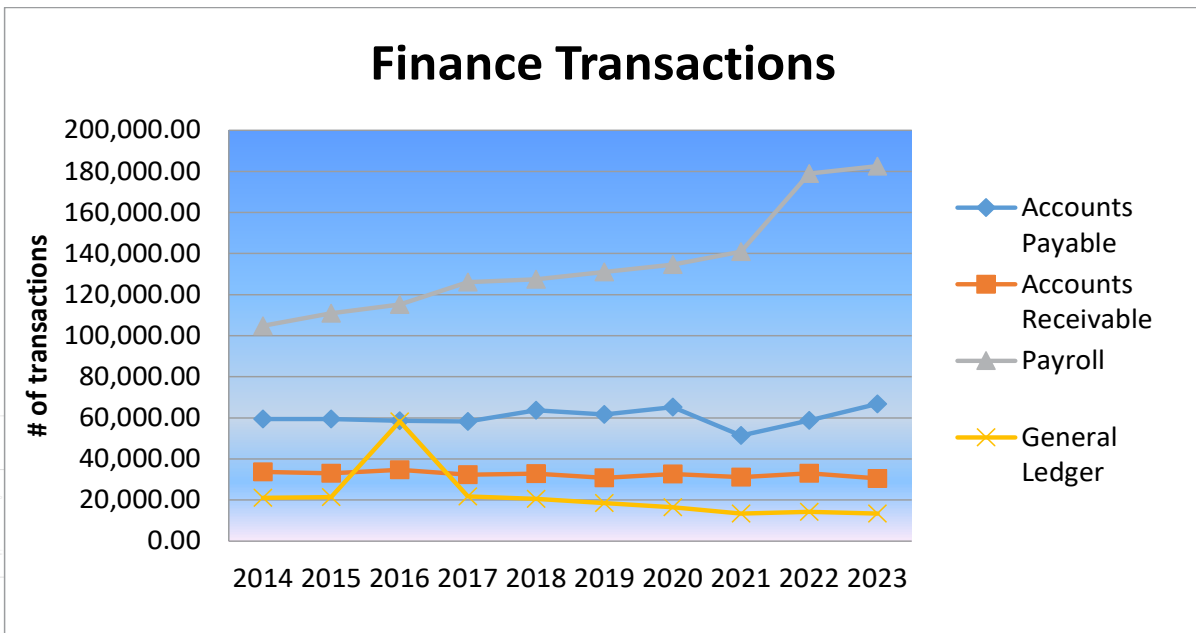
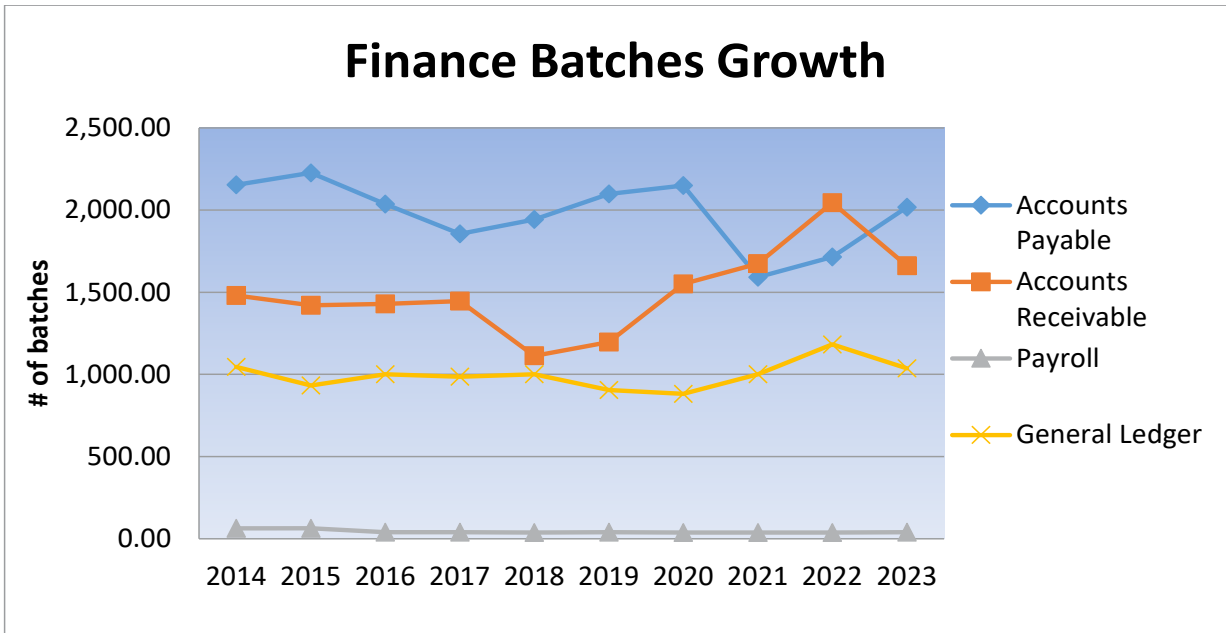
REVENUE GROWTH



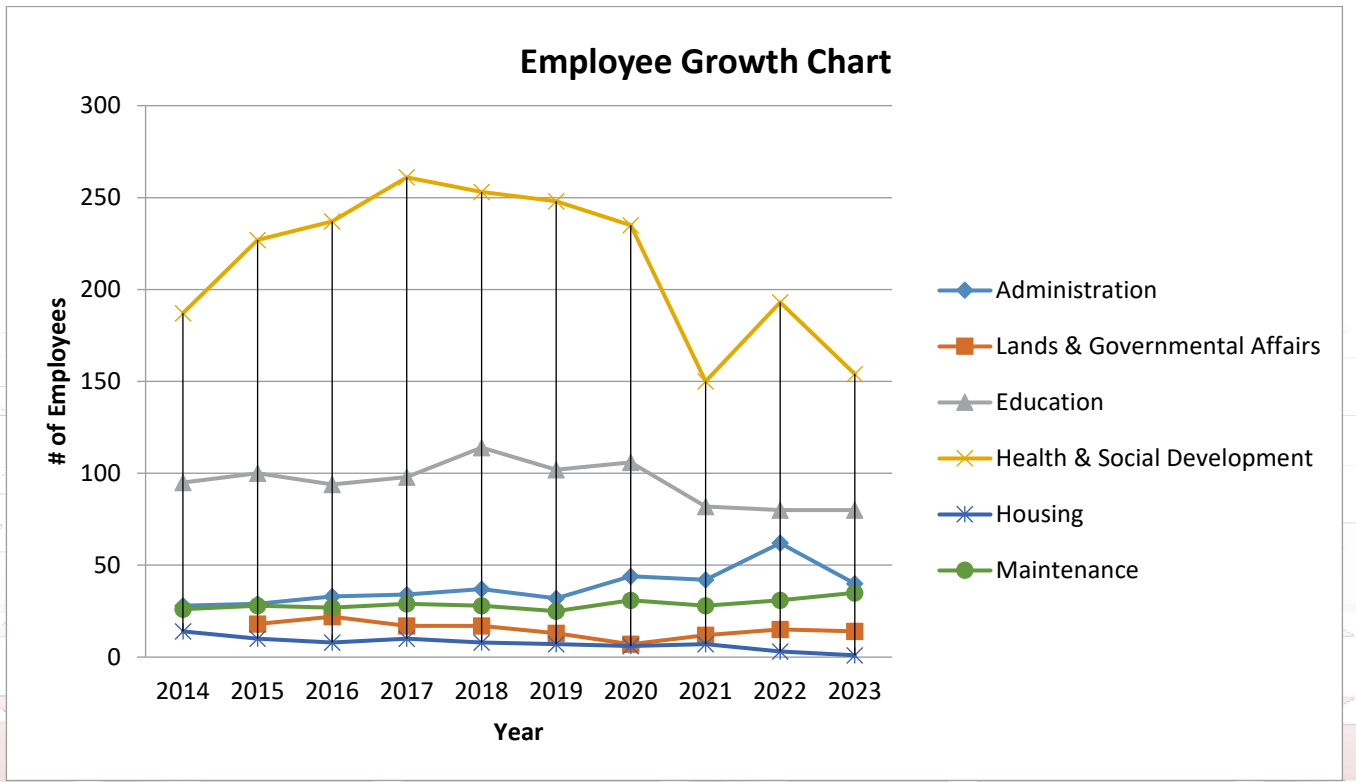
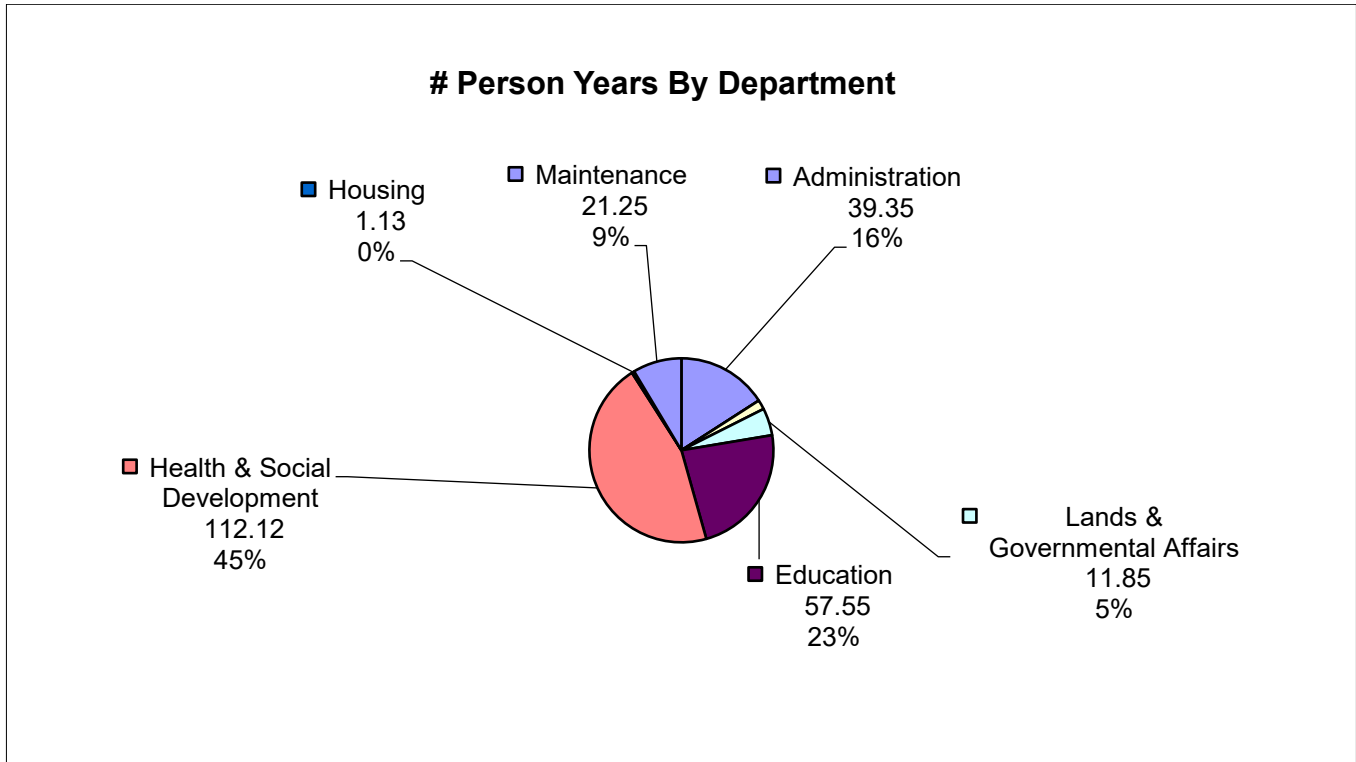
EXPENSES & REVENUE



FINANCE TRANSACTIONS



EMPLOYEE GROWTH



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

It was another busy year for the Information Technology (IT) department as support and service were provided for a plethora of IT-related needs. For example, many fundamentals were maintained and upgraded, including: servers; switches; networks, such as the Community internet; websites; desktops; laptops; printers; cell phones; and all other small devices.

One of the major accomplishments for the IT department this year was the completion of server and switch hardware upgrades to our system. These significant upgrades will provide Seabird with the long-term ability to sustain the continued growth of our whole organization.

Another major addition to IT this year was the adaptation of the ARC Geographical Information System (ARC GIS), which will allow all our departments to map and store vital infrastructure, lands and other pertinent information on a secured portal. This ensures all our infrastructure and lands history is preserved for years to come. This required a significant upgrade for our storage server, IT staff upgrades and training, as well as special municipal licensing.

We have continued to progress on our major internet/fibre connectivity project with Rogers/Shaw, since the approval of our Letter of Intent for internet service upgrade on Seabird Island. Currently, permitting, hardware and infrastructure upgrades are in progress as we reach the final stages of this project. We plan to have upgraded internet services by the fall/winter of 2023. This will include offering higher speed internet, cable television and phone services to everyone.

Another notable accomplishment was the replacement of in-ground infrastructure to the College, ECE, Recovery Homes and the Schools. This has allowed for a more stable internet and network connectivity to these facilities to meet the future needs our programs and services.

Other major completed and on-going projects at Seabird Island IT are:

- Installation of new building security enhancing the protection for all buildings and facilities
- Adobe Sign – the digitization of our paper work to help save our trees and preserve our environment
- Commercial building network upgrades connecting Nations Creations and Sq'ewqel Development Corp. to our network and firewall security
- Addition of Geo-fencing to protect against malware and phishing scams from abroad
- Standardization of our staff IT equipment and cell phones

Future IT projects for the next year include: pursuing improvements to our websites; continued infrastructure upgrades throughout the buildings; standardizing our hardware and software; improving our services to staff; and planning for additional facilities on Seabird Island such as new homes and the Cultural Centre.

Along with Seabird's continuous growth, IT is ever-changing and evolving; therefore, the IT department upgrades and adapts to the changing needs of the Community and the organization, the Community internet connectivity and the communication experience.

RECORDS

When the COVID-19 pandemic halted the world in 2020, the Records team kept going. Our biggest challenge was a loss of control over how and where records are being stored – and by extension, the security and accessibility of those records. As the pandemic wore on, we got the sense that we were in for the long-haul. We were concerned that staff might take physical records home. Little did we know, we should have been more concerned with digital storage.

Staff who used remote desktops were sometimes unclear about the environment they were working in. We got the sense that staff turned to storing information in what they felt most comfortable navigating: Google drive, OneNote, Teams, or for some even just their email client. These trends were not the best for storage but the most convenient storage for staff to navigate.

Staff were still able to meet, talk, and see faces via virtual collaboration. We also learned to share documents, assign tasks, and instant message on collaboration platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Microsoft SharePoint. As the pandemic wore on and collaboration platforms caught on, these platforms hosted real work and real records.

As we return to work in a forever changed environment, let us not forget one of the salient lessons of this pandemic experience, that *records are essential to the continued life of Seabird and the records service is as essential as any other.*

One of our many outsourced service providers remained dedicated throughout these difficult and challenging times to keeping our information secure in its delivery of safe, secure, and confidential document destruction.

This year 2022-23, we are proud to report the following “GO GREEN” recycled paper statistics:

Please note that 38,000 lbs. (19 tons) of paper equates to:

- 323 trees saved from harvest
- 58.14 cubic yards of landfill space was saved
- 77,463 kilowatts of energy saved
- 11,153 less pounds of air pollution
- 132,907 gallons of water saved
- 7220 gallons of oil were saved through the process

In today’s era people are starting to consider going paperless but there’s still a long way to go before we lose our dependance on this important human product. There is a definite decrease in the paper volume of mail services over the past few years and it continues to decline which has increased our digitized environment. We strive on maintaining professional services to customers and the Community.

Information is power, and there is a need to keep our recorded information well, for future reference and use. We have all learned a lesson from this and our hope is that we will continue keeping safe and remaining hopeful when faced with difficulties. Our records will speak for us in the future.

In conclusion, as this year ends, and a new era begins, we will always reMember how COVID-19 drastically changed how business is conducted, and how Records operates in this ever-changing world. Going forward we will embrace opportunities and welcome new challenges.

FINANCE & ADMIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Seabird Island received Financial Management Systems (FMS) Certification from First Nation Financial Management Board (FNFMB) which is a higher level of financial management accreditation than the Financial Administration Law (FAL)
- Seabird Island continues to be under a 10-Year Grant Funding agreement which provides more flexibility in how it utilizes its core funding and plans for the Community's future until March 31, 2029
- We had another successful audit this year which was conducted by our auditors, MNP LLP
- The successful addition of Seabird Island Proposal Writer into our team
- The continued development and expansion of our purchasing and procurement team to better meet the long-term needs of our Community, including emergency management logistics and purchasing, storage (food security), and asset management (future dedicated storage facilities for Seabird Island)
- Significant IT infrastructure upgrade to meet the needs of Seabird Island's continuous growth which includes fibre lines to ECE, College, Schools, and the Recovery Homes
- Upgrade of server and switches to meet the current demand as the number of employees have increased over the past year
- Continuous digitization of our paper record management system to electronic document management system. This has saved a considerable amount of trees and with significant environmental benefits
- Progression to permitting and infrastructure upgrade of our Rogers/Shaw internet upgrade on Seabird Island
- The addition of ARC GIS to meet the needs of Public Works, Housing and Lands for infrastructure mapping of our growing Community
- Relocation of our Physical Permanent Records moved to a secure space. Improvements in climate control, drainage, and security were completed to the facility this year
- Records Management continue to promote "Go Green" approach to recycling over 38,000lbs of recycled paper
- Significant upgrades to our off-reserve investments including city water hookup to our 45 unit apartment complex and substantial renovation to our commercial building on Pioneer Avenue in Agassiz
- Development and Completion of the Seabird Island Investment Policy in collaboration with MNP. Currently in review by FAC for recommendation to C&C
- Completion of the TMX 5B – 4 Community Clearing Project Royalty allocation and reconciliation four (4) communities
- Development of various policy development and training
- Completion Seabird Island Property Taxation Annual Law Approval and Notice Preparation

FINANCE CONCLUSIONS

It was another really exciting and challenging year as Seabird Island as the organization continues to grow at a rapid pace. While we transition out of a post pandemic period, we have continued to make changes to better meet the needs of all departments to better serve the communities needs. As we continue to grow and move forward, it is very vital that Finance, IT, Records Management, Reception, and Purchasing/Procurement programs work more effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of the organization.

In the past year, the Finance and Administration department staff have worked really hard to continue refining, and improving all internal processes, inter-departmental coordination and communication. More importantly, as our organization continues to grow, the Finance and Administration team has streamlined a fair number of processes and procedures to better meet the increased volume of transaction and growth at Seabird Island.

This includes Adobe-Sign integration, remote working options, hot-desk options, more levels of backup for critical staffing positions, integration of Teams into all our systems which include phones and video conferencing in our meeting rooms. This has allowed us to continue providing a consistent level of service to the Community and other departments within Seabird Island, including off-reserve buildings, and other regional communities we serve.

As we have now retained our Financial Management Systems (FMS) Certification from FNFMB, our focus will be attaining our First Nation Finance Authority (FNFA) Borrowing Partner Certification, and on our long-term strategic financial and investment plans to ensure we continue to grow Seabird Island's overall financial position for the current and future generations.

It is paramount that we persue to expand and update our IT infrastructure in the Community as reliance on internet service will to grow in this digital age, to ensure future generations have access to all the digital tools on and off reserve. Once the upgrade for the Rogers/Shaw internet infrastructure is completed to the whole Community, Seabird Island Community will be able to fully benefit from the high quality internet and cable services on reserve.

As we grow, the Records Management program becomes more integral to managing and archiving all the vital information that are based on federally regulated retention schedules. We continue to "Go Green" to minimize the environmental impact on our land. It is imperative that we keep protecting all permanent documents and artifacts of Seabird Island's rich history. The development and expansion of our highly trained and dedicated staff will continue to ensure the preservation of our records and artifacts for many generations to come.

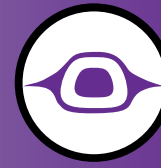
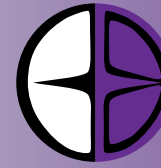
We would like to thank everyone for their support, patience, and understanding. We are passionate about what we do and really do value all the working relationships and the organization wide effort to work together at all levels. As staff strive to meet Seabird Island strategic goals and create the foundation for future generations to prosper.

We look forward to serving you in the upcoming year and will continue providing the best service possible to the Seabird Island Community, its Band Members, and to our regional First Nation communities in the most efficient and effective way.

INTER-GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



Photographs:
Membership Code
MAY 2022



INTER-GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

Janice Parsey

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Membership; Referrals; Natural Resources; Biologist; Policy Analyst

Membership & Indian Registration

Simone Jimmie has been assisting Seabird Island Band Members since May of 2021. Her position as Seabirds Membership Clerk/Indian Registration Administrator allows her to assist Members with Band Transfers, Minor/Adult Registration, Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS), and Certificate of Indian Status (CIS) applications. Simone also assists Members with recording events and amendments into the Indian Registration System (IRS) such as Marriages, Divorces, Deaths, and Legal Name Changes.

Membership Code

Seabird came into a new year (2022) with the decision to amend its current Membership Code. The code was created in, 1999. In May of 2022, our Membership Code Team had gone door-to-door hand delivering surveys to Seabird Members. The surveys were then collected and submitted to DGW Law Corporation (DGW), which allowed them to get a better insight of what Seabird’s Members envisioned for the new amendments to the code.

DGW had collected the results from the surveys that were distributed in May of 2022. From the analysis and interpretation of the results, DGW had highlighted key issues from respondents. It was clear that these topics were needing further discussion amongst the Members.

With that being said, the next steps are to meet with Seabird Members and discuss six (6) focus areas from those highlighted topics that were compiled from the surveys May of 2022. From the feedback that is received, DGW will then create a rough draft of the amendment and propose it to Seabird’s Members. Members will then be given another opportunity to make further recommendations before the final draft is made for the ratification process.

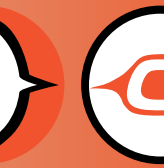
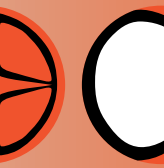
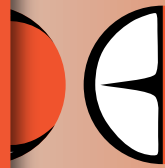
	Members:	Male:	Female:	6(1):	6(2):
Total:	993	491	503	720	273



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE



Photographs:
ROAD CONSTRUCTION/EROSION
MAY 2022



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTOR

Khalid Safi

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Public Works; Housing; Capital Projects and Custodial; Lands; Emergency Services; Fleet

PUBLIC WORKS

Gary Swan was hired in Fleet in August 2022 and worked in that program until 2023 when he became the Public Works (PW) Manager.

- New road signs have been installed.
- The exterior lights at the college have been upgraded.
- The sliding gate for the PW yard has been completed. It can be automated in the future.
- Sewer system lift stations have been inspected, and necessary maintenance has been noted.
- Had contractors look at the schools heating system boilers, which are scheduled for replacement in May.
- A trailer-mounted mobile smoker has been purchased. Its inaugural use was for a staff lunch prior to the May Festival.
- PW attended meetings for the new maintenance management program being developed.
- The IT room was tested for mold contamination and came back positive. The room was vacated, and was repaired in March, with drywall and flooring being replaced.
- PW staff have started monthly meetings to share information with all levels of staff discussing work-related issues.

PUBLIC WORKS

- A sewer drain issue at the high school has been repaired. The channel now flows as it should.
- PW staff attended the Emergency Operation Centre tabletop exercises, which was well attended and generated many questions and suggestions about our emergency plans.
- PW has completed many small ACRS items; gutter and downspout maintenance, electrical cover repairs, etc. The graveyard fence has been repaired, and kitchen hood vents in the gym and Mill Hall have been cleaned.
- A new spare sewage pump has arrived to serve as a backup for existing pumps, ensuring that we have a spare pump for all lift stations when required.
- A surplus vehicle (old sewage tanker) and some equipment have been sold from the PW yard.
- PW continues to improve our health and safety program by installing a fireproof fuel storage cabinet for jerry cans in the PW yard and ordering hi-vis clothing for staff.
- Hi-vis safety gear has been delivered and distributed to staff, making them highly visible.
- Fire inspection deficiencies have been addressed, with expired or missing extinguishers replaced and emergency light batteries replaced.
- The band office gym air handler, has been replaced. The variable frequency drive allows for better regulation of air flow into and out of the gym. Surge protection has been fitted to prevent damage during brownouts caused by high winds, etc.
- A large street sweeper attachment has been added to the Toolcat.
- Tools and equipment, such as hand tools, an air compressor, and a leaf blower, have been purchased to enhance PW's ability to complete repairs.
- Vector has repaired the roofing deficiency at the high school, which caused ceiling damage in the upstairs washrooms.



PUBLIC WORKS

- Garbage and recycling pick-up continue to be problematic. Staff Members continue to undergo training and gather information on ways to improve recycling and garbage removal.
- Snow clearing: PW's first objectives are clearing main roads, schools, and administration buildings.
- Between April 1 and 13, over fifty (50) windows were broken. PW responded to late-night calls to meet with the police, clean up glass, and board up windows. By the end of April, some windows had been replaced, but more still need to be replaced.
- PW has started gathering quotes to enhance the schools' security. Contractors are providing quotes for tall floodlights, window roll shutters, and steel grating to cover the rock gardens.
- The band office gym's air handler, which controls heating and ventilation, has been automated and can now be computer-controlled.
- ACRS items have been a top priority lately, and several projects have been initiated or completed.
- LED lighting upgrades have begun in the band office and school mechanical rooms, replacing the old fluorescent lighting with bright and energy-efficient LED lighting.
- PW organized a successful three-day recycling event for the Community in April. Multiple stewards provided containers for collecting and recycling tires, electronics, small appliances, metal, and other items. A large bin for regular garbage was also provided.
- PW coordinated with the Health and Better at Homes program to remove a large garbage pile that had accumulated on Peters Road. A bin was brought in, and a variety of groups worked together to clean.
- Two PW staff Members attended the Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group (IZWTAG) seminar in Richmond, where they gained valuable knowledge that can be applied to our next recycling event.
- We are exploring the possibility of expanding our own recycling program in the future, as there are numerous funding opportunities and available assistance.
- Flashing speed signs have been installed in the school zone.



Seabird's Garbage Truck



The Housing program operates in accordance with the Strategic Plan established by Chief and Council. This year, the Housing program underwent significant restructuring, with Select Property Management taking over rental home maintenance, renovations, and rent collection in July 2022. The Housing Manager position was eliminated, and a new role called Housing Support Services was created.

Housing Support Services is responsible for ensuring the efficient and effective operation of the Seabird Island Housing Program, including tasks such as writing grant funding applications, reporting to stakeholders, estimating budget requirements, preparing housing reports, assisting Members with new home construction, and developing programs to promote home ownership.

Statistics:

- Rental Applications Received: Eighty-nine (89)
- Homeowner New Build & Renovation Mortgage Approvals: Two (2)
- Completed Individual New Home Construction Projects: Five (5)
- Inspections of Rental Units Completed: One hundred and twelve (112)
- ECAP Applications: Nine (9)
- ECAP Approved Retrofits: Five (5) families
- ISC and CMHC Renovation Applications Submitted: Twenty-five (25)
- CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative Application for nine (9) Multi-Family Homes
- Indigenous Services Canada Application for eighteen (18) Townhomes and 6 Accessible Townhomes

Highlights from the year:

- Fortis BC and BC Hydro partnered to bring the (ECAP) Energy Conservation Assistance Program to Seabird. This ongoing program provides free energy-saving measures for every home in the Community. Five (5) families received new insulation, bath fans, and draft proofing, and one family received a new high-efficiency furnace.
- ISC approved funding for twenty-four (24) new townhouse units.
- Select Property Management completed fourteen (14) major renovations in rental units and addressed several smaller maintenance requests reported by tenants.
- Hazardous material remediation was completed for eight (8) out of the ten (10) vacant homes.

CATIAL PROJECTS & CUSTODIAL

The Seabird Island Custodial program has the responsibility of maintaining a safe and healthy environment in fourteen (14) buildings. The custodial team diligently carries out daily routine cleaning in each building, to meet the necessary cleanliness standards, promoting the safety of employees, Community Members, and visitors.

Additionally, the Custodial Program takes charge of setting up for events held in the Seabird Island Band Gym. They ensure that the setup is conducted professionally, adhering to the instructions provided by the departments and clients.

The custodial team played a crucial role in the cleanup of the unfortunate incident of broken glass in the Seabird Island Elementary School. They dedicated numerous hours to vacuuming, sweeping, and removing glass. The Custodial officer takes pride in the programs progress over the past year, which involved adjustments and changes to schedules and buildings.

"It's important to reMember that it is the people, not the products, who truly clean buildings." - unkown.

In April 2022, the emergency bank armoring project along the Fraser River was successfully completed. Due to the washing away of rip rap along the bank, urgent repairs were necessary to prevent further land loss caused by bank erosion. Nova Pacific Environmental was hired to facilitate the required permits from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Provincial authorities. They also monitored the project's environmental aspects. Stqó:ya Construction was responsible for placing the rip rap.

In May 2022, road repairs were carried out along Mariah Slough on Seabird Island road. There was significant sloughing and erosion of the road and shoulder due to the atmospheric river. Tetra Tech was contracted to design the necessary repairs and handle the permitting process with the DFO and Provincial authorities. Stqó:ya Construction was entrusted with the task of repairing and armoring the embankment.

In October 2022, the installation of two new bus shelters took place. These shelters were positioned at Strawberry Island and the corner of Chowat Road and Sthí:t'sem.

- BC Housing Complex: The schematic design for a 32-unit housing complex, which includes a 12-unit Elders building, has been completed. This complex will be constructed on Pípehò:m Road.
- Cultural Center: The schematic design for the Cultural Center has been completed and has now progressed to the engineered design phase.
- Fire Hall addition: The design for the fire hall addition has been completed.
- 136 Acre House: The building has undergone remediation, with the interior being stripped down to the studs. After a structural engineer determined that the building was structurally sound, an architect was hired to continue the design process for transforming the single-family structure into a multi-use facility.
- Health Center Renovations: Windows and roofing in the health wing of the administration building have been replaced.
- College HVAC system: The installation of a mini-split heating and air conditioning system has been completed at the college, replacing the electric furnaces.
- Vacant home remediations: Six vacant homes have undergone remediation to address hazardous materials in preparation for upcoming renovations.
- Pavement repairs: Various streets throughout Seabird Island have had potholes and breaks repaired to ensure smoother and safer road surfaces.

Land Governance Services:

This service encompasses individual land holdings, research, legacy issues projects, land transfers, tenancy changes, and registration of instruments.

Pre-Leasing Risk Assessments:

This service involves conducting environmental impact assessments, archaeological site assessments, encumbrance checks, transportation permissions, legal land surveying, and obtaining liability insurance certificates, bonds, reclamation funds, as well as approvals from other regulatory bodies with authority.

Wills & Estates:

During the fiscal year, a Will Writing workshop was organized, where a total of ten Elders drafted their wills. As an optional storage space for Members' wills, a fire-proof safe was purchased.

Dog Licensing:

This service ensures that all dogs on the reserve are provided with a dog tag. Additionally, a list of registered dogs is maintained and provided to the First Nations Community Watch, enabling them to connect registered lost or missing pets with their owners. Seabird Island Lands (SIL) recognizes the necessity of animal control and is currently working on developing an agreement with the Fraser Valley Regional District's (FVRD) Animal Enforcement team, while fulfilling all the prerequisites.

Permitting:

The permitting services offered by SIL include burn permits, clearing permits, fill permits, work permits, building permits, event permits, temporary use permits, day permits, and business permits. Throughout the fiscal year, approximately one hundred and twenty (120) permits were issued.

Smá:ytemexw (Land Guardians):

This initiative involves training staff in three different types of Land Guardianship training, as well as wilderness first aid. The goal is to establish an operational guardianship team that ensures compliance with the laws on reserve.

Law Development:

We are currently engaged in Community consultation processes for various laws, including:

- Environmental Protection
- Enforcement and Ticketing
- Emergency Measures for Infectious Diseases
- Revised Dog Licensing and Animal Management

As part of the effort to incorporate Seabird's traditional laws and stories into modern-day law-making, SIL organized a RELAW workshop. This initiative will continue into the next fiscal year.

LANDS

FVRD Planning & Development Service Agreement

SIL and FVRD's Planning and Development department have collaborated to draft a service agreement. The purpose of this agreement is to assess proposed buildings and determine if permits can be issued. The goal is to establish a partnership with the FVRD, leveraging their capacity and streamlining the building process.

Special Projects

SIL is currently engaged in several special projects, which include:

- Drafting a Land Use Plan
- Awarding a contract to draft an Environmental Management Plan
- Revitalizing Indigenous berries in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada
- Beautifying the cemetery with the First Peoples Cultural Council's grant
- Updating the burial plot management system
- Conducting Environmental Site Assessments

As an under-funded program, SIL tirelessly seeks to partner with external entities to bring additional expertise to Seabird. Additionally, the program actively applies for grants to complete important projects that align with Seabird Island's strategic vision and goals.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Seabird Island Fire Department (SIFD) is dedicated to providing essential services to our local area, which includes firefighting, rescue operations, and fire safety education for the Seabird Island Community.

Additionally, the Fire Department has established mutual aid agreements with surrounding municipalities, allowing for resource sharing in the event of fire or rescue emergencies. SIFD firefighters are dispatched to respond to emergencies both within Seabird Island, and in certain cases, neighboring communities. During the past year, the SIFD attended a total of forty-seven (47) callouts, as detailed below.

Training for firefighters has been ongoing throughout the year, with regular practice sessions scheduled for Tuesday evenings. Occasionally, additional training sessions are conducted in collaboration with the Agassiz Fire Department to provide specialized training opportunities.

Topics covered during these training sessions included self-contained breathing apparatus, ladder operations, driving and operating fire engines, as well as exterior fire attack techniques. The Tuesday evening sessions primarily focus on the Exterior Firefighter

Program. To strengthen the firefighting team, the SIFD continues to actively promote recruitment efforts. Currently, the roster consists of ten (10) firefighters, which includes recruit firefighters.



EMERGENCY SERVICES



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

An Emergency Management Plan is a comprehensive course of action designed to mitigate potential events that could jeopardize an organization's ability to operate effectively. This plan includes measures to ensure the safety of personnel and, whenever possible, protect property and facilities. Seabird Island has developed an Emergency Plan that enables us to respond promptly to emergencies and facilitate recovery efforts.

The plan outlines the roles and responsibilities of staff from all departments within Seabird, including Operations, Social Services, Logistics, Communications, Finance, and Administration, to address emergency needs. Continuous review and updates are conducted to ensure an efficient and effective response to emergencies.

Staff Members received specialized training related to their roles within an Emergency Operation Center (EOC), which was funded through grants and utilized Holistic Emergency Response and Preparedness instruction. Additionally, staff and management participated in a tabletop exercise that simulated a mock scenario, allowing them to apply the knowledge acquired during training.

Throughout the year, Seabird Island activated the EOC on four occasions in response to different events, including the spring freshet, extreme heat, wildfire evacuee support, and atmospheric rivers.

In 2022, the freshet began around the week of June 29, prompting the activation of the EOC and acquiring a task number through EMBC. Crews were deployed to install Tiger Dams along Seabird Island Road for flood protection. Fortunately, the water levels did not rise significantly, and there was no overland flooding.

The EOC was also activated for a warming center on January 8, 2022, due to prolonged cold weather and heavy winds that caused a power failure. BC Hydro required nearly twenty-four (24) hours to restore power.

During the winter of 2022, there were instances of burst sprinkler pipes in the 8-plex, resulting in the need to relocate all residents. There were burst sprinkler pipes in both the Band Office and High School, necessitating significant repairs to both buildings. Those incidents occurred due to extremely cold temperatures.

Overall, it was a productive year that showcased excellent teamwork, enabling our team to emerge stronger than before. A heartfelt appreciation goes out to everyone involved in the emergency response efforts during this challenging period.

FLEET

The Fleet Program was established on July 25, 2022, introducing a new position within the organization. The initial weeks were spent acclimating to the role and assessing the status of the fleet. This evaluation provided a starting point to determine the vehicles' servicing requirements, motor vehicle inspections, and overall maintenance needs. A plan was developed to prioritize the necessary tasks, with a focus on preparing the buses for the upcoming school year.

The team explored various app-based maintenance programs that could offer benefits and obtained cost estimates for upfront and yearly charges. After evaluating three service quotes based on factors such as ease of use and cost, it was concluded that the upfront and yearly costs were not feasible at that time. Therefore, the decision was made to table the implementation of such a program for a later date.

Addressing the issue of limited parking space caused by numerous derelict vehicles in the yard, a solution was found by either selling or donating these vehicles to the Fire Department for training purposes.

Efforts were made to consolidate and organize the keys for all vehicles, ensuring that the Fleet had complete knowledge of spare keys. These keys will be stored with the Fleet program for easy access and management.

As the winter months approached, discussions were held regarding snow removal and equipment. It was determined that the existing backhoe was neither roadworthy nor reliable, leading to the decision to replace it. After considering different options, a JCB backhoe was selected. Additionally, a tool cat was purchased for Public Works. The old backhoe and skid steer were subsequently sold off.

Overall, the Fleet program made significant progress since its inception, focusing on vehicle servicing, maintenance, and preparedness for the school year. Efforts were also made to address parking issues, consolidate keys, and assess equipment needs for winter operations.

As the winter months approached, snow removal and equipment were considered. The existing backhoe was neither roadworthy nor reliable. The Fleet Program acquired a JCB backhoe and a tool cat Public Works. The old backhoe and skid steer were sold to make way for the new equipment.

The transition began to have the Fleet program take over scheduling for drivers in Health. This transition was successfully completed in early November. All fuel cards previously assigned to individual employees were collected, and the Fleet program assumed control over fuel cards. The transition of school bus drivers and college drivers was also concluded in December.

In the new year, a new school bus joined the fleet. The old 2012 Bluebird bus was ultimately sold at Richie Bros Auctions in May 2023.

A driver expectation form was created, outlining the expectations for all drivers. These expectations include keeping the inside of vehicles free from garbage and clutter, and wiping down the interior after each use. However, washing the outside of vehicles and vacuuming the interior will be taken care of by the Fleet program, which has acquired a new shop vac for this purpose.

Six Public Works staff participated in a safety equipment course for the new backhoe, we are pleased to report that everyone passed the course. Well done! This allows for additional operators when required. The Fleet program is exploring the possibility of organizing other courses for other equipment.

Throughout the year, the Fleet program investigated several incidents and successfully resolved them with the assistance of HR and safety protocols.



EDUCATION



EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Julia Johnston

Ey'swayel! (Greetings!)

As of July 1, 2022, Seabird Island has assumed jurisdiction over K4 to Grade 12 education on Seabird Island. This signifies the Band's commitment to exercising First Nations Control over First Nations Education, rooted in the inherent and Aboriginal Rights of Indigenous peoples. These rights are enshrined in Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 and set as a minimum standard in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Province of British Columbia recently passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, which aligns the province's laws with UN standards. Section 4 of this act mandates British Columbia to develop and implement an action plan in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples to meet the objectives of the UN Declaration. The Declaration Act Action Plan, released on March 30, 2022, includes collectively identified goals and outcomes that guide the long-term vision for implementing the UN Declaration in B.C., with a focus on educational goals.

The Province of British Columbia entered into the Education Jurisdiction Framework Agreement with the government of Canada and the First Nations Education Steering Committee on July 5, 2006. This agreement enacted the First Nations Jurisdiction over Education in British Columbia Act, which allows participating First Nations to enact laws concerning education on First Nation land. Seabird Island was one of the first four Bands in British Columbia to exercise this jurisdiction.

The Education program under Seabird's jurisdiction has set several priorities as it begins implementing control over education for K4 to Grade 12 students at Seabird Community School (SICS), including both public and private schools. One of the key goals is to actively engage all major stakeholders in education. To achieve this, a Parent Education Committee has been established, holding monthly meetings at the Seabird Island Community School.

The Local Education Agreement between School Division 78 and Seabird Island is set to expire in June 2024, and a review of the document is underway to ensure students' right to education in accordance with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' Act and in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.

We warmly invite you to attend upcoming public meetings aimed at improving the education programming and developing a vision and mission statement for education based on Stó'lō ways of knowing and being, focusing on future generations. We extend this invitation to all Elders, parents, Community Members, Band Members, and knowledge keepers. Details of the events will be posted soon.

The revitalization and reawakening of Indigenous languages is a major goal for us, recognizing the impacts they have endured over many generations. Those who are interested in participating in a "Think Tank" dedicated to this purpose, please do not hesitate to contact the Education Director and/or the Language Development Teacher.

Kwas'hoy,
Julia Johnston



Congratulations to All Post-Secondary Graduates of 2023

Angelica Daglis	Bachelor of Arts in Social Work
Isabella Forseth	Global Fashion Marketing Diploma
Michael McNeil-Bobb	Electrical Construction Certificate
Cristin LaFortune	Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Languages
Raven Joe	Addictions Worker Diploma
Renee Angus	Medical Office Assistant Certificate
Darian Pike	Heavy Mechanical Foundation Certificate
Tatianna Flippin	University One for Indigenous Learners Certificate
Vanessa Spooner	Medical Office Assistant Certificate



LALME' IWESAWTEXW - SEABIRD ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL (SICS)



The lifting of COVID-19 restrictions has allowed the school to actively participate in several cultural activities throughout the year. These activities included high school students spending two days at the longhouse, where they gained knowledge in ceremony and longhouse protocols. Additionally, we hosted a naming ceremony and a Slahal tournament, welcoming students from the Chilliwack and Abbotsford school districts to join us.

This year, Lalme'Iwesawtexw will see eleven (11) graduates. Thanks to the trade sampler program we have in collaboration with University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), many of our graduates have applied to UFV for various foundation programs. We are also proud to have a few graduates who have applied to University of British Columbia (UBC), Simon Fraser University (SFU), and Thompson Rivers University (TRU). Notably, one of our graduates has already been accepted to Plymouth University in Scotland!

Lalme'Iwesawtexw has been able to forge partnerships and collaborations with other departments throughout the year. For instance, the grade eleven (11) active living class worked with the Youth and Lands programs to construct a trail near Ruby Creek, specifically designed for cultural bathing in the river. Furthermore, the high school collaborated with the Seabird Island College to offer additional class opportunities for students working toward their Adult Dogwood Diploma, including *Environmental Science 12* and *Drone Course*.

With the support of our Education Director and the engagement of parents and administrators, we have been revitalizing our Parents Advisory Committee (PAC). The school initiated this process during our welcome back dinner in September, and we have been holding monthly meetings since October. The PAC initially started with three Members and has grown to ten (10) Members as of our May meeting. In May, the PAC organized and sponsored a PAC Family Night event, which saw an attendance of more than sixty (60) people.

In our Post-Secondary program, we currently have twenty-nine (29) students:

- Master's Degree – 5
- Bachelor's Degree – 8
- Diploma – 3
- Certificate – 7
- Trades – 2
- Part-time Students – 3
- Upgrading Students – 1

LALME' IWESAWTEXW - SEABIRD ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL (SICS)



Trades-based education at Seabird Island Community School continues to expand. This year, there was increased involvement from intermediate classes, who undertook projects such as a pipefitting project and a garden box design and construction project. Students in grades 11 and 12, as well as Adult Sogwood students, had the opportunity to participate in a CNC machine and drone course led by a local expert. Additionally, our grade 12 and adult students took part in the trade sampler program in partnership with University of the Fraser Valley (UFV). This program involved a two-week exploration of six different trades, including carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, automotive, welding, and culinary arts.

Trades-based Education

Drone Course: In February and March of 2023, we invited a local expert in CNC machining and drone fabrication to teach our grade 11, 12, and adult students. They learned how to program and operate a CNC machine using the V-Carve program. Students designed various elements that could be cut out on the CNC machine, and then assembled the parts to build their own drones. All students successfully completed their drones and were able to keep them.

Trade Sampler: The Adult Dogwood program at Seabird College joined forces with grade 12 students to participate in the Trade Sampler program at UFV. This program involved spending two days at Seabird High School's shop and the following twelve (12) weeks at UFV, engaging with industry experts and university instructors in six different trades. Students completed two-week explorations in carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, welding, automotive, and culinary arts. Seven high school students and five adult students successfully met the requirements of the program.

Garden Boxes: Grade six students designed and constructed five new garden boxes for the school garden. These boxes are intended for use by primary classes, providing hands-on learning opportunities about food security, plant growth, essential needs for growth, the effort required for food production, and the satisfaction of harvesting and consuming self-grown produce. The project allowed the grade six class to apply their math knowledge throughout the school year.

Pipefitting in Classrooms: We have gradually introduced more trades-based education in the intermediate classrooms. This year, the school received a gift of pipefitting kits with headphones. Students in grades 4-7 practiced reading blueprints and assembling pipe structures to hold the headphones. Throughout the year, these structures made of real pipes have been utilized in classrooms to store and organize headphones for device use.



Congratulations Lalme **CLASS OF 2023**



Joshua Giroux-Natrall



Donald Hulbert



Michelle Hulbert



Madison McNeil



Marina Nickel



Alison Peralta



Muskqua Peters



Declan Redekop

'Iwesawtexw Graduates ✨

CLASS OF 2023



Bryson Stevenson



Tashauna Stratichuk



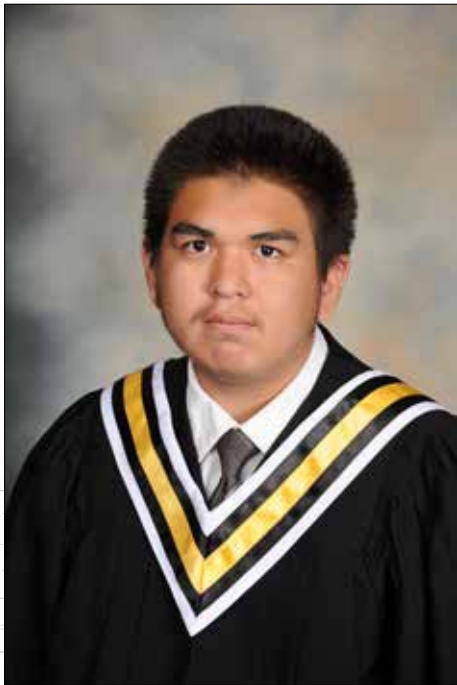
Claire Wright





Congratulations Agassiz Elementary Secondary School (AESS) Graduates

CLASS OF 2023



Joseph Reyburn



Miah John

*On behalf of Seabird Island Band, we wish all graduates a
happy, healthy and bright future.*



**Photographs:
Nutrition Walk/Run
March 2023**



HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Lolly Andrew

The 2022-23 year has posed fewer challenges for our Community Members and health staff, as the threat of the pandemic has diminished. This has allowed us to engage in more Community work. With COVID-19 now being more manageable, we have relaxed health orders and fully reopened our offices and facilities for events, dinners, and workshops. Throughout the pandemic, our health staff has provided unwavering support to our Members, offering food, medicine, and kind words. We continue to provide this support today.

At Seabird Island, we prioritize building up our Community and employ a nation-building approach that emphasizes mentoring and leadership. We encourage everyone to work together in a culturally empowering manner. This model is integrated into our programs and health team, where leadership skills are fostered among those in management and supervisory roles. Conducting our work through a Stó:lō Indigenous lens is crucial for healing and transformative growth. We strive to incorporate prayers before meetings to ground everyone in a positive manner.

Mental health and wellness have become paramount after enduring the stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the news of the young children remains being found at residential school sites has added to our collective grief. During these challenging times, our staff has remained supportive, and the well-being of our Community Members continues to be our utmost priority. Some of our staff have facilitated Community Members in cleansing rituals, smudging ceremonies, and healing circle work to address grief and loss, thereby promoting well-being. Our work in the Community is guided by a trauma-informed approach.

We have successfully completed a new ten-year agreement with the First Nations Health Authority. The working group dedicated to this agreement compiled the necessary information to guide our future endeavors. Additionally, we have developed a new Community health plan that aligns with our ten-year health agreement.

These two documents work together and will serve as crucial guides for all our work. Community engagement is of utmost importance to us, and we appreciate the valuable input we receive from our Community Members. It is through their feedback that we can continue to improve and uphold high standards for the programs and services we provide.

Our Health Department has worked diligently on the Accreditation process, and I am proud to announce that we have once again met the health requirements to be fully accredited. I express my gratitude to our accreditation working group team and all the Community Members who participated in this process. It is an honour for me to be a leader within our Community, and I take great pride in our organization, our Community, and our health team.

Kw'as ho:y,
Lolly Andrew

Seabird Island Dental Clinic

Seabird Island Dental Clinic offers comprehensive dental care, including cancer screening and minimum sedation services.

Outside-of-working-hour appointments are also available. Please note that walk-in clinics have been canceled due to COVID-19 precautions.

This year, we have witnessed the gradual transition from the pandemic to living with COVID-19. While many restrictions have been relaxed, we want to assure you that we continue to prioritize universal precautions and maintain optimal infection control measures to provide the best care for our patients.

The use of masks is still required in the dental office, and our operatories are equipped with air filtration units to reduce the spread of airborne contaminants. Our dental team is also up to date with all required vaccinations.

To further enhance our expertise and better serve the Community, our dental team is committed to ongoing professional development. This year, we had the incredible opportunity to attend the Canadian Dental Hygienist Summit held in Whitehorse, YT. The summit focused on Truth and Reconciliation, equipping us with tools to lead reconciliation efforts and address racism.

We encourage Community Members who have not visited our office in a while to call and schedule an appointment for an examination. We look forward to welcoming you back and providing you with excellent dental care.

Seabird Island Pharmacy

Our Pharmacy team collaborates closely with Seabird Doctors and Nurses to deliver high-quality care. Our staff Members are highly knowledgeable and experienced in handling NIHB/FNHA medical benefits. Our pharmacy is conveniently located across from the Doctor's Office, and you may also encounter our team Members at various Community events, including the Seabird Open House. We are dedicated to providing you with exceptional service and ensuring your healthcare needs are met.

Our services include:

- Compounding pharmacy
- Medication review
- Home delivery of medications
- Blister packs
- Pain management support
- Patient education programs
- Flu Clinics
- Home-visits for home-bound clients\Home health and wound care product
- Compatibility counselling regarding herbal products, food and lifestyle in conjunction with medication use



PRIMARY CARE

Maternal Child Health Program (MCH) and Tem'elile Midwifery Team

The Maternal Child Health and Tem'elile Midwifery at Seabird Island includes:

- Maternal Child Health Lead – Brooke Bobb-Reid
- Registered Nurses – Lindsay Meloshinsky and Kelly Walberg
- Licenced Practical Nurse – Hailey Hague
- Kwiyo:s – Pam Hope

Tem'elile Midwifery (Salmonberry Time Midwifery):

- Registered Midwives - Amelia Doran and Locum midwives: Tia Felix, Annie Passmore and Lee Yeates

Seabird's Midwifery Services include:

- Routine prenatal and postpartum visits that can take place at home, in our clinic, or within the Community.
- Hospital births at Chilliwack General Hospital, with support provided for births outside of our jurisdiction when possible.
- Assessments, intakes, education, advocacy, referrals, recommendations, and birth/postpartum planning.
- Birth and postpartum support upon request, as well as referrals to appropriate culturally safe organizations and providers.

Primary prenatal clinic sites are located in Seabird Island every Tuesday and at Stó:lō Service Agency every Wednesday. Amelia Doran, along with contracted locums, provides care at these sites.

Our collaborative approach involves Registered Midwives and Maternal Child Health Registered and Licensed Practical Nurses who work together to provide culturally sensitive, trauma-informed support, including intakes, referrals, assessments, education, and birth planning.

At Tem'elile Midwifery, we are committed to providing comprehensive and compassionate care that respects your cultural beliefs and values. Our goal is to ensure your pregnancy, birth, and postpartum experience is safe, empowering, and tailored to your unique needs.

Tem'elile Midwifery

Tem'elile Midwifery offers comprehensive, evidence-based, culturally safe, and trauma-informed midwifery care throughout the entire reproductive journey, from pre-conception to prenatal and postpartum care for up to six (6) weeks.

Maternal Child Health Statistics for 2022 (January 2022-December 2022):

- In 2022, Tem'elile Midwifery successfully delivered 52 babies.
- The MCH Team, consisting of both the midwifery team and doctors/obstetricians, provided support for 53 births within our service area in 2022.
- We experienced a continuous increase in referrals from local maternity care providers, doctors, and specialists. However, due to a staff shortage and limited midwives in the province, we regretfully cannot accept all intakes, referrals, or requests at this time.
- There has been a growing number of women seeking midwifery care, including an increase in repeat clients accessing our services. We are pleased to see more women opting for midwifery care and entrusting us with their pregnancies and births.

The Kwiyo:s, 'Respected Aunties'

The Kwiyo:s Team offers both group and one-on-one support to expecting families and those with children up to 3 years old, although their services are not limited to this age group. The Kwiyo:s work alongside Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses on the team, assisting and often leading various programs, including:

- Sacred Seed Prenatal Class
- Monthly Pre & Postnatal Sessions
- Bodies in Motion – Pre & Postnatal Class
- Annual Baby Welcoming Celebration
- One-on-one Birth Planning
- Prenatal in a Day
- Literacy Support
- Virtual & Social Engagement
- Perinatal Substance Use Project Program

In addition to these programs, the Kwiyo:s team provides assistance with transports, accompanies clients to appointments, and helps them and their families identify goals and develop achievable care plans for their health and wellness. These plans are designed to be culturally safe and trauma-informed, respecting the unique needs and experiences of each individual and family.

HEALTH SUPPORTS

Baby Welcoming Celebration 2022

The Baby Welcoming Celebration in May 2022 took the form of a virtual event for fifty-three (53) families, providing a door-to-door celebration experience. In our culture, it is traditional to welcome newborns into the world through a ceremony conducted by a respected Member of the Community. This ceremony serves as a recognition of birth and a blessing for the child.

Many families continue to uphold this tradition, and in support of that, the Seabird Island Maternal Child Health Team organizes this celebration every spring. Despite the challenges posed by the virtual format, we strive to create a meaningful and memorable experience for each family, ensuring that the significance of this tradition is honored and cherished.

Maternal Child Health (MCH)

Prenatal & Postnatal Programming (monthly)

Eligibility Criteria: Prenatal (pregnancy) until the baby is twelve (12) months old

Dates: Monthly, spanning over a 1-2 week period

Attendance Incentive: Each participant receives an incentive in the form of cash or a gift card, valued at \$50.00 per month, for up to twenty-one (21) consecutive months.

Each month, a specific topic is selected, and a package containing the incentive is delivered to the client.

On average, the Maternal Child Health team completes fifty-three (53) to eighty-two (82) visits per month, serving a total of 636 to 984 families annually.

Previously, the MCH team provided services to Seabird, Skwah, Sq'ewlets, Shxw'ōwhámél, Squiala, and Chawathil. However, since March 2021, we have expanded our services to include all local Indigenous women accessing services from Tem'elíle Midwifery, as well as those who identify as Indigenous. This includes both the maternal and paternal sides of the family within the Fraser Salish Region, with support from our partners at BC Women's Hospital and the Provincial Health Services Authority.

Prenatal and Postnatal Education is offered twice a month through virtual platforms. The Sacred Seed and Bodies in Motion classes consist of short educational presentations, engagement activities, and opportunities to connect with health staff and Community Members.

HEALTH SUPPORTS

The Sacred Seed

Eligibility Criteria: Prenatal (pregnancy) until the baby is 6 weeks postpartum, with exceptions granted upon request.

Date(s): Once per month.

Attendance Incentive: Participants receive a nutritious, hearty, themed grocery bag. These grocery bags are carefully curated by the Maternal Child Health team to promote and encourage healthy, balanced, and nutritious food choices, while also providing education on the importance of healthy eating during the prenatal and postnatal period.

Number of Participants: Each session accommodates 1-15 participants, resulting in a total of twelve (12) to one hundred and eighty (180) participants annually.

A specific topic is selected for each session, and a comprehensive curriculum is created by our team of Midwives and Registered Nurses.

Description of the Class: This session focuses on defining individual health goals and personalizing the experience. Just like plants, each person is unique and requires unique care and support. The session covers various aspects, including strategies to achieve personal, family, and career goals, evidence-based approaches to managing anxiety, storytelling, the role of being an advocate for one's health, building a support system, and addressing common questions related to newborn care.

Through this class, we aim to empower participants to take charge of their health and well-being, providing them with the knowledge and tools to navigate their journey with confidence.

Bodies In Motion

Bodies in Motion is an activity-based program designed to provide prenatal and postnatal information and education in a fun, interactive, and movement-based format.

Eligibility Criteria: The program is open to individuals who are pregnant (prenatal) until their baby reaches six (6) to twelve (12) months postpartum, with exceptions granted upon request.

Date(s): The program takes place once per month.

Attendance Incentive: Each class offers a door prize and/or raffle with a themed prize.

Topic: The program focuses on prenatal and postnatal activities for mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being.

Description: The activities in Bodies in Motion aim to encourage expecting and new mothers to be more active at their own pace, promoting overall health and wellness in areas such as physical fitness, mental well-being, emotional balance, and spiritual connection.

Number of Participants: Each class accommodates 1-10 participants, resulting in a total of twelve (12) to one hundred and twenty (120) participants annually.

HEALTH SUPPORTS

Birthing One-to-One/Prenatal in a Day

Eligibility Criteria: The program is open to individuals who are pregnant (prenatal), with exceptions granted upon request.

Date(s): Appointments are made upon request, typically between thirty (30) to forty (40) weeks gestation.

Attendance Incentive: After the session, parents-to-be receive a birth kit.

Topic: The content of the session is tailored to meet the specific needs and interests of the client.

Description: Birthing One-to-One/Prenatal in a Day is a comprehensive prenatal class designed to provide support and education for expectant mothers, their families, birth support persons, and children. The session covers a wide range of topics related to the birth process, empowering individuals to make informed decisions and fostering understanding and confidence in the journey of childbirth. This class aims to promote overall health and wellness by raising awareness and helping participants make educated decisions during labour and delivery.

Number of participants: The class accommodates 1-4 participants per month, resulting in approximately twelve (12) to forty-eight (48) participants annually.

Monthly Social Media Challenge

Eligibility Criteria: The challenge is open to anyone following the Maternal Child Health (MCH) Social Media pages (Facebook & Instagram).

Date(s): Monthly and weekly challenges are offered.

Attendance Incentive: Each challenge includes a door prize and/or raffle, with a larger prize awarded every three (3) months (themed).

Topic: The challenges are themed each month based on the interests and requests of participants. Topics may include budgeting tips for grocery shopping, love languages, self-love, prenatal education, nutrition and common health trends (pros and cons of juicing), exercise, and vitamins.

Description: The Monthly Social Media Challenge involves posting new educational content, interactive materials, and reliable resources on a daily basis. Participants have the opportunity to engage in informal check-ins, access resources and supports at any time, and participate in discussions and activities related to the challenge theme.

Number of participants: The level of interaction and engagement varies, with an estimated range of six (6) to forty (40) people per day. This translates to approximately seventy-two (72) to four hundred and eighty (480) participants annually.

Health promotion: Chronic Disease Injury Prevention

Seabird Island Health Services offers the services of a dedicated Nutritionist whose primary goals are aligned with the following objectives:

- Reducing the incidence of chronic diseases, with a particular focus on diabetes and heart disease.
- Minimizing the effects and complications associated with diabetes and heart disease.
- Decreasing the prevalence of childhood obesity and addressing related illnesses.
- Promoting healthy lifestyle choices and fostering a culture of active living.

The Nutritionist utilizes evidence-based practices to provide education, counselling, and support to individuals and the Community at large. By addressing these objectives, Seabird Island Health Services aims to enhance the overall health and well-being of Community Members, with a specific emphasis on preventing chronic diseases, managing their effects, and promoting healthy living habits. The Nutritionist's services play a vital role in empowering individuals to make informed dietary choices and adopt a balanced and active lifestyle.

Diabetes Support Group

The Nutrition Team at Seabird Island Health Services is actively involved in providing monthly diabetes sessions, with each session having a specific educational objective. Valerie Thomson, a dedicated nutritionist, conducts both one-on-one client sessions and group sessions for nutrition education.

Most of these sessions are conducted virtually, although occasional in-person appointments are available. To schedule an appointment, clients can contact Valerie via her email at:

imaginehealth4u2@gmail.com

Jaime Peters, another Member of the Nutrition Team, offers breakfast smoothies to clients on an as-needed basis, taking into consideration their individual macronutrient needs.

The clinic also operates a quarterly lab testing and Doctor's Clinic, where clients are required to come fasting for certain blood tests. As part of this service, a healthy breakfast is provided to participants.

In all of their programs, the Nutrition Team emphasizes modeling healthy eating habits, teaching simple food preparation techniques, and incorporating general lifestyle medicine teachings.

Their nutrition education focuses on various topics, including improving and managing blood sugar levels, maintaining kidney health, weight loss strategies, cardiovascular health, and information on medications and supplements.

Through these initiatives, the Nutrition Team at Seabird Island Health Services aims to promote and support the overall health and well-being of their clients by providing personalized nutrition education and practical guidance.

HEALTH SERVICES

Nutrition Run/Walk Program & Event

The Nutrition Run/Walk Program and Event was launched in January, where Community Members had the opportunity to join a virtual run/walk group. Participants were encouraged to share their walks, runs, hikes, or other workouts on the Facebook group page. While there was good participation in terms of sign-ups, there was a lack of activity posts on the Facebook page.

The main event took place on Thursday, March 23, and it saw a great turnout with approximately 250 participants of all ages walking or running the 5 km route.

CFAI (Community Food Action Initiative) Grant Project

Another noteworthy project is the Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI) Grant Project, which involves a partnership with Earthwise Society and Abundance Farms. The project focuses on gardening and is primarily centered around the Recovery Homes located across the street from the band office. However, all Community Members are welcome to participate in the project.

Supplies have been purchased and donated, and the garden beds are well-maintained. The project aims to promote food security, teach basic life skills, encourage outdoor activity, and foster healthy social interactions. Additionally, the project will provide the bonus of enjoying the produce grown along the way.

The success of this project is greatly attributed to the dedication and support of our partners, Earthwise Society and Abundance Farms. We express our gratitude to them for their commitment to helping others learn about the benefits and joys of gardening and food security.



HEALTH SERVICES

Community Kitchen

The primary goal of our monthly program is to provide participants with a hands-on learning experience focused on making healthy food choices, efficient food preparation, menu planning, and budget-friendly shopping. This program also serves as an opportunity to address and overcome barriers to healthy eating. Common misconceptions, such as "healthy eating is too expensive" or "I don't enjoy healthy food," are explored and challenged. Throughout the program, we explore new recipes and preparation techniques while also honouring traditional foods and food practices.

This program involves the participation of five communities. Various topics are discussed during the workshops, including learning about healthy carbohydrates, choosing leaner fat options, exploring meats and alternatives, generating breakfast ideas, understanding label reading, and incorporating spices to enhance the flavour of foods. Additionally, we emphasize the importance of incorporating a variety of plant-based foods (fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts, and seeds) as the main components of meals.

Most communities actively participate in our monthly workshops, and for those unable to attend in person, we provide meal bags containing enough food for a complete meal. This ensures that all families have the opportunity to benefit from the program, regardless of their ability to attend in person.

During the summer months, the Seabird Nutrition Program takes the initiative to purchase an abundance of fruit. Last summer, we delivered boxes of fruit to Elders, recognizing their importance and contribution to the Community.

By addressing misconceptions, providing education, and facilitating access to nutritious food, our Nutrition Program aims to support individuals and communities in making healthy choices and improving overall well-being.



HEALTH SERVICES

Celebration of Life

"Grief and Loss at Christmas "

At the Seabird gym, thirty-two (32) individuals gathered during Christmas, each with their own experience of grief. For our esteemed Elders, it was an evening dedicated to reMembering and honouring the loved ones who had passed away before them. They had come to accept this painful aspect of life as inevitable.

For other Community Members, grief was fresh and unexpected, often resulting from the loss of a child or a young adult in good health. Acceptance and peace seemed far out of reach for them.

Twelve (12) residents from Seabird's Men and Women's Wellness Centers also attended the gathering. During this time, family traditions of feasting, gift exchange, gathering around the tree, and attending Christmas Eve services were the norm. However, addiction had caused separation, fractured relationships, financial struggles, health issues, and shattered dreams for these individuals. They found themselves questioning the whereabouts of their families during Christmas and who would be there by their side. This reality alone could be overwhelming. In such moments, hope, practical support, encouragement, and strength are crucial to move forward.

Coming together in unity, showing respect towards one another, listening to the wisdom of the Elders, sharing food, and lighting meaningful candles carry profound significance. It symbolizes the value we place on each person present that night. As a Health Team, we are there to provide support and acceptance. A hand-carved Mayan heart serves as a reminder for them during their challenging days.





Aboriginal Breast Cancer Survivor Support Group

The Seabird Island Health Department was dedicated to showing appreciation and value to all Breast Cancer Survivors through a special event. Generously donated gifts were purchased, wrapped, and delivered to the Canton Gardens, where the group gathered for a specially prepared meal. Chief Jim Harris ensured that the Seabird bus was warmed up and ready to transport our special guests.

Once everyone was assembled, our focus turned to education, specifically "Nutrition on a Budget." We shared ideas, and the ladies in attendance exchanged shopping tips and recipes. Raydene Erickson, MSW, who is now employed by Fraser Health, provided valuable insights into new resources that would be beneficial.

The gifts were opened, a delightful meal was shared, and we relished in the camaraderie and fellowship of the gathering. Soon, we boarded the bus and made our way to the Chilliwack Cultural Center to enjoy "A Country Christmas by Lisa Brokoff."

The event was truly wonderful, and we now cherish the opportunity to "gather" as a close-knit group, recognizing it as a privilege. Our hearts were filled with joy and gratitude for our family, friends, and Community. Our group, consisting of women from Skwah First Nations, Cheam, Seabird, Scowlitz, and Leq'a:mel, knows that, they will continue to be loved and supported.

Our ongoing goals remain steadfast:

- "Empowering Aboriginal Women to improve their health"
- "Reducing Breast Cancer mortality through increased breast health education and mammography screening"



HEALTH SERVICES



Public Health & Screening

Immunizations/Communicable Disease

We have achieved great success in administering infant and childhood immunizations, surpassing rates in Fraser Health. This accomplishment can be attributed to proactive parents, monthly clinics, and reminders from our dedicated Community Health Representatives (CHRs) and Nurses.

In the past year, we administered immunizations to a total of 350 infants, children, and school-aged clients. Additionally, we administered 422 COVID-19 vaccines and 287 influenza vaccines.

Other services provided include twenty-three (23) depo shots, twenty-one (21) TB tests, fourteen (14) PAP tests, and four (4) STI tests. Overall, we provided immunization services to a total of 1,059 clients throughout the year.

Annual Influenza and COVID-19 vaccine clinics are held in Seabird and surrounding communities. The Influenza vaccine is also available at the Seabird Pharmacy. Furthermore, we offer annual Tuberculosis (TB) screening and education services in Seabird and the surrounding areas.

Our CDC nurse has received specialized training in STI care and offers various supports, including STI screening, point-of-care testing for HIV and Hepatitis-C, contraception clinics, consultation and teaching, condom distribution, and Pap smears.

We also provide comprehensive health services to schools in our area, ensuring the well-being of students.

Home & Community Care Program

The Home and Community Care (HCC) program offers a range of services aimed at providing nursing care, public education, and home support to individuals with disabilities, chronic or acute illnesses, and the Elderly.

The HCC program provides the following services:

- Client assessments to determine the individual's healthcare needs and develop a personalized care plan.
- Health teaching to educate clients and their families about managing their health conditions and promoting wellness.
- Chronic disease management support to assist individuals in effectively managing their chronic conditions.
- Medication administration and management to ensure safe and appropriate use of medications.
- Wound care for individuals with wounds that require specialized attention and treatment.
- Foot care services to maintain foot health and prevent complications.
- Case management to coordinate and oversee the client's healthcare services and ensure continuity of care.
- Home support and personal care assistance to help individuals with activities of daily living.
- Meals on Wheels program to provide nutritious meals to individuals who are unable to prepare their own.
- Referrals to other healthcare professionals such as counsellors, nutritionists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists.
- Provision of specialized medical equipment to enhance individuals' mobility and independence.
- Record keeping and data collection to maintain accurate and up-to-date client information.
- Health monitoring to regularly assess the client's health status and intervene when necessary.

Access to the HCC program is facilitated through referrals from hospitals, families, or Community Health Representatives (CHRs) to the Health Services Supervisor.



HEALTH SERVICES

Optometry Clinics

Seabird hosts an Optometry Clinic every two (2) months with Dr. Amar Bains. Each visit serves forty-eight (48) clients, and the doctor brings a selection of glasses on-site for individuals to choose from, ensuring access to eye care services and vision correction.



Mammogram Clinics

Mammogram Mobile clinics are booked every six (6) months with 29-33 clients scheduled for each visit. These clinics are conducted within the Mobile Mammogram Bus, which visits the designated site for convenient access to screening services.

Hearing Clinic

Hearing clinics were previously offered every couple of months. However, due to the current circumstances, we are currently awaiting new dates to resume these clinics and provide hearing services to our Community Members. We apologize for any inconvenience caused and appreciate your patience.

Non-insured Health Benefits

Pacific Blue Cross, BC PharmaCare (1-855-550-5454 healthbenefits@fnha.ca)

Health Benefits provided by the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) include coverage for various services such as:

- Medical Transportation
- Mental Health
- Medical Supplies and Equipment
- Dental
- Pharmacy
- Vision

Under the FNHA, Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) has been newly introduced to enhance the delivery of health benefits to our Community. To determine your specific coverages, we encourage you to create an account at www.pac.bluecross.ca, selecting First Nations Health Authority, Clients.

For the coordination of FNHA medical transportation, the Community Health Representative (CHR) plays a vital role.

They assist in accessing FNHA transportation funds, which cover mileage, food allowances, and hotel expenses. This is facilitated through the use of appointment confirmation/attendance forms and travel request forms.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team.

Seabird Mobile Diabetes

The Seabird Mobile Diabetes Team has a dedicated mandate to provide comprehensive care for known diabetics on reserves in Southern BC. Their primary focus is on assisting in the prevention of diabetes-related complications. The team travels extensively throughout the region, reaching various communities to offer diabetes screening opportunities and educational sessions.

When booking clinics with communities, the Mobile Diabetes Team ensures that individuals have access to diabetes screening services. They also provide valuable educational sessions to enhance knowledge and understanding of diabetes management and prevention strategies.

By actively engaging with communities and delivering specialized care, the Seabird Mobile Diabetes Team aims to improve the overall health outcomes of individuals with diabetes and contribute to the prevention of diabetes-related complications.

Summary of the past year: 2022-23

Total Communities	31	Total Screened.	187
Total Clinic Days	58	Total Eye Exams.	69
Total Clients Seen	414	Total Screening Events	2
Total with Diabetes	227	Total Education Events	2

Communities

Seton lake (twice), Little Shuswap, Neskonlith, Penticton, Canim Lake, Adams Lake, Seabird Island, Squamish Upper and Lower, Bridge River, Scw'exmx, Boothroyd, Boston Bar, Lower Similkameen, Okanagon, Shuswap, Akisq'nuk, High Bar, Bonaparte, Ashcroft, Klemtu, Ahousaht, Splat sin, St Mary's, Simpcw, Cheam, Sts'ailes, Katzie, Shxwhá:y Village, and Sechelt

Better at Home Program: Helping Seniors Remain Independent

A United Way funded Health Initiative.

The Stó:lō Territory Better at Home program is a program that provides non-medical services to residents within the Stó:lō Territory on reserve (22 communities).

Yard work continues to be the focus of the program annually. Elders in all communities have a difficult time keeping up with their yards. It is something that can be costly, many Elders don't have a lawn mower. Lawn maintenance can also be taxing on Elders especially if they have health concerns.

Other services that the program offers include the following:

- Gutter Services
 - Cleaning, de-clogging, rinsing gutters
 - Reduces risk of Elders over 65 using a ladder. Decreases incidence of falls/injury, ecreases wear and tear on roof and home (eg. Water seepage).
- Blackberry Cultivation
 - Removal of blackberries, trimming/cutting back, decrease amount of yard being overtaken by invasive species
 - Reduces habitat for pests, reduces risk of falls, maintains client's property line, improves client's confidence and pride in the way their yard looks

HEALTH SERVICES

- Lawn Maintenance
 - Cutting grass, de-cluttering, weed eating
 - Improves aesthetic of Elders' home, improves look of Community, and decreases risk of injury to Elder, decreases risks taken by Elders who attempt to cut their lawn
- Pressure Washing
 - Cleaning homes, walkways, slippery stairs
 - Reduces risk of falls on slippery walkways, Improves look of homes
- Shoveling Snow & Salting Walkways
 - Reduces risk of falls
- Provision of Firewood
 - Usually, we have firewood purchased for Seabird Elders. The team will then deliver, chop, and stack firewood. Other communities have firewood available, and the team can sometimes access that firewood and distribute to other Elders in different communities.
 - Reduce bills in the winter, provide heat (many Elders rely on wood stoves for heat), decrease stress of where they will get firewood or how they will get it in the home or how it will get chopped.
- Storm Preparation/clean-up
 - Assist with putting items away, alerting Elders of a storm, cleaning sticks/branches/leaves/garbage following a storm
 - Decrease clutter that Elders would otherwise have to clean up, Elders have time to prepare or consider power outages

Prenatal & Postnatal (monthly)

Eligibility Criteria: Prenatal (pregnancy) until baby is twelve (12) months of age

Date(s): Monthly over a 1 – 2 week period

Attendance Incentive: Incentives are given to each participant in cash/gift card of \$50.00 per month up to twenty-one (21) months consecutively.

Each month a topic is selected, and a package is delivered to the client with the incentive.

Each month 53 to 82 visits are complete with families = 636 to 984 families annually.

In the past the MCH team serviced: Seabird, Skwah, Sq'ewlets, Shxw'owhamel, Squiala and Chawathil. In March of 2021 we advanced to servicing all local indigenous woman who access services from Tem'elile Midwifery or who are indigenous or identify as indigenous. Including both maternal and paternal sides of the family in the Fraser Salish Region with support from our partners from BC Women's Hospital and the Provincial Health Services Authority.

Prenatal and Postnatal Education is offered twice a month on a virtual platform for prenatal and postnatal families. The Sacred Seed and Bodies in Motion classes involve a short educational presentation, engagement, and an opportunity to connect with health staff and Community Members.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Photographs:
Back to School Daze/Open House
August 2022



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Carlene Brown

Seabird Island ECE programs would like to acknowledge that we are located on the traditional and unceded territory of Stó:lō, also known as the "river people," which is now recognized as Seabird Island Band. The traditional language of this territory is Halq'eméylem.

The 2022-2023 year has brought about significant changes as we transitioned to an open-door programming approach without the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. We have embraced this opportunity to connect more closely with our families, whether through in-house programs or by reaching out to them in their own homes and communities. Adapting to the current times, we have learned how to best support our families at various stages of their life journey. While maintaining the high quality of our programs, we eagerly look forward to new ideas and partnerships with other departments.

Some of the other exciting departmental highlights this year have included:

- New Head Start playground for use in the Parents and Tots programs, we received a grant from First Nation Health Authority (FNHA).
- New NO FEE Childcare for our Infants and Toddlers within the daycare centre and our 3's Preschool with conversion funding from FNHA .
- Daycare Playground upgrade was a grant received from Stó: lō Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training, we were able to enclose the infant deck with Mosquito netting, expand the 3-5 covered deck, install artificial turf on the 3-5 side, purchased some outdoor equipment.
- ECD/Community Family events, we were able to provide our families and Community with four (4) events, bowling, swimming, ice skating and movie night free of charge to families with children, in partnership with the Seabird Island Community School and the SI Events program.
- ECD Christmas event was different due to restations, however we gave out gifts, crafts, and breakfast to over one hundred and twenty-five (125) children on our case load.
 - ◆ A huge thank you to a donation of Cabbage Patch Kids, which were given to every child.

Our Early Childhood Centre of Excellence serves as the primary location for up to 16 of our ECD programs. These programs offer specialized services to Seabird and the surrounding communities, and you can find a brief description of each program in our ECD report. As a department, we collaborate closely with other Seabird departments to ensure that all children and families receive optimal care. We also foster partnerships with external organizations, including Fraser Health, MCFD, FNHA, SASSET, FVDCDC, local libraries, and many others, to enhance the support and resources available to the children and families we serve.

I am looking forward to some new and upcoming changes for the next year, we have a lot of ideas and plans in the work. As we continue to ensure that families and communities are served to the best of our ability. All the programs that run under the Early Childhood Department follow and teach the eight dimensions of early childhood development as pictured on the following pages.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



DAYCARE CENTRE

Seabird Island Daycare is a fully licensed center that adheres to strict licensing regulations to ensure the highest quality of care. Our low adult-to-child ratios allow for one-on-one interactions between staff and children. The daycare is licensed to accommodate up to twelve (12) infants (*0 to 18 months*), twelve (12) toddlers (*18 months to 3 years*), and twenty-five (25) children aged three (3) to five (5) years old. We are fortunate to offer no-cost childcare for infants and toddlers through funding from FNHA, as well as low-cost care for the 3-5-year-old group through CCFRI/CCOF.

At our daycare, we provide nutritious meals including cereal and two healthy snacks each day. We organize field trips, engaging activities, circle time, outdoor play, and Community walks to promote holistic development.

Special events and extra activities are planned for holidays and the summertime. Additionally, we incorporate cultural teachings through a weekly cultural circle that includes language, singing, and drumming led by a cultural teacher for all age groups.

Our daycare staff is highly qualified and regularly engages in professional development opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills, ensuring they stay up to date with the latest information in early childhood education.

We are proud to receive full support from in-house services such as Ey Speech and Language, Aboriginal Supported Child Development, and the department administration, enabling us to provide comprehensive care and support to the children and families in our program.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

3'S PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Our preschool is a welcoming and culturally diverse program that operates five days a week, from Monday to Friday, with half-day sessions in the morning from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We are grateful to FNHA for providing funds that allow us to offer our program free of charge to all our students. We prioritize teaching the cultural beliefs and language of the First Nations as we believe this helps children develop a positive sense of self through their culture.

Seabird Island 3's Preschool provides a positive introduction to prepare children for school readiness. We are committed to creating a safe, nurturing, and inviting environment. We believe that children learn best through play, which helps foster positive social and emotional development and instills a sense of pride, confidence, and a desire to learn.

We understand the importance of providing our students with proper nutrition, and therefore, we offer a healthy and nutritious morning snack.

Our preschool operates in accordance with all childcare licensing requirements and adheres to the philosophies, policies, and objectives established by Seabird Island Management.



4'S PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Our preschool operates five days a week, from Monday to Friday, with full-day sessions following the schedule of the Seabird Island K4's Elementary program. We are committed to creating a welcoming and culturally diverse program.

We prioritize teaching the cultural beliefs and language of the First Nations as we believe this helps children develop a positive sense of self and their culture. We incorporate morning circle time led by a Halq'eméylem teacher, where songs, sounds, counting, colours, and other activities are taught.

Our preschool teacher has completed a Halq'eméylem course and is able to use the language throughout the day in the classroom setting. The teachers are also culturally sensitive and can help teach cultural beliefs and traditions.

Seabird Island 4's Preschool provides a positive introduction to prepare children for school readiness. We strive to create a safe, caring, and inviting environment. We believe that children learn best through play, which helps foster positive social and emotional development and instills a sense of pride, confidence, and a desire to learn.

We understand the importance of providing our students with proper nutrition, and therefore, we offer healthy and nutritious morning and afternoon snacks. Our teachers have engaged the class in snack preparation activities, including making soup, fruit platters, spaghetti, and baking various items like cakes and muffins.

Our preschool operates in accordance with all childcare licensing requirements and adheres to the philosophies, policies, and objectives established by Seabird Island Band Management.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

Our program operates five days a week, from Monday to Friday, with sessions held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. We are committed to creating a welcoming and culturally diverse program. We prioritize teaching the cultural beliefs and language of the First Nations as we believe this helps children develop a positive sense of self and their culture.

Our aim is to provide a safe, caring, and inviting environment where students can unwind and be their authentic selves. We believe this gives them the opportunity to interact and learn healthy social and emotional skills. We offer planned arts and activities, as well as open-ended crafts to encourage children's creativity. Outdoor free play and organized sports or games are also part of our program.

We understand the importance of providing our students with proper nutrition, and therefore, we offer a healthy and nutritious after-school snack.

Seabird Island Out of School Care operates in accordance with all childcare licensing requirements and adheres to the philosophies, policies, and objectives established by Seabird Island Band Management.



ABORIGINAL HEAD START ON RESERVE

The goal of Head Start is to focus on early childhood development from birth to six (6) years old, along with providing support for their families. Our program offers a range of activities that are tailored to each Community's unique needs and priorities, and all services are provided free of charge.

Transportation is available for families to attend the program.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

ABORIGINAL HEAD START ON RESERVE (CONTINUED)

At Seabird Island, our Head Start program runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We currently have 16 registered families with a total of twenty-five (25) children between the ages of 0-6 for the 2023 year. As part of the program, we provide a healthy snack and lunch, and we also organize a monthly family night for everyone to come together.

One important aspect of our program is the integration of traditional culture, which includes drumming and singing in Halq'eméylem, the traditional language of our Community. We strive to develop strong relationships with families and children by incorporating cultural activities, such as fun and educational field trips, crafts, traditional storytelling, and starting weaving with the families.

Additionally, we create a space for other Seabird Island and First Nations Health Authority service providers to visit and offer convenient access to services like immunizations, information sessions, or referrals for dental care, speech and language support, Aboriginal Infant Development, Supported Child Development, and more.

Our staff Members receive ongoing professional development opportunities to enhance their cultural understanding, educational knowledge, and safety protocols. This ensures that we can provide the best possible services to the Seabird Island Community that we serve.



ABORIGINAL INFANT CHILD DEVELOPMENT (AIDP)

AIDP has been instrumental in providing crucial services to over forty (40) Indigenous babies and toddlers, ranging from birth to three (3) years of age. These services have been specifically tailored to support children who require additional assistance or are at risk of experiencing physical, social, intellectual, emotional, and developmental delays. The program has been implemented both on and off reserve, covering areas from Sts'ailes to Boothroyd.

One of the key aspects of the program is its voluntary nature, allowing families to actively participate and take ownership of their child's development. In addition, the program maintains a strong family-centered approach, ensuring that families remain at the heart of the services provided. This includes offering developmental screening and assessments to families who express interest in accessing support services.

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, the AIDP has experienced a successful year, as it has been able to resume home visits and deliver necessary services directly to families. Among the popular components of the program are infant massage classes, which play a crucial role in infant development and fostering bonding between parent and child. Additionally, the parent drop-in gross motor movement group, known as "Someone So Small," has also gained significant popularity among families.

The AIDP team remains committed to promoting the healthy development and well-being of Indigenous infants and toddlers, providing essential services and support in their crucial early years of life.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The Seabird Supported Child Development program is a dedicated family-centered initiative that offers essential services to both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous children who require additional support due to intellectual, social, emotional, and communicative challenges. The program primarily focuses on children aged 0-19, with a particular emphasis on the 3-6-year-old age group.

Over the past year, we have extended our support to ten (10) different centers, spanning from Boothroyd to Sts'ailes, and have had the privilege of working with over seventy (70) children and their families. Our dedicated team comprises one supervisor, two consultants, and 5-7 support workers who diligently travel to various surrounding communities within circle one (1) to provide comprehensive support services.

As part of our commitment to Community engagement and awareness, our team actively participates in developmental fairs organized by the early years committee in our area. Additionally, we actively contribute to the Ready Set Learn education fairs organized by school district #78. These platforms allow us to showcase our services, exchange valuable insights, and foster collaborative partnerships within the Community.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure that every child and family we serve receives the support they need to thrive. Through our holistic approach and ongoing collaboration with various stakeholders, we strive to enhance the development and well-being of children facing unique challenges, while also empowering their families to actively participate in their child's growth journey.



EY QWAL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

Ey Qwal Speech and Language is a specialized program that provides support and intervention for Indigenous children aged 0-6 years who face challenges in their language development. As a referral-based program, we have had the privilege of serving over eighty (80) children in daycare, preschool, and in-home settings within our catchment area, spanning from Boothroyd to Sts'ailes.

Our program operates in close collaboration with other essential services within the Early Childhood Department, including Supported Child Development and Infant Development, to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to service delivery. By working together, we strive to provide a seamless and wraparound support system for children and their families.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

EY QWAL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE (CONTINUED)

Our dedicated team consists of two registered speech pathologists and two speech and language assistants who bring a wealth of expertise and passion to their work. We have also been fortunate enough to acquire our own hearing screening equipment, enabling us to conduct hearing screenings for our children.

This proactive approach has proven instrumental in identifying possible hearing loss at an early stage, allowing us to promptly refer children to audiologists for further assessments. This streamlined process has significantly reduced wait times, ensuring that our families receive the necessary support and intervention in a timely manner.

At Ey Qwal Speech and Language, we are committed to empowering children and their families to overcome language challenges and reach their full potential. Through personalized intervention, evidence-based practices, and a culturally sensitive approach, we aim to enhance language skills, communication abilities, and overall well-being for the children we serve.



BUS FOR ABORIGINAL AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (BEAR)

The BEAR Bus is a dynamic mobile program that travels throughout our catchment area, from Boothroyd to St'sailes, to provide families with children aged 0-6 with valuable educational and cultural resources. Operating five days a week, our program serves various communities and works collaboratively with the Infant Development and Supported Child Development programs to ensure comprehensive support for families.

Through the BEAR (Bringing Education and Resources) initiative, we integrate both Stó:lō and Nlaka'pamux language and culture into our daily activities. Circles, art sessions, and story time are just a few examples of how we incorporate these rich cultural elements. Our primary objective is to extend our reach to families living in isolated areas, who may lack transportation to access early childhood programs in traditional settings.

The Bear Bus has recently undergone renovations and now sports a captivating new wrap that catches the attention of Community Members. As curiosity is piqued, individuals approach to inquire about the program, and they often bring their children along to participate in the engaging activities we offer. This not only fosters Community engagement but also provides children with meaningful educational experiences in their own neighborhoods.

At the BEAR Bus, we are dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to quality early childhood education and cultural enrichment. By bringing our program directly to the communities we serve, we strive to overcome barriers to participation and create an inclusive and supportive learning environment for children and families.



Sq'éwqel

SEABIRD ISLAND BAND



Yálh yuw kw'a's hò:y

***Thanking Someone Deeply,
Thanking the Creator,
Praise Something Beautiful,
Finished***

Shxw'éyelh

Be in Good Health

Kwétslóme

See You

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