

UPDATE: BC HOUSING REFERENDUM

Seabird Island Band Members are no longer required to vote in a BC Housing lease referendum.

BC Housing has agreed to provide Sq'ewqel (Seabird Island Band) with a forgivable loan of \$21,275,860 + GST to construct affordable housing units on Pípehò:M Road. The project requires a leasehold longer than 25 years.

Seabird has negotiated a deal with BC Housing: as a self-governing nation which has consistently built and maintained homes on this land, they have agreed to provide the funding without the lease requirement.

Breakdown

- BC Housing to provide \$21M loan for affordable housing to Seabird Band
- 34 units will be built, including family units and wheelchair-accessible Elders' units
- The loan will be entirely forgiven after a period of 11 years

If Seabird Housing Society ensures that rent payments cover operating costs for the units over the first 11 years they are rented, the entire \$21M loan will be gradually forgiven

over the next 25 years. **This means Seabird won't have to repay the loan at all.**

As per Seabird Members' self-expressed priorities, this housing initiative will meet needs like diversity of housing types, affordability and quality.

The building plans include a three-storey multi-family building with 1-3 bedroom units (town-houses and apartments), and 12 fully accessible 1-2 bedroom Elders' units in a separate building.

The intention is to provide much-needed, accessible homes to Seabird Community Members, reduce long wait times on the current housing waitlist, and give peace of mind to Members in need of a home now and for generations to come.

Please visit the Band Office anytime from now until June 2! On Mondays-Fridays, an information booth is set up in the lobby where Council Members, Youth, volunteers and Seabird representatives are here to answer questions about the AE Concrete referendum, provide details and assist those eligible to vote.

A VERY HOPPY EASTER

Easter Weekend brought a flurry of unpredictable weather, but smiles could be seen in every direction at Seabird's Easter Celebration.

The Events team organized a family-friendly program that attracted Members from all over the valley, from infants to Youth and Elders. It was an afternoon filled with games, good food and fun times for all.

Activities were creative and kept everyone entertained; little ones could decorate eggs and fashion unique bunny ears, and anyone could stop by the baking stations to make-and-take M&M cookies and Bannock in a bag. The photobooth was in constant rotation as we captured memories for families and friends to cherish.

Two very special guests in white were also present: Peter Rabbit and Petra Cottontale joined in the festivities, handing out treats, posing for photos, and keeping sprits high as their hops – and height! Petra dazzled everyone, towering above the tallest of us and blowing bubbles just as giant. Peter hopped around the gym, mischievously bopping unsuspecting victims on the head with his companion carrot, hip-checking photographers and handing out goodies.

We can't wait to see everyone at the next gathering, and hope the holiday weekend was enjoyed by all Seabird Community Members!

SEABIRD ISLAND FESTIVAL

- Food Trucks Vendor Fee \$350
- Arts/Crafts Vendor Fee \$175
- Non-Profit Booth \$100
- Parking \$10
- Camping \$20

- \$500 Men's Soccer
- \$350 Women's 7-aside
- \$350 16U/13U/10U
- \$250 7U
- \$100 5U



MAY 24 -25, 2025

CHECK OUT:
www.seabirdfestival.ca

MAY MAINTENANCE: FIRESMART COMMUNITY CLEANUPS



In early May, Sq'ewqel hosted BBQs at the fire department to educate staff and Community Members about wildfires, provide mitigation tips and explain how our Emergency Preparedness department and FireSmart BC's wildfire safety program is helping to build a safer community.

Here, people could request Home Assessments, which are voluntary and completed free of charge, conducted on a first-come-first-served basis (for both owners and tenants). Home Assessment advisors survey properties top-to-bottom, identify fire hazards and make suggestions about how to address them, and improve the overall fire resiliency of the home.

Home Assessments are completed by Sq'ewqel's Local FireSmart Representative (LFR) and/or Wildfire Mitigation Specialist (WMS). The LFR and WMS ensure that wildfire protocols follow BC-wide standards, while complying with local specifications.

Changes the LFR/WMS may recommend, or assist with, include moving structures and vegetation away from homes, limbing low-hanging tree branches and clearing dry/dead brush in the "immediate zone" (5-foot perimeter around homes). Eligible properties may receive a structure to store firewood safely, based on identified fire hazards.

Did you know?

- **Embers can travel** on the wind for up to **2 kilometers**, where they can ignite anything along their path or where they land
- **Spruce and cedar**, common in Seabird Island, are **highly flammable**
- **Home Ignition Zones** begin at just **0-1.5 meters** from your house

Seabird's FireSmart program is developing a team of Community Members and staff to guide planning, implementation and sustainment of their efforts. Together, Sq'ewqel can begin working to safeguard the community against wildfires with a focus on the future.

Understanding hazards and wildfire habits can help you protect your home and community. Request a Home Assessment from the Sq'ewqel FireSmart program (located in the fire department, and help neighbours, friends and Elders clear their yards.

Volunteer to help with mitigation efforts!

For more information, contact the FireSmart team: 604-798-7362

We look forward to the progress being made in our community, and thank everyone for doing their part to keep Seabird Island beautiful and safe.



CELEBRATING JASON ELLIS: SQ'EWQEL'S NEW DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

We are happy to announce that Jason Ellis has accepted the role of Director of Finance and Operations at Sq'ewqel.

Jason has been part of our Finance team for over 14 years, and has served as Acting Director of Finance and Administration since April 2024. Over the years, he has brought a steady hand, deep knowledge, and a clear commitment to supporting our programs, services, and the community.

Alongside his professional leadership, Jason is also known for his kindness,

patience, and respectful approach to working with others. He leads with both heart and skill — qualities that have made him a trusted and valued member of our team.

In stepping into this new role on our Director's team, Jason continues to carry the values of accountability, trust, and community that guide and ground our work. Jason will provide leadership to the Finance, Information Technology, Records, Privacy, Human Resources, Purchasing,

Proposals, and Administration Operations teams. These important areas support the administrative operations of Sq'ewqel.

We are grateful for Jason's continued journey with us. Please join us in congratulating him as he begins this next chapter with us.

With appreciation,
Sq'ewqel Administration