



Seabird Island
Inter-Government Affairs
P.O. Box 765 | 2895 Chowat Rd. | Agassiz, BC | V0M 1A2
Phone: 604-796-2177 | Fax: 604-796-3729
www.seabirdisland.ca

Band Admin Quarterly

► July 2025

► Inter-Government Affairs



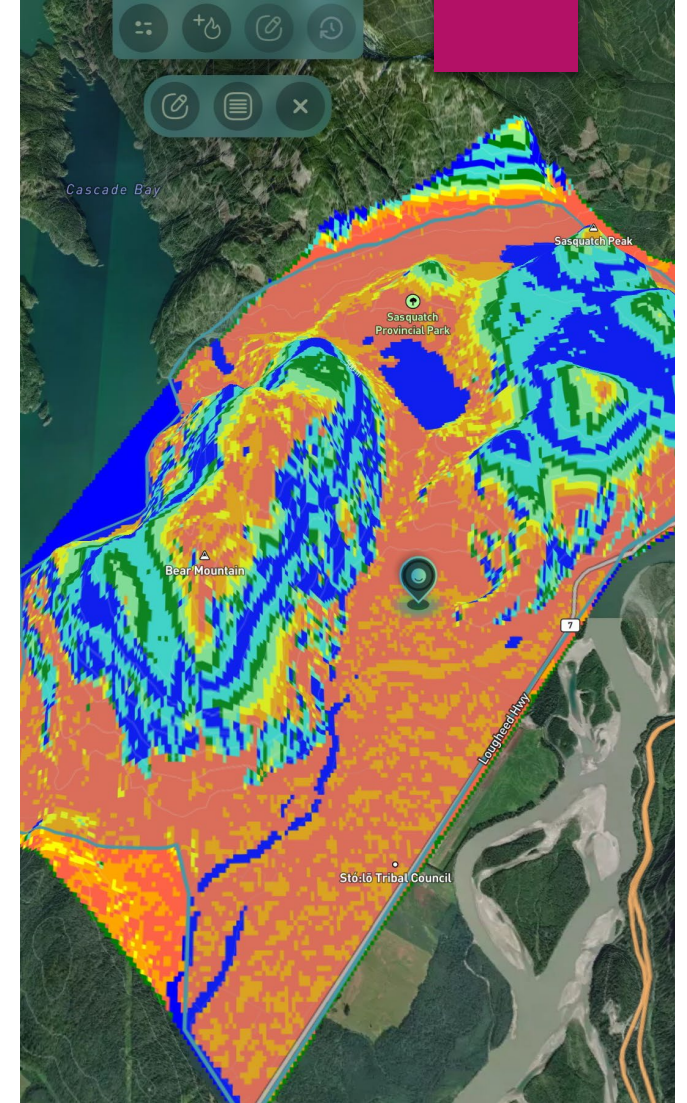
Natural Resources and Forestry

Adaptive Heat Mapping

- ▶ Continued progress on the Adaptive Heat Mapping project spanning **Bear Mountain to Ruby Creek** (44.62 km²).
- ▶ About 40 sensors have been installed so far to obtain real-time temperature data
- ▶ The project will help identify vulnerable zones and support the development of proactive climate adaptation measures.



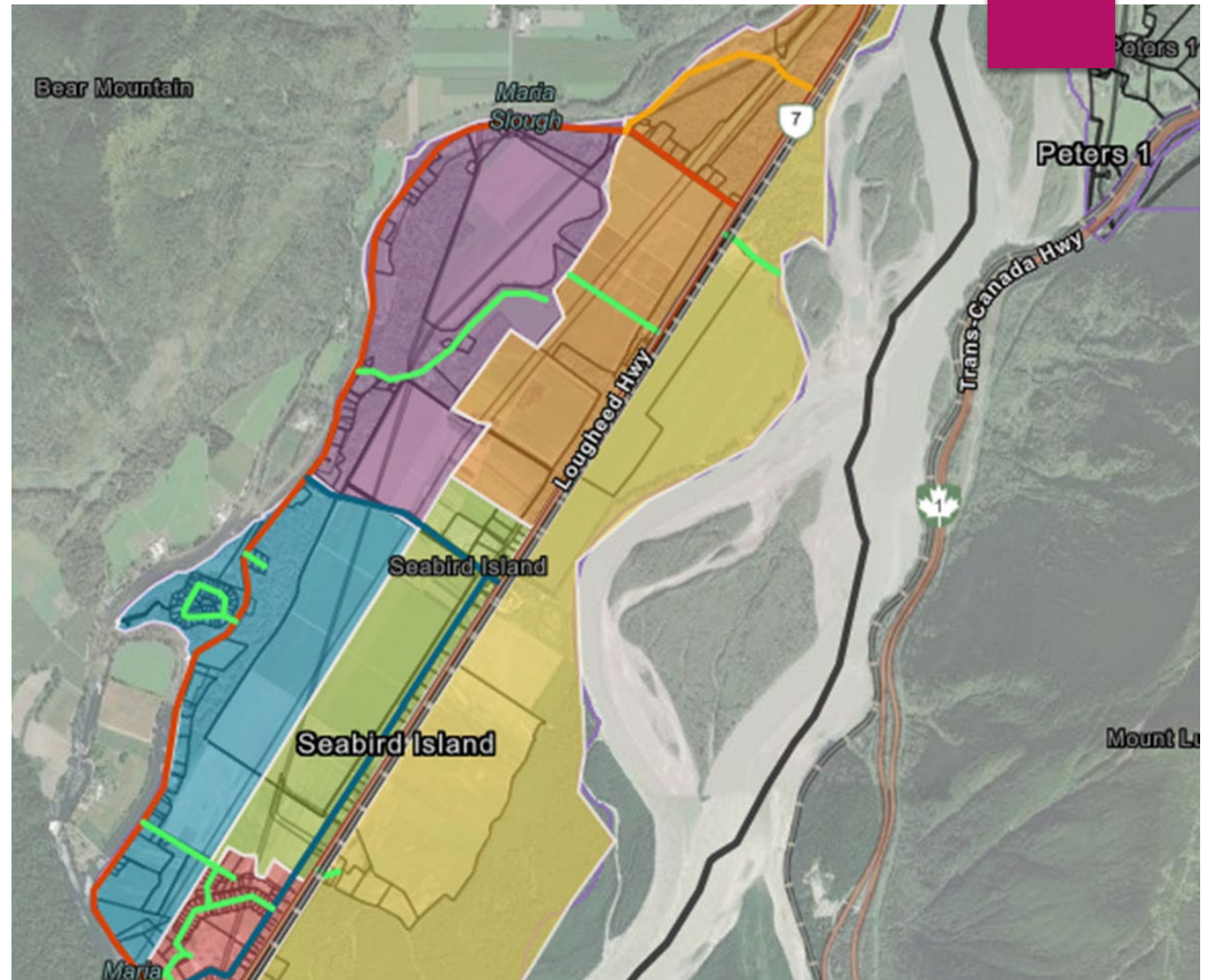
Installation of sensor



Temperature data across study site

Evacuation Route plan for Seabird

- ▶ A draft version of the Evacuation Route Plan has been completed.
- ▶ A staff review session is scheduled for **July 29th** to gather feedback.
- ▶ Two community engagement events are planned for **August** to share information on the Evacuation Route plan



Indigenous Forestry Stewardship Internship



SEABIRD IS ACTIVELY RECRUITING **TWO INDIGENOUS FORESTRY STEWARDSHIP INTERNS** UNDER THE INDIGENOUS NATURAL RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP.



THE INTERNSHIP WILL PROVIDE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN FORESTRY OPERATIONS, COMPLIANCE MONITORING, AND CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION.



OUTREACH IS ONGOING TO IDENTIFY QUALIFIED YOUTH OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS INTERESTED IN FORESTRY STEWARDSHIP CAREERS.

Upcoming Projects



Community event to share information on Evacuation Route Plan for Seabird



Training and Implementation of landplanner software for Seabird to efficiently manage reserve land and forestry planning operations



Groundwater Monitoring Sampling in connection with the Sunrise Expansion Project



Please submit all suggestions and enquiries to francis.kpatakpa@seabirdisland.ca



Fish & Wildlife Division

Fish & Wildlife

Upper Maria Slough Restoration

- Effectiveness monitoring of site shows good growth of native plants and improved water quality; beaver dam spotted near downstream end and wildlife monitoring camera installed.
- Seabird and KWL returning in August to remove plugged culvert by hand.
- Seabird will complete Community Composition trapping in this new site during the month of August see what species have responded so far to the site.



Fish & Wildlife – Fishtrap Channel



2023

Before – overgrown & prone to drought – poor fish habitat.



2024

Post-work – too wide, fish still need help accessing upstream.

Coming this month!

2025

DFO, Stqoya, and Seabird are prepared for construction to start in late July 2025.

Fish & Wildlife

Other Projects

- Hicks Creek Scoping Study: work that was planned for winter 2025 is now planned for 2026 with new funding support (application submitted for the Salmon Resiliency Fund and is under review).
- Discussion with multiple project teams to discuss a master plan for Fraser River Reconnect.
- Z-Slough Offset – connecting Lizzie Lake to upstream Maria Slough. Project set to start during winter 2025.



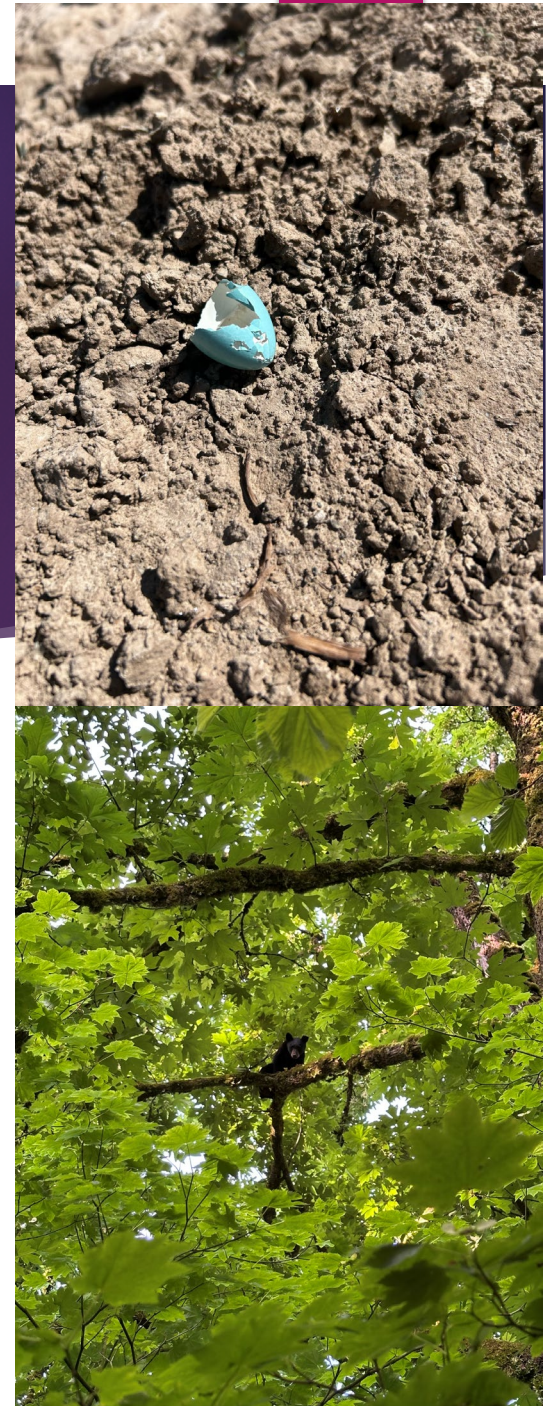
Fish & Wildlife Water Quality Monitoring

- The Fish & Wildlife team has completed water quality monitoring in the slough since 2023, taking over from Resilient Waters. **Dissolved oxygen, water temperature, and water depth** are being monitored at key locations in Maria Slough.
- Three new conductivity loggers were deployed in the upper slough this spring. Results will be shared at the next Ripple Report.
- There are 5 dissolved oxygen and 8 depth loggers in Maria Slough. **Please leave these in place to collect information for F&W!**



Stay tuned for these in 2025!

- Ripple Report 2025 – stay tuned for the recording of the presentation to be posted on the website!
- Fishtrap Channel maintenance and re-excavation in July/August 2025.
- Spawner Surveys in Fall 2025 – invitations will be extended to high school and university students.
- Land-based learning opportunities in the new school year.
- Project updates & field activity reports as they are available.



Have any questions for the Fish & Wildlife Team at Seabird?



Jillian Stewart, ABT, BTech
Biologist

P: (604) 796-2177

E: FishandWildlife@seabirdisland.ca



Elders

Elders Program

- ▶ Four elders collaborated with our staff to produce jam for the enjoyment of all the elders residing on Seabird. In total, we made 419 jars of jam, including regular raspberry jam and a low-sugar raspberry jam.
- ▶ Had a meeting with Lolly, Becky, and Jordan regarding the elders' need for home renovations. Created a new elders list divided into those under and over 65, plus added three new elders to the list.(113 on reserve, 10 are non-status).



A wooden archway sign for Seabird Island, featuring two carved totem poles on either side and a circular emblem in the center. The background shows lush green trees and a blue sky with a mountain peak visible in the distance.

SEABIRD ISLAND

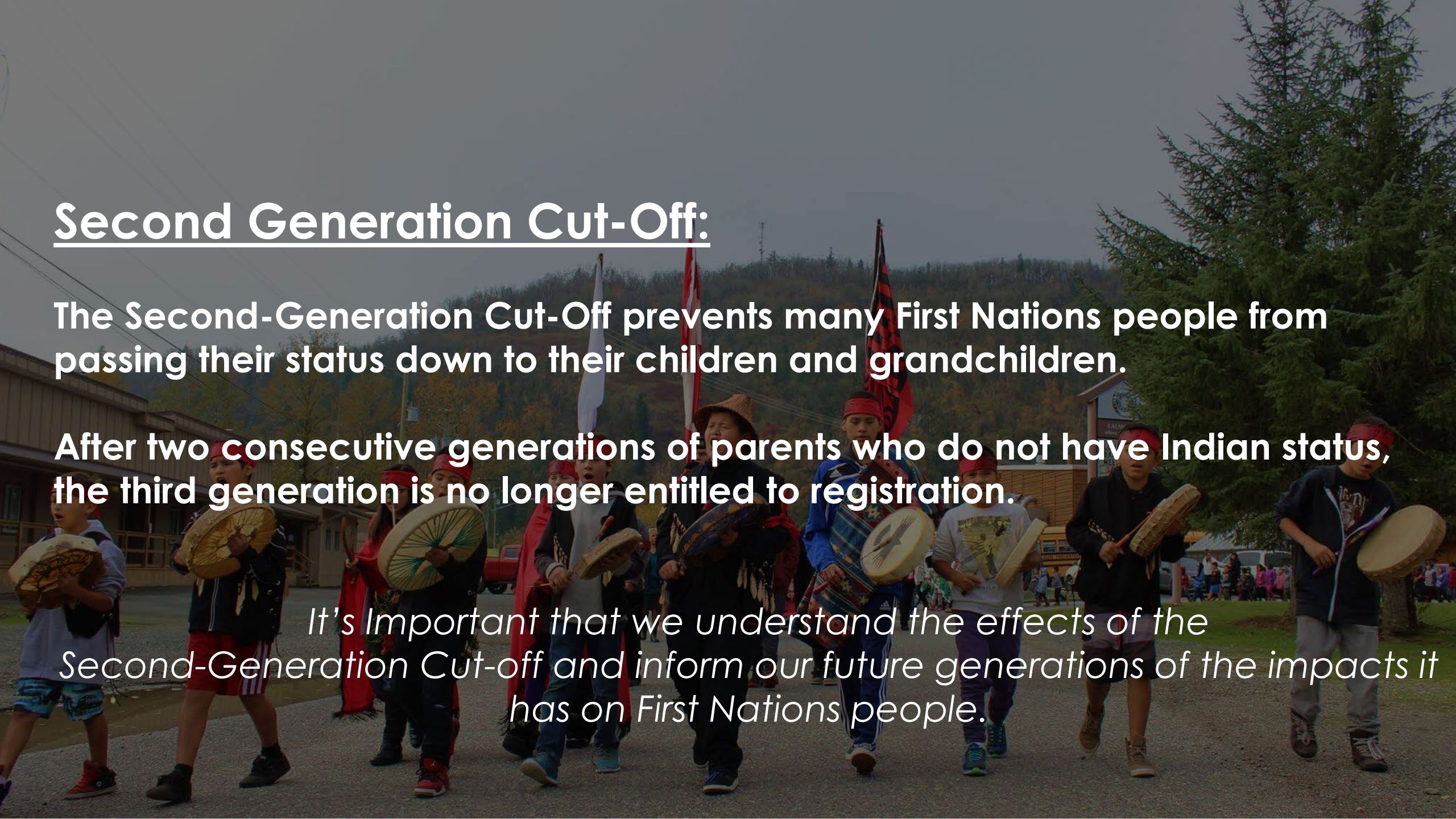
MEMBERSHIP

Second Generation Cut-Off:

The Second-Generation Cut-Off prevents many First Nations people from passing their status down to their children and grandchildren.

After two consecutive generations of parents who do not have Indian status, the third generation is no longer entitled to registration.

It's Important that we understand the effects of the Second-Generation Cut-off and inform our future generations of the impacts it has on First Nations people.



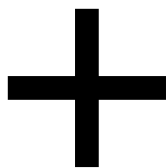
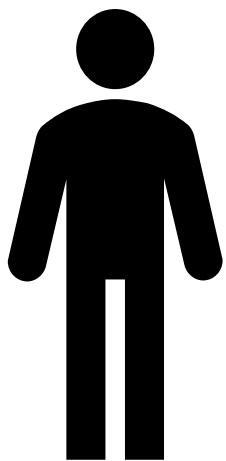
Second-Generation Cut-Off

We are starting to see the effects of the “Second-Generation Cut-Off” as more of our children are being denied status.

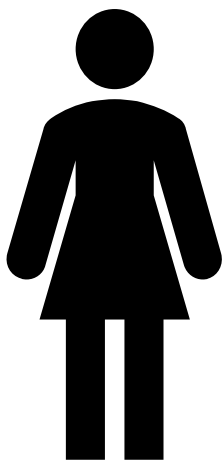
If you are unsure of the category that you are registered under or want more information on 6(1) and 6(2) categories, please contact the Membership Department.

6(2)

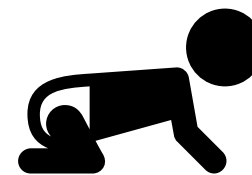
Registered
Parent



Non-Status
Parent



Child not
entitled to
Registration



Referrals

What is a Referral?

- ▶ The Referrals Process is initiated when a proponent is requesting knowledge, expertise and consultation from Sq'ewqel First Nation.
- ▶ Referrals are a formal acknowledgement of Sq'ewqel's, interests, and perspectives, and serves as a steppingstone for meaningful engagement concerning projects taking place on S'olh Temexw's unceded territory and beyond. Our focus starts with territory surrounding Sq'ewqel, and expands to Tiyt Tribes, branches out to Sto:lo Tribal territories and then all of S'olh Temexw.

Referrals and S'olh Temexw Stewardship Alliance

Seabird Island referrals have been signatories of the S'olh Temexw Stewardship Alliance. This agreement between the Signatory Stó:lō First Nations and the Province of British Columbia has been drafted to increase consultation effectiveness and efficiency, lead to greater certainty for land and resource decisions. Promote dialogue between the parties, and ensure the Province works towards fulfilling the duty to consult, where appropriate for the Rights and Title interests of Stó:lō People on proposed activities within S'ólh Téméxw.

As such we work closely with PRRO People of the Referrals Officers collaboratively determining impacts and expectations of proponents while carrying out their works on the land.

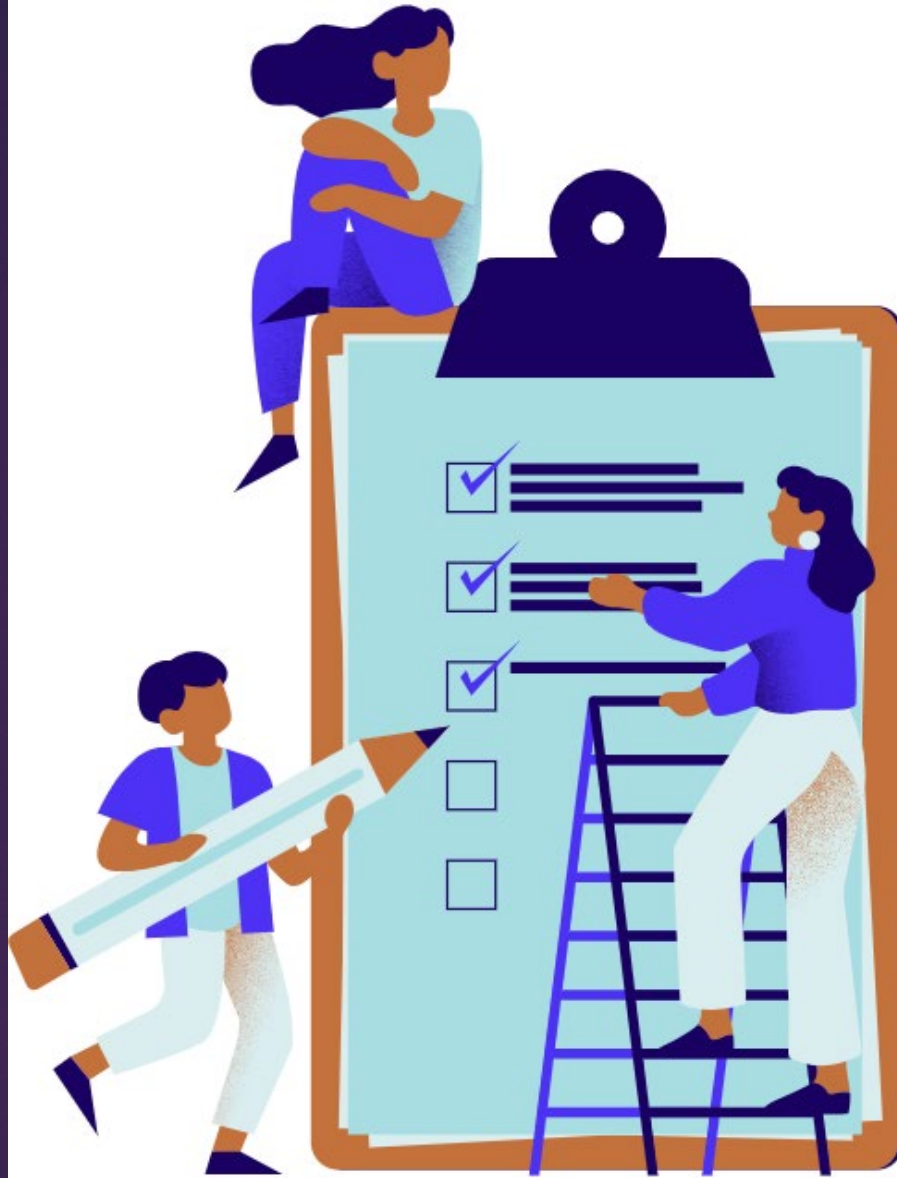
Draft Referral Framework, what's been completed so far?

1. We have developed the levels 3-5 checklist for,
 - Economics
 - Environmental (Biologist)
 - Natural Resources
 - Policy
2. Updated the Framework with the latest version of the 2024 STSA SEA Agreement and printed for hardcopy to have on hand.
3. Framework being implemented already when determining referral priority and processing steps.

Newest Member to Referrals- Mitchell April

► Mitchell has joined our team in April as our Referrals Coordinator. Mitchell will be taking on the coordinator roles and will be working closely with our technical team and alongside the People of the River Referrals Office.





Policy Unit

Internal Engagements

UNDRIP and DRIPA alignment

- ▶ With MNP as consultants, Sq'éwqel is evaluating the alignment of their policies with UNDRIP and DRIPA.
- ▶ MNP has:
 - ▶ Developed a Policy Implementation Plan, and the Policy Division has commenced the implementation of the recommendations from MNP.

Pathways to Self-Governance

- ▶ With Strategies North Advisory Inc. as consultants, Sq'ewqel will be engaging in a pathways analysis to understand its options for an actionable path towards self-governance.
- ▶ An engagement session with the Band's leadership, management, and key knowledge holders will be held on the 22nd of July.



Internal Engagements and policy Reviews



Local Emergency Agreement

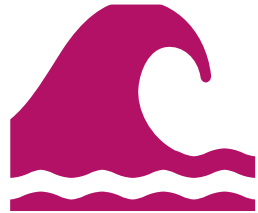
With Mandell Pinder as consultants, Sq'ewqel has developed a Local Emergency Agreement template. The agreement is part of our emergency preparedness process.



US Tribes Policy Development

The government is developing a new policy that requires consulting with Indigenous Tribes from the US on Aboriginal rights and title matters.

External Policy Reviews and Engagements



Fraser River Tunnel Project Regulation (F RTP Regulation)

The provincial government is proposing a regulation to allow early construction activities for the F RTP to begin before a full Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) is issued. The purpose of this plan is to avoid delays in the F RTP. Without this regulation, the project would have to wait until the EAC is issued which can potentially cause up to a full year's delay.

We noted that Sq'ewqel can use the consultation period to demand stronger consent protections, Indigenous oversight, and advance notice for future projects affecting its lands and waters.



BC Municipalities criticism of Bills 14 & 15

Bill 14 speeds up permits for renewable energy projects, while Bill 15 gives the province expanded powers to fast-track infrastructure, potentially bypassing local and Indigenous decision-making.

Both Bills infringe on rights to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and so, they are being protested by Sq'ewqel and many First Nations.

Internal Policy Developments

Membership Code

- We have commenced preparing the first draft of the amended Code based on results of the survey conducted in the community.

Occupational Health & Safety Policy

- We are collaborating with the HR Division to review the OHS Policy. To comply with current government standards on health and safety.

Internal Policy Developments (Continued)

Pet Policy

- We are collaborating with the Housing department to make amendments to the Pet Policy.

Thíytelh Wellness Program

- We are collaborating with the Health department to develop a community-driven and culturally grounded wellness program to support young adults who are navigating challenges related to substance use and mental health.

Ongoing Policy Developments and Policies Pending Approval

Drafts currently under review

- ▶ Seabird College TOR

Developed projects currently awaiting approval

- ▶ Expense Reimbursement Policy
- ▶ Funeral and Cemetery Management Policy



á:yelexwstexw
Vitalization

stl'ítset kws me á:yelexwstexwtset te sqwá:ltset
We want to keep our language alive.

xwchó:kwelchap
where do we start?

xwchó:kwelchap where do we start?

Á á xe

Documentation & Research

- Curriculum Development
- Translations -Syntax (speech)
- dictionary work



Collaboration

- Family – elders, generations,
- Community –leadership, School & Offices & Business
- Universities –teachers, mentors, curriculum developers, linguists
- governments – federal, provincial, Municiple, bands
- technology & media – app developers, media outlets
- legal and advocacy



Leadership & Policy

- go against historical suppression & loss
- Identity & knowledge
- affirmation of right to preserve, revitalize and promote language
- protect against globalization
- reconciliation & justice



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RECREATION

- July 2025
- Inter-Government Affairs

Fitness Centre

- ▶ Fitness Centre is running at optimal level and has had 200+ people signed up for the fitness Centre
- ▶ Finalizing a plan to make the Fitness Centre open for 24hrs.
- ▶ We have a variety of programs running in the fitness Centre all exceeding expectations
- ▶ Looking into new equipment.
- ▶ Painted the Fitness Centre.
- ▶ Approximately 26 participants daily on average in the last four months
 - Elders' fitness has 7-9 participants in the last 20 sessions
 - Seabird island high school has an average of 16 students from May-June





Gymnasium

- ▶ Drop-in is running smoothly across two days Monday and Wednesday
- ▶ We have a variety of programs in the gymnasium
 - ▶ With the summer weather we have been playing quick games
 - ▶ Been focusing on Pickel ball Basketball and volleyball
 - ▶ Have a survey for Drop in to help improve community wants and needs.
 - ▶ Also looking into offsite recreational events.

ISPARC

- ▶ Sports camp, partnered with ECE summer program in having a sports summer camp
- ▶ 2 days will be with soccer team Vancouver white caps
- ▶ 2 days will be with ISPARC lacrosse coach's
- ▶ Coach's Program, partnered up with youth employment program to have a coach's clinic added to their curriculum
- ▶ Online course will take place on July 22nd and in person Practicum will take place AUG 12th



Youth Brazilian Jiu jitsu

- ▶ Instructor Eric Andre
- ▶ Partnered up with Seabird island school, to run youth Jiu-jitsu in the school gymnasium.
- ▶ Class ran Tuesday and Thursday from May-July.
- ▶ With an Average of 6 youth attending.
- ▶ Working with the school in seeing if this could be added to the school curriculum which will help students being able to graduate with brown belt.
- ▶ Also collaborating with the school to integrate wrestling



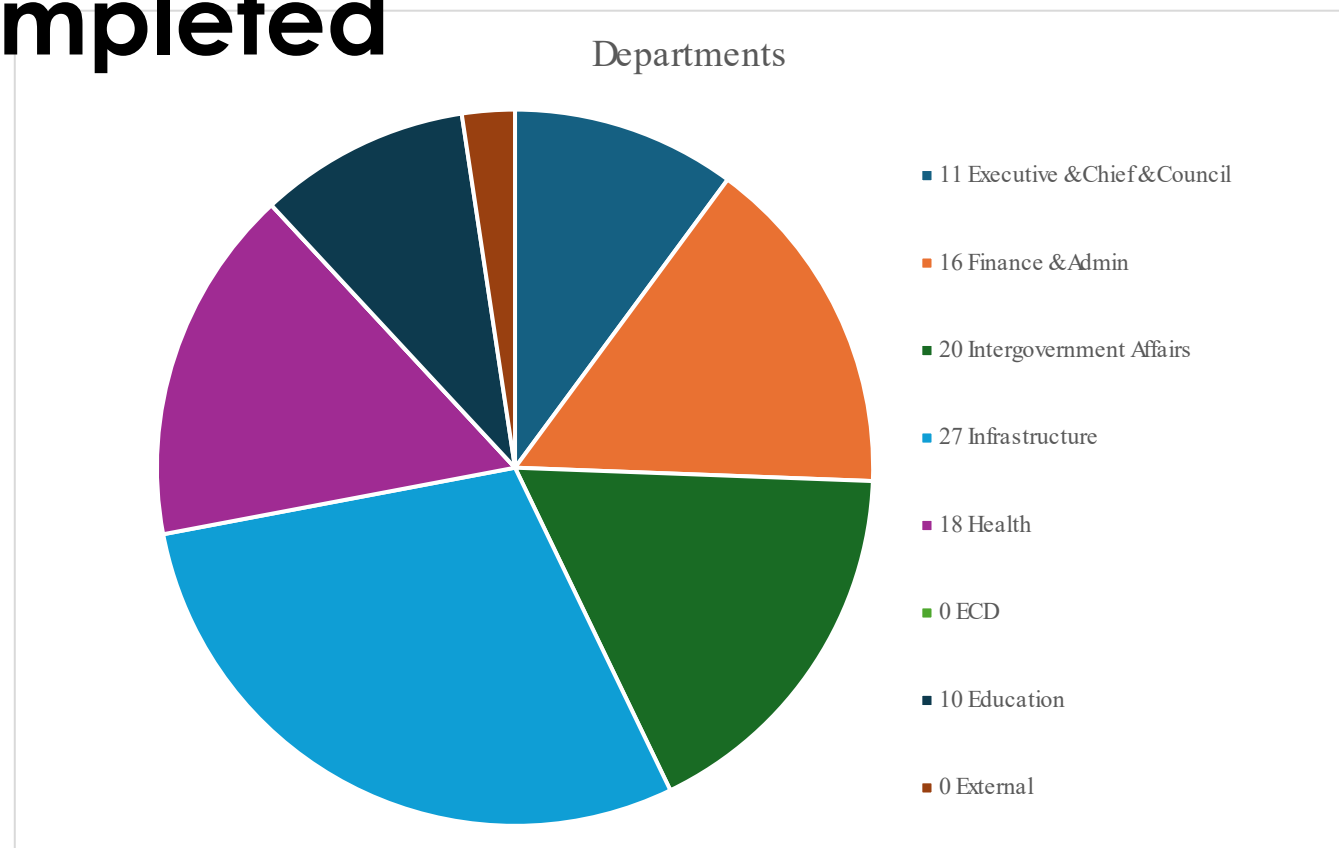
Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island)

**Inter-Government
Affairs**

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT Q1 - 2025

A stylized, purple-toned illustration of a person's profile, facing right, with their mouth open as if speaking into a microphone. The illustration is set against a solid purple background.

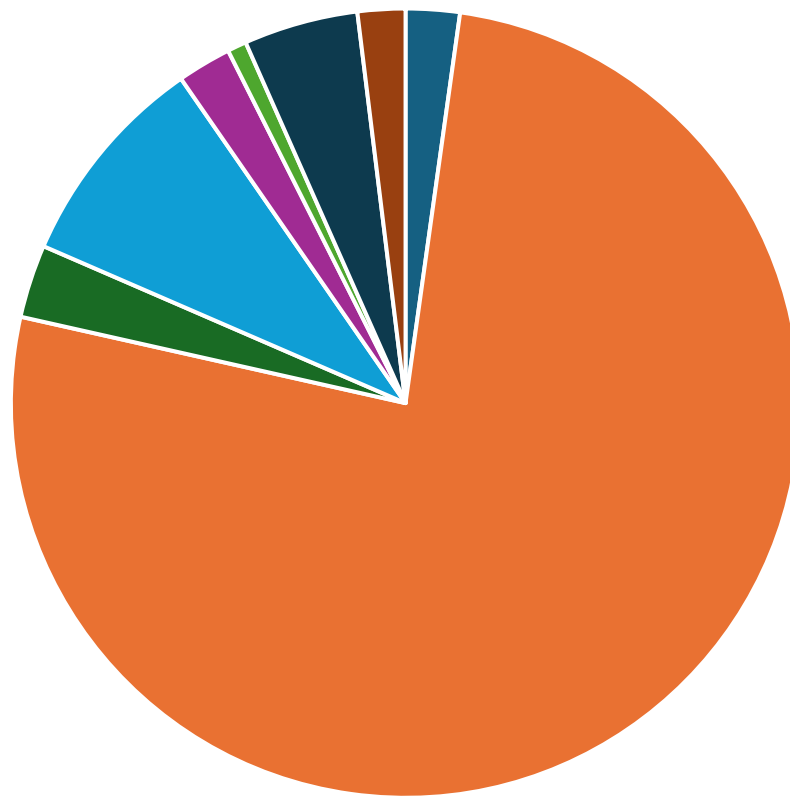
168 Department Work Orders Completed





768 Promotions Completed

Promotions



16 Staff Notices 356 Print & Finish 5 Photo / Video 41 Facebook Posts 9 TV Posts 4 Newspaper & Schedule 20 Bulletin Boards 8 Web

Sq'éwqel Visual Identity Branding Standards Guide Published

NOW available for download on the:

Staff Portal Seabird Island Band under:

- Files & Forms
- Guidelines
- Communications

Seabird Island Website:

<https://www.seabirdisland.ca/branding/>

Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island Band)
**Visual Identity
Branding Standards**

Version 1.2
February 2025

Published by: Seabird Island Communications

Engagement:

Engagement Plan Created and accepted for Campaigns, Referendums & Elections moving forward

UPCOMING REFERENDUMS

2025

- Lands - June 2
- Membership Code - Nov
- Election Code - Nov
- Child & Family Jurisdiction
- Education Jurisdiction
- Comprehensive Community Plan

2026

- Chief & Council - April

LANDS REFERENDUM – MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 • Referendum Update Meeting 2-3 pm • Submit to Sq'ewqel Sq'ewqel Pipé	2 • Order 2 Portable Letter Signs • FB, Web, TV refresh - reminders
4 • Red Dress Day	5 • Survey, how is engagement Going	6	7 • Reminder / refresh Promote FB, TV, Web... Community Meeting Dinner for May 14	8	9 • Set-up Portable Letter Signs
11 • Mothers Day	12 • Monday Night Dinner	13 • Referendum Update Meeting 11-12 pm	14 • Community Meeting Dinner • Go over what the referendum is for • Promote Seabird Viva engage app	15 • Sq'ewqel Sq'ewqel Pipé	16 • Refresh promo for referendum: FB, Web, TV... • Promote Viva engage
18	19 • Victoria Day	20 • Update Gold Call list • Design / Order Lawn Steaks	21 • Lobby Entrance Posters • Update Gold Call list	22 • Cold Calls using phone script	23 • Cold Calls using phone script • Create Video for FB and Web
25 • Seabird Festival signs at info booth...	26 • Videos Q&A 2/day • Monday Night Dinner	27 • Videos Q&A 2/day • Special edition Sq'ewqel Sq'ewqel Pipé (Door to door) • Put out half Lawn Steaks VOTE June 2	28 • Videos Q&A 2/day • Band Members Staff Lunch • Referendum Update Meeting 3-4 pm	29 • AE @ Referendum Central • Videos Q&A 2/day	30 • Videos Q&A 2/day • AE @ Referendum Central • Remember to vote Monday, for referendum: FB, Web, TV... • Deliver door to door



Engagement: Lands Referendum 2025

85+ Engagement Tasks
Completed: Web, FB, Door to
Door, TV's, Posters, Signs. Lobby
"Referendum Central", Videos
and more

RESULTS:

151 Total Ballots cast
118 voted Yes
33 voted No
The referendum passed.

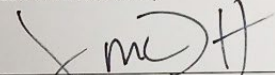
Sq'ewqel (Seabird Island Band) 2025 Referendum Statement of Results

June 2, 2025

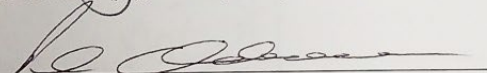
The Ballot Question will be approved if a majority of Eligible Voters who cast ballots in the Referendum vote "YES" to the question.

Do you approve an extension of the Seabird Island lease for AE Concrete from the present 25 years to a 75-year term?	
	TOTAL
TOTAL BALLOTS CAST	151
	TOTAL
SPOILED BALLOTS	0
INDIVIDUAL BALLOT COUNTS	
YES	118
NO	33

SIGNED AND DECLARED,



REFERENDUM OFFICER
250-384-8200 (ph) / voterhelp@onefeather.ca




MEMBER OF COUNCIL



Engagement: Education Law & Sunrise Expansion Program

2 New campaigns with community engagement meetings



Sq'ewqel (Seabird Island)

Education Law

NOTICE TO THE COMMUNITY

On June 18, 2025, Chief and Council moved to circulate the proposed **Education Law 2025** to the community. The proposed Education Law 2025 is an updated version of Education Law 2022. The revised sections that align with the governance structure update passed by Chief and Council are summarized in the document that can be found on the Sq'ewqel website <https://www.seabirdisland.ca/referendums-elections/> or request a copy of the Education Law from the Band Office Lobby Reception.

In our move to Education Jurisdiction, one step was to enact our own Education Law to replace the Independent School Act. The Education Law 2022 came into effect on July 1, 2022, but the questions of governing authority and primary oversight over education have been a topic of discussion since then.

While the Education Law 2022 had the Education Committee as the body of oversight, Chief and Council have now concluded that they should have the ultimate decision-making authority, similar to a school board in the public education system. The Education Law thus needs to define that a subset of Chief and Council will form a Board of Education. The proposed Education Law 2025 reflects this change.


According to our Law-Making Protocol, the proposed Education Law 2025 must be made available to community members for 30 days (from June 25, 2025).

Join us for a
COMMUNITY MEETING
July 30, 2025 from 4-7 PM in the Seabird Island Band Gym
as we present and discuss the proposed Education Law 2025.

Community Members then have 30 days to provide their comments to Chief and Council (by August 29, 2025).

Following community comments, Chief and Council can then consider and then move to approve amendments to the proposed Education Law 2025 or move to approve the proposed Education Law 2025.



SUNRISE EXPANSION PROGRAM: FINE TILLING DEEP TRENCHING (FTFT)



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION

July 17, 2025
5- 7 PM
**Seabird Island Band
Office Gym**

**For more information
call 604-796-2177**





Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island)
Inter-Government Affairs