



## Vote on June 2: Seabird Island Referendum

**AE Concrete Lease**  
  


# Referendum

Sq'ewqel (Seabird Island Band)



**Make Your Voice Count**  
**VOTE!**  
in the Referendum  
**June 2, 2025**



**YOUR VOICE  
YOUR VOTE  
YOUR FUTURE**

For more information scan the QR code above, call xxxx or visit  
<https://www.seabirdisland.ca/referendums-elections/>

**Housing Lease**  
  


### AE Concrete – Vote June 2

AE Concrete (AEC) is requesting to extend their current 25-year lease in the Sq'ewqel Business Park to 75 years.

This will allow AEC to invest in the business, nurture the community relationship and supply long-term income to Sq'ewqel (Seabird Island). This will support Sq'ewqel programs and services that Community Members benefit from daily.

*More details on page 2 & 3*

**MAY 19, 2025 – SEABIRD ADMINISTRATION**

**ALL SEABIRD FACILITIES WILL BE CLOSED  
FOR VICTORIA DAY**

## Vote on June 2: Seabird Island Referendum continued



**Lands-related votes can't be cast online, you must vote in-person.** To pass, the mandate requires a 50% + 1 “Yes” vote.

### Sq'ewqel Business Park

The Sq'ewqel Business Park was developed by Seabird's Development Corporation (SqDC) as Band Members previously voted to zone 50 acres of Seabird land for commercial and industrial use.

SqDC's primary objective is to make Seabird Island Band economically self-sufficient, which it does by sourcing lucrative opportunities. The business park will stimulate growth and stability in the community, allowing for programs, services and jobs to expand without interruption or seizure of funds.

### Who is AE Concrete?

AE Concrete builds precast concrete products for public and private clients, including BC Hydro and TELUS. All stages of the process are done in-house, from making molds to finishing, curing and storage.

With limitations at their former Surrey plant, AEC envisioned a new location with a more versatile work yard, proximity to the lower mainland and access to quality trades workers. Upon connecting with Seabird's Development Corporation, AEC president Ian Graham noted that the Sq'ewqel Business Park “checked all the boxes.”

Seabird's Lands department then connected with Chief and Council to assess the viability of AEC's tenancy. The process involved environmental surveying and assurance that AEC would meet Seabird Island's land use qualifications, along with federal, provincial and structural standards.



In addition to being a business park tenant, AE Concrete provides local employment and financial contributions to community programs and infrastructure. AEC also supplies \$20,000 in annual bursaries to Seabird Island High School graduates, and opportunities for Members through Seabird College and Pre-employment Support Programs (PESP).

Nearly 50% of AEC's Indigenous staff are from Seabird, and AEC aims to boost these numbers through partnerships with Seabird Employment Services and Seabird College.

Moving forward, they hope to expand their operation, build new facilities and create jobs. To integrate Members within their staff, AEC and Seabird College are developing vocational streams — specifically a condensed trades program — designed to fast-track graduates into trades positions.

AEC employs carpenters, concrete finishers, welders, mobile equipment operators, machine operators and general labourers. They occasionally hire engineers, co-op students and administrative professionals as well.



# Vote on June 2: Seabird Island Referendum

continued

## Looking Forward

SqDC's Communication Manager Carla Pratorius says leasing land for commercial and industrial use is exceptionally profitable: "Leasing 10 acres of industrial/commercial land generates as much revenue as leasing 1000 acres of agricultural land." Only 16 of 50 acres has been rented — as an anchor tenant, AEC can positively influence more businesses to rent in the Sq'ewqel Business Park.

Fully utilizing the park's capacity could significantly strengthen Seabird's financial position. Programs, services and jobs are at risk if funding is outsourced, but with steady, independent income, they can progress. In time, Seabird can accomplish self-sufficiency and flourish as a sustainable economy while supporting community initiatives, Members and future generations.

~~

AE Concrete is proposing a lease extension from 25 to 75 years so they can make long-term investments — both within their business and Seabird Island — and Seabird will have the means to turn visions for the future to reality.

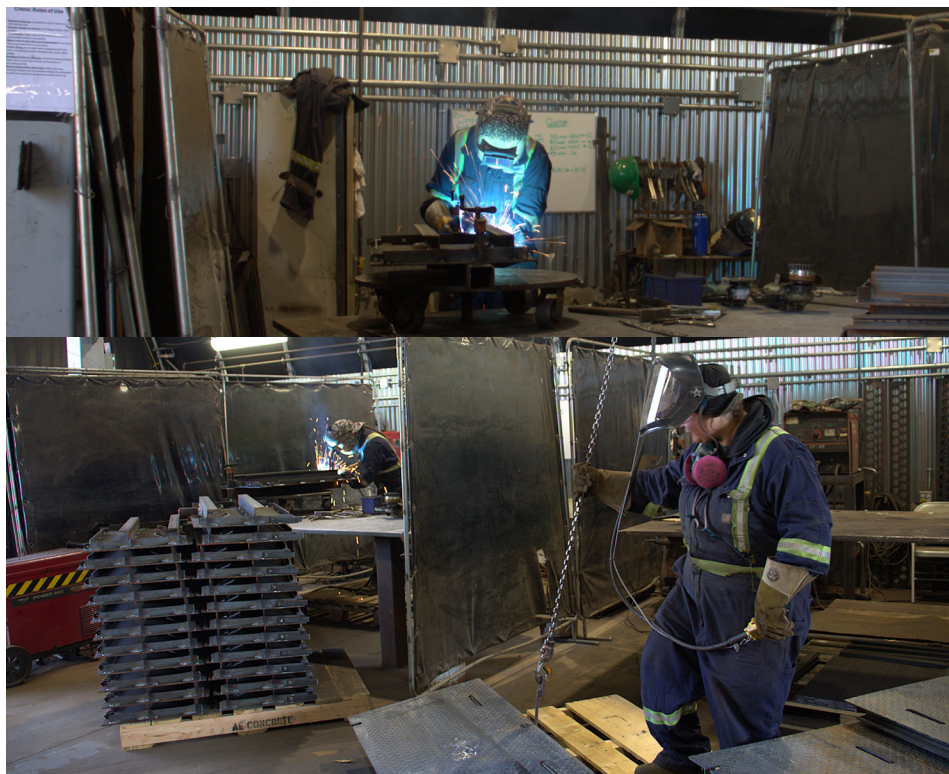
Vote **YES** on **June 2, 2025**.

*Let's come together and decide the future of Seabird Island.*

**Vote: June 2, 2025**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Scan the QR code on the front page,  
send an email to [eatocc@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:eatocc@seabirdisland.ca)  
or visit <https://www.seabirdisland.ca/referendums-elections/>



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Seabird Island Festival Registration Open 24

**tsméla ~**

give birth, have a baby

## Welcome April Babies

**Boys**     **Lindsay 4080g**  
              **Barrett 4570g**  
              **Gilbert 3780g**

**Girls**     **Ember 4128g**  
              **Solana-Love 3120g**

**p'óth'es ~**

baby basket

## 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](http://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

## CLEAN-UP AREA: PHASE ONE

Ey Swaye Sq'ewqel,

Public Works Staff and Community Members have been working to clear the blackberries around Sq'ewqel.

In an effort to complement the work completed and add to the beauty of our community we will coordinate Students, Staff, Volunteers, Elders, Housing, Public Works and the Emergency Services Department to clean-up the area.

We are looking for volunteers to pick up non-vegetative debris now until through May 22, 2025.

Nitrile gloves, commercial bags, rakes, reacher tools and wagons will be provided.

A bin is placed near the site for larger items and bags to be hauled away.

Thank you for your support in making a visible difference in our community!

*Kw's hoy (thank you)  
Sq'ewqel Cleaning Team*



## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY!

A heartfelt thank you to our Students, Elders, and Volunteers who joined us on April 22 at the Fire Department for a BBQ and community clean-up! Together, we focused on the Maria Slough, forest park, and the treed area behind the school – your effort made a visible difference.

We've identified key areas of focus and are proud to include Elders who have signed up for a FireSmart Home Assessment. These Elders have expressed a desire to support – and be supported by – their community. We're honored to help them complete important tasks in their yards.

Please refer to the graphic of Community Phase one above. Additional aerial maps will be available on-site when cleanup supplies are distributed.

See you there!

Sign-up for a home assessment conducted by a Sq'ewqel Local FireSmart Representative (LFR) and learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/rAXBhm2cXG>

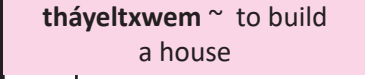
*Kw's hoy (Thank you, in closing)  
Sq'ewqel Clean-up Team*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Sq'ewqel</b><br/>(Seabird Island Band)</p> <h1>Recycle Event</h1>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Dates:</b><br/>May 16 - 19, 2025</p> <p><b>Time:</b><br/>8:00 AM - 4 PM</p>    | <p><b>Drop-off Location:</b><br/>Seabird College Parking Lot<br/>2812 Chewat Road</p> |
| <p><b>RECYCLE ONLY - at this location</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large &amp; small appliances</li> <li>• Electronics</li> <li>• Exercise equipment</li> <li>• Hand held power tools-corded &amp; battery operated</li> <li>• Batteries under 5kg</li> <li>• Tires (NO RIMS)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note* if a fridge or freezer is brought in it needs to be EMPTIED and CLEAN. Or they will not take it</i></p>  |  |                                                                                       |





# Sq'ewqel Housing Wait-list

| 1 Bedroom                                                                          |               | 2 Bedroom |                      | 3 Bedroom |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1                                                                                  | 01172023-7093 | 1         | <b>12102018-6014</b> | 1         | 12192012-3076 |
| 2                                                                                  | 10182023-7116 | 2         | 01072020-7031        | 2         | 01142015-1011 |
| 3                                                                                  | 11032023-7127 | 3         | 01092021-7061        | 3         | 12102018-6014 |
| 4                                                                                  | 05022023-7105 | 4         | 01172023-7093        | 4         | 01072020-6024 |
| 5                                                                                  | 11082023-7128 | 5         | 11022020-5051        | 5         | 01072020-7031 |
| 6                                                                                  | 01012024-7140 | 6         | 12232020-7056        | 6         | 12232020-7056 |
| 7                                                                                  | 05282024-7154 | 7         | 05022023-7105        | 7         | 01092021-7061 |
| 8                                                                                  | 01142025-7164 | 8         | 06152023-7028        | 8         | 12192021-7070 |
| 9                                                                                  | 12122023-7131 | 9         | 01042024-7137        | 9         | 01092020-6000 |
| 10                                                                                 | 03042025-7170 | 10        | 06282024-7154        | 10        | 11272018-5024 |
|   |               | 11        | 06032024-7152        | 11        | 01182023-7094 |
|                                                                                    |               | 12        | 08092024-7157        | 12        | 08202019-7034 |
|                                                                                    |               | 13        | 10242024-7161        | 13        | 05172023-7106 |
|                                                                                    |               | 14        | 12182018-5014        | 14        | 06152023-7118 |
|                                                                                    |               | 15        | 01132025-7163        | 15        | 09232023-7123 |
|  |               | 16        | 02212025-7168        | 16        | 12062022-7091 |
|                                                                                    |               | 17        | 02262025-7169        | 17        | 12142023-7132 |
|                                                                                    |               | 18        | 03052025-7171        | 18        | 12292023-7136 |
|                                                                                    |               | 19        | 08112023-7112        | 19        | 01042024-7137 |
|                                                                                    |               | 20        | 04042025-7173        | 20        | 07032023-7102 |
|  |               | 21        | 01152024-7142        | 21        | 01152024-7142 |
|                                                                                    |               | 22        | 06032024-7152        | 22        | 06032024-7152 |
|                                                                                    |               | 23        | 07232024-7155        | 23        | 07232024-7155 |
|                                                                                    |               | 24        | 09202024-7158        | 24        | 09202024-7158 |
|                                                                                    |               | 25        | 11012024-7163        | 25        | 11012024-7163 |
|                                                                                    |               | 26        | 12182018-5014        | 26        | 12182018-5014 |
|                                                                                    |               | 27        | 01142025-7165        | 27        | 01142025-7165 |
|                                                                                    |               | 28        | 01152025-7165        | 28        | 01152025-7165 |
|                                                                                    |               | 29        | 02082013-3084        | 29        | 02082013-3084 |
|                                                                                    |               | 30        | 01132025-7163        | 30        | 01132025-7163 |
|                                                                                    |               | 31        | 01132025-7167        | 31        | 01132025-7167 |
|                                                                                    |               | 32        | 10032022-7077        | 32        | 10032022-7077 |
|                                                                                    |               | 33        | 02212025-7168        | 33        | 02212025-7168 |
|                                                                                    |               | 34        | 05022023-7105        | 34        | 05022023-7105 |
|                                                                                    |               | 35        | 03312025-7172        | 35        | 03312025-7172 |

thíyest te lálem ~ to clean the house

t'ó:kw' ~ to go home

## RENTAL HOUSING MAINTENANCE REQUEST'S

To request maintenance on your Sq'ewqel rental home, complete our **online Work Request Form** with details and the service address.

Prompt repairs extend its lifespan and keep your home comfortable.

Uploading a photo helps us assess the issue in advance for efficient repairs.

Thank you for helping us maintain your home!

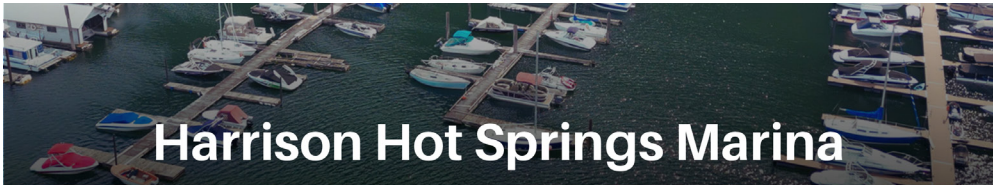
Follow the link at the bottom of this page:  
<https://www.seabirdisland.ca/rntlhsngwaitlst/>

or

Follow this QR Code to submit your request:







# Harrison Hot Springs Marina

# Celebration Event

SATURDAY

MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2025  
10 AM - 4 PM

102 Rockwell Drive, Harrison Hot Springs

Transport available from and to Seabird Island Band Office between 9:30 AM and 4 PM

Opening | Traditional drumming and dancers | Vendors  
Food Trucks | Kids Play Area | Face Painting | Bouncy Castle



**SqDC**  
Sqéwqel Development Corporation

**FREE ENTRY**



Harrison Hot Springs Marina is proudly owned and operated  
by Sqéwqel Development Corporation (SqDC), the economic driver of Seabird Island First Nation.

## VIOLENCE

In the aftermath of recent events, it's important that we come together to confront violence and aggression posing risks to our families and neighbours.

Sq'éwqel strives to be a safe, welcoming place for everyone who lives here. When incidents of violence happen, we threaten the security vital to the wellbeing of our families, Youth, Elders, and all other valued Community Members.

Indigenous women, children and communities are more vulnerable to violence, but sadly much of this violence starts right at home.

An influx of weapons coming into Seabird, violence against partners and violence against family members are significant concerns. To those feeling frustrated, or seeking support: reach out to the Band Office. There is a vast expanse of resources offered at Seabird, and these can help you manage before enacting aggression or violence on those around you.

All Community Members are valuable. To act out in violence towards others is a grave act of misconduct that has no place in our community.

To move forward and continue along the road of empowering each other, we must hold ourselves accountable for the harm we cause others. These actions hurt everyone around us; the ones we love, the ones who witness these actions, and the community.

If you are concerned about a family member, friend, or anyone else in the community, or you have witnessed or experienced violence, please contact the Band Office for resources. Don't navigate this alone; we are here to support and uplift you.

Download Alertable onto your phones or tablets for emergency notifications. These notifications arrive faster than other updates, and will help you protect yourself and others.

For assistance downloading Alertable, please contact Danika Snook, or come into the Band Office, and someone will be happy to help.

Danika Snook:  
danika.snook@seabirdisland.ca

*The Seabird Maternal Child  
Health Team invites you to the:*

### Baby Welcoming Celebration 2025

This event is open to the communities and families. Mothers and babies being celebrated will receive personal invitations. All invitations will be sent out by May 19, 2025. We look forward to celebrating together.

Join us in celebrating and  
welcoming all babies that were  
born between June 2024 and  
May 2025.

TIME:  
10:30AM -  
2:30PM

**June  
18th  
2025**

LOCATION:  
SEABIRD  
ISLAND  
GYMNASIUM

Lunch will be  
served at 11:30am  
followed by  
blanketing our  
new babies and  
mothers

Questions please  
contact  
Hailey  
(604-798-1378)  
or  
Brooke  
(604-845-5667)

2895 CHOWAT ROAD, AGASSIZ V0M 1A0



## MOCK COMMUNITY EVACUATION - THANK YOU

A big thank you to Kent-Harrison Search and Rescue for joining Seabird Island's Fire Department in conducting an evacuation drill on April 23. Roughly 20 first responders showed up at Seabird Island's fire department where they received a quick briefing before splitting into 4 teams. Each team covered a zone, and in only 1.5 hours they were able to deliver a mock evacuation alert to over three quarters of the homes

in the community. This is a great indication of how long it will take to notify everyone in a real event. The information they gathered will help Seabird Island prepare for future large-scale emergencies.

Think 2 hours is too long to get notified in a real event? To speed up emergency notifications, **please download Alertable** and choose Seabird Island

as your location. Email Seabird Island's Emergency Preparedness Manager, Danika Snook, if you would like assistance registering for Alertable: [danika.snook@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:danika.snook@seabirdisland.ca)

<https://alertable.ca/signup/index.html?site=BC28>

## FREE 2 DAY IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

### Business Plan Writing Workshop

This workshop will cover:

- The basics of writing a business plan.
- Uses and importance of a business plan.
- An overview of the sections of a business plan and terminology used in business plans.
- Resources will be provided to help in writing a business plan (online templates, generators and AI tools).
- Sample business plans will be reviewed.
- Tips on writing a business plan and overcoming procrastination.
- Review of potential funding sources and how to apply.

Who Should Attend:

Any Indigenous entrepreneur living in S'ólh Téméxw who is interested in learning how to write a business plan.

**Space is limited!**



#### Day 1



**June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Building 10, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Board Room.  
7201 Vedder Road,  
Chilliwack, V2R 4G5

#### Day 2



**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm



Building 10, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Board Room.  
7201 Vedder Road,  
Chilliwack, V2R 4G5



#### REGISTER NOW



Call Us  
**604-858-0009**



Email  
**bhll@stolocf.ca**



## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT: ANASTASIA'S TRANSITION TO DIVISION MANAGER OF EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

We are pleased to share that Anastasia Sillick, our current Student Engagement Coordinator, will be transitioning into the role of Division Manager of Employment, Training, and Social Development.

Since joining Sq'ewqel, Anastasia has brought a thoughtful community-focused approach to her work. She quickly demonstrated her passion and deep experience in employment and training, drawing from more than 10 years of supporting youth and adults with career and education planning. Her background includes roles as a Career Advisor, Job Developer, and Coach across Non-Profit Youth Employment Centres, WorkBC Services, and Workforce Development Training programs.

In her new role, Anastasia will oversee programs that connect Community Members with meaningful employment, education, and skill-building opportunities. She will lead initiatives focused on pre-employment training, income assistance, and employment support, always guided by our values of cultural safety, respect and empowerment.

Please join us in congratulating Anastasia on this well-deserved transition.

Barbara White  
M.A., M.Ed.  
Education Director



SIGN UP HERE FOR ALERTABLE



[www.seabirdcollege.ca](http://www.seabirdcollege.ca)

Phone: 604-796-6839 or Email: [colrecruit@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:colrecruit@seabirdisland.ca) 



**Seabird College**  
EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE



**AUG  
2025**

### Trades Awareness Program (Trades Sampler)

(UAPIC, Seabird College) August 4 -29, 2025

**SEPT  
2025**

### Carpentry

(UFV Chilliwack Campus) 24 weeks duration, starting September

**SEPT  
2025**

### Early Childhood Education Infant and Toddler - Prerequisite: ECE Basic

(Sprott Shaw Chilliwack Campus) 20 weeks duration, starting September.

**SEPT  
2025**

### Adult Dogwood and Upgrading

(Seabird College) Varies in duration, starting September, Mon – Fri, 10:20 – 3:00  
\*\* subject to change

**REGISTER  
TODAY!**

Funded in part by  
the Government  
of Canada



Thank you to our generous  
financial support and  
partnership with ESDC.

For more information, contact;  
**Stephanie Smith**

College Recruiter & Marketing Coordinator

Email: [colrecruit@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:colrecruit@seabirdisland.ca)

Phone: 604-796-6839

2812 Chowat Road, Agassiz BC



## HISTORY: HOW SEABIRD ISLAND GOT ITS NAME

Traditional lands, like those within the Stó:lō territory, have always been a hotbed for travellers looking to stake their claims or strike it rich.

The Fraser Canyon Gold Rush began in 1858, when hefty gold nuggets were found along the Thompson River. This discovery led to the influx of thousands of prospectors arriving in Hope up to just north of Lillooet. It also marked the dawn of the newest British colony: British Columbia.

The long-time residents of the land were not necessarily interested in these events, or they were prevented from fully participating. Tensions were high as “pioneers” poured in and disrupted established systems of trade and land agreements. These pioneers were American, European, British, Eastern Canadian, Chinese, Maritimers, and even included some Hawaiians, Mexicans, West Indians and free Black Americans.

A culturally colourful tapestry united by one colour in particular: gold, sworn to be glimmering throughout the Fraser Canyon’s rugged landscapes. The dream of finding fortune in the soil or a bend in the river drew people to Canada’s ancestral territories more than once, explaining why many existing towns were originally established, and how they were named.

The *SS Sea Bird* was a steamboat ferrying a load of eager passengers to the riverbanks of the Fraser Canyon. On a journey to Hope in 1858, the *Sea Bird* made a wrong turn and was briefly grounded on the shallow bed of the Maria Slough.

Excluding the cook, passengers narrowly escaped the hostility of the Indigenous bands living there, who were all too used to boatloads of newcomers arriving and disrupting their way of life.

Although the boat eventually reached the shores of Victoria, the name “Sea bird”

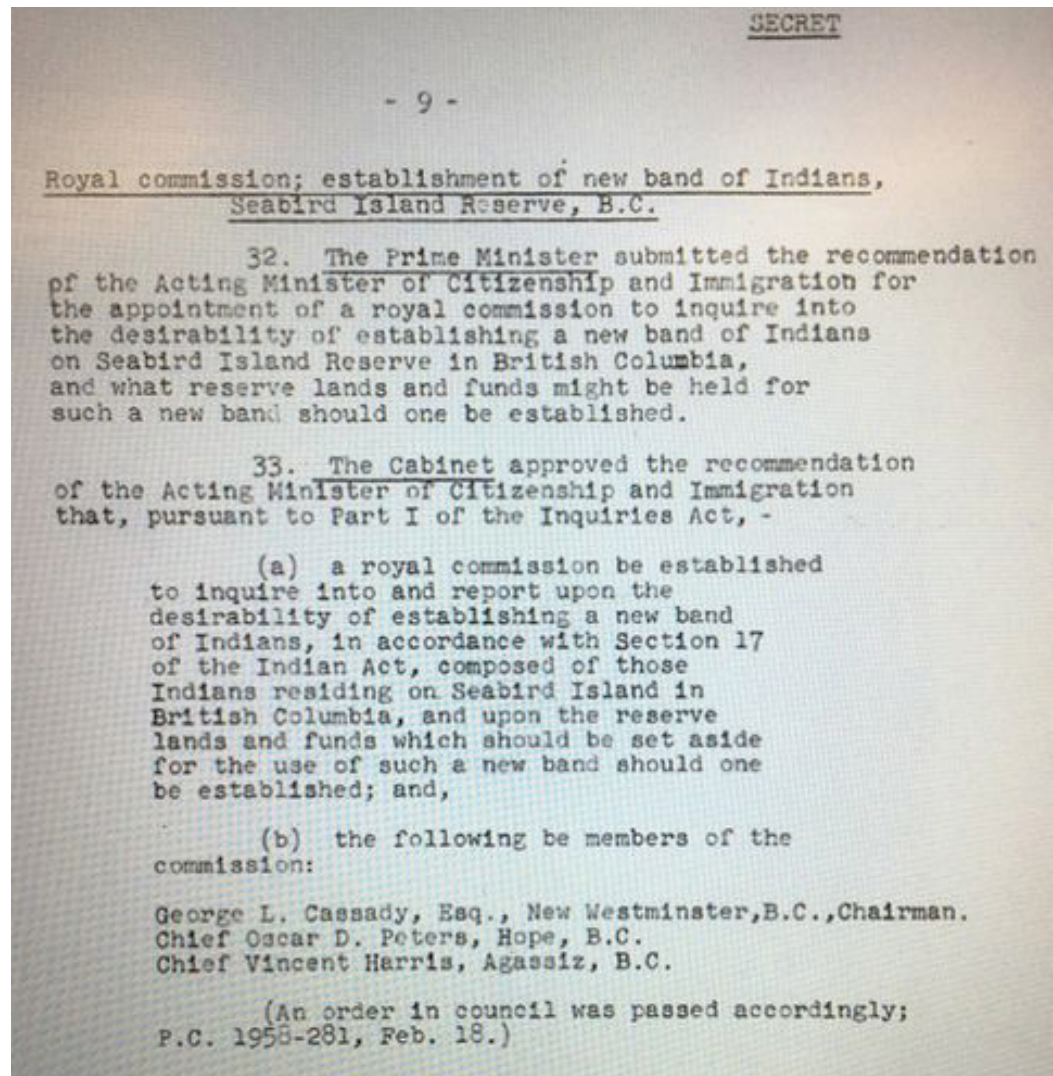
never left the land just beyond the Maria Slough. The Stó:lō territory was christened “Seabird Island,” but the traditional name, Sq’ewqel (“turn in the river”), more accurately describes the location, and more authentically represents the people of the community.

In its life, the *SS Sea Bird* travelled from New York to San Francisco, up to the Fraser Canyon where it sailed passengers between Victoria and Hope. An interesting timepiece in Canada’s foundations and history, the name “Seabird” is infused into the story of this land, but residents of present-day Seabird Island will forever be traced back to this land’s beginnings.

You don’t need to stake a claim where you already belong. The *Sea Bird* and its passengers cruised the Fraser River end-to-end, hoping to cash out on the riches laying beneath the earth. Whether or not they found what they were looking for, whether they stayed or left, Sq’ewqel remains.

Today, the people of this community focus on prosperity and longevity through stewardship, as they always have. The legacy of the dreamers, hailing from lands near and far to ransack the earth for riches, lives on as tales from the past.

*Submitted by Zack Joe*





## RED DRESS WALK – MONDAY MAY 5



Monday, May 5 was a sunny, warm day. Inside the Seabird Island gym, Community Members, staff, school students and families came together to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) across Turtle Island.

Seabird high school students opened with a drumming ceremony, followed by a greeting from Chief Harris. He imparted the notable reminder that women and girls are not only missing and murdered, but they also experience a disproportionate amount of abuse.

Sq'ewqel Band Member Gail Starr spoke next, remembering her experience in the RCMP. During her career, she worked among Indigenous communities spanning Northern BC, and closer to home in Chilliwack. Gail worked cases locating missing women and girls, with residential school survivors, and helped people living on the streets contact their families. One lesson that constantly came up throughout her work is the importance of connection to family and culture.

Gail observed how maintaining a close connection to one's roots can go a long way in grounding them to safety and security; it's not natural or healthy to walk through life alone. Even if your journey takes you down some solitary roads, no matter how much time has passed or how much distance there is

between you and your loved ones, staying linked — even in the smallest ways — holds untold benefits.

Keeping close ties with each other is essential, but Gail also stressed the importance of preparing our girls to recognize and reject abuse early. Empowered girls are on the path to becoming empowered women, and the fundamental ideas we have of how we should be treated shapes our lives.

“Don’t ever be comfortable being disrespected; not by family members, partners, no one,” Gail said, directly addressing the women and girls in the room.

The Red Dress Walk was the first of its kind in Agassiz. Buses dropped Seabird Community Members off at the Agricultural Hall, and from there Pioneer

Road was closed to traffic up to the junction at Highway 9. RCMP vehicles flanked both ends of the procession, and the tail was brought up by Sq'ewqel's fire truck.

Community Members comprising Sq'ewqel students, Elders, parents and families as well as staff and visitors congregated outside the hall. Chilliwack Métis women were propping up a large hand-painted banner depicting Indigenous women seated on a bus, enjoying safe passage through the notorious Highway of Tears in Northern BC. Soon, students and administration from Agassiz High School joined the growing crowd. Once everyone was present, a moment of silence was held for the MMIWG, and the march began.

A mass of red flooded the street heading through town, guided by empty red dresses hanging from fences, street posts and awnings. Seabird provided red T-shirts, but many wore their own red dresses, shirts, shorts, hats and socks. Some marched in regalia and red handprints splashed across their faces, or raised handmade signs as they walked.

The drummers led the throng of children and teachers, Youth and Elders, and men and women from different cultures and generations who came together to show solidarity for the lost sisters of Turtle Island.





## RED DRESS WALK – MONDAY MAY 5 continued



The drumming continued as the procession reached the end of the walk, where children and adults joined the circle in dance. Alain Marchand, a Seabird driver, addressed the crowd.

"This is what we do in times of hardship; we gather," he said. "If we want this violence to stop for all women, not just First Nations women, we need to come together." Alain expressed gratitude to the marchers, and emphasized how the blending of communities in the face of injustice is a powerful demonstration of unity. Violence against women and girls is a pervasive, cross-cultural issue, and we must stand together to protect everyone we hold dear, despite our differences.

Harmonious coexistence is achieved when we lift each other up and embrace the differences that make us who we are. Together we are stronger, no matter what sets us apart.

In the early days of Gail's career, it was less common for Indigenous populations to rally around reconciliation. Many who spoke about injustices were ignored, while victims, survivors and family members stayed silent because talking about these experiences was too difficult or stigmatizing.

Recounting trauma is painful, but it can be a useful tool. Once people realize they're not alone, it's easier to admit that they deserve better and should demand it. People mobilize, transforming common struggles into common goals. Connection carries us through and paves a path forward; as Gail said, "Sharing our stories is our strength."

The culture is shifting positively as Indigenous voices grow louder. Those impacted by violence levelled against their communities are fighting back and reclaiming their power. "It makes all the

difference, and sends a strong message to non-Indigenous people," said Gail.

The message is clear: Indigenous women and girls are sacred, and their losses are felt and mourned for generations. To the Canadian public, it's a call to action, the demand to recognize and challenge this crisis. To Indigenous women and girls, it conveys that they are irreplaceable and are infinitely valued by their loved ones, communities and wider society.

The natural flow in family and community is ruptured when girls and women are taken from us, and the violence spreads pain to everyone in its path. Connection to our loved ones and the different groups that make up our society can begin to heal this pain. This extends into our interpersonal relationships with men, women, partners, friends, family members, neighbours and peers, across cultures and communities. This way, connection solidifies into unity.

Unity is the key. But so is responsibility.

***"The world needs to change how they treat people," Chief Harris said in the Seabird gym. "Especially women."***





# NATIONS CREATIONS OPEN HOUSE



Earlier this month, Sq'ewqel-owned business Nations Creations hosted an intimate open house, inviting Seabird Members and staff to tour their newly renovated premises on Pioneer Ave in Agassiz.

## Nations Creations

Nations Creations is a promotional company that services businesses and artists with a focus on First Nations, particularly Sq'ewqel. Staff work together to enhance a brand, achieving harmony between art and marketability. Using a given artwork or logo, they curate a desired product, making each stroke of art meaningful while preserving integrity, expanding the brand's potential and ensuring cost effectiveness.

## SqDC

Nations Creations is part of a larger growth initiative headed by Sq'ewqel's Development Corporation (SqDC) to bolster independent income. It was acquired in 2022 and prioritizes Seabird Island as a client while continually pumping income back into the band.

## Renovations at Pioneer Ave

Renovations began in December 2024 and recently wrapped up, and the months of hard work have paid off immensely. The space has opened up and become more accommodating while promoting a healthier, more efficient workspace. The capacity for operations has also increased, allowing for more product options, quicker turnaround periods, availability for more distributors, and ultimately the potential to boost revenue.

## The Tour

At the open house, guests were greeted with a smile and swag bag as soon as we walked through the doors. The foyer was laid out with displays from some of Nations Creations' preferred suppliers showcasing their products.

Before beginning a tour of the new facility, guests met General Manager Ruby Johnston. Ruby warmly welcomed us before giving us some treats for our bags and a voucher for a free lunch. Then we walked through each room, learning about the machinery and breadth of their manufacturing capabilities. We saw some examples of available products and services, collected more swag and checked out the gift shop.

Afterwards we browsed suppliers' stands and cashed in food vouchers at J&R Bannock Wagon. Bannock burgers and Indian Tacos cooked in the truck as Seabird staff and Community Members chatted and ate.



The low-key open house was delivered exclusively to Seabird Members and staff. Ruby wanted to celebrate the building with the community and hopes to do so again once more accessibility features are added.

As Nations continues to grow, Ruby also wants to build its Seabird population on staff.

Soon, merchandise crafted by Nations Creations will be available for purchase at the 2025 Seabird Island Festival. Look out for them on May 24 and 25, and be sure to grab yourself something unique and artistic to show off your Seabird pride.

This is the best part of the job, according to Ruby. Seeing Community Members wear Nations Creations gear is a full-circle celebration that illustrates Seabird pride and Nations Creations' thoughtful representation of our brand. "Thank you for the opportunity," Ruby replied, when asked if there's anything she'd like to say regarding Nations Creations' services to Seabird Community Members.





## SUNRISE EXPANSION PROGRAM: NOTICE TO ALL SEABIRD COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND STAFF

Throughout May and June, the Sunrise Expansion Program (SEP) will be conducting Geotechnical & Groundwater Monitoring Field Exploration. This is to assess on-reserve feasibility and prepare 3 reports on the critical baseline data required for this project.

Along the 6.8km pipeline route through Sq'ewqel, 6 geotechnical boreholes will be drilled to collect and test soil samples, and an additional 7 boreholes will be drilled to install groundwater monitoring wells.

Borehole drilling will be conducted using a sonic drill rig to ensure soil samples can be collected and sent to a laboratory for testing and identification. This testing is intended to develop the baseline geotechnical data required to inform technical planning discussions as well as inform future assessments. Installation of groundwater monitoring wells are essential for any water management and risk mitigation activities and considerations made by Seabird Island's technical planning team.



There will be a notable presence of equipment, machinery and field crews on-reserve during this time. To maintain the safety and effectiveness of field crews, biologists, Seabird consultants and staff, it's crucial that work areas are left undisturbed.

The Seabird Island SEP Technical Team appreciates Members and staff for their continued recognition and support of the many moving parts of this story.

For more information regarding the SEP project, please visit [enbridge.com/projects-and-infrastructure/projects/sunrise-expansion-program](http://enbridge.com/projects-and-infrastructure/projects/sunrise-expansion-program)

## FINDING EULACHON TOGETHER



On Friday April 25, Jillian Stewart (Biologist), Amy Vander Wyk (Junior Biologist) and Nicole Kaminski (Junior Biologist) joined Georgia Westerveld of the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance (LFFA) for a Eulachon Assessment Survey (EAS) on the Fraser River, just downstream of the Patullo Bridge in Delta, BC. By observing and participating in this survey, Seabird's Fish & Wildlife staff gained hands-on experience on the water and learned about a species of fish with important cultural history for First Nations.

These surveys are conducted from the same location every second day at low

tide. With low tide times fluctuating, the numbers of eulachon caught in the nets fluctuated based on their distribution at the time of the surveys. This year, the surveys started on March 10 and will run for approximately two months. Each survey is a 15-minute drift from the same spot in the Fraser River using a gill net. Eulachon are retained in an aerated bucket when they are removed from the net, and are handled carefully to determine their sex, level of maturity, and presence of teeth on upper and lower jaws.



On our field day, we caught 32 eulachon and only two of those were fatalities; the

rest were returned to the river to continue their spawning. Seabird's staff will continue to engage with the LFFA on this project and other relevant work. We are grateful to Georgia of the LFFA for this learning opportunity, and we will continue to seek out other opportunities to enhance our work as biologists!

Authors: F&W Division: Jillian, Nicole, Amy



# ELDERS CORNER

S'i:wes ye Siyolexwa



Siyólexwe ~ Elder

## SQ'ÉWQEL ELDERS CALENDAR

Have any questions contact

Haley 604-798-0768

or Emerald 604-793-3198



SQ'ÉWQEL (SEABIRD ISLAND BAND)

# ELDERS WALKING PROGRAM

DATE:

*sthémélts and sxe'óthels*

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Starting April 1, 2025

TIME:

12:00 - 1:00 PM

LOCATION:

Elders College Room #10

2812 Chowat Rd, Agassiz

**Monthly Draw:**

To enter, you will have to show up every time that month.

| Sun | Monday                       | Tuesday                                      | Wednesday                                                               | Thursday                                                                          | Friday                                                 | Sat |
|-----|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|     |                              |                                              |                                                                         | 1<br>Walking Program 12-1<br>Elders College                                       | 2<br>Crafting 10-12                                    | 3   |
| 4   | 5                            | 6<br>Walking Program 12-1<br>Elders College  | 7<br>Abbotsford Seniors<br>EXPO 10-3 / Pick up<br>will start at 8:45 am | 8<br>Walking Program 12-1<br>Elders College<br>TV Bingo 5:30-7<br>Elders College  | 9<br>Mother's Day Crafting<br>With Nikki LaRock<br>9-3 | 10  |
| 11  | 12                           | 13<br>Walking Program 12-1<br>Elders College | 14<br>Lands Referndum<br>Community Meeting<br>& Dinner 5-7              | 15<br>Walking Program 12-1<br>Elders College                                      | 16<br>Crafting 10-12                                   | 17  |
| 18  | 19<br>Victoria Day<br>CLOSED | 20<br>Walking Program 12-1<br>Elders College | 21                                                                      | 22<br>Walking Program 12-1<br>Elders College<br>TV Bingo 5:30-7<br>Elders College | 23<br>Crafting 10-12                                   | 24  |
| 25  | 26                           | 27<br>Walking Program 12-1<br>Elders College | 28<br>Grocery Shop 9-2:30                                               | 29<br>Walking Program 12-1<br>Elders College                                      | 30<br>Second Hand<br>Shopping 9-2:30                   | 31  |



## OVERVIEW OF INDIGENOUS JUSTICE CENTRES SERVICES

Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC) provide culturally appropriate information, advice, support and representation directly to Indigenous people at the community level. There are currently fifteen IJCs and one Virtual IJC in the province. We know access to justice for our people demands more than 15 brick and mortar IJCs, and we are actively advocating for solutions to address this.

IJCs reflect a partnership between the BC First Nations Justice Council and local First Nations leadership. While focused primarily on criminal law and child protection issues (priorities set by First Nations leaders in BC), they also offer additional services based on community and cultural needs.

Justice issues do not exist in isolation but are linked to social and health determinants. Knowing this, IJCs take a

holistic approach to client and community wellness by facilitating client connections to supports such as housing, mental health and addictions treatment, and employment services.

Stated another way, the IJCs provide support both to individuals, in their interactions with the justice system, and to communities seeking to expand and improve their justice infrastructure.

## INDIGENOUS JUSTICE CENTRE OBJECTIVES

Incorporating the priorities determined by community experts, the general objectives for the IJCs identified by the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) are as follows:

### Keep Indigenous people safe by reducing incarceration.

- Facilitation of Gladue reports to support accused;
- Promoting and facilitating expanded community support for accused at trial;
- Seeking greater use of restorative justice in sentencing; and
- Seeking reduction in numbers of sentencing/release conditions which unnecessarily increase the likelihood of re-incarceration on breach.

### Divert Indigenous people to a healthy path away from justice involvement.

- Promoting diversion as a “first option” at all levels of the criminal justice process;
- Promoting better transitions from jail and reintegration into community; and
- Referrals to health / treatment services, victim services, or other supportive programming.

### Make the justice system experience more Indigenous.

- Provision of a safe cultural space for Indigenous service providers to assist clients
- Supporting community efforts to implement or expand traditional Indigenous justice forms and seek self-determination in justice matters

### Make it easier for Indigenous people to navigate justice and obtain support.

- Legal representation and/or legal referrals in child welfare and criminal cases
- Elder and community support at court and other forums
- Outreach on access to justice and legal literacy regarding child welfare processes and criminal law
- Functioning as a focal/referral point for Indigenous-serving organizations

To learn more about our work, for career opportunities, or to get more information scan the QR Code below or visit [bcfnjc.com](https://bcfnjc.com).



### INDIGENOUS JUSTICE CENTRES

## Chilliwack Indigenous Justice Centre

### Indigenous Justice Centre Eligibility Update – March 1st, 2024

All Indigenous Peoples, **regardless of whether they qualify for legal aid**, can access free legal and outreach services if they are facing a criminal or child protection issue. Get free help at one of our Indigenous Justice Centres in British Columbia or through our Virtual Indigenous Justice Centre.

Call Now 1-866-786-0081

### Need help?

The Chilliwack IJC can help get you connected with services today.

🕒 Hours: Monday to Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

📍 9235 Sasquatch Alley #201, Chilliwack,  
British Columbia V2P 0J6, Canada

📞 778-704-1355

📠 778-704-1355

✉ [chilliwackinfo@bcfnjc.com](mailto:chilliwackinfo@bcfnjc.com)

The Seabird Island —  
Early Childhood Centre of Excellence  
**4's Preschool Summer Program.**

This program is open to children who are entering Kindergarten in September and require care for the months of July and August.

Program runs July 2nd—August 22nd from 9:00 am to 3:00 with the possibility of adding before and after care hours if needed.

If you want to go on our waitlist, please contact

**Alisha McKeown** at  
alisham@seabirdisland.ca or call  
604-819-4290

- ***There are no fees for this program but participants will be required to pay fieldtrip fees for all fee paid excursions.***

***Deadline to register is May 30, 2025***

**Note:** If you are registered for 4's Preschool and require summer care please let Alisha or staff know. Transference is not automatic!

# School's Out

Drop in at Seabird Island

THE SEABIRD ISLAND BAND- ECD DEPT

We are pleased to introduce the new **School's Out** program at Seabird Island Community School

This is an unlicensed program, but it does require registration forms.

For children Kindergarten to 12 years of age.

Times: 3pm-5pm

**Start date to be announced.**

For more information, please contact Megan Louis at 604-798-4109 or by email at [meganl@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:meganl@seabirdisland.ca)

## Seabird Island

### Summer Program

Summer Program is open to children aged 5 (who have completed Kindergarten) to 12 years and runs 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday to Friday from July 2nd - August 22, 2025. Before and after-care may be available, if space allows.

- ***There are no fees for this program but participants will be required to pay fieldtrip fees for all fee paid excursions.***

***Deadline to register May 30, 2025***

#### Waitlist

OOSC registered children please let Megan know if you require summer care as registration does not automatically transfer. To secure your placement please contact **Megan Louis** at 604-798-4109 or by email at [meganl@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:meganl@seabirdisland.ca)

## "Voices Of The Future"



### A Drop in After School Program Ages 11- 13

**Come out For:**  
**Some Fun,**  
**New Connections,**  
**Play Games, Try**  
**Activities, Go on cool**  
**Field Trips** 😊🌻

**One on One (1:1) opportunities**  
**for families and tweenies** 😊

For more information: Please contact  
Pathways & Activities Programs Coordinator  
(Early Years to Youth)  
Brooke Anderson at (604) 845-0629 or  
[brooke.anderson@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:brooke.anderson@seabirdisland.ca)

#### Our Core Principles

**Connection & Belonging**  
We want everyone to feel like they belong. At Voices of the Future, you will be part of a team where people care about each other. You will build friendships, feel included, and know that you matter.

**Growth & Empowerment**  
We help youth grow by teaching life skills, healthy habits, and doing fun, creative activities. You will learn how to feel confident, try new things, solve problems, and be a leader.

**Culture & Community**  
We celebrate Stó:lō culture and traditions, including the Halq'eméylem language. This helps you feel proud of who you are and connected to your community.



# SAGE SUGGESTIONS

Aishah Khan, Communications Program, Sq'ewqel Culture & Community Services

A COLUMN FOR CLEANSING, CLARIFYING, ENLIGHTENING AND SOOTHING FUN.

## SAGE SUGGESTIONS: DEALING WITH MOSQUITOES

### Beat the Buzz

Mosquitoes are on their way into our yards and homes, bringing with them the promise of annoying us as much as possible this warm season.

Read on for tips and tricks to keep them as far away as you can!

### Keep it trim

Mosquitoes thrive in ungroomed environments. Swamps with lots of brush and overgrowth, little movement, still air...that's the pest's paradise.

Be a hostile host; keep your lawn cut, as well as bushes, shrubs and plants trimmed. This neatness will discourage mosquitoes, and they'll buzz off past your gates to find a better place more suited to their needs.

### Keep it moving

Stagnant water is the hotbed – literally – for mosquito population growth. Mosquitoes breed and lay eggs on still water, and they're creative about it, too.

Drain anything holding water – pools, cups and other dishes left outside, pots, watering cans, clogged gutters...even things like bottle caps, shovels and puddles will entice mosquitoes.

If there are things you use that hold still water (kiddie pools, birdbaths, watering cans), drain and refill them periodically. You can cover them when not in use; if you have a pool, cover it each evening.

Inside, keep planter saucers, counter-tops, dish drying racks, vases, pet's water bowls, clogged drains and leaky faucets dry.

### Keep them out

Consider placing natural mosquito-repelling plants inside your home. Citronella,

lavender, basil and marigold will look serene while keeping the critters out.

Fans are your friends. Mosquitoes suck (ha) at flying, so fans placed inside and outside will keep them at bay, and the circulating air will maintain an inhospitable environment.

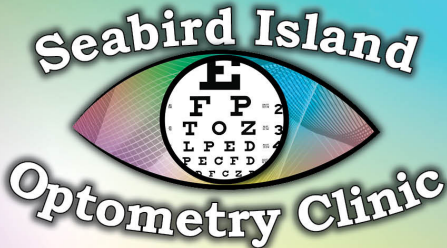
### Keep trying!

If they've managed to breach your defenses, trap mosquitoes in a few easy steps.

In a shallow dish, mix equal parts apple cider vinegar and water. Add 1-2 teaspoons of sugar, and then stir in 3 drops of dish soap. Place the trap near windows and doors, and refresh the solution every 2-3 days.

Sadly, mosquitoes will find ways to get to you, as is their nature. Allow larger insects and predators to do their jobs, get a fly swatter, and try some of these tips to minimize their annoying impacts.

*Happy swatting!*



**Seabird Island Optometry Clinic**

**Dates:**  
**June 26 - 27, 2025**

Future Dates: Aug. 14 - 15, Oct. 2 - 3,  
 Nov. 13 - 14, Dec. 10 - 12

**Time:**  
**9:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

**Place:**  
**SIB Office, Elders Lounge**

For an appointment please contact your Community Health Representative (CHR) OR Shawna Martin  
**Shawna Martin @ 604-798-3793**  
[shawna.martin@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:shawna.martin@seabirdisland.ca)

- Adults eligible once every 2 years
- 0 - 18 eligible once a year
- 65+ eligible once a year

Enter through main entrance of Band Office.

- Masks are recommended, not required.
- Are you not feeling well or are sick? (Please reschedule your appointment).

*Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.*



**HEARING CLINIC**  
 With Amplifon

**Date:** June 18, 2025  
 Future Dates: September 10, November 12

**Time:** 9 AM - 4 PM

**Age:** 19+

**Location:** Community Health Room

Limited appointments available.

Hearing, screening, adjustments, cleanings, and battery replacements when needed.

**Book appointment at:**  
**(604)-796-2165**

temkw'éyles ~ spring

Stl'ít'l'el ~ love, like

sq'eq'ó ~ being together with, along with, included

## COMIC

Reference: <https://mooselakecartoons.com>

## MARCH - WELEKE'ES

*"Little frog season"*

## Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Beaver - Sqelá:w

Direction: East – Element: Earth

Stone: Jasper

**Strengths:** Smart, ambitious, and trustworthy. Amazing friends, colleagues, and partners. You value honesty above all else and are proud that personal relationships tend to be drama free.

## APRIL - TEM KWÍKWEXYEL

*"Time for baby sockeye salmon"*

## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Deer - h alqtéle

Direction: East

Element: Air– Stone: Agate

**Strengths:** Adaptability, curiosity, and excellent communication skills. They are often lively, sociable, and intellectually driven. Curious and Inquisitive: Gemini is always eager to learn and explore new ideas.

## INSPIRATION QUOTES:

"I was on the bus the other day and I saw a guy sit down on his glasses. I guess hindsight is not 20/20."

– Ed Pollack

"A good laugh is sunshine in the house."

– William Makepeace Thackeray

For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone."

– Audrey Hepburn

y é t ' m q s l l : s l l é e  
t y h á é ' t x x l t ' s ' a  
á ' x y y y e é : t t a m ' e  
á q ' w l ō x á l á y é á l á  
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w é t y l w é s t h í w e l h  
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á s y e ó ó p k e l í í y s ō  
á á m y ó k w w p e h í s t x  
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e e t ' ' : t x c x e m y x m  
s q ' e q ' é y p h ' e e w m

## HALQ'EMÉYLEM WORD SEARCH

Created by Jasmine Paul Louis,  
Communications Program, Sq'ewqel Culture & Community Services

1. SIYÁYE – FRIEND.
2. Á'A – YES.
3. TS'ÍSEM – TO GROW.
4. STHÍWELH – HAVE A BIG VOICE.
5. SEWOLEM – SPORTS, GAMES, PLAY.
6. TÁYŌWELH – RACING A CANOE.
7. ÉYXEL – TO PADDLE.
8. MÉYLHTEL – A HELPER.
9. MÁMELE – CHILDREN.
10. XWÍYT – TO WAKE SOMEONE UP.
11. KW'EXÁT – COUNT IT.
12. SQ'EQ'ÉYP – A GATHERING.
13. EYÉM – STRONG.
14. S'ÁLHTEL – FOOD.
15. LÍYÉM – TO LAUGH.
16. YÓQW'EM – TO SWEAT.
17. QELÁSTEXW – DO IT AGAIN.
18. HÓKWEX – TO USE, WEAR IT.
19. MÓWECH – DEER MEAT.
20. YEQWÁ:LS – HAVING A BURNING.





## DEADLINES

Submissions and advertisements are due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact: [comm@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:comm@seabirdisland.ca)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Must be under 300 words and include your name, phone number, status number, signature (for authentication purposes- not for publication), as well as date/year submitted.

## AGREEMENT/LEGAL

It is agreed by any display or classified advertiser requesting space that the liability of the paper in the event of failure to publish an advertisement shall be limited to the amount paid by the advertiser for the portion of the advertising space occupied by the incorrect item only and that there shall be no liability in any event beyond the amount paid for such advertisement. The Sq'Éwqel shall not be liable for any slight changes in typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement.

Editorials are chosen and written by Sq'Éwqel (Seabird Island) staff, they are the expressed opinion of the staff and do not necessarily reflect the views of Sq'Éwqel (Seabird Island).

## WE RESERVE THE RIGHT

to revise, edit and/or reject any advertisement or story submissions.

## COPYRIGHT

Permission to reproduce wholly or in part in any form whatsoever must be obtained in writing from the publisher. Any unauthorized reproduction will be subject to recuse law.

## AVAILABILITY

The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (or closest business day). Apply for email distribution or pick-up at the red Community newsletter boxes.  
[www.seabirdisland.ca/sqwqel-sqwelqwel-pipe/](http://www.seabirdisland.ca/sqwqel-sqwelqwel-pipe/)

## CONTACT US

[comm@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:comm@seabirdisland.ca)  
[www.seabirdisland.ca/comm/](http://www.seabirdisland.ca/comm/)  
Monday- Friday 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM  
Closed on all statutory holidays.

## CREATED AND PRODUCED BY THE SIB COMMUNICATIONS TEAM:

Sandra Bobb;  
Ciara Busby;  
Kristy Johnson (on leave);  
Zorana Edwards-Shippentower;  
Jasmine Paul-Louis; and  
Aishah Khan.

## PUBLISHER & TEAM SUPERVISOR:

Sandra Bobb

## EDITOR & MANAGER:

Roy Bedford

## SEABIRD CHURCH

Mass: To be confirmed

Study Groups: To be confirmed

Contact To be confirmed

## LOVED ONE PASS AWAY?

We can help you send a copy of the death certificate to the First Nations Health Authority.  
Contact Shawna Martin 604-796-2177.

## FUNERAL PAMPHLETS

Creating pamphlets from our catalogue or custom pamphlets.

**NEW** - As per Seabird Funeral Policy, Sq'Éwqel supplies **250 colour funeral pamphlets**, as well as **1 hour of design time FREE** for all Band Members. Additional design time, pamphlets or special paper can be requested for a small fee.

We also assist with pamphlets for non-Band Members, enquire for fees.

Contact Communications at 604-796-2177 or email [comm@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:comm@seabirdisland.ca).

## WILDSAFE BC CONSERVATION

To report animals who pose immediate threat or danger to public safety.  
1-877-952-7277 or #7277

## SIFD FIRE PRACTICE

Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
**Now recruiting new Members.**  
Contact the Fire Hall 604-796-2177.

## GARBAGE SCHEDULE

**CURBSIDE PICK-UP OF COMPOST, RECYCLE and GARBAGE:**  
Every Monday, unless Monday is a statutory holiday, then pick up will take place on the Tuesday immediately following the holiday.  
**2 garbage bags** per household per week.

**MAJOR GARBAGE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month for Community core, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month for the surrounding Community.

Contact Public Works at 604-796-2177 or email: [publicworks@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:publicworks@seabirdisland.ca)

Sq'Ép ~ meeting

## SQ'ÉWQEL FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS

Recommended to follow:

Sq'Éwqel "Seabird Island Band"  
<https://www.facebook.com/SeabirdIslandBand/>

Seabird Island Youth Program  
<https://www.facebook.com/SeabirdYouthGroup/>

Seabird College  
<https://www.facebook.com/SeabirdCollege.ca/>

Seabird Island Community School  
<https://www.facebook.com/SeabirdIslandCommunitySchool>

Seabird Island Recreation  
<https://www.facebook.com/SeabirdRec/>

Careers  
<https://www.facebook.com/SeabirdIslandCareers/>

## DENTAL CLINIC

Accepting new STATUS PATIENTS

Open Monday through Thursday  
8:30 AM - 5:30 PM **Closed Fridays**

Contact the Dental Clinic 604-796-6853.

## MEDICAL CARDS

Need to apply for a new Medical Card because it was lost or stolen? We can assist you when applying for a new one.

Each client is responsible for paying for their Medical Cards. If they've been lost or stolen more than two times the cost is \$20 for each new card.

Please note, we do not assist with BC ID applications.

Contact Shawna Martin 604-796-2177

## BABIES ID CARDS

Apply for a Medical Care Card as soon as possible. Contact Shawna Martin 604-796-2177.

Apply for Status Cards as soon as possible.  
Contact 604-796-2177.

## AMBULANCE BILLS

Please submit ambulance bills as soon as you receive them. If the bill is more than 1 year old, ambulance costs will no longer be covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB). Anyone with a status number can have the ambulance paid for by Health Canada as long as it's not an ICBC claim.

**We can only provide assistance to those with a status number.**

Unfortunately, ambulance bills will not be covered if you were also incarcerated in jail. Ambulance billing will know if you were incarcerated based on the bill's address. Please do not bring these in as they will be denied and it will be the client's responsibility to pay.

**Please note**, if you were taken home by ambulance after a stay in the hospital, this will not be covered and it will be the client's responsibility to pay.

Contact Shawna Martin 604-796-2177.

## WELLBRIETY MEETINGS

Every Tuesday night at 7:00 PM at the Stó:lō Tribal Council Boardroom, 2855 Chowat Rd.

AA in BC website: [www.bcyukonaa.org](http://www.bcyukonaa.org)

## OPTOMETRY CLINIC

**Appointments Only:** May 15-16, June 26-27, Aug. 14-15, Oct. 2-3, Nov. 13-14 Dec. 10-12

Recommended annual checkups for children under the age of 19 and every 2 years for ages 19-64. Elders 65+ can be seen annually.

Have a medical condition, such as diabetes, or taking high risk medicines? You can also be seen annually.

Contact Shawna Martin CHR  
at 604-796-2177 or  
[shawna.martin@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:shawna.martin@seabirdisland.ca)

## WILD ANIMAL ALERT

Respect the land and keep it clean to reduce wildlife encounters.

- Only put your garbage out the morning of garbage day.
- Discard fish guts (away from homes).
- Clean your barbecue.

*Please keep an eye on your children and do not walk alone!*

*Clap loudly and make yourself big!*

Educating ourselves and keeping a clean Community makes a difference!

*If you have any further concerns or feel threatened by wild animals, first report it to the*

**Conservation Office at 1-877-952-7277**

Second, contact the Seabird Communications Office at 604-796-2177 so we can post an "Alert" for your area.

## RENEW STATUS CARD

### Book a Status Card Appointment

Tuesday - Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

**Appointments required.**

**Remember to bring:**

- 2 pieces of photo Government ID
- New Photo (see Communications, appointment required)

New style Digital Status Card with photo

Contact **Simone Jimmie** 604-796-2177

**Serving Seabird Members only!**  
SIB has the right to refuse service.

### ID Photography Prints

#### Status Card Photography

Laminated style: \$13.50  
- Call Simone to book your appointment

#### Passport, PAL Photography and more

Authenticated photo: \$18.50

Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**Appointments required.**

Contact Communications at  
604-796-2177 or [comm@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:comm@seabirdisland.ca)

## **HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **RESILIENCE AND PREVENTION COORDINATOR**

The Resilience and Prevention Coordinator will work closely with the Resilience and Prevention Specialist, who will be the primary provider of direct support to survivors. The Coordinator will focus on program coordination, funding development, documentation, and partnership building. Additionally, they will ensure that services align with trauma-informed, survivor-centered, and culturally responsive practices while supporting the Specialist in delivering effective interventions.

### **SENIOR CLINICAL SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAM LEAD**

To oversee the Youth Treatment Program, AIMS, and the Recovery Homes, ensuring high-quality, culturally responsive care for individuals and families facing substance use challenges, mental health issues, trauma recovery, and holistic wellness care.

Providing leadership and oversight of substance use and wellness programs, ensuring that clients receive compassionate, evidence-based, and culturally informed care. This role involves coordinating day-to-day operations, supervising clinical and support staff, enhancing service delivery, and fostering strong partnerships with community resources. The Senior Clinical Substance Use Program Lead will also engage in community outreach and advocacy efforts to strengthen holistic wellness support within the community.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY & JUSTICE COORDINATOR**

Assist clients involved at various criminal justice system stages, such as local police, corrections Canada, victim's services, parole services. The Community Safety & Justice Coordinator will also engage in community relations activities to support clients and the community. This position will support the implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy and the goal of autonomy and self-determination for Indigenous people involved in the criminal justice system. The work will vary depending on the clients' particular needs and based on referral goals. Challenges can include (but won't be limited to) drug and alcohol abuse, involvement with corrections, housing and financial difficulties and instability along with intellectual deficits and/or mental health issues.

## **PART TIME RECOVERY HOME SUPPORT WORKER (WEEKENDS)**

Promotes recovery, stabilization, and independence by providing comprehensive support to clients. The R.S.W. supports and promotes the following: client safety, assisting with activities of daily living, and encouraging full participation in community activities included but not limited to cooking, cleaning, charting, participating in group sessions, driving, and shopping.

### **NUTRITION & MEALS COORDINATOR**

Providing culturally informed meal planning and nutritional support to other programs. This role involves developing easy-to-follow cook-at-home menus, providing back-up coverage for cooks throughout the organization and overseeing the Meals on Wheels Program. This position emphasizes the importance of traditional foods, holistic wellness, and community support through active engagement in community relations to support clients and the broader community.

### **FOOD & NUTRITIONAL WELLNESS WORKER**

Providing meal planning, preparation, and kitchen management for program participants. This role involves menu planning, estimating and ordering required supplies, preparing and cooking meals and snacks in accordance with client dietary needs and established Food Safe and Licensing standards. The Food and Nutritional Wellness Worker will also support nutrition education initiatives and create a welcoming and inclusive food environment for the clients.

### **FAMILY LIFE SKILLS COACH (FLSC)**

The FLSC provides hands-on, culturally informed guidance to families in the family home. This includes modeling healthy routines, parenting strategies, household management, and life skills that promote strong family bonds. The FLSC supports families in accessing healing, health, and community services, while ensuring culture is embedded in all aspects of programming to nurture self, family, and community connections.

## **EDUCATION**

### **GRADE 4 TEACHER (LEAVE COVERAGE)**

Provides culturally informed instruction, assessment, and classroom management to students. This role involves preparing and delivering lessons in alignment with curriculum standards, fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment, and maintaining positive relationships with students, parents, and the broader community.

The Teacher will also engage in community relations activities to support student success and well-being, while participating in professional development and school meetings to ensure continuous growth and alignment with school policies and educational best practices.

### **COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT & READINESS SUPPORT WORKER**

Responsible for working with clients one-on-one and in small groups, assisting them in overcoming barriers that inhibit their ability to gain meaningful employment. This role provides education, information, and hands-on assistance on all aspects of employment, education, training, and life career planning. The Community Employment and Readiness Support Worker also builds relationships with potential employers and engages in community outreach to support both clients and the broader community. Career Exploration and Development Practitioners, Employment Pathways and Programs Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, and Income Assistance team this position ensures a coordinated approach to client support and program delivery.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS COORDINATOR**

The Student Success Coordinator provides culturally informed support, coordination, and advocacy for students. This role involves promoting enrolment, attendance, student achievement, and program completion through collaboration with school staff, parents, and external stakeholders. The Student Success Coordinator will also engage in community relations activities, working with school districts, families, and Indigenous organizations to foster strong connections, raise awareness of school programs, and support student access to learning opportunities and success in education.

## **LABOUR POOL**

### **LABOUR POOL**

Offering a unique opportunity to perform a wide variety of on-call tasks that support our operations. This role allows you to build new skills and earn supplemental income, while contributing to the growth and development of the community. As a member of the Community Labour Pool, you will be called upon to assist with a variety of tasks across different sectors.

## **CULINARY AND FOOD SERVICES PROGRAM LEAD**

The Culinary and Food Services Program Lead provides the Indigenous Culinary Arts Program to students. This role involves leading the Indigenous Culinary Arts Program at Seabird College, managing the Meals on Wheels initiative through that program duration, coordinating daily food service operations at the schools, while building partnerships with local food growers and producers. The Lead will also engage in community relations activities to support students and the community.

## **CLINICAL HEALTH SERVICES**

### **DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL HEALTH SERVICES**

This role integrates traditional healing practices with modern medicine, creating a culturally specific comprehensive and patient-centered approach to care. The Director oversees vital programs such as Primary Care (Medical and Dental Offices, Clinical based outreach and home health services, Mobile Diabetes), Health Quality, the Recovery Homes, the Youth Treatment Home, and the AIMS Program.

By effectively managing resources, including staff, budgets, and program logistics, this role ensures the delivery of culturally safe and holistic healthcare practices. Additionally, the Director engages in community relations activities, supporting and empowering community while building meaningful relationships with stakeholders to advance unique and sustainable solutions to dynamic clinical community health care needs and culturally respectful healthcare services.

### **TRADITIONAL WELLNESS SPECIALIST SUBSTANCE USE**

The Traditional Wellness Specialist ensures that service delivery is centered in First Nations worldviews, emphasizing holistic health and cultural approaches to healing from addictions. The Specialist will also engage in outreach, education, crisis support, and partnership development to strengthen Seabird's overall approach to healing from addiction.

## **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

### **PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY STEWARD**

Evaluates and provides recommendations with respect to information privacy strategies including the development of privacy policies, procedures and processes for both new and existing initiatives and guides the organization in meeting legal, ethical, and community expectations regarding privacy and confidentiality. This role aligns with the principles of reciprocity, trust, and community accountability, reflecting First Nations values in all aspects of privacy management. The Privacy and Confidentiality Steward will safeguard information, support access and disclosure in a culturally appropriate manner.

**You are invited to submit** a cover letter, resume and 3 references.  
<https://www.seabirdisland.ca/careers/>

We regret that we will only respond to those applicants chosen for an interview.

*Email: [humanresources@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:humanresources@seabirdisland.ca).*

*We thank all applicants for their interest.*



## HUMAN RESOURCES

### HR ADMINISTRATOR (TERM)

Serve as a point of contact for employees on HR-related matters, providing administrative and operational support to the Human Resources team. This role involves managing correspondence, maintaining and updating internal databases, tracking employee leaves, performance reviews, coordinating training, as well as supporting recruitment efforts and managing Criminal Record Checks. The HR Administrator also assists with planning employee events, monitoring compliance with policies, and preparing monthly statistical reports.

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

### DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Director of Community Infrastructure is responsible for budgeting, planning, resource allocation, land stewardship, and service delivery in alignment with community needs and organizational goals. This role involves overseeing capital and maintenance plans, directing teams and ensuring compliance with regulations and funding agreements. The Director fosters a positive work environment in an empathetic and compassionate manner and promotes a culture of continuous improvement to enhance service quality.

### HOUSING ADMIN ASSISTANT - TARGETED WAGE SUBSIDY

The direction of Tenant Services Manager, the Housing Administrative Assistant provides culturally informed administrative support to community members seeking housing. This role involves managing tenant inquiries, processing applications, maintaining housing records, and ensuring the smooth operation of the Housing Program. The Housing Program Administrative Assistant will also engage in community relations activities to support clients and build strong connections between the Housing Department and the community.

## SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (SCDP) SUPPORT WORKER

The SCDP Support Worker provides culturally informed, developmentally appropriate support to children with extra support needs. This role involves working directly with children, families, and childcare staff to implement individualized service plans, promote inclusive practices, and ensure children's full participation in early childhood programs. The Support Worker will also engage in community relations activities that support children, families, and childcare centers.

## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

### PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY STEWARD

Evaluates and provides recommendations with respect to information privacy strategies including the development of privacy policies, procedures and processes for both new and existing initiatives and guides the organization in meeting legal, ethical, and community expectations regarding privacy and confidentiality. This role aligns with the principles of reciprocity, trust, and community accountability, reflecting First Nations values in all aspects of privacy management. The Privacy and Confidentiality Steward will safeguard information, support access and disclosure in a culturally appropriate manner.

## TRUST CHEQUES

The cheques will be ready on June 2 from 9 AM to 4 PM for the Band Members who turned 18 from January 1 to May 31, 2025

## Drug Alert

### HOPE

**Beige powder sold as Fentanyl tested positive for high concentrations of a new synthetic cannabinoid (called AB-MDMSBA) in combination with a fentanyl analogue (para-Fluorofentanyl) and a long-acting benzodiazepine (desalkylgidazepam).**

Posted: May 07, 2025  
Please remove by: May 20, 2025

AB-MDMSBA is structurally like other synthetic cannabinoids, but very little is known about its specific effects. Synthetic cannabinoids can have some similar effects to cannabis. In general, synthetic cannabinoids are less safe than cannabis. They have been associated with deaths due to both toxicity and user behaviour while experiencing the effects.

Friends, family, and community members using unregulated substances may face increased harms of unknowingly taking a different substance than intended.

#### Tips for safer drug use:

- Explore with service providers options for witnessing consumption (episodic OPS) and local Overdose Prevention Sites
- Stagger use with friends so someone can respond if needed
- If using alone let someone know and ask them to check on you
  - Download the Lifeguard or BeSafe app
  - Call the National Overdose Response Service: 1-888-688-6677 if no cell data
- Take a small amount, wait and see how it feels
- Mixing substances increases risk of overdose. This includes alcohol and prescription drugs
- Find local harm reduction services [www.towardtheheart.com/site-finder](http://www.towardtheheart.com/site-finder)
- Get your drugs checked [www.fraserhealth.ca/drugchecking](http://www.fraserhealth.ca/drugchecking) or [www.getyourdrugtested.com](http://www.getyourdrugtested.com)
- Carry Naloxone. Visit [www.naloxonetraing.com](http://www.naloxonetraing.com) for a training refresher
- Text 'JOIN' to 253787 to receive text alerts



Please look out for each other.



## COMMUNITY VISIT

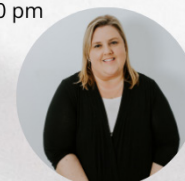
Stó:lō Community Futures will be at the Seabird Island Band office for any community members interested in starting a business!

Every first Tuesday of the month every month from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm!

June 3rd, 2025

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Band Office



SCF Business Analyst  
Shannon Smith



To reserve a spot,  
604-858-0009  
bhill@stolocf.ca

# INFORMATION NIGHT AT THE COLLEGE



## SEABIRD COLLEGE

*Invites you*

June 4, 2025

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

- Employment Services  
(\*labour pool sign up)
- SASET
- Seabird Community School
- Work BC
- Seabird HR
- AE Concrete
- Seabird Youth Program

- BBQ Hotdogs
- Refreshments
- Give Aways!

**LOCATED @  
SEABIRD COLLEGE LOUNGE**

Thank you to our generous financial support and partnership with;

Funded in part by  
the Government  
of Canada

**Canada**



For more information, contact;  
**Stephanie Smith**

College Recruiter & Marketing Coordinator

Email: [colrecruit@seabirdisland.ca](mailto:colrecruit@seabirdisland.ca)

Phone: 604-796-6839