

SEABIRD ISLAND BAND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Toti:lt q'ep tset

Our learning together

Winter - Spring 2026

Volume: 2 Issue: 1



Lalme' Iwesawtexw | School

College

Youth Program

Employment



Seabird Island Band

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Éy swáyel Seabird Island Community,

February and March have been two of our busiest and most inspiring months yet. I am proud to share just some of what our Education Department has been up to.

At Lalme' Iwesawtexw, students have been deep in cultural learning. Traditional Sto:lō drumming and dance, Powwow styles, fine beading, and the steady work of restoring our canoe — our young people are connecting to who they are, and showing real leadership along the way. Watching senior students teach younger ones about the drum or outdoor survival is one of the greatest gifts this school offers.

The Slahal Tournament with Sts'ailes, our DARE graduation, and the Nutrition Run all brought community together and gave students a chance to shine. And watching Officer Brad launch t-shirts at our DARE graduates — and our principal volunteer to be 'apprehended' by a police dog — made for memories none of us will forget.

At Seabird College, students

are completing programs and launching into new ones. The Piping Foundation, IFOT, and two new health programs are opening real doors. Our Culinary students supported our nutrition run and are also planning a hot breakfast service at the Seabird Festival this spring — watch for it.

Our Employment Career Fair welcomed nearly 50 vendors into the community and more than 300 youth, young adults and adults attended. If you haven't yet connected with our Employment or Pre-Employment teams, now is a great time to connect.

None of this happens without our incredible staff, Knowledge Keepers, community partners, and families. Thank you for trusting us with your children, your time, and your wisdom.

Ts'íthomé (thank you)



Barbara White
Director of Education
Seabird Island

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LALME' IWESAWTEXW | SEABIRD ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Schools are for children, and they come first!

At Seabird Island Community School, we are deeply committed to nurturing the whole child and empowering them with the knowledge, values, and skills to lead successful, enriching lives while honoring their Indigenous roots.

School Highlights & Registration

- School Food Program
- Literacy, Numeracy, and land-based learning focus
- Halq'emeylem Language Classes
- Cultural morning protocol: drumming, singing, dancing
- Eymexw Awards: recognizing character and attendance
- UFV Trades Sampler: earn graduation credits across six trades
- Full Day Junior Kindergarten

Registration: Packages available at Seabird Island Community School Reception, or contact us:

604.796.3061 | 1.800.788.0322
education@seabirdschool.ca
www.seabirdschool.ca

Scan QR Code to check out our website!



Land-Based Learning — February & March

These past two months have brought some of the most vibrant land-based learning of the year so far — and a few unexpected leaders have stepped up along the way.



Traditional Stó:lō dancing. Photograph by Danica-Giroux.

Dance

Students have been learning two distinct styles of traditional dance. A Stó:lō drum and dance group has been working with students all year, deepening songs and techniques that have spilled over beautifully into morning protocol. Students have also begun exploring Powwow-style dance — a style that differs from what many practice locally — with the spirit of cultural sharing and curiosity leading the way. Staff and students alike have embraced both with open hearts.



Powwow dancing. Photograph by Danica-Giroux.

Weaving & Beading

Weaving has continued alongside fine beading work — intricate, patient, and beautiful. Students and staff are working with beading experts on earrings, keychains, and more. Because of the detail involved, this work unfolds over many Wednesdays and the results are stunning.



Elder Yammo also joined us to share teachings about hides and history — a gift to staff and students alike.



Students prepping lunch for land-based learning day. Photograph by Danica-Giroux

Student Leadership

Some of our most powerful moments this quarter have come from students themselves. A Grade 11 student has stepped up to teach outdoor survival skills — shelter building, fire starting, knife skills, and orienteering. A Grade 10 student has been sharing drum knowledge with elementary students: how to hold it, what songs mean, and how to carry the drum in a good way. A Grade 9 student is doing something similar with primary students. The feedback from teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. These are our future Knowledge Keepers, and they are showing up.

Slahal Tournament — February 25

Seabird hosted students from Sts'ailes Community School for a full-day Slahal Tournament for Grades 2, 3, and 4. The visiting students joined us for lunch, games, and a day of friendly competition. Several of our senior students led the songs and supported gameplay — sharing their knowledge generously and earning glowing feedback from teachers on both sides.

The tournament also fell on Pink Shirt Day, making the gathering even more meaningful. Spreading kindness not just within our walls, but with another school, was a powerful reminder of what we can build together.



Slahal tournament with Sts'ailes Community School

Canoe Restoration

Students and staff have embarked on a long-term project to restore the canoe outside the high school — with a goal of having it on the water by late April or early May. Working alongside a local expert, students have been sanding and repairing the canoe piece by piece. This project is expected to continue through April, and we cannot wait to see it back where it belongs.



Student guided in canoe restoration

Nutrition Run — March 11

Students, staff, Elders, and community members laced up for the annual Nutrition Run along Chowat Road — braving the rain together on a 5 km or 10 km walk/run. After crossing the finish line, everyone gathered at the Band Office for a lunch served by our Culinary Arts students: a spread of healthy salads and hearty snacks that hit the spot. A great community moment all around.

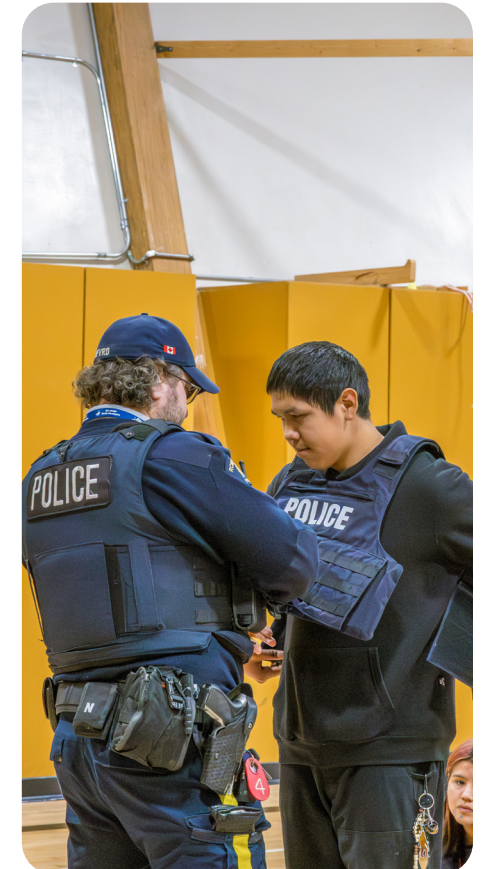
DARE Graduation & RCMP Showcase — March

In early March, high school students were treated to an RCMP showcase. Officers brought tactical gear, a police dog, and hands-on demonstrations — including a (cartridge-free) taser demo and the chance to try on vests and handcuffs. The whole school then gathered in the gym to watch police dog Lucy demonstrate an apprehension — with our school principal bravely volunteering for the role. One high school student also stepped up to face off with Lucy. Both survived.

On March 13, our Grade 5 class held their DARE graduation ceremony. Students stood in front of the school to be honoured for completing the program, with Officer Brad on hand to celebrate alongside them. Many students delivered speeches — a courageous moment for every one of them. The ceremony ended with Officer Brad producing a t-shirt cannon and launching DARE shirts to every graduate. The crowd went wild.



Student volunteer demonstrates police dog apprehension



RCMP showcase . Photograph by Danica Giroux.



DARE graduation celebration



SEABIRD COLLEGE

We welcome Indigenous students from all walks of life — whether you're returning after time away, starting fresh, or taking your next step. It's never too late.



Programs Update

Piping Foundation — Graduation!

On February 6, students wrote their final exam for this 21-week trades program, delivered in partnership with the UA Piping Industry College of BC. Congratulations to our graduates — you're ready to build!

Indigenous Focusing-Oriented Therapy (IFOT) — Second Cohort Complete!

On February 20, the second cohort of the IFOT program successfully completed their training. Demand for this program remains strong, with graduates consistently finding employment. A third cohort is already planned for June — see below for details.

Two New Programs Launch — March 30

Two exciting new programs launched on March 30 in partnership with Sprott Shaw College in Chilliwack, expanding access to training in high-demand health fields:

Health Care Assistant (HCA):

Prepares students to support individuals and families in home and facility settings. Hands-on training builds the skills and confidence to provide compassionate, person-centred care.

Mental Health & Addictions Care Worker:

Builds practical skills for entry-level work in the addictions field — including case management, relapse prevention, motivational interviewing, and group support. Graduates leave with Non-Violent Crisis Intervention and First Aid certifications.

Community Spotlight: Culinary Program in Action



Culinary Students Making Burgers for lunch

Meals on Wheels Support:

When Meals on Wheels found themselves without a cook on short notice, our Culinary students stepped in and prepared soup for the entire delivery. Community support like this is exactly what the program is built for.

Seabird Festival — Hot Breakfast Coming!

Our Culinary team will be serving a hot breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings at the Festival this year. Come hungry.



Field Trip: West Coast Specialty Mushrooms

Culinary students visited West Coast Specialty Mushrooms in Abbotsford, where owner Chris Quach walked them through growing and harvesting oyster mushrooms from mulch to table. Some of the equipment — including pieces imported from Europe — uses technology so new it may be unique to Canada. Chris sent everyone home with fresh mushrooms — and at least one student wrote back to say how much they loved cooking them. Perfect timing: it lined up with their Vegetables & Fruits course.

Recruitment & Outreach

Spring is career fair season, and our team has been out in force. We've attended the SASET Career Fair in Chilliwack, visited Sardis, GW Graham, and Chilliwack Secondary schools, and completed outreach at Cheam, Chawathil, and Shxw'ōwhamel. WorkBC offices in Chilliwack, Agassiz, and Hope all have our latest program info. We also connected with Free Rein in Hope, TREK, and Hope Secondary School.

On February 27, Grade 10-12 students from AESS — accompanied by four Indigenous Support Workers — toured campus and heard from both the College and Employment Services. Always great to get future students through the door.



AESS Tour of Seabird College

Approved Upcoming Courses

We're working closely with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to keep our programs aligned with what the labour market actually needs. Several new courses have recently been approved:

Program	Start Date	Location
Medical Device Reprocessing Technician	May 18	WCC / Seabird College
Medical Lab Assistant	May 25	WCC / Seabird College
Indigenous Focusing-Oriented Therapy	June 24	Seabird College
Carpentry	September 8	UFV Chilliwack
Medical/Dental Office Assistant	September 28	WCC / Seabird College
Licensed Practical Nursing	October 5	Sprott Shaw Abbotsford

To register or learn more:

Stephanie Smith

604-796-7037

colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca

www.seabirdcollege.ca



Student Well-Being Supports

We know that hunger is a barrier to learning. That's why every student at Seabird College gets free breakfast and lunch every school day. Meals are prepared with nutrition in mind and use locally sourced ingredients where possible.

Mornings are hectic. Not everyone can grab breakfast or pack lunch. Our meal program makes sure students arrive ready to focus — because learning is easier when you're not running on empty. Our student services team supports students in culturally appropriate ways. We offer:

- Counselling by appointment — for students seeking guidance or someone to talk to
- Cultural support services that celebrate identity, belonging, and community

Your well-being matters here.

Benefits for Students

- Free tuition for Indigenous and Indigenous-identifying students
- Transportation assistance (case-by-case)
- Childcare support
- Student support services on campus (by appointment)
- Smaller class sizes for personalized attention
- Daily breakfast and lunch provided
- SASET Employment Services on campus
- Access to driving school
- Open to all seeking Adult Dogwood Diploma completion

Learning in your community helps you stay connected to family, culture, and local opportunities while building skills that benefit both you and the nation.

Stay connected:

www.facebook.com/SeabirdCollege

Post-Secondary Student Support

Seabird Band Members may be eligible for annual funding to support their education journey through the Post Secondary Student Support Program and University and College Preparation Program.



2026 Application Deadlines:


- January 1 — for May enrollment
- April 1 — for September enrollment
- October 1 — for January 2027 enrollment

Funding is limited and not guaranteed. Late applications are placed on waitlist.

Shannon Beaty

604-796-8001
postsecondary@seabirdcollege.ca

www.seabirdcollege.ca

Phone: 604-796-6839 or Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca **Seabird College**
EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE*Let us help you achieve
your educational goals!***APPLY NOW!****2026 - 2027 Programs:****Health Care Assistant**

Starts March 30, 2026 Sprott Shaw College - Chilliwack
EXPECTED HOURLY WAGES: \$27.92 - \$29.32 per hour
Number of Job opening in BC (2025-2035) 22,990

PREREQUISITES:

- Grade 12 or equivalent.
(Mature student status age 19 and one year out of high school)

Mental Health and Addictions Care Worker

Starts March 30, 2026 Sprott Shaw College - Chilliwack
EXPECTED HOURLY WAGES: \$21 - \$35 per hour
Number of Job opening in BC (2025-2035) 16,250

PREREQUISITES:

- Grade 12 or equivalent.
(Mature student status age 19 and one year out of high school)

Medical Device Reprocessing Technician

Starts May 18, 2026 Seabird College
EXPECTED HOURLY WAGES: \$18 - \$29 per hour
Number of Job opening in BC (2025-2035) 2850

PREREQUISITES:

- Grade 12 or equivalent.
(Mature student status age 19 and one year out of high school)
- English 10 with a minimum grade of "C" or higher.

Medical Lab Assistant

Starts May 25, 2026 Seabird College
EXPECTED HOURLY WAGES: \$18 - \$30 per hour
Number of Job opening in BC (2025-2035) 2210

PREREQUISITES:

- Grade 12 or equivalent.
(Mature student status age 19 and one year out of high school)
- English 11 with a minimum grade of "C" or higher
- Keyboarding test with a minimum typing speed of 40 wpm.

**** Wages and job opening statistics provided on:**

BC Health Careers:
(<https://bchealthcareers.ca>)

Government of Canada Job Bank sites:
(<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca>)

Carpentry Level 1

Starts September 8, 2026 UFV - Chilliwack
EXPECTED HOURLY WAGES: \$23 - \$43.71 per hour
Number of Job opening in BC (2025-2035) 10,420

PREREQUISITES: TBD**Medical Office Assistant and Dental Receptionist**

Starts September 28, 2026 Seabird College
EXPECTED HOURLY WAGES: \$18 - \$30 per hour
Number of Job opening in BC (2025-2035) 5740

PREREQUISITES:

- Grade 12 or Mature Student Status (19 years of age or more).
- English 10 with a minimum grade of "C" or higher

Licensed Practical Nursing

Starts October 5, 2026 Sprott Shaw College - Abbotsford
EXPECTED HOURLY WAGES: Wages: \$32.84 - \$44.96 CAD per hour
Number of Job opening in BC (2025-2035) 5010

PREREQUISITES:

- Grade 12 or equivalent.
(Mature student status age 19 and one year out of high school)
- English 12 / First People's with a minimum grade of 65%
- Math 11 Foundations with a grade of 60%
- Anatomy & Physiology 12 or Biology 12 with a minimum grade of 60%
- Successful completion of Criminal Records Check

Truck Training: Class 1 MELT, Class 2, Class 3

(Ongoing Intake) Integrity Driving School
EXPECTED HOURLY WAGES: \$22.00 - \$40.38 per hour
Number of Job opening in BC (2025-2035) 15,350

PREREQUISITES:

- Class 5 BCDL
- Own transportation

For more information, contact;
Stephanie Smith
College Recruiter &
Marketing Coordinator
Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca
Phone: 604-796-6839
2812 Chowat Road, Agassiz BC

YOUTH PROGRAM

Youth activities for connection and growth. Outings, workshops, dinners and more!

Whether you're looking for adventure, career development, friendship, or just a safe place to hang out — our Youth Program has a place for you. Seabird Island offers engaging programs built around empowerment, cultural connection, and preparing youth for bright futures.

- Outings to places like the PNE, Whitecaps games, rock climbing, and more
- Weekly health and skills workshops
- Weekly drop-in dinners at the Youth Centre for hanging out and meeting peers
- Cultural workshops and crafting nights

Drop-in Program

Throughout the past couple month's, youth have continued to engage in creative and culturally grounded activities during regular drop-in days. In February we attended a Cultural Night at AESS, where youth had the opportunity to learn about and share various traditions, foods, and stories. This gathering encouraged connection, curiosity, and pride in cultural identity, and it provided a space to celebrate diversity with their peers. End of March we hosted a Four Sacred Medicines soap-making workshop, giving youth the opportunity to learn about the cultural significance of tobacco, sage, cedar, and sweetgrass while creating their own handmade soaps. This activity encouraged cultural learning, mindfulness, and hands-on skill development, while also providing space for discussion and reflection in a relaxed and supportive group setting. The youth have also been encouraged to participate in making meals together, on Valentine's Day they took part in a hands-on cooking activity

where they created their own heart-shaped pizza. The youth enjoyed a fun outing to Central City Fun Park and the program hosted a Youth-Mentor badminton tournament partnered with the Indigenous Police Team.



Youth at Central City Fun Park

Opening hours and contact:

Wednesdays:

3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays:

12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Located in the portable behind 2750 Sqewqel Drive.

Call or text:

604-793-8575

Phone:

604-796-0198

Email:

youthprogram@seabirdisland.ca

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/
SeabirdYouthGroup

Youth Connections

The past couple months included a mix of leadership, recreation, and relationship-building opportunities that supported youth connection, confidence, and community engagement.

Youth participated in the Youth Strong and Sacred Conference supported ongoing professional development and regional relationship-building. Six youth attended the Gathering Our Voices Conference in Vancouver, participating in workshops and sessions that promoted cultural pride, personal growth, and leadership development while strengthening connections with Indigenous youth from across the province.

Recreational programming remained a strong point of engagement, with a collaborative paintball outing bringing together 34 youth from Chawathil and Seabird communities to encourage teamwork, communication, and positive peer relationships in a safe and structured setting.

The Shx'wōwhámel and Seabird climbing groups also continued to provide consistent engagement, with five youth and two adults participating and supporting trust-building, mentorship, and physical activity through shared experiences.

In addition, outreach and relationship-building efforts included connecting with youth at Agassiz Elementary Secondary School, ACE, Seabird Island School, and Seabird Island drop in helping to strengthen school partnerships and expand awareness of available programs.

Together, these activities have supported ongoing youth engagement and strengthened connections across communities.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Building bridges,
overcoming
barriers, providing
opportunities and
support — we are
here for you!

Employment Services Info Session

Employment welcomed AESS students for an information session during their tour of Seabird College.



Career Development Practitioner, Whyles Rowan, offering visiting AESS students an employment information session during their tour of the College.

Career Fair — March 12

Our annual Seabird Island Employment Services Career Fair was a tremendous success. Nearly 50 vendor tables filled the Band Office Gym, with organizations travelling from across the region to connect with our community. The gym reached full capacity, with vendors including construction companies, colleges, universities, healthcare professionals, Hub Insurance, and Fraser Valley Driving School, among many others. Some participants travelled long distances to be there.

It is always rewarding to open these doors and watch connections form. Thank you to every vendor and community member who came out and made it possible.



Pre-Employment Support Program

Our Pre-employment Services Program has been offering engaging and culturally grounding workshops to our clients. For example, in February we hosted a Traditional Vest Regalia Workshop. Participants learned how to design and create their own paddle vests.



Driver's Education

Seabird's driving school is available to students at Seabird Community School, Seabird College, and the Pre-Employment Program, as well as all Seabird Island Band members. Support for licence fees is available to eligible participants.

The program includes theory instruction, in-car road lessons, and transportation to written and road tests.

Top 5 Reasons to Get Your Licence:

1. **Independence** — go where you want, when you want.
2. **Career opportunities** — many employers require it.
3. **Valid photo ID** — accepted everywhere.
4. **Convenience** — errands, groceries, appointments.
5. **Freedom** — social life, road trips, your terms.

Call: 604-796-2177

Email: employmentservices@seabirdisland.ca



Community Labour Pool Program

Join the Community Labour Pool and be called upon to assist with a variety of tasks across Seabird Island Band departments. This is a great way to gain work experience, find mentorship, and earn supplemental income.

Apply online:

www.seabirdisland.bamboohr.com/careers/605

Or visit Employment Services at Seabird College.



Income Assistance Office Hours

Monday - Thursday:
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 604-796-8048

Email: Income.Assistance@seabirdisland.ca



WE HAVE MOVED TO MILL HALL!

Please note, we have moved our Income Assistance and Pre-Employment Service Program Offices to Mill Hall.

Contact Us

Totipot q'ep tset is published by the Seabird Island Education Department.

*For more information or to contribute to future editions, please contact
the Executive Assistant to the Director of Education:*

EAtEdu@seabirdisland.ca | 604.796.7223