

A CELEBRATION OF EDUCATION: 2026 EDUCATION AWARDS



On June 10th, the community gathered in Sq'éwqel's gym to celebrate this year's educational achievements. All Band Members, from the smallest students to those making strides in post secondary pursuits, were honoured in ceremony.

Lalme'Iwesawtexw (Seabird Community School) students, Seabird College graduates and graduates from other schools were applauded for their hard work. The young learners were rewarded for academic excellence in math, reading, xexé:yls (writing), science and art, as well as creativity, improvement, attendance, kindness and making honour roll, to name a few. To keep the theme education-focused, our own Professional Cook Level 1 (PLC1) students prepared dinner, complete with a decadent sundae bar for dessert.

xexé:yls - writing

Part of the evening was dedicated to Seabird's long-standing Education Committee, which is transitioning into a board structure. The committee was léxwet (blanketed), and before departing, Seabird presented them offerings to show gratitude for their important work and the progress they have made throughout the decades.

Chuck McNeil and Rodney Peters spoke of their years pursuing education reform; from emancipating Sq'éwqel from legislative constraints to starting a skwúláwtwx (school) in community, to building Lalme'Iwesawtexw, to

léxwet - blanketed
skwúláwtwx - school

establishing Seabird College... the journey has been guided with strength and wisdom, and has yielded priceless returns.

Zack Joe mentioned some of these returns — more students are carrying on beyond high school, and from preschool to post secondary, Seabird Members can access quality education at their doorstep.

- Continued on pg. 2

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With an unfailing devotion to educational excellence and community wellness, the committee has pushed down barriers, brought teaching back into the *chelcháléx* (hands) of our own and instilled a standard of learning that incorporates culture, traditional knowledge and self-determination.

It would not be possible to move forward from here without these contributions — countless late nights in the office, years of travelling across Canada, endless community meetings... all of this time and effort has paid off in droves, and it's upon these accomplishments that a new board will strengthen education in Sq'ewqel.

Mat Point thanked parents for doing their part to encourage education, like ensuring children are attending school regularly and participating in community efforts to enhance the education Seabird offers.

Today, we can take a moment to reflect on all that has been accomplished — a grade school with caring teachers and quality resources such as a workshop, culturally-enriched curriculums delivered with community Knowledge Keepers, Halq'eméylem classes and land-based learning, a college that

offers a wide range of Dogwood and career-focused courses with world-class professors, ever-growing rates of high school graduates and Members seeking higher education...it's truly incredible how far education has come.

This celebration of education was an important event that held up those on the path to knowledge, and those working tirelessly to pave the way. The future is bright, and in community and *shxw'iyem* (strength) Seabird will continue to build it.

Congratulations to everyone who has made it through the academic year, we wish you the best no matter where the next path takes you. For now, enjoy the *temkw'okw'es* (summer) break; you've earned it!

To all who have served on the Education Committee or have been involved in developing education at Sq'ewqel: thank you. These invaluable contributions have guided the way as we strive for ongoing educational excellence on behalf of the community and future generations.



- Aishah F. Khan, Journalist & Editor
Communications & Engagement

Seabird Island
Administration will be
CLOSED

British Columbia Day
August 03, 2026



ELDER’S LUNCHEON

Thank you to everyone who attended our Elder’s Luncheon! That *swiwe!* (sunny) afternoon, our Elders connected with over 80 Elders from Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) as well as dozens more from Chawathil, Sq’ewlets, Sts’ailes, Cheam and Shxw’ówhámél for a catered lunch complete with a drumming and dance performance.



“Squamish Elders wanted to come *lá:ts’éwtxwem* (visit) with ours, so we thought we’d make it a little bigger and invite more as we’re all interconnected,” said Haley Walker, Sq’ewqel’s Acting Coordination Lead of Community Wellness.

xwexwélmexw
-
First Nations people

st’elt’ílem - songs

It was a warm and *xwoy:wel* (happy) occasion; as mentioned at the event, often it is the less happy times that bring people together. The drummers and dancers performed traditional *st’elt’ílem* (songs) to “clear the air”, or free the space from any sadness, lingering tragedy and bad feelings.

Strengthening connections with our fellow *xwexwélmexw* (First Nations people) is how we can build enduring health, community spirit and lasting joy together.

lá:ts’éwtxwem - visit
xwoy:wel - happy

Thank you to everyone who came, including any staff or community volunteers that assisted guests and helped make this luncheon happen.



- Aishah F. Khan, Journalist & Editor
Communications & Engagement

BABY WELCOMING CEREMONY



The community has gotten a whole lot cuter this year — 52 mothers had 54 babies since June 2025, and Sq’ewqel welcomed the new faces at our annual Baby Welcoming Ceremony.

The babies are from Sq’ewqel as well as all the nations our Maternal Health Team services. Of the 54, 23 new babies attended with their families, bringing together our interlinked communities in a moment of celebration.

The occasion was opened with lunch, and there were so many ways to stay entertained; you could have a caricature portrait drawn up, snap a photo at the photo booth, get some memorable face paint, paint rocks, colour or just mingle with friends, family and neighbours. *Th’ó:kws te Spá:th* (Seven Bears Weaving) was there, as well as Members selling traditional medicines and salves. Delegates from Fraser Health were present to provide information about perinatal health supports they offer.

Following the meal the mothers left to be blanketed. Soon they re-entered the gym, following a procession lead

by community drummers and dancers, many of whom were Youth and children. As they circled the gym, babies babbled and flashed adorable smiles. At the front of the gym they stood as the drummers and dancers performed another piece to honour them.

The families then sat back down, returning to the front when they were called upon to be individually welcomed and introduced to the community, as well as receive gifts with which they can begin this new chapter. Some items parents received included fresh produce, bread and dry goods.

Throughout the meal and ceremony, *kwiyo:s* (aunties) floated around, helping mothers with whatever they needed, like holding their child while they took a washroom break

or grabbing them a plate of food. A slideshow played in the background, showcasing photos of the new babies, their names, and passages parents shared about what this ceremony means to them:

“Acknowledging new life, our next generation. There is unity in community, don’t ever feel alone on this new journey.”

“Being honoured in a baby welcome blanketing ceremony is giving love, strength and security to our family. Along with welcoming these babies into the community.”

“This beautiful experience to see people from around our different communities come together and celebrate the one thing we all have in common: the incredible little humans we’ve brought into the world and the love that surrounds them.”

Th’ó:kws te Spá:th
-
Seven Bears Weaving

"Welcoming the newest Members to our world and Nations. Thank you, little ones, for choosing us to be your parents."

"Our son's first experience to learn about his culture and traditional ceremonies."

"Very honoured and grateful to give my son this experience as I/we never got opportunities like this growing up. Raising him and our other children to be in touch with their roots and indigenous heritage is so important to us as parents. A big thank you to everyone involved in making today happen."

tsméla
—
give birth, have a baby

This event is meaningful to the community, families and to mothers. It sends a strong message that there is an entire village here to hold mothers and families up, and that no one is alone, including babies.

Sq'éwqel holds our hands up to the midwives, nurses, doctors, nurse practitioners and all other supporting team members who do so much good work caring for mothers and babies.

Our health team is an essential pillar in this community, and we are grateful for how all of you spread wellness to our Members and beyond.



- Aishah F. Khan, Journalist & Editor
Communications & Engagement

Thíytelh

WELLNESS PROGRAM



Healing the Spirit,
Strengthening the
Future

AGES 19-26

MIXED GENDER

90-DAY PROGRAM

ROLLING INTAKE

FIRST NATIONS-LED

A **bed-based treatment program** for Indigenous young adults seeking support with substance use. It is a community-driven, culturally grounded service rooted in the belief that healing happens through connection — to self, to peers, to culture, to community, and to land.

LAND-BASED
HEALING

CLINICAL AND
CULTURAL
SUPPORTS

LIFE SKILLS
AND FUTURE
PLANNING



604-796-7003



thiytelh@seabirdisland.ca



www.sqewqelrecoveryandwellness.ca



Agassiz, BC



A partnership between Sq'éwqel
(Seabird Island Band) and Fraser
Health Authority

2026 WAR CANOE / FESTIVAL SEASON SCHEDULE

July

4/5 Ambleside

11/12 Scowlitz

18/19 Tsawout

24-26 Snuneymuxw

August

31 ½GCC – Tsartlip

8/9 Swinomish & Burrard

15/16 Chief Seattle Days

22/23 Nanoose

(tentative)

28-30 Makah Days

COMMUNITY ARTIST FEATURE:

LINDA KAY PETERS, RINGING BELL ROBES

Shxwhá:y Village in Chilliwack recently hosted ChillCouture 2026: The Red Gala. The event brought together local First Nations, established and emerging designers, and the wider community in a celebration of Indigenous talent and fashion. Sq'ewqel's own Linday Kay Peters was featured, and her models enthralled the audience as they brought Linda's culturally inspired designs to life.



Guests wore their finest *tskwí:m* (reds) to honour the sisters First Nations people have lost, and the hall was bustling with fashion lovers, Community Members from several bands, families, local politicians and volunteers. The Brander Raven Band performed between runway shows and guests could stretch their legs browsing vendor tables and grabbing a bite of Bannock and homemade *chám* (jam) from the Tradish food truck.

Linday Kay Peters is a Seabird Member, known in the fashion world as Ringing Bell Robes, a name she derived from her traditional Cree name Kaysaywaysemat. Linda makes jackets, vests, formal wear, regalia and *áxelqel* (buckskin), and although she is a world-renowned



fashion designer, she draws much of her inspiration from her land and *xwexwélmexw* (people). Fusing Indigenous symbols, beadwork and designs into her work, Linda reflects her Indigenous heritage in runway couture that she describes as “walking art.”

Linda also works exclusively with Indigenous models, many of whom are from Seabird. They receive professional training, and Linda explained that she likes providing opportunities for her people, including the chance to *leq'á:leqel* (travel) — in 2019, four of her models walked Linda's designs down the runway in the fashion capital of the world, Paris.

tskwí:m - reds



chám - jam

“Modelling builds confidence and self esteem in our Youth, and encouraging them to step out of their comfort zone helps to prepare them for their future,” Peters said.

Her clothing has been showcased across Canada, as well as in Montana, New York City, Paris, Luxembourg and Australia. In 2015, one of Linda's buckskin *s'lewí:ws* (dresses) was worn by Miss Universe as she was crowned in Belarus.

Art is an ancestral Indigenous staple that has always manifested in everyday wear as well as more sacred pieces such as regalia.



Linda pays homage to this tradition by celebrating it with the world while bringing opportunities back home to her community.

leq'á:leqel - travel



"Dream big, as dreams do come true. Manifest your own destiny. Set goals, work towards them and never give up as they are achievable," she said.

Fashion is so much more than clothing; it's a story, a tapestry that weaves together history, culture and artistry. ChillCouture 2026 was an important

slewí:ws - dresses

commemoration of Indigenous talent that promoted local First Nations designers while spotlighting the cultures that have existed here for thousands of years from a fresh lens.

- Aishah F. Khan, Journalist & Editor
Communications & Engagement

SQ'ÉWQEL FIRE RESCUE SHOWCASES NEW UNIFORMS AT CANADA DAY CELEBRATION



The Seabird Fire Department took part in the Canada Day festivities in Agassiz, proudly representing the community with new uniforms. These uniforms were purchased through grant funding provided by the **UBCM CEPF Volunteer Fire Department Grant**, supporting ongoing efforts to strengthen local emergency services.

The updated uniforms feature the new **Sq'éwqel Fire Rescue** shoulder crest, marking the department's transition from the former Seabird Island Fire Department name. This change reflects the community's movement toward traditional naming and cultural recognition, symbolizing both heritage and forward progress.

SEEKING NEW RECRUITS

Sq'éwqel Fire Rescue is also actively seeking new recruits. Community Members interested in volunteering are encouraged to stop by the fire hall any **Tuesday evening at 7 PM** to meet the team and learn more about the role. Volunteers must be **18 years of age or older**.

Becoming a volunteer firefighter is a meaningful way to serve the community, build new skills, and be part of a dedicated team committed to safety and cultural pride.



- Sandra Bobb, Lead
Communications & Engagement

Seabird Island Optometry Clinic

Dates:

July 23 - 24, 2026

Time:

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Place:

Seabird Band Office

Elders Lounge

For an appointment please
contact your Community
Health Representative or

Brittani Fontaine

Brittanif@seabirdisland.ca

604 - 991 - 0818

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

Enter the Band Office through the main door.

- Although not necessary, masks are advised.
- Are you ill or feeling under the weather?
(Please reschedule your appointment.)

Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.



FISH SALVAGE



Over the last month, Sq'ewqel's biologists, cultural monitors, DFO, and reps from the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance (LFFO) teamed up to salvage stranded sth'óqwi (fish) from rearing ponds on Seabird and relocated them into spawning channels upstream along Sqémelech (Maria Slough).

stótelo - creek

q'ó:y - die

hewélhem - spawn

In the 1980s-90s, DFO created rearing ponds that use ground water upwelling to improve flow and temperatures in Hicks Creek. In the summer, these ponds don't provide enough ground water to flow steadily into the *stótelo* (creek). That causes fish to take refuge in the ponds, but as the water levels drop, the connection from the ponds to the mainstem of Sqémelech dries up and they become trapped. In the summer the ponds will dry entirely, and the fish will *q'ó:y* (die).

Hicks Creek is a major spawning channel on Sqémelech. Over 330 coho *thewélhem* (spawn) here, and some chum as well. DFO has been salvaging the pond for several years to save the young coho that hatch or stay too long in the creek when the ponds *t'óqwel* (dry up) in the summer. Two years ago, they salvaged approximately 10,000, and another 2000 in 2025.

On June 19, over 1500 coho fry were moved, and *sth'qwá:y* (trout), stickleback, redbreast shiners and chum were also relocated in smaller numbers. On June 30, the team was out again, this time relocating over 1280 coho fry.

th'qwá:y - spawn

t'óqwel - dry up

The ongoing loss of water in Hicks Creek is a priority for Seabird's Inter-Government Affairs team. One key objective is to strengthen the connection between the ponds and creek, improving flow and combating the drying and fish stranding that occurs while managing heavy rains that cause flooding in the fall.



- Aishah F. Khan, Journalist & Editor
Communications & Engagement

“BE THE CHANGE” MINI PITCH OPENING CEREMONY



BC Place recently donated our community a gently used piece of artificial turf, and to celebrate this *syéxcha* (gift), an Opening Ceremony was held here at Sq'ewqel.

The ceremony was extra special because Seabird is the 10th community to receive turf. It was a labour of love, contributed to by dozens of partners, Members and organizations. Chuck McNeil played a significant role in this project, and ensured that the opening ceremony would take place when all of Seabird's school children could attend and be a part of this meaningful moment.

All who participated in this project were blanketed at the ceremony, and Chuck along with a group of Lalme'Iwesawtexw (Seabird Community School) students made them additional offerings. Among the honoured were partners from Hope and Health, Adidas, and Youth athletes from neighbouring nations.

As they were blanketed, each person spoke to what this turf means to them, and how they *taméxw* (hope) Sq'ewqel will benefit. Some spoke of how they never had resources like this growing up, and that they hope our Youth and community make the most of it.

This turf will serve as an area for sport, health, fitness and Youth empowerment, and will have lasting impacts on Sq'ewqel's people.

“It's when dreams started for me,” a young soccer player from *Sḵwxwú7mesh* (Squamish Nation) recalled. When turf was brought to her community, she was able to practise year-round, refine her skills and reach *chíchelh* (high/higher).

“Soccer is medicine,” another contributor said. Soccer has always been part of the Stó:lō tradition: *helme'als pol* is the Halq'eméylem word for the game that's loved by Indigenous communities, our *syewá:l* (ancestors) and around the world.

Chuck McNeil and Rowan Forseth were both gifted medals from Hope and Health to honour the good work they've done to bring this project to life, and finally it was time *ewólem* (to play) the pitch's inaugural match!

taméxw - hope
syewá:l - ancestors

The pitch flooded with youth workers and young soccer lovers, and the kids kicked off an entertaining game — the *yewá:l* (first) of many.

Hope and Health made snazzy new jerseys, free to all guests. Seabird also distributed free shirts, and food tickets were offered for Band Member-owned food truck J&R Bannock Wagon, as well as a plate of smoked salmon. There were tons of lawn games, face painting, a colouring station and *s'álhtelóthel* (snacks) for everyone to enjoy.

Year-round, reusable turf has so many benefits. It's economically and environmentally sustainable, and this donation will not only provide opportunities and foster deeper appreciation for fitness, it will bring people together and strengthen community.

Hope and Health is committed to reconciliation through meaningful action, and believes that together we can all achieve a better future in the spirit of “Nautsa'mawt:” moving together as one mind, one heart.

“The mini pitch represents more than a place to play soccer — it is a gathering space where young people can connect, grow, build confidence, and strengthen community through sport,” read Hope and Health’s event invitation.

“This opening celebrates the dreams and potential of Indigenous Youth while demonstrating what is possible when communities, partners, and young people come together with a shared vision,” said Dean Gill, Hope and Health CEO. “Reaching our 10th mini pitch is an incredible milestone, and we are honoured to celebrate it with Seabird Island Nation.”

Soccer is not only special to our people, it is part of Sq’ewqel’s identity. Festival is a major event that draws hundreds of players to our fields every year, and

this turf will only enhance Seabird’s ability to support the game, our people and beyond.

Seabird holds its hands up to all those who made this happen, and we are excited to see how this addition to our community brings forward more health, strength and unity.



- Aishah F. Khan, Journalist & Editor
Communications & Engagement

RENOVATIONS

Estimated: **May 2026 - November 2027**
Seabird Island - Community

The Capital Project Team are starting renovations for 50+ families (on reno list only). The estimated timespan for this work is between **May 2026 to November 2027.**

Our team is also working with four families on **Alexis Drive**, preparing for their renos.

Most families will be relocated into a temporary Housing Unit during renovations. These homes are currently located on **Sth,I;Tsem Road** and **Pipeho:M Road**.

If you have any questions, please contact us at:

info.isc@seabirdisland.ca

604-796-2177



SEABIRD ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL GRAD CLASS



BLUEBERRY

Picking

Pick your own berries

To Save a seat,
Please **RSVP** by **July 17, 2026**

Contact: Seabird Island
Brittani Fontaine
604-991-0818

We will be
providing a sun
safety workshop
for this event.

Gas cards will be provided for those
taking their own vehicles.

limited seats are available for
those who require transport.

Cheam U-Pick Farm
695 Tuytens Rd
Rosedale BC



July 20, 2026

11 AM - 1 PM

Seabird Island



STS' AILES & SEABIRD ISLAND

Roman Catholic Church Schedule

Walking together in Faith

Honouring God, Creation, and One Another



Date	Church Location	Catholic Feast Days	Indigenous days of Importance (Canada)
JUNE 2026	Sun June 7	Sts'ailes	June is National Indigenous History Month
	Sun June 14	Seabird Island	
	Sun June 21	Sts'ailes	
	Sun June 28	Seabird Island	
JULY 2026	Sun July 5	Sts'ailes	July 1 - Canada Day
	Sun July 12	Seabird Island	
	Sun July 19	Sts'ailes	
	Sun July 26	Seabird Island	
AUG 2026	Sun Aug 2	Sts'ailes	Aug 9 - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
	Sun Aug 9	Seabird Island	
	Sun Aug 16	Sts'ailes	
	Sun Aug 23	Seabird Island	
	Sun Aug 30	Sts'ailes	
SEPT 2026	Sun Sept 6	Seabird Island	Sept 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)
	Sun Sept 13	Sts'ailes	
	Sun Sept 20	Seabird Island	
	Sun Sept 27	Sts'ailes	
OCT 2026	Sun Oct 4	Seabird Island	October is Indigenous Womens History Month
	Sun Oct 11	Sts'ailes	
	Sun Oct 18	Seabird Island	
	Sun Oct 25	Sts'ailes	
NOV 2026	Sun Nov 1	Seabird Island	November is Indigenous Veterans Month
	Sun Nov 8	Sts'ailes	
	Sun Nov 15	Seabird Island	
	Sun Nov 22	Sts'ailes	
	Sun Nov 29	Seabird Island	
DEC 2026	Sun Dec 6	Sts'ailes	Dec. 21 - Winter Solstice (season of Peace and Renewal)
	Sun Dec 13	Seabird Island	
	Sun Dec 20	Sts'ailes	
	Sun Dec 27	Seabird Island	



We are two communities, one Church, called to love and serve God together.

Christ is our peace. He has made us one. - Ephesians 2 : 14



Time: 11:00 AM, Sundays

XAWSHXWYAM (NEW STAFF)

ANGELA RASKA

In June, Sq'éwqel welcomed a new addition to our health *sq'eq'ótel* (team): Angela Raska, Maternal Health & Women's Wellness Care Coordinator.

Angela comes to the community with a background in women's health, having worked as a registered nurse specializing in perinatal practise in Burnaby and Abbotsford hospitals. There she delivered babies and worked with new *teltá:l* (mothers) and parents over the first few days of a newborn's life, holding space for both mother and child as they grew into their new routines.

Before Angela began nursing, she was an aerospace production controller. Working for aircraft manufacturers, she ensured that critical parts were completed on time before being built into planes. Although she was already established in her career, she decided to pivot when the economy looked shaky. Angela went back to school to become a nurse when she was 28.



teltá:l - mothers

shellhá:li - women

In 2021, Angela had her third child and has since been at home with her family. Her son was soon to start kindergarten, and Angela was *s-hí:lekw* (ready) to rejoin the workplace with a new perspective and the goal to empower other women in caring for their own health along with their families'.

She no longer practises as a nurse, yet Angela's role includes thorough involvement in the care of *shellhá:li* (women) and mothers. Angela's daily rotations will include home visits, supporting nurses, other healthcare practitioners and patients at Seabird, and reaching out to the community to offer supports.

"Family is everything to me," she told me. Angela talked about her three kids proudly; how her daughters love skating and her son aspires to be a pro *kí:kexathet sewolem* (hockey) player. Her devotion for fostering healthy families is clear, and she's at Seabird to do more of this good work with our people.

Angela is also very passionate about the empowerment of women. Empowerment can mean many things, but to most it means that they have the agency to look out for themselves and their loved ones no matter what. **The best ways for anyone to empower themselves are to invest in their education, seek financial independence and stability, and take good care of their health.** The benefits of these individual actions have drip-down effects; they not only strengthen someone personally, they strengthen anyone who is in their orbit.

kí:kexathet sewolem - hockey player

s-hí:lekw - ready



In her decision to change her career and further her education in her late twenties, Angela took charge of her life, her future, and the future of her family. The careers she's held throughout her life have equipped her not only to adapt to changes out of her control, they have ensured that she will always be able to support her family and be there for others.

At this stage in her life, Angela's continuing her care-taking journey as she steps into a position where she can encourage more women to flourish. She is here to support women at all stages of their lives with their health needs, and she wants people to know that if you see her in the community or at events, there is an ongoing open invite to approach her, ask questions and request support.

Angela wants to advocate for women to take charge of their health and families, and Sq'éwqel is happy to welcome her to the team and the Community.

Ts'íthomé (thank you) for joining us, Angela — lets get to work!

- Aishah F. Khan, Journalist & Editor
Communications & Engagement

SAGE SUGGESTIONS

HOT WEATHER & FIRE RISK



Wildfire season has arrived, and although the weather has been cooler lately, there is still significant risk of fires spreading.

The incident in late June on Scott Road was very close to home. With an expected hot summer ahead, this is a good time to ensure your go-bags are ready in case of future emergencies.

léxwtel - blanket

kw'óstheth

it gets warm, getting warm

What to pack in a go-bag:

- A change of clothing (per person) and sturdy shoes
- First Aid Kit and prescription medicines
- ID and medical information
- Emergency contacts
- Insurance information
- Blanket
- Pet food / carrier / vaccination records
- Phone charger

- Water (3 days worth per person)
- Non perishable food (granola bars, nuts, dried fruit, canned food)

Tips:

- Pack your go-bag items in clear Ziplock bags, making it easier to locate items
- Keep your go-bag by your door so it is ready to go

Thank you and stay safe!

- Sandra Bobb, Lead Communications & Engagement

SUMMER BREAK BOREDOM BUSTERS

Whether you want to keep cool indoors or enjoy the summer sunshine, there are tons of ways to keep your little ones, teens and yourself entertained this summer.

1. Check out library programs

The library is a great place to find community, discover new hobbies and stay entertained for hours. I've just joined the summer reading club, so every day I read for 15 minutes I give myself a check mark and every seven days I check off in a row, I get entered to win a \$50 gift card!

All the libraries across the Fraser Valley host free programs for babies, toddlers, kids and adults, for example:

- Playgroups
- Storytimes in the park
- Reading challenges, prize draws
- Colouring, origami, knitting groups
- Boardgames
- Book clubs
- A LEGO club!

Temkw'okw'es – summer

Some programs require registration, but most are drop-in. All are free for the community; they're there for everyone to enjoy. Find more information on furl.bc.ca/events

2. Keep cool at the pool

Agassiz's outdoor pool is officially closing for good this fall as the new recreation centre gets completed. Nearby, Harrison Hot Springs has a floating water park, or head to a lake for some freshwater fun.

Agassiz, Mill Lake Park, Chilliwack Landing and Cheam Leisure Centre are just a few spots nearby with splash pads, which are great spots for kids to cool off while keeping active.

t'ítsem – swim (of a person)

oyó:stheth – have lots of fun

kwíxet - to read something

3. Hang out at home

Being home all day in the summer can get really boring...even streaming and scrolling gets tiresome. **Make sure youngsters are spending 30-60 minutes outside daily** getting exercise and fresh air, try some new crafts and maintain some sort of routine.

Garden, walk the dog, cover a pine cone in peanut butter, dip it in bird seeds and hang it from a tree to feed birds and squirrels, do sidewalk chalk art, go for a bike ride, set up a lemonade stand or even put some soap and water in a bucket and do neighbourhood car washes!

There are so many ways to enjoy the summer. Remember to keep your body and brain active, drink lots of water, take it easy in the heat and have fun!

- Aishah F. Khan, Journalist & Editor Communications & Engagement

sewolem - sports

lekyó:lta - playing cards

xixkw'ó:m - swimming

INSPIRATION QUOTES:

"There is only one happiness in this life: to love and be loved."

— George Sand

"Contentment is the philosopher's stone that turns everything it touches into gold."

— Benjamin Franklin

"A happy life is one spent in learning, earning, and yearning."

— Lillian Gish

JULY - TEMQWÁ:L "Mosquito Time"

Cancer

June 21 - July 22

Woodpecker - temélhépssem

Direction: South

Element: Water

Strengths: Imaginative, Loyal, Sympathetic, Emotional, Persuasive and Intuitive.

AUGUST - TEMTHEQI "Sockeye Salmon Time"

Leo

July 23 - August 22

Salmon - sthéqi

Direction: South / Southwest

Element: Fire

Stone: Carnelian

Strengths: Confident, Ambitious, Generous, Warm Hearted, Creative and Enthusiastic

COMIC



Reference: <https://mooselakecartoons.com/health>

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HALQ'EMÉYLEM WORD SEARCH

Created by Shayleen Peters

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Canada Day - Kelchóch Swáyel | 11. Fishing - qw'iqw'emó:thel |
| 2. Fireworks - spáyéts'em | 12. Canning - qw'ó:ls sq'éyle |
| 3. Sparklers - sq'eq'íp | 13. Berry Picking - lhí:m |
| 4. Sunburn - kw'ás te syó:qwem | 14. Wind dried Fish - slhíts'es |
| 5. Watermelon - qó:'im | 15. Smoked Fish - sq'éylo |
| 6. Flip Flops - temkw'ókw'es | 16. Powwow - sqw'eyílex |
| qwelhíxel | 17. Camping - sq'elí:m |
| 7. Grass Hopper - tl'emtl'émxel | 18. Trout - sth'qwá:y |
| 8. Heatwave - kw'ókw'eswáyel | 19. Spring - tl'élxxel |
| 9. Road Trip - xálh leq'álqel | 20. Ice cream - spípew sq'emó |
| 10. Family Trip - Ts'elhsq'áleq'o | 21. Lemonade - t'át'ets'em |
| leq'álqel | qwíyqwòyèls sqe'óleqw |



DEADLINES

Submissions and advertisements are due by the 1st of each month.

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact: 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 15th 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/

CONTACT US

comm@seabirdisland.ca
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; Kristy Johnson;
Zorana Edwards-Shippentower;
Ciara Busby; Jasmine Paul-Louis;
Aishah Khan; Shayleen Peters;
and Swapna Pokharkar.

JOURNALIST:

Aishah Khan

PUBLISHER:

Swapna Pokharkar

EDITORS:

Sandra Bobb & Aishah Khan

LOVED ONE PASS AWAY?

We can assist you in submitting to the First Nations Health Authority a copy of the death certificate.

Emma Leon may be reached at 604-796-2177

emma.leon@seabirdisland.ca

FUNERAL PAMPHLETS

Creating pamphlets from our catalogue or custom pamphlets.

NEW - Sq'Éwqel provides 300 colour funeral booklets and one hour of free design time for each band member in accordance with Seabird Funeral Policy. For an additional cost, you can request extra design time, pamphlets, or premium paper.

We can also help with non-band member pamphlets; enquire about our prices.

Contact Communications at 604-796-2177 or email comm@seabirdisland.ca.

SIFD FIRE PRACTICE

Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

We are now seeking new members.
Contact the Fire Hall 604-796-2177.

GARBAGE SCHEDULE

CURBSIDE PICK-UP OF COMPOST, RECYCLE AND GARBAGE:

- Garbage every Tuesday.
- Recycling every Wednesday.
- **2 garbage bags** per household per week.
- **MAJOR GARBAGE:** 1st Thursday of the month for Community core, and the 3rd Thursday of the month for the surrounding Community.

Contact Public Works at 604-796-2177 or email: publicworks@seabirdisland.ca

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.

WELLBRIETY MEETINGS

At the Stó:lō Tribal Council Boardroom, located at 2855 Chowat Road, every Monday at 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Website for AA in BC: www.bcyukonaa.org

MEDICAL CARDS

Has your medical card been stolen or misplaced and you need to apply for a new one? When submitting an application for a new one, we can help.

Medical Card payments are the responsibility of each client. It costs \$20 for each new card if they have been lost or stolen more than twice.

Please note, we are unable to help with BC ID applications.

Baby ID Cards

Apply for a Medical Care Card as soon as possible.

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

AMBULANCE BILLS

Once you have received the ambulance invoices, kindly submit them. Under the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB), ambulance expenses will no longer be covered if the bill is older than a year.

Health Canada will cover the cost of the ambulance for anyone having a status number, provided that there is 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 Emma Leon 604-796-2177.

OPTOMETRY CLINIC

Appointments Only: July 23 & 24, 2026

Checkups should be done every two years for people aged 19 to 64 and annually for children under the age of 19. Seniors above 65 can be seen once a year.

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

Contact Brittani Fontaine LPN at 604-796-2177 or brittanif@seabirdisland.ca

WILD ANIMAL ALERT

To lessen encounters with wildlife, treat the area with respect and maintain its cleanliness.

- You should only dispose of your trash in the morning on garbage day.
- Throw away the guts of fish (away from residences).
- Make sure your grill is clean.

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

SQ'ÉWQEL FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS

Recommended to follow:

Sq'Éwqel "Seabird Island Band"

<https://www.facebook.com/SeabirdIslandBand/>

Seabird College

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

Seabird Island Community School

<https://www.facebook.com/SeabirdIslandCommunitySchool>

Careers

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

Remember to **like** and **follow** the posts to see them pop up in your feed more often!

CAREERS AT SQ'ÉWQEL

View more detailed, current information about these and other opportunities or to apply for current opportunities: <https://www.seabirdisland.ca/careers/>

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.

REGISTERED CLINICAL COUNSELLOR

The RCC will deliver counselling services to clients affected by complex mental health and/or substance use issues. Services may include individual and group counselling, crisis intervention, treatment planning, and education. The RCC will also work collaboratively with other health professionals, schools, and community programs, and may travel to provide services in communities supported by Seabird Island.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

CUSTODIAN PART-TIME

The Custodian is responsible for performing custodial duties, minor maintenance and other miscellaneous duties in order to ensure that buildings and facilities are maintained in a healthy, safe and sanitary manner.

This is a Part time position working 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm Monday - Friday.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR TECHNICIAN

The Housing Maintenance and Repair Technician provides maintenance and repair services to support community members and their homes. This role involves conducting repairs, performing inspections, and managing small-scale construction projects to enhance the safety and functionality of Seabird Island's housing.

yó:ys - to work

TENANT SERVICES COORDINATOR

The Tenant Services Coordinator provides culturally informed tenant management coordination overseeing move-ins and move outs, managing tenant relationships, and providing support with administrative paperwork, payments, grants, and funding applications. This role involves coordinating complex tenant issues, supporting equitable waitlist and allocation processes.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

CHILDREN, FAMILY RESILIENCE & ENRICHMENT COORDINATOR

The Children and Family Resilience & Enrichment Care Coordinator plays a key role in supporting families by connecting them to culturally relevant resources, programs, and services. This position focuses on navigation and coordination, ensuring families have access to wraparound supports that promote resilience, wellness, and enrichment.

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE ASSISTANT

Working under the supervision of the Middle Years and Childcare Services Team Lead, the Assistant will actively instruct and participate in a variety of physical activities designed to engage students in fun, recreational experiences that support lifelong learning. In addition to promoting physical activity, the Assistant will help facilitate programs that encourage healthy eating, personal development, and overall wellness, while fostering positive relationships with children and families in the community.

EDUCATION

DIVISION MANAGER OF EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Division Manager of Employment, Training, and Social Development oversees programs that connect individuals with meaningful employment, educational opportunities, and skills development. They lead initiatives supporting pre-employment training, workshops, employment support services, and income assistance, while ensuring cultural safety, dignity, and respect in every interaction. The Division Manager also strengthens partnerships, finds funding opportunities, and creates pathways for stable, long-term employment and self-sufficiency for the community.

INCOME ASSISTANCE LEAD

The Income Assistance Program Lead provides culturally informed oversight of income assistance services to community members and families. This role involves ensuring compliance with ISC guidelines, managing budgets and reporting, and leading strategic initiatives that promote inclusion, and sustainable futures. The Income Assistance Program Lead will also engage in community relations activities to support clients and foster partnerships that strengthen access to employment, wellness, and culturally relevant services.

PROGRAM ASSISTANT (SASET TARGETED WAGE SUBSIDY)

The Program Assistant provides day-to-day administrative support to the Employment Division, including but not limited to filing, maintaining records, preparing reports, coordinating schedules, creating newsletters, and entering data.

This position is ending June 30, 2027.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM MANAGER (TERM CONTRACT)

The Youth and Young Adults Program Manager will oversee the daily operations and strategic direction of key programs, ensuring that all services are delivered in alignment with our organizational goals and values. You will lead passionate teams, engage with community partners, and continuously strive to improve outcomes for youth and young adults in our community.

This is a term contract with an end date of February 1st 2028 with a possibility of extension.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS CONNECTIONS SPECIALIST (TERM CONTRACT)

The Youth and Young Adults Connections Specialist will develop and deliver tailored intervention and prevention programs specifically designed to address the unique challenges and needs faced by high-risk female/male youth and young adults. This role emphasizes building trust and rapport with male clients, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose, and creating a culturally safe and supportive environment where they can thrive.

This program will operate four days a week in the afternoon/evening and one day on the weekend.

This is a term contract with an end date of March 30th, 2027. (With a possibility of extension.)

eyos leq'aleqel - holidays

EXECUTIVE

CONTRACT INDIGENOUS COACHES

Expression of Interest: Indigenous Coaches for Seabird Island
Invitation to Join the Seabird Island Coaching Roster.

Seabird Island is seeking expressions of interest from qualified Indigenous coaches to join our roster of professionals who will provide holistic coaching services to our staff and Council members. We are committed to fostering a supportive environment that encourages personal and professional growth, well-being, and leadership development. Coaching sessions are to be holistic, addressing the mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical aspects of each individual.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

GRANTS, PROPOSALS, AND STRATEGIC WRITER

The Grants, Proposals, and Strategic Writer will work collaboratively with various teams throughout the organization, assisting in finding grants or funding opportunities and ensuring successful implementation and reporting. The Grants, Proposals, and Strategic Writer provides function in the implementation of projects as directed including creating and managing proposals for projects and implementation of operational delivery models that will achieve optimal outcomes.

PURCHASING AGENT

The Purchasing Agent is responsible for verifying goods and service orders, preparing and forwarding purchase orders, confirming receipt of goods and services, and authorizing payments. This role ensures departments have the materials and services they need for daily operations by researching cost-effective suppliers and staying current on market and pricing trends. The Purchasing Agent also plays a key role in supporting program teams and community services through timely and efficient procurement.

RECORDS TEAM LEAD (TERM CONTRACT)

The Records Team Lead will oversee daily operations of the Records Program, including work planning, task assignments, and supporting staff to achieve program objectives. This role involves assisting in the development and implementation of records systems, updating policies and retention schedules, and ensuring adherence to best practices.

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.

We thank all applicants for their interest.

Apply Today!

CAREERS AT SQ'ÉWQEL

View more detailed, current information about these and other opportunities or to apply for current opportunities: <https://www.seabirdisland.ca/careers/>

in information management. The Team Lead will foster collaboration among team members, maintain confidentiality, and promote effective communication with internal and external stakeholders, aligning all actions with Seabird Island's mission and values.

This is a term contract with an end date in September 2027 with the possibility of extension..

SENIOR HR GENERALIST & ENTITY LIAISON

The Sr. HR Generalist & Entity Liaison provides both operational HR support to management and across all entities. As the primary HR lead for entity-specific needs, this role ensures consistent HR practices, culturally grounded employee support, and alignment with organizational goals. The HR Generalist and Entity Liaison will also work collaboratively with the HR Generalist and the Mediation, Healing, and Resolution Team Lead, in resolution of complex employment relations and employment issues, escalating final recommendations to the HR Manager and/or entity management. This role delivers comprehensive HR services including policy/legislation interpretation, employee relations, training, compliance, and strategic advisory support.

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. Some on-call duties may include: General Labour, Ticketed Labour (must have certification), Clean-up, Office Help, Special Events.

HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST

The Nursing Practice Lead strengthens nursing practice across Seabird Island's health services through hands-on mentorship, clinical teaching, and practice consultation. Grounded in cultural safety and First Nations ways of knowing, the role builds the skills and confidence of nurses and primary care staff by providing real-time support, role-modelling best practices, and guiding competency development.

FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL WELLNESS WORKER (FULL-TIME)

The Food and Nutritional Wellness Worker plays a key role in supporting the health and wellbeing of program participants through nutritious, culturally informed meal preparation and food service practices. This role also contributes to creating a welcoming and inclusive food environment that supports recovery, wellness, and connection, while collaborating with clinical, cultural, and wellness team members across the organization.

FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL WELLNESS WORKER (PART-TIME)

The Food and Nutritional Wellness Worker supports the health and wellbeing of program participants through safe, nutritious, and culturally respectful food preparation and meal service during weekend operations. This role is responsible for preparing and serving meals, maintaining a clean and safe kitchen environment, and supporting a positive and welcoming dining experience for clients.

NAVIGATOR PRIMARY CARE & WELLNESS SERVICES

The Navigator plays a key role in supporting individuals and families by reducing barriers and fostering access to primary care, clinical health services, mental health supports, and related programs. Using a person-centered, trauma-informed, and decolonized approach, this role focuses on connection, outreach, and empowerment during critical life stages and health transitions.

Provide guidance, assistance, and support to reduce barriers to accessing services offered by Seabird Island or external providers.

RECOVERY HOME SUPPORT WORKER (WEEKENDS)

The Recovery Home Support Worker provides culturally informed crisis intervention, coping strategies, education, connections to community services, and support to individuals affected by mental illness, addictions, trauma, and crisis. The Recovery Home Support Worker will also engage in community relations activities to supporting clients and the community.

There are three Part-time Weekend positions open.

RESTORATION AND HEALING CARE COORDINATOR

The Restoration and Healing Care Coordinator provides culturally informed care coordination, advocacy, and case management support to community members involved with or affected by the justice system. This role involves coordinating care for clients and families as they move through legal, court, and social service processes; supporting restorative justice pathways; and connecting clients to wraparound supports such as housing, mental health, and employment services.

TRADITIONAL AND HOLISTIC WELLNESS SPECIALIST

The Traditional and Holistic Wellness Specialist ensures service delivery is centered around First Nations worldviews, beliefs about holistic health, and cultural aspects of personal and family wellness. This role involves developing and implementing wellness programs that incorporate traditional practices into our programming, offering workshops on holistic health, and promoting cultural continuity within wellness services. The Traditional and Holistic Wellness Specialist will also engage in community relations activities to support clients and strengthen the connection between traditional knowledge and health outcomes in the community.

INTER-GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

HALQ'EMÉYLEM CURRICULUM ASSISTANT (SUMMER STUDENT)

The Summer Student supports the development of language resources, assists with research and helps prepare and deliver community programming while gaining hands-on experience in language revitalization. This role involves organizing existing digital files, creating vocabulary sheets and lesson outlines, assisting in gathering information, summarizing findings, and assisting during instruction sessions.

This is a Full-time term position from July 1st to August 15th.

lexws'ó:les

willing to do one's work

We are
HIRING

to apply for current opportunities visit:

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



Seabird Island Lands Advisory Committee (LAC) - MEMBER POSITION OPENING

**Two committee member positions
are now open for application.**

Application Deadline: July 31, 2026.

The new term will run until 2028.

Eligibility Requirements

- Candidates must be Seabird Island Band Members.
- Must be available to attend monthly meetings, which may be scheduled during the day or evening.

Cultural Teachings

*Éy kws hákw'elestset te s'i:wes te siyólexwálh. Xaxastexw te mekw'stam.
Éwe chexw qelqelit te mekw'stam lóy kw'ès li hokwex yexw lamexw kwú:t.
S'ólh téméxw te íkw'élò xólhmet te mekw' stám ít kwelát.*

It is good to remember the teachings of our ancestors; Respect all things;
Do not waste, ruin, or destroy everything, only take what you need;
This is our land, we have to take care of everything that belongs to us.

Responsibilities of an effective Committee Member

Chief and Council are seeking passionate individuals to fill open positions on the Lands Advisory Committee (LAC). These individuals are required to be proactive in reviewing, assessing and anticipating the land's needs, and anticipating any changes that may affect the land needs of Seabird Island's Membership.

Application Process

Please submit the following to
lands@seabirdisland.ca

Email Title: LAC Member Application

- Letter of interest
- Resume and Cover letter
- Three (3) reference

Committee Focus

The LAC is currently working to improve the pre-application process for developments and permits, as well as reviewing band projects that may impact Seabird Island Lands. Seabird Island laws and processes are designed to support long-term planning, enhance land quality, promote sustainability, and guide development for the benefit of present and future generations.