



Sq'éwqel

Seabird Island Band



Sq'éwqel

Silolem Pekw

(Annual Report)

2025-2026



S'ólh Téméxw, Tselhxwelmxw yóyes sq'eq'ó

Our Communities, Our Families Working Together

Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island) is proud of our formative collective history:
Honouring Mother Earth, Grandfather Sky and the generations of
united communities working together to form
one Family, Seabird Island.

Honouring our history and unity will lead
our community into the Future. Community, Administration
and Chief and Council are all walking and working
together as one Seabird Island Family.

MISSION STATEMENT

Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island Band) Council Mission Statement

Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island Band) exists to promote a Healthier, self-sufficient, self-governing, unified and educated community. We believe that a Healthy community is one that has achieved physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and cultural balance.

We work towards building a community where communal pride and respect are based on family values and respect for other people's values, views and ideas. We want to co-exist with other communities and governments while exerting our right to be a self-governing nation.

Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island Band) promotes full employment, the development of our local economy and improved housing conditions. We want our community to be a safe and prosperous place for our people. We aim at achieving a good standard of living for all our Band Members.

Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island Band) will accomplish this mission with the energy of our Youth, the wisdom of our Elders, the strength of our families, the vision, determination of our political leaders, the guidance of our spiritual and cultural leaders and the contributions of our staff members.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION STATEMENT	3
PRAYER FOR THE FUTURE	7
CHIEF & COUNCIL	7-20
EXECUTIVE	21-24
MESSAGE FROM THE CAO	22-24
FINANCE & ADMIN	25-42
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS	27
EXPENSES	28
FINANCE TRANSACTIONS	29
PURCHASING & WAREHOUSE	30-33
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	34
RECORDS	35-37
HUMAN RESOURCES	38-42
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS	43-66
- INTRODUCTION	45
- OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES, AND GOALS	46
- YEAR HIGHLIGHTS	47
ABORIGINAL RIGHTS & TITLE DIVISION	48-50
- ENBRIDGE: SUNRISE EXPANSION PROGRAM (SEP)	48
- SPECIES AT RISK & ENVIRONMENTAL CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA	49
- SEABIRD ISLAND-DRIVEN GROUNDWATER MONITORING & SAMPLING PROGRAM	49
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	50
NATURAL RESOURCES AND REFERRALS DIVISION	51-56
- REFERRAL UNIT	51
- FISH & WILDLIFE UNIT	52-53
- NATURAL RESOURCES & FORESTRY UNIT	54-55
POLICY AND GOVERNANCE DIVISION	56-61
- POLICY UNIT	56-57
- GENEALOGY UNIT	58
- MEMBERSHIP UNIT	59-60
COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT DIVISION	61-66
- COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW	61
- COMMUNICATIONS UNIT	62
- ENGAGEMENT UNIT	63
- PROPOSALS UNIT	64
- LANGUAGE VITALIZATION UNIT	65-66
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE	67-82
- DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW	69
CAPITAL PROJECTS	70
PUBLIC WORKS	71
WATER SERVICES	72
SANITATION	72
LANDS	73

CUSTODIAL	74
EVENTS	74
FLEET	75-76
FIRE DEPARTMENT	77
FIRESMART PROGRAM	78-79
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT / PREPAREDNESS	80
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	81
PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY	82
EDUCATION	83-94
- Directors Message	85
YOUTH PROGRAM	86-87
EMPLOYMENT AND PRE-EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS	88-89
DRIVING SCHOOL	89
INCOME ASSISTANCE	90
SEABIRD ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL.....	91-92
SEABIRD COLLEGE	93-94
HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	95-168
- OVERVIEW	97-98
HEALTH SERVICES & ADMINISTRATION.....	99-128
- PRIMARY CARE	99-101
- ALLIED HEALTH.....	102-103
- PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM	104-106
- HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (HSS).....	107-108
- BETTER AT HOME	109-110
- HEALTH BENEFITS & MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION.....	111
- COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS	112-113
- MOBILE DIABETES TEAM.....	114-115
- SEABIRD ISLAND PHARMACY	116-118
- SEABIRD ISLAND DENTAL CLINIC	119-121
- MENTAL HEALTH & COUNSELLING SERVICES.....	122-123
- RECOVERY HOMES “A:YELEXW	124-127
- E-HEALTH SOLUTIONS	128
- ACCREDITATION CANADA	128
COMMUNITY & FAMILY WELLNESS.....	129-168
- RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM.....	129-131
- COMMUNITY SAFETY & PREVENTION.....	132
- RESILIENCE & PREVENTION – JUSTICE.....	133-134
- THÍYTELH WELLNESS PROGRAM	135-136
- XÁXEYET STABILIZATION PROGRAM (AIMS).....	137-138
- MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH	139-140
- ANNUAL BABY CELEBRATION.....	141
- TEME’LILE MIDWIFERY (SALMON-BERRY TIME)	142
- STS’ÁTS’ELYEM - LIFE GIVER WELLNESS HOME	143-144
- COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS	145-146
- BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP	147-148

Continued on next page →

Welcome to the 2025–2026 Annual Report

- SEABIRD CANDLELIGHT VIGIL	149-150
- ELDERS PROGRAM	151-153
- ELDER FIREWOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM	154-155
- RECREATION PROGRAM	156-158
- NUTRITION & WELLNESS	159-161
- AUNTIE'S KITCHEN	162
- TÉM:ÉXW LI TE LETAM (LAND TO TABLE)	163-166
- COMMUNITY FISH HAMPER	167-168
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	169-186
ABORIGINAL INFANT DEVELOPMENT	172
ABORIGINAL SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT	173-175
EY QWAL SPEECH & LANGUAGE	176
FAMILY ENRICHMENT & WELLNESS	177
DAYCARE	178
3'S PRESCHOOL	179
4'S PRESCHOOL	180
OUT OF SCHOOL CARE	181
SCHOOLS OUT	182
ABORIGINAL HEAD START ON RESERVE - SEABIRD ISLAND	183
FAMILY WELLNESS	184
CULTURE & LANGUAGE	185-186

April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026 Annual Report

Within these pages, you will find a comprehensive collection of updates and achievements from all the departments and their respective programs and services.

The dedicated staff at Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island) work tirelessly to support and uplift the community. Through their efforts, we continue to strengthen our programs, foster growth, and uphold our commitment to serving the needs of our Members.

We **hí:qwt** (invite him/her) to explore this report to learn more about the remarkable work accomplished over the past year and the impact it has had on our community.

Q'épethets s'ólh shxwtachi:s - tl'óstcha te wà'yèlès
Celebrate our tradition - build our future

A Prayer for a Better Future

Eyelh selsilá:lh, eyelh sí:lalh, tset petame' kw'as maytoxw.
Good grandmothers, good grandfathers we ask for your help.

Maytoxw kw'as xwlalam, léts'e chalex late témexw.
Help us listen with one hand to the earth.

Maytoxw kw'es qwa:l qe léts'e chalex ite th'alest.
Help us speak with one hand to our heart.

Xét'e ta s'í:westset, xyolhmet te xwel mi á:y staxwelh.
Our teachings tell us to watch out for our children to come.

Maytoxw kw'es hokwex te q'e'í:les te siwalelhtset, te télmels ye selyolexwé,
Help us use the wisdom of our ancestors, the knowledge of our Elders,

Te shxw'eyems ye sí:ya:mtset, te shxw'eyems ye q'alemi swoweles, qas ste'a te smestiyexws te xwewa is kwó:l kw'as thi:yt kw'e ey wayeles xwelam ye staxwelhtset.
The strength of our leaders, the vigor of the Youth and the purity of the unborn to make a better tomorrow for our children.

Ste'astexwtset cha wa sq'eq'otset cha.
Together it will be done.

Eyelh selsilá:lh, eyelh sí:lalh, th'exwmetoxwtset.
Good grandmothers, good grandfathers, we openly accept your help.

Te'ile th'kwsale xwel mi á:y qas swas th'ekwsale xwel mi á:y mestiyexw.
This, for our seven generations to come, and their seven generations.

Stó:lō smestiyexw wiyothe.
Stó:lō Spirit Forever.

Eyém Sq'éwqel
Seabird Strong

ELECTED Council Members 2023 - 2026: Portfolios

Jim Harris, Chief	Council Executive Committee Office of the CAO Signing Authority
Willow Walker, Councillor	Council Executive Committee Office of the CAO Administration Department / Audit Committee Health & Social Development Infrastructure / Lands Committee
Paul Andrew, Councillor	Council Executive Committee Office of the Executive Director Health & Social Development Child & Family Jurisdiction
Sally Hope, Councillor	Administration Department / Audit Committee Education - K-12, Post Secondary, College Inter-Government Affairs / Aboriginal Rights & Title Sqewqel Development Corporation Board (SqDC)
Marcie Peters, Councillor	Administration Department / Audit Committee Infrastructure / Lands Committee Justice Signing Authority
Marlana Peters, Councillor	Health & Social Development Infrastructure / Lands Committee Justice
Chaundine Fisher, Councillor	Child & Family Jurisdiction Early Childhood Education - K-12, Post Secondary, College
Rod Peters, Councillor	Early Childhood Education - K-12, Post Secondary, College Justice
Tamara Andrew, Councillor	Early Childhood Inter-Government Affairs / Aboriginal Rights & Title Sqewqel Development Corporation Board (SqDC)

2026-2029 Elected Chief & Council Portfolios

Maggie Pettis, Chief [10]	• Council Executive Committee⁽¹⁾ • Signing Authority⁽¹⁾ • Child, Family and Early Years Development⁽¹⁾ ADDITIONAL BOARDS & SOCIETIES: - Stó:lō Tribal Council (STC) - Community to Community (C2C) - S4 - AFN (Assembly of First Nations) - Union of BC Indian Chiefs
Willow Walker, Councillor [13]	• Council Executive Committee⁽²⁾ • Justice⁽²⁾ • Signing Authority⁽³⁾ • Finance & Administration⁽¹⁾ - Audit Committee • Health Services & Community Wellness⁽¹⁾ • Lands & Community Infrastructure⁽²⁾ - Lands Advisory Committee - Emergency Management Committee • Housing⁽¹⁾ - Election Code Review Committee
Marcie Peters, Councillor [14]	• Signing Authority⁽²⁾ - Sq'ep Committee • Finance & Administration⁽³⁾ - Audit Committee • Child & Family Early Years Development⁽²⁾ • Lands & Community Infrastructure⁽¹⁾ - Lands Advisory Committee - Emergency Management Committee - Election Code Review Committee - Self-Governance Steering Committee - Governance Manual Review Committee • Sq'ewqel Development Corporation (SqDC)⁽²⁾
Marlana Peters, Councillor [7]	• Council Executive Committee⁽³⁾ • Justice⁽¹⁾ • Finance & Administration⁽²⁾ • Child & Family Early Years Development⁽³⁾ • Inter-Government Affairs / Aboriginal Rights & Title⁽³⁾

CHIEF & COUNCIL

Chaundine Fisher, Councillor [5]	- Sq'ep Committee • Education ⁽³⁾ • Youth Leadership ⁽¹⁾
Rod Peters, Councillor [10]	• Education ⁽²⁾ - Board of Education - College Board • Inter-Government Affairs / Aboriginal Rights & Title ⁽¹⁾ - Governance Manual Review Committee ADDITIONAL BOARDS & SOCIETIES: - S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA) - Forestry - Commonage Lands Committee (Coqualeetza, Pekw'xe:yles, XÁ:ytem)
Tash Peters, Councillor [5]	- Sq'ep Committee • Youth Leadership ⁽²⁾ • Sq'ewqel Development Corporation SqDC ⁽³⁾
Tyrone McNeil, Councillor [6]	- Audit Committee • Inter-Government Affairs / Aboriginal Rights & Title ⁽²⁾ • Sq'ewqel Development Corporation SqDC ⁽¹⁾ ADDITIONAL BOARDS & SOCIETIES: - Forestry
Lolly Andrew, Councillor [8]	• Health Services & Community Wellness ⁽²⁾ • Education ⁽¹⁾ - Board Of Education - College Board - Youth Leadership Council • Inter-Government Affairs / Aboriginal Rights & Title ⁽⁴⁾
ALL COUNCIL	ADDITIONAL BOARDS & SOCIETIES: - School Society - Tiyt Tribe

LEGEND:

- **Portfolios**
 - ⁽¹⁾ 1st Chair
 - ⁽²⁾ Co-Chair
 - ⁽³⁾ Alternate Chair
 - ⁽⁴⁾ 4th member of the Chair (As required)
 - Committees / Boards / Society
- [1] Seat totals across all roles.



**Maggie Pettis,
Chief**



**Marlana Peters,
Councillor**

**Chaundine Fisher,
Councillor**



**Tash Peters,
Councillor**

**Tyrone McNeil,
Councillor**



**Lolly Andrew,
Councillor**



Marcie Peters, Councillor

March 2025 – April 2026



HUMAN RESOURCES and OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Employee Wellbeing

Our employees remain central to Seabird's success and to the wellbeing of our community. This year, 90% of staff reported feeling valued or deeply valued, with the Early Childhood Department showing the strongest sense of employee appreciation.

Strengthening Our Workforce

Seabird welcomed 147 new employees this year, bringing our total workforce to 439. Of these, 55 were Band Members.

- **73%** of employees identify as Indigenous (37% Band Members, 36% Indigenous).
- **27%** identify as non Indigenous.

Key roles added this year include the Economic and Community Development Officer, Community Liaison, Project Coordinator, Life Skills Coach, Senior Registered Clinical Counsellor, Emergency Program Coordinator, and Digital Marketing Agent.

Permanent employee turnover decreased to **16%**, with an additional **6%** attributed to contract or funding based roles.

Mediation and Traditional Healing

Human Resources supported culturally grounded conflict resolution and wellness through:

- **16** mediation sessions
- **27** team circles
- **13** spirit baths/cleanses
- **54** individual wellness sessions
- **16** cultural ceremonies and events

Occupational Health & Safety

Our Health and Safety Officer strengthened workplace safety through updated orientations, continued Joint Health and Safety Committee operations, workplace assessments, investigations, safety planning, and return to work support.

Incident reporting was modernized with posters and QR codes.

- **74** workplace incidents were reported.
- **4** were critical incidents requiring police, fire, or ambulance response.

Safety plans were developed for major community events and facilities, including the Fitness Centre, Nutrition Run, Festival, Career Fair, new construction projects, and Earth Day.

Safe work practices were advanced for kitchen operations, dangerous goods, and working alone. Emergency preparedness and employee education also continued to grow.

A First Aid training grant allowed us to offer multiple sessions to staff and Community Members.

Looking Ahead

Human Resources will continue strengthening a workplace grounded in Seabird values. Priorities for the coming year include:

- **Enhanced onboarding**
 - Reinforcing welcoming processes and integrating Cultural Humility into orientation and training.
- **Expanded wellness supports**
 - Continuing holistic wellness services, mentorship, cultural teachings, and culturally safe healing opportunities.
- **Policy alignment**
 - Ensuring policies reflect community values, cultural principles, and legal requirements.
- **Strengthened safety systems**
 - Increasing employee education, improving communication materials, standardizing lockdown procedures, enhancing fire safety, and reviewing the overall safety program.

We hold deep gratitude for every employee who contributes their time, energy, and heart to Seabird. Together, we continue to build a strong, values driven workplace community.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Housing & Capital Projects

Significant progress has been made across housing initiatives:

- **Residential Retrofit – 50 House Project** Health inspections, re-inspections, and energy audits are complete. Funding has been secured from multiple sources. Work includes major repairs and energy efficiency upgrades, with coordinated temporary relocation for affected residents. Planning is occurring street by street with attention to health, safety, accessibility, Elders, and families requiring relocation support.
- **Additional Housing Projects** The six plexes have been completed, and multi family housing projects and BC Housing Phase 1 continue to advance.

Lands

After a period of turnover, Lands has regained stability and capacity.

Key developments include:

- A permitting fee schedule drafted and pending Council approval. Fees are already being applied to select internal and external projects (e.g., Fortis, Enbridge), supporting long term sustainability.
- Two Cultural/Environmental Monitors hired through the Enbridge project, with recruitment underway for a Monitor Lead.

- Continued progress toward Land Use Plan ratification and improved internal processes for implementation.
- Completion of project specific rights of way agreements with Fortis.
- Strengthening of the Lands Advisory Committee and refinement of internal processes.

Capital Projects & Infrastructure

A dedicated Capital Projects team is now in place, increasing internal expertise, reducing reliance on external contractors, and improving project quality and cost control.

Completed or substantially completed projects:

- Six plexes
- Fleet yard expansion
- Community building retrofits (LED lighting, window upgrades, geothermal system work)

Major projects underway:

- Cultural Centre
- Two multi family housing units
- BC Housing Phase 1
- Residential Retrofit – 50 House Project

The team continues to strengthen governance, documentation, coordination, and reporting across all capital projects.

Public Works

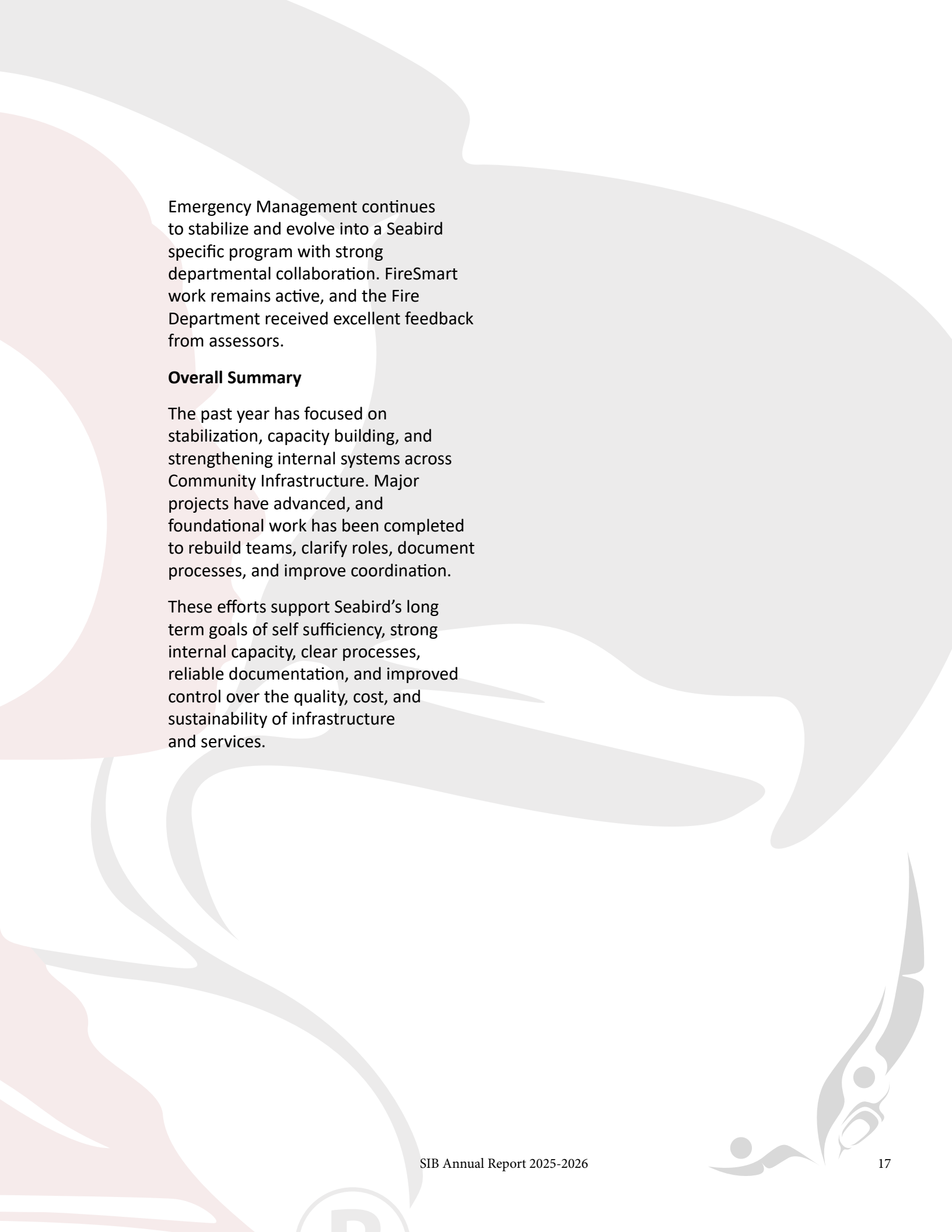
Public Works and Operations & Maintenance have made strong progress toward stability following turnover in key roles. Documentation of processes and operational knowledge has been a major focus, ensuring continuity, accountability, and reliable service delivery during staff transitions.

Planning, Economic Development, Community Safety & Emergency Management

Two new roles were established and filled this year:

- **Community Infrastructure & Sustainability Planner**
— Supporting integrated planning across infrastructure, land use, environmental priorities, and long term community needs.
- **Community Economic & Development Officer**
— Collaborating with SqDC and departments to support Member business opportunities and contributing to community safety planning.

Community safety work is expanding, with efforts to build internal capacity for security patrols and coordinated, wraparound safety responses.



Emergency Management continues to stabilize and evolve into a Seabird specific program with strong departmental collaboration. FireSmart work remains active, and the Fire Department received excellent feedback from assessors.

Overall Summary

The past year has focused on stabilization, capacity building, and strengthening internal systems across Community Infrastructure. Major projects have advanced, and foundational work has been completed to rebuild teams, clarify roles, document processes, and improve coordination.

These efforts support Seabird's long term goals of self sufficiency, strong internal capacity, clear processes, reliable documentation, and improved control over the quality, cost, and sustainability of infrastructure and services.

Willow Walker, Councillor

March 2025 – April 2026



This past year has been marked by some great growth and healing within our community. I truly feel in my heart that we have come a long way, and I am confident that we will continue moving in the right direction as long as we remain committed to working together.

The Election Code Review Committee has been working well together, with open and meaningful dialogue at the table. We have also had valuable conversations with Community Members through our information-sharing sessions, which has helped strengthen understanding and engagement across the community.

At this year's Fall Fair, I was honoured to be part of a Wellness and Safety Group focused on checking in with our Members, especially our Youth, to help ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing. I am truly grateful to everyone who contributed to this effort. It was meaningful work, and we were able to connect with many individuals throughout the event. Some of the people involved included Alexis, Brooke, Sierra, Barb, Jordin, Jen, Kim, Ashley, and Fabian, among others.

This initiative built on the approach we used during Festival, with an added layer of support through the presence of security and police walking alongside us. This collaboration created a strong and

visible presence, helping Community Members and visitors feel safe and supported.

Another highlight this year was the opportunity to engage with leadership in Child and Family Services. We welcomed several representatives to Seabird, including ADM Minister Jodi Wickens, ISC RDG Allyson Rowe, ISC Child and Family Director Angela McCarthy, ISC Community Infrastructure representative Avril Lamont, FNCFS Greg Miller, and Manager of Jurisdiction Katie Lloyd. Their visit was an important step forward. It allowed them to see who we are as a community, understand our goals, and hear directly about our vision for caring for our Members and future generations. We provided a tour of Seabird and shared our plans for growth and community wellbeing. In return, we gained valuable information and clarity on key topics, along with confirmation that they are willing to work alongside us.

We have continued to meet on these matters and strengthen our working relationships in partnership with Sq'ewqel's Administration. I feel confident that we are moving in the right direction, and by maintaining these relationships and holding one another accountable, we can continue to support and advocate for all Sq'ewqel families.



Rod Peters, Councillor

March 2025 – April 2026

INTER-GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

There are monthly scheduled meetings and special meetings with the director, manager, staff and portfolio holders.

The following topics reflect my portfolios and networking with directors and staff monthly.

Lower Fraser Fishing Alliance (LFFA)

As the Alternate Representative for Sq'ewqel, I attended the monthly forum meetings hosted by First Nations and/or Bands. All above Port Mann Bridge First Nation and/or Bands to Yale have Tier 1 fish discussion and planning meetings.

Then the APM held Tier 2 fish discussions and networking with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Each year we compile and submit an integrated management fishing plan for all species, such as Eulachon, Chinook, Sockeye, Coho, Pink, Steelhead, Chum and Sturgeon.

During August 2025 there was a Dry Rack Fishery opening and Communal Chinook Fishing.

Lastly, the LFFA Executive Committee met with Anna Classen, Regional Director General in Vancouver.

Soth Teamewxe Stewardship Alliance

As of November 2025, Sq'ewqel became an official member of the 20 First Nations and/or Bands Stó:lō Nation.

There are monthly board meetings, and I am also on the Education Committee.

We also meet quarterly in regards to the Skagit Watershed in collaboration with the Nlaka'pamux Nation, working together.

Stó:lō Collective Committee

In regards to the 12 acres of property at St. Mary's Residential School in Mission:

Since Stó:lō Nation received the Notice to Demolish the residential school building, the 21 First Nations and/or Bands meet monthly to discuss and plan for what will go on the Reserve Land next.

Water Table and Caucus Committee

I am the Fraser River Representative delegate on the Caucus board, and we meet quarterly with working groups. We've also traveled to various delegates' territories and the watersheds they uphold and protect.

The water table hosts Tier 2 meetings with Provincial Representatives and staff to work towards the Watershed Security Strategy. The province funded \$100 (thousand) that is in a trust fund,

Continued on the next page

twice a year First Nations and/or Bands can apply for funding to enhance and protect their watersheds.

Sq'ewqel hosted the November 2025 Water Caucus meeting in the Harrison H. S. Grand Motel meeting room with a tour of the community.

EDUCATION

Since the implementation of Education Law, the previous Education Committee was phased out in November 2025. The board was replaced by Council representatives to oversee the education of Community Members.

Sq'ewqel is also associated with the First Nations Education Authority (FNEA) consisting of 7 other First Nations and/or Bands. The FNEA meet quarterly and have recently met with the Crown. The Funding formula was to be amended with Options 1, 2, 3, for receiving and paying the funding for School Authorities.

I continued to attend the Seabird College Board meetings monthly with directors, managers and staff.

In December 2025, Sq'ewqel signed and renewed the Local Education Agreement with School District #78, Fraser Cascade.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE)

The directors and staff hold monthly meetings at the ECE Centre. We get regular reporting on all age categories and how they are funded. For example: Infant, Toddler, 3's, 4's and pre-school aged children.

Annually there is a graduation held for the children moving on to kindergarten at the elementary school.

Due to the high numbers of interest and participation, the ECE Centre expanded to accommodate our growth.

Justice

Being the Lead for the Justice Committee, I'd receive important text messages or calls to urgently meet, discuss and come up with a plan in different situations.

Administration, Sq'ewqel Fire Personnel and the RCMP are usually on the call or have passed information down on the file.

"We are committed to upholding the health, safety and wellbeing of all Community Members."

IN CLOSING

I want to thank and acknowledge all Community Members who came forward with your concerns, questions and input at meetings or events.

Your VOICE matters.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rod Peters
Council





Chief Administrative Officer

Alexis Grace

Overview / Introduction to the Annual Report

EYÉM SQ'ÉWQEL ~ SEABIRD STRONG: Growing Together in Purpose and Respect

From the vision of our ancestors to the actions we carry today

The accomplishments and success described in the annual report, shares a story relationship. This is a story of bringing our people, our history, our teachings, our priorities and our collective efforts together around a shared vision for a strong Seabird Island.

Walking and working together; listening, learning, supporting one another, we deepen our alignment, respect, and our shared commitment to all our people.

Across the organization, we are dedicated to weaving Seabird Island history, cultural teachings, language, ceremony, traditional wellness, listening, learning, quality and ways of knowing

into everything we do. These are not separate from our work; they are what strengthen and guide the journey we are on together. They remind us of who we are, where we come from, and the responsibilities we all carry to those who came before us and those who will follow.

We see success reflected in our community and people every day, we see our strength and it drives us to continue to grow and improve. We see it in a strategic plan that points our direction with consensus and clarity. We witness it in our Youth drummers carrying songs and teachings forward, showing us, they are not simply the





leaders of tomorrow, they are already contributing to the strength and future of our community today. We see it in people reconnecting to identity, culture, language and community. We see it in our families, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, staff, and Community Members who generously share their wisdom, skills, creativity, and kindness as they rise and thrive. We see it in the resurgence of our people, educated, trained, mentoring, returning to holding space and contribute to our collective success within our organization.

This work would not be possible without the dedication of our members, the guidance of our Elders, our staff and the many partners and allies who choose to walk alongside us each day.

Every department, every team member, and every contribution is meaningful, seen and valued. Whether supporting

families, advancing health and wellness, strengthening governance, affirming rights and title, maintaining accountability and transparency in our finances, maintaining operational storage and supplies, developing housing, enhancing infrastructure, standing up an urgent response, caring for our lands and resources, organizing community events, communicating and engaging or building the essential systems that support the everything and everyone else, the many projects, services and programs within our organization, each effort contributes to something greater than ourselves.

I am especially proud of the care, dedication, and heart I see across our teams. When we come together with a shared purpose, grounded in respect and guided by our teachings, we become stronger. We create space for one another to succeed, we celebrate



each other's gifts, and we continue building an organization where people feel valued, supported, and inspired to contribute.

I raise my hands to Chief and Council for their steadfast leadership this past year and commitment to our people, and to every employee, member, Elder, Youth, volunteer, partner, and ally who helps carry this vision forward. The progress reflected in this report belongs to all of us and is a testament to the support, guidance and belief in all of us our Leadership has extended humbly and openly.

While there is still important work ahead, we move forward with purpose, grounded in our teachings, strengthened by our culture, and guided by the voices of our people.

Together, let us continue to listen deeply, care for one another, create space for our people to lead, heal, and thrive, continue to reclaim, restore, and celebrate who we are and the hands and hearts that contributed to where we are today.

Together, we are creating a future rooted in the wisdom of our ancestors, strengthened by the gifts of our people, and carried forward by our Youth.

OUR FUTURE IS STRONG.
EYÉM SQ'ÉWQEL ~ SEABIRD STRONG.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION





ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIRECTOR

Jason Ellis

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Accounts Receivable
- Accounts Payable
- Payroll
- Purchasing & Warehouse
- Information Technology
- Records
 - Mail Services
 - Reception
 - Privacy
 - Records
- Human Resources & Occupational Health & Safety
 - Growth & Employee Wellbeing
 - Strengthening our Workforce
 - Mediation and Traditional Wellness
 - Occupational Health and Safety

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

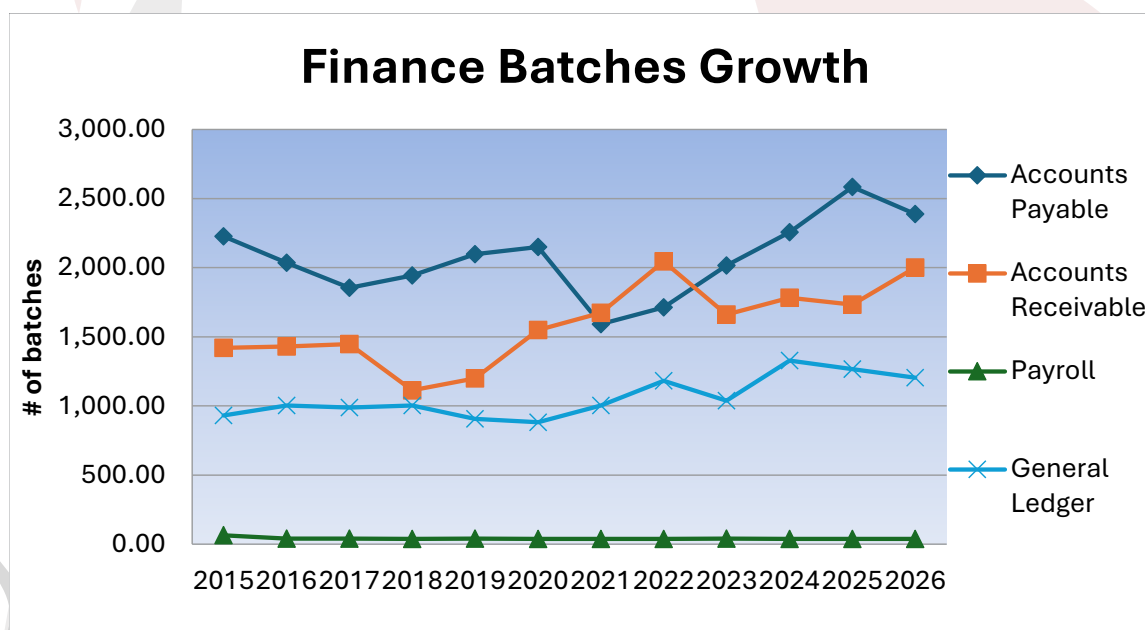
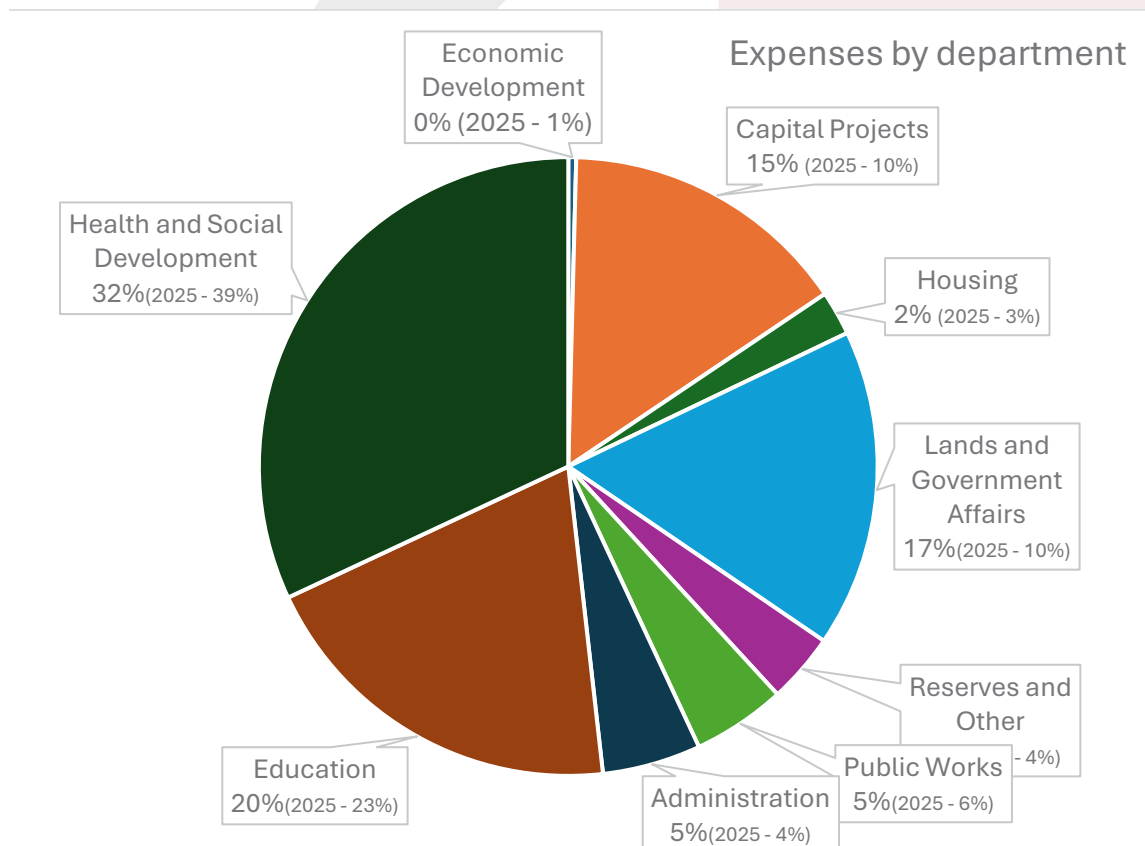
During the 2025-26 fiscal year, the Finance and Administration department focused on maintaining strong financial management, implementing our Financial Administration Law and doing our best to achieve ongoing operational efficiency and organizational accountability. Key priorities included effective budget management, financial reporting, procurement oversight and administrative support for Seabird's many services.

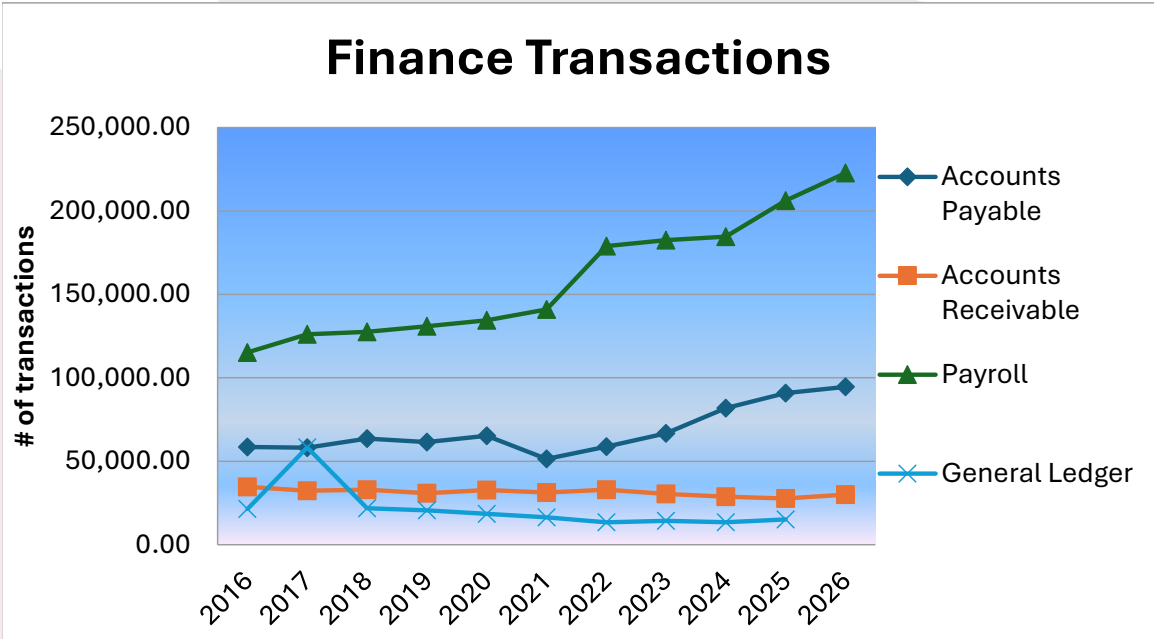
Financial activities included monitoring revenues and expenditures, preparing accurate financial statements, monitoring cash flow and supporting strategic planning through budget management. Regular financial reviews with our Finance Analysts helps ensure that budgets are consistently allocated responsibly and aligned with our objectives.

Seabird Island continues to grow at a rapid pace. We have continued to make changes to reliably meet the needs of all departments to better serve the community. As we continue to move forward, it is vital that the Finance, Human Resources, IT, Records Management, Reception and Purchasing/Procurement departments work more effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of the organization.

Overall

Finance and Administration provided careful management of community resources to support the band, ensuring transparency, accountability and effective management of financial and operational resources throughout the year.





q'áq'ewet
paying him/her

Purchasing & Warehouse

Overview

The Purchasing & Warehouse Department plays a vital role in supporting all Seabird Island Band departments by facilitating the procurement of goods and services required to deliver programs and services to the community. Through strategic sourcing, contract management, inventory control, and receiving operations, the department ensures that organizational resources are utilized responsibly, efficiently, and in accordance with approved budgets, policies, and funding requirements.

Our team serves as a centralized procurement and receiving function, providing guidance to departments throughout the requisition and purchasing process while maintaining accountability, transparency, and compliance with organizational standards.

Purpose

The purpose of the Purchasing Department is to oversee and regulate Seabird Island Band's procurement activities through effective planning, sourcing, negotiation, contract management, and documentation practices that provide the best overall value to the organization.

Key Objectives Include:

- Procuring goods and services, including professional and consulting services, in an accountable, transparent, efficient, timely, and cost-effective manner.
- Maximizing the value of organizational expenditures by considering quality, service, delivery, training, supplier performance, and total lifecycle costs in addition to price.
- Establishing and maintaining fair, ethical, and transparent procurement practices.
- Ensuring equal and fair access for qualified suppliers seeking to conduct business with Seabird Island Band.
- Supporting compliance with organizational policies, funding agreements, audit requirements, and legal obligations.



Benefits of Centralized Purchasing & Receiving

The centralized Purchasing and Receiving function provides significant value to Seabird Island Band by:

- Protecting the organization from unfair or unethical trade practices and unreasonable price increases.
- Supporting audit readiness and legal compliance.
- Promoting accountability and transparency across all purchasing activities.
- Strengthening trust with internal departments, community partners, sponsors, funders, and suppliers.
- Allowing Program Managers and departmental staff to focus on service delivery and community programming.
- Improving organizational efficiency through standardized procurement processes.
- Maintaining centralized records of purchases, contracts, and supplier information.
- Enhancing financial oversight and budget management.
- Leveraging purchasing volume to negotiate competitive pricing and maximize value.

Purchasing & Receiving Responsibilities

The Purchasing & Warehouse Department is responsible for a broad range of procurement and logistics functions, including:

- Identifying organizational requirements for goods, materials, and services.
- Researching and sourcing qualified suppliers.
- Obtaining quotations and negotiating pricing, quality standards, warranties, and delivery terms.
- Establishing order quantities and coordinating competitive bid processes.
- Managing supply contracts and supplier relationships.
- Creating and processing Purchase Orders.
- Tracking orders and monitoring delivery performance.
- Receiving and distributing incoming goods.
- Coordinating shipping activities.
- Managing returns, exchanges, and damaged goods claims.
- Evaluating supplier performance and procurement outcomes.
- Maintaining procurement, receiving, and inventory records.
- Supporting warehouse inventory management and order fulfillment activities.

Operational Statistics

PURCHASE ORDER ACTIVITY

Activity	Total
Purchase Orders Created	6,107
Average Purchase Orders per Month	508

During the reporting period, the department processed 6,107 Purchase Orders, averaging approximately 508 Purchase Orders per month. This volume reflects the continued growth in organizational operations and demonstrates the importance of centralized procurement oversight in supporting departmental and community needs.

RECEIVING & LOGISTICS ACTIVITY

WTS Web Parcel Tracking System

Activity	Total
Parcels Received & Processed	2,307
Average Parcels Per Month	192
Average Delivery Time	1.8 Days

The Receiving Department processed 2,307 incoming parcels throughout the fiscal year, averaging 192 parcels per month. Through efficient receiving and distribution procedures, departments received deliveries within an average of 1.8 days, ensuring timely access to supplies and equipment necessary for daily operations.

WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS & INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

Activity	Total
Inventory Categories Managed	43
Inventory Items Managed	1,213
Department Orders Fulfilled & Shipped	229

The Warehouse Department continued to provide effective inventory management services by maintaining 43 inventory categories consisting of 1,213 inventory items. During the reporting period, the warehouse fulfilled and shipped 229 departmental inventory orders, supporting organizational operations through efficient order fulfillment and inventory control practices.

Highlights

- Processed over 6,100 Purchase Orders during the fiscal year.
- Received and distributed more than 2,300 parcels across the organization.
- Maintained an average internal delivery turnaround of 1.8 days.
- Managed 1,213 inventory items across multiple departments.
- Fulfilled 229 inventory orders to support organizational operations.
- Continued to strengthen procurement processes, supplier relationships, and financial accountability.

Mission Statement

To apply highly effective and efficient procurement processes and systems that ensure the availability, quality, and value of materials and services required to support Seabird Island programs and operations. We strive to add value through strategic purchasing, cost savings, strong supplier partnerships, and innovative solutions that address organizational needs and enhance community service delivery.

Vision Statement

To be a trusted procurement and warehouse partner recognized for exceptional customer service, collaborative relationships, operational excellence, and expertise that delivers measurable value throughout Seabird Island Band.

Core Values

The Purchasing & Warehouse Department is guided by the following principles:

- Integrity
- Transparency
- Trust
- Accountability
- Adaptability
- Personal Fulfillment
- Work-Life Balance

lexwsthe'it
Honest, Truthful

Lexwsthe'it-thet qas xwelá kw'e wátes.
Be honest with yourself and others

Information Technology

IT has been extremely busy again this year maintaining and upgrading all things IT such as servers, switches, networks (like the community internet), websites, desktops, laptops, printers, cell phones, and all other small devices. We provide support and services to a wide range of IT needs.

The IT department this year has continued the maintenance and upgrading of server and switch hardware upgrades to our system but also support the Development Corporation entities. These significant upgrades will provide SIB with long-term ability to sustain the continued growth of our organization.

We are nearing the final stages on our major internet/fibre connectivity project with Rogers/Shaw. This will include the offering of higher speed internet, cable television, and phone services.

The IT department is also continuing support to Stqo:ya Construction with providing network connection, software and support for their day to day operational needs.

Other major completed and on-going projects at Seabird Island IT are:

- Installation of new building security which will enhance the security for all of our building facilities.
- Adobe Sign – the digitization of our paper work to save our trees and preserve our environment.
- Commercial building network upgrades to connect Nations

Creations, Sqewqel Development Corp., Stqo:ya Construction and our warehouses to our network and firewall security.

- Addition of Geo-fencing to protect malware and phishing scams from abroad.
- Standardization of our staff IT equipment and cell phones.

Looking ahead

Future IT projects taking place during the next year at Seabird Island include continued improvements to our websites, continued infrastructure upgrades throughout the buildings, standardizing our hardware and software, improving our services to staff, and planning for additional facilities on Seabird Island such as new homes and the Cultural Centre.

IT is ever changing and ever evolving, with the continuous growth of Seabird we are always trying to find new and better solutions to continue to enhance community internet connectivity and communication experience.

As we continue to grow and evolve, SIB IT continues to upgrade and adapt to the changing needs of the community and the organization.

MAIL SERVICES

Mail service plays an important role in keeping daily operations running smoothly by managing all incoming and outgoing mail. The mail room acts as a central point for communication flow that allows our departments, programs and stakeholders to stay connected.

Over the past year, the team has been consistent and reliable in sorting, processing, and delivering mail on time. During the Canada Post strike, Seabird's mail services adapted quickly by switching to UPS and adjusting processes to keep things moving. This helped minimize disruptions and ensure important items reached their destinations.

RECEPTION

The reception team provides friendly and professional service, supporting visitors and staff while handling approximately **40-80 incoming calls daily**. They make sure everyone feels acknowledged and welcomed when they arrive, creating a positive environment.

The reception team supports staff by answering questions, replying to messages, directing visitors, and assisting with any day-to-day operational needs, consistently maintaining a welcoming and positive environment.

PRIVACY

Between July 2025 and May 2026, privacy, confidentiality, and security training expanded significantly, growing from an initial [AD1.1] cohort of 8 employees to over **200 staff members trained** across the organization within this time frame.

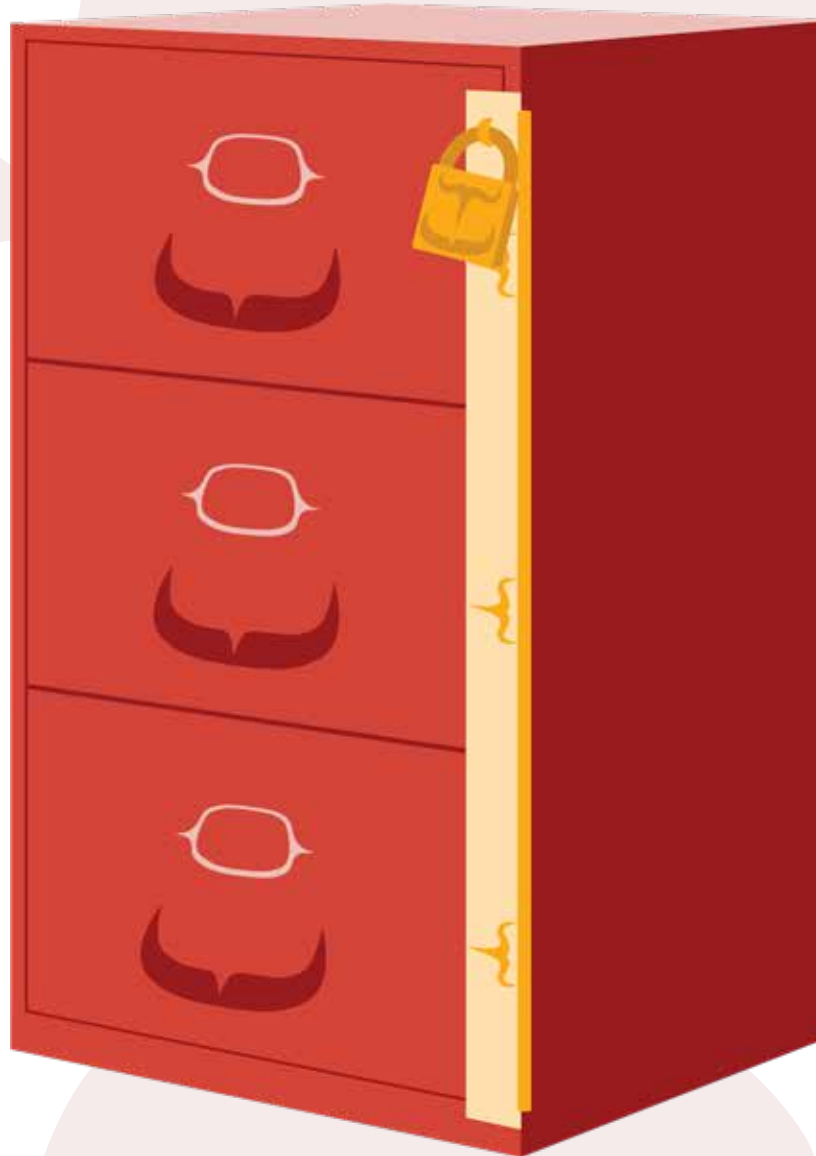
This reflects strong organizational commitment to building a culture of privacy awareness and accountability. This vision has contributed to improved digital literacy, stronger data governance, and better handling of sensitive information. Early indicators also show a reduction in privacy-related incidents and stronger compliance with Seabird's privacy and security protocols.

We is iyólem kw'els kwút ta' sqwélqwel?
Can I take your message?

RECORDS

The Records team focused on building capacity, maintaining confidentiality, responding to client requests, and streamlining workflows while advancing the transition from a paper-based environment to a digital records framework. This work supports Sq'ewqel's ability to maintain information that is authentic, reliable, accessible, secure, confidential, and legally compliant, while modernizing how records are created, managed, retained, and preserved.

In summary, Mail Services, Reception, Records Management, and Privacy play a vital role in supporting day-to-day operations and maintaining effective organizational functions at Seabird. Through adaptability, consistency and professionalism, these teams ensure that communication flows smoothly, visitors and staff are well supported, and records are managed in a secure, compliant, and forward-looking manner. Together, these efforts contribute to a reliable, welcoming, and efficient workplace while supporting Sq'ewqel's transition toward more modern, resilient and sustainable practices.





Sq'éwqel
Seabird Island Band

Environmental Recycling

In recognition of our outstanding environmental achievement



97,342

Gallons of
Water Saved



5,320

Gallons of
Oil Saved



323

Trees Saved



14

Tons of
Paper Recycled



42.84

Cubic Yards of
Landfill Space Saved



8,218

Less Pounds of
Air Pollution



57,078

Kilowatts of
Energy Saved

Human Resources and Occupational Health & Safety



This year, the Human Resources and Occupational Health and Safety division has continued to prioritize a community-centered, workplace-wellness approach to supporting our employees.

GROWTH AND EMPLOYEE WELLBEING

At the heart of our work is the recognition of each team member for playing a vital role in the success of our work, the wellbeing of our community, and the communities we serve.

Our annual **Performance Review** provides an opportunity for employees to share their experiences, celebrate their strengths, and express what support they need to flourish. This year, participation reached its highest level:

- **88%** of employees shared their reflections
- **80%** of direct supervisors engaged in meaningful feedback

Most importantly, **90% of our employees shared that they feel valued**

or deeply valued. The **Early Childhood** department had the highest number of employees expressing a strong sense of feeling valued. As we move forward, we will continue listening, learning, and ensuring that every employee feels seen, heard, and supported in their journey.

STRENGTHENING OUR WORKFORCE

This year, we welcomed **147 new employees**, bringing our total workforce to 439 team members. **55 Band Members** joined our team this year. **73% of our employees are Indigenous** (37% Band Members, 36% Indigenous), and 27% are non-Indigenous. Some of the key roles we've added this year include Economic and Community Development Officer, Community Liaison, Project Coordinator, Life Skills

Human Resources and Occupational Health & Safety



Coach, Sr. Registered Clinical Counsellor, Emergency Program Coordinator, and Digital Marketing Agent, to name a few.

Turnover this fiscal year lowered to **16%** for permanent employees, with **6% turnover** due to contract terms

or funding ending. Unfortunately, changes or reductions in funding have led to some programs or positions ending, however we continue to seek and establish new funding sources.

MEDIATION AND TRADITIONAL HEALING

This year, we are happy to share that our Mediation and Traditional Healing team has expanded to support individuals who have concerns about the services/care they've received and support resolutions and healing.

We have also continued our work supporting team members with traditional healing. When team members are supported in their wellbeing physically, emotionally, socially, spiritually and professionally, they're able to do their best work and lead more fulfilling lives. We see workplace wellness as part of our culture. We held **16 mediation sessions, 27 team circles, 13 spirit baths/cleanses, 54 individual wellness sessions, and supported 16 cultural ceremonies/events.**

We support community events, ceremonies making intentional connections. The aim is to create a safe space for staff, allow them to take care of themselves and connect with others.

We do this so employees feel seen, supported, and empowered every day. We will continue to prioritize workplace wellness in ways that make a real difference in the following areas:

- **Physical:** Health, nutrition, activity, sleep, hydration, substance free, safety, security
- **Emotional:** Resilience, compassion, confidence, mental health, psychological safety, autonomy, flexibility
- **Social:** Belonging, inclusion, encouragement, connectivity,



positive peer pressure, engagement, social support

- **Spiritual:** Hope, purpose, passion, joy, values, meaning, gratitude, service, dignity
- **Professional:** Lifelong learning, innovation, financial literacy, research, leadership development, professional growth, accomplishment

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Occupational Health and Safety has joined the Human Resources division, and this year we have focused on strengthening our workplace safety culture. Our Health and Safety Officer has established a revised Health and Safety orientation, continued our Joint Health and Safety Committee, and supported workplace assessments,

audits, investigations, safety planning, returns to work after workplace injuries and training.

We updated and improved our incident reporting methods to include posters and QR codes. This year, there were 74 reported workplace incidents, with 4 critical incidents necessitating police, fire, or ambulance response.

We assisted with safety plans for the Fitness Centre, Nutrition Run, Festival, Career Fair, new construction, Earth Day and more. We also supported developing safe work practices for kitchen operators, dangerous goods and working alone. We also participated in emergency preparedness and employee education.

This year we also received a grant to provide First Aid training, and offered several sessions to staff and the community.

Human Resources and Occupational Health & Safety

Looking Ahead:

As we step into a new year, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering a workplace that reflects the values of our people. Our goals include:

- **Reinforcing our welcoming process for new employees:** An onboarding program ensuring that new hires feel embraced and supported, as well as integrating Seabird Island's Cultural Humility framework into our practices.
- **Expanding Employee Wellness initiatives:** Continue holistic wellness support for staff and community. Build a foundation of mentorship with cultural protocols, teachings and sharing. Enhance connection with staff to promote ongoing healing with culturally safe approaches.
- **Ensuring policies align with workplace values, community culture, and legal principles:** Maintaining a balance between regulatory requirements and the values of our people.
- **Strengthening safety:** Increasing employee education, developing communication materials, standardizing lock-down procedures (trainings/drills), fire safety, and reviewing our safety program.

We continue to hold gratitude for every employee who contributes their time, energy, and heart to this organization. Together, we are not just building a workforce, we are strengthening our workplace community.

kw'emtset
we are strong

Human Resources and Occupational Health & Safety





INTER-GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Seabird Island

Make Your Voice Count

VOTE!

in the Referendum

June 2, 2025

SCAN ME



YOUR VOICE

YOUR VOTE

YOUR FUTURE





INTER-GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

Janice Parsey

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Introduction
 - Objectives
 - Highlights
- Aboriginal, Rights & Title Division
 - Sunrise Expansion Program
 - Species at Risk
 - Ground Water Monitoring
 - Archaeological Impact
- Natural Resources and Referrals Division
 - Fish & Wildlife
 - Natural Resources & Forestry
- Policy & Governance Structures Division
 - Genealogy
 - Membership
- Communications & Engagement Division
 - Communications
 - Engagement
 - Proposal Writing
 - Vitalization (language & traditional teachings)



INTRODUCTION

The Inter-Government Affairs department gives Seabird Island a voice in bureaucratic arenas, both federally, provincially and with Industry by engaging with external stakeholders, agencies and proponents to advocate for the Aboriginal Rights & Titles of Seabird Island First Nation Members in accordance with UNDRIP.

Programs Include: Aboriginal Rights & Title, Policy & Governance, Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources & Forestry, Referrals, Membership, Communications, and Vitalization (Language and Traditional Teachings).

DIRECTOR INFORMATION: Tepetco - Janice Parsey (Harris)

I was born and raised as a Seabird Island Member. I had the honour of growing up in our community and with the families who had the vision to bring us where we are today. I am the daughter of Grand Chief Vincent and Beatrice Harris, and the granddaughter of Chief Alfred and Lena Hope. Growing up, community values were instilled in us within the community. I have worked many years in Band Administration and Finance and have worked in many capacities that Band Administration entails. I am very familiar with Rights and Title and understand that we are here to ensure they are not overlooked or neglected.

Our Objectives, Strategies, and Goals

Advancing our Snowoyeh

This is foundational to all work that we do. Working together as one, guided by the wisdom of our Elders and connected to the traditions and culture of Seabird Island requires all members of our team to be knowledgeable about our vision and principles, understand our culture and traditions, and learn our language.

Protecting our Lands and Resources

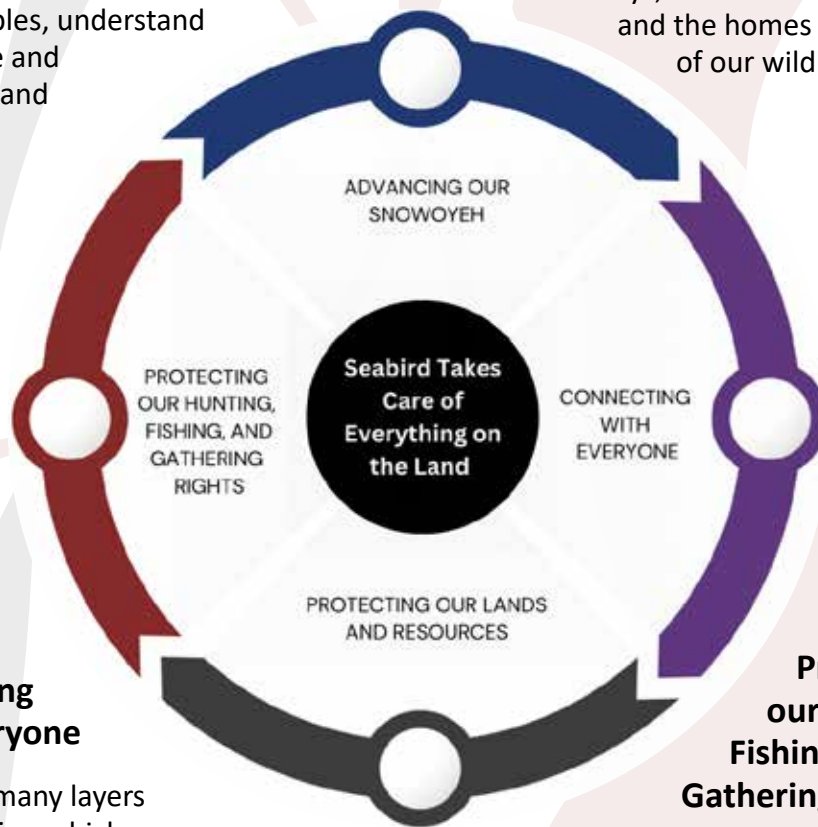
To protect our lands and resources effectively, we need to understand everything that's encompassed within our territory: our landscape, our waterways, our natural elements, and the homes and pathways of our wildlife.

Connecting with Everyone

There are many layers of connection which are essential to our work. We work for our community.

Protecting our Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Rights

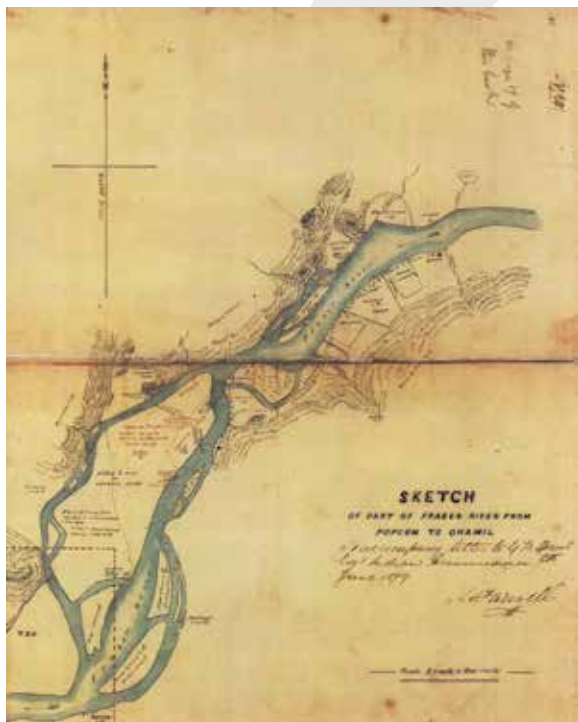
Rooted in the wisdom of our traditional laws and guided by a profound responsibility to safeguard our resources, we are dedicated to protecting hunting, fishing, and gathering rights. As stewards of our ancestral lands, we recognize the inherent connection between our cultural heritage and the bountiful resources that have sustained us for centuries.



2025-26 Year Highlights:

- Developed a high-level workplan that ties back to the Community and C+C's Strategic Plan
- Grew our IGA Team, and moved staff into team lead positions within divisions to help move work forward
- Continued to do the important work of advocating for Seabird Island, negotiating high-level agreements and working with all departments while keeping the best interests of the community at the top of mind

Chief and Council Strategic Plan (#s align with the Strat Plan)	Objective	Ongoing Strategy	
4. Infrastructure and Housing 8. Governance and Communication	1. Advancing our Snowoyeh	1.1	Work through our Vision and Principles
		1.2	Understand our territory
		1.3	Build meaningful relationships that strengthen our connections and our shared rights
2. Youth Development and Support 5. Community Health and Safety	2. Connecting with Everyone	2.1	Strengthen collaboration across Seabird Island's Administration
		2.2	Work synergistically with our leadership
		2.3	Regular engagement with community and membership
		2.4	Participatory process for renewed Membership Code
		2.5	Strategic relationship building with all levels of government and ministries
1. Cultural Education and Preservation 3. Education and Training 9. Reasserting Jurisdiction over Lands and Water	3. Protecting our Lands and Resources	3.1	Be a prepared and highly skilled department
		3.2	Increase policy presence and influence across regional, provincial, and federal levels
		3.3	Internal policy development connected to Seabird Island Laws
		3.4	Enforce Indigenous Rights and Title over all Seabird Island territory (reserve, additional, collective)
6. Economic Development and Employment 7. Path to Jurisdiction: Child and Family Services	4. Protecting our Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Rights	4.1	Promote recognition of our Aboriginal Rights
		4.2	Strong advocacy work
		4.3	Intergenerational learning to support stewardship and respect for all things
		4.4	Expanded stewardship work
		4.5	Policy development and engagement



Aboriginal Rights and Title affirm our right to our Traditional Territories and our right to maintain and protect the resources within our lands and waters. This forms the umbrella of all that we do in Inter-Government Affairs.

2025-26 Year Highlights:

1. **Enbridge:** Sunrise Expansion Project (SEP) continues to do exploratory assessments and community engagement (see more information on the project below)
2. Working with the Ministry of Transportation on numerous projects including continued discussion of Lot 259 Trespass
3. Continued consultation and work to move forward Specific Claims for Seabird Island

ENBRIDGE: SUNRISE EXPANSION PROGRAM (SEP)

Project Governance

The Sunrise Expansion Program is a complex project requiring deep collaboration and shared understanding across multiple organizations, companies and teams. Very early in relationship development and planning discussions there were two (2) tables constituted to provide consistent oversight, guidance and direction to the project team: a monthly in-person meeting that takes place once per month for high-level direction-setting, and a weekly working group meeting to account for engineering, environmental and archaeological planning.

Establishing this structure for the project reflects the good governance expectations that project teams are expected to implement.





SPECIES AT RISK & ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA (ECCC)

Seabird Island is working in close collaboration with Canadian Wildlife Services (CWS) to ensure federal permitting requirements are met in a manner that prioritizes our short and long-term priorities. We are working at Director General levels to ensure planning and long-term development priorities are not limited. Seabird Island is now developing its strategic approach to ensuring Community Members' direct participation in a capacity development opportunity to physically handle and safeguard Oregon Forest Snails and Oregon Spotted Frogs.



SEABIRD ISLAND-DRIVEN GROUNDWATER MONITORING & SAMPLING PROGRAM

Seabird Island's staff are taking ownership of our water-related surveillance measures to ensure high-quality input continues to inform project planning. Consistent sampling and regular reports are relied on by environmental, construction, and wildlife teams working on the ground, in the field, and in office settings.

Seabird Island's biologists and natural resources teams will continue delivering groundwater monitoring and sampling

program activities on Seabird Island reserve lands.





ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AIA)

Fine Tilling Deep Trenching (FTDT) Results

During the 2025-26 field season, Seabird Island Monitors identified two (2) hand mauls. Pictured below is Wayne Charlie holding the second hand maul which he identified himself in early May. Ensuring our own Monitors maintain consistent presence in the field is an important part of taking good care of what belongs to our people and ancestors.

CS8B-CS9 Route Planning on Seabird Island Reserve Lands

Route planning discussions were guided by the following three (3) principles:

1. Maximize Safety
2. Minimize Project Impacts
3. Develop highly effective measures to mitigate potential project impacts

The Proposed ROW area (red line) is approx. 31.33 acres while Temporary Workspace (blue shading) accounts for approx. 130.69 acres.





REFERRAL UNIT

A referral is a notice submitted by government agencies or private corporations to a First Nation to initiate consultation on a project that seeks to utilize lands and/or resources within our territory.

2025-26 Year Highlights:

1. IGA continued to receive, review and respond to incoming referrals.
 - a. A coordinated effort takes place with each referral — upon receiving it, our Referrals Coordinator then sends to the IGA team for technical review.
2. Reaching completion of the Referrals Framework implementation.
3. **Streamlined Referrals processing** with Internal numbering system for incoming referrals.
4. Working closer with the People of the River Referrals Office on processing referrals.
5. **Approximately 136 referrals** were received at Seabird Island's Referral's email address
 - a. 80 were commented on by the technical team and the remainder were for informational purposes
6. **Approximately 215 received from the People of the River Referral Office** for Seabird Island
 - a. 170 were reviewed and commented on by our technical team, the remainder were for informational purposes



FISH & WILDLIFE UNIT

The Fish & Wildlife division addresses issues and opportunities pertaining to the conservation, protection, and enhancement of animals and the natural environment within Seabird Island's traditional territory.

Highlights:

- 1. Spawner Surveys:** Targeted spawner surveys were conducted to monitor the endangered Chinook salmon population within established spawning channels. Data collection focuses on abundance, species composition, and habitat-use to inform ongoing conservation strategies. Additional salmonid species observed included Chum, Coho, and pink salmon. Survey coverage was expanded to assess potential habitat areas within Maria Slough that may support Christmas Sockeye presence.
- 2. Restoration Project:** Restoration activities in the Fish-trap spawning channel were completed, including channel excavation to increase depth, enhance holding pool development, and improve habitat complexity for juvenile salmonids. Large woody debris was installed to support hydraulic diversity, and riparian zones were replanted collaboratively by the Fish & Wildlife team, DFO personnel, and Seabird Island Community School students. These enhancements aim to improve fry rearing conditions and support long-term channel stability.



3. **Community Engagement:** Through partnership with the Seabird Island Community School's land-based learning program, junior biologists facilitated technical field-based lessons focusing on native plant identification, salmonid life-cycle observation, animal print identification, bear safety protocols, and salmon fry release procedures. These activities support community capacity-building and increase awareness of local ecological processes.
4. **Water Quality Testing:** Continuous water quality monitoring was maintained across multiple logger stations throughout the slough. The collected data contributes to baseline and post-restoration assessments of dissolved oxygen levels, temperature variability, and overall aquatic habitat conditions.

Monitoring outputs support evaluation of connectivity improvements between the upper Maria Slough and the Fraser River.

5. **Expanding our team:** Two junior biologists joined the division in 2025, increasing operational capacity during peak field seasons. The expanded team supports broader data collection coverage, additional restoration site maintenance, and improved delivery of habitat monitoring and stewardship initiatives.

Regular updates will be available on the Fish & Wildlife page of Seabird Island's website. For any questions about our projects and work being done please feel free to email our team at FishandWildlife@seabirdisland.ca

NATURAL RESOURCES & FORESTRY UNIT

The Natural Resource and Forestry division focuses on regaining control, access and rights to Seabird's traditional and natural resources. We advocate for protection from infringement of our rights and title over all resources in our territory. This past year, the Natural Resources and Forestry division has contributed to the stewardship of our natural resources, addressing environmental crises and broader challenges of sustainable development and conservation.



2025-26 Year Highlights:

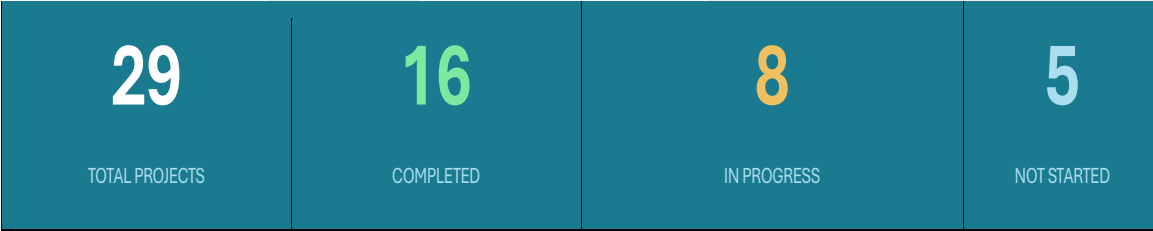
- 1. Evacuation Route Plan:** Seabird Island completed a comprehensive Evacuation Route Plan to strengthen community safety and climate resilience, including onsite assessments, evacuation drills, climate risk analyses, and community engagement sessions. The project delivered updated evacuation maps, route data sheets, communication templates, and a **Community Evacuation Guidebook**, all aligned with British Columbia's Emergency Management System standards and integrated with Emergency Support Systems (ESS). This work enhances readiness for floods, wildfires, and extreme weather while improving regional coordination with neighboring jurisdictions.
- 2. Adaptive Heat Mapping Project:** Seabird Island advanced its climate-resilience work through the Adaptive Heat Mapping Project, funded by UBCM's Disaster Risk Reduction program. Temperature and humidity sensors were installed across key locations, and continuous data collection has been underway to identify heat-vulnerability patterns and high-risk zones affected during extreme heat events. This project strengthens emergency planning by providing real-time and seasonal heat-risk insights that will inform cooling-center placement, public-notification strategies, and supports for Elders and other vulnerable residents. The data will also guide long-term climate-adaptation planning as extreme heat events become more frequent and severe.
- 3. BC Timber Sales (BCTS):** Seabird Island strengthened its forestry stewardship through ongoing engagement with BC Timber Sales, resulting in the securement of thirty cubic meters of firewood for

- Community Members. Through our ongoing engagement with BCTS, Seabird Island ensures that all harvesting within our territory is conducted sustainably and does not compromise our ability to secure a future First Nation area-based Woodland License, while continuing to build constructive relationships with provincial forestry partners.
4. **Forestry Internship:** Seabird Island expanded its forestry capacity by hiring a Forestry Stewardship Intern with support from Indigenous Forestry Initiative (IFI) - Natural Resources Canada funding. The intern is receiving hands-on training in cut block laying, terrain assessments, and tree identification to strengthen our ability to manage forestry activities within our territory and support sustainable decision-making.
 5. **LandPLANNER software:** Seabird Island successfully completed all funding requirements for the Digital Land Governance initiative supported by the New Relationship Trust. The purpose of this project was to strengthen Seabird Island First Nation's capacity for Nation-led land governance through the implementation of a modern, integrated digital land management system. By working with Chartwell Resource Group Ltd. (CRGL) to build a customized LandPLANNER platform, the initiative aimed to unify geospatial data, improve decision-making efficiency, and support Indigenous data sovereignty.



Policy and Governance Structures Division

POLICY UNIT

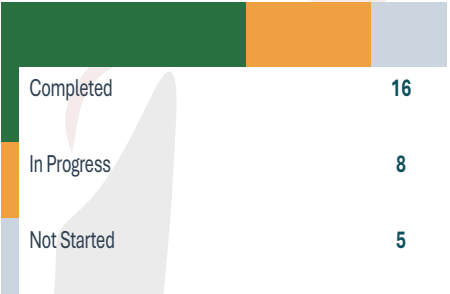


AT A GLANCE

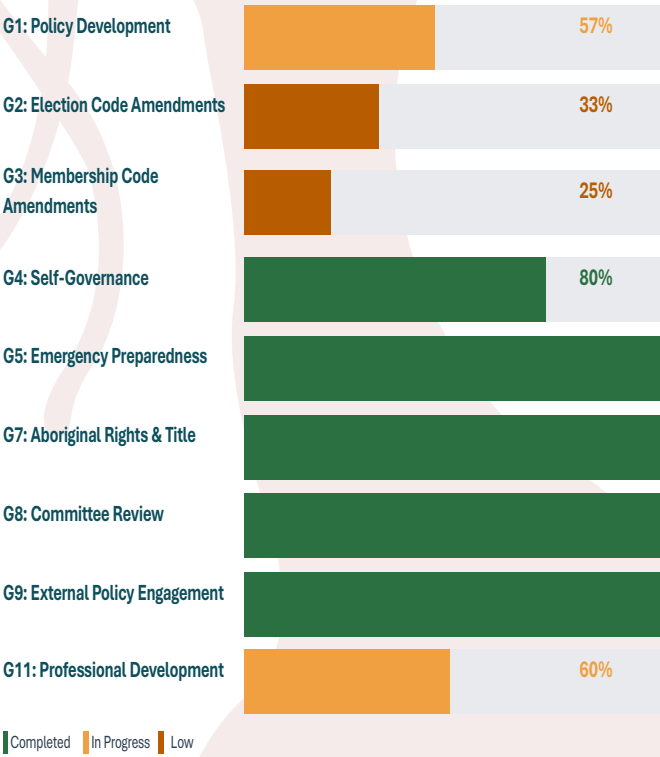
OVERALL COMPLETION BY GOAL



29 PROJECTS BREAKDOWN



COMPLETION RATE BY GOAL



Executive Summary: 2025 Smart Goals Progress

The Policy Unit concluded 2025 having **advanced all nine Smart Goals**, with **16** of 29 tracked projects completed, 8 in progress, and 5 carried forward into 2026. Work spanned policy development, governance reform, self-governance, emergency preparedness, and professional development.

The standout achievement of the year was the **completion of the Self-Governance Pathways Analysis**, conducted in partnership with Strategies North and MNP. Community engagement sessions, a department-wide UNDRIP/DRIPA consultation, and service agreements for neighboring local governments mark a foundational step in Sq'ewqel's path toward greater self-determination.

On the policy development front, four policies were completed. Four more are actively in progress, keeping the unit on track to meet its target of seven completed policies. Amendments to both the Election Code and Membership Code are progressing, with community surveys completed and community engagements underway; referendums for both are planned for 2026.

Emergency preparedness agreements were fully delivered, with a Local Emergency and Service Agreement templates and agreements finalized. Aboriginal Rights and Title case law research and the Committee Performance Review were each brought to approximately 80% completion. External policy engagement was maintained consistently throughout the year.

Staff also pursued several professional development opportunities, including the Halq'eméylem Language Course, the Xwelítem Siyáya allyship course through UFV, and the PBLI Indigenous Governance Webinar. An application to the RELAW program was unsuccessful; the unit will reapply in 2026.

Overall, 2025 was a productive year for the Policy Unit. The self-governance and governance reform workstreams lay strong groundwork for 2026, where the focus will shift to implementation, community engagement, and completing work carried forward from this cycle.



GENEALOGY UNIT

This unit has **completed 22 family tree binders** in total for **9 Elders**, with an additional 3 binders in progress at the time this report was submitted.

All information within the binders is exhaustively researched. This entails discussions with families to incorporate all records the families have available including births, marriages and deaths. Many of these records are copied and supplied within the binders. Additional work includes tracking for accuracy against all levels within the family tree and many discussions with a majority of the family members, whenever possible.

Our families are not always Seabird Island Members and there are many that have links within our Membership. When requested, we try to assist wherever possible. This year, we assisted 3 non-members that have strong family ties to Band Members with family information.

This Unit is linked to the Membership department and provides assistance in tracking Membership applications with family lineage research.

MEMBERSHIP UNIT

Membership would like to welcome Megan Pettis to the department. She will be assisting as a back-up Indian Registration Administrator.

Simone and Megan are available to assist Members with:

- Minor and Adult Registration
- Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) applications
- Certificate of Indian Status (CIS) applications
- Recording life events and amendments in the Indian Registration System (IRS), including:
 - o Marriages
 - o Divorces
 - o Deaths
 - o Legal name changes

Membership Code Revision

The Membership Code Survey Report was distributed to the community in December 2025. This report summarizes key findings from the 2024–25 Membership Code Survey, highlighting community perspectives and areas for improvement.

Key survey results include:

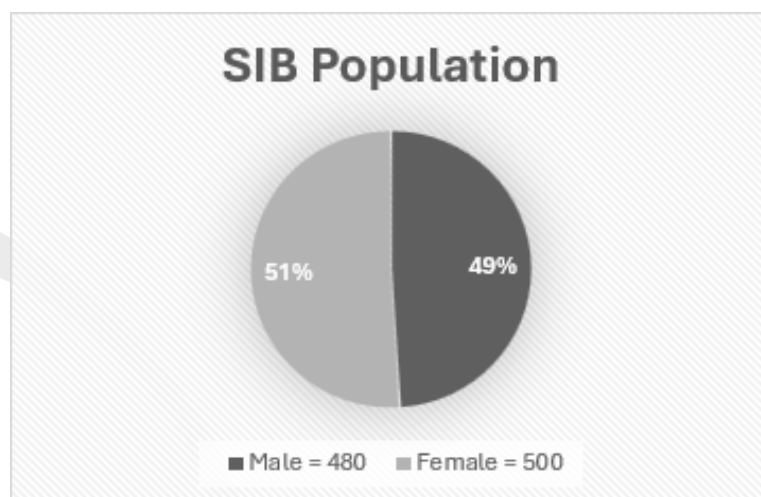
- Non-Status children and grandchildren of Status Members should be eligible to join Sq'ewqel's Membership
- Non-Status Members may have different rights and benefits compared to Status Members
- Custom adoptions should not be permitted for adults; community perspectives on children remain unclear
- Criminal record checks should be required for adult applicants who are not from Sq'ewqel
- Greater input is needed from Youth (ages 18–24) and off-reserve Members

Membership Overview and Demographics

Seabird Island Band Total Population

The total population of the Seabird Island Band consists of **980 registered Members**, with **480** identified as **male** and **500** as **female**. This reflects a balanced distribution between genders, with females making up a slightly

larger portion of the community. Overall, the difference is small, indicating a near-equal representation of male and female Members within the population.



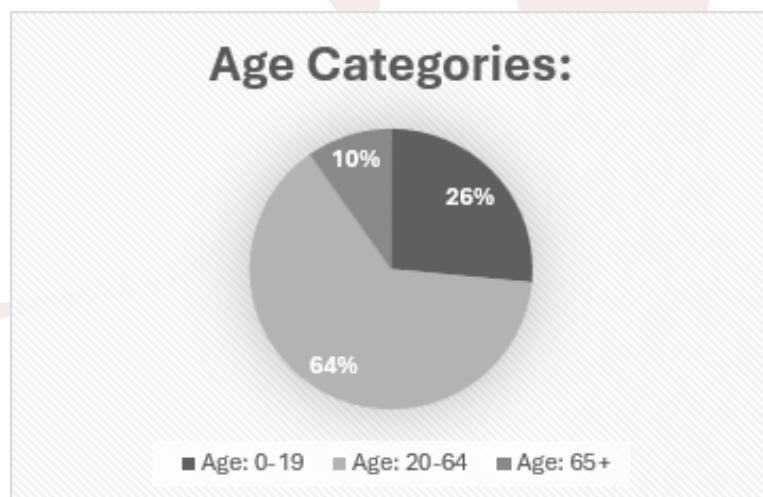
Policy and Governance Structures Division

Indian Registration Categories

Out of the **980 Members**, 704 are registered under category 6(1), while 276 are registered under category 6(2). These categories are used to determine how an individual is classified when applying for registration under the Indian Act.

SIB Age Demographics

Looking further into age distribution, the Membership can be grouped into three main categories. There are **260 Members** between the ages of 0 and 19, **624 Members** between the ages of 20 and 64, and **96 Members** who are 65 years of age and older. This breakdown provides a clearer understanding of the community's age structure.



ts'elhxwélmexw
family (also my neighbour)

Mékw' í thá el ts'elhxwélmexw.
This is my whole family.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The Communications Division is a multi-faceted program unit that helps each Band department produce documents, reports, and other informational materials. The team designs print and digital notices, as well as produces the monthly Sq'ewqel Sqwélqwel Pipe (newspaper), the bimonthly and annual calendars, annual report, and many other documents. Over 650 different items were prepared by the division this year.

The Communications Division is active in the support of most Band events and programs. The division is known for its photo sessions at Christmas, Easter, and other community gatherings. Starting in 2025, Communications has taken the lead in community engagement, working with other departments to promote governance, special projects, and collect general input among Seabird's community for consideration in planning and decision-making regarding band projects and activities.

Working together with Vitalization we are able to add more of the Halq'eméylem language and stories into our newspaper and promotions.

The division is committed to continuous improvements and is working to implement additional media to its tool kit in the coming year.

2025-26 Year Highlights:

- Over **650 different promotions** prepared by Communications this year
- The **return of door-to-door delivery** of the Sq'ewqel Sqwélqwel Pipe has been well received
- **Creation of an Engagement Unit**
- **Adding the Vitalization Unit** to the team
- **Adding the Proposal Unit** to the team.

Strategic Plan:

With collaboration, engagement and transparency, our strategic objective is to connect with everyone. Building meaningful relationships that strengthen our connections and our shared rights.



We are always looking to include more Community Member features in our Sq'ewqel Sqwélqwel Pipe (Newspaper): share your story with us, submit it, or request an interview... please email comm@seabirdisland.ca or call 604-796-2177

VISIT www.seabirdisland.ca/communications/ for more information on Sq'ewqel Communications & Engagement

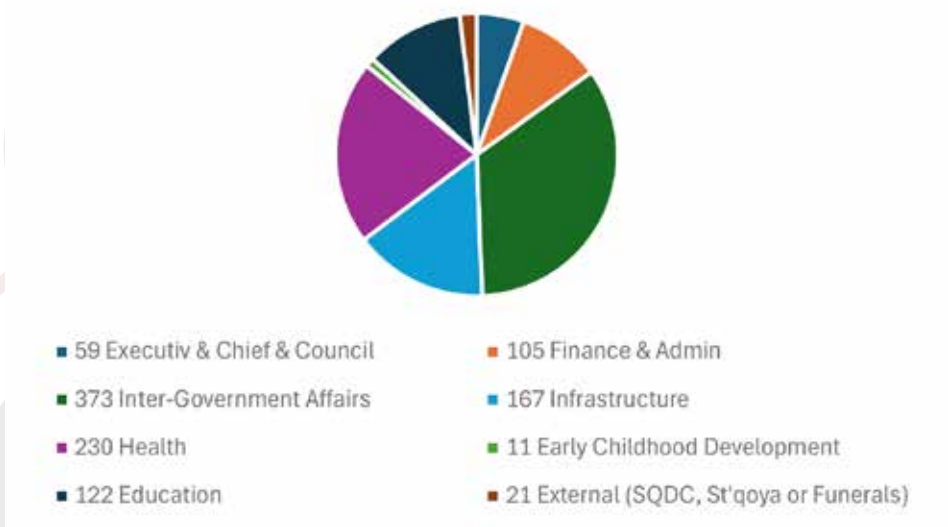
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

This was a significant year for Communications. We published our **Visual Identity Branding Standards Guide**, providing staff with clear directions regarding the proper use of the Seabird logo, brand colours and more. This is an important step in **protecting Seabird’s identity** from misuse or misrepresentation and

in building a strong, recognizable presence.

In Communications we also corrected staff titles and updated job descriptions to industry standards. This was huge in defining everybody’s responsibilities and skills enabling us to move forward to strengthen and diversify the team.

1088 Total Work Orders Tracked



Work Orders	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Totals	102	165	472	349

As reflected in the numbers above, with the help of four new Communications and Engagement staff, we were able to enhance our transparency by completing work of both **vastly higher quantity** and **quality** in Quarter 3 and 4.

Social Media Statistics

Facebook April 1, 2025 - March 30, 2026

Views	772,800
Viewers	67,700

Linked-In April 1, 2025 - March 30, 2026

Impressions	66,372
-------------	--------

ENGAGEMENT UNIT

Responsibilities have includes **governance operations** such as managing **referendums**, assisting with the **Chief & Council Election**, and engagement regarding the **SqDC** and the **SEP**, to name a few.

The Engagement Team has worked to connect more with the community through deliveries, **door-to-door** information sharing, “**knock & talk**” in-person event invitations, social media, and more. Their personal approach enhances the Communications and Marketing materials.

We continue to expand our services and promotional opportunities to keep the community informed and involved in all activities, **supporting** work carried out by **all Sq’ewqel departments** and services.

This year, we brought the community together to participate in **information sessions, surveys, referendums and elections.**

Sq’ewqel (Seabird Island Band) 2025 Referendum
Statement of Results
June 2, 2025

The ballot question will be approved if a majority of eligible voters who cast ballots in the referendum vote “YES” to the question.

Do you approve an extension of the Seabird Island lease for AE Concrete from the present 25 years to a 75-year term?

TOTAL	
TOTAL BALLOTS CAST	151
TOTAL	
SPOILED BALLOTS	0
INDIVIDUAL BALLOT COUNTS	
YES	118
NO	33

SIGNED AND DECLARED:
REFERENDUM OFFICER
250-384-8200 (ph) / voterhelp@onefeather.ca
MEMBER OF COUNCIL

OneFeather

SQ’EWQEL (SEABIRD ISLAND BAND) 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

STATEMENT OF ELECTED CANDIDATES

APRIL 15, 2026

TO THE OFFICE OF CHIEF
PETTIS, MARGARET (MAGGIE)
TO THE OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR
PETERS, RODNEY
WALKER, WILLOW
FISHER, CHAUNDINE
PETERS, MARLANA
ANDREW, ARLENE (LOLLY)
MCNEIL-BOBB, TYRONE
PETERS, MARCIA (MARCIE)
PETERS, TASHEENAH

This election, and all of its regulatory processes and requirements, were diligently conducted in accordance with the Seabird Island Election Code (2016).

Brett Bilge
ELECTORAL OFFICER
250-384-8200 (ph) / voterhelp@onefeather.ca



SQ’EWQEL (SEABIRD ISLAND BAND)

AGASSIZ, BC

Official Consolidated Count Declaration – Councillor

APRIL 15, 2026

This document declares and confirms the Official Ballot Count of ALL Councillor Ballots properly recorded for the Sq’ewqel (Seabird Island Band) 2026 General Election immediately following the close of Regular Polls located in the Millenium Hall, 2736 Sqewqel Drive, Agassiz, BC.

	TOTAL
TOTAL BALLOTS CAST	372
TOTAL	
SPOILED BALLOTS	0
INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE BALLOT COUNTS – EIGHT (8) TO BE ELECTED	
ANDREW, ARLENE (LOLLY)	145
MCNEIL, SARAH	102
ANDREW, TAMARA	121
MCNEIL-BOBB, ROBERT	53
BILLY, OCTAVIUS	70
MCNEIL-BOBB, TYRONE	143
FISHER, CHAUNDINE	168
PETERS, MARCIA (MARCIE)	143
FORSETH (MCINTYRE), ROWAN	82
PETERS, MARLANA	148
HOPE, CAROL	121
PETERS, RODNEY	203
HOPE, SALLY-MAY (SALLY)	127
PETERS, TASHEENAH	129
KARACSONYI, EDITH (EDIE)	100
WALKER, WILLOW	183
MARCHAND, ALAIN (AL)	106
WONG, BROOKLYN	20
MARTIN, SHAWNA	27

SIGNED AND DECLARED,

Brett Bilge
ELECTORAL OFFICER
250-384-8200 (ph) / voterhelp@onefeather.ca





PROPOSAL UNIT

Proposal Writing joined our team for a few months this fiscal. During this time, over **138 proposals** were tracked, with a significant number of them being successful. This work required a lot of internal engagement with other departments.

One successful project was the proposal for the soccer mini pitch, which was constructed in June 2026.

As this position transitions back to Finance, strategies, structures, and

processes will continue to be developed to support Seabird's ongoing proposal-writing efforts.



VITALIZATION (Language and Traditional Teachings) UNIT

The Vitalization Department brings together researchers, students, and Community Members to share knowledge and experience in language learning and revitalization. The division works to reduce language loss, protect Upriver Halq'eméylem, and support language use across generations by sharing practical, community-based approaches to language vitalization.

Through a strong and thoughtful language strategy, the department supports ongoing learning and helps guide community language efforts into the future. The department is also expanding its work to include non-formal learning opportunities in Halq'eméylem and heritage skills and knowledge programs that are open to all Members.

2025-26 Year Highlights

Over the reporting period, substantial progress was made in Halq'eméylem language revitalization through coordinated research, curriculum development, translation, post-secondary programming, and foundational governance work, supported by partnerships with the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), Simon Fraser University (SFU), First Peoples Cultural Council, community Elders, and regional partners.

Linguistic research advanced significantly with the collection and analysis of over **668 food-related Upriver Halq'eméylem words**, including extensive sorting, de-duplication, grammatical categorization, and identification of suffixes and infixes, alongside continued research into particles, seasonal vocabulary, place names, building names, and traditional stories. **Translation work**



*Started producing “**Word of the Week**” videos on the Sq'ewqel Facebook page, with 77 likes the first week.*

expanded across multiple sectors, including plants and harvesting knowledge, flora and fauna terminology, prayers, health resources, office and room names, inspirational phrases, departmental terminology, net-hanging processes, and seasonal and holiday vocabulary lists for Seabird Island and partner communities.

Researching locals and developing a database of local legends

Phonetic research progressed through the translation of complex linguistic and International Phonetic Alphabet materials into clear, plain-language explanations using Upriver Halq'eméylem orthography.

Systems and governance work continued through the research and drafting of a credentials and accreditation framework for Halq'eméylem language teachers, draft-development of a Traditional Practices Framework, policy discussions related to AI and language use, and drafting an Act respecting Upriver Halq'eméylem.

A key milestone in post-secondary language education was the successful graduation of five students from the Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma programs in Upriver Halq'eméylem at UFV, and **graduation of 11 students** from the Upriver Halq'eméylem Intermediate Proficiency Certificate — all students have been serving our community in various capacities.

Curriculum and program accomplishments also included completion of HALQ 102, transition planning and delivery of HALQ 201, and coordination of the Gathering of Sister Languages with approximately **60 participants**.

Additional achievements included submission of the 2025–26 Stó:lō Calendar, ongoing development and population of a Halq'eméylem language website, translations for the Sq'éwqel Sqwelqwel Pípe, archival preservation and partial transcription of an Elder's shared files, Elders' meetings focused on prayer research and knowledge sharing, and research into funding opportunities to support long-term language programming and sustainability.



qwelqwálqwemet
start talking

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE





COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTOR

Jay Lambert

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Capital Projects
- Public Works
- Water Services
- Sanitation
- Lands
- Custodial
- Events
- Fleet
- Fire Department
- FireSmart Program
- Emergency Management / Preparedness
- Economic & Community Development
- Planning and Sustainability

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Community Infrastructure Department supported Seabird Island's growth, safety, sustainability, and long-term development throughout the 2025–2026 reporting period.

The Community Infrastructure department is responsible for planning, delivering, and maintaining Seabird Island's infrastructure, lands, facilities, and essential services in a manner that supports safe, sustainable, culturally grounded, and self-reliant community development.

A key organizational milestone was the filling of the Executive Assistant position in October 2025 to support the Director of Community Infrastructure in managing a broad and increasingly complex portfolio of operational, capital, planning, and interdepartmental responsibilities.

Capacity within the Capital Projects department was also strengthened with the addition of a Senior Capital Project Manager and two construction-focused roles, helping move more project work in-house and improving oversight and accountability.

Operations were realigned under a new Infrastructure Operations Manager to improve coordination across divisions including Public Works, Custodial Services, Venue & Events, Fleet, Water, and Sanitation.

The Lands program expanded substantially during the year, advancing land use planning, environmental stewardship, governance development, permitting systems and monitoring.

Economic and Community Development initiatives also began to take shape with the hiring of an Economic Development Officer. Initial efforts focused on building internal capacity, supporting workforce development, improving community safety, and using a more coordinated and community-focused approach.

Recently in March 2026, a new Community Infrastructure and Sustainability Planner role was a welcome addition to the department.

Overall, this year marked a period of transition, with a focus on strengthening internal capacity, improving organization and aligning efforts that support Seabird Island's priorities for infrastructure, housing, governance, environmental stewardship, safety, resiliency, and long-term self-sufficiency.



CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital Projects continued supporting the delivery of infrastructure aligned with community growth, housing needs, operational priorities and long-term development objectives.

A primary focus during the reporting year was strengthening internal project delivery capacity to improve oversight, consistency, accountability and long-term sustainability.

Key Achievements

- Advancement of the Cultural Centre, with construction ongoing and anticipated completion in 2027
- Beginning of 34 residential housing units, construction ongoing and anticipated completion in late 2026
- Completion of two 6-plex residential buildings providing 12 three-bedroom rental units for Band Members
- Construction of two large-family duplexes providing four residential units designed for larger and blended families
- Development of Pipeho:m Road – preliminary road work completed
- Energy retrofit completed on Band Office, High School & Elementary School

Strategic Plan Alignment

Capital Projects directly supports Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Delivering housing and infrastructure projects that address current and future community growth
- Improving access to safe, sustainable, and culturally appropriate housing
- Strengthening community infrastructure and public facilities
- Increasing long-term operational sustainability through energy-efficient infrastructure improvements
- Building internal project management and construction capacity to support self-reliance and economic development
- Infrastructure planning is aligned with Seabird Island's long-term vision





PUBLIC WORKS

During the fiscal year Public Works maintained and supported core infrastructure systems across the community, including roads, signage, lighting, water systems, drainage, sewage systems, seasonal operations, and general building infrastructure.

The program transitioned to new leadership through the hiring of an Infrastructure Operations Manager, improving coordination and operational oversight across service areas. Work focused on maintaining service reliability, supporting community facilities, responding to operational requirements, and addressing day-to-day infrastructure needs.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Public Works supports Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Maintaining safe, reliable, and functional community infrastructure
- Supporting community health, safety, accessibility, and resilience
- Improving operational coordination and service delivery across departments
- Supporting sustainable infrastructure management and long-term asset stewardship
- Enhancing quality of life through reliable infrastructure systems and services



lá:lem
house

islá:wtxw
two houses

WATER SERVICES

Water Services are managed by a dedicated Water Technician, supported by the Planning and Utilities Advisor.

Work during the reporting year focused on systems monitoring, maintenance, operational reliability, regulatory compliance, and ensuring safe and consistent water delivery throughout the community.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Water Services supports Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Protecting community health and safety through access to safe drinking water
- Supporting long-term infrastructure sustainability and environmental stewardship
- Strengthening resilience and continuity of essential community services
- Supporting sustainable growth through effective utility management and infrastructure planning

SANITATION

Sanitation Services are delivered by a dedicated team responsible for waste management systems, garbage collection, recycling services, and sanitation infrastructure.

The program focused on maintaining reliable waste management services and supporting safe, clean, and healthy community operations.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Sanitation Services supports Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Promoting environmental stewardship and sustainable waste management practices
- Supporting community health, sanitation, and overall wellbeing
- Maintaining reliable and safe operational systems that contribute to community resiliency
- Supporting long-term sustainability through improved waste management infrastructure and practices

qó:
water

xwe'éyem
clear, smooth (water)

LANDS

The Lands program experienced significant growth in both capacity and scope during the reporting period.

Key achievements included completion of a draft Land Use Plan following extensive staff and community engagement, as well as development of a draft Environmental Protection Plan. Initial work also began on implementing waste management systems in collaboration with IZW TAG.

Significant progress was made in governance and development processes, including:

- Processing and issuance of 50 permits between April 2025 and March 2026
- Administration of Temporary Use Permits (TUP), Access/ Work permits, Building permits, renovation permits, fill permits, demolition permits, clearing permits, burn permits, business permits, and investigative use permits supporting both day-to-day community activities and larger development projects
- Permit coordination and approvals for Band Members, internal departments, and external organizations including Enbridge, telecommunications providers, BC Hydro, and FortisBC
- Staff training and Youth stewardship initiatives
- Completion of Phase I of the Sq'ewqel Survey Project, with Phase II underway

The Lands Advisory Committee continued advancing work related to permitting, land use planning, agreements and development-related amendments.

Program capacity was strengthened through the hiring of:

- Lands Manager
- Registration and Permitting Coordinator
- Administrative Assistant
- Lands Guardians

Monitoring activities expanded to include lands, river systems, capital projects, resource extraction activities, and external development impacts.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The Lands program supports Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Advancing sustainable land use planning and environmental stewardship
- Strengthening governance systems, permitting processes and land administration
- Protecting environmentally and culturally significant lands and resources
- Building internal monitoring, enforcement and stewardship capacity
- Supporting community engagement, Youth education and cultural continuity in land management

Community Infrastructure

CUSTODIAL

Custodial Services maintained clean, safe, healthy and functional facilities throughout the community throughout the reporting period.

Work included daily cleaning, sanitation, facility readiness, and operational support for staff, programs and community services.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Custodial Services supports Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Maintaining safe, accessible, and healthy community facilities
- Supporting quality service delivery across departments and programs
- Protecting community infrastructure assets through ongoing care and maintenance
- Supporting overall community wellness, operational efficiency and facility sustainability

EVENTS

Events Services supported the coordination and operational delivery of community gatherings, ceremonies, cultural events and facility use.

Key activities included:

- Festival support
- Community Fish Distribution
- Holiday events
- Funeral services
- Community gatherings and special events

Work focused on event coordination, facility setup, logistics, and ensuring community spaces were prepared to support a broad range of activities.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Events Services support Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Strengthening community connection, participation and engagement
- Supporting cultural continuity, traditions and community identity
- Encouraging inclusive community gatherings and shared experiences
- Supporting social wellness and community cohesion through accessible community events and services



FLEET

Fleet Services managed vehicles, equipment, transportation coordination, maintenance scheduling and operational support across departments.

Key achievements during the reporting period included:

- Delivery of a new 2025 Ford E450 bus for the Early Childhood Department through FNEC School Bus Purchase Program funding
- Purchase of a 2025 Toyota Sienna Hybrid van for Health Department treatment house operations, replacing an aging high-mileage vehicle
- Completion of significant upgrades to the Public Works yard, including grading, drainage improvements, and gravel surfacing to improve operational functionality and equipment storage capacity
- Implementation of quarterly professional sanitization and cleaning schedules for Health and Early Childhood fleet vehicles to support health, safety, and client transportation standards
- Advancement of a QR-code-based pre- and post-trip vehicle inspection system to improve reporting, maintenance response and vehicle safety compliance

Fleet Services also continued focusing on preventative maintenance, Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement (CVSE) compliance, vehicle



scheduling, fueling, repairs, and minimizing operational downtime. Through active fleet management and reduced vehicle mileage, Seabird Island achieved approximately \$2,500 in annual insurance savings during the 2026 renewal period.

The department also continued developing a 3–5-year fleet replacement and equipment strategy to address aging assets, evolve operational requirements and support long-term service sustainability.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Fleet Services supports Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Ensuring reliable, safe, and efficient transportation services across departments and community programs
- Supporting community health, safety, accessibility and operational readiness
- Strengthening preventative maintenance and long-term asset management practices
- Improving operational efficiency and reducing service interruptions through proactive fleet planning and maintenance
- Supporting sustainability goals through strategic vehicle replacement and introduction of more efficient fleet assets
- Enhancing infrastructure operations and service delivery capacity to meet growing community needs

kyó
car

Líhexwcha láy eló:lh te kó?
Will you be going by car?



FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department continued providing emergency response, fire protection, public safety and emergency preparedness support throughout the community. Work included:

- Ongoing firefighter training
- Emergency medical assists
- Alarm response
- Motor vehicle incident response
- Structure fire response
- Fire safety planning
- Equipment upgrades and maintenance
- Participation in emergency exercises and preparedness initiatives

The department also secured funding to support ongoing operations and emergency response capacity.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The Fire Department supports Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Strengthening community safety and emergency response readiness
- Protecting Community Members, homes, infrastructure, and assets
- Building emergency preparedness and operational resiliency
- Supporting coordinated emergency response systems across departments
- Enhancing public safety education and prevention initiatives

tl'a'tl'ékw'elsáwtw
fire station

FIRESMART PROGRAM

The FireSmart Program continued making meaningful progress during the 2025–26 reporting period by strengthening wildfire preparedness, risk reduction and community safety across Seabird Island.

Grounded in principles of stewardship, community responsibility and proactive planning, the program focused on supporting Community Members through education, mitigation initiatives, and hands-on guidance to reduce wildfire risks and improve community resilience.

A significant achievement this year was the work of the two-person FireSmart mitigation crew, which prioritized support for Elders' homes through yard cleanups and wildfire risk reduction activities. More than 40,000 pounds of debris was removed, significantly improving defensible space and reducing wildfire hazards around vulnerable households.

Youth engagement continued to play an important role in the success of the program. Students actively participated in wildfire preparedness initiatives by:

- Installing gravel perimeters within the five-foot immediate zone around homes to support FireSmart standards
- Assisting with mitigation activities in Elders' yards

- Participating in home assessments alongside program staff
- Leading a student-driven FireSmart Week focused on awareness and community participation
- Creating peer-to-peer public service announcements, including a LEGO stop-motion video promoting FireSmart principles

Seabird Island's leadership in wildfire preparedness and community education also received broader recognition during the reporting period. The FireSmart program was featured in two FireSmart educational videos, including one highlighting the education program and another showcasing Seabird Island's role in hosting Tribal Council delegates from New Brunswick. Program highlights were also featured by FNESS on Global News Morning.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The FireSmart Program supports Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Strengthening community safety, emergency preparedness, and wildfire resilience
- Protecting Elders, homes, infrastructure, and environmentally sensitive areas
- Supporting environmental stewardship and proactive risk reduction practices
- Fostering Youth engagement, education and community participation in emergency preparedness initiatives
- Enhancing intergenerational learning, community collaboration and long-term resiliency planning
- Supporting coordinated emergency management and climate adaptation efforts across the community

Also, FireSmart Youth initiatives included peer-to-peer public service announcements and a LEGO stop-motion video. Seabird Island's program was featured in FireSmart videos and recognized for hosting Tribal Council delegates. FNESS also shared highlights on Global News Morning.

Please visit: www.seabirdisland.ca/seabird-island-fire-department/

Relevant Links:

FireSmart Learning on the Land:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0a5Mzy9pGPY

FNESS News Feature:

www.fness.bc.ca/firesmart-in-action-seabird-island/

Hosting New Brunswick Tribal Council:

vimeo.com/1186369886



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT / PREPAREDNESS

The Emergency Management program supported emergency planning, coordination, preparedness and response activities throughout a transitional year.

The program worked closely with the Fire Department and other departments to strengthen overall community resilience and emergency response coordination.

A major advancement during the reporting period was the introduction of a dedicated Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position, significantly enhancing program capacity and organizational focus.

Key achievements included:

- Delivery of emergency preparedness training
- Established an internal Emergency Management Committee
- Updating emergency response plans to meet current standards
- Conducting exercises and drills to improve coordination and clarify emergency roles and responsibilities
- Strengthening internal communication pathways and response systems

These efforts improved readiness, increased response capacity, and addressed critical operational gaps.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Emergency Management supports Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Strengthening community health, safety, and resilience
- Protecting infrastructure, housing, and essential services during emergencies
- Improving coordinated response systems and interdepartmental collaboration
- Enhancing emergency preparedness, communication systems, and organizational readiness

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With the hiring of a new Economic Development Officer, the program began establishing a more coordinated and community-based approach to economic and community development.

Initial efforts focused on:

- Reducing reliance on external contractors
- Increasing internal capacity and workforce development
- Supporting community safety initiatives
- Advancing a more compassionate and integrated community safety model aligned with health and wellness priorities

Key Achievements:

- Revenue generation through operation of a fish buying station
- Transition to an internal community patrol model
- Advancement of planning for a community coffee shop
- Workforce development training for 10 Community Members in the security sector
- Support for community safety planning initiatives
- Grant applications for security camera funding
- Support for enforcement processes and community safety coordination
- Partnership development and event support, including the Agassiz Fall Fair

Strategic Plan Alignment

Economic & Community Development supports Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Building local economic opportunities and supporting long-term economic sustainability
- Increasing internal employment, training, and workforce development opportunities
- Supporting community safety, wellness, and social stability
- Strengthening partnerships and collaborative community development initiatives
- Reducing reliance on external resources through increased internal capacity and service delivery
- Advancing a more integrated, sustainable and community-centered development model

PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

The Community Infrastructure and Sustainability Planner role was established in March 2026 to support long-term planning, infrastructure sustainability, and integrated community development.

Initial work focused on:

- Integrating Indigenous knowledge into flood hazard mapping
- Advancing development of a comprehensive housing strategy
- Improving transportation planning
- Enhancing community safety, accessibility and connectivity

Strategic Plan Alignment

Planning & Sustainability supports Seabird Island's Strategic Plan by:

- Advancing long-term sustainability and resiliency planning
- Supporting coordinated housing, transportation and infrastructure planning
- Building long-term organizational and community capacity
- Enhancing climate adaptation and sustainable development planning

lalálém
houses, many houses

EDUCATION





EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Barbra White

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Youth Program
Employment and Pre-employment
Driving School
Income Assistance
Seabird Island Community School
Seabird College

Directors Message

Our department provides services and supports to children, Youth, young adults, adults and Elders through our school, Youth, college, pre-employment, social development and SASET programming.

Lalme'lwesawtexw welcomed over 200 students to our school this year.

We facilitated land-based learning every Wednesday for all students K4-12 during the reporting period.

Our Youth team is dedicated to supporting the next generation of Indigenous leaders. The programs focus is on providing education in culture, health, safety and the wellbeing of Indigenous Youth.

The number of students enrolled at Seabird College continued to climb this year (140 versus 97 in the previous year) and we also developed an Indigenous Culinary Arts Level 1 course that is currently in session.

Our pre-employment staff have seen many successful program participant stories this year, including course enrollments and more folks outlining career paths, obtaining employment and exiting income assistance.

The Seabird Island On-Reserve Social development program (Income Assistance) provides essential support to Community Members by assisting to cover basic needs such as housing, food, and daily living costs to those experiencing temporary life challenges. Our goal is to work collaboratively with our pre-employment and SASET program to provide viable pathways for people to transition from temporary support structures into training and employment.

totí:lt
learning it, learning something new

Youth Program

We continue to make advancements in our program, including the integration of a series of Youth Life Skills workshops on Healthy Relationships, Substance Use Prevention and more. Our mission remains steadfast: to empower Indigenous Youth on their journey to adulthood encouraging them to make healthy choices that encompass strong cultural identity, essential life skills and deep community connections.

Key Highlights:

- **Youth Retreat:** This spring, we developed and held our first two-night Youth Retreat, hosting more than 100 Youth and their caregivers at Manning Park (ages 12-24) from Seabird Island and surrounding Nations. The Retreat's approach was trauma-informed and grounded in culture and land-based learning, with a focus on fostering wellness, resilience, and connection through the theme áyelexw te sqwáleweltset qas te slexwíwtset: "Healthy Body, Mind, and Spirit", which was interwoven throughout all aspects of the retreat. Attendees were given the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities across many domains of wellness, and to learn about and participate in their culture with pride.
- **Harm Reduction:** We engaged with Youth and provided support where it was most needed throughout the year, for example providing safe transportation, distributing safety bags, offering one-on-one support and group activities to Youth experiencing challenges, and further outreach to Seabird Youth and partnering communities. We also hosted a series of Indigenous Programming Matters workshops that focused on healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and sexual health.
- **Food Sovereignty & Nutrition:** Our high school's Red Seal Chef facilitated hands-on cooking lessons once a week, where participants actively engaged in preparing a full meal. The goal of these sessions is to build practical cooking skills and confidence in the kitchen. Staff also led students in food preparation outside of these specially facilitated cooking lessons.

áyelexw te sqwáleweltset qas te slexwíwtset
Healthy Body, Mind, and Spirit

Youth Stats

- Identified 127 Youth in need of support, 42 of highest concern
- 12 Workshops (some multiple series)
- 33 Outings

Staff Updates:

Grant Program

- **Youth and Young Adults Program Manager:** Robert Dunning on leave, position posted.
- **Youth and Young Adults Connections Specialist:** Brooke Dinzey

Drop-in Program

- **Youth Drop-In Team Lead:** Haley Walker
- **PT Youth Drop-In Coordinator:** position not filled
- **Youth Drop-in and On-call Youth Workers:** position not filled

Currently this program is being managed by Barbara White while we continue tackling staffing constraints. We also have staff from other areas assisting with Youth drop-in work.



EMPLOYMENT AND PRE-EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

Our Seabird SASET office seeks to provide Indigenous persons with employment opportunities through training, employment programs and workshops.

Our annual Seabird Island Employment Services Career Fair was a tremendous success. We welcomed close to 50 vendor tables, with some participants traveling long distances to share their knowledge, opportunities, and insights with our community.

The gym reached full capacity, packed with vendors, Community Members, and attendees from schools and surrounding areas. The event featured a diverse range of organizations, including construction companies, colleges and universities, healthcare professionals, Hub Insurance, and Fraser Valley Driving School.





PRE-EMPLOYMENT STATS:

CASELOAD FOR: SIB, CHEAM, SKWAH, YALE, SPUZZUM, SHWOWHAMEL, SCOWLITZ, CHAWATHIL, SQUIALA

Age	Male	Female	Child Age	Male Child	Female Child
18-24	11	10	0-6	11	15
25-34	27	22	6-15	34	40
34-44	21	13	16-17	8	5
45-64	32	12			
Totals:	91	57		53	60

DRIVING SCHOOL

Our Seabird Driving School includes theory and in-car road lessons as well as transportation to written and road tests. We offer financial support for license fees for eligible applicants and anyone attending Lalme'lwesawtexw, Seabird College, pre-employment support programs and/or is a Seabird Island Band Member.

STATS:

Our Driver School Program accomplishments for the year include 13 participants obtaining their Class 7L, 10 participants obtaining their 7N and 2 participants obtaining their Class 5.

INCOME ASSISTANCE

INCOME ASSISTANCE

The Seabird Island On-Reserve Income Assistance program provides essential support to Community Members by helping cover basic needs such as housing, food, and daily living costs. Over the past year, the program reoriented functions to provide quality service delivery in a respectful and compassionate way, supporting individuals and families through financial challenges and helping maintain stability.

The program also introduced braided wellness plans, which take a more holistic approach to support. These plans connect financial assistance with employment, education, cultural supports and other community services, helping clients work toward greater independence and overall wellbeing.

Looking ahead, the program will continue to strengthen culturally grounded services, build partnerships, and expand supports. The focus remains on helping individuals and families move toward self-sufficiency while honoring Seabird's values and promoting community wellness.

INCOME ASSISTANCE STATS:

Designation Type	Total
Employable Single	36
Employable Single Parent	18
Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers Single	15
Person with Disability WD Single	45
Person with Disability Single Parent	10

Lalme' Iwesawtexw

The 2025-26 school year has been one of transition for Lalme' Iwesawtexw. While we continue to emphasize literacy and numeracy throughout the school week, we have been working to increase cultural teachings through our weekly land-based learning initiative. Each Wednesday the whole school, from K4 to grade 12, spends the day outside learning together in small groups and/or mixed age groups.

Teachers led the land-based activities, which sometimes include extensions of what they are doing in the classroom, but may be standalone lessons that explore the land and water. Some highlights from this year include teaching tree and plant identification, orienteering and survival skills, fire

building, and working alongside FireSmart to safeguard our community.

Land-based lessons are planned by our school's cultural educators and allow students to explore a wide range of cultural activities that would be difficult to replicate in the classroom. Some highlights from this year include harvesting and medicine making, knot tying and net making, beading and weaving, and soap carving. Longer-term projects have also been established, with students working on a canoe restoration, building a sweat lodge, learning songs and dances, and rolling out an upcoming project that will have the students making regalia.

We are excited to build upon land-based learning in the upcoming school year!



*Congratulations to the
Lalme'Iwesawtexw Graduates*

SEABIRD ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL



SEABIRD COLLEGE

We were pleased to host an in-person graduation dinner in November at Seabird College, bringing together graduates, families, staff, and Community Members to celebrate student achievements and reconnect as a college community post-COVID.

The college continued to expand its course offerings. Over the past year, the number of courses available to students increased, providing greater access to learning and supporting a broader range of educational and career pathways. This growth demonstrates the college's ongoing commitment to meeting the evolving needs of learners and the community.

A particularly significant milestone was the launch of our first course developed solely by Seabird College: Indigenous Culinary Arts Level 1. This course represents an exciting step forward in strengthening culturally grounded programming and creating learning experiences that reflect Indigenous knowledge, traditions, and community

priorities. The introduction of this course highlights the college's dedication to innovation, cultural revitalization and student success.

Together, these achievements reflect meaningful progress in rebuilding community connections, expanding educational opportunities, and advancing Seabird College's vision for the future.





Seabird College 2024-25 vs 2025-26 Comparison			
Total # of	2024-25	2025-26	Notes
Students Enrolled at Seabird College	97	140	
Students Enrolled from Seabird	20	45	
Students that Completed a Program	65	39	
Prospects that Expressed Interest in a Program at Seabird College	301	370	7 more programs from 2025-26 to be completed between June - Dec 2026
Programs Offered by Seabird College	11	13	
Programs Held on Campus at Seabird College	8	9	
Programs Held off Campus	3	4	

Híth teló qá:ys kw'els hálém te tl'í:thet skwúl.
I've been going to college a long time now.

HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT





HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Managers;

Kristi McNeil & Brooke Bobb-Reid

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

HEALTH SERVICES & ADMINISTRATION :

- Primary Care
- Allied Health Services
- Public Health Program
- Home and Community Care
- Better at Home
- Health Benefits & Medical Transportation
- Community Health & Wellness
- Mobile Diabetes Team
- Pharmacy Services
- Dental Services
- Mental Health & Counselling Services
- A:yelexw Recovery Homes (Centre for Hope and Healing)
- E-Health Solutions
- Accreditation Canada

COMMUNITY & FAMILY WELLNESS:

- Resilience & Empowerment Program
- Community Safety & Prevention
- Resilience & Prevention - Justice Program
- Thíytelh Wellness Program (Young Adult Treatment)
- Xáxeyet Stabilization Program (AIMS)
- Maternal Child Health
 - Annual Baby Welcoming Celebration
- Teme'líle Midwifery (Salmon-berry Time)
- Sts'áts'elyem Life Giver Wellness Home
- Community Health & Wellness
- Breast Cancer Support Group
- Seabird Candlelight Vigil
- Elders Program
 - Elder Firewood Support Program
- Recreation Program
- Nutrition & Wellness
 - Auntie's Kitchen
- Tém:éxw li te Letam (Land to Table)
 - Community Fish Hamper Program
 - Specialty Hamper Program

OVERVIEW

The Health & Social Development Department is dedicated to supporting the health, wellness, and quality of life of the individuals, families, and communities we serve. Through holistic and culturally grounded care, the department strives to honour Indigenous traditions, promote healing, and strengthen balance across physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of wellness. Our work focuses on empowering individuals and building community capacity so that all generations can live healthy, connected and self-determined lives.

Services are provided to Seabird Island Band Members, including urban Members, community residents, neighbouring service communities, and First Nations communities accessing regional programs throughout British Columbia. Program delivery is supported through partnerships with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Fraser Health Authority (FHA), service agreements and grant-funded initiatives.

Supporting Community Wellness

The Health & Social Development Department delivers a broad range of integrated services that support wellness throughout one's lifespan. Programs are organized within two primary service areas: Health Services and Community & Family Wellness. Together, these programs provide responsive, community-driven care that reflects Indigenous values, supports prevention and healing, and strengthens individual and family well-being.

Strategic Direction

The department's work aligns with Seabird Island's Strategic Plan and its commitment to community health and safety. Through culturally safe and inclusive services, the department continues to advance a holistic approach to wellness that addresses physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. Key priorities include strengthening mental health and addictions supports, improving access to healthcare services, promoting chronic disease prevention and management, expanding recreation and wellness opportunities, and ensuring services remain accessible to both on-reserve and off-reserve Members.

shxw'éyelh
be in good health

Collaborative Partnerships

A key strength of the department is collaboration. Health & Social Development works closely with Community Members, leadership, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, healthcare professionals, educational institutions, government agencies, and regional service organizations to ensure that coordinated and comprehensive care is delivered consistently. These partnerships help strengthen services, improve health outcomes, and ensure programs remain responsive to community needs.

Looking Ahead

As community needs continue to evolve, the department remains committed to enhancing service quality, strengthening program capacity, expanding culturally grounded supports, and improving access to care. Efforts in the coming years will focus on workforce development, service expansion, accreditation readiness, infrastructure improvements and the continued advancement of community-led wellness initiatives that support the health and wellbeing of current and future generations.

Selchím ta' shxw'iyem?
How is your health?

PRIMARY CARE

Program Summary

Seabird Island Primary Care provides comprehensive and culturally safe healthcare services to Indigenous individuals and families throughout Seabird Island and neighbouring First Nations. Through a collaborative team of physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and support staff, the clinic delivers accessible, high-quality healthcare focused on prevention, treatment, chronic disease management and overall wellness.

In addition to providing care in Seabird Island, outreach services are delivered to Chawathil, Shxw'ow'hamel, Sts'ailes, Sqwá, and Cheam, helping reduce barriers and bring healthcare closer to home.



Program Highlights

Improved Continuity and Quality of Care

Expanded staffing has strengthened continuity of care, increased appointment availability, and provided opportunities for more comprehensive and meaningful care planning. Longer appointment times continue to support individuals with complex health and social needs.

Culturally Safe and Trauma-Informed Care

The clinic remains committed to creating a healthcare environment that respects Indigenous cultures, traditions, lived experiences and community values. This approach continues to strengthen trust and improve engagement in care.

Integrated Health Services

Primary Care works closely with Seabird Island's broader health and wellness programs, including Maternal Child Health, Mental Health and Counselling, Addictions Services, Wellness Programs and Cultural Supports. This integrated approach helps ensure clients receive coordinated and wraparound care.

Improved Access to Care

Through outreach services and community-based clinics, the Primary Care team continues to reduce transportation barriers and expand access to healthcare services throughout the region.

Key Outcomes and Statistics

PHYSICIAN SERVICES

2025–2026 fiscal year:

- **Dr. Robert Fox:**
5,163 patient visits
- **Dr. Marcella Beaulieu:**
4,668 patient visits

CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT

The Primary Care team supported Community Members living with complex and chronic health conditions, including:

- **307 patients with diabetes**
- **237 patients with hypertension**
- **31 patients with congestive heart failure**
- **60 patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**

Improved A1C outcomes among diabetes patients demonstrated positive progress in chronic disease management and overall health outcomes.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Women's health services remained a key focus throughout the year.

- **231 gynecological examinations completed**

These services support prevention and early intervention measures, and ongoing women's health care.

SUBSTANCE USE AND HARM REDUCTION

- **324 patients received Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) under the care of Dr. Robert Fox.**

These services continue to support harm reduction, recovery, and improved health outcomes for individuals struggling with substance use.

RECOVERY HOME SUPPORT

Primary Care continued to provide medical care and case management for residents of Seabird Island's Men's and Women's Recovery Homes, ensuring continuity of care throughout the recovery process.

ELDER CARE

- **32 Elders received support related to frailty and complex health concerns.**

This specialized care helps support healthy aging and promotes independence and quality of life.



Primary Care Team

Acting Health Manager

- Kristi McNeil

Physicians

- Dr. Robert Fox
- Dr. Marcella Beaulieu

Nurse Practitioners

- Lindsay Meloshinsky
- Stephen Martin

Medical Office Assistant Team

- Alexandria Mailhot,
Medical Office Assistant Team Lead
- Millie Montgomery,
Medical Office Assistant
- Chantelle Blair,
Medical Office Assistant
- Teagean McNeil,
Traveling Medical Office Assistant
- Raegan Ellis,
On-Call Medical Office Assistant

Looking Ahead:

Primary Care remains committed to advancing accessible, culturally safe, and community-driven healthcare services. Through collaborative partnerships, outreach services, integrated care, and a focus on Indigenous wellness, the team will continue to improve health outcomes for individuals, families, and communities throughout the region.



ALLIED HEALTH

Program Summary:

The Allied Health Program provides a diverse range of specialized services that support the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being of Community Members. Working alongside Seabird Island's Primary Care and Community Wellness teams, Allied Health Services help improve access to preventative care, rehabilitation, wellness therapies, and holistic health supports in a culturally safe and welcoming environment.

These services complement both traditional and Western approaches to healthcare and are designed to reduce barriers to care while supporting overall community wellness.

SERVICES OFFERED:

Acupuncture:

Acupuncture services support pain management, stress reduction, improved sleep, and overall wellness. As a complementary therapy, acupuncture works alongside traditional and Western healthcare practices to promote balance and holistic healing.

Mammography Clinics:

Mammography clinics provide important breast cancer screening services and help support the early detection of breast cancer. The program emphasizes privacy, respect and culturally safe care while increasing access to preventative screening services.

Diabetic Lab Days:

Diabetic Lab Days continued to provide accessible diabetes screening, monitoring, and education services within the community throughout the quarter. By bringing laboratory services

directly to Community Members, the program helped reduce barriers such as transportation challenges, travel time, and limited access to off-site lab facilities. Visiting laboratory technicians supported on-site blood work, allowing participants to complete important diabetes related testing in a familiar and convenient setting. Community Members also received education on diabetes prevention and management, healthy lifestyle choices, and nutrition. Healthy snacks were provided during each session, reinforcing positive nutrition messages and creating a welcoming environment. Attendance ranged from 12 to 25 community members per session, demonstrating ongoing engagement and interest in diabetes wellness and preventative health initiatives. Through reducing barriers to care and increasing access to routine monitoring, Diabetic Lab Days continue to support early intervention, chronic disease management, and improved health outcomes for Community Members.

Éy tel shxw'iyem
My health is good.

Naturopathic Services:

Naturopathic services support whole-person wellness by recognizing the connection between physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, and environmental health. Using a Two-Eyed Seeing approach, services respect both Indigenous and Western wellness practices while supporting individualized care planning.

Optometry Services:

Optometry clinics continue to improve access to vision care and support the early detection of eye and vision concerns. These services help ensure Community Members can access essential eye health care close to home.

Reiki:

Reiki is offered as a complementary wellness service that promotes relaxation, stress reduction, emotional well-being, and healing. By focusing on balance of the mind, body, and spirit, Reiki supports a holistic approach to health and wellness.

Massage Therapy:

Massage therapy provides support for physical recovery, stress reduction, pain management, and overall wellness. Services are delivered using a trauma-informed and culturally safe approach that respects individual preferences and healing journeys.

Kinesiology:

Delivered in partnership with Rebalance Rehab, kinesiology services support mobility, strength, rehabilitation, and injury recovery through individualized exercise and movement programs.

Service Statistics

2025–2026 fiscal year:

- **Mammography Clinics:**
71 clients served
- **Optometry Clinics:**
179 clients served
- **Glaucoma Screenings:**
10 clients served
- **Kinesiology Appointments:**
606 appointments completed
- **Reiki Services:**
73 clients served
- **Obstetrician & Gynecologist:**
Dr. Deacon visits once a month.

Looking Ahead:

The Allied Health Program remains committed to increasing access to preventative care, rehabilitation, and holistic wellness services while continuing to integrate culturally safe and client-centred approaches that support the diverse needs of Seabird Island and neighbouring communities.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM (CDC)

This fiscal year, we were pleased to welcome Nurse Ceilidh back to the CDC team following her maternity leave. Seabird Island continues to achieve exceptional infant and childhood immunization outcomes, consistently surpassing regional targets within Fraser Health through a flexible, family-focused approach that prioritizes accessibility and outreach. Public Health nurses provide immunizations across the lifespan and deliver a broad range of health promotion, prevention, and wellness services to support individuals and families in the community.

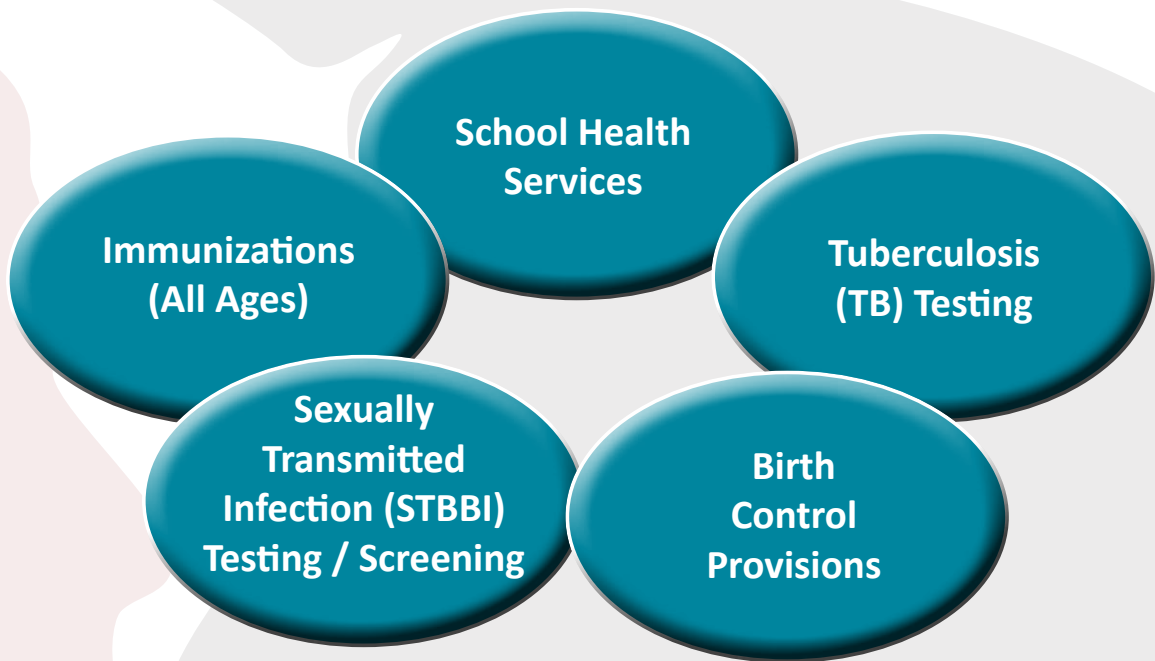
We were also pleased to welcome Trinity Western University nursing students from September to December 2025, continuing our commitment to supporting future healthcare professionals through meaningful community-based learning experiences.

Throughout the year, we maintained our partnership with Seabird Island Community School by providing weekly Thursday lunchtime nursing visits to support student health and wellness. Nurse Ceilidh and Lisa also participated in several professional development opportunities, including obtaining a CPR-C certification, Mental Health First Aid, and “Let’s Talk About Touching” training, enhancing their ability to provide high-quality, culturally responsive care.

As the fiscal year concluded, the CDC collaborated with the Maternal Child Health team on the implementation of an HIV awareness and education initiative. We look forward to receiving community feedback and learning how this initiative can continue to support the health and wellbeing of Seabird Island Members.

Key services provided by the Public Health Nursing team include:

- Tuberculosis (TB) screening and follow-up
- Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing and education
- Cervical cancer screening through PAP and HPV testing
- Contraception counselling and access to birth control options
- Sexual health promotion, including condom distribution
- School health services, including immunizations, health education, and a weekly Youth drop-in clinic



Through the delivery of these services, the Public Health Nursing team continues to play an important role in advancing community wellness, supporting disease prevention, and improving access to essential healthcare services for individuals and families.

While Seabird Island Community Health Nursing Services also provide support to neighbouring communities, the statistics and activities highlighted in this report reflect services delivered directly to Seabird Island Community Members during the 2025-26 reporting period.

shxw'iyem
health, strength

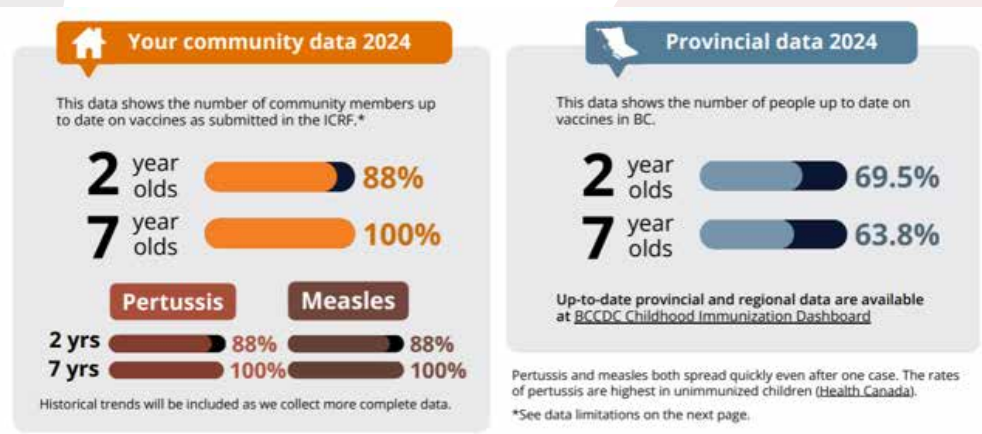


Seabird's brave youngster still smiling after receiving preschool immunization boosters. **At age 4, children can get the four-year-old immunizations and a new backpack!**

Immunization Services Summary:

The table below outlines the total immunization visits provided by Seabird Island Public Health nursing staff in each community between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. These figures only include immunizations administered by Seabird nurses and do not include immunizations provided through Seabird Pharmacy.

Community	Immunizations	Flu Shot	Covid	TOTAL
Sq'ewqel (Seabird Island)	128	71	19	228
Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt	18	34	3	55
Shxw'ow'hamel	7	17	3	27
Chawathil	16	8	4	28
Sq'ewlets	14	21	9	44
Cheam	10	26	15	51
Squiala	5	2	0	7
Total	208	179	53	440



HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (HCC)

Program Summary

The Home and Community Care (HCC) Program provides essential nursing and personal support services that help Community Members maintain their health, independence, and quality of life while remaining in their homes. Services are available to Elders, individuals living with chronic and acute illnesses, and people with disabilities requiring ongoing health and personal care support.



During the 2025–26 fiscal year, the HCC team, consisting of **4 Registered Nurses (RNs)** and **6 Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)**, delivered comprehensive nursing care, health education, care coordination, and home support services. In addition, Home Support Workers and Care Aides provided ongoing assistance to over **28 Elders** and **individuals with disabilities**, helping clients remain safely at home and connected to their community.

Services:

- Personal care and home support
- Medication management
- Wound care
- Health assessments and monitoring
- Foot care services
- Health teaching and chronic disease management
- Referrals and care coordination
- Medical equipment support
- Appointment scheduling and navigation of health services

In addition to Seabird Island, services were provided to Chawathil, Cheam, Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt, Scowlitz, Shxw'ow'hamel, Squiala, Union Bar, and Boothroyd.

Service Statistics

Community	Home Visits	Office Visits	Phone Calls	Wound Care Visits	Hospitalizations
Sq'ewqel (Seabird Island)	669	754	205	219	33
Chawathil	715	348	249	4	11
Shxw'ow'hamel	168	198	126	0	5
Union Bar	31	5	55	0	0
Cheam	297	252	69	18	1
Scowlitz	184	77	11	0	0
Squiala	218	118	155	0	18
Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt	148	39	99	0	12

Foot Care Services

Foot care remains an important preventative health service, particularly for Elders, individuals living with diabetes, and those experiencing physical or mobility challenges.

Services were provided across Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island), Boothroyd, Cheam, Scowlitz, Shxw'ow'hamel, Squiala, Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt and Chawathil.

In 2025–26:

- **131 Community Members received foot care services**
- **467 foot care appointments were completed**



smáxel
bare footed



BETTER AT HOME

Program Summary:

The Better at Home program provides non-medical supports that allow Elders and Community Members with disabilities to stay safe, independent, and connected to their homes and communities. The program serves Elders aged 65 and older, as well as some adults with disabilities across Stó:lō Territory.

During the 2025–26 fiscal year, the program supported 241 individuals from 55 to 100 years old, providing a total of 999 service visits.

Services included:

- Yard maintenance and lawn mowing
- Weed trimming and blackberry bush removal
- Gutter cleaning
- Snow removal
- Firewood chopping and stacking
- Social visits and wellness checks
- Miscellaneous home support services

These supports help reduce barriers to independent living while improving safety, social connection, and overall quality of life.

Á' stl'í kw'as sq'eq'ó ye siyelólexwe.
You need to be with the Elders

Better at Home provides regional services to:

Aitchelitz, Chawathil, Cheam, Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt, Leq'á:mel, Matsqui, Peters, Scowlitz, Seabird Island, Shxw'ha:y Village, Shxw'ow'hamel, Skowkale, Skwah, Soowahlie, Squiala, Sts'ailes, Sumas, Tzeachten and Yakweakwioose.

Program Impact

The Better at Home program continues to be a valued resource for Elders and individuals with disabilities throughout the region. By offering practical household and seasonal supports, the program helps Community Members remain independent, maintain their homes, and continue living safely within their communities.

Staff

- Tasheenah Peters, Supervisor
- Emma Leon, Supervisor
- Wilfred Florence, Labourer
- Deon Aleck, Labourer
- Marina Nickel, Labourer
- Mateo Nickel, Labourer



HEALTH BENEFITS & MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Program Summary

The Health Benefits and Community Health team supports Community Members in accessing healthcare services, health benefits and wellness programming. Through advocacy, education, navigation support, and health promotion activities, the team helps reduce barriers to care and improve access to essential health services.

The team assists Community Members in accessing:

- FNHA medical transportation
- Dental benefits
- Vision care benefits
- Medical supplies and equipment
- Pharmacy benefits
- Mental health services
- Medical Services Plan (MSP) support
- Jordan's Principle applications
- Secure Certificate of Indian Status applications and renewals

Medical Transportation

Through FNHA-funded Medical Transportation services, support is provided to Status First Nations Members from Seabird Island and partner communities including Chawathil, Scowlitz, Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt, Shxw'ow'hamel and Union Bar.

The program assists with transportation, accommodation, and meal costs associated with accessing medically necessary services that are unavailable within a client's home community.

In 2025–26:

- **982 medical appointments were supported through Medical Transportation services**





COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Community Health team continues to deliver health education and wellness initiatives throughout Seabird Island and neighbouring communities.

Monthly Community Kitchen events bring Community Members together

to prepare healthy meals, learn practical nutrition skills, and engage with guest presenters from FNHA and the Seabird Health team.



Health promotion topics throughout the year included:

- Women's Health
- Men's Health
- Heart Health
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Goal Setting
- FNHA Health Benefits
- Community Healing and Candlelight Vigils

These gatherings promote healthy lifestyles, community connection, and increased awareness of available health resources.



Community-Based Clinics

The following clinics were offered at Seabird Island during the 2025–26 fiscal year:

- **Mammography Clinic:**
71 clients served
- **Optometry Clinic:**
179 clients served
- **Glaucoma Screening Clinic:**
10 clients served
- **Kinesiology Services:**
606 appointments completed

These clinics continue to improve access to preventative healthcare services and support the overall wellness of Community Members.

Xé:ylttselcha ta' skwix xwelám kw'e wáyeles.
I will make an appointment for tomorrow.

MOBILE DIABETES TEAM

Program Overview:

The Mobile Diabetes Team continues to provide specialized diabetes screening, education and support services to First Nations communities across British Columbia. Through community-based clinics, educational workshops, and health promotion activities, the team works to improve access to diabetes care, increase awareness, support prevention efforts, and promote healthy living.

Program Statistics:

During the 2025–26 fiscal year, the Mobile Diabetes Team achieved the following:

- **48 communities served**
- **15,791 kilometers traveled**
- **80 clinic days delivered**
- **622 clients seen**
- **298 clients living with diabetes**
- **324 diabetes screening assessments completed**
- **235 diabetic retinopathy screenings completed**
- **10 community education sessions and workshops delivered**

Communities Served:

The Mobile Diabetes Team provided services to communities throughout the Fraser Valley, Interior, Coast, and Vancouver Island regions, including:

Lilwat, Lytton, Tsal'alh, Aq'am, Bridge River, N'Quatqua, ?Akisq'nuk, Lower Similkameen, Chehalis, Penticton, Adams Lake, Boothroyd, Coldwater, Bonaparte, Sechelt, Osoyoos, Shuswap, Seabird Island, Boston Bar, Neskonlith, Little Shuswap, Chawathil, Upper Squamish, Skuppah, Kanaka Bar, Splitsin, Nooaitch, Shackan, Westbank, Upper Similkameen, Cheam, Lakahahmen, Yale, Tsawwassen, Spuzzum, Shxw'ow'hamel, Sumas, Squiala, Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt, Xa'xsta, Skatin, Samahquam, Dzawada'enuxw, N'Quatqua, Qualicum, Wuikinuxv, Eyameth Health Centre, Native Education Centre, Mission Friendship Centre, Penticton Friendship Centre, and Kilala Lelum Health Centre.

Program Highlights:

Throughout the year, the Mobile Diabetes Team remained committed to improving access to diabetes prevention, screening, education, and management services in communities that may otherwise face barriers to specialized care. During community visits, the team provided one-on-one client education, diabetes screening,

diabetic retinopathy screening, family support, workshops, dinner presentations, and educational sessions for healthcare providers and Community Members.

These services help identify individuals at risk of developing diabetes, support those living with diabetes in managing their health, and increase community awareness of diabetes prevention and healthy lifestyle practices.

Operational Challenges:

During the fiscal year, the program experienced several challenges that affected service capacity and operations.

The program experienced changes in clinical support resources, including the loss of endocrinology support and vacancies within the nursing team. Recruitment and retention continue to be challenges due to the extensive travel requirements associated with providing mobile services across a large geographic region. These factors placed additional demands on existing staff while maintaining services to communities throughout Southern British Columbia.

The program also underwent a transition away from its long-standing virtual diabetes platform and electronic medical record system. This change created temporary challenges related to data management and workflow continuity as new processes were implemented to support ongoing service delivery.

Despite these challenges, the team remained committed to serving First Nations communities and continued to provide diabetes screening, education and support services across the region.

Looking Ahead:

The Mobile Diabetes Team will continue to strengthen access to diabetes prevention, screening, education, and management services for First Nations communities. Priorities for the coming year include rebuilding team capacity, enhancing technological supports, strengthening partnerships with communities and healthcare providers, and continuing to deliver culturally safe, community-based care. Through these efforts, the team remains committed to improving health outcomes and supporting the wellness of Indigenous peoples throughout British Columbia.

SEABIRD ISLAND PHARMACY

Program Summary:

Seabird Island Pharmacy continues to play an integral role in supporting the health and wellness of Community Members by providing accessible, patient-centred, and culturally safe pharmacy services. Working closely with Seabird Island's physicians, nurses and multidisciplinary healthcare teams, the pharmacy helps ensure seamless coordination of care and timely access to medications, treatment and other health supports.

Conveniently located across from the Seabird Health Centre, the pharmacy serves as a trusted healthcare resource for Seabird Island and surrounding communities. The team brings extensive expertise in navigating First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) programs, helping patients access the medications, supplies, and coverage they require while reducing barriers to care.

Throughout the 2025–26 fiscal year, Seabird Pharmacy provided services to more than **5,000 patients**, reflecting the continued trust that Community Members place in the pharmacy team and its commitment to delivering compassionate, high-quality care.



Community Outreach and Health Promotion:

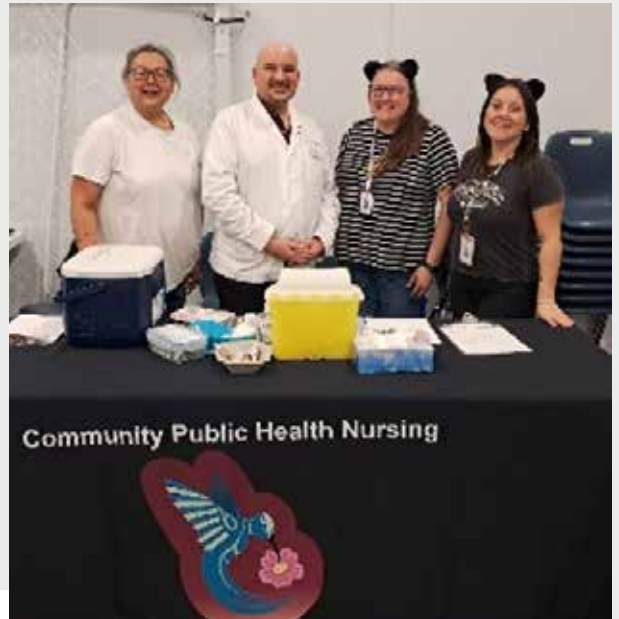
Through support from the **FNHA Pharmacy Grant**, Seabird Pharmacy expanded its community outreach and health promotion efforts throughout the year. Pharmacy staff participated in health and wellness events in Seabird Island, Chawathil, and Shxw'ow'hamel, bringing pharmacy services and health education directly into the communities they serve.

Grant funding also enhanced access to non-covered vaccines and supported patient education initiatives focused on prevention, chronic disease management, and overall wellness. These efforts helped strengthen access to healthcare services while increasing awareness of available pharmacy supports and resources.

Improving Access to Care:

One of the pharmacy's most impactful services continues to be **assessment and prescribing for minor ailments**. During the reporting period, pharmacists successfully managed more than **750 minor ailment assessments**, allowing Community Members to receive timely treatment and access to medications without needing to wait for a physician appointment.

This service has improved access to care, reduced delays in treatment, and helped address common health concerns more efficiently. By providing assessment and treatment directly through pharmacist-led care, the pharmacy has helped reduce pressure on other healthcare services while ensuring patients receive timely support close to home.



Supporting Families:

The pharmacy also plays an important role in supporting families access **infant formula** and **nutritional supplements**. Rising costs and limited access to essential nutritional products can place significant financial strain on households, particularly those with young children.

By assisting eligible families in obtaining formula and nutritional supports, the pharmacy has helped reduce financial pressures, improve access to essential nutrition and provide peace of mind for parents and caregivers. This support contributes to healthier outcomes for infants and families during critical stages of growth and development.

Pharmacy Services:

Offering a comprehensive range of services, including:

- Assessment and prescribing for minor ailments
- Custom medication compounding
- Comprehensive medication reviews
- Home delivery of prescriptions
- Blister packaging for medication management
- Pain and addiction management support
- Patient education and wellness programs
- Influenza and COVID-19 vaccination clinics
- Administration of injectable medications and vaccines
- Home visits for house-bound patients
- Access to home health and wound care supplies
- Medication compatibility and interaction counselling, including herbal medicines, foods, and lifestyle considerations
- Medical equipment and healthcare supplies
- Nutritional supplements and infant formula

Looking Ahead:

Seabird Pharmacy remains committed to improving access to healthcare through innovative, community-based pharmacy services. As a trusted member of the healthcare team, the pharmacy will continue to strengthen partnerships, expand patient education initiatives, and provide culturally safe, trauma-informed care that supports the unique needs of First Nations individuals and families.

Through collaboration, compassion, and a patient-first approach, Seabird Pharmacy continues to enhance health outcomes and contribute to the overall wellness of Seabird Island and neighbouring communities.

st'élmexw
medicine



SEABIRD ISLAND DENTAL CLINIC

Program Summary:

The Seabird Island Dental Clinic continues to provide comprehensive and accessible oral healthcare services to Community Members and surrounding populations. In addition to routine and preventive dental care, the clinic offers oral cancer screenings and minimal sedation options to support patient comfort and positive treatment outcomes. Our team remains committed to delivering high-quality, culturally safe and patient-centred care in a welcoming environment.

Key Highlights:

This year, the dental team participated in the 2026 Pacific Dental Conference, providing valuable opportunities for professional development, networking, and team building. Staff also took part in a cultural learning excursion to Fort Langley to visit the Chief Dan George exhibit, strengthening understanding and appreciation of Indigenous history and leadership.

The clinic remained actively engaged in community events throughout the year, volunteering at the Seabird Festival and participating in both the Seabird Health Fair and Career Fair, as well as the Chawathil Career Fair, where staff promoted oral health awareness and dental career pathways.



Service Statistics:

During the reporting period, the Dental Clinic served a total of 2,465 patients, including 1,591 individuals who self-identified as Indigenous. The clinic also welcomed 189 new patients, reflecting the continued demand for accessible dental services in the region.

Facility Improvements and Special Projects:

Several enhancements were completed this year to improve the clinic environment and patient experience, such as:

- Repainting the clinic throughout the office space
- Installing new Indigenous-inspired artwork to create a more culturally welcoming environment
- Adding a television in the waiting area to improve patient comfort
- Constructing a much-needed emergency exit at the rear of the clinic to improve safety and accessibility

Community Outreach and Regional Service:

The Dental Clinic continues to play an active role in promoting oral health both in Seabird Island and neighbouring communities. Staff regularly participate in community-based programs and events, including Parent and Tot, Healthy Kids, and Someone So Small sessions.

The clinic also maintains a strong partnership with Seabird Island Community School through its Cavity Prevention Program, which brings students to the clinic for preventative dental examinations and oral health education.

While based in Seabird Island, the clinic serves communities from a broad geographic area. Patients access services from throughout British Columbia, including the Fraser Valley, Lower Mainland, Prince George, and surrounding regions, demonstrating the clinic's reputation for accessible, high-quality care.



Staff Updates:

The Seabird Island Dental Clinic is supported by a dedicated team of dental professionals who work collaboratively to provide high-quality care and exceptional service to patients.

The clinic team includes:

- **Dentists:** Dr. Latif and Dr. Rutledge
- **Dental Hygienist:** Stephanie Gillespie
- **Receptionist/Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA):** Melissa Nichols
- **Licensed Dental Assistants (LDAs):** Savanna Collier, Gabriela Canjura, and Kaitlan Peters
- **Office Manager/Licensed Dental Assistant:** Cheryl Hick

This year, the clinic was pleased to host Seabird Member Jennifer Blanchard for her practicum placement in March. Jennifer is currently enrolled in the University of the Fraser Valley's Licensed Dental Assisting Program, and her placement provided valuable hands-on learning experience while supporting clinic operations.

Looking ahead, the Dental Clinic is preparing to celebrate a significant milestone. July 2027 will mark the clinic's 25th year of operation, highlighting a quarter-century of providing oral healthcare services to Seabird Island and surrounding communities. Planning is underway to recognize and celebrate this important achievement.





MENTAL HEALTH & COUNSELLING SERVICES

Program Summary:

Seabird Island Counselling Services provides culturally safe, trauma-informed, and client-centred mental health and counselling services to individuals, couples, families, and groups throughout Seabird Island and neighbouring communities. The program supports clients in achieving holistic wellness — mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual — while fostering strong families and contributing to a healthy, resilient, and thriving community. Through culturally grounded approaches to mental health and wellness, the team promotes healing, resilience, connection and personal growth.

Throughout the 2025–26 fiscal year, the four-member counselling team delivered **more than 1,000 individual counselling sessions** and facilitated **36 group sessions**. With extensive education, experience, and specialized training, the team supported children, Youth, adults, couples, and families experiencing a wide range of challenges, including anxiety, depression, grief and loss, substance use, trauma, relationship concerns, life transitions and overall emotional well-being.

Services were delivered using a holistic and strengths-based approach, ensuring that care was tailored to each individual's unique needs, goals and circumstances. Recognizing the importance of coordinated care, counsellors worked closely with healthcare providers, schools, delegated agencies, community programs and external service organizations to ensure clients received wraparound support. This collaborative approach strengthens continuity of care and helps Community Members access the resources needed to support their healing, wellness and long-term success.

Community Engagement and Program Highlights:

In addition to individual counselling services, the team remained actively involved in community wellness and capacity-building initiatives throughout the year.

Key programs and activities:

- Facilitating the **Recovery Home Group** and **Wellbriety Program** to support individuals on their recovery journeys
- Delivering **Healing Indigenous Hearts**, a group program focused on grief, loss, healing and resilience
- Providing **Burnout and Compassion Fatigue Training** for health professionals and support staff, helping build wellness and resilience among front-line workers
- Participating in the Community Open House to strengthen relationships with Community Members and partner organizations
- Attending community ceremonies, celebrations, and gatherings to provide mental health support and foster community connections

These initiatives reflect the team's commitment to supporting wellness not only through counselling services, but also education, community engagement and culturally responsive programming.

Growth and Looking Ahead:

As the year came to a close, the Counselling Services team welcomed a new team member, strengthening the program's capacity to meet the growing demand for mental health supports. This expansion has enhanced the team's ability to serve more clients, increase access to services, and further strengthen partnerships with community programs and external resources.

Seabird Island Counselling Services remains committed to providing accessible, culturally safe and trauma-informed care while continuing to support the mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of individuals, families, and the broader community. Through meaningful relationships, collaborative partnerships and a dedication to healing, the team continues to make a positive and lasting impact in the lives of those they serve.





RECOVERY HOMES “A:YELEXW” - Centre for Hope and Healing

A:yelexw Recovery Homes are a First Nations-led recovery program that provides a safe, supportive, and culturally grounded environment for individuals on their healing journey. Guided by Indigenous teachings, trauma-informed practices and a strengths-based approach, the program offers adults aged 19 and older a substance-free setting where they can focus on wellness, build healthy routines and strengthen their recovery. Services are available to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals.

Culture and connection remain at the heart of the program. Opportunities to reconnect with traditional practices and the land help participants strengthen their sense of identity, belonging and purpose. Throughout the year, residents participated in a variety of land-based and cultural activities, including attending a Dry-Rack Fish Camp in Yale, where they learned traditional salmon cleaning and preservation techniques while assisting with fish distribution to the community. Participants also harvested mó:qwem (Labrador tea) in the fall and took part in pine mushroom and chanterelle harvesting in the surrounding mountains.

During the reporting period, **10 men accessed services** through the men's recovery home, with **3 successfully completing** the program. Staff facilitated **219 in-house recovery groups**.

The women's recovery home supported **9 women**, with **5 program completions**, and facilitated **218 in-house groups**. Recognizing that recovery looks different for everyone, the program remains client-centred, supporting individuals in achieving their personal goals while maintaining sobriety and wellness.

Programming focuses on individualized recovery and holistic wellness. Each resident develops an Individual Recovery Plan (IRP), which is reviewed monthly to ensure goals and supports remain relevant.

Clients participate in a wide range of healing and wellness activities, including sweat lodge ceremonies, longhouse gatherings, spirit baths, individual and group counselling, workshops and circles with Knowledge Keepers, drum circles, and traditional harvesting activities on the land.

Residents are also supported in accessing primary healthcare, employment services, and educational opportunities through Seabird College. Additional programming includes life-skills development and connections to community-based services such as medical and dental

care, pharmacy services, diabetes education, and vision and hearing clinics.

Elder involvement continues to be a vital component of the program, providing cultural guidance, mentorship, and connection. Being situated within the community creates meaningful opportunities for residents to develop a sense of belonging and social connection. Participants regularly attended community dinners, cultural and recreational events, volunteer opportunities, and outings throughout the year. Highlights included attending the PNE in Vancouver, the Agassiz Fall Fair, self-care and wellness activities, movie outings, and Seabird Island's National Addictions Awareness Week celebrations.



A:yelexw Recovery Homes continues to receive referrals from across British Columbia, including Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast, the Lower Mainland and Interior communities. The development and distribution of updated program brochures helped increase awareness and reduce confusion following previous program transitions, contributing to a growing number of referrals throughout the year.

Going forward, A:yelexw Recovery Homes will continue to refresh and expand its promotional materials while strengthening partnerships with First Nations communities and service organizations throughout the region. These efforts will enhance outreach, increase awareness of available services, and help ensure that more individuals can access the healing, support, and hope offered through the A:yelexw Recovery Homes program.

Staffing

- Jessica Pettis, Supervisor (currently on maternity leave)
- Sylvia Hewitt, Acting Supervisor
- Breann Letkeman, Case Manager – Women's Home
- Greg Semenchuck, Residential Support Worker (RHSW) – Men's Home
- Jacoba Schroevers, RHSW – Men's Home
- Aman Kaur, RHSW – Men's Home
- Denise Adams, RHSW – Women's Home
- Linda Murphy, RHSW – Women's Home
- Una Jimmie, RHSW – Women's Home
- Cece Chapman, On-Call RHSW
- Mary Mitteregger, On-Call RHSW
- Jack Douglas, On-Call RHSW
- Caroline Ratcliff, On-Call RHSW





2025-26 Highlights:

- Vancouver Canucks game attended by residents and staff
- Community baking and wellness activities
- Participation in Seabird Island's National Addictions Awareness Week celebrations
- Recognition of program graduates and recovery milestones
- Ongoing cultural, recreational, and community engagement opportunities that supported healing, connection and personal growth throughout the year.

áylexw

be alive, be living, be in good health, be healthy, be well

E-HEALTH SOLUTIONS

Strengthening digital health systems remains a key priority for Seabird Island Health Services as we support high-quality, coordinated care. Throughout the year, efforts have focused on improving electronic health record practices, enhancing documentation standards, and ensuring clinical information is accurate, secure, and accessible.

Our Privacy Team continues to support compliance with privacy legislation, confidentiality requirements, and charting standards to ensure health records are managed appropriately and securely. The team also provides ongoing education and guidance on privacy responsibilities, confidentiality practices, and the importance of accurate, professional documentation.

Together, these efforts promote accountability while safeguarding the personal health information entrusted to our care.

ACCREDITATION CANADA

Seabird Island Health Services is preparing for its Accreditation Canada renewal, with the survey scheduled for January 2027. This process provides an opportunity to recognize the dedication of our staff, celebrate the strengths of our programs, and reaffirm our commitment to delivering safe, high-quality care.

In the months ahead, teams across Health Services will review policies, procedures, and best practices while identifying opportunities to enhance services. Accreditation is more than meeting standards, it strengthens our commitment to excellence, accountability, and culturally responsive care.

This renewal reflects the collective efforts of staff, leadership, and Community Members who help build a strong and supportive health system. As we move forward, we remain focused on providing compassionate, person-centered care and ensuring Seabird Island Health Services continues to be a trusted source of wellness and support for our community.

RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Program Summary:

The Resilience and Empowerment Program provides culturally safe, trauma-informed, and client-centred support to individuals impacted by sexualized violence, as well as their families and the broader community. Grounded in cultural values and relationships, the program focuses on fostering healing, strengthening resilience, and empowering individuals through compassionate, individualized care and meaningful connections.

During the 2025–26 fiscal year, the Holistic Empowerment Care Coordinator supported **91 clients** and facilitated **191 client interactions** with individuals ranging in age from **12 to 45 years**. Services were delivered through both individual and group-based supports, in person and virtually, ensuring participants could access care in ways that best met their needs. Each client received confidential, personalized support designed to promote safety, empowerment, wellness, and healing.

Supporting Healing and Empowerment:

The program embraces a holistic approach that integrates self-care, spiritual care, cultural connection, and relationship-building. Activities were tailored to individual needs and included nature walks along the Fraser River, visits to Bridal Falls, prayer and cleansing practices, shared meals, and opportunities for reflection and connection on the land.

Transportation support was also provided to community members attending Qwi:qwelstom Day Treatment programs, including grief and loss programming and Wellbriety services, helping reduce barriers and increasing access to supports.

One client demonstrated remarkable progress throughout the year. After experiencing significant anxiety that made leaving home difficult, they gradually rebuilt confidence through consistent support and engagement. A significant milestone was reached when they successfully attended a busy restaurant during peak hours and remained present and grounded throughout the experience. Their journey reflects both personal resilience and the positive impact of culturally rooted trauma-informed support.

Voices of Strength:

Participants shared powerful reflections on their healing journeys:

*"I am going to better myself.
I know it's going to take small
steps and one moment at a time.
I just want to be better
than I was yesterday."*

*"Women need to
empower women more,
let each other know you are
heard and someone cares."*

These words highlight the strength, determination and hope that continue to inspire this work.

Community Participation:

This year marked the successful launch of the **Women's Empowerment Group**, creating a supportive space for women from Seabird Island and neighbouring communities to connect, learn, and encourage one another.

The group meets weekly, with an additional evening session held once a month. To date, **20 participants** have attended activities that promote wellness, self-expression and connection, including:

- Crocheting
- Vision board creation
- Rock painting
- Affirmation booklet colouring
- Arts and crafts activities
- Peer support and group discussions

The group continues to foster confidence, belonging and mutual support among participants.



Capacity Building and Professional Development:

To ensure services remain informed by best practices and community needs, the Holistic Empowerment Care Coordinator participated in ongoing professional development throughout the year, including training in:

- Healing Indigenous Hearts
- Sexualized Violence Awareness and Prevention for Youth
- HIV Education and Self-Testing Awareness
- Mental Health Awareness
- Let's Talk About Touch Training

These learning opportunities strengthened the program's ability to provide culturally responsive and meaningful support to Community Members.

Community Safety Line:

To ensure support remains accessible beyond regular business hours Community Members can access the **Community Safety Line** for non-emergency assistance during evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Community Members may leave a confidential voicemail, and a team member will return their call as soon as possible.

Community Safety Line: 604-796-6900

Looking Ahead:

The Resilience and Empowerment Program remains committed to creating safe spaces for healing, strengthening protective factors, empowering individuals and families and building awareness through education and prevention initiatives. Through culture, compassion and connection, the program continues to support Community Members in their journeys toward healing, wellness, resilience and empowerment.

Selchím ta' shxw'iyem?
How is your health?

COMMUNITY SAFETY & PREVENTION

Prevention and Safety Seabird Island Festival 2026: Wellness & Safety Approach

As part of Seabird Island's Wellness & Safety Strategy, a collaborative team of staff and partners, including Fraser Health, FNHA and other wellness organizations provided trauma-informed, culturally safe and harm reduction-focused support during the Seabird Island Festival (May 29–31, 2026).

Key components of the initiative included:

- **Safety Zones:** Designated calm spaces offering hydration, rest and emotional support.
- **Mobile Wellness Teams:** Circulated the festival grounds to check in with guests, distribute supplies and guide individuals to appropriate supports.
- **Onsite Support:** Team members provided compassionate, non-judgmental care, emphasizing cultural humility and relational accountability.
- **Collaborative Presence:** Staff worked closely with Seabird leadership and external partners to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all attendees.

Volunteers were easily identified by designated bandannas and received orientation upon arrival. Meals, breaks, and logistical support were provided to ensure a positive and sustainable experience for all team members.

This initiative exemplified Seabird Island's commitment to community wellness, safety and inclusion, reinforcing the value of collective care and cultural respect during large community gatherings.



RESILIENCE & PREVENTION – JUSTICE

Seabird Island remains committed to advancing community safety, healing and wellness through a culturally grounded and trauma-informed approach to justice. Guided by Indigenous values and community priorities, the Justice Program supports individuals and families who are impacted by the justice system while promoting prevention, healing, accountability and positive life outcomes.

Through a collaborative and relationship-based model, the program works closely with Community Members to navigate legal, social, health and support systems. By reducing barriers to services and strengthening connections to cultural supports, the program helps foster resilience, reintegration, and overall well-being.

Key areas of focus include:

- Supporting individuals and families in accessing legal, health and social service resources
- Promoting healing, accountability and reconciliation through culturally responsive approaches
- Responding to urgent and emerging needs with compassion and practical support
- Integrating Indigenous teachings, values and cultural practices into service delivery
- Building awareness around justice, prevention and community safety.
- Collaborating with justice, health and community service partners to provide coordinated, wraparound supports.

Selchím ta' shxw'iyem?
How is your health?

In **2026**, the RCMP responded to **471 files on Seabird Island**, highlighting the ongoing importance of prevention, intervention and collaborative community safety efforts. Through strong partnerships and community-led approaches, Seabird Island continues to support individuals and families while working toward safer outcomes and healthier communities.

This work remains responsive to the evolving needs of the community and is guided by the belief that justice is most effective when it is restorative, inclusive, culturally informed and focused on healing. As we move forward, Seabird Island remains dedicated to strengthening pathways to wellness, resilience and community safety for current and future generations.

Highlight:

- **Community Safety Line**

Seabird Island Community Safety Line

For non-emergencies and support outside regular office hours (after 4:00 PM, weekends, and holidays), Community Members can call the confidential Community Safety Line. Leave a voicemail, and a team member will return your call. This service ensures continued access to support during evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Phone Number: 604-796-6900

móytel

To help each other

THÍYTELH WELLNESS PROGRAM (YOUNG ADULT TREATMENT)

The Thíytelh Wellness Program is a culturally grounded treatment program for young adults ages 19-26, developed and delivered in partnership with Fraser Health. Designed to serve Seabird Island's young adults and neighboring Fraser Salish communities — including Stó:lō, Nlaka'pamux, and Coast Salish Nations — the program integrates clinical services, cultural practices and land-based healing approaches to support healing for individuals experiencing substance use and mental health challenges. The program operates as a licensed six-bed, bed-based treatment facility.

This year focused on building the foundations necessary for long-term program success while advancing facility and operational readiness. Through a phased implementation approach, community-based supports were introduced while bed-based services continued to be developed. Efforts focused on strengthening relationships with young adults, families, communities and partner organizations while increasing awareness of and readiness for the program.

A significant milestone was achieved with the completion of renovations to a Seabird-owned home and property in Agassiz, establishing a dedicated space for program delivery. This achievement represents a critical step in moving from planning to operational



readiness and reinforces Seabird's leadership and ownership in delivering community-led care.

In parallel, substantial progress was made in developing the program's service delivery and operational framework, including the Model of Care, Operations Plan, policies and procedures, ensuring readiness for safe, effective and culturally integrated service delivery.

This work directly advances community priorities to enhance access to mental health and substance use services, create safe spaces for Youth and deliver care grounded in self-determination and cultural strength. It also strengthens Seabird's role as both a partner and provider in the delivery of health services.

Key Highlights and Milestones:

- Completion of renovations to the facility in Agassiz, including furnishing, equipment installation and site preparation to create a welcoming, culturally grounded treatment environment
- Advancement of key program frameworks, including the Model of Care, Operations Plan, Policy Manual and Standard Operating Procedures Manual
- Establishment of staffing and operational strategies to support program launch
- Achievement of approximately 95% staffing through a joint Seabird/ Fraser Health staffing model
- Completion of a joint staff orientation week to build a shared understanding of service delivery expectations, strengthen relationships across organizations and support continuity of care for participants
- Fraser Health staff participated in the Sq'ewqel Cultural Capacity Development training to strengthen cultural understanding and support culturally safe, integrated service delivery
- Transition from concept development and planning into implementation readiness, positioning the program for launch in the next fiscal year

The Thiytelh Wellness Program continues to evolve, guided by community voices and a commitment to culturally safe and holistic care for Indigenous Youth.

XÁXEYET STABILIZATION PROGRAM (AIMS)

Traditional Wellness and Substance Use Services

Throughout the year, Traditional Wellness and Substance Use Services continued to support Community Members in strengthening connections to culture, wellness, healing and identity. Through cultural teachings, ceremony, one-to-one support and community involvement, the program helped create opportunities for Youth, adults, Elders and individuals experiencing substance use challenges to reconnect with traditional practices and cultural values.

A significant focus of this work involved supporting Community Members during times of grief, loss and remembrance. By assisting with cultural ceremonies such as memorials and burnings, the program helped ensure that cultural protocols and traditions were honoured while providing spiritual and emotional support to families. This work also fostered opportunities for Community Members to strengthen their ties to culture and community.

Throughout the year, ongoing collaboration with Fraser Health clinicians and other service providers helped build mutual understanding and culturally safe approaches to wellness and recovery. Professional development opportunities, including participation in the Addictions Care and Treatment Course, further strengthened the ability to support individuals and families on their healing journeys.

Program Highlights:

- Supported families and Community Members through funerals, memorials, cultural ceremonies and gatherings following community losses
- Engaged with Youth to build confidence, leadership skills and understanding of cultural teachings, protocols and respect
- Collaborated with Fraser Health clinicians to strengthen cultural awareness and understanding of Indigenous history, experiences and wellness approaches
- Participated in and supported ceremonies through singing, cultural teachings and spiritual support
- Continued professional development through the Addictions Care and Treatment Course to strengthen knowledge and skills in supporting individuals experiencing substance use challenges

Service Statistics:

During the 2025–26 fiscal year:

- **11 wellness circles** facilitated (8 community circles and 3 staff circles)
- **32 support sessions**, including Community Members, students, Elders, and staff
- **20+ home visits**
- **12 community events** supported
- **5 community losses** supported through cultural, ceremonial, and spiritual services
- **15 brushing-off ceremonies** facilitated for individuals and groups
- **2 community traditional burnings** supported
- **2 outings** with A:yelexw Recovery Home residents
- Ongoing cultural education and protocol sessions provided to Fraser Health clinicians and staff

Special Projects and Partnerships:

This year, funding was secured through the **FNHA Traditional Wellness Harm Reduction Grant**, supporting the development of land-based and cultural programming for Youth and families. The initiative will focus on substance use prevention while promoting healthy lifestyles, cultural identity, and seasonal traditional practices.

Additional support was provided during the Youth retreat through cultural teachings, singing and dancing workshops, mentorship and leadership activities. Work also continued alongside DEW clinicians to help identify the needs of young adults seeking recovery supports and to prepare for future program delivery with Thíytelh Wellness Program.

Collaboration with Fraser Health also continued in preparation for a six-bed residential addictions treatment and recovery program: Thíytelh Wellness Program. This partnership will provide culturally informed recovery supports for Seabird Island Members and neighbouring First Nations communities, helping to expand access to treatment and healing opportunities within the region.

Through a commitment to cultural preservation, relationship building, and holistic wellness, Traditional Wellness and Substance Use Services continues to play an important role in supporting healing, connection, and community well-being.



MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH

Program Summary:

The Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program provides voluntary, culturally

safe and family-centred services to Indigenous life givers, infants, children, and families throughout the prenatal, birth, postpartum and early childhood journey. Using a holistic and wraparound approach, the MCH team supports families by meeting them where they are and developing individualized care plans that reflect each family's unique strengths, goals and cultural values.

The MCH team is comprised of Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Kwiyo:s ("Respected Aunties"), and a Maternal and Women's Health Care Coordinator. Together, the team works to reduce barriers to care while promoting access to maternal health services, infant wellness supports, reproductive health care, cultural teachings and family wellness resources. By combining professional expertise with cultural knowledge and lived experience, the team provides compassionate and comprehensive care to families across the region.

Services Provided:

- Prenatal and postnatal education
- Newborn assessments
- Maternal and infant wellness supports
- Lactation consulting services
- Contraceptive counselling and management
- STI education and management
- Car seat education and safety
- Transportation assistance
- Emergency infant supplies, including diapers, formula and wipes
- Monthly Sacred Seed virtual education sessions with food bag incentives
- Workshops featuring guest speakers, Knowledge Keepers, community champions and health professionals
- A private Facebook group that connects families and builds community support

tá:l
mother

Program Impact:

Throughout the 2025–26 fiscal year, the MCH team provided an average of **1,789 client interactions and visits**, including home visits, clinic appointments, virtual care, and community-based services. By offering flexible and accessible supports, the team continues to ensure families receive care in ways that best meet their needs.

A significant milestone this year was the continued growth of Indigenous maternal and women’s health services. The team proudly celebrated Registered Practitioner **Lindsay Meloshinsky’s graduation**, recognizing her transition from RN and her ongoing dedication to maternal, children’s and women’s health. Lindsay has since settled into her new role at the Seabird Health Clinic, where she continues to provide specialized care and support to Indigenous women and families.

HIV Education Initiative:

This year, Seabird Island received funding through the first phase of the HIV Education Initiative. Through a collaborative effort between the Maternal Child Health team and Community Development Nurses, education and awareness activities were delivered to Youth, students, Community Members, and Elders.

To increase accessibility and engagement, educational sessions were paired with family-friendly activities and incentives, including:

- Youth trips to the Greater Vancouver Zoo
- Aquarium passes for families
- Arts programming in partnership with Prism
- Community education sessions focused on awareness, prevention, and testing

These activities created welcoming opportunities for Community Members to learn, ask questions and engage in meaningful conversations about health and wellness.

mál
Father



ANNUAL BABY WELCOMING CELEBRATION

Each spring, the Maternal Child Health Program hosts its Annual Baby Welcoming Celebration, a cherished community event that honours babies born during the year and celebrates the families who nurture and support them.

The 2026 celebration welcomed **53 babies** from **51 families**, including two sets of twins, and anticipated attendance of over **300 family members, Elders, and community supporters**.

Grounded in culture, connection and belonging, the event celebrates the arrival of new babies while recognizing the important role families and communities play in raising the next generation. The ceremony honours the life giver, baby and support person, emphasizing the collective responsibility of nurturing children and strengthening community connections.

Families were welcomed with:

- Shared meals and celebration
- Gifts for babies and families
- Cultural teachings and words of wisdom from Elders
- Family photo opportunities
- Traditional medicines and wellness gifts
- Children's activities, including face painting and caricature artists



The Baby Welcoming Celebration continues to be a meaningful expression of community pride, cultural continuity and the collective love surrounding Seabird's youngest Members.

TEME'LILE MIDWIFERY (Salmon-berry Time)

Teme'lile Midwifery is a regional Indigenous midwifery program operating through Seabird Island and Stó:lō Nation. The program provides culturally safe maternity care that empowers families to create birth experiences rooted in their own traditions, values and choices.

Working closely with the Maternal Child Health team, Teme'lile Midwifery supports Indigenous families throughout pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care while helping restore traditional teachings, practices and cultural connections surrounding childbirth.

During the 2025–2026 fiscal year, the Teme'lile Midwifery team attended **63 births**.

The program's dedicated Registered Midwives include:

- **Amelia Doran**
- **Cheryl Mount**

Professional development completed during the year included:

- Infant Resuscitation Training
- Contraceptive Management
- Birth Control Implant Insertion
- Intrauterine Device (IUD) Insertion

Through strong collaboration between MCH and Teme'lile Midwifery, families receive seamless and culturally grounded care that honours Indigenous traditions while supporting healthy beginnings for children and families.



STS'ÁTS'ELYEM - LIFE GIVER WELLNESS HOME

Sts'áts'elyem Life Giver Wellness Home represents a transformative vision for Indigenous maternal and reproductive wellness. Led by Seabird Island, this initiative seeks to restore traditional birthing practices, cultural teachings and community-based supports that were disrupted through generations of colonization.

Historically, Indigenous births took place within community, supported by grandmothers, aunties, and traditional midwives who carried knowledge of medicines, songs, teachings and ceremony. Sts'áts'elyem Life Giver Wellness Home seeks to reclaim and revitalize these traditions by creating a culturally grounded space where Indigenous families can access care with dignity, safety and respect.

The initiative is founded on the belief that birth is a sacred and community-held experience. Through culturally safe and trauma-informed care, families will be supported throughout their reproductive health journeys while reconnecting with traditional practices and ancestral teachings.

Key Objectives:

- Restore birth, parenting, and reproductive wellness within Indigenous communities
- Provide culturally safe and respectful care for every life giver
- Integrate traditional midwifery, ceremony and land-based healing into the pregnancy and birth journey
- Strengthen family and community connections throughout pregnancy, birth and postpartum care

tsméla
give birth, have a baby

Vision for the Future:

Sts'áts'elyem Life Giver Wellness Home is guided by a vision where:

- Birth is welcomed back into community
- Families feel safe, supported and empowered
- Babies are welcomed with ceremony, songs and cultural teachings
- Reproductive care is grounded in Indigenous sovereignty and cultural safety
- Parents are supported by strong networks of family and community
- Teachings from moon time through postpartum care are preserved and shared
- Two-Spirit, LGBTQ+, and gender-diverse life givers feel respected, included and supported
- Traditional midwives, doulas, Elders and aunties once again walk beside families throughout their journeys

Sts'áts'elyem Life Giver Wellness Home is more than a healthcare initiative — it is an act of cultural restoration, healing and self-determination. It reflects Seabird Island's commitment to ensuring future generations are welcomed into the world surrounded by culture, community and the enduring strength of their ancestors.

tsehsq'áleq'o
family

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Christmas Pamper Wellness Week:

During the 2025 holiday season, Seabird Island launched its first-ever Christmas Pamper Wellness Week, a community wellness initiative designed to support the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being of Band and Community Members. Held from December 8-14, 2025, the week provided a welcoming space for self-care, connection and creativity during a season that can often bring added stress and financial pressures for families.

The event focused on promoting wellness through a variety of activities that encouraged relaxation, skill-building, cultural connection and gift-making. Throughout the week, participants enjoyed opportunities to create handmade gifts, learn new skills and engage in meaningful activities with family and community.

To further support participants, lunch and dinner were provided each day, creating opportunities for Community Members to gather, share meals and strengthen relationships. The success of the inaugural Wellness Week was made possible through the collaboration of Seabird Island staff, community partners and numerous vendors who generously contributed their time, expertise and services.

Activities Offered

Community Members participated in a diverse range of wellness and creative activities, including:

- Christmas make-and-take workshops
- Community dinner night
- Cookie decorating and baking workshops
- Crocheting
- Devil's Club bracelet making
- Emergency preparedness kit creation
- Haircuts and hairstyling services
- Hot shaves
- Mall Crawl shopping excursion with transportation provided
- Manicures
- Massage therapy
- Memory box creation
- Mini drum raffles
- Morse code bracelet making
- Play Abby family recreation activities
- Portrait painting
- Pour-and-melt soap making
- Reiki sessions
- Seven Bears ornament making
- Teeth whitening
- Traditional facials



COMMUNITY & FAMILY WELLNESS

Program Impact

The Christmas Pamper Wellness Week was exceptionally well received and demonstrated the importance of creating opportunities for Community Members to prioritize self-care, wellness and connection. The event brought together individuals and families of all ages, fostering a sense of belonging, community spirit and support during the holiday season.

Building on the success of its inaugural year, Christmas Pamper Wellness Week has laid the foundation for what is anticipated to become a valued annual tradition to promote wellness, connection and joy throughout the community.



Gingerbread Cookie Recipe

When you bake gingerbread cookies it fills the house with that distinctive sweet and spicy aroma that brings everyone to the kitchen waiting for the cookies to come out of the oven.

Cook Time: 10 minutes mins

Total Time: 2 hrs 10 mins

Prep Time 2 hours hrs

Ingredients

- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/3 cup shortening
- 1 1/2 cups dark molasses
- 2 1/3 cups cold water
- 7 cups all-purpose flour, omit baking soda and salt if using self-rising flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Instructions

Mix the brown sugar, shortening, molasses and water in a large bowl. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours.

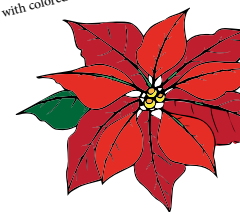
Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Grease a cookie sheet lightly with shortening. Roll the dough 1/4 inch thick on a floured surface. Cut with a floured gingerbread cutter or other shaped cutter.

Place 2 inches apart on the cookie sheet. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until no indentation remains when touched.

Remove from the cookie sheet. Cool completely on a wire rack. Decorate with colored frosting, colored sugar and candies if desired.

Makes at least 5 dozen small cookies.



Location: Seabird Island Gymnasium

Christmas Pamper Wellness Week

Dec 8 Monday	Dec 9 Tuesday	Dec 10 Wednesday	Dec 11 Thursday	Dec 12 Friday	Dec 13 Saturday	Dec 14 Sunday
Community Night Dinner 6:00pm - 8:00pm Contact Randy for transportation if needed	Play Abing in Chilliwack with Pizza dinner 6:30pm-8:30pm Transportation may be available First come first serve, max capacity = 200 people	Multi-Crew Shopping 11:00am-4:00pm Transportation available upon request Hair Braiding with Mia 10am-3:00pm Massage with Sarah 9:30am-2:30pm Sound Bath with Emily 11:00am-2:00pm Hair styling with Mindy 1:00pm-4:00pm Hair cuts with Karina 12:00pm - 3pm & later 1:30pm - 7:00pm (open to all) Manicures with Spiting 1:00-4:00PM Massage with Cassandra, RMT 2:00-7:00PM More Code Bracelets with Erno 3:00pm - 6:00pm Crochet with Wendy 3:00pm - 6:00pm Stade Nails with Jennifer 4:30pm-7pm Candle Light Vigil 5:00pm - 7:00pm	Eye Clinic 9:00am - 6:00pm Massage with Sarah 9:30am-2:30pm Cookie Decorating Ella's, Camryn, and Robbi 11:00am - 12:00pm Mini Drum Rattles with Erno 12:00pm - 4:00pm Solid with Charmaine 12:00pm - 7:00pm Cookie Make + Take with Laura 1:00pm - 5:00pm Hair Cuts with Tamarah 1:00PM - 7:00pm Four Malt Soup with Vicki 4:00pm - 7:00pm Seven Beers with Ashley 4:00pm - 7:00pm Emergency Kit Making with Brenna 4:00pm - 7:00pm Stade Nails with Jennifer 4:30pm-7pm	Eye Clinic 9:00am - 6:00pm Hot shoes with Tanya 10:00am-3:00pm Hair Braiding with Mia 10am-3:00pm Make-up & Hair Styling Dani + Mindy 11am-5:00pm Hair cuts with Tamarah 11am-4:00pm Massage with Tare 12pm-5:00pm Traditional Facials with Terry 4:00pm-6:00pm Mini Drum rattles with Erno 4:00pm-6:00pm Portrait Painting with Paul 4:00pm-8:00pm Devils Club Bracelets with Rungbonds 4:00pm-8:00pm Stade Nails with Jennifer 4:30pm-7pm	Memory Beers with Troy 10:00am-5:00pm Teeth Whitening with Brittani 10:00am-4:00pm Solid with Charmaine 10:00am-5:00pm Hair Cuts with Tamarah 11:00am-3:00pm Seven Beers with Ashley 11:00am - 5:00pm Stade Nails with Jennifer 11:00am-3pm Massage with Cassandra, RMT 3:00-6:00PM	Christmas Make and Take Workshop with Celeste 10:00am - 3:00pm Autism Shopping dates will be available for the following week (December 15-16)



BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

“Together in Hope, Together in Healing”

December 2025

December brought an opportunity for members of the Seabird Breast Cancer Support Group to gather for their annual Christmas celebration. The evening was filled with gratitude, joy, and reflection as members celebrated another year of friendship, resilience, and healing.

A particularly meaningful highlight was the opportunity to recognize that all members of the group remain in remission and continue to embrace life with strength, hope and determination.

This year’s celebration was held at the **Greek Islands Restaurant**, providing a new dining experience for many attendees. Over a delicious meal, members shared laughter, holiday traditions and cherished memories, enjoying the warmth of connection and companionship that has become the foundation of this supportive group.

The festivities continued with a visit to the **Chilliwack Cultural Centre** to attend Winter Harp, a captivating holiday performance featuring traditional music, storytelling and



COMMUNITY & FAMILY WELLNESS



poetry. The production celebrated the spirit of the season through beautiful performances, including the beloved **Huron Carol**, recognized as Canada's oldest Christmas carol. The evening offered a meaningful opportunity for members to experience the arts together while creating new memories during the holiday season.

To commemorate the occasion, each participant received a special Christmas gift from Seabird Island.

A coordinated pink umbrella and pink purse were presented to each member, symbolizing strength, unity and the enduring bonds formed through shared experiences.

The annual Christmas gathering continues to be a cherished event, celebrating not only the season but also the courage, wellness and ongoing journey of the remarkable women who make up the Seabird Breast Cancer Support Group.





SEABIRD CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

“We are the rememberer’s, the people left behind,
to keep the one who’s gone from us alive in heart and mind.
The people left to cherish and preserve a legacy.”

This year, approximately **70 Community Members** gathered for a heartfelt evening of remembrance to honour the loved ones who have passed on. As families and Community Members came together, the gathering provided a safe and meaningful space to acknowledge grief, celebrate cherished memories and draw strength from one another.

Throughout the evening, participants reflected on the many Elders who shared their teachings and wisdom, the Youth who left us too soon, and those who bravely faced illness before beginning their journey home. Their lives and contributions continue to be remembered and carried forward within our community.

The event opened with a special storytelling presentation featuring Elder Margaret Herling’s recollection of “Christmas on Herling Island as a Child.” With permission from her daughter, Frieda George, and guidance from Sonny McHalsie, Margaret’s memories were brought to life through storytelling and seasonal music. Together, they painted a vivid picture of a cherished time that now lives on through stories, memories, and the teachings passed between generations.

Following a shared catered meal, Community Members participated in a Candlelight Ceremony. One by one, individuals came forward to speak the names of their loved ones and honour their memories. Participants received



COMMUNITY & FAMILY WELLNESS



a hand-carved jade ornament as a keepsake to place on their Christmas trees, serving as a lasting reminder of those who continue to hold a special place in their hearts.

The ceremony was marked by moments of reflection, tears, laughter and love as Community Members shared stories and memories. Sonny McHalsie offered words of comfort and encouragement, emphasizing the importance of coming together in times of grief and supporting one another through loss. His message reinforced that strength can be found in community connection and collective healing.



As the evening drew to a close, sadness gave way to gratitude, love, and understanding. The demands of daily life were set aside as participants reflected on the importance of relationships, family, and community. United by shared experiences and memories, those gathered found comfort in one another's presence. The evening concluded with a farewell song from the drummers, leaving hearts uplifted and spirits strengthened as families prepared to enter the holiday season carrying the cherished memories of those they had honoured.



ELDERS PROGRAM

Program Summary:

The Elders Program **supports 85 on-reserve Elders** by promoting physical, emotional, mental and social well-being through a variety of services, programs and community engagement opportunities. The program provides assistance with income tax preparation, government applications, transportation, technology support, grocery shopping and access to health and wellness activities. Elders also benefit from regular social opportunities, workshops, community events and intergenerational programming that fosters connection with Youth and families.

Throughout the year, the Elders' team supported applications related to disability benefits, pensions (OAS/GIS), Residential School and Day School claims, Federal Indian Hospital claims, and other government services. In



partnership with Service Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency, the team hosted several Super Clinics, providing Community Members with access to support for Social Insurance Number applications, tax-related services, and benefit programs.

The Elders Centre continues to serve as a welcoming gathering space, offering daily drop-in opportunities for coffee, conversation, and connection. Additional programming included weekly Chair Fit exercise classes in partnership with Fraser Health, health and safety workshops, cultural preservation activities, and support for Elders experiencing concerns related to safety and well-being.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

Osoyoos Elders Retreat:

One of the year's most memorable events was a three-day Elders' retreat to Osoyoos. Twenty-seven Elders participated in a two-night stay at Spirit Ridge Resort, traveling together by bus and enjoying a variety of social and recreational activities. The trip included shared meals, local shopping excursions and opportunities for relaxation and connection. Each Elder also received a fruit basket to enjoy during their stay.

Annual Holiday Dinner:

The annual Elders' Holiday Dinner was held at Fraser River Lodge and brought together 68 Elders and four Members of Chief and Council. The event featured an opening table song by Richard Malloway, games, bingo, live music by Outlaws and Lace, dancing, and a festive meal. The gathering provided an opportunity for Elders to connect, celebrate, and enjoy the holiday season together. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, particularly regarding the food, entertainment and welcoming atmosphere.



eyos leq'aleqel
holidays



Statistics 2025–26 fiscal year:

- **85 on-reserve Elders supported**
- **1,066 Elder Centre visits recorded**
- **102 events, workshops and activities delivered**, including chair exercise classes, walking programs, grocery outings, workshops, social events and TV Bingo

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Elder Firewood Support Program

The Elders Program partnered with the Food Sovereignty Team to support traditional food preservation activities. Elders participated in harvesting, preserving and sharing traditional foods, including raspberry jam, applesauce and soap-berries.

Ten flats of raspberries were processed into regular and low-sugar preserves, while apples harvested from local trees were used to make applesauce. Through a collaboration with the Food Sovereignty Team, Elders also traveled to Merritt to harvest soap-berries, which were cleaned, preserved and distributed. Upon completion, jam, applesauce, and soap-berries were shared with Elders throughout the community. Six Elders participated directly in the canning and preservation process, helping preserve traditional knowledge and skills for future generations.

Looking Ahead:

The Elders Program remains committed to supporting healthy aging, increasing opportunities for social connection, preserving cultural knowledge, and enhancing access to services and resources that support Elders' quality of life.

Staff:

- Haley Walker, Elders Coordinator
- Emerald John, Elders Mobility Coordinator



ELDER FIREWOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM:

Program Summary:

During the 2025–26 fiscal year, Community and Family Wellness formalized the Elder Firewood Support Program to help ensure Elders remained safe, warm, and supported throughout the winter months. The program was established in response to the needs of Elders who rely on wood-burning stoves as their primary or sole source of heat and may face barriers to obtaining firewood due to financial, physical or logistical challenges.

Rather than responding to requests as they arose, the program adopted a proactive approach by harvesting, processing, and stockpiling firewood in advance of the winter season. This approach ensured that firewood was readily available when needed and allowed the team to respond quickly to Elder requests throughout the colder months.

Key Highlights:

- Elders had reliable access to firewood regardless of their financial circumstances or physical abilities
- Created a sustainable community-supported model by engaging Labour Pool workers to harvest and process firewood locally rather than purchasing it at market rates
- Successfully maintained an adequate firewood supply throughout the winter season while building a reserve for future needs
- Strengthened community wellbeing by providing practical support that helped Elders remain safe, comfortable and independent in their homes.

Program Statistics:

During the 2025–26 winter season, the program:

- **Supported 8 Elders**
- **Delivered 20 cords** of firewood
- **Built and maintained** a stockpile of approximately **12 additional cords**
- **Provided ongoing deliveries** from November through March

siyólh
wood, firewood

Looking Ahead:

The success of the Elder Firewood Support Program has established a strong foundation for future years. With a remaining stockpile available for the 2026-27 winter season, the program is well-positioned to continue supporting Elders while reducing future costs and resource demands. This initiative reflects Seabird Island's ongoing commitment to caring for Elders and ensuring they have access to the resources needed to be safe, healthy and comfortable throughout the year.

Staff:

- Aleesha Jones, Acting Holistic Nutrition Wellness Lead
- Haley Walker, Acting Coordination Lead, Community Wellness
- Emerald John, Elders Mobility Program Coordinator
- Labour Pool Team Members (2)





RECREATION PROGRAM

Program Summary:

The Recreation Program provides opportunities for Community Members of all ages to participate in activities that support physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being. Through organized sports, fitness programming, community partnerships and recreational access initiatives, the program promotes healthy lifestyles while encouraging participation, inclusion and community connection.

Over the past year, recreation opportunities continued to expand through partnerships with community organizations and regional facilities. Community Members accessed free recreation opportunities through the Hope Leisure Centre and Zen Martial Arts, while additional sports and wellness programming were offered

locally. Recreation also worked collaboratively with Events, Youth Services, and Seabird Island Community School to support culturally relevant and physically active programming including drop in soccer.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

Community Access Initiative

A major achievement this year was the continued expansion of free access opportunities for Community Members at the Hope Leisure Centre, including swimming and skating programs. Community Members also accessed martial arts programming through Zen Martial Arts, with both community-based and studio-based jiu-jitsu classes available.



Multi-Sport Day Camp

In July 2025, Recreation partnered with ISPARC to host a Multi-Sport Day Camp. Participants enjoyed a soccer session led by the Vancouver Whitecaps, followed by two days of lacrosse instruction delivered by the Head Coach of the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) Lacrosse Team.

Prism Painting Program

The Prism Painting Program saw strong participation and community interest. The two-day painting workshop welcomed **20 participants** on the first day and **48 participants** on the second day, encouraging creativity, skill development and community engagement.

Community Sports Programming

Regular drop-in recreation opportunities continued throughout the year, including soccer, basketball and pickle-ball. Efforts are also underway to

establish additional partnerships that will provide Community Members with access to golfing opportunities through Cheam Golf and batting cage facilities in Abbotsford.

Statistics During 2025–26:

- **Recreation Drop-In Programs:** Average of **10 participants** per session (October 2025 – March 2026)
- **Fitness Centre:** Average of **242 participants** per month
- **Elders Fitness:** Average of **9.6 participants** per class
- **High School Fitness Program:** Average of **7.3 participants** per class
- **Prism Painting Program:** **68 Members** participated on-site at Seabird Island
- **Off-Site Prism Studio Program:** **132 Members** registered, with **51 participants** attending scheduled sessions



Special Projects:

The Recreation Program partnered with ISPARC and the Physical Education and Sports Program team to support a Coaching Certification Initiative. This project provided Youth opportunities to obtain coaching certifications, build leadership skills and gain experience supporting sport and recreation programming within the community.

Looking Ahead:

As the Recreation Program continues to grow, future priorities include expanding access to recreational opportunities, strengthening partnerships, increasing participation across all age groups and promoting active, healthy lifestyles through sport, culture and community engagement.

Staff:

- Robert McNeil-Bobb,
Recreation Coordinator



sewolem
sports, games, plays



NUTRITION & WELLNESS

NUTRITION PROGRAM

Summary:

The Nutrition Program supports community wellness through two primary service areas: Meals on Wheels and Nutrition Education.

The Meals on Wheels (MOW) Program provides nutritious, prepared meals to Community Members who may experience barriers to meal preparation or food access. The program primarily serves Elders, individuals with disabilities, and Community Members requiring additional support to maintain their health and independence. Throughout the year, two meals per week were delivered to approximately **45–47 clients** in Seabird Island.

The Nutrition Education Program promotes food literacy, healthy eating and practical cooking skills through

workshops, demonstrations and community events. The cornerstone of this program is Community Kitchen, which visits Seabird Island and neighbouring communities monthly, providing hands-on cooking demonstrations and meal kits that allow participants to recreate nutritious meals at home.

Key Highlights:

Several enhancements were made to strengthen program quality and participant experience during the 2025–26 fiscal year:

- Increased incorporation of traditional and locally sourced foods, including wild fish and game, into Meals on Wheels menus
- Introduced weekly client feedback surveys to support continuous program improvement

COMMUNITY & FAMILY WELLNESS

- Adjusted meal delivery days from Mondays and Wednesdays / Tuesdays and Thursdays, ensuring clients continue to receive meals during statutory holiday weeks
- Implemented additional safety, accountability, and quality assurance measures to strengthen service delivery and food safety practices

Program Statistics:

Meals on Wheels

- Served an average of **45–47 clients per week**
- Delivered approximately **4,680 meals** during 2025–26
- Invested approximately **\$31,200 annually in groceries** to support meal preparation and delivery

Nutrition Education

- Supported approximately **six community events per month**, including Community Kitchens, Candlelight Vigils, and Diabetes Clinics
- Community Kitchen sessions averaged **8–12 participants per community**
- Delivered programming across **72 Community Kitchen events** annually
- Invested approximately **\$21,600 annually** in Community Kitchen programming and supplies

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Nutrition Run

This year, the Nutrition Team successfully organized its annual Nutrition Run in partnership with several departments across Seabird Island, including Health, Events, Education, Health and Safety, and Infrastructure.

The event promoted physical activity, healthy living and community connection while bringing together participants from several neighbouring First Nations communities. A nutritious meal was provided through a collaboration between the Nutrition Program and the Seabird Island College Culinary Program.

The event was well attended and completed safely, with strong participation from staff, volunteers and Community Members. Plans are underway to expand promotion and strengthen event branding to support future growth.

Nutrition Run Statistics:

- **21 community volunteers** (plus 2 RCMP Liaisons)
- **25 staff participants**
- **30 community participants**
- Representation from **Sq'ewqel (Seabird Island), Cheam, Chawathil, Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt, and Shxw'ow'hamel**





Service to other communities:

The Nutrition Program continues to support health and wellness initiatives beyond Seabird Island by providing Nutrition Education services and Community Kitchen programming in neighbouring communities, including:

- Cheam
- Scowlitz
- Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt
- Shxw'ow'hamel
- Squiala

The program also participates in regional health initiatives and community events, including Candlelight Vigils and health promotion activities, helping strengthen food security, nutrition knowledge and community connections across the region.

Staff:

The Nutrition Program is supported by a dedicated team committed to enhancing community wellness through food, education and connection:

- Aleesha Jones, Team Lead
- Laura Harris, Nutrition Assistant
- Jaime Peters, Nutrition Educator (Medical Leave)
- Leah Hemstreet, Nutrition Educator (Term Position)
- Christian Lambert, Labour Pool Support

Looking Ahead

The Nutrition Program remains focused on increasing access to nutritious foods, strengthening food literacy and incorporating cultural and traditional foods into programming. Through ongoing collaboration, community engagement, and innovative nutrition initiatives, the program continues to support healthy lifestyles and overall wellness for Seabird Island and neighbouring communities.

AUNTIE'S KITCHEN

Program Summary:

Auntie's Kitchen was launched this year as a new family-focused initiative designed to bring together culture, traditional teachings, life skills, food and connection. Led by **Deanna McIntyre**, the program creates opportunities for families to strengthen relationships, build confidence in meal preparation, and learn practical skills that support healthy lifestyles while sharing laughter and stories in community.

The inaugural program ran as a **12-week series**, held every second Tuesday in the Seabird Island School kitchen. Three families participated in each session, working together to prepare meals, learn new recipes and develop cooking skills in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Beyond learning how to prepare nutritious meals, participants had opportunities to connect with one another, share experiences and engage in conversations about family wellness, traditions and cultural teachings. The program fostered a sense of belonging while promoting food skills and self-sufficiency.

Looking Ahead:

Following the success of its inaugural session, Auntie's Kitchen has demonstrated the value of combining food, culture and community connection. The program looks forward to continuing to offer opportunities for families to learn practical life skills, share traditional teachings, and strengthen family and community relationships through the joy of cooking and togetherness.

Program Highlights:

During the first session, participating families learned to prepare six family-friendly meals:

- Spaghetti
- Chinese Chicken Noodle Soup
- Homemade Pizza
- Southern Shrimp Pasta
- Spring Ravioli with Garden Salad
- Apple Crisp

Each session encouraged hands-on learning, collaboration and confidence-building while creating opportunities for families to spend meaningful time together.





TÉM:ÉXW LI TE LETAM (LAND TO TABLE)

Program Summary:

The Tém:éxw li te Letam (Land to Table) Program supports food sovereignty, cultural revitalization and community wellness by reconnecting Community Members with traditional food systems and sustainable food production practices. Through land-based learning, agricultural development, harvesting activities and cultural teachings, the program promotes the transmission of traditional knowledge while increasing access to healthy, locally grown foods.

Throughout the 2025–26 fiscal year, the program continued to grow and evolve through significant infrastructure improvements, expanded community programming and the acquisition of new farming equipment to support long-term sustainability at the Tém:éxw li te Letam Farm on Chaplin Road.

Key Highlights:

Several important infrastructure projects were completed this year to strengthen the program's capacity and support future growth:

- Installation of a water pump and pump house to improve farm irrigation and operations
- Installation of a multi-purpose shipping container that will be converted into a refrigerated processing and storage hub for wild game and harvested crops
- Conversion of an existing shed into a smokehouse to support traditional fish preservation practices

These developments represent important investments in food security, traditional food preservation and the long-term sustainability of the Land to Table Program.

COMMUNITY & FAMILY WELLNESS



Program Statistics:

During the 2025–26 fiscal year, the program achieved the following:

- **606 pounds of produce grown** within approximately 300 square feet of cultivated growing space
- Supported **47 Meals on Wheels clients** through access to locally produced foods
- Contributed food supports to **17 Food Bank clients**
- Provided fresh food and educational opportunities to **more than 100 Seabird Island School students**
- Engaged **more than 80 Community Members** through land-based workshops and cultural learning activities

Workshops and learning opportunities included:

- Hushum (berry) picking
- Mushroom harvesting
- Traditional hunting workshops
- Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) training
- Monthly Hunting and Fishing Rights drop-in sessions
- Net hanging and traditional harvesting skills
- Safety and preparedness workshops

Special Projects and Funding:

The Land to Table Program successfully leveraged several funding opportunities to strengthen food sovereignty initiatives and community programming.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Local Food Infrastructure Fund

Funding supported the purchase of essential farming equipment, including:

- Tractor and attachments
- Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs)
- Irrigation infrastructure
- Agricultural equipment and supplies

United Way – Upper Fraser Valley Food Hub Funding:

Funding supported food security initiatives, including:

- Pesticide safety training
- Equipment purchases
- Program supplies and infrastructure enhancements

I-SPARC Food Systems Program:

Through this partnership, the program delivered several culturally relevant food systems initiatives, including:

- Mushroom harvesting workshops
- Traditional hunting workshops
- PAL training for 24 participants
- Safety kit preparation and distribution

**spils
garden**

Regional Collaboration:

An exciting development this year was the beginning of discussions with neighbouring First Nations communities, including **Tzeachten First Nation and Cheam First Nation**, to explore a collaborative food sovereignty network.

The long-term vision includes:

- Crop and food sharing initiatives
- Resource pooling
- Knowledge exchange
- Regional food security planning
- Stronger inter-community partnerships focused on food sovereignty and self-sufficiency

These collaborative relationships represent an important step toward strengthening Indigenous food systems across the region.



Staff:

The Land to Table Program is supported by a dedicated team passionate about food sovereignty, traditional knowledge and community wellness:

- **Aleesha Jones, Holistic Nutrition Wellness Team Lead**
- **Brenon McIntyre, Traditional Food Practices Specialist**



Looking Ahead:

As the program continues to grow, Tém:éxw li te Letam remains committed to strengthening food sovereignty, preserving traditional food practices, expanding agricultural capacity and creating more opportunities for Community Members to reconnect with the land. Through infrastructure development, partnerships, cultural teachings and hands-on learning, the program continues to support a healthier and more self-sufficient future for Seabird Island and future generations.





Community Fish Hamper:

Fish, particularly salmon, hold deep cultural, spiritual and nutritional significance for Indigenous peoples. They are central to traditional diets, seasonal harvesting practices and community gatherings. The distribution of fish, especially to Elders, reflects a commitment to cultural continuity, respect for traditional food systems and the health and well-being of Indigenous families. This initiative not only supports food security but also strengthens intergenerational connections and cultural resilience.

In 2025, the community came together for a successful fish distribution event, despite extremely short notice. Over 50 volunteers participated, including SIB staff, Fraser Health Authority (FHA), Community Members, Chief & Council, and Elders. Their collective efforts ensured that fish reached households both on and off-reserve.

A total of 2,600 fish were processed for community.



Specialty Hampers:

The **Circle of Care Hamper Program** was developed to support high-risk families with school-aged children by improving food security and access to essential household items during scheduled school breaks. Recognizing that many families experience increased pressures when children are home from school, the program provides practical supports that help reduce stress while promoting the health and wellbeing of the entire household.

Each hamper is thoughtfully customized to meet the unique needs of participating families. Eligible households are contacted directly to discuss family size, dietary needs, personal preferences and other considerations, ensuring that hampers are tailored and responsive to individual circumstances.

Depending on family needs and seasonal availability, hampers may include:

- Household hygiene products, including dish soap, hand soap, laundry detergent and disinfectant wipes
- Baby care essentials such as diapers, wipes, and infant formula
- Ingredients and recipe cards for five nutritious family meals
- Pantry staples and children's snacks
- Fresh produce and healthy food options
- Fresh protein selections

By providing both nutritious food and essential household supplies, the Circle of Care Hamper Program helps strengthen family wellbeing, ease financial pressures and ensure families have access to resources during critical times throughout the year.

Program Statistics 2025–26 Fiscal:

- **Over 100 families** received Circle of Care Hampers

A total of **69 families** were supported through the Circle of Care Hamper Program during school break periods, helping ensure households had access to healthy food, essential supplies and additional support when it was needed most.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



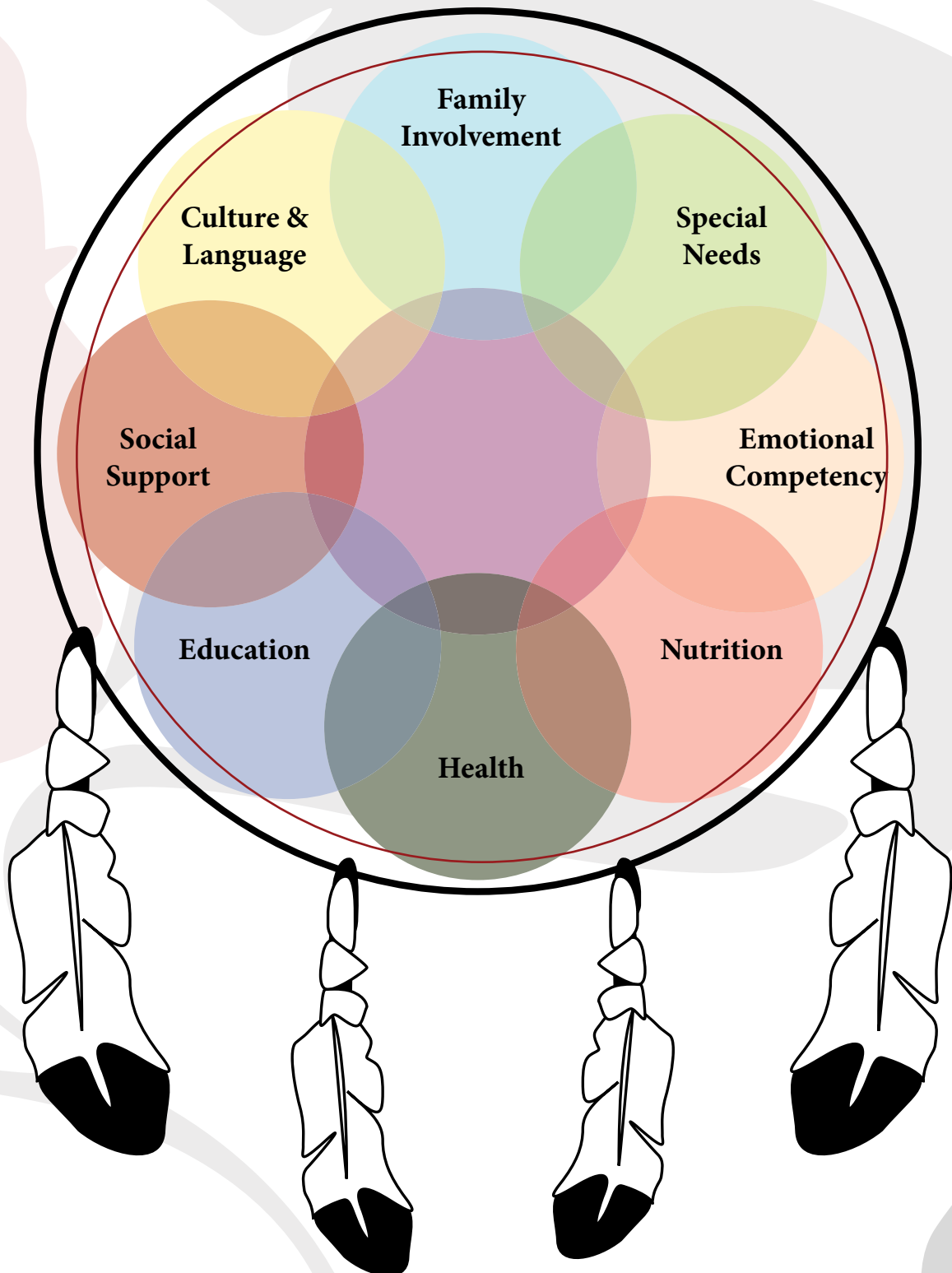


EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Carlene Brown

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Aboriginal Infant Development
- Supported Child Development
- Aboriginal Supported Child Development
- Ey Qwal Speech & Language
- Family Enrichment & Wellness
- Daycare
- 3's Preschool
- 4's Preschool
- Out of School Care / Summer Program
- School's Out
- Aboriginal Headstart On-Reserve - Seabird Island
- Family Wellness
- Culture & Language



Aboriginal Infant Development



What AIDP does:

- Home visits
- Individual child or family development curriculum
- Centre and community visits
- Head Start, Strong Start, Better Beginnings and Family Place
- Collaboration with Ey Qwal Speech and Language, MCH, Supported Child Development, FVCDC, Seabird ECD staff
- Someone So Small (SSS) Drop-in groups
- Librarian story time visits
- Cultural presentations
- Head Start/MCH support
- Family workshops: "Canning with Connie"
- Collaborated with Chawathil, Hope and Ruby Creek to facilitate SSS in their community
- Seabird community visits from dental unit/First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)

Special Events Attended/hosted

- Story-time in the Park: Hope, Harrison, Seabird Island and Agassiz
- Early Childhood Development, Inclusion and Health fairs
- Fun Day with Agassiz and Seabird Island communities
- Seabird Island Baby Honouring Ceremonies
- Ready, Set, Learn: Coquihalla, Kent, Silver Creek
- Maternal Child Health: Prenatal and Postnatal family groups at Seabird Island, Chawathil, Cheam and Shxw'ow'hamel communities
- Seabird AIDP facilitating Infant Massage one-on-one, and at Agassiz Better Beginnings
- Seabird Island Festival
- AIDP Year End field trip
- Facilitation of Circle of Security Classroom to ECD staff

What SCD does:

- The SCD team has supported 45 children in daycare, preschool, after school care and summer programs, as well as those we were able to see through consultations (which means these kids are not in a program or they are attending somewhere a support worker is not allowed).
- We strive to meet and exceed development milestones of the children we support. These milestones include increasing language skills, more positive peer interactions, new skills and strategies for self and co-regulating etc.
- We have seen some children develop so much that they have graduated from our program; they no longer require a support worker, and remain on through consultations only .

Special Events Attended/hosted

- Ready, Set, Learn in Boston Bar, Hope and Agassiz
- Story Time in the Park within Agassiz and Hope
- Teamed with SCDP, Ey Qwal and AIDP programs to host family nights at Klassen Blueberry Farms, swimming at Hope Recreation Center, and Play Abby in Chilliwack.
- Staff Appreciation Night: Chrystal Chapman taught us to harvest cedar, and how to make cedar roses with the centre's staff



Aboriginal Supported Child Development



What ASCD does:

- The ASCD team supports children ages 0-19 in any licensed daycare, preschool, after-school care, or summer program to support inclusive education and help children reach their full potential
- We strive to meet and exceed developmental milestones of the children we support. These milestones include increasing language skills, positive peer interactions, new skills and strategies for self and co-regulating etc.

Special Events Hosted/Attended and Highlights:

- Occupational Therapist and Physio Therapist clinics are held once a month in the ECD Building in collaboration with Fraser Valley Child Development
- Trained two groups of staff in Circle of Security Classroom
- Attended Ready, Set, Learn at different schools in School District 78
- Attended Story Time in the Park in Hope, Harrison and Seabird
- Completed ASQ3 and ASQ:SE2 Train the Trainer
- Staff was asked to work with the audiology and speech pathologist students from UBC to speak about an Indigenous approach to delivering services

Aboriginal Supported Child Development

- Two assessment clinics were held this year and were very successful
- Some staff were guided on how to harvest cedar, which was then used to host a centre appreciation night and make cedar roses
- Hosted three family nights this year, Klassen Farms, swimming at the Hope pool, and Play Abby; they were all very well attended
- Attended Nurturing the Seed training — we will implement this into how we determine our goals regarding the children
- Successfully transporting families to pediatrician, doctor and dentist appointments
- Completed Let's Talk About Touch Training with other staff from Seabird, this was well attended and very informative
- Fraser Valley Child Development hosted a sensory group for families on our caseload here in Seabird
- We added three new centres to our visitation schedule
- All ECD staff participated in the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society Conference, We Are One: Strengthening Our Circle in Vancouver

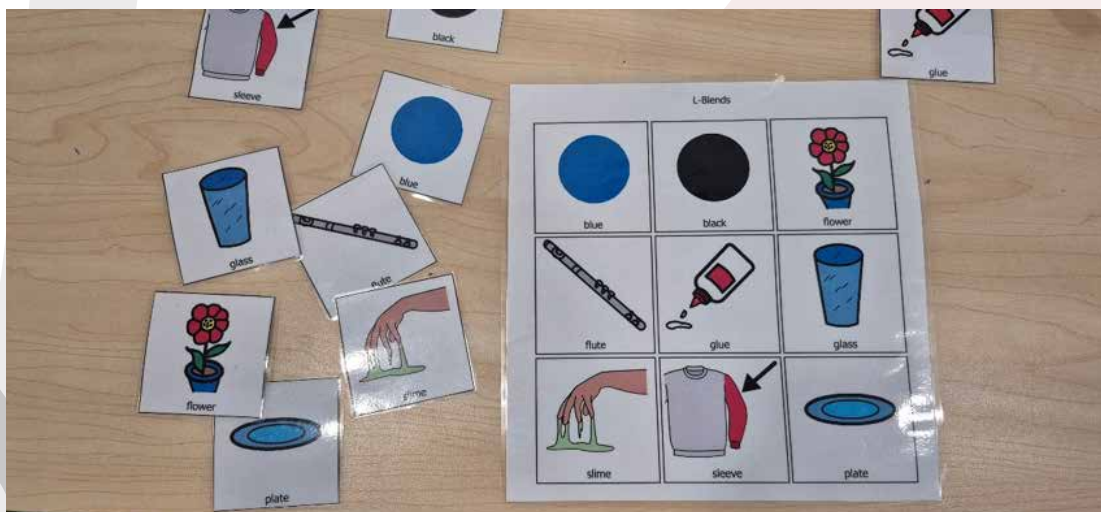


What Ey Qwal does:

The Ey Qwal Speech and Language program was developed in 2008. It was developed to help each child reach their full potential and acquire the tools for effective communication. The program offers culturally sensitive speech and language services to meet the individual communication needs of Indigenous Children.

Highlights

- Team goals that focus on language learning (Halq'eméylem and ASL)
- Team fitness (walking, moving our bodies, taking care of our health)
- Early Childhood Education training, improving communication tools (board maker)
- Transition meetings with School District 78
- JP funding for assessments
- Speech Room/Sensory Room working well and all set up
- Group screenings have been successful
- Team participated with SCD/AIDP Family Nights and Child Dev. fairs
- Large caseload, but it's being managed successfully.



What the Family Enrichment and Wellness program does:

The Family Enrichment program offers children between the age of 0-19 (Seabird Band Members) direct support with a wraparound approach. We help facilitate and inform a unique approach that empowers and strengthens families by creating partnerships with the family, neighboring communities and government agencies. We provide culturally safe support with home visits, assessments, funding and more.

Family Enrichment is a new program at Seabird; we support families by advocating for their needs in a culturally sensitive way. This is a voluntary and family-centered program, and we collaborate with community leaders, Elders, and service providers to develop culturally appropriate support services. Our program empowers and strengthens families to ensure cultural practices, traditions, and values of Seabird Island families are respected and upheld.

Highlights

This year we assisted a lot of families with Jordan's Principal applications, attended school meetings and arranged transportation to appointments. Staff made good connections within the community and new families, and supported them in every way possible. Staff were able to take families out and build relationships with them and their children.

Also collaborating with other community partners, we had families in common as well. With these connections we collaborated and had a canning day with the Family Home with our families and canned tomatoes. With the Family Home we took the families skating for the day. I was also able to take families/children out one-on-one to get to know them as well.





We promote healthy development and embrace the individual needs of the children in our care.

We strive to keep a low staff-to-child ratio, which ensures optimal care and individual time for each child to spend with our fully qualified staff. Our centre is fully licensed and follows strict licensing regulations throughout our program and accommodates 12 infants (0-18 months), 12 toddlers (18 months -3 years) and 25 3-5 year olds. We are fortunate to be funded by the FNHA, which allows cost-free childcare to support our families and Stó:lō Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training.

We are open Monday to Friday 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM with daily activities, and we provide cereal for breakfast as well as two healthy snacks, one hot. We participate in community events/ walks, monthly/summer field trips as far as Vancouver, and integrate culture, language, singing and drumming into programming

Program Highlights

- Monthly fire drills
- Monthly field trips to local parks, Galaxy Movie Theatre, Play Abby and more. Field trips run twice weekly during the summer for the 3-5's program
- Staff assisted with STITP, Seabird Island Festival, Back To School Carnival and Breakfast with Santa
- Children created gifts for families for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day and Christmas
- Children were presented with goodie bags for Easter, Halloween and Valentine's Day
- Children enjoyed special events such as pajama days, hot lunches and movie days
- Toddlers have enjoyed visits with the Elders both at daycare and the Elder's Lounge

The Seabird Island Preschool was created to meet the growing demand for Indigenous-centered education on reserve. The preschool was designed from the ground up, giving us the best possible setting for teaching children. Use of the Halq'eméylem language takes place in a relaxed setting which allows the children to become familiar with the language at their own pace.

We are a welcoming and culturally diverse program, running five days a week (Monday-Friday) with two half-day classes. We give thanks to FNHA for providing funding which makes our program free to all who attend our 3's preschool.

We incorporate cultural beliefs and language in programming as we believe this will help children build a positive sense of their identities through their culture. We understand the importance of nourishing children properly and provide nutritious snacks during classes.

We provide a positive introduction to elementary school to help children

prepare for that transition. We strive to provide a safe, caring and inviting environment. We believe children learn best through play, which fosters within them positive social and emotional development and instills pride, confidence and a desire to learn.

3's Preschool runs in accordance with all childcare licensing requirements and adheres to philosophies, policies and objectives established by Seabird's leadership.

Highlights

- Monthly fire drills
- Cultural circles
- Fraser Valley Regional Library visits
- Dental hygiene and hand-washing clinic visits
- Participated in Orange Shirt Day, MMIW Day, Remembrance Day and other culturally significant events



4's Preschool Program

The Seabird Island Band 4's preschool program runs from 9:00am-3:00pm, Monday to Friday. The program runs in accordance with all childcare licensing requirements and philosophies, policies, and objectives established by Seabird's leadership.

We are a welcoming and culturally diverse program; we include cultural beliefs and language in programming because this allows children to develop a positive sense of their culture. We have a morning circle with a Halq'eméylem teacher who teaches songs, sounds, counting, colours and more.

The 4's preschool provides a positive introduction to elementary school that prepares children for that transition. We strive to provide a safe, caring and inviting environment. We believe children learn best through play, which fosters within them positive social and

emotional development and instills pride, confidence and a desire to learn. Students enjoy nutritious morning and afternoon snacks.

Highlights

- Swimming lessons at the Hope Recreation Centre
- Field trips to local parks, Play Abby, Galaxy Movie Theatre and more
- Children made gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas and Valentine's Day
- All children received a goodie bag for Valentine's Day, Easter and Halloween
- Those that signed up for Before and After Care were able to attend all day during Professional Development Days (Pro-D Days)
- Fraser Valley Regional Library visits



Out of School Care / Summer Program

The Seabird Island Out of School Care program runs five days a week, (Monday-Friday) 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM. We also are open on Pro-D Days and during spring break. On these days, the Out of School Care program runs 7:45 AM - 5:00 PM.

Our full-day summer program runs Monday-Friday. Participants attend approximately 2 field trips per week.

We are a welcoming, culturally diverse program that strives to provide a safe, caring and inviting environment. We provide children a space to unwind and be their authentic selves. This gives them the opportunity to interact with others and learn healthy social and emotional skills. We facilitate various activities and open craft sessions to stimulate creativity. Kids enjoy outdoor free play, sports, and organized games.

We understand the importance of providing healthy snacks, and offer one daily to program participants after school. On full days we provide cereal early in the morning, a hot snack later in the morning, lunch and a nutritious snack in the afternoon. All snacks and lunches are provided at no cost to parents.

The Out of School Care program runs in accordance with all childcare licensing requirements and philosophies, policies, and objectives established by Seabird's leadership.

- Participants attend monthly field trips during the school year
- Participants attend twice-weekly field trips during the summer months





Seabird's School's Out program ran during Spring Break and summer as a free, drop-in program for school-aged Youth and children aged 12 and under who require care. This is a new program that we started in spring of 2025 in order to accommodate the needs of children who require full time care, such as OOSC.

- The program operates as a **free, drop-in program** with all costs covered by Seabird Island Band
- All **snacks and lunches are provided** to participants at no cost
- One field trip per week during summer and Spring Break
- Runs **9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Monday to Friday**

stewíxwelh
children

The Head Start program at Seabird Island is committed to supporting the early childhood development of children from birth-six years old while fostering a strong sense of community and cultural connection for families.

Our program offers free activities tailored to the unique needs of the Seabird Island community, with transportation services available.

The program runs from **10:00 AM - 1:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

Highlights

- We provide healthy snacks and lunches for the children
- Monthly family nights to strengthen our bonds as a community; these nights give families an opportunity to connect with one another while participating in cultural and educational activities
- Cultural integration is at the heart of everything we do, and this year we have continued to offer Halq'eméylem drumming and singing as part of our program
 - o This not only connects children to their heritage, but also creates a space for them to learn about and celebrate their culture
- One highlight of this past year was the opportunity for families to participate in making traditional drums, allowing everyone to engage in an important cultural practice and create something that will be passed down through generations
- We have fun, educational field trips that allow the children to connect with nature and Elders, and learn stories and teachings that come directly from our community's history
 - o Traditional storytelling has been an important part of our curriculum, allowing the children to access teachings that shape their identity as a people
- Our program works closely with FNHA service providers to offer essential services, including immunizations, dental care, speech and language support, and referrals for Aboriginal Infant Development and Supported Child Development
 - o These partnerships ensure that our families receive the full spectrum of support they need to thrive

Program summary

- Provides mental health and wellness services to the community by building connections with Community and Band Members
- Upon building these relationships we connect people with mental health resources in and out of the community, ie. drug and alcohol counselling, land-based healing in the forms of traditional and cultural activities, and drug and alcohol recovery programs for individuals and families
- Within this team we also have a Family Wellness home team that provides a safe atmosphere to facilitate reunification with children who have been removed from their care

Highlights

- We've had one family successfully complete the family home program, and they now have their own house and are doing very well independently and with the support of the family development team
- Band Members that attended drug and alcohol treatment facilities have been doing well
- We have assisted multiple Community and Band Members connect to resources within SIB, ie. housing, counselling, various medical services

s'iwesá:ylhem
teachings for children

The Seabird Island Band Culture and Language Coordinator provides support and resources to staff and children in all programs within the ECD Department.

Highlights

- Children were provided cards with pictures and Halq'eméylem names for various animals
 - o All ECD programs received these cards to learn numbers, months, days of the week, prayers, songs, etc.
 - o Programs were also provided with games and online links to access songs at home or in classrooms
 - o Video clips of animals and scat in Halq'eméylem
- Staff were also provided access to song clips to help others learn the songs
- Trips to visit Elders with the toddlers to do arts and crafts and enjoy a snack and tea with them
 - o The Elders said they were happy to have the toddlers visit
- Elders did a walk-through of the ECD Center and reminisced about the land the centre was built upon
- Visits to classrooms to review animals, colours and resources that were already done for them.



Culture and Language



It is amazing how much the children learned over the year and it will be something to continue looking forward to as they build on their cultural learning further (inclusive of other holidays and cultures).



Sq'ewqel



Yálh yuw kw'a's hò:y

Thanking someone deeply,
thanking the creator,
praise something beauti-
ful, finished

shxw'éyelh

be in good health

kwétslóme

see you

Created by Seabird Island Communications & Engagement

Submissions by Departments

Design and Layout by

Artwork / Illustrations by

Interviews, Writing & Editing by

Data Input, Formatting & Editing by

Directors, Managers and Supervisors

Sandra Bobb,

Communications & Engagement Team Lead

Zorana Edwards Shippentower, Desktop Publisher

Ciara Busby, Graphic Designer (Illustrator)

Aisha Khan, Journalist

Sandra Bobb,

Communications & Engagement Team Lead



Sq'éwqel
Seabird Island Band