



Skwlāx te Secwépemc

NEWSLETTER

March 2026 / Issue 2

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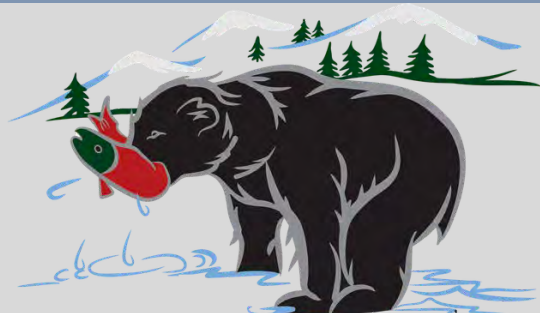
Updates



Photo from pink shirt day



Photo from story telling in the Kekuli



Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw

Announcements

Kukpi7 Dianne Francois

It has been a true honor to connect with many Skwlax te Secwepemcúlecw families, including those I am meeting for the first time. These experiences continue to strengthen my sense of pride in our community and my role within it. Since my first day, I have had the privilege of meeting many Kukpi7s and Tk'wemípla7s, attending community events, and participating in business planning meetings with Ministers of BC—both locally and while traveling on behalf of Skwlax te Secwepemcúlecw alongside our neighboring bands.

As part of my responsibilities, I carry a broad portfolio that includes Territorial Resource Stewardship, BC Hydro, Provincial Parks, Fisheries and Watersheds, Forestry, Economic Development, Governance, and Restorative Justice, as well as Title and Rights, Elections, and Financial Administration Law (FAL). I remain committed to advancing this work in a way that reflects our shared values and priorities.

On March 4–5, I attended the BC AFN meeting in Penticton, where Kukpi7s from across the nation gathered. This important leadership and governance forum provided an opportunity to share priorities, receive updates from national leadership, engage in discussions on rights and policy issues, and continue building strong relationships across our nations. From March 10–12, I attended a repatriation event in Ottawa, following an invitation from Cindy Woodhouse-Nepinak, whom I met at the BC AFN meeting. Held at the Canadian Museum of History, this gathering marked the uncrating of First Nations artifacts repatriated from the Vatican Museums. It was a meaningful and emotional experience to witness the return of these sacred items, which had been held overseas since the 1920s, alongside Kukpi7s from across Canada.

I was also pleased to attend the Secwepemc Landmarks video screening and dinner at Quaaout Lodge on March 18. These landmarks are our yecwminstsút—reminders to care for ourselves and one another. They reflect our knowledge and the deep connections between our people and the land. I extend my appreciation to everyone who contributed to this important work. It was uplifting to see such strong community support, including Wilfred, who attended despite not feeling well.

Kukstemc—please continue to take care of yourselves and one another. Let your loved ones know you care, stand strong, and take pride in all that you achieve each day.

Kukpi7 Dianne Francois
Skwlax te Secwepemcúlecw

Contact

Dianne Francios, Kukpi7
kukpi7@lslb.ca



Announcements

Kukpi7 Dianne Francois Photos



Contact

Dianne Francios, Kukpi7
kukpi7@lsib.ca



Announcements

Tk'wam7ipla7 (Councillor) Dawn Francois, MBA

Waytk'p (Hello Everyone):

I hope all is well with everyone! My overall goal is to provide Economic Freedom for our band members and forge our own path in all our pillars.

We have just completed our third financial audit in record time (as we were behind due to fire). We've done three in a short time frame, my hands go up to Kelly Ballard, CFO, and the full finance team (Brian Finlay and Chrissy Bell, finance analysts). Great JOB! *Grateful hands up* This era of financials reflects the magnitude of the wildfire, going back to those years, brings back memories. We are still being reimbursed for items we paid for. Woo another huge win! Again, audits are conducted on last years programs and services, not current year. Our 2025 Audit will have been presented to band members soon, date to be determined. Any band member can request a copy through Kelly Ballard, CFO. Her email address is: Kelly.ballard@lslb.ca

The children's jurisdiction team is diligently developing our own Jurisdiction path. Our next round of workshops will revolve around our oral teachings and how it relates to seme7 law. Desira John presented a BCR to continue this work well into the future, Kukpi7 and Council passed the BCR.

Update:

- Columbia River Treaty (CRT) discussions with Shuswap Nation Tribal Council Chiefs (SNTC) have been ongoing, plus it has been challenging. By the time you read this a CRT event will have taken place on March 17, 2026, at 5pm, it is to share all the process on what Skwlax, Adams Lake and Neskonlith have been experiencing with SNTC regarding the distribution process etc... and to discuss with the wider communities what has taken place since 2022-2023 with CRT.
- 4 Band discussions occur monthly, the first Friday of each month, locations revolve between Adams Lake, Neskonlith, Splat sin and Skwlax. We are hosting the next 4 band at Quaaout Lodge April 10th, 830am start - can come out as an observer.
- Skwlax Strategic Plan is finalized, please contact Kristy Pollock for a copy to read. 33 band members (elders, youth, and adults) participated in the development of the strategic plan, also various managers, staff, and Executive Directors. It WAS NOT just determined by Kukpi7 and council of our future direction.

Contact

Dawn Francios, Councillor
dawn.francois@lslb.ca



Announcements

Tk'wam7ípla7 (Councillor) Dawn Francois, MBA

- Wastewater Project: Administration and Council have partnered with First Nations Infrastructure Institute (FNII) to update another feasibility study to move this project forward. FNII works for free and is funded by ISC. We have developed a potential timeline for this important work to begin. It will be a couple years before this wastewater is complete, but it is necessary, as it is the backbone to future housing, businesses, and overall growth to our Quaaout reserve. A future water reservoir is being discussed for Tappen as well, more discussions to follow with community.
- Satsan (Herb) George and Dr. Mason Ducharme were invited into community to present on February 17 & 18th at the Lodge, they presented on traditional governance and potential paths and models that we could review. It's been requested that they come back and develop and present a 3-day workshop that will include the Skwlax band members. Date to be determined. Contact is Desira John.
- BC AFN Women's Council meeting was held in pro on March 5, 2026. I am a member of that council. We support the BC Women's representative for BC AFN and help with developing strategies for women centre folx and children. This was our initial meeting, and they will be held quarterly around the province.
- Operating board selection is occurring now. These positions will be filled by professionals in that industry, and I believe one band member. We have multiple boards to fill. This is part of the process for completely separating business and politics. All chief and councillors will not sit on these boards. Salman Azam and Skwlax Group Ltd (SGL) board is spear heading this process. Skwlax Council is not involved.
- SGL strategic planning is happening **March 28 & 29**, 2026 at Quaaout Lodge. It will help guide the direction of the corporate business side and further keep the business side separate.
- Pillar Lake was discussed at the 4 band March 6, 2026, and the technical teams will develop a user-friendly plan and schedule for all 4 bands to take turns on hosting events there. It needs another cleaning and grounds cleaning as well. Please see Domenic if you like to help.

Please recycle, update your email and mailing address.

If you have any questions, please email me at dawn.francois@lslb.ca

Kukstamc,

Tk'wam7ípla7 Dawn

Contact

Dawn Francios, Councillor
dawn.francois@lslb.ca





Tk'wam7ipla7 (Councillor) Julie John – Update:

We have been busy supporting our new Kukpi7 in her new role as she is rapidly learning. As I'm only two years into my role as councilor, looking back, realizing the steep learning curve doesn't end! Always learning new things, new skills. But also, one of the gaps, there is no transition period from one elected leader to another, to transfer knowledge, portfolios etc. to the next person to support them in their success.

Another thing we are learning is our governance roles and separating administrative tasks and staying focused on the bigger picture and not the day-to-day which our executive directors take care of and lead with their teams.

We each bring our own strengths to the table, our knowledge, education and experience which creates a well-rounded team.

Housing

Executive Director Kyle Kreutzer is in the process of hiring a project manager to assist with the permanent rebuild. As mentioned in the Band Update meeting, Kyle has stressed that the homeowners work closely with their homebuilders to move their process along. The home builders are then in contact with Kyle until our project manager is in place.

We are hoping that next month, April, some houses will start!! This has been a longer process than anticipated but happy to hear some houses are ready to go. We appreciate everyone's patience through this process and look forward to seeing your beautiful forever homes being built.

Please Note: Our next band member update meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2026 in the evening. Stay tuned for further details.

Education:

Grad season is going to be here before we know. Our education team will be busy supporting our students and we will be busy attending graduation ceremonies. Also, the four bands have agreed to host a 4-band graduation this year, which will be held at Switsmalph Pierres Point on June 5th.

Our Indigenous Human Service (IHMS) program is now fully underway, with 19 students from all four bands enrolled in the English 060 required course, and a total of 25 students set to begin the IHMS program in April.

Also, Neskonlith will be hosting the Apprenticeship Trades program in which some seats will be held for Skwłax members to attend. Please talk with Cassandra or Tammy for more information.

Some FREE training is available for any band members interested:

·[Tax Administration](#) — Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics

·[Artificial Intelligence](#) | [First Nations Technology Council](#)



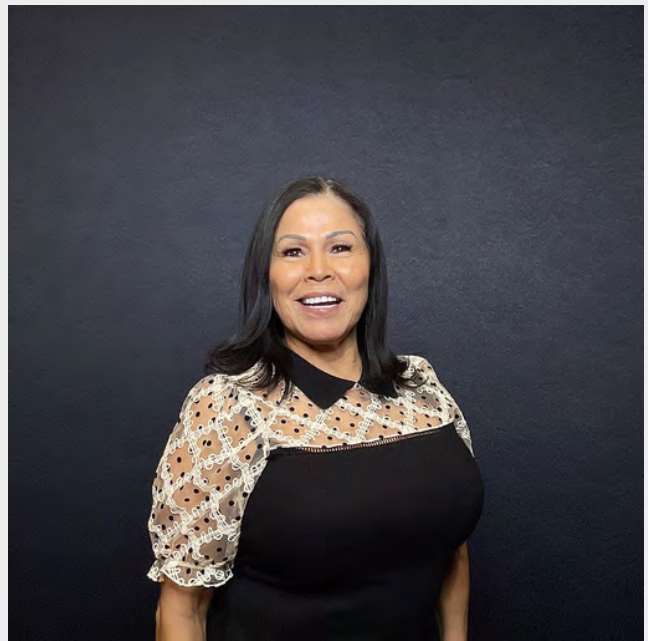
Governance

New Position Announcement

Dale M. Jackson has transitioned from the Economic Development Pillar to the Stes Governance sector. Her new title is **Director of Kupkupermeman (Governance) Relations**. In this role, Dale will support intergovernmental relationships and advocacy for Skwlāx te Secwépemcúlecw (Stes) by leading initiatives to build capacity and strengthen partnerships with government, industry, and internal stakeholders.

"I am excited to begin this new journey to build strong, respectful, and collaborative relationships that support the long-term goals of the Nation," Dale stated.

Outside of work, Dale values time spent with her family and embraces her competitive spirit by participating in nationwide ladies' fastball tournaments. During the offseason, she focuses on refining her golf swing while balancing her commitments to sports, family, and community.



Email: djackson@lslb.ca



71 Voters

BALLOT

MARCH 14, 2026 REFERENDUM

PLEASE CLEARLY MARK YOUR VOTES FOR EACH REFERENDUM QUESTION WITH AN "X" OR A CHECKMARK.

1. Are you in favour of repealing the 2017 Custom Election Regulations ("CER") and replacing it with the 2026 Custom Election and Governance Code ("CEGC")? <i>NOTE: If Question 1 does not pass, the results of Questions 2-6 will not be counted.</i>	YES	NO
	47	21
2. Are you in favour of shortening the length of the residency requirement as follows (changes in red) so that a Candidate is eligible to run for office if they have been living on SteS Reserve Lands for the last 3 years? "4.2 To be eligible to run for Council, a Candidate must: ... (b) be a Resident Elector for at least three (3) five+5 consecutive years immediately prior to the date of the Nomination Meeting."	YES	NO
	49	22
3. Are you in favour of expanding the definition of Resident Elector as follows (changes in red), so that Band Members who live within 15km of any of the Band's Reserve lands eligible to run for office? "Resident Elector" means an Elector who is ordinarily resident on or within 15km of SteS Reserve Lands."	YES	NO
	47	24
4. Are you in favour of adding the following clause to the Custom Election and Governance Code to establish how Chief and Councillors will be paid an honorarium in recognition of their services to the Band? "39.HONORARIA 39.1 The Chief and Councillors elected under this Code shall receive an annual honorarium in recognition of their services to the Band. The honorarium is not a salary and does not create an employment relationship between the Band and the elected officials. 39.2 The amount of the annual honorarium for the Chief and Councillors shall be: (8) recommended annually to the Band Members by the Band's Chief Financial Officer; and presented to the Band Members for Band Member approval at the Band's annual general meeting."	YES	NO
	44	27
5. Are you in favour of adding the following clause to the Custom Election and Governance Code to pay a one-time final honorarium to a former member of Council who has completed their term and was not re-elected or chose not to run again? "39.3 A final one-time honorarium will be paid to former members of Council who have completed the term for which they were elected and who are not re-elected at the next Election, or who choose not to run again (the "Final Honorarium"). 39.4 The Final Honorarium will be based on the annual honorarium in place at the end of the former member of Council's term and calculated as one (1) week for every year, or portion of a year, of the term they were elected to serve. 39.5 No Final Honorarium shall be payable to any member of Council who resigns or is removed from office as a result of a Disciplinary Measure under this Code."	YES	NO
	26	45
6. Are you in favour of amending the Custom Election and Governance Code to allow for Band Members to receive financial recognition for assisting with Elections or other governing matters (not in the course of their usual job description)? "39.6 Band Members who assist with governance matters outside of the course any employment they have with the Band, including but not limited to assisting with an Election, may be paid an honorarium at a rate established by Council, consistent with approved Band policies and available budget."	YES	NO
	48	23

REFERENDUM RESULTS

Referendum Results March 14 2026
303 Eligible Voters

Breakdown of voters

mail out off reserve sent	Feb 13/26		
Total number of returned mailouts	15		
Total Number Skwłax Hall	37		
Total Number Tappen Hall	19		
Total number of rejected	0		
Mail in Ballot rejected	0		
TOTAL VOTERS	71		

REFERENDUM RESULTS



Skwłax te Secwepemcúlecw (SteS)

NOTICE OF NOMINATION MEETING

NEW DEADLINE For Completion of Candidate Application: **Saturday April 11, 2026**
(3 days after Nomination meeting)

Notice is hereby given to the SteS electors that Skwłax te Secwepemcúlecw has called an Election in accordance with the Skwłax te Secwepemcúlecw Custom and Governance Code (2026) for the purpose of electing one (1) Tkwm7ipla7 (Councillor) for the next ensuing term: July 2026 to July 2030.

NOMINATION Meeting In-person & Virtual

Wednesday, April 8th, 2026

5:00pm-7:00pm

Little Shuswap Lake Band Community Hall

1886 Little Shuswap Lake Road

Chase BC

New Hybrid Option: Skwłax te Secwepemcúlecw Electors can participate virtually and submit nominations through Microsoft Teams platform. Please send an email request to communications@slsb.ca to be provided the Microsoft Teams Nomination Meeting link.

Electoral Officer: Jen Thomas
Phone: 778-378-5113
Email: jenjen622@gmail.com

Deputy Officer: Calvin Hunt
Phone: 778-957-6704
email: calvinhunt199@gmail.com

Skwłax Band Office

Reception

Email: reception@slsb.ca

Executive Director of Administration

Kyle Kreutzer

Email: kyle.kreutzer@slsb.ca

Administration Team Lead

Kristy Pollock

Email: kplock@slsb.ca

Update Band Meeting

April 27 2026, 5:00pm to 8:00pm

At the Quaaout Lodge

Dinner provided



Job Postings



Part- time Gardener

Where: Skwlax Wellness Centre

Description: As a Gardener, You will:

- Prepare seedlings for planting.
- Install and maintain seasonal plants.
- Mulch and weed garden beds.
- Prune and trim trees and bushes.
- Maintain garden equipment and tools.
- Maintain a clean garden, free of litter and debris.
- Maintain a clean and tidy garden shed.
- Provide volunteers with gardening experience and educational discussions.
- Support wellness staff with community garden events.
- Support wellness staff in food security initiatives.
- Perform miscellaneous duties as assigned.
- Assist with recruiting volunteers from community to help with gardening.

On Call Casual Cook

Where: Skwlax Head start

Description: The Cook will work under the direction of the Head Start Manager to prepare and plan nutritious healthy meals that follows the Canada Food Guide Standards.



Part- time Receptionist

Where: Skwlax Band Office

Description: Reporting to and under the direction of the Administration Supervisor for Skwlax te Secwépemcúlecw. The Part-Time Receptionist provides administrative, clerical, and secretarial support. Skwlax te Secwépemcúlecw is seeking a receptionist who can work various hours and, in an emergency, be a last-minute call, Monday to Friday as coverage for front desk and other clerical duties as assigned. The successful candidate is responsible for initial information flow, greeting and directing the public, community members, and others in a polite and professional manner.

Guardian- TRS

Where: Territorial Resource Stewardship

The Opportunity – A Day in the Life of a Guardian:

Reporting to and under the direction of the Guardian Project Manager, the Guardians are responsible for performing various duties which include archaeology, cultural heritage, environmental resource, fisheries, security, and guardian program. The Guardian will work under isolated conditions on the territory, including in lake environments. The working conditions are rugged terrain, boat work on rough waters, and under sometimes extreme weather conditions that can change rapidly. You must demonstrate that you are comfortable in the outdoors and have the necessary first aid and safety training to be safe on the job.

This position is physically demanding and will include travel in rough weather on a boat, hiking long distances on the territory, and moving and/or packing heavy field equipment to remote sites. Applicants must be in good physical health to carry out the job effectively without injury

Education Program Assistant

Where: Skwlax Band Office

Description: The Education Program Assistant supports student academic success by providing comprehensive assistance to both the Program Coordinator and students enrolled in SteS training programs. The role includes supporting student services, coordinating cultural activities, organizing tutoring supports to enhance learning and engagement, and providing direct assistance during two evening sessions and one in-person Saturday class per course. The Education Program Assistant also serves as an advocate for SteS members, students, parents, guardians, and community members, working collaboratively with internal and external partners to ensure program goals, strategies, and services are effectively implemented and responsive to student needs. This is a full-time, term position. Offering a salary of \$23 to \$25 per/hr. Wages are subject to change with experience.

All current job postings can be found on our website <https://lslb.ca/>



Child and Family Jurisdiction

SKWLAX CHILD & FAMILY JURISDICTION



YOU'RE INVITED

WHAT IS OUR PATHWAY?

SKWLAX COMMUNITY UPDATE,
DINNER & DOOR PRIZES

April 15th 5-8 pm (dinner 5-6pm)

The Quaaout Lodge: 1663 Little
Shuswap Lake Rd

EVERYONE WELCOME

To request a virtual link, please contact
Desira John: Djohn1980@hotmail.com or (250) 319-3534
Destiny v: destinyvano@icloud.com

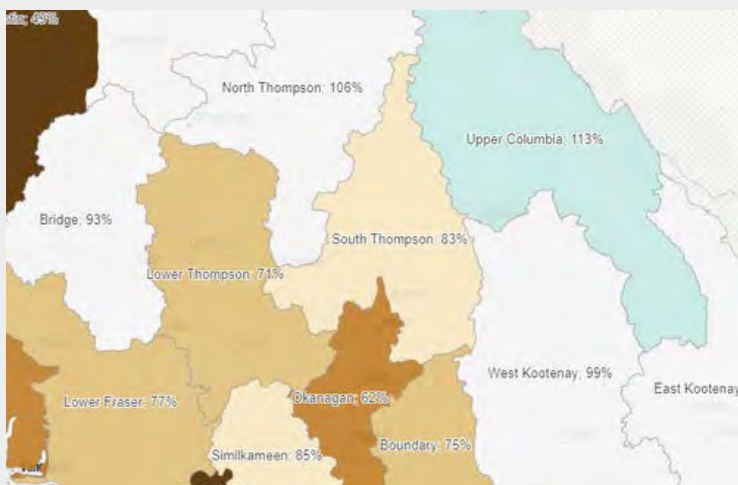


Emergency Program & Wildfire Recovery

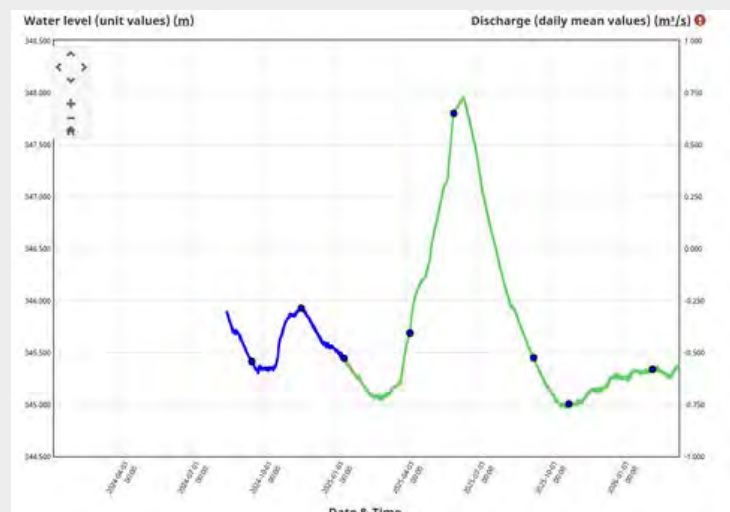
Freshet season is upon us; thus it's time to clean up the shoreline and move items to higher ground. Freshet is a term commonly used in Emergency Management, which means the flooding of a river from heavy rain or melted snow. There are a few factors that that impact the outcome of a Freshet season including the snowpack level at higher elevations, current lake level, run off from smaller creeks and rivers, and the weather. By monitoring these factors, we are usually able to get a better snapshot of the potential outcome for the season.

As projected by the different organizations, the current Freshet forecast is as follows:

1. Snowpack – The BC River Forecast Centre has issued their March Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletin stating that the South Thompson snowpack is at 83% of normal.



2. Current lake level – Real-Time Hydrometric Data Map Searchmonitors the lake level daily and is currently reporting that as of March 16th, we are below the lake level average.



3. Hydrologic Model - The BC River Forecast Centre also monitors the hydrological flow of the rivers in BC. Using the CLEVER model, they monitor water flow based on a year return rate and forecast the upcoming rates based on snowpack levels and weather events. Currently we are at below the 1-year return mark, but it is expected to start rising over the next few weeks.

4. Seasonal Weather Forecast – Environment Canada is expecting spring temperatures to be near normal average for the South Coast and up through the Interior, but unfortunately, they are unable to project precipitation.

Another factor that may impact us is what is happening in other tributaries along the Fraser Basin. I like to compare it to leaving the Lower Mainland on a Friday afternoon, when everyone is trying to leave all at once, eventually causing a traffic jam.

At this time, it is still too early to predict whether we will have flooding events this year, as mother nature will do what she wants to do, and with all this scientific data, I still prefer that traditional monitoring method that an Elder once told me about; Once the snow is gone from the bare spot at the top of Pisima Mountain (the mountain north of the Quaaout Reserve) then Freshet season is a few days away from being done.

On the wildfire recovery front, we continue to work through various projects and reporting. Some of the next big projects include, burnt tree sanitation, housing rebuild, reforestation of reserve land, and many others. Part of the planning for over the next few years, is conducting a sweep to identify smaller projects that have either been missed or skipped over. This sweep will be taking place over the next couple of weeks.



Emergency Program & Wildfire Recovery Cnt'd

Over the next couple of months, we are hoping to conduct a sanitation of burnt trees. This work will consist of removing the dead standing trees that were not merchantable or that are bug kill in a few key areas of band property, along with either removing or burning the brush piles. We will issue notices to the selected areas prior to beginning work.

I will be updating more on the Wildfire Recovery in the next newsletter addition.

Take care and be safe,
Andrea Stelter

EDUCATION



The Education department hosted a Job Fair at the Quaaout Lodge on March 4th, 2026.

There was 17 vendors in attendance: Skwłax Resource Management, UBCO, Quaaout Lodge, Acres Enterprises, TRU, STEP, Interfor, Okanagan College, BCEHS, Community Futures, JEN Col Construction, Adams River Society, Costco, SteS Education Department, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Paradigm, and Work BC.

Learn to file your Taxes



Skwłax te Secwepemcúlecw

SteS Members
File your Taxes
FREE with
Chrissy Bell!



Our Services:

- ☒ Drop in Session to learn & file taxes
- ☒ FREE Tax Filing

1886 Little Shuswap Lake RD (BAND Hall)

250-679-3203 cassandra.kearley@lslb.ca

April 2, 2026
10 am- 2:30 pm
(SteS Hall)

April 16, 2026
10 am- 2:30 pm
(SteS Hall)

EDUCATION

Contact: Cassandra Kearley
cassandra.kearley@lslb.ca



Skwłāx te Secwepemcūlecw

TALKING ROCK
GOLF COURSE
AND QUAOUT LODGE

2nd ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026

Proceeds go towards Education Supports and Activities

EVENT DONATION & SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION



For more information: 250-679-3203
Email: cassandra.kearley@LSLB.ca

Skwłāx te Secwepemcūlecw

POST-SECONDARY APPLICATION

Deadline
APRIL 30TH, 2026

REQUIREMENTS

- Request PS Policy & Application from SteS
- Book PS Education Coordinator Meeting
- Application Form (Fully Completed & Signed)

APPLY NOW

1886 Little Shuswap Lake Rd
250-833-2967
cassandra.kearley@LSLB.ca

Logos: NVIT, Native Education College, THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY, CAPILANCO UNIVERSITY, UBC, Indigenous Services

Baby Circle:

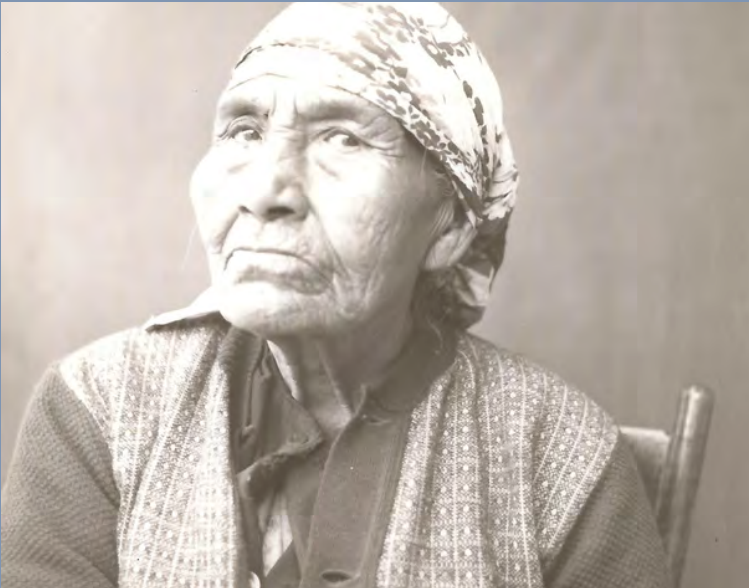
Air dry clay



2026 Graduation

Graduates are encouraged to fill out the 2026 graduation registration form, please scan the QR code to open or contact:
Beverly Narcisse, Education Coordinator
Email: btomma@lslb.ca



Membership

Please send confirmation of
information or new changes to:
Beverly Narcisse, Indian Registration
Administrator (IRA)
1886 Little Shuswap Lake Rd, Chase
BC V0E 1M2
Phone: 250-679-3203
Email: membership@lslb.ca



HOUSING DEPARTMENT SPRING 2026

CONTACT INFO

Joannie Elias 250-804-6892
Emily Everson 250-833-8279
Office 250-679-3203 ext 102, 114, 162
housing@lslb.ca

Annual Spring Cleanup April 2026

Get an early start on spring cleaning and making your yard fire smart. In April, garbage bins will be put throughout Skwlax te Secwépemcúlecw. Notice to follow with more information.

Housing Policy – Tenant Responsibilities

Tenants are responsible to maintain the Rental Unit (yard) in accordance with reasonable health, cleanliness, and sanitary standards throughout the tenancy, including removal of old vehicles.

Any repairs and maintenance that is required must be reported to Housing as soon as possible. It is a breach of Tenancy Agreement, if a tenant fails to comply with the tenant maintenance responsibilities, as outlined in the Housing Policy.

Pet Policy

Tenants are only permitted to have pets in Rental Units with the prior written approval of the Housing Dept. Please contact the Housing Dept for a pet application, and if approved the Pet Security Deposit, is equal to a half month's rent. If you have pets, you are required to keep them contained in your yard.

Condition Assessments

This Spring, we will be starting Annual Condition Assessments on all rental units on Skwlax te Secwépemcúlecw. It is to assess maintenance and repair needs and will be documented in our new program Louis Toolkit. A notice will be going out shortly, with dates and times.

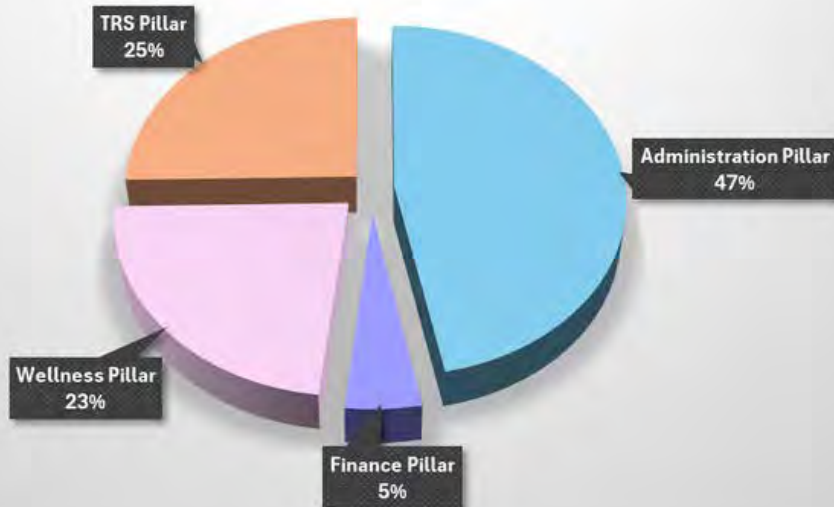
The Housing Department would like to thank all tenants for continuing to pay rent by the 1st of each month. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!



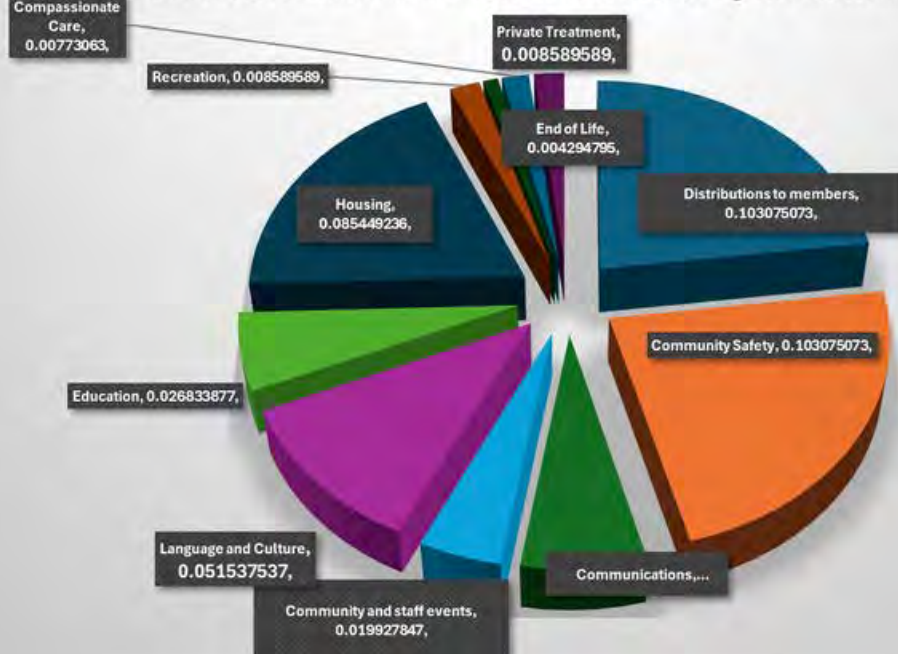
Finance

Happy Spring! As the calendar rolls to April in the Finance department we are busy closing off last year and planning for this new year. Council has recently approved the 2026/27 SteS Budget and we wanted to include a couple graphs for membership on how total projected expenses roll up to each Pillar as well as provide for benefits to members. We look forward to an exciting year ahead as we continue to rebuild from the wildfire.

Forecasted Expenses % by Pillar



% of Own-Source Revenues Paid Directly to Member Initiatives



MEET OUR TEAM!

DARIAN JACKSON



Fun Fact:
Darian loves
to play
baseball!

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Water Operator. Wastewater Operator.
Sanitation Technician. Grounds Maintenance.

The guy who keeps things flowing, clean, and running right- no matter the job.

You might see Darian checking water systems, rolling through community on the garbage truck, or keeping public spaces looking their best.

No complaints – just a smile and getting it done.



Territorial Resource Stewardship Community Building

Completed Community Engagement Sessions

1. November 25, 2025
2. November 27, 2025
3. December 12, 2025
4. December 15, 2025
5. January 19, 2026
6. February 4, 2026
7. February 11, 2026

Next Community Engagement Session

• **March 26, 2026** If you wish to learn more about this project or want to voice your feedback, we encourage you to attend this session! Food and drinks will be provided

Future Community Engagement Sessions

- April 23, 2026
- May 28, 2026
- June 17, 2026

Project Status

- Architect Onboarded - Welcome Studio 710!
- Environmental Assessment Completed
- Other consultant scopes have been awarded or are being evaluated: civil, structural, survey
- Pursuing Provincial & Federal Funding - FNIIP, GICB, GMF, CftA

Project Description/Purpose: The purpose of this project is to construct a permanent headquarters for the Territorial Resource Stewardship department while enhancing the broader operational capacity of all Band departments. The facility will function as a central hub where governance, culture, and community life come together, and provide resources for community programming, education, and public access. It is envisioned as a place that strengthens the Band's connection to the land and opens its doors to the community it serves. The facility design and requirements are progressing with the help of the Technical Working Group, several user groups, and feedback from the whole community.

Features • Office space • Board rooms, meeting rooms, classrooms • Archaeology lab & cultural archive • Equipment room for the Guardians • Detached meat preparation facility

STUDIO710
ARCHITECTURE LTD

The Art of the Land: Secwépemc Landmarks Project Video Screening

Skw̓lāx Cultural Heritage Department by Libby Chisholm

The Art of the Land: The Secwépemc Landmarks Project, was screened at Quaaout Lodge on Wednesday March 18th. The video, produced by Four Directions Media, a company led by Secwépemc videographer Talon Billy and cinematographer Giovanni Salomon, features interviews with several Secwépemc artists and language teachers who contributed to the Secwépemc Landmarks project. The Secwépemc Landmarks project is a Secwepemctsin sculpture and signage project involving Elders, students, and community members from Skw̓lāx te Secwepemcúlecw, Adams Lake Band, Neskonlith Band, and Splat-sin.



Photograph 1: Talon Billy (Four Directions Media) receives a salmon carving with the Shuswap Lake watershed, carved by Splat-sin Elder Hop You. Photo by Margaret Chartrand (Skw̓lāx Resource Management)

"It is so good to see our own Secwépemc videographers being hired and supported in these roles, and with their expertise in their fields", said Shelley Witzky. Each community member who attended project meetings shared their personal experiences and knowledge connected to each place, which informed the interpretive signage and sculpture designs. Every place on the land has a name, and is interconnected with our language and core values, which in turn teach how to care for the land.

The video was received with a positive and emotional reception from community members, people who we are, that we are in who described Talon and Gio's work as a beautiful Secwepemcúlecw, that our tmicw is everything, and skillful representation of the project that all together, and nothing can be left out. This speaks to the heart. "This sculpture project meant territory made our stories, taught us how to a lot to me because it's one the biggest projects survive, and holds everything our ancestors did I've made for the Secwépemc Nation and we got for us. There is so much our ancestors left for us, to do amazing interviews with a lot of the elders and our habitats, our waters need to be protected. and artists of our nations. Being able to help build A focus also included a need for tourism that my people's stories and other Nation's stories as balances protection of tmicw and everything that well brings me humility and hope for the future is connected to it, that brings together all generations to want to take part in those stories Secwépemc communities. and go on to make new ones," said Talon Billy.

"These Landmarks are our yecwminstsút [to look after oneself]. They are what we know, and represent our stories connected to each place on the land" said Kukpi7 Dianne.





Photograph 2 Shelley Witzky (Project Manager) introduces Talon and Giovanni's video at Quaaout Lodge



This video screening was part of a larger grant from the First Peoples Cultural Council Language Program, administered by the Skw̓lax Cultural Heritage Department. This grant also funded archive management for community interviews in the Skw̓lax Cultural Heritage database; signage printing and installation; and website design for Read Along Studios, an online tool that features audio recordings of Elders speaking Secwépemc place names and the Secwepemctsin paragraphs on the interpretive signage. The interpretive signage was edited by the Cstélnec Edit Committee, and Donna Antoine for Splatsin-area signage.

To hear these audio recordings, go to www.shuswaptrails.com/points or scan the QR code above:

Territorial Resource Stewardship

Guardian Department:

The TRS Guardian Department is now in its 7th year and consists of 8 Guardians. They have attained several training certificates for safety protection, territorial patrols, environmental evaluations, and technical data gathering. The Guardians have maintained working relationships with local districts, municipalities, other First Nations, agencies, and government. Before the project work season starts up, we are in the process of training (forestry, safety, fire, and water) and are welcoming new Guardians to join our department. These projects may involve on-reserve projects or off-reserve to work in Castlegar, Revelstoke, Nakusp, Yoho National Park, Banff National Park, Wilsey Dam, others throughout the Secwépemc territory.

Territorial Patrol:

The Guardian program possesses 3 trucks to run our various projects located in our Skw̓lax territory. Every week they patrol the Scotch Creek Watershed, Momich, Sun Peaks, China Valley, Seymour Arm, White Lake, Lee Creek, Malakwa, and Turtle Valley. On these patrols, the Guardians report illegal activities, littering and garbage dumping,

abandoned vehicles, squatter camps, animal carcasses, and environmental concerns (freshet, erosion, flooding, logging roads). All Guardians are properly equipped with safety gear, off road vehicles, and up to date training as they look after our territory.

PROJECTS:

- Territorial Patrols in the Skw̓lax Territory
- Lower Adams Habitat Restoration Initiative (LAHRI)
- Indigenous Food Security post Wildfire
- Silviculture - 1.1 million tree planting
- Caribou Recovery

I would like to give a special thanks to all the Skw̓lax Guardians for all the tremendous work they have done and for the Band and for representing us in a good way.

Kukstemc,
Tess Tomma
TRS Guardian Manager



CONGRATULATIONS
TESS ON YOUR
PROMOTION!

Bush Creek Fire: Two years On - Spring Reforestation Project Launch

TRS is pleased to share that our **2026 Spring Reforestation Project** will begin on April 2 with a Cultural Awareness Session with the planting company to guide this important work. This initiative will restore areas of Quaaout IR land impacted by the 2023 Bush Creek wildfire.

In partnership with Tree Canada and Caribou Carbon Solutions, and with the participation of TRS and the Guardians, the project aims to plant approximately 1.1 million trees over the coming season. The seedlings have been grown in local nurseries (Sorrento and Mount Ida Nursery from Salmon Arm), supporting regional capacity and ensuring suitability for the landscape. Species to be planted include fir, yellow pine, western cedar, larch, and spruce—selected to support long-term ecosystem health and resilience.

Over the next three years, the broader goal is to restore and reforest all IR lands impacted by wildfire (Quaaout, Scotch Creek and Chum). This effort reflects Skwłax shared commitment to environmental stewardship, cultural respect, and the renewal of our lands for future generations.

Zoran Boskovic, Silviculture/Planning Forester
Domenic Fiorenza, TRS Executive Director and Forestry Manager



Photo courtesy of Sunshine and Dustin Tomma (2025 Spring Plant –
Arbour area)

Skwlāx Cultural Heritage Protection Department – March 2026

Archaeology Project Updates by Nola Markey

The Skwlāx Cultural Heritage Protection Department (CHD) undertook numerous projects during the 2025 field season, including a range of archaeological and research initiatives that were either completed or remain ongoing. This newsletter highlights three completed projects and their results: the Lower Adams Rehabilitation Habitat Initiative Project, the Tsútswecw Park – Year 1-2 Management Plan, and the Post-Wildfire Archaeology Assessments for Salvage Logging.

The Lower Adams Rehabilitation Habitat Initiative Project (LAHRI) included an Archaeological Stumping Program undertaken by Skwlāx Cultural Heritage Protection Department to support project activities within Quaaout IR1 (Photo 1). The Project is a collaboration between Forsite, Skwlax Resource Management, and Skwlāx with the goal of returning woody debris to the lower Adams River and enhance fish spawning habitat. Trees were harvested from three main locations on Quaaout IR1 including the staging area. Harvesting was primarily conducted through stumping using an excavator, allowing rootwads to remain intact. The Project focused exclusively on using trees which had burned in the Bush Creek East Wildfire (K21633) on August 18, 2023. The archaeological program was carried out between June 18, 2025, and November 26, 2025.

The archaeological program resulted in the identification of five (5) new sites and expanded four (4) previously recorded sites. The program included the assessment of 772 stumps and 73 shovel tests to define site boundaries. The results identified 35 cultural depressions, 749 lithic artifacts (Plateau Horizon 2400-1200 years ago; Photo 2), and 2 pieces of faunal. These results indicate sustained and repeated use of the area, associated with habitation and resource processing activities within the Secwépemc seasonal round, reflecting long-term patterns of land use.



Photo 2: Plateau Horizon projectile point on right side of photo

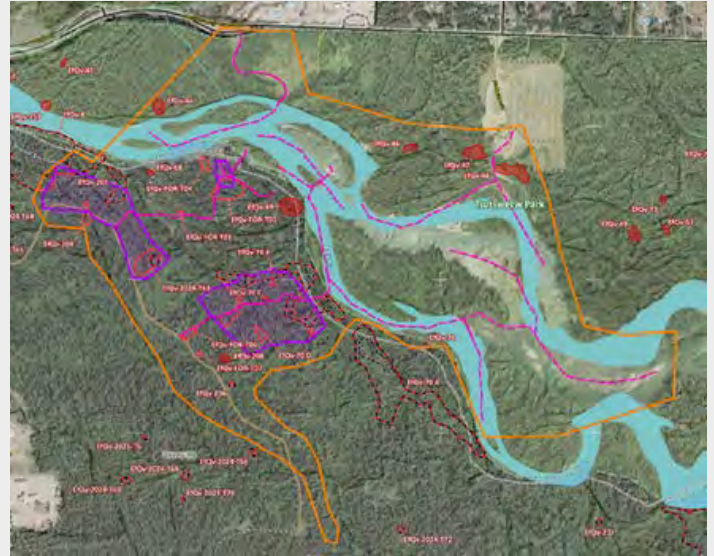


Photo 1: Project Area Map on Quaaout #1 near Adams River

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The Tsútswecw Park – Year 1 & 2 Management Plan conducted an Archaeological Inventory Program along with archival and interview-based research within the Study Area. The second year of the study continued with the inventory field program and expanded to include a bird and wildlife survey within the Park boundaries. The overall goal of this study was to provide guidelines to BC Parks for the protection and management of habitat and cultural heritage sites affected by the Bush Creek Wildfire, and to inform the long-term stewardship of Tsútswecw Provincial Park. The archaeological inventory was conducted by Phoebe Murphy, Meaghan Griffith, and Howie Wood, while the bird and wildlife survey was carried out by Aubrey Cartier and Elton Arnouse in October 2025.

Skw̓lāx Cultural Heritage Protection Department – March 2026

Archaeology Project Updates by Nola Markey

Combined results for Year 1 and 2 Study: Skw̓lāx CHD recorded 744 m of trail (Photo 3), 385 new cache pits, 20 new pithouses, two new petroforms, 121 lithic artifacts, and several tools including Shuswap (Photo 4) and Plateau periods. The faunal inventory survey recorded 33 different bird species (Photo 5), four mammals, 3 fish species, and 15 culturally important plant species.

Past interviews with community members documented a wide range of cultural heritage values within the Study Area, including ancient village sites, short- and long-term habitation areas, ceremonial areas such as pictographs and associated locations, as well as areas used for hunting, trapping, fishing, root and berry harvesting, and medicinal plant gathering. The Study Area also includes major travel corridors and places where Secwépemc values and practices continue to be taught and maintained. Furthermore, knowledge of bird and wildlife species inhabiting post-wildfire landscapes provides critical insight into ecosystem recovery and climate change impacts, serving as indicators of environmental change and supporting long-term monitoring, while also aligning with Secwépemc land-based knowledge systems that observe birds as markers of seasonal and ecological shifts.



Photo 3: View SE along trail to
Adams River



Photo 4: Shuswap projectile point
(3500 – 2400 years old)



Photo 5: Golden Eagle observed
in the Park

Salvage Logging: Post-Wildfire Archaeological Assessments were conducted on-reserve following the 2023 Bush Creek East wildfire that burned much of the forest of Quaaout 1, Chum Creek 2, and Scotch Creek 4 Reserves. Skw̓lāx undertook archaeology surveys prior to salvage timber harvesting of Band land, a small number of CP holder lots on Little Shuswap Road East, and some off-reserve burned forest on Adams Hill

The surveys were conducted in the spring of 2024 prior to logging to flag off the cultural depressions so they could be avoided during logging and inspect the planned logging roads for any archaeological (ancient) sites. Many previously recorded archaeological (ancient) sites were revisited, and new sites were recorded and registered during these surveys. A total of 25 previously recorded sites were revisited, and 115 new sites were recorded. Flagging and/or pinflags were



Photo 6: Cultural Depression Feature

Skwłāx Cultural Heritage Protection Department – March 2026
Archaeology Project Updates by Nola Markey

placed around the perimeter of the cultural depression features (Photo 6) so that major impacts to these features could be avoided during road building and logging.



Photo 7: View of Quaaout 1, east of Squilax-Anglemont Road, showing over 4000 cultural depressions recorded.

Over 4000 cultural depression features (Photo 7) were visited and recorded during this work, and a further 85 cultural depressions located outside the timber harvest blocks were mapped using the LiDAR imagery. Many cultural depressions located in Quaaout 1, Chum Creek 2, and Scotch Creek 4 were not visited and recorded as they were located outside the timber harvest blocks.

During this work, several other features were discovered, including 50 earth mound features (Photo 8) that are rare in the southern interior of BC. Investigation of two of these features determined that at least some of these are earth ovens. Three previously unknown ancestral burial cairns were also recorded, as well as one new pictograph site. Stone or bone artifacts were also observed at 75 locations.

After the pre-logging archaeology survey work was finished at Quaaout 1 and Scotch Creek 4, the Skwłāx archaeology team prepared maps and basic reports for the team in charge of the post-fire logging. Maps showed the locations of all the archaeological sites in relation to the planned timber harvest blocks, while the accompanying reports provided recommendations to minimize or avoid potential impacts to the sites. Overall, collaboration among the project team (CHD, Skwłax Timber, Forsite, SRM) was effective, with clear communication supporting the protection of cultural heritage values throughout the salvage logging activities.



Photo 8: View of the earth mound feature located north of the Band Office

Lower Adams River Salmon Habitat Restoration Summary Report

By
Jordan Narcisse, SteS Fisheries Technician and
Mark Tiley, SteS Fish and Wildlife Manager

Sockeye salmon, like all other salmon and trout species that spawn in rivers and streams, spawn by digging nests in gravel where there is sufficiently slow enough current. The lack of naturally deposited large woody debris (LWD) in the Lower Adams River, due to a lack of very large trees falling from the riverbanks, has resulted in fast current in the main channel. The fast currents have washed away any gravel, small woody-debris, and sediment leaving behind cobbles and boulders which are too big for salmon and trout to build nests in. The salmon also needs large woody-debris and small woody-debris to hide from predators. Much of the spawning gravel in the Lower Adams River mainstem has been moved by high currents to sections of side channel and along river margins that may become dry during the late summer and fall salmon spawning season.

We widened the upstream ends of two side channels, and installed LWD at the upstream ends of these side channels that direct more water into the side channels so that more gravel in the side channels will remain wetted during the salmon spawning season (Photo 1, Photo 2). We also anticipate that more gravel will be deposited in these side channels during spring high flows. The slower currents within the side channels, more suitable for salmon and trout spawning, combined with more wetted gravel, will increase the amount of salmon spawning habitat.



Photo 1. One of three woody structures placed at the upstream end two side channels that was widened at its' upstream end to draw more flow.



Photo 2. The yellow arrow indicates a stake where the water level was prior to the widening of the side channel, indicating a desired increase in wetted side channel area was achieved.

Side channels also provide shelter for fish during flood events. Baby salmon often choose to rear in side channels where they can feed more effectively and avoid the larger predator fish. The larger the baby salmon can grow, the greater their chances for survival during their long journey to the ocean.

Contact

Nola Markey- Cultural Heritage Manager
Anthropologist/Archaeologist
nmarkey@lslb.ca



Cultural Heritage Protection Department

Post Assisted Wood Structures (PALS) (Photo 3) were also placed into the Adams River main channel to direct flow into a large side channel containing spawning gravels that is now largely dry, and to slow water currents in the mainstem so that more gravel will settle in the mainstem. Spawning gravel often settles at the upstream ends of naturally deposited LWD and installed log structures.



Photo 3. A Post Assisted Log Structure (PALS) installed in the Lower Adams River to increase salmon and trout spawning habitat.

The logs that comprise the PALS will also cause scouring of the river bottom beneath the logs which we expect will create pools (Photo 4). These pools will provide resting places for adult salmon migrating upstream to other spawning areas. The pools will also be used by trout and other fish species. Gravel generally settles at the downstream end of pools, areas referred to as pool "tail-outs", which is one of the best places for salmon and trout to spawn. The pools and PALS will also create resting and hiding places for baby salmon that emerge from spawning gravels the following spring. Algae will grow on the portions of the LWD that remain in water. This algae feeds aquatic insect larvae that in turn feeds baby salmon, trout and many other fish species.



Photo 4. This natural LWD, which scoured a pool in the main channel where a salmon nest built in gravel was found, is now augmented by a PALS.

There was an amazing crew, with everyone doing their tasks efficiently and properly. SRM, guardians, SteS fisheries staff and even some people from beaver tooth, along with the contractors, were all there working together and communicating well. DFO and the Province of BC staff, that helped secure funding from BCSRIF and the Pacific Salmon Foundation for the project, as well as the required work permits, provided valuable input during the work. We are hoping that more funding will be secured to complete Phase 2 and Phase 3 of this very worthwhile project. We will provide an article for the next Community Newsletter that will describe the building process in more detail.

Contact

Nola Markey- Cultural Heritage Manager
Anthropologist/Archaeologist
nmarkey@lslb.ca



Talking Rock Resort

The team at Quaaout Lodge & Talking Rock Resort are pleased to announce that Talking Rock Golf Course and Jack Sam's Restaurant will officially open for the 2026 season on **April 1st**.

As one of British Columbia's premier golf destinations, Talking Rock Golf Course is ready to welcome guests back for another season of exceptional course conditions, scenic views, and a memorable golf experience along the shores of Little Shuswap Lake.

Jack Sam's Restaurant will also reopen from 12:00pm to 7:00pm to start the season, featuring some great new menu additions and returning favorites. We look forward to seeing you back at the Resort!



The Resort team would also like to welcome new Head Golf Professional, Steven Coulthard. Steven joins the Resort from the Smithers Golf Club and looks forward to leading the golf course into the future. Stop by and introduce yourself! Steven would love to help you with your golf game this season!

Contact:

Cody Bell, General Manager
cody.bell@quaaoutlodge.com



Knock, knock. / Who's there? / Noah. /
Noah who? / Noah golf pro who can fix
your swing?





Weyt-k Brandon

Back in January, we were excited to welcome Brandon Todd to the SRM team, and we couldn't be happier to have him with us. There are great things ahead with Brandon on board as our new General Manager. Brandon brings a strong background in operations and leadership. Brandon grew up locally in the Shuswap/Adams Lake area and is a member of the Ts'il Kaz Koh (Burns Lake) Band. He has hands-on experience in forestry, road building, and wildfire operations, and has also held senior management roles in the aviation industry. What makes this especially meaningful is Brandon's connection to the community and his decision to come home to be part of a Nation-owned company doing important, long-term work. Since joining, Brandon has been focused on supporting the team, strengthening operations, and helping set a solid path forward for growth. His values align closely with SRM's commitment to Community, Inspire, Innovate, Honour, and Accountability.

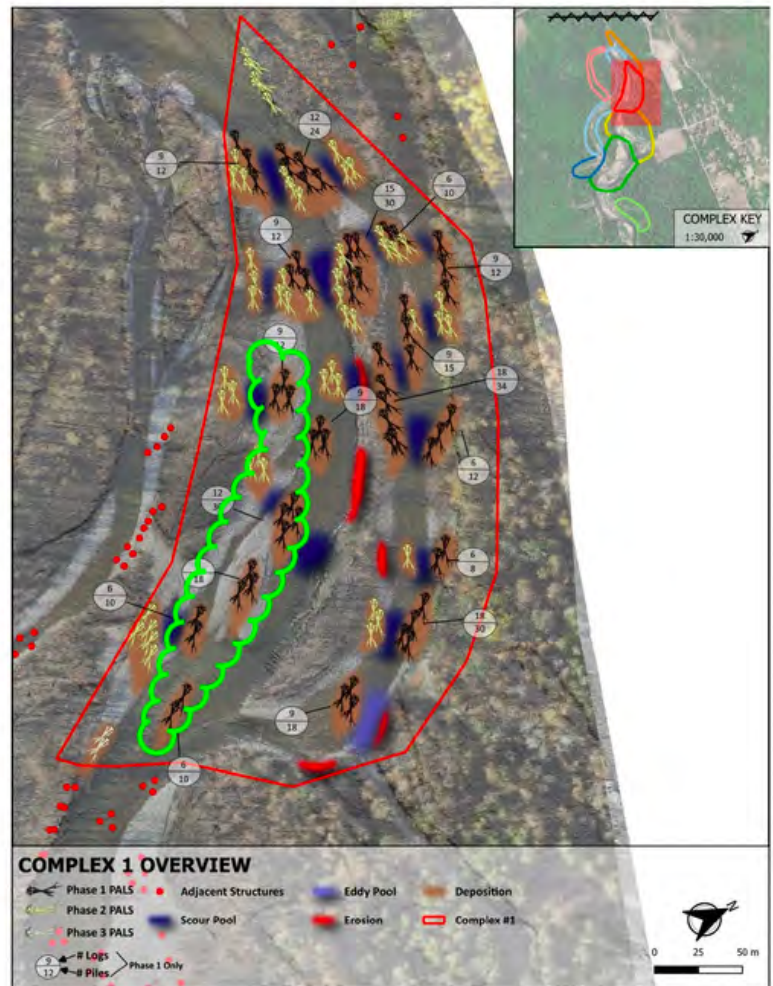
We're proud to have Brandon as part of the SRM team and look forward to what's ahead.



Adams River – Salmon Restoration Project

SRM is proud to be part of this meaningful restoration project on the Adams River. In February and March 2026, important progress was made as Phase I of the salmon habitat restoration project was successfully completed on the south side of the river, downstream of the Skwłāx Anglemont Bridge. This work was led by Skwłāx te Secwepemcúlecw, with support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and BC Parks. The SteS Guardian team worked alongside SRM to place Large Woody Structures and Post-Assisted Log Structures in the river to help improve water flow and create better habitat for salmon. These efforts will support stronger salmon runs in the future and help protect this important ecosystem.

Kukstsémc (thank you) to the Guardians and everyone involved for leading this work and caring for the river for future generations.



Family fun from Bowling Night





Community DINNER



Please join the Community Support Worker and let's come up with some ideas as a community for small gatherings

✦ **TUESDAY APRIL 14, 2026** ✦
5PM - 7PM
SK'WLAX WELLNESS CENTRE

Any questions please contact Shania at Wellness

★ swest@skwlaxwellness.com ★ (778)824-1391 text friendly ★



BBQ

ELDERS Luncheon



PLEASE JOIN US APRIL 21ST 11-1

SKWLAX WELLNESS CENTRE

CONTACT NICHELLE FOR ANY QUESTIONS



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

WEDNESDAY | MEET AT
APRIL 29 2026 | FRONT 6 PM

PLEASE RSVP WITH SHANIA BY FEB 13 2026

SALMAR THEATRE SALMON ARM, BC

(778)824-1391 (TEXT FRIENDLY)
SWEST@SKWLAXWELLNESS.COM

Interim Health Manager

Kristina John

kristina.john@skwlaxwell.com

Executive Director of Wellness

Bernadette Charlie

bcharlie@skwlaxwellness.com

Headstart

Dorothy Munro

dmunro@skwlaxwellness.com





#15-1528 Little Shuswap Lake Road
Chase, B.C., V0E1M2
Phone: 250-679-3702
Fax: 250-679-3742



March 17, 2026

Attention: Income Assistance Clients

Re: 2026 Income Assistance Payment Dates

The following dates are when Income Assistance Cheques will be ready for pick up at the Skwlax Wellness Centre unless otherwise posted or directly deposited.

March 25, 2026 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

April 29, 2026 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

May 27, 2026 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

June 24, 2026 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

July 29, 2026 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

August 26, 2026 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

September 23, 2026 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

October 28, 2026 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

November 25, 2026 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

December 16, 2026 9:30 am - 2:00 pm **DECLARATIONS DUE: December 7, 2026**

MONTHLY DECLARATIONS & JOB SEARCH FORMS ARE DUE ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH; IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A CLIENT TO ENSURE IT IS SUBMITTED IN TIME. IF YOUR DECLARATION IS NOT RECEIVED YOUR PAYMENT WILL BE HELD.

Best Regards,

Social Development Department



Skwlax wellness shuttle schedule



@SKWLAX_TE_SECWEPEMCULECW

Follow us on instagram to stay up to date with upcoming events and to see pictures from past events.

Tuesday Skwlax - Salmon Arm

Pick-up locations:	Time:
Wellness Centre	8:30AM
Veterans Lane Bus stop	8:35AM
Eagle Landings Subdivision	8:40AM
LSLR West Garbage Can	8:45AM
Tappen Subdivision Hall Parking Lot	9:15AM
Leave Salmon Arm	1:30PM

Wednesday Skwlax - Kamloops

Pick-up locations:	Time:
Wellness Centre	8:30AM
Veterans Lane Bus stop	8:35AM
Eagle Landings Subdivision	8:40AM
LSLR West Garbage Can	8:45AM
Leave Kamloops	1:30PM

Thursday Skwlax - Chase **No Shuttle run 3rd Thursday of every month**

Pick-up locations:	Time:
Wellness Centre	8:30AM
Veterans Lane Bus stop	8:35AM
Eagle Landings Subdivision	8:45AM
LSLR West Garbage Can	8:45AM
Leave Chase	1:30PM

AA - Thursday nights
Must call ahead
for pick up @ 6:00PM



Contact

Brittani Tomma
Skwlax Wellness Office Manager
brittani.tomma@lslb.ca



Skwlax Wellness Centre
(250)679-3702

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH IN SKWLĀX TE SECWPEMCÚLECW APRIL 26 TO MAY 2



Protecting Our Community Through
Vaccination



Vaccinations are essential for the health and well-being of all members of our community, especially those in the Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw band. This National Immunization Awareness Month, we encourage everyone to learn about the importance of vaccines and how they can protect you and your loved ones from preventable diseases.



WHY IMMUNIZE?



1. Protect yourself from serious diseases

- Vaccines can prevent a wide range of illnesses, including polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and influenza. These diseases can lead to severe health complications, hospitalization, and even death.



2. Protect vulnerable populations



- By getting vaccinated, you help create herd immunity, which protects those who cannot be vaccinated, such as infants and people with certain medical conditions.



3. Reduce healthcare costs:

- Immunization is a cost-effective way to prevent diseases and reduce healthcare spending.



4. Maintain community health:

- A well-vaccinated population is a healthier and more resilient population.

UNDERSTANDING RISKS AND CONCERNS

While vaccines are generally safe and effective, like any medication, they can carry some risks. These risks are typically mild and short-lived, such as:



Pain, redness, or
swelling at the
injection site



Mild fever



Fatigue



Where to Find Immunization Services



Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw offers various immunization services to ensure access for all community members.

- **Community Health Centre**

Contact the Skwlax Wellness Centre for information on immunization schedules, vaccine availability, and upcoming clinics

- **Online Resources**

Visit the Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw band website and official social media pages for announcements, schedules, and information about immunization campaigns.

- **Local Health Authorities:**

Consult with Interior Health Authority resources for general information on vaccinations in British Columbia and the local area.



Take Charge of Your Health

This National Immunization Awareness Month, make a commitment to protect yourself and your community. Check your immunization status, talk to your healthcare provider, and ensure that you and your loved ones are up-to-date on all recommended vaccines. Together, we can build a healthier, more resilient Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw.

Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw Health Services

Visit: Skwlāx Wellness Centre

Phone: (250) 679 3702

Address: #15-1528 Little Shuswap Lake Road, Chase, BC V0E 1M2

Email: nurse@skwlaxwellness.com



**Protect Our Elders • Keep Our Children Healthy • Strengthen Our Community
Get Vaccinated Today!**



Hello everyone,

My name is Destiny van Oirschot, and I'm excited to share that I've recently started as the new Communications Coordinator. I'm looking forward to being part of the team and connecting with all of you.

You may see me out in the community at various events—please don't hesitate to come say hello! I'm here to support and help however I can.

If you need anything, feel free to reach out to me at communications@slsb.ca.

Warm regards,
Destiny



HOURS OF OPERATION

7 DAYS A WEEK

6:00 am to 9:00 pm

(HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

(250) 679-8657

Do you have community news you'd like to see in the Newsletter?

Contact

Destiny van Oirschot
Communications@slsb.ca



SOUP'S ON



Beginning February 20, 2026 every
FRIDAY we invite all of the
Community to come and join
Skwlax Wellness Centre for a hearty
bowl of soup



Any Questions Please Call:
250-679-3702

12:00-1:30



Treatment Intake Pathways

There are several pathways to being accepted into treatment. For all options, members must first book an appointment with the Alcohol and Drug Worker (ASW) at Skwlax Wellness.

The ASW will:

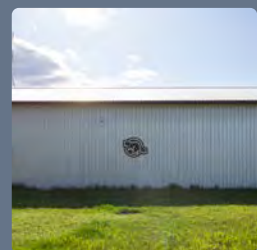
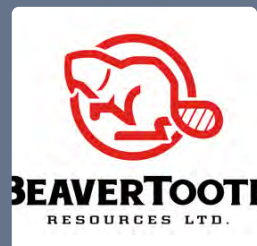
- Complete the intake process
- Assist with application forms
- Discuss treatment center options that best suit your needs

Pathways to Treatment steps 1-4

1. FNHA-funded beds (Must be applied for first)
2. Provincial/Public funded beds
3. Direct applications to individual treatment centers
4. Private treatment SteS (Subject to funding)
 - Sign up with the ASW and complete an intake application
 - Begin weekly counselling appointments
 - Review and discuss available treatment options

Please note that there may be a waiting period before entering a treatment center.

SteS Economic Development would like to celebrate all Band Member Owned businesses in this space. Please email your submission along with logos and pertinent info to Maureen Clarke: mclarke@lslb.ca



Community Events



Storytelling in the Kekuli



Food Sovereignty Planning



Elders Lunch

Contact

Nichelle King
Community Health Representative
nking@skwlawellness.com

Services:

- Good food box program
- Health month promotion

- Yoga
- Family Baby Circle Maternal Child Health
- Wellness visits (Families & Elders)
- Prenatal/Postnatal info. and advocacy
- Breastfeeding support
- Workshops (Education, Wellness, Health)
- Support Immunization clinics

- Community garden
- Food preservation
- Aboriginal diabetes initiative
- Community events
- Access to social events and supports
- End of life guide



Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Skwlāx te Secwépemc brings forward our ancestral teachings to instruct us in advancing our people, language, and culture and protecting the environment.

We take a proactive role to stimulate and lead the economy and protect Tmícw within Skwlāxulecw as we move towards greater unity, self-reliance and independence.

Mission

In pursuit of our Vision, and in alignment with our Values, we will:

- Lobby for the full recognition and implementation of our Title and Rights and the assertion within Skwlāxulecw.
- Ensure our members enjoy a high quality of life through service delivery and the benefits of a safe, healthy, and prosperous community.
- Acknowledge that wealth generation, the stewardship of our lands and resources, and the advancement of our language and culture are foundational to our success.
- Deliver effective communication, management and governance for an efficient administration.

Values

- We rely upon the wisdom of our ancestors, acting in the present and planning for the future.
- We believe that equity, reliability, empathy, integrity, and compassion are critical to the establishment and maintenance of healthy relationships.
- We are forthright in our dealings, embracing a philosophy of "do no harm" when engaging with others and the natural environment.
- We role-model respect through healthy two-way communication, speaking directly and honestly, and staying true to oneself.
- We are forward-looking, solution-oriented, and believe in the importance of collaboration and life-long learning for achieving success.



Contacts

Kukpi7 Dianne Francois
Kukpi7@lslb.ca

Tk'wam7ipla7 Julie John
julie.john@lslb.ca

Tk'wam7ipla7 Dawn Francois
dawn.francois@lslb.ca