



NEWSLETTER

OFFICE CLOSURE
May 23, 2022
Victoria Day

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 2: Chief and Council Swearing-In Ceremony
- Page 3: Easter Recap & Canoe Race.
- Page 4: Elders Meeting & Congratulations!
- Page 5: Busy Bear Pre-School Updates.
- Page 6: SFN Staff Update.
- Page 7: GNR Update.
- Page 10: Health Update.
- Page 11: Lands Update.
- Page 12: Summer Student Job Postings.
- Page 13: News Release.

PowWow

Éy Swáyel Semá:th Community,
It's PowWow time!

Semá:th is honored to be the location for this year's Wac'ipi

C'ante Was'te Yuhapi Traditional Pow Wow being hosted from **May 27-28, 2022**. All are welcome! Semá:th families, please come and enjoy the first PowWow of 2022!





Wac'ipi C'ante Was'te Yuhapi

(With a Good Heart Pow Wow)
Sumas First Nation
 2788 Sumas Mountain Road, Abbotsford, BC
May 27-28, 2022

Mens Grass Chicken For Schools & Survivors Special



Woman's Red Dress Special For MMWG

Golden Age - Men, Women - 60's Scoop Special

Traditional Pow Wow

MC - Vincent Yellow Old Woman Siksika, AB
 Host Drum - Cree Confederation (AB)
 Co Host Drum - Bad Eagle (BC)
*First 5 drums to register will be paid
 Arena Director - Perry Smith
 Head Male Dancer - Leo Linklater
 Head Lady Dancer - Leilani Diablo

Spot Specials
 Novice Special

Partnering with Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association FRAFCA

Friday - Grand Entry 12:00pm - Grand Entry 7:00pm
 Saturday - Grand Entry 1:00pm - Grand Entry 7:00pm
 Vendors, Bannock, Food Trucks, Kids Booth, Team dancing, Camping, Potato Dance, Jigging, Giveaways

HOST - Marilyn Klassen AKA Bear Paw 604- 614-0298 BearPaw_51@outlook.com
 Vendors Info - Joanne Diablo 604-997-7442

Thank you to our Sponsors:

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association FRAFCA
 Vancity / Abbotsford Police / Elite Fire Protection
 Fraser Valley Metis Association / Abbotsford Police Foundation

Hand Drum Competition with Fawn Wood







Swearing-In Ceremony



Councillor Troy Ganzeveld, Chief Dalton Silver, Councillor Clint Tuttle, & Councillor Chris Silver

CHIEF & COUNCIL 2022

Friday, May 06, 2022 marked a monumental day in Semá:th history. Our elected Chief, Dalton Silver and Councillors Chris Silver, Clint Tuttle, and Troy Ganzeveld were Sworn in by Chief Mark Point of Skowkale First Nation and Richard Hall, GNR Director, in a beautiful ceremony held at the Community Hall.

Ts'ithóme tsel – thank you to all Elders, Community Members, and Staff who made this Ceremony possible. We raise our hands to you.



Former Semá:th Chief Larry Ned sharing his wisdom, stories, and joy with elected Chief and Council and Community.



Chief Point leading the Ceremony with blessings for Chief and Council.



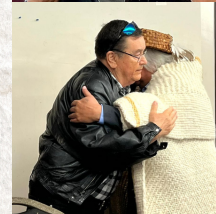
Community Members sharing their wisdom and well wishes for Chief and Council.



Drumming done by our brothers Jason Thompson and Phil Sherwood from Leq'á:mel First Nation.



Speech given by former Councillor Murray Ned about his experience on Council, gratitude, wisdom, and well-wishes for Chief and Council.



Embrace of gratitude given by Chief Silver to former Semá:th Chief Larry Ned.

Easter Basket Delivery

This year the Easter Bunny hopped its way around our Community with Easter Baskets. According to Lori, our Social Outreach Worker "it was so precious to see the kids interact with the Easter Bunny". A big thank you to our Staff who made this year's Easter Basket delivery possible and memorable. Tsel Ts'íthomé



“A balanced Easter diet is a chocolate egg in each hand.”

CANOE RACE

Ey swayel mekw wat,

We are excited to let each and everyone know that preparations are in order for Cultus Lake Water Sports 2022.

Please mark your calendars for June 3-5, 2022. We look forward to seeing you all!

Xyólhmethet.

SAVE THE DATE



June 3-5, 2022
CULTUS LAKE WATERSPORTS

Committee Contacts Cecilia Lockerby & Ashley Lockerby

Communications@sumasfirstnation.com

ELDER'S GROUP MEETING



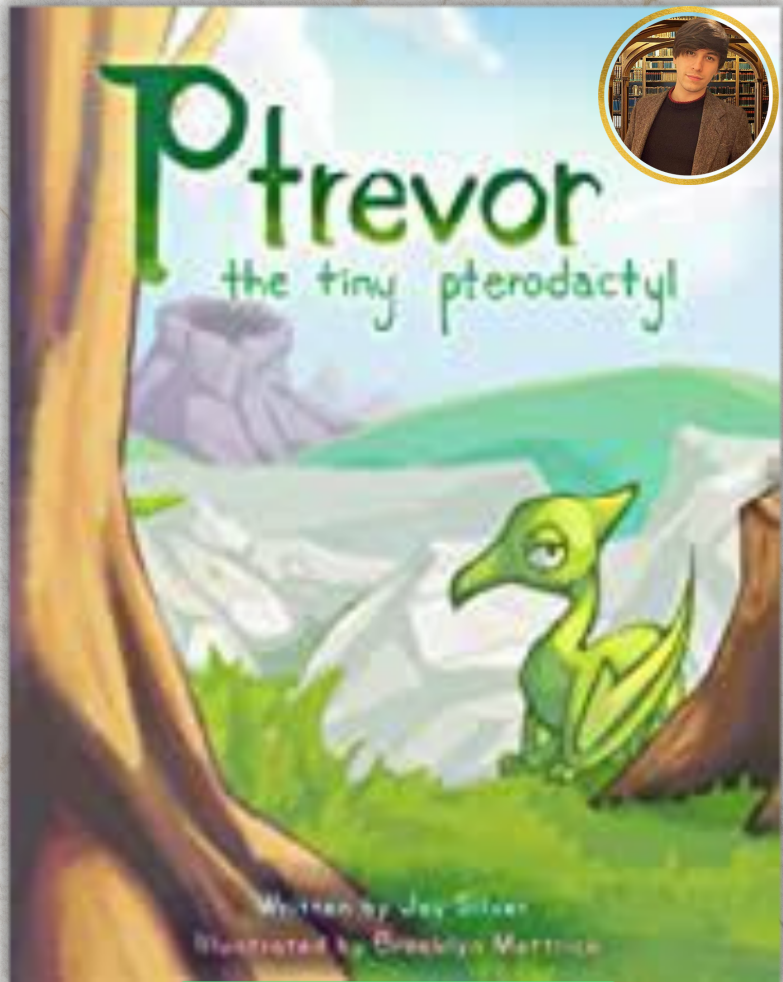
On April 26, 2022, our Elders Group gathered together after two years apart during COVID-19! It was a night full of laughs, stories, and wisdom. Thank you to everyone who made the night special. Stay tuned for future meetings!!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Dear Sumas Community, our very own Jay Silver has published a Children's book!

Jay is the son of Lori Houlden and Joe Silver. Amongst his many talents, Jay is also a voice actor. He attended the prestigious Vancouver Film School and graduated the acting course with honors in 2012. He was also among the first of his class to land a contract with a talent agent for his professional acting career. Congratulations Jay!!

Ptrevor the Tiny Pterodactyl can be purchased on Amazon!



GET YOUR COPY HERE

THE BUSY BEAR CLUB PRESCHOOL UPDATES

ÉY SWÁYEL

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Friendly reminder to register your child for kindergarten. Registration is now open at Upper Sumas, and Irene Kelleher

LANGUAGE

We are working on a new song in Halq'emeylem with Aiden. We will be sending home a binder with all the words, phrases, and songs that Aiden has been teaching us. Thank you, Aiden!

ELDERS VISITS

We are excited to have our Elders coming to visit us in May, and June. They will be sharing their cultural knowledge with the children and staff.



"This is the tulip I planted"

BUTTERFLIES

Every year we order butterfly larvae. It is an exciting time for the children to observe how the caterpillars form a chrysalis and then emerge as butterflies. After our butterflies have hatched, the children will release them.

MOTHER'S, AUNTIES, AND GRANDMOTHER'S DAY

May you enjoy celebrating this day with your little ones! Thank you to our mothers, aunts, and grandmothers for everything you do!

Reminder to parents that we will be closed Monday, May 23rd for Victoria Day



GARDEN

In the Fall we planted tulip bulbs with the children in the garden. The flowers are starting to bloom now with Spring arriving. Please take a walk with your little ones to "enjoy the tulips".

It's that time of year now to begin planting the garden again. We have an Elder that will be helping us plant the garden this year. It is a wonderful learning experience for the children to plant a garden.



Scarlett and her "snail"



FRIENDLY REMINDER

We close at 5pm. We understand that there may be times you may not be able to pick up your children on time. We just ask you please call us or text via the HiMama app.

IN CLOSING

Ts'ithóme tsel – thank you,
Have a "Happy May"
From the staff at Busy Bear Club Preschool

SFN STAFF UPDATES

FAREWELL



In the month of April, 2022 we bid farewell to Luwana Lois from Accounts Payable and Carrie Milsop, Kelly Sam, Murray Sam, and Val Sam from the Lands Department.

We are grateful for the hard work, dedication, and passion with which they worked for Sumas First Nation. On behalf of the entire SFN Staff, we wish you the best in all your future endeavors!



NEW HIRES



**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO
GNR DIRECTOR,
CHEYENNE NED**

IY SCACEL HALE ~Good day everyone.

My name is Cheyenne Ned. I am honoured to serve the Nation and attain the position of Executive Assistant to the Director of the Governance and Natural Resource Department. I am a proud member of the Tsartlip First Nation within the WSANEC territory. I am a descendant of the Cooper family, and the Rice family on Vancouver Island. My connection to the Semá:th community is via marriage. My husband Payton Ned and I are very grateful for the opportunity to raise our daughter Brielle here on Semá:th territory. We had made the decision to move back to his community to be surrounded with family, and culture. I have happily accepted this position with hopes to gain immense knowledge and experience working on traditional lands projects and aspects. I have studied at Camosun College in courses related to Business and Indigenous leadership and have spent the past 11 years working with the management teams within the local Co-op Food centres. As this will be a great change of setting, I am very excited to get to know the fellow staff with Sumas First Nation and our community members!

GNR DEPARTMENT UPDATE

COMMUNICATIONS

by *Ida Dutt, Communications Officer*

Dear Semá:th Community,

It is our pleasure to inform you that Communications will be undergoing updates within the year to come.



NEWSLETTERS

We will be transitioning into digital distribution of our Newsletters **starting June 2022**. Please confirm your email address with Communications to subscribe to the digital copies of our Newsletters. If you are unable to receive digital copies, please contact Ida Dutt by **June 08, 2022** at Communications@Sumasfirstnation.com or 604-996-8523 to have a hard copy mailed to you.

GRANTS

by *Jenna Noppen, Grants Officer*



We are excited to share with the Semá:th community the work that Grants has been involved with recently.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Grants is currently wrapping up overseeing the completion of two major projects under the Reaching Home initiative and funded by the City of Abbotsford:

- Capital Project – Provided our Capital and Public Works Department with a \$331,955.00 grant, which enabled Sumas First Nation to build two modular housing units within the community.
- Services Project – Provided our Health & Wellness Department with a \$100,000.00 grant. This funding supported the hiring a full-time Outreach Worker and aimed to connect community members with vitally important support services.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Grants has been successful in confirming and will be overseeing for Sumas First Nation:

- Giving Voices Support Group – Funded by the Province of British Columbia and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation this funding will directly support a project in the amount of \$10,000.00 geared to supporting women and girls of the Semá:th community facilitated through our Health & Wellness Department.
- First Nations Harm Reduction Grant – A \$50,000.00 grant funded by First Nations Health Authority to support a Sumas First Nation Harm Reduction project carried out by our Health & Wellness Department.
- Semá:th Species At-Risk Signage Project – A \$15,000.00 grant funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada and carried out by our Governance & Natural Resources Department to address species-at-risk within the Semá:th traditional territory and the implementation of two signs to assist with recovering education and efforts.

Please note, that many of our upcoming projects will involve community engagement. Please keep an eye out for upcoming announcements with more details. Furthermore, please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions, you can reach me by email at jenna.noppen@sumasfirstnation.com or by telephone at 604-852-4041, ext. 228.

Ts'ithóme tsel – thank you.

GNR DEPARTMENT UPDATE

GOVERNANCE

by *Philipa Dutt, Governance & Policy Officer*

Éy Swáyel Semá:th,

We are honored to be sharing the following updates with you.



FLOOD RECOVERY

Richard Hall, Director of Governance & Natural Resources and Philipa Dutt, Governance & Policy Officer have been engaging in meetings with the City of Abbotsford with regard to flood recovery and Bank Stabilization projects. They are also in communication with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Emergency Planning Secretariat for flood recovery and community preparedness. In addition, letters have been sent to Federal and Provincial Ministers and the Mayor of Abbotsford highlighting the need for Semá:th to have a seat at the table to **collaboratively** address the flood event and ongoing flood planning in S'ólh Téméxw.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS PROJECT

In March and April of 2022, collaborations were done with external consultants to develop a Socio-economic Analysis Project Report. Fishers and Knowledge Holders were invited, and two in-person engagement sessions were held in the Administration Boardroom. The final draft of the report is being reviewed. **Ts'ithóme tsel – thank you to all who participated!**

SUMAS MOUNTAIN STUDY

The Governance & Policy officer is also conducting a Sumas Mountain Study from a Cultural and Heritage perspective. There will be community involvement required in the near future, so stay tuned!

S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE (STSA)

We are actively working with the STSA and participating in its committees such as Lets'emó:t Implementation Team (LIT), Leadership Cparticipatingcommittee (LC), Old Growth Management Committee, Revenue Sharing Agreement Committee, Pedology Committee, Climate Change Committee, Emergency Planning Response Committee, Sumas Mountain Committee.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

GNR actively engaged in meetings with the City of Chilliwack, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), People of the River Referrals Office (PRRO), the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance (LFFA), City of Abbotsford, Kerr Wood Leidal Consulting(KWL), and other First Nations regarding Vedder River Sediment Removal discussed within the Vedder River Technical Committee Meetings.

The City of Mission is involved in active engagement with the LMS society regarding the ongoing Mission Waterfront Redevelopment Project planning and scoping.



The GNR Team, Community Fishers, and Consultants discussing Socio-economic Analysis Project. Dinner for the meeting was catered by Gayle Ned.

GNR DEPARTMENT UPDATE

CHIEF AND COUNCIL ELECTION

by Richard Hall, Director of Governance & Natural Resources



Let's Emot - One Heart, One Mind

As always, GNR has been very busy addressing various issues in the Nation's Traditional Territory.

Chief and Council designated GNR to administer the 2022 Election for the new Chief and Council vote that was held on April 29, 2022.

Our responsibilities included canvassing and recommending the appointment of the Electoral Officer, assisting at the Nomination Meeting held on March 11, 2022, researching and recommending the three appointees to serve on the Appeal Board under the Sumas Election Code and fielding inquiries from Members.

On the Election Day, we were witnesses to insure that voting integrity was not compromised including the inspection and sealing of the voting boxes - one for the Chief and one for the Councillors, monitoring the breaking of the seals and the locks been opened and then insuring that all the ballots submitted - mail in and in person were accurately recorded.

Our last duty for the election included assisting in the Swear-In Ceremony for the new Chief and Council on May 06, 2022.

It was a privilege to serve the needs of the Nation in this very important initiative.

NATURAL RESOURCES

by Amanda Gawor, Natural Resources Officer



READ CGH PLAN 2022 HERE

If you have any questions or concerns about the CGH Project, please reach out to Amanda Gawor, Natural Resources Officer at Amanda.Gawor@sumasfirstnation.com

CONSERVATION, GUARDIANSHIP, AND HARVEST PLAN 2022

Building on years 1 & 2, SFN will be launching its Conservation, Guardianship, and Harvest Plan 2022 running in its third year. Information collected through the stock assessment and harvest activities in the prior years, and this year, are key to SFN's intent to restore and enhance traditional practices within the traditional territory, and Indigenous fisheries management - helping to inform future fisheries conservation and management decisions, securing food, social, and ceremonial needs of the Community, while simultaneously working to rebuild Sumas, Chilliwack, and Cultus Lake salmon populations.

Sumas First Nation's 2017 Declaration reaffirms our inherent right to all resources extending through our traditional lands; the CGH Plan puts into action the Semá:th peoples inherent obligation to protect resources in the territory while also recognizing shared territories with other Stó:lō Nations, highlighting the need for cooperation and collaboration.



Amanda Gawor, Natural Resources Officer (left) and Philipa Dutt, Governance & Policy Officer (right) assessing the the data from the Aris Sonar at the Vedder Bridge site in October of 2021.

The stock assessment activities will take place under the Vedder Crossing Bridge this July and Fall period deploying ARIS sonar technology paired with creel surveys and interviews taking place at popular fisher index sites along the Sumas-Chilliwack system up to the Keith Wilson Bridge.

GNR DEPARTMENT UPDATE

NATURAL RESOURCES

by Amanda Gawor, Natural Resources Officer

FISH RECOVERY

Friday, April 29, 2022 marked the third fish recovery attempt at the site of the main Sumas Dike Breach. And it was a successful day!

Attempts made mid-February after requesting resource assistance from DFO saw the recovery of one cutthroat trout and a handful of small native species such as stickleback and brassy minnows.



The fish rescue team from Semá:th, LFFA, and Leq'á:mel. hard at work at the fish recovery site. This site had steep dike walls, plenty of fresh rip rap, uncertain debris, and depths of -9ft at the deepest section

Following further reports of a potential sturgeon sighting in the pooled farmer field, Semá:th's GNR Department's Natural Resources Officer Amanda was determined to give it another go and requested assistance from Semath fishers (Troy Ganzeveld, Henry Ned), Leqamel Guardian (Phil Sherwood), the LFFA (Ian Hamilton, Janice Kwo), and resources and capacity of BC Ministry FLNRORD.



A White Sturgeon rescued by the the fish rescue team from Semá:th, LFFA, and Leq'á:mel. The fish had a fork Length of 169cm, Girth of 62cm, and was PIT tag verified.

Using Semá:th 200ft seine net with added length of rope, the net was deployed by small boat and pulled by the team for 4 sets, this time successfully covering the entire width of the challenging pool. Our team rescued and returned 2 White Sturgeon to the Semá:th River .



Councillor Troy Ganzeveld captured rescuing a White Sturgeon.

Ts'ithóme tsel – Thank you to all involved!

HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Health & Wellness Manager, Jackie Bird, is on medical leave until further notice. For any inquiries, please reach out to:

- Brian Jones, General Manager at Brian.Jones@sumasfirstnation.com or 604 852 4041 ext 211
- Carissa Silver, Health & Wellness Executive Assistant at Carissa.Silver@sumasfirstnation.com / 604 852 4041 ext. 105

LANDS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

SFN LAND USE PLAN UPDATE

OPEN HOUSE #1



Jennette Pierre, Lands Manager, and Chantal Douglas, Lands Officer welcoming Community Members for the first Land Use Plan Open House on May 04, 2022

WE'RE UPDATING OUR LAND USE PLAN!

To continue to guide future development and conservation of our lands in accordance with traditional teachings and contemporary priorities, we are in the process of updating our Land Use Plan. This process will last the rest of 2022 and we look to you, Semá:th Members and Residents to help shape plan priorities and direction. Through collaboration we can ensure the brightest future for Our Nation.

GETTING INVOLVED

Our first open house was on May 4, 2022. We prepared a background report to provide context and there were interactive activities to let the voices of our Community be heard.



DOOR PRIZES



SAVE THE DATE

- OPEN HOUSE #2 JUNE 21, 2022
- OPEN HOUSE #3 NOVEMBER 09, 2022
- PLAN VOTE DECEMBER 2022

For any inquires regarding the Land Use Plan, please email Jennette Pierre, Lands Manager at Jennette.Pierre@sumasfirstnation.com

SUMMER STUDENT JOBS

Community Events Assistant

June 27, 2022 - Aug 26, 2022

Position Summary

Sumas First Nation is seeking an energetic and determined First Nations student to take on the role of Community Events Assistant for the Summer of 2022. The Community Events Assistant is responsible for the planning and delivery of family-focused events throughout the Summer. This position requires an active interest in community members through relationship building and effective listening. The successful applicant must also maintain effective working relationships with community members, staff, and external service providers.

Duties/ Responsibilities

- Expense tracking
- Plans and develops community programming throughout the year;
- Assists in delivery of summer family-orientated programming
- Encourage Healthy Living in all aspects of programming and leads by example;
- Incorporates cultural teaching and protocols into programs with an emphasis on children and youth;
- Maintains a close working relationship with the Events Coordinator and Health & Wellness manager and collaborates on planning and delivery of summer programs and events;
- Other duties as necessary.

Finance Clerk

June 27, 2022 - Aug 26, 2022

Position Summary

Sumas First Nation is seeking an energetic and determined First Nations student to take on the role of Finance Clerk for the Summer of 2022. The Finance Clerk employs accounting skills to assure the monies owed to the Sumas First Nation are collected and properly recorded in the financial records. This includes accounts and invoices that are managed by Sumas First Nation.

Duties/ Responsibilities

- Reconciles and processes contractor invoices;
- Provides accounting support to the General Manager and Finance Manager for assigned projects;
- Processes accounts payable invoices, cheques and deposit receipts;
- Ensures that the appropriate frequency of invoicing is occurring;
- Track payments received against invoices and notifies the Finance Officer of payments received and outstanding accounts;
- Retains copies of contract for invoice reference purposes;
- Filing and other duties as directed by Finance Officer, Finance Manager and General Manager including but not limited to, Front Desk Reception;
- Other duties as necessary.

Health and Wellness Assistant

June 27, 2022 - Aug 26, 2022

Position Summary

Sumas First Nation is seeking an energetic and determined First Nations student to take on the role of Health and Wellness Assistant for the Summer of 2022. The Health and Wellness Assistant supports the Health and Wellness Department in administration tasks and community support. This role involves working across multiple departments with the aim of providing practical work experience in the area of administration and Community Support.

Duties/ Responsibilities

- Supports Health team and completes administrative tasks, assisting in community engagement;
- Welcomes guests, sets up the meeting room, makes coffee and tea;
- A genuine care for individuals and families in the community and a desire to advocate for their needs;
- Other duties as necessary.

Qualifications

- Must be First Nations.
- Must be between 15-30 years of age.
- Must have a valid Social Insurance Number by the beginning of the program placement.
- Must be a full-time Secondary or Post-Secondary Student.
- Must be registered in full-time studies during the previous academic year and intend to return to full-time studies in the following academic year.

SUMMER STUDENT JOBS

Lands and Natural Resources Assistant June 27, 2022 - Aug 26, 2022

Position Summary

Sumas First Nation is seeking an energetic and determined First Nations student to take on the role of Community Events Assistant for the Summer of 2022. The Lands & Resources Assistant position will provide hands-on training experience in the office and in the field. This position will gain valuable field experience and may assist with some field operations, monitoring and data collection. This position will have the opportunity to work within the Lands Department and Governance and Natural Resources Department.

Duties/ Responsibilities

- Support team fieldwork and key project deliverables;
- Maintenance of field equipment as directed;
- Assist with collection of natural resource samples;
- Conduct online and archival research as needed;
- Provide administrative support to the Lands and Governance and Natural Resources Departments;
- Other duties as necessary.

Qualifications

- Must be First Nations.
- Must be between 15-30 years of age.
- Must have a valid Social Insurance Number by the beginning of the program placement.
- Must be a full-time Secondary or Post-Secondary Student.
- Must be registered in full-time studies during the previous academic year and intend to return to full-time studies in the following academic year.

NEWS RELEASE

Restoring Sumas Lake is an important step in B.C. flood recovery, climate adaptation and reconciliation

TARA MARTIN, MURRAY NED, LEAH BALLANTYNE, IAN HAMILTON, JANICE KWO, RAYANNA SEYMOUR-HOURIE, DEBORAH CARLSON, RILEY FINN AND KRISTEN WALTERS
CONTRIBUTED TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL

"Great floods have happened in the Lower Fraser historically, as told in the s̓xw̓ox̓wiyám / s̓x̓w̓əx̓w̓əyém ("stories of the distant past" or "tell stories"). The way these floods were overcome was through hard lessons and collaboration: S'íwes Toti:lt Q'ep / syáθastəl'ʔəy səl' q̓ tátalə't - teaching and learning together."

- an excerpt from the article

The full article by Murray Ned and co-authors about the flood recovery efforts in the province of B.C. can be read on Globe and Mail:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-restoring-sumas-lake-is-an-important-step-in-bc-flood-recovery-climate/>

**HÁKW'ELES CHEXW TE S'ÍWES YE
SYELÓLEXWE**

Remember the teachings of the Elders.