



THE SUMAS CURRENT



A festive graphic for an office closure announcement. It features a white rectangular box with a gold border, set against a dark background decorated with green pine branches, red ornaments, and a string of warm white lights. A yellow bell with a red and white fish logo is positioned at the top center of the box. The text is written in a mix of green and black fonts.

Office Closure

All SFN Offices will be closed for Christmas Holidays from Dec. 22, 2023 to January 01, 2024 and will open on Jan. 02, 2024.

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Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
2024



Semá:th Sumas First Nation

2788 Sumas Mountain Road, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2J2
Telephone: (604) 852-4041 • Fax: (604) 852-4048

Important Update: Transition to Paperless Newsletters

Dear Sumas First Nation Community,

In our commitment to sustainability and efficiency, we are excited to announce that starting January 2024, we will be transitioning towards paperless newsletters. This change reflects our dedication to reducing environmental impact while ensuring timely and accessible communication.

To continue receiving our newsletters and community updates, we kindly request your support by submitting your email address to Ida Dutt, Communications Officer, before December 15, 2023. You can easily share your email via direct message on our Facebook page or by emailing Communications@sumasfirstnation.com.

Please note that without your submitted email, we will not be able to send you the electronic version of the newsletter.


Hard copies will be available at the Administration Office for members to pick up if wanted and at Elders meetings.

We value your involvement and aim to make this transition as smooth as possible for everyone. Your cooperation in providing your email is greatly appreciated.

Let us continue to walk together as we strive to create a future that honours S'ólh Téméxw— Our land.

By submitting your email address to Semá:th Communications before December 15, 2023, you will be entered in a draw to win a \$250 Visa Gift Card! The winner will be announced on December 20, 2023.

JOIN US IN GOING PAPERLESS!



Help us reduce waste and protect the environment.

Starting January 2024, Newsletters will be sent via email.

Hard copies will be available at the Administration Office for members to pick up if wanted.

Send your email address to Ida Dutt, Communications Officer, at Communications@sumasfirstnation.com to **by December 15, 2023** to enter into a draw to win a \$250 Visa Gift Card!

Winner will be announced on December 20, 2023.

Upcoming Events



'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY!!



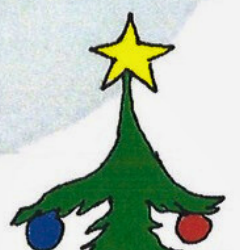
Christmas



Christmas Dinner
Thursday December 7th, 2023 at 5:30pm
Sumas Community Hall

.....
Kids Christmas Party
Sunday December 17th, 2023 at 11:00 am
Sumas Community Hall

For any other inquiries contact Alana James (604) 852 4041 ext. 202





Upcoming Events

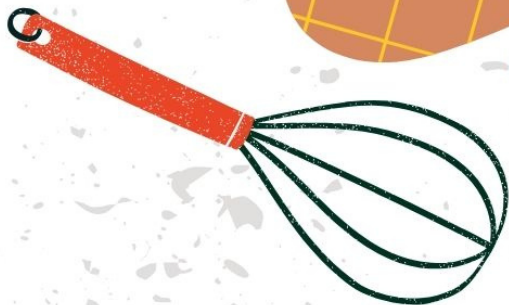
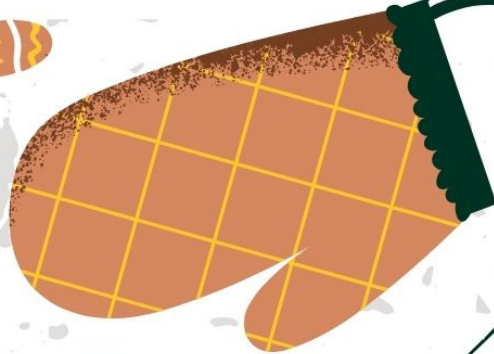


SUMAS FIRST NATION

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BAKE/CRAFT SALE

EVERYONE IN
ATTENDANCE WILL BE
ENTERED TO WIN
DOOR PRIZES

Calling all
Bakers and Crafters!!!
We are welcoming you to set up a
table to sell your baked good and
or crafted items.



DEC. 10 | 1 PM-7PM

THE COMMUNITY HALL
2800 SUMAS MOUNTAIN ROAD

Contact to join,
Alana.James@sumasfirstnation.com

Upcoming Events

Seabird Mobile Diabetes Team

Where: Sumas Health Building____

When: December 12



Contact: Flora Silver

Number: 604 852 4041 ext 118

Living • Well • Together

Clinic Notice

Who Is It For:

People Living with Diabetes

People Who Are Curious About It

What The Appointment Includes:

Testing Blood Sugar and Cholesterol Levels

Checking Kidney Function

Diabetes Education



Upcoming Events



Éy cha kw'ás emí'elep

Come Join Stó:lō Shxweli

- Meet & Greet the team
- Play board/card games
- Learn & speak Halq'eméylem
- Snacks & refreshments

Temtám: December, 5th 2023
Drop-In 2:00pm-6:00pm
Alétse: Language Room, SRRMC
Building #10, 1st floor
7201 Vedder Road, Chilliwack BC

Email info@stoloshxweli.org for more information

***Have you accessed
Virtual Care?***

Cultural Safety in Virtual Care

What went well?

How can it improve?

The FNHA wants your perspective on cultural safety in virtual care. Your story will inform a care framework that helps practitioners provide culturally safe care to First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples in the Fraser Salish Region. Virtual sessions will be informal, small, and adapted to the needs of participating communities.

Two sessions Available:

Dec 7, 2023

10:00 AM – 2:00pm

[Click to Register](#)

Dec 12, 2023

10:00 AM – 12:00pm

[Click to Register](#)

Once registered you will receive a confirmation email with information to join

For additional information reach out to:
Gordon.Brown@fnha.ca

***\$150 Gift Card
for Participation***



THE BUSY BEAR CLUB PRESCHOOL UPDATES

MEQÓ:S (FALLEN SNOW SEASON) 2023 UPDATES



PRESCHOOL NEWS

2023 is almost over! It's true-time flies when you're having fun! We had a lot of fun in October and November. Family nights,

A HUGE thank you to Lori Kelly for attending our Family Nights and sharing at both of them. We appreciate your willingness to share with us, your time, your stories, your knowledge and of course your presence. Thank you Lori!

Also a big thank you to Gayle Ned for cooking for these events! And a forever thank you to Maureen Kelly for tirelessly cooking for the daycare everyday. You are our Treasure Auntie!

Our Halq'emeylem classes have been going so well, thanks to Roxanne Dool the instructor. She is amazing with the children and they love her. The children are picking up the language and doing great. Thanks so much to you Roxanne for all your hard work!



In December we have a ton of fun things in the works...a Christmas party, Christmas store, and pajama day. All dates and details to be announced. Please check your **HIMAMA APP**.

Also, all programs will be receiving the in-house newsletter which has more information.

DAYCARE UPDATE

In November, we have been learning about the winter season and salmon.

We had a fun and spooky end to October where the children wore their colorful costumes to class to celebrate Halloween. We had witches cackling, princesses dancing and superheroes to the rescue!



The children always love playing outdoors in our playground where they engage in fun activities such as bike riding or climbing our "mountain". Since the weather is changing, please make sure your child has appropriate warm weather clothing. We go outside every day no matter what the weather is like!

IN CLOSING... TS'ITHÓME TSEL – THANK YOU, Thank you for entrusting your precious children to us. We wish you all a safe and joyous Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 14, 2023** – Last Day of Afterschool Club before Christmas Break. Reopening on January 11, 2024.
- December 22, 2023 to January 01, 2024** – We will be closed for Christmas Break.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE



SFN Membership and SFN Community Member Survey

This survey is meant to gather input to improve our services for our children and families within the community.

Those who complete the survey online or in-person at the SFN Health Center by 4:00 pm on **December 11th, 2023** will be entered into a draw for a \$250.00 Visa Gift Card.

The winner will be drawn on **December 13th, 2023!** The winner will be contacted via phone call or SFN Health Center Facebook.

Sumas First Nation Health Facebook Group

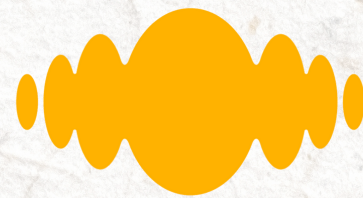
The Health Department has created a member-specific Facebook Group to stay updated with all SFN Health related posting. All electronic **Health posts** will be shared to the group.

The SFN Members-only Facebook group will remain active for all updates, the Health Group is specifically for Health department updates. This will help streamline information.

All SFN Members/Community Members that join will be entered to Win a Prize.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7D25KS3>



Hear CANADA

Hear Canada will be coming to SFN **December 5, 2023** to provide hearing tests and hearing aid fittings if needed. **They are also offering home visits!** Pacific Blue Cross will cover the cost of hearing aids for members who have not been fitted for hearing aids within the past 5 calendar years. For more information, please contact Flora Silver at flora.silver@sumasfirstnation.com



HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE



ELDERS MESSAGES EVERY MONDAY 10AM-2PM WITH TARA BACKMAN

Elders Massage have started back up every Monday with Tara Backman! Please call the Health Center 604 852 4041 for appointment bookings!

Non Elders' can leave first and Last name along with contact info with reception, to be put on a no show or cancellation list as Elders appointments are priority.

Walk-In Clinic

Every Wednesday at the SFN Health Center, for morning appointments please call the clinic at 604 870 7557 or for afternoon appointments please call SFN Health Center 604 852 4041.

Moving Forward Counselling Service

Available through phone call or online appointments for our membership and community members. For any referrals, please call Carissa Silver at 604 852 4041 ext. 105 or Carissa.Silver@sumasfirstnation.com

Red Road Alcoholic Anonymous

Every Wednesday 8pm at the Health Center.

SASET Employment Counsellor - In SFN on Wednesday's

If you are un or underemployed please call the health center at 604 852 4041 if you are needing an appointment!

Youth Groups SFN Health Center

Every Tuesday! For more information contact Barb Kelly at barb.kelly@sumasfirstnation.com



GOVERNANCE & NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Reflecting on this year, the GNR department has made significant strides in safeguarding our lands and resources. We're delighted to announce that our team accomplished the successful signing of **Intergovernmental Collaboration agreements**, a pivotal step in fortifying our community against flood risks.



Weir Trap set up located approx. 400m downstream the Keith Wilson Bridge on the Sumas-Chilliwack River.

Initiating the **Weir Project** stands as a testament to our proactive approach to addressing environmental challenges within our territory, showcasing our commitment to innovative solutions and protection of salmon and food security for the community.



Nooksack Transboundary Flood Initiative agreement signing between Premier David Eby, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, Semá:th, Mathxwí and Leq'á:mel First Nations, the Nooksack Tribe, Lummi Nation, the City of Abbotsford and Whatcom County, Wash.

Our **Conservation Guardianship & Harvest Program**, in its fourth year, continued to excel, demonstrating our dedication to sustainable resource management practices that ensure the preservation of our natural heritage.

We are excited to share more information during our next Band Meeting.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year filled with the Creator's blessings!



HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES

Attention: All home owners/ renters

Winterizing your Home



- Make sure you disconnect and put away any hoses
- Turn off your outside taps
- Clean gutters
- Examine your exterior walls to make sure no siding is loose and will blow off in the wind.
- Change your furnace filter
- Put away any things that can fly away in the wind or freeze and damage during cold spells especially pools, lawn furniture, gazebo's, trampolines need to be disassembled or secured down so high winds do not blow away and' cause injury or damage to others property or person.
- Do a walk around making sure your roof has no loose tiles and no tree branches are going to fall and damage your roof or any other properties.
- Make sure you winterize your RV properly or major damage can happen to water pipes, pumps, etc.
- If your home is drafty you can purchase at a hardware store, clear plastic to apply to your windows with a blow dryer
- Ensure your pilot lights on your furnace and hot water tank are not blown out by high winds, if you have a pilot light. This can lead to gas leak and no heat or hot water.

LANDS DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The Review

Sumas First Nation Lands Department Annual Report

INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Remediations

Handlers Equipment
Valley Carriers
Fraser Valley Steel & Wire
Timbro

Funding Agreements

Land Use Plan
Legacy Funding
Wills & Estates

Regular Activities

Permit Requests
Lands Advisory
Certificate of Possession



Remediations

- By Jennette Pierre SFN Lands Manager

Sumas First Nation Lands Department has issued several Stop Work Orders over the past few months. Here, you will learn what the Lands Department has been doing and where we plan on going over the next few months and years.

Handlers Equipment

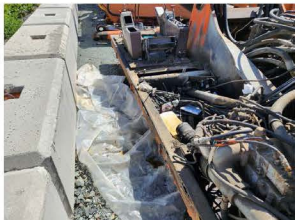
The Environmental & Archeological Monitor works directly with project partners to ensure traditional land use and provide environmental, cultural, and archaeological monitoring services to minimize any impact that specific projects may present. Sitting at the fourth front of this edition is Handlers Equipment. The SFN Environmental & Archeological Monitor completes site inspections of all properties in our community. When Ms. Schwartz inspected Lot 17 and Lot 126, at first glance she noticed several oil stains littering the property along with unsafe storage of batteries, hydrocarbons and equipment leaking hydro carbons.

Site Observations

- Surficial hydrocarbon staining of site soils and asphalt was observed throughout the Handlers Site. Staining was observed in isolation and directly below parked machinery and/or equipment under repair.

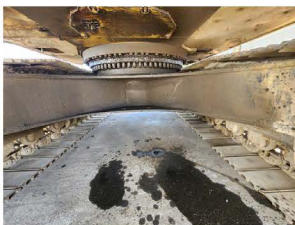
At the northern limit of the asphalt, staining was also observed to extend off the asphalt and onto the gravel adjacent to the property line, thus suggesting hydrocarbons could potentially have migrated offsite.

- Several machines and/or equipment under maintenance were being actively drained of fluids (engine oil, hydraulic fluid, fuel) with improper containment measures and, in some cases, over non-paved areas.



- The catch basin in the center of the maintenance area (Photograph 6) drained into an oil water separator prior to flowing into the 'discharge' pit. The soil within the discharge pit was heavily saturated with hydrocarbon fluids with no obvious mitigation or protective measures.

- Several machine parts (excavator arms and gears) were stored directly on exposed gravel, leaching grease into the underlying exposed soils.



- Batteries were improperly stored outside and exposed to the elements.
- Waste oil containers were left open, and no secondary containment was present.

Recommendations from our Qualified Environmental Professionals

Based on the information available to Arcadis IBI Group recommend the following actions:

- Handlers (site operator) work with their Qualified Professional (QP) to assess and delineate identified impacts to soil at the location. And, assess and delineate potential impacts to all other areas of the Site and in all affected environmental media.
- After sufficiently identifying, assessing, and delineating impacted media, a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) should be developed and enacted.
- All impacted media should be remediated under the direction of the QP and disposed of at an offsite facility that is permitted to accept contaminated materials.

- Following completion of remedial works, a Confirmation of Remediation report should be produced, indicating; the locations and extents of the remediated areas, contaminants of concern (COCs) remediated, soil remediation volumes, confirmatory sample locations and analyses and any subsequent post remediation monitoring (if required).
- Handlers should retain a QP to develop an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the site operations and enact this EMP to prevent future recurrence of events.

Update

This site is nearly finished undergoing remediation. Without Ms. Schwartz's attention to detail, courage, and commitment to not only Sumas First Nation but the environment, she was able to catch all the environmental impacts and work very closely with Sasha Tuttle, Arcadis IBI Group, and Envirochem to ensure all the impacts were remedied. Sumas First Nation Lands Team looks for solutions while encouraging developers to do their part to protect the environment and our ground water. This is not always an easy task as we experienced pushback from a few of those developing in the SFN community but eventually we had breakthrough, and we are working closely with developers to ensure the highest environmental standards are being met.

Fraserway RV 2021 Fire

- By Jennette Pierre



A total loss fire occurred on the current Fraserway RV site in November 2021 which impacted over 400 recreational vehicles. The SFN Lands Department with support from Arcadis (SFN's Qualified Professional) reviewed the environmental site investigation and remediation performed by Shaver Environmental Geoscience on behalf of the insurance company for Fraserway RV. The investigation included the collection of hundreds of soil and groundwater samples and the remediation and appropriate offsite disposal of over 6,000 metric tonnes of contaminated soil. The Lands Department was successful in driving home that the remediation works needed to be completed to meet appropriate standards for residential land use to

allow for unhindered future uses of the property. This was Jennette's first experience with environmental remediation and this project was very large and had diverse environmental impacts which made it a learning experience she will never forget. A huge thank you to Arcadis for all their continued knowledge share and support!

Valley Carriers

- By Sasha Tuttle

On July 28th, 2023, a minor to moderate fire broke out on a mulch pile at Valley Carrier's Site. A Stop Work Order was issued three days later and would remain in place until Valley Carriers could develop and implement a plan to reduce the risk of fires breaking out on their mulch piles again. As a result, Valley Carriers installed a sprinkler system, reduced the height of their mulch piles, and provided their staff with Basic Fire Suppression and Safety Training.



During this time, it was also discovered that BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change had been in contact with Valley Carriers to inform them about their failure to comply with the *Environmental Management Act* by releasing unauthorized waste. The Lands Department realized that Valley Carriers was failing to manage their stormwater, meaning there was a risk of nutrients leaving the site in the form of leachate and potentially impacting groundwater. After working closely with Jennette, April, and staff from IBI Arcadis, a stormwater management plan was developed by a qualified professional (QP) and implemented. Once April and Sasha were able to perform a Site visit, confirming that the stormwater management plan was working as intended, the Stop Work Order was lifted (Nov 6th). Klassen continues to work with the Lands Department as the Site is monitored for other potential environmental risks. In addition, Sasha and Jennette are working with a QP from Arcadis IBI to review the Site's permit, ensuring that when renewed, the Site will be held to the most relevant environmental laws and regulations.

Fraser Valley Steel and Wire

- By Sasha Tuttle

In July 2023, soil contaminated with unacceptable concentrations of arsenic was found on Lot 160, Fraser Valley Steel & Wire's (FVSW) Site. A Stop Work Order was issued to prevent further contamination of the site and remained in place until all contaminated soil left the Site. The Stop Work Order was lifted in August and fill operations continued as usual.

Continued



In November 2023, it was discovered that the Site had deviated from their intended Stormwater Management Plan, violating their permit. Large pools of standing water were discovered on site by SFN's environmental monitor and staff had resorted to pumping turbid water off site and onto the neighboring property. Haul roads on site were unmaintained and the Site's wheel wash was struggling to keep up with traffic, causing significant track out on North Parallel Road. A Stop Work Order was issued immediately until a new Stormwater Management Plan could be developed and implemented. After a site visit with a QEP and documentation of the completed Stormwater Management Plan, the Stop Work Order was lifted in trust that FVSW would continue to maintain the haul roads and make the necessary upgrades to the Site's wheel wash. Fraser Valley Steel and Wire continues to work with the Lands Department as the site is monitored for other potential environmental risks.

Timbro

- By Sasha Tuttle

A Stop Work Order was issued to Timbro in early 2023 as soil contaminated with arsenic and benzene was brought onto the Site. Qualified Environmental Professionals were retained to determine the location and extent of the contamination. SFN's Environmental Monitor was brought on site to witness remediation as the contaminated soil was removed from the site. The Stop Work Order was lifted once remediation was complete. Timbro has since been operational and filling the site in preparation for the Sumas First Nation Multi Plex. We are excited to watch the site approach fill completion; the next phase will be to build.

A few things to note...

- By Jennette Pierre

It has been a challenging year for the Lands Department as Jennette had to complete a departmental restructuring while fulfilling the work as the environmental compliance officer (vacant position for one year). Once the restructuring was finished, she hired an Environmental and Archeological Monitor, April Schwartz (December 2022) and most recently, an Environmental Compliance Officer, Sasha Tuttle (July 2023). It was a lot to undergo in a short period; it was challenging to complete the responsibilities of two positions, facing Stop Work Orders and working with developers and getting FVSW operational while at the same time completing all pressing daily tasks and responsibilities. Still, it was done, and we are moving at immense speed together as a team! *More on this on page 6.*

What we currently see in the community are fill sites. Here, we are bringing the land out of the floodplain. Once the land is brought out of the flood levels, we will be approaching construction, and this is when you will begin to see our community come together. It has been a long road of filling, but there is light at the end of this tunnel.

Throughout the following eight pages, you will continue to learn more about what the Lands Department has been up to. You will also learn about the immense work we have put in this year. Below you will see a few photos taken a Matcon site visit:



Jennette and April completed a Matcon site visit on a very cold and windy day. April continues to monitor each site in the community. She has created great relationships with those on site and Matcon continues to be our star fill site as they are compliant with all environmental standards and laws.



Lands Advisory Committee

- By Jennette Pierre

Sumas First Nation Lands Manager had put a call out for the LAC vacancy and all seats were filled by the Chief and Council in July 2022 with the following:

- Larry Ned Sr.
- John Kelly Sr.
- Melvin Williams
- Audrey Silver
- Sasha Tuttle (rescind)

Sasha Tuttle had since been hired on staff as the Environmental Compliance Officer and had to step down from the position. The Vacant Seat for the LAC has been posted on Friday November 17, 2023. Please submit your application as soon as possible!

The Lands Advisory Committee has met nine (9) times this past year 2022/2023:

- April 19, 2022
- July 22, 2023
- August 8, 2022
- September 20, 2022
- December 13, 2022
- May 5, 2023
- September 19, 2023
- November 7, 2023
- December 5, 2023

The Lands Department

- By Jennette Pierre

The Semá:th Lands Advisory Committee & Tree Law

Over the past two years, the Lands Advisory Committee has been working on the Semá:th Tree Law. The Semá:th Tree Law sets out rules and guidelines for the Lands Department staff to follow which include but are not limited to:

- General Application, Exemptions and Prohibitions
- Heritage Trees
- Tree Cutting Permits
- Replacement Trees
- Tree Protection
- Regulations

Law creation requires a lot of research, several meeting reviews and finally the approval process. The Tree Law has gone through its last LAC reading on November 7, 2023. Sasha Tuttle, the SFN

Environmental Compliance Officer will complete the recommended revisions and it will then go to the Chief and Council for consideration of approving the Tree Law to move on to the ratification process.

The LAC and Lands Department look forward to rolling out this guidance tool in the new year; watch for the notice of ratification and your copy of the Tree Law as it must be ratified by the members of Semá:th and Approved by the Chief and Council prior to taking effect. More information on the Tree Law and ratification to come!



The MOTI Marshall Lonzo Creek Project

-By Jennette Pierre



The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) has approached Sumas First Nation to do work on the Marshall Lonzo Creek Project. This project is to divert a western portion of Marshall Lonzo Creek to make way for an off ramp for the Highway 1 widening project at Sumas Way. Jennette sits at the table alongside Councillor Troy Ganzeveld, Brian Jones, Natasha Youngchief and the fellow GNR Team. Sumas was granted a direct award to the project; the SXDL team will work with Sumas Partners to carry the project through. *When we got to the site just off Sumas Way in Abbotsford our neighboring First Nations where there: Kwantlen First Nation and Matsqui First Nation, this is reflected in the photo to the left.*

Lands Department Restructure & Environmental Investigation of Reserve Lands

- By Jennette Pierre

The Lands Manager completed a departmental restructuring in November 2022. Here she reviewed the projects, tasks, upcoming developments, and resources. When Jennette took on the Lands Manager position in May 2022 only one employee remained: The Lands Officer, Chantal Douglas. Together they had analyzed the department and worked on several projects while working parallel on the restructuring of the department. After outlining what the immediate needs were for the department, presenting to Human Resources and the General Manger for approval, Jennette had to fill the positions: Environmental and Archeological Monitor and the Environmental Compliance Officer. Jennette created a well-rounded, well-educated team and they have taken off sprinting, completing an investigation of the entire community; of where we sit environmentally with each development located on the Sumas reserve lands & the border of Westlake Pipe Factory. They also investigated the water ways in our community: Lonzo Creek and Marshall Creek. They had found several contaminated sites, set out Stop Work Orders for the remediation of each site and observed remediation efforts directly. Sumas First Nation is nearing an environmentally clean slate; there is still work and monitoring to be done and you will read more about this in Sasha Tuttle's, and April Schwartz's section of the Annual Report.

Jennette and Sasha will be reviewing the department structure annually and making recommendations for change as the reserve lands grow.

Additions to Reserve

- By Jennette Pierre

Sumas First Nation has purchased two parcels of land: 80 acres located just off Atkinson Road, and 50 acres located just off Fooks Rd here in Abbotsford. Lands, GNR and Brian Jones have been working with Lands Advisory Board Resource Center on the ATR process. With this we hope the SFN ATR will be included in the ATR Pilot Project. If we are included in the project our ATR process will not be as tedious a process. We will not have to get the City of

Abbotsford's permission for the ATR's, nor will we have to explain what we are going to do on the land after it is added to reserve lands. It will not be the long-drawn-out process where we must explain the infrastructure statuses. There is a lot of work to be done on the ATR but the pilot project gives us hope that it will not take 7 - 20 years for the ATR's to be finalized.

SXDL Development and New Business Committee

- By Jennette Pierre

On November 16, 2023, the Lands Manager joined the SXDL Development and New Business Committee. This is a very exciting committee as here we will complete a Master Plan of the southside lands which includes an interchange, and infrastructure such as sewer, water, etc. Community engagement will begin once we establish tread and progress. This is an exciting opportunity as this is a very diverse, and experienced team.

Note: SXDL will be updating the membership; Jennette is just updating you on what it is she has been subject to throughout The Review - Submitted by the Lands Department.



Land Use Plan (LUP)

- By Jennette Pierre

In January 2022, Jennette received approval for the funding that she, Brian Jones and Jenna Noppen applied for to update the LUP. Since Lands received approval to update the LUP, Jennette and Chantal have worked diligently with Dillion Consulting, the Lands Advisory Committee, and the members of Sumas First Nation on the Land Use Plan. The LUP has given Jennette the opportunity to look at different ways to involve the members. Throughout the process the following engagements took place:

5 Lands Advisory Committee Meetings

- March - July
- May - October
- June

3 Open Houses

- May - June
- January

1 Community Survey

- April - May

4 Newsletters

- April - July
- May - November

The Chief and Council have yet to review the LUP. Membership of Sumas will receive a copy of the final LUP after the Chief and Council complete their review and give permission to the Lands Department to go through the ratification process. In the meantime, Jennette has attached a copy of the Background Report.



Sumas First Nation Development Cost Charge (DCC)

- By Jennette Pierre

Sumas First Nation is working on a Sumas First Nation Development Cost Charge Law to begin recovering costs of infrastructure required to support growth of the community. The General Manager, Public Works & Infrastructure Manager and Lands Manager are responsible for creating the DCC with Urban Systems; they hope to have this completed and implemented in the next fiscal year.

Legacy Funding

- By Jennette Pierre



Jenna Nopen, Brian Jones, and Jennette Pierre applied for the Legacy Funding initiative from LAB and the application for the funding was successful! The purpose of this initiative is to provide funding and assistance to Operational First Nations to identify, review and resolve

outstanding land or environmental legacy issues that arose from the management era of Indian Act administration and that are causing the First Nation to experience difficulties implementing their Land Code and related laws within the boundaries of their Reserve lands.

The LABRC selected Sumas First Nation and granted SFN up to \$300,000, upon completion of milestone deliverables and receipts, for eligible project costs. Sumas First Nation will only be reimbursed for costs and expenses incurred up to the approved project funding amount. Sumas has up to two years to complete the project. The Job Posting for this position went out *November 9, 2023*, more information to come once we hire the successful candidate!

Habitat Restoration - Marshall Lonzo Creek

- By Jennette Pierre & Sasha Tuttle

Jennette and Sasha teamed up with Sumas Park Estates and Fraser Valley Steel and Wire on a Habitat Restoration Project for the Marshall Lonzo Creek. The project will cost approximately \$2 million, and the developers agreed to pay ensuring to restore the creek, create an hour-long pathway along the north and south side of Marshall Lonzo creek on the western side of Sumas Mountain Road. The project includes:

- Native plants, trees, and berries
- A paved pathway
- Solar lighting
- Information Boards
- Barn Swallow Structures
- Chain Link Fence etc.

The plant species chosen for this project were based on research performed by Sasha Tuttle on plants that are both native to the region and hold cultural significance to Sumas First Nation. Sasha reviewed literature on culturally important plants and spoke with Elders at an Elder's lunch for their insight on the draft list of species.

The objective of this project is to restore the natural groundcover and sub-canopy species with native trees species to achieve a high density. Invasive plants that dominate the area will be eradicated and plant diversity will be significantly increased; a strategy that aims to support greater wildlife diversity and provide a net improvement for fish habitat. In addition to this, the enhanced riparian area will act as a buffer to mitigate potential adverse effects that may occur from stormwater runoff or other impacts from adjacent developments.

A vegetation survival rate of 100% during any year of the monitoring program is to be achieved. Should survival fall below 100% during any year of the monitoring program, the Proponent shall ensure the immediate replacement of plantings. Plantings within the SPEA will be monitored for a period of 5 years. A Qualified Environmental Practitioner (QEP) will be responsible for the 5-year monitoring of the SPEA plantings and provide SFN with written confirmation upon completion of the plantings so the first-year monitoring can commence. Monitoring is to include annual inspection reports.

This is going to be a place where you can enjoy family time while getting exercise. Jennette began talking to developers in November of 2022. She referenced the Sto:lo Resources Archeology study and began bringing the project to life with Sasha as each month progressed. Once the plans are finalized, the report will be shared with the membership of Sumas. This is a very exciting project that Jennette and Sasha are extremely proud to be a part of!

Japanese Knotweed Treatment & Monitoring

- By Sasha Tuttle

Japanese knotweed, a very destructive invasive plant species, continues to be observed on the Reserve with patches being recorded near the Marshall Lonzo Creek, several of member's private properties and on a few industrial Sites. Sasha and April continue to document and organize the treatment of knotweed on reserve. Lands is urging members with knotweed on their property or members who would like to report a patch of knotweed to contact the Lands Department right away. The Lands Department continues to urge members NOT to cut or trim knotweed found on their property as the plant can spread through fallen leaves and fragments, thereby requiring professional treatment to prevent further spread.



Wills and Estates

- By Chantal Douglas

This year Sumas received \$50,000 from ISC to help members create a will or update their existing will. Chantal searched for lawyers that had knowledge on how to do Wills for people living on-reserve, you would be surprised how difficult it was to find a company on-reserve will writing experience. Woodward & Company was recommended as they are familiar with on-reserve laws, working with Land Code etc. Sumas has worked with Murray Browne (a lawyer at Woodward) since the creation of Land Code. Chantal and one of the lawyers had worked together to set up meetings with members, they

started off with elders, then moved to those who hold allotment/Certificate of Possessions (C.P.). There were available time slots so they opened up the Wills & Estates writing workshop up to all members. The lawyers from Woodward came to SFN at the end of May, they met with members for two days updating and/or creating wills. There were 17 wills created in those two days; they are still working on finalizing the first drafts. Once they are done, they will contact the members to set up meetings to go over and sign their wills. Chantal will be working with them to set up a date and have them schedule time for other members to complete their wills. With our budget we can complete up to 15 more wills. Chantal will send out another announcement for round 2 of will writing once a date with Woodward is finalized.

Conferences attended with LABRC

- By Chantal Douglas

Throughout the year there have been several meetings and conferences held by the Lands Advisory Board Resource Centre (LABRC). Chantal attended the Links to Learning Conference in December 2022 at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver. At this conference she attended several workshops on various topics; here she was able to connect with people from LABRC and other Indigenous communities. LABRC hosts regional meetings every 3 months, this year they were held in Leq'amel, S.A.Y and Cheam First Nation. At these meetings we connect with other Nations from across BC. Here Nations showcase special projects they have been working on and LABRC presents topics that Nations asked to learn more about. The Lands Advisory Board held their AGM at S.A.Y. on September 26 & 27 this was a two-day event that Jennette & Chantal were able to attend.

In June of this year Chantal traveled to Quebec with Councillor Troy Ganzeveld for The Enforcement Conference. It was information packed conference where they were able to learn how other Indigenous communities enforce their laws and policies. The presenters consisted of those who operate under land code, and communities that are not yet operational. They were there for four days and learnt a lot from the presenters, Keynote speakers and LABRC. Occasionally LABRC will have training opportunities for employees to help improve their knowledge of various skills and tools. Chantal went to one of the workshops in Victoria to expand her knowledge about the First Nations Land Registry (FNLRS). She was there for three days and learnt various ways of registering and searching for documents. LABRC has many opportunities and ways to connect with other Nations, they are always willing to help with any questions we have, and we are grateful for their generous knowledge share.

Invoicing

- By Chantal Douglas



Throughout the year Sumas has various sites bringing in fill to raise the land out of the flood plain. This year Lots 25, 82, and 160 are bringing in fill under their fill permit; these lots keep count of how many trucks come in each day and what kind of load they are carrying. By the 5th of the following month, they will email their counts and the destination the trucks came from to Chantal, and she will draw up an invoice and ensure they are paid by the developers.

Chantal also invoices developers for the soil testing and remediations that take place on their sites.



Business Permits

- By Chantal Douglas

Each year Chantal reaches out to all the businesses that are located on Sumas First Nation to have them either renew or apply for a business permit; these Permits will be effective from January 1st to December 31st. The reminders for renewal go out at the end of November and mid-December with an application for them to complete if it is a renewal an invoice is also sent at that time. There are currently 31 businesses residing on Sumas Lands, and 2 of them are run by members of our community. Out of the 31 businesses 17 of them are in Kilgard Business Park while the rest are all throughout the community.

First Nation Lands Registry

- By Chantal Douglas

For the past two years Chantal has overseen the First Nation Lands Registry for our community. In May of this year, she Transferred 8 lots from one member to another as per the Landowners request. She recently registered a Modification of Mortgage for Sumas Park Estates which included 30 different lots and registrations. She also registers all leases, sub-leases, Allotments, BCRs, and permits. Chantal will pull Parcel Abstract Reports or any documents that have been registered in the First Nation Lands Registry so we can ensure we are abiding by all historical and present legal documents.



CP's/ Allotments

- By Chantal Douglas

Chantal noticed that a few of files had missing documents or had documents with multiple errors in the files that we inherited from previous employees. All errors and/or missing documents have been sorted through with a fine-tooth comb. Lands met with Chief and Council, informed them of the historical errors; here the Council signed documents that were revised and/or reissued.

She began registering allotments for those who have all the documents pertaining to their files. If your file is in complete or has an error she will set up a meeting with you so you can sign the documents that affect your allotment. Rest assured we are getting to the bottom of all the historical issues. It has been taking some time, but we are nearing completion.

Development Applications

- By Jennette Pierre

Jennette has received multiple development applications this year. She has worked closely with five new developers, getting them through the development processes. Since the beginning of this fiscal year, three developers left the table, all for different reasons.

FVSW has stood the test of time; they are Jennette's first development that has gone through the beginning phases of the development processes, the tedious fill application process, and the subleasing processes; they are now filling the site. These are time-consuming, but Sumas has excellent procedures and laws that guide us through each step; we have created great relationships as we continue pressing through each step one by one. They continue being monitored by both April and Sasha and have run into a few hiccups along the way. It has been an immense year of learning for all of us involved; with learning comes success.

Land Surveying Capacity Development Program

- By Jennette Pierre SFN



The Lands Department Staff completed The Surveyor General Branch's Land Surveying Capacity Development Program in April 2023. They were honoured with a plaque from the Surveyor General Branch on May 5, 2023. The one-year Land Surveying Capacity Development Program consisted of 12 modules. They met once a month for a year; they learned how to navigate the Government of Canada's Surveyor Project Search website, use surveying

equipment, identify, and find survey pins, and much more. They created ever-lasting relationships with The Surveyor General Branch employees, with whom they stay connected as they continue teaching the SFN Lands Team as the year progresses.



Jennette receiving the plaque from the Surveyor General

Master of Business Administration

- By Jennette Pierre

Sumas First Nation supported Jennette Pierre throughout her Educational Journey. It was a long haul working full time and completing her master's degree in parallel. Jennette completed the MBA program while working on all the projects showcased in The Review - Submitted by the Lands Department. It is a tremendous victory!



Jennette wants to thank Sumas First Nation for the support she received throughout the past two years. As she reflects on this year's accomplishments, she feels immense pride that she had the strength to persevere through the final year of her program while completing all the work that this year threw at her. Jennette could never have imagined that she would be able to get through this massive workload and still have sanity at the end of it all.



Thank you for reading the Lands Department updates. We will be adding to it as the months progress. We wish you a peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Sumas First Nation Lands Team



FINANCE DEPARTMENT WELL WISHES



NEWS CENTRAL



Chief of the Sumas First Nation Dalton Silver | On The Coast with Gloria...

Chief of the Sumas First Nation Dalton Silver speaks with host Gloria Macarenko about the recovery effort two years after the Fraser Valley floods, and...

Chief Dalton Silver reflects on progress made two years after the Atmospheric River Event, discussing our ongoing commitment to ensuring public safety and fostering food security for our community and neighbors. Tune in to hear our journey on CBC's 'On the Coast!

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-46-on-the-coast/clip/16023430-chief-sumas-first-nation-dalton-silver>

First Nations groups oppose new Trans ...
Members of a British Columbian Indigenous community a...



<https://globalnews.ca/video/rd/80650fe8-8b42-11ee-831f-0242ac110005/?jwsourc=cl>

Regrettably, during the drilling process in close proximity to a salmon-bearing stream, an adverse impact was observed. As a consequence of this activity, we have confirmed the loss of 54 fish.

Chief Dalton Silver has provided insights regarding this unfortunate incident in an interview with Global News.

HALQ'EMÉYLEM PHRASE OF THE MONTH

Máqa - Snow (on the ground)
Líte tem xeytl' - It is winter time