



# THE SUMAS CURRENT



**LATEST NEWS**

## EXCITING NEWS!

Sumas First Nation proudly announces the newest addition to our community resources—a brand-new bus! This fantastic bus comes equipped with 24

comfortable seats, all fitted with secure seat belts. Its versatility caters to the needs of both adults and children.

For a glimpse of this wonderful addition, check out these photos that showcase the bus.

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Let's celebrate this remarkable achievement together and look forward to the enhanced opportunities and convenience it brings to our community. Stay tuned for more updates and get ready to embark on new journeys with us aboard this fantastic bus! ✨

**OFFICE CLOSURE**

**February 19, 2024  
Family Day**





**FEB**  
**07**  
**2024**



We want to hear from you!

Gifts

SEMÁ:TH COMMUNITY HALL  
5:30PM TO 8PM



Dinner

**COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
SESSION**  
*Species at Risk in  
the Semá:th  
Territory*





# THE BUSY BEAR CLUB PRESCHOOL UPDATES



## ÉY SWÁYEL

## Important Dates

**Temtl'i:q'es (Time when ice forms)**

February has arrived!

Thursday, February 8th – Afterschool Club Cancelled  
Friday, February 9th – Daycare closed. Staff at conference.  
Monday, February 19th – Family Day. Daycare closed.

**Monday, February 5th - Elders Tea from 11am – 12pm.**

We have held an Elders tea for several years at Busy Bear. It is always special to honor the Elders by enjoying some baked goods prepared and served by the children, give gifts, and hear stories from the Elders.

**Teaching of the month is Love : Eagle, Sp'óqés**

In February we will be busy celebrating Valentine's Day! Our children will enjoy baking heart cookies and sharing Valentine cards.

End of January, we held an emergency preparedness workshop on Tuesday, January 30th at the community hall for all our Busy Bear Club Preschool families. We shared a delicious dinner prepared by Gail Ned. Thank you, Gail! After dinner, we held our workshop facilitated by our SFN Emergency Department team. Some of the topics covered were:

- What to do at school if an emergency happens
- How to use 911
- Go through some emergency scenarios
- Teach about some natural hazards and what to do
- How to develop a Family Emergency Plan and escape plan for home

We were also able to give each family an emergency preparedness backpack filled with valuable items needed in the event of an emergency.



Our Halq'emeylem classes are continuing again this year with Roxanne Dool. She is amazing with the children, and they love her. The children and staff are picking up the language and doing great. Thanks so much to Roxanne for all your hard work!



We had some maintenance work done at our preschool. The decks were fixed, the preschool was painted, and the floors were buffed.

We also purchased some new cultural carpets and a much-needed storage bin!

Habitat is in process of installing new playground equipment in our daycare playground. They started in January and are working on a mini longhouse, play canoe, and sandbox border.



**All programs will be receiving the in – house February newsletter. Also check your Lillio App (formerly HiMama) for messages and updates.**

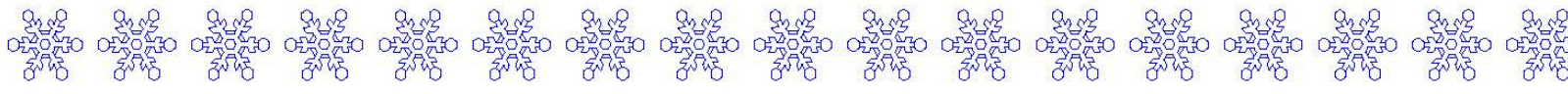
Ts'ithóme tsel – thank you.

From all the staff at Busy Bear Club Preschool

**Color of the month:  
Tskwinkwemel (Pink)**







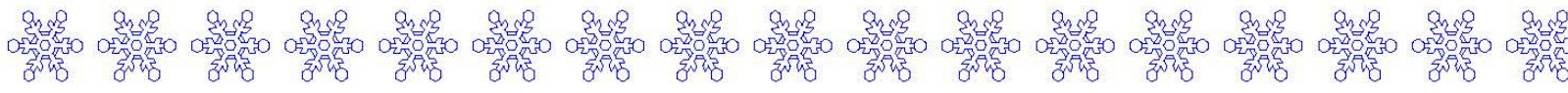
## Severe Weather Closures



- In case of snow/severe weather, Busy Bear Preschool follows School District 34's closures.
- If School District 34 is closed due to weather, Busy Bear Club Preschool will be closed as well.
- You can check for closures on School District 34's website, [www.sd34.bc.ca](http://www.sd34.bc.ca)  
You can also check Star 98.3 FM, Country 107.1 FM, NEWS 1130 AM, CKNW 980 AM and CBC Radio 690 AM (91.7 FM).

In addition, we will still be going outside to play rain or shine. So please dress your child appropriately for the weather. We recommend parents send along toques/hats, gloves/mittens, scarves or any other clothing that will help keep your child warm and comfortable outside as well as boots!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please come and talk to us.





# WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

## Terri Johnston



Hello everyone! My name is Terri Johnston, and I am thrilled to join the Semá:th family! As the newly appointed Executive Assistant with the Governance and Natural Resources department, I eagerly anticipate contributing to our team's achievements and building connections with each of you.

My professional journey has guided me to Semá:th, and I am enthusiastic about the prospects that lie ahead. With a keen interest in organization and efficiency, I have gained valuable experience in various administrative roles.

Chilliwack has been my home since 1992, where I've raised four wonderful children. Outside of work, you'll find me immersed in my hobbies. Karaoke holds a special place in my heart, providing a means to unwind and share a few laughs. Additionally, I channel my creativity into painting, drawing inspiration from the vibrant world around us. With three dogs and two cats, each cherished for their unique personalities, my home is always lively. I am looking forward to working with and getting to know each of you and celebrating our combined successes together. Thank you for making me feel so very welcomed.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Healing Homes Program Manager](#)

[Job Description](#)

[Project Manager](#)

[Job Description](#)

[Healing Homes Program Coordinator](#)

[Job Description](#)

[Home Maker](#)

[Job Description](#)

[Legacy Project Engagement and Communications Assistant](#)

[Job Description](#)

[Accounting Admin](#)

[Job Description](#)





# Pink Shirt Day

## February 28, 2024



Pink Shirt Day, observed on the last Wednesday of February, has evolved into a global movement promoting kindness and standing up against bullying. In 2024, the significance of fostering empathy and respect resonates more than ever.

Originating in 2007, Pink Shirt Day emerged when students David Shepherd and Travis Price took a stand against bullying after witnessing a peer being harassed for wearing a pink shirt. This small act of solidarity sparked an international movement, symbolizing unity and the rejection of bullying.

Wearing pink shirts on this day is more than a fashion statement; it's a symbol of empathy and support for those affected by bullying. The campaign extends beyond schools, addressing bullying in workplaces, online spaces, and society at large. It prompts vital conversations about the impact of bullying, encouraging individuals to reflect on their actions and contribute to building a compassionate world.



Pink Shirt Day serves as a catalyst for education and activities. Schools, workplaces, and communities organize events, workshops, and awareness campaigns to educate participants about different forms of bullying, promote empathy, and equip individuals with conflict resolution tools.

In the digital age, combating cyberbullying is a crucial focus of Pink Shirt Day. The 2024 campaign harnesses the power of online platforms to encourage positive online behavior and combat cyberbullying, recognizing the significant role that social media plays in shaping our interactions.

As we celebrate Pink Shirt Day in 2024, let us remember that it is more than a one-day event; it is a call to action. By wearing pink shirts, engaging in conversations, and participating in educational activities, we contribute to an ongoing effort to eradicate bullying and create a world where every individual feels safe, valued, and free from the detrimental effects of harassment.

Together, we can foster a culture of kindness that extends far beyond this day, creating a brighter and more compassionate future for all.



# SASET TRAINING



## Get Trained **GET PAID!**

Complete the no-cost online driver training program to earn your digital completion certificate **PLUS** an attractive Thank You honorarium!



**ASK US HOW!**

Contact [info@saset.ca](mailto:info@saset.ca)







# STO:LO ABORIGINAL SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**Targeted Wage Subsidy & Student Employment Placement**

**April 1, 2024—March 31, 2025**

**FOR Targeted Wage Subsidy (TWS)**

**Proposals can start April 1, 2024**

**for a term of up to 52 weeks, ending March 31, 2025**

**SASET will accept proposals on a continual basis through the 2024-2025 year**

**Please have them clearly marked as follows:**

**Sto:lo Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training  
Bldg 5A – 7201 Vedder Road  
Chilliwack, BC V2R 4G5**

**RE: 2024—2025 PROPOSAL**

**Targeted Wage Subsidy (TWS) application deadline is January 19, 2024**

**Student Employment Placement (SEP) application deadline is January 26, 2024**

**Proposals will be accepted via mail, e-mail, courier or hand delivered.**

**Application forms attached.**

**Be sure to include name and contact information of person responsible for proposal.**

**If you have any questions please contact a SASET Program Officer:  
By phone at 604-858-3691 or toll free 1-888-845-4455 or Email: [info@saset.ca](mailto:info@saset.ca)**

**All program information and forms are available on SASET website**

**Visit our website at: [www.saset.ca](http://www.saset.ca)**





# SASET TRAINING Canada

January 22 - February 1, 2024

## EMPLOYMENT PREP TRAINING

We are presently accepting applications for this Indigenous training opportunity. There are a limited number of seats, so don't delay in scheduling an appointment with your Employment Counsellor!

### Certificates Offered:

- First Aid Level 1
- WHMIS
- Skid Steer
- Aerial Lifts
- Forklift
- Food Safe
- Fall Protection
- And more!



Training will take place at  
Sto:lo Nation  
Building 5B, 7201 Vedder  
Rd Chilliwack  
Monday to Friday  
8:30 AM TO 3:30 PM



Lunch,  
Transportation  
Supports and  
Safety Gear  
Provided!

SASET—Chilliwack Office  
5B-7201 Vedder Road  
Chilliwack, BC  
Phone: 604-858-3691

SASET— Sts'ailes Office  
4690 Salish Way  
Agassiz, BC  
Phone: 604-796-5536

SASET—Seabird Office  
2895 Chowat Road  
Agassiz, BC  
Phone: 604-796-6865





SASET TRAINING

# First Aid Level 3 Training!

**January 29 - February 9, 2024**

Are you an Indigenous individual who:

- Is un- or under employed
- Resides in SASET's catchment area
- Is willing to commit to a 2 week full-time certificate training program

If so... we are presently accepting applications for this training opportunity. There are a limited number of seats, so don't delay in scheduling an appointment with your Employment Counsellor!

Training will take place on-site at Sto:lo Nation  
Building 5B, 7201 Vedder Rd  
Chilliwack, BC

Monday to Friday  
8:30 AM TO 3:30 PM



## TO APPLY PLEASE CONTACT SASET

SASET—Chilliwack Office  
5B-7201 Vedder Road  
Chilliwack, BC  
Phone: 604-858-3691

SASET— Sts'ailes Office  
4690 Salish Way  
Agassiz, BC  
Phone: 604-796-5536

SASET—Seabird Office  
2895 Chowat Road  
Agassiz, BC  
Phone: 604-796-6865



# SASET TRAINING

## Chainsaw Safety Training Program

March 5 & 6, 2024



Are you an Indigenous individual who:

- Is un- or under employed
- Resides in SASET's catchment area
- Is willing to commit to a 2-day training program

**If so... we are presently accepting applications for this training opportunity. There are a limited number of seats, so don't delay in scheduling an appointment with your Employment Counsellor!**



TO APPLY PLEASE CONTACT SASET:

[www.saset.ca](http://www.saset.ca)

SASET - Chilliwack Office  
5B-7201 Vedder Road  
Chilliwack, BC  
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2895 Chowat Road  
Agassiz, BC  
Phone: 604-796-6865



Sto:Lo Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training and WorkBC Chilliwack, is pleased to announce....

APPLICATION

Education	Work	Employment	Available Dates	1
Address	Phone	City	1	1
Requested				
Grade Or General Education (GED) Test Passed?	Yes	No		
High School, Military (Most recent End)		Credits Earned		
Classes Attended		Quantity or Semester		

# JOB & CAREER FAIR

Due to popular demand date & location changed!

Coast Chilliwack Hotel  
45920 First Ave, Chilliwack, BC

**MARCH 1ST, 2024**

**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

MC'd by DJ SupaSweet

WorkBC Centre



Canada



This program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

For more information, please contact us at 604-858-3691  
or email [info@saset.ca](mailto:info@saset.ca)

[www.saset.ca](http://www.saset.ca)





# Peló:qes (Torch Season)

## January 23 - February 20

*This article is written based on the information from the Coqualeetza Cultural Education Centre and Brent Galloway, 1977*

Within the heart of Sumas First Nation, the lunar year unfolds gracefully across the Fraser Valley, a sacred dance choreographed by the changing seasons and the moon's gentle rhythms. Long before the arrival of newcomers, our ancestors wove a profound connection with the land, attributing names to months and seasons in the rich tapestry of the Upper Stó:lō dialects of the Halq'emeylem Language.

The Syilolem, our sacred year, embarks on its journey around October, aligning with the earth's natural pulse. Temhilalxw, the fall, whispers of transitions as nature prepares for winter. Temxeytl', the cold time, settles in as winter unfolds, followed by temqw'iles, the season for things to come up, echoing the rebirth of spring. Temkw'okw'es, the hot time, symbolizes the warmth of summer, a season of abundance and growth.

In harmony with the lunar cycle, each month, or moon, spans about 29 days. Our people linked each moon to the first sliver that graced the sky after the "burnt out moon." Our connection to nature extended to the meticulous tracking of days and months, with knot-tying and stick-planting individuals in Yale, B.C. Time's passage was marked not by rigid calculations but by the events described in the month names, underscoring the importance of natural phenomena.

Peló:qes, the fourth month, making its presence felt around January, holds a unique significance for us. Translated as "torch season," Peló:qes is the time when torches, crafted from dried sockeye salmon heads, are fashioned for our nocturnal fishing expeditions. The peló:qel torches cast a soft glow, lighting up the waters as our fishermen spear fish from canoes. The clear January waters reflect the light, aiding in the age-old hunt for fish that sustains our people. While the traditional torches made from salmon heads were once intrinsic to this season, the modern era has seen the adoption of pitch torches and lanterns for practicality. Nevertheless, the essence of Peló:qes, with its connection to fishing and the natural world, remains a vital part of our Sumas First Nation heritage.

In navigating the contemporary world, it is our duty to honor and share these cultural treasures, preserving the Sumas First Nation lunar calendar and the unique traditions woven into Peló:qes. Through this, we not only mark the passage of time but celebrate the enduring spirit of our people intricately entwined with the cyclical rhythms of nature. Peló:qes is not just a season; it's a living tradition that connects us to our ancestors and the timeless dance of the moon and seasons.

**Learn more about Peló:qes**



**CLICK HERE**

<https://indigenous.abbyschools.ca/sites/default/files/1.%20%20Pel%C3%B3qes.pdf>