



Meqó:s

January Newsletter

Meqó:s, December 25 - January 22, means fallen snow season; máqa is fallen snow and es means a periodic cycle of time.

We hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful Christmas and New Year! We're excited to start 2025 with some exciting events and initiatives. For questions or concerns regarding events or information in this newsletter, please contact: communications@sumasfirstnation.com.

Event Highlights

Date	Topic(s)
Jan 6	Youth Halq'eméylem Language Class
Jan 7	Free Legal Clinic (Chilliwack Indigenous Justice Centre)
Jan 14	"Come and Sing with Me!" Dinner & Singing Classes
Jan 15	Adult Halq'eméylem Language Class
Jan 15	Lunch with Lyndy (Open to all community members)

More events are coming soon... stay tuned!

In This Issue

Page(s)	Topic(s)
2-5	Grants, Funding, & Awards
6-14	Community Events & Programs
15-23	Sumas Department Updates
24-29	Community Notices & On-Reserve Programs
30-35	Social Assistance, Financial Aid, & Disability
36-49	Education & Job Opportunities

Grants, Funding, & Awards

2-5

Age-Friendly Communities Grant Award

Sumas First Nation has been awarded the Age-Friendly Communities Grant (via BC Healthy Communities, or BCHC) that will be used to plan, implement, and evaluate age-friendly community initiatives. This is an exciting opportunity to transform our community programs and spaces into a more inclusive and age-friendly environment

Here's how it works:

Phase I: Project start up which will include communication and coordination with our elderly and seniors, BCHC and other internal/external stakeholders.

Phase II: Hold educational workshops for our elderly/seniors on what an Age Friendly Community is, assessment needs and what it means to apply an Equity Lens in planning/decision making. An assessment Working Group is formed.

Phase III: The Working Group hosts education workshops with SFN Department Directors/Managers/Staff to engage them in learning and preparation for the assessment process.

**\$25**
thousand

*Age-Friendly Communities Grant
(BC Healthy Communities)
Awarded to Sumas First Nation for
the evaluation and
implementation of age-friendly
community initiatives.*

Age-Friendly Communities Grant Award

Phase IV: Community-wide education workshops are held to encourage knowledge sharing between seniors and younger generations to enhance awareness of age-friendly issues and topics in the community - present and future.

Phase V: Working Group holds assessment workshops/knowledge sharing sessions with SFN Departments. Data is compiled on the 41 PHAC indicators. Gap analysis performed. Working Group drafts Action Plan.

Phase VI: Project results and Action Plan are tabled to Council. A Declaration or BCR is achieved to implement Action Plan.

We are excited to start 2025 with this incredible funding to provide a more age-friendly environment within our community!

**\$25**
thousand

*Age-Friendly Communities Grant
(BC Healthy Communities)
Awarded to Sumas First Nation
for the evaluation and
implementation of age-friendly
community initiatives.*

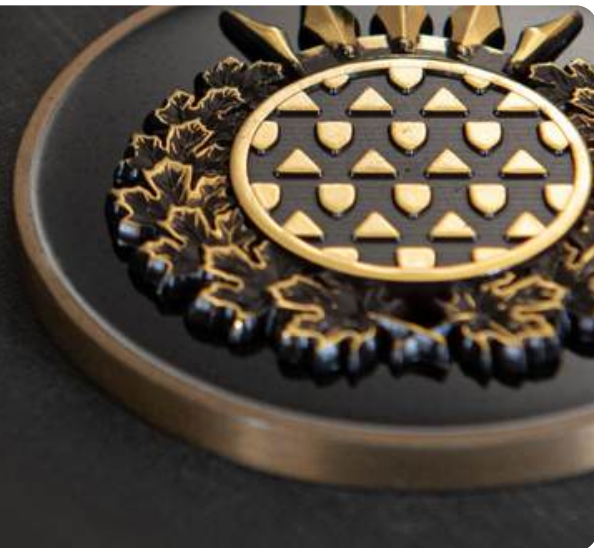
FPT Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award awarded to Jenna Noppen

Semá:th (Sumas) First Nation is delighted to announce that Jenna Noppen, our Disaster Recovery Manager, has been officially awarded the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award (EMESA). This award is presented on behalf of the FPT Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management (SOREM). Jenna will travel to Ottawa in February to accept this award.

This award not only acknowledges Jenna's dedication and excellence in emergency management but also highlights the importance of Indigenous voices in safeguarding their communities.

Thank you, Jenna, for your commitment to Sumas First Nation - we are grateful for the excellent work you do and your dedication to this community.

**Emergency
Management
Exemplary
Service Award**



Community Events & Programs

Pages 6-14

Ey kwesé e'mi

WELCOME - IT IS GOOD THAT YOU ARE HERE b.wyse

Adult Halq'eméylem Language Class

Every Wednesday

Starts Jan 15, 2025

Health Boardroom

6:00-7:00 pm

Taught by: Aiden Silver

Adult Language Class

Free Class

Halq'eméylem Classes with Aiden Silver are back!

Learn beginner-level traditional phrases and words in **Halq'eméylem**, the language of the Semá:th people. Aiden Silver is a Semá:th band member and will be leading these classes.

This is a FREE language class, made possible and offered on-reserve through our Healing Homes Department. Special thanks to Dionne Shaw & Lyndy Silver with Healing Homes, and to Aiden Shaw for his instruction!



Classes are geared towards adult learners



Sumas First Nation
Healing Homes
Department

How to Register:

Please email Dionne Shaw to register: dionne.shaw@sumasfirstnation.com



Youth Halq'eméylem Language Class

Monday-Thursday

Starts Jan 06, 2025

SFN Youth Portable

3:30-4:30 pm

Taught by: Jonny Shaw

Youth Language Class

Free Class

Learn Halq'eméylem through song, dance, & movement

Have fun learning **Halq'eméylem** through Total Physical Response (TPR). TPR is a way to learn language through movement; through TRP you will learn commands, sentences, and even short stories.

Song and dance are fun and effective ways to remember the language and create more opportunity for retention.

We will also be sharing traditional songs, dances, history, and protocols. This class is geared towards youth ages 0-15 but all ages are welcome to participate.



Sumas First Nation
Healing Homes
Department

How to Register:

Please email Dionne Shaw to register: dionne.shaw@sumasfirstnation.com



Semá:th
Sumas First Nation

Come and Sing with Me!

Every Tuesday

Starts Jan 14, 2025

Skwah Band Hall

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Enjoy songs and dinner with community members every week!

Join us every Tuesday at the Skwah Band Hall for a fun singing class that includes dinner. Starts January 14 and runs every Tuesday until February 25. **All ages welcome!**

Location: Skwah Band Hall (619 Lower Landing Rd, Chilliwack, BC V2P 8A8)



All ages welcome!



Sumas First Nation
**Healing Homes
Department**

How to Register:

Please email Dionne Shaw to register: dionne.shaw@sumasfirstnation.com

LUNCH with LYNDY

Open to all those in need of a hot meal



About Our Program

At the Soup Kitchen, our mission is to provide nourishing meals and support to those in need. We are dedicated to serving homeless individuals and those struggling with addiction, or those that are simply in need of a hot meal. Our aim is to offer not just food, but also a caring & supportive environment for all those in need.



Sumas First Nation
Healing Homes
Department

**Every Tuesday &
Wednesday**

12:30 - 2:30 pm

**Health Building
Boardroom**

What we offer:

- ▶ **Hot Meals:** Freshly prepared meals served every Wednesday.
- ▶ **Support Services:** Access to resources and information to help individuals on their path to recovery.
- ▶ **Safe Space:** A welcoming and non-judgmental environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.



Location

Sumas First Nation Health Building Boardroom (2788 Sumas Mountain Rd, Abbotsford, BC V3G2J2)



How You Can Help

Spread the word! Help us reach those who need our services. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. Everyone deserves a helping hand and a warm meal

**For more information
please contact:**

Lyndy Silver
lyndy.silver@sumasfirstnation.com

Lands Notice: Garbage Collection System



Dear Community Members,

We hope this message finds you well. As of December 19, 2024, our community has implemented a new garbage disposal system. To ensure a smooth and efficient process, we kindly ask that all disposal items be placed **inside the bins**. Unfortunately, materials left outside the bins, whether in bags or on top, **cannot** be collected.

To assist with the automated pickup system, please place your bins **near the road curb by 7:00 AM**, ensuring there is a minimum of **1 foot of space** between each bin. This small adjustment will allow the automated trucks to collect the bins with ease.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and encourage you to take a moment to familiarize yourself with the new system. Your attention to these details helps keep our community clean and organized.

Garbage Collection (Black Bin)

1. **Keep Lids Closed:** Please ensure that the lids of all garbage bins are closed to prevent rainwater from filling them.
2. **Garbage Placement:** All garbage must be placed inside the bins, not on the lid.
3. **Curbside Pickup Time:** Please have your garbage bins at the roadside curb every Thursday by 7:00 AM.

Recycle Collection (Blue top bin)

1. **Keep Lids Closed:** Please make sure that the lids of all recycling bins are closed to prevent rainwater from accumulating inside.
2. **Recycling Placement:** All recyclables must be placed inside the bins, not on the lid.
3. **Curbside Pickup Time:** Please have your recycle bins at the roadside curb every Thursday by 7:00 AM.

Organics Collection (Green bin)

1. **Keep Lids Closed:** Keep the lids of all organic's bins closed to avoid rainwater collection.
2. **Organics Placement:** Please place all organics inside the bins, not on the lid.
3. **Curbside Pickup Time:** Please have your Organics bins at the roadside curb every Thursday by 7:00 AM.
4. **Acceptable Materials:** Only organic materials are accepted. No plastic or garbage. The only acceptable organic bags are the **paper ones with a sucrose liner** (available at Canadian Tire, Home Depot, etc. Please see the attached picture for reference).
5. **Contaminated Organics:** If non-organic items are found in your organic's bins, it will be yellow tagged and will not be collected. The organic bin will then be collected next Thursday, once the banned items have been removed.

Guidance on Disposal of Game, Meat, Bones, and Fish Viscera (guts)

We ask for your cooperation in following proper disposal practices for organic materials.

1. **Green Organic Bin:** For small quantities of kitchen waste that may include meat and bones, may be placed in the organic green bins.
2. **Black Garbage Bin:** Game meat, bones, and fish viscera(guts) should be securely double-bagged and placed in the black garbage bins.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep our community clean and maintaining an efficient waste management system.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact:

Sasha Tuttle: sasha.tuttle@sumasfirstnation.com

Harmeet Rai: Harmeet.Rai@sumasfirstnation.com



Acceptable Organic Bags

TIME TO BE WASTE WISE!

The Fraser Valley Regional District has adopted a waste sorting bylaw.

It applies to all owners or occupiers of residential, commercial, industrial and institutional properties in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope, Agassiz, Mission and all FVRD Electoral Areas.

To comply, recyclable and compostable material must be sorted out of the garbage. This means you will need different bins for recycling, compost, and garbage. These three types of material must be sorted, kept separate, and delivered to authorized facilities either by you or by a private hauler.

Many helpful resources are available at BeWasteWise.com or call 1-800-667-4321 if you have questions.

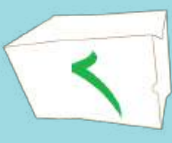
WHAT BAGS CAN I USE?



Only garbage destined for the landfill can be bagged in plastic prior to disposal.



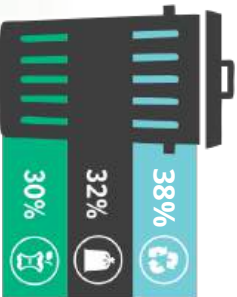
Bags will not be accepted with recyclables



Use only paper bags to line your kitchen catcher and/or compost bin. Plastic bags, even those labelled compostable or biodegradable, are not accepted with compostables.

Did you know...

Almost 2/3 of garbage currently sent to landfills in our region can be recycled or composted.



Start today. Sort it out!

TO LEARN MORE

Visit BeWasteWise.com or Call the Recycling Council of BC at 1-800-667-4321.



SORTING OUR WASTE



BEWASTEWISE.COM

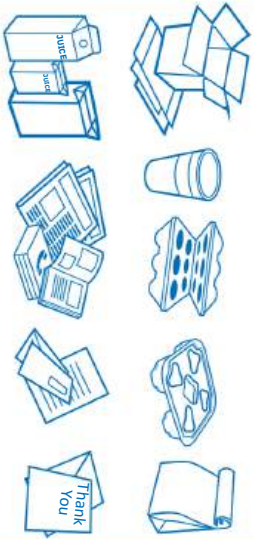
RECYCLING

PLASTIC PRODUCTS



- ✓ Milk Jugs
- ✓ Clamshell Packaging
- ✓ Food Tubs & Lids
- ✓ Plastic Beverage Containers

PAPER PRODUCTS



- ✓ Boxboard
- ✓ Cardboard
- ✓ Paper Cups
- ✓ Paper Egg Cartons
- ✓ Paper Food Bags
- ✓ Tetra Pak® Containers
- ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Phone Books
- ✓ Greeting Cards
- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Flyers
- ✓ Envelopes
- ✓ Loose Leaf Paper

METAL CONTAINERS



- ✓ Aerosol Spray Cans
- ✓ Aluminum Cans
- ✓ Tin Cans & Lids
- ✓ Aluminum Foils & Trays
- ✓ Aluminum Cans & Lids

COMPOST

FOOD WASTE



- ✓ Fruits & Vegetables
- ✓ Dairy Products
- ✓ Eggs & Egg Shells
- ✓ Pasta & Grains
- ✓ Baked Goods
- ✓ Chips & Crackers
- ✓ Meat, Poultry & Bones
- ✓ Fish & Seafood
- ✓ Plate Scrapings
- ✓ Salad & Dressing
- ✓ Tea Bags & Tags
- ✓ Coffee Grounds & Filters

FOOD-SOILED PAPER & WOODEN UTENSILS



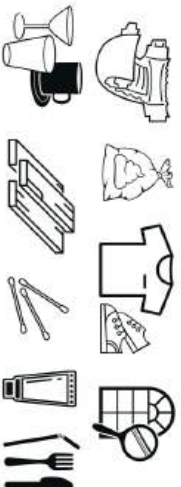
- ✓ Paper Plates
- ✓ Paper Towels
- ✓ Napkins & Tissue Paper
- ✓ Paper Takeout Containers
- ✓ Wooden Chop Sticks
- ✓ Skewers
- ✓ Stir Sticks
- ✓ Toothpicks

YARD WASTE



- ✓ Flowers & Weeds
- ✓ Grass Clippings
- ✓ Leaves & Moss
- ✓ Plants & Shrubs (No Soil or Rocks)
- ✓ Small Trimmings & Branches

LANDFILL



- ✓ Diapers
- ✓ Pet Waste
- ✓ Non-Reusable Clothing & Foot Ware
- ✓ Ceramics & Window Glass
- ✓ Painted or Treated Wood
- ✓ Personal Hygiene Products
- ✓ Plastic Squeeze Tubes
- ✓ Straws & Plastic Cutlery

TAKE THESE ITEMS TO YOUR NEAREST BOTTLE DEPOT FOR FREE RECYCLING



- ✓ Refundable Beverage Containers
- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ Electronics
- ✓ Small Electrical Appliances
- ✓ Light Bulbs
- ✓ Crinkly, Cellophane Wrappers & Bags
- ✓ Pesticides & Flammable Liquids
- ✓ Paint Cans
- ✓ Glass Containers
- ✓ Foam Packaging
- ✓ Plastic Bags & Overwrap

Sumas Department Updates

Pages 15-23

Busy Bear Club Preschool Updates and Highlights for December 2024 / January 2025

Ey swayel, Families!

Important Dates:

- Jan 2nd: Daycare re-opens
- Jan 6th: Preschool resumes
- Jan 9th: Afterschool Club Program resumes
- Jan 16th: "Reptile Guy" visits Afterschool Club Program

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, welcome to the start of 2025. As we reflect on the highlights from December, we are filled with gratitude for the wonderful moments we shared with you and your children.

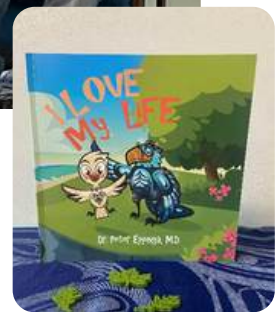


Busy Bear Club Preschool Updates and Highlights for December 2024 / January 2025

December Highlights

Book Reading by Dr. Peter Eppinga

We were delighted to host a special book reading by Dr. Peter Eppinga who shared a book he wrote with the children called, "I Love My Life". This book is one that touches the hearts of all ages. Dr. Eppinga will be coming to our Afterschool Club to do a book reading with us as well. We look forward to that event. We have extra copies of the book available in the daycare. We'd love to share them with you – please feel free to ask if you'd like a copy.



Christmas Party

Our Christmas party was a huge success, and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us. A big thank you to Chris Silver for opening the celebration with a beautiful song. As well, we want to say a special thank you to Auntie Maureen and Amy for preparing such a wonderful lunch for everyone. It was a treat to enjoy such a delicious meal together, making the day even more special.



Busy Bear Club Preschool Updates and Highlights for December 2024 / January 2025

December Highlights

Christmas Concert

The children did an incredible job performing in our Christmas concert. They sang with all their hearts, touching all of us. A big thank you to all the families and special guests who were invited by families to join in celebrating this special event.

A Special Visit from Santa

A big thank you to Santa for visiting us during our holiday celebrations! The children were thrilled to see him, and they had lots of questions – including asking where the reindeer were! Santa told them the reindeer were resting, as they were very tired from flying across the sky. It was a magical moment for all.



Dancing with Derek Silver

We had the honor of having Derek Silver visit our Afterschool Club. He shared his knowledge of dancing. The children danced to the rhythm of the drums. Derek said the girls did an incredible job picking up the rhythm, and it was a great experience for all of us to enjoy together.



Busy Bear Club Preschool Updates and Highlights for December 2024 / January 2025

December Highlights

In-House Field Trip with the Reptile Guy

The children had an amazing time during our in-house field trip with the "Reptile Guy"! It was fascinating for the kids to learn and see the reptiles up close such as turtles and lizards! They asked great questions and were truly engaged in this unique experience.



Gifts from Our Dear Elders

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dear elders for the beautiful Christmas gifts they gave to the children. We are looking forward to visiting them again at the Elder's Luncheon in the new year!



Busy Bear Club Preschool Updates and Highlights for December 2024 / January 2025

December Highlights

Fraser Health Child Care Licensing

We recently had our licensing inspection. The licensing officer does not give advance notice of her visit, making it a surprise every time. During the inspection, the officer ensured that all our files were up to date, for example, verifying that criminal record checks were completed. The licensing officer carefully inspected both the inside and outside environments of the facility to ensure they were safe. Additionally, they checked whether emergency supplies were available in case of an emergency, confirming we are prepared for unexpected situations. They also verified that we had completed monthly fire drills as required. Lastly, they ensured that our policies and procedures were in alignment with the licensing regulations. This thorough inspection helps maintain the highest standards of safety and care for the children in our facility. After the inspection, licensing provided us with a score, and we are happy to report that we achieved a perfect score with no infractions.



Busy Bear Club Preschool Updates and Highlights for December 2024 / January 2025

Looking Ahead

As we begin the new year, we are excited to dive into fresh learning opportunities such as visits from Elders and Knowledge Keepers. We also will be continuing to learn Halq'emeylem with Roxanne Dool. All the details will be in the in-house newsletters and on the Lillio App.



Healing Homes Updates and Highlights for December 2024 / January 2025

On December 17th, we held a Cedar Box Making Workshop. Healing Homes organized this workshop with the help of our Community Support Worker, Lori S!

We had a wonderful time, and everyone left with a special new cedar box keepsake. Thank you to all who attended!

We look forward to more fun workshops and programs with our Healing Homes Department in 2025 - stay tuned!



Governance and Natural Resources Department Updates and Highlights for December 2024 / January 2025

On Dec. 17th, our Natural Resources team toured Ravine Park Hatchery in Abbotsford.

Together, the team helped harvest eggs, fertilize them, and incubate them. The Ravine Park Hatchery helps to raise juvenile coho salmon, monitor and report local stream health, and provide an educational program for local schools.

A big thank you to the many volunteers and staff that keep the hatchery running, and thank you for having us!



Community Notices & On-Reserve Programs

Pages 24-29

NOTICE TO ALL TENANTS FOR 37005 Kilgard Road Units October 15, 2024

HOUSING AGREEMENT CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PETS!

It has come to the housing departments attention that Dog Feces has not been picked up around the Rapid Units. This is a health and safety concern as children play and walk. This attracts pests, wildlife and is an awful smell.

This a reminder of the SFN Housing Rental Agreement you signed upon moving in:

11. PETS

a) Tenant(s) will be permitted to have 2 pets as per Policy 19 in the SFN Housing Policy, as long as the pets are:

i) Common household pets, these include dogs, cats, fish, birds, rabbits and rodents such as guinea pigs, and hamsters, kept as companion animals.

Clutter & cleanliness around the rental units You must carry the bags and pick up after your dog. For respect and safety of other tenants we are requesting you clean up your area. Remove any items off of the handrails, walk ways and stairwells. There will be regular inspections.

Housing Notice: Winterize Your Home



A reminder to winterize your home!

- Disconnect the water hoses from the taps to ensure pipes do not burst Store or secure loose yard item that may be blown away in strong winds and cause damage
- Change the furnace filter. Dirty filters will cause the
- Central Air to shut down
- Keep the outside central air unit area clear
- Ensure there is no loose siding



Lands Notice: Fish Scrap Disposal



Reminder to Community – Dumping of Fish Scraps is Prohibited

On September 5th, 2024, April Schwartz, Archeological and Environmental Monitor, discovered fish scraps and plastic waste that had been dumped on Kilgard Road. Prior to this, filleted fish remains were found on the banks of Marshall Creek. Both of these incidences are violations of the *Prevention of Disorderly Conduct and Nuisance Law (2015)* as fish scraps are considered a waste that must be disposed of properly. While we recognize that it is tradition to return our leftover fish to the land, it is vital to remember the need to return these scraps to where the fish were captured to begin with. Sumas First Nation prohibits the dumping of fish scraps within our community as there are two major environmental concerns regarding this activity:

1. Attraction of scavengers:

Fish scraps, when dumped on roadsides and creek beds, attract scavengers like bears. If bears associate our community with food sources like fish scraps, they are likely to spend more time in the area, acclimating to the presence of people. This can lead to potentially dangerous human-wildlife interactions and/or the euthanization of the bear.

2. Pollution of Water:

The creeks that run through our community are shallow and have poor water quality as a result of agricultural activity in the area, among other anthropogenic-related impacts. When additional organic waste is added to the creeks, the decomposition process consumes oxygen in the water. This can be detrimental to the fish inhabiting these waterways and in extreme cases, lead to fish kill events. When fish scraps are returned to deeper, faster moving water, like the Fraser River, these problems do not occur as the scraps are more likely to sink and be consumed by bottom-dwelling organisms.

This is a reminder that as members of Sumas First Nation, we have a responsibility to pass our ancestor's traditions to future generations and to steward the land and its resources for future generations. If you are unable to return your fish scraps to the place where the fish was captured, we kindly ask that the fish scraps be placed in the garbage.

Please note that Sumas First Nation reserves the right to issue warning letters and fines (at a maximum of \$1000) to violators of the *Prevention of Disorderly Conduct and Nuisance Law*.

For more information or to request copies of the *Prevention of Disorderly Conduct and Nuisance Law*, please contact the Semá:th Lands Department:

Sasha Tuttle, M.Sc. in Zoology

Environmental Compliance Officer

Cell: (604) 226 - 6051

Email: sasha.tuttle@sumasfirstnation.com

Notice

Furnace & Central Air Maintenance Information

Furnace Filters

Furnace filter need to be checked regularly. The Central Air will shut down if the filter is too clogged.

The furnace filters need to be clean and changed at least quarterly to keep your furnace operating properly. Your furnace and vents need to be clear to keep air flowing.

Rental homes may call the SFN housing department for assistance from SFN Maintenance Crew for furnace filter inspections and maintenance.

Member Home New Central Air Unit Responsibilities

The Central Air Unit maintenance is your responsibility. Heat Pump filters require replacement regularly, call Kim Peters, Meer Mechanical for information on the filters or a maintenance package quote. (604-793-0169).

Please keep your exterior Central Air Unit Unit clean of any debris, black berries, shrubs, plants, etc. The unit can be damaged if clogged or jammed with leaves, branches, cottonwood fluff, garbage (Do not store anything on or around the unit). Damage is your responsibility and can be very costly.

Rental homes may call the SFN housing department for assistance from SFN Maintenance Crew for furnace filter inspections and maintenance.

Rental Home New Central Air Unit & Furnaces

Heat Pump filters require replacement regularly. You may call the SFN housing department for assistance from SFN Maintenance Crew for filter inspection and maintenance.

Please keep your exterior Central Air Unit clean of any debris, black berries, shrubs, plants, etc. the unit can be damaged if clogged or jammed with leaves, branches, cottonwood fluff, garbage (Do not store anything on or around the unit). Damage can be very costly and is a breach of the Rental Housing Policy.

If there is an issue with your furnace or air conditioning units, and you have not followed the requirements the cost will fall upon you. It is very important to maintain your Furnaces and Air Conditioning unit as the Housing Department does not have the budget to repair.



SUMAS FIRST
NATION HOUSING
DEPARTMENT

We thank you for your cooperation and for any assistance please call :

Paula Olmstead, Housing Officer –
paula.olmstead@sumasfirstnation.com – 604-852-4041 – ext. 227

Nancy Murphy, Housing Administrator-
nancy.murphy@sumasfirstnation.com
604-997-9500

Notice

Furnace & Central Air Maintenance Information

Furnace Filters

Furnace filter need to be checked regularly. The Central Air will shut down if the filter is too clogged.

The furnace filters need to be clean and changed at least quarterly to keep your furnace operating properly. Your furnace and vents need to be clear to keep air flowing.

Rental homes may call the SFN housing department for assistance from

SFN Maintenance Crew for furnace filter inspections and maintenance.

Member Home New Central Air Unit Responsibilities

The Central Air Unit maintenance is your responsibility. Heat Pump filters require replacement regularly, call Kim Peters, Meer Mechanical for information on the filters or a maintenance package quote. (604-793-0169).

Please keep your exterior Central Air Unit Unit clean of any debris, black

berries, shrubs, plants, etc. The unit can be damaged if clogged or jammed with leaves, branches, cottonwood fluff, garbage (Do not store

anything on or around the unit). Damage is your responsibility and can be very costly. **Rental Home New Central Air Unit & Furnaces**

Heat Pump filters require replacement regularly. You may call the SFN housing department for assistance from SFN Maintenance Crew for filter inspection and maintenance.

Please keep your exterior Central Air Unit clean of any debris, black berries, shrubs, plants, etc. the unit can be damaged if clogged or jammed with leaves, branches, cottonwood fluff, garbage (Do not store

anything on or around the unit). Damage can be very costly and is a breach of the Rental Housing Policy.



SUMAS FIRST
NATION HOUSING
DEPARTMENT

We thank you for your cooperation and for any assistance please call :

Paula Olmstead, Housing Officer –
paula.olmstead@sumasfirstnation.com – 604-852-4041 – ext. 227

Nancy Murphy, Housing Administrator –
nancy.murphy@sumasfirstnation.com
604-997-9500

If there is an issue with your furnace or air conditioning units, and you have not followed the requirements the cost will fall upon you. It is very important to maintain your Furnaces and Air Conditioning unit as the Housing Department does not have the budget to repair.

Social Assistance, Financial Aid, & Disability

Pages 30-35



BC FIRST NATIONS
JUSTICE COUNCIL

JAN 07, 2025
1PM - 4PM

JOIN OUR
FREE CLINIC



YOUR CHARTER OF RIGHTS
UPON ARREST

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 07 • 1-4PM

Our **Chilliwack Indigenous Justice Centre** lawyers will provide information about your charter of rights upon arrest and be available for general legal advice for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Persons.

Tuesday | January 07 | 1pm-4pm

**Chilliwack Indigenous Justice Centre
201-46140 Yale Road (In District 1881)**

**Questions? Contact Natalie at 778.704.1666 or
Natalie.Brandon-George@bcfnjc.com**





INDIGENOUS DISABILITY CANADA

DTC Navigators work with Indigenous individuals living with disability(ies) all across Canada

- Status / Non-Status / Metis / Inuit
- Reside both within and outside of First Nations Communities

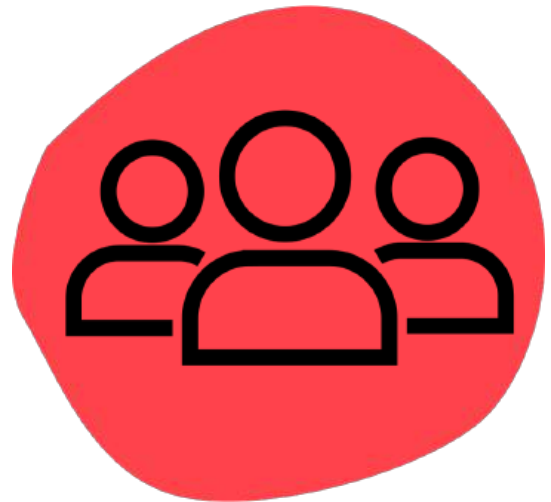


Request Supports Online!



DISABILITY TAX CREDIT NAVIGATION PROGRAM

A FREE Time-limited service dedicated to assist eligible persons with disabilities in obtaining their Disability Tax Credit (DTC) Certificate



This program aims to assist individuals in qualifying for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) in preparation for the new Canada Disability Benefit that is beginning in July 2025.

**CONTACT US FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

dtc@bcands.bc.ca / dtc1@bcands.bc.ca 
dtc2@bcands.bc.ca

(204) 930-4499 / (819) 593-5023
(250) 381-7303

Toll-Free: 1-888-815-5511

INDIGENOUS DISABILITY CANADA



With support from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), IDC/BCANDS officially launched our National Disability Tax Credit (DTC) Navigation Program on Monday, October 28th.

This time-limited program (October, 2024 – March, 2025) will assist eligible Indigenous persons with disabilities in navigating through the process and requirements of applying for and obtaining the DTC. The DTC is a “gateway” benefit, meaning that it is required to be held by the individual in order to qualify for other federal benefits such as the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), Canadian Dental Care Plan and in July of 2025, the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB).

This program is available to Indigenous Peoples with disabilities residing in Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in all provinces and territories.

Please click on the link below and attachments for more information and please share widely. We apologise for any cross postings.

<https://www.bcands.bc.ca/idc-bcands-national-disability-tax-credit-dtc-navigation-program/>

**DISABILITY TAX CREDIT
NAVIGATION SERVICES**

www.bcands.bc.ca

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

Indigenous Disability Canada (IDC) is an award winning, Indigenous not for profit, charitable Society that has been serving the unique and diverse disability and health support needs of Indigenous Peoples across Canada for over 30 years. IDC is a "stand alone" organization that acts in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

OUR MISSION

"Advancing the unique disability and health priorities of Indigenous persons through collaboration, consultation, and the delivery of comprehensive client services"

**INDIGENOUS
DISABILITY
CANADA**



Request Supports Online!



**OTTAWA OFFICE:
130 ALBERT ST - SUITE 1103
OTTAWA ON K1P 5G4**

VICTORIA OFFICE:

**1610 ISLAND HIGHWAY - UNIT 6
VICTORIA BC V9B 1H8**

PHONE: (819) 593-5023

**(204) 930-4499
(250) 381-7303**

1-888-815-5511

**TOLL-FREE:
EMAIL:**

DTC@BCANDS.BC.CA

DTC1@BCANDS.BC.CA

DTC2@BCANDS.BC.CA

**INDIGENOUS
DISABILITY
CANADA**



**DISABILITY
TAX CREDIT
NAVIGATION
SERVICES**
www.bcands.bc.ca

ABOUT THE DTC

The Disability Tax Credit (DTC) is a non-refundable tax credit that helps people with disabilities, or their supporting family member, reduce the amount of income tax they may have to pay.

Applying for the DTC involves the person who has the impairment and a medical practitioner who can certify the effects of the impairment.

If you think you may be eligible for the DTC, you should apply. Being eligible for the DTC may help you access other federal programs such

- as:
 - Registered Disability Savings Plan
 - Canada Workers Benefit
 - Disability Supplement
 - Child Disability Benefit
 - Canada Dental Benefit
 - and other benefits, such as the upcoming Canada Disability Benefit

DISABILITY TAX CREDIT

NAVIGATION

The Disability Tax Credit Navigation Program is a FREE time-limited program that is currently running until March 31st, 2025. DTC Navigators provide supports to Indigenous individuals living with disabilities across Canada to apply and qualify for the Disability Tax Credit. This program was designed in preparation for the new Canada

Disability Benefit that is beginning in July 2025.



WHO DO WE HELP?

DTC Navigators work with Indigenous individuals living with disabilities across Canada

- Identifying as Indigenous (Metis, Inuit, First Nation Status, or Non-Status)
- Residing within or outside of First Nation communities
- Identifying as living with a disability (no formal diagnosis needed)

HELPFUL DOCUMENTS

When you contact our Navigators, please try to have the following on hand, and ready for them:

- SIN Number (mandatory)
- Medical Records and Information on your Disability
- Doctor/Specialist Contact Information

Education & Job Opportunities

Pages 36-49



SEMÁ:TH FIRST NATION

Job Posting

POSITION:	LANDS PERMITTING ADMINISTRATOR
HOURS:	FULL TIME (35 HOURS PER WEEK)
TERM:	3 YEAR TERM WITH POSSIBLE EXTENSION
WAGE:	\$45,000.00 TO \$54,600.00 DEPENDING ON EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE
REPORTS TO:	SUMAS FIRST NATION LANDS MANAGER

1.0 PURPOSE & SUMMARY

Sumas First Nation is seeking an energetic and dedicated person to take on the role of Lands Permitting Administrator. Reporting directly to the Sumas First Nation Lands Manager, the Lands Permitting Administrator is responsible for reviewing and requesting revisions on permit applications as well as issuing the appropriate permits (business permits, development permits and/ or building permits) when finalized. The Lands Permitting Administrator will also be included in the process of conducting site inspections and assessing compliance with the Sumas First Nation Land Code and Laws.

2.0 DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensures that the Sumas First Nation permitting process is administered in alignment with the Sumas First Nation land Code and Code of Conduct, Land Use Plans and related laws.
 - Reviews development permit, building permit and business permit applications to ensure compliance with land use plan, zoning law and Development and Subdivision Law.
 - Works directly with applicants on all steps of the permitting process - including that any reports, engineering drawings and service agreements are produced and included in applications as required.
 - Educates applicants, developers and community members on Sumas First Nation land laws and land management to build awareness and support compliance.
- Works with the Lands Department to actively monitor compliance with issued permits.
 Maintains a comprehensive tracking system for the permit application process and records and follows up on the issuance for all business licenses when required.
 Assists and provides input on the implementation and amendment of the Sumas First Nation Land Use Plan.
 Provides back-up and support to other Lands Department staff during peak periods or during vacation /leave.
 Other duties as required.

3.0 QUALIFICATIONS

- Post secondary diploma or degree in Land Management, Community Planning, or related
 - Field or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
 - 2-3 years related experience in Land Management, Community Planning and/or permit application management.
 - Ability to interpret engineered drawings and construction specifications.
 - Strong administrative background skills.
 - Knowledge of the BC Building Code.
 - Prior experience working in a fast-paced office environment with the ability to prioritize.
 - Experience in working with First Nations communities and/or organizations an asset.
 - Proven ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Working knowledge of office procedures, records management, and document processing.
 Ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with peers, managers, community members, contractors, and suppliers.
 First Nations descent is considered an asset.

- Advanced knowledge and expertise about Microsoft Excel, Word, Zoom, Go-To Meetings.
- Appreciation of First Nations culture, traditions, procedures and protocols.
- Knowledge of Sumas First Nation's history, culture and tradition.
- Valid first aid certificate is considered an asset.
- Valid Class 5 BC Driver's License.

TO APPLY:

Please email your cover letter & resume to Human.Resources@sumasfirstnation.com
Deadline: October 25th, 2024



SEMÁ:TH FIRST NATION

Job Posting

POSITION:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES OFFICER
HOURS:	FULL TIME, 35 HOURS PER WEEK
TERM:	ENDS MARCH 31, 2026 – WITH POTENTIAL FOR RENEWAL
WAGE:	TO BE DETERMINED BASED ON QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE
REPORTS TO:	GOVERNANCE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

1.0 PURPOSE & SUMMARY

The Governance & Natural Resources Department is committed to promoting sustainable environmental practices, ecological restoration, and fisheries sustainability and management. We are seeking a highly motivated individual who shares our passion for the environment and is eager to lead and manage multi-disciplinary projects in these areas. The ideal candidate will be a collaborative team player with a strong background in biology or environmental science, excellent leadership skills, and a dedication to working with Indigenous communities and stakeholders. This role will also be responsible for leading projects and providing guidance and support to the SFN Natural Resources and Biology teams within the Governance and Natural Resources Department.

2.0 DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide flood impact, infrastructure, and mitigation strategy guidance, training, and direction to junior and intermediate staff to ensure successful project completion.
- Manage multi-disciplinary projects, including budget and schedule management, client liaison, and coordinating project teams.
- Collect air, water, and soil samples.
- Record data and observations in an accurate and well-organized manner.
- Assist in the operation and maintenance of equipment, including laboratory, field, and monitoring equipment.
- Identify and locate landscape resources.
- Review Job Environmental Analysis (JEA) reports that detail project-specific environmental issues.
- Read maps and navigate variable terrain, including operating specialized vehicles.
- Engage in business development, including client relationship management and proposal writing.
- Direct environmental assessments, regulatory approval processes, and scientific studies.
- Prepare high-quality technical reports, permit applications, regulatory documents, and year-end project reporting.
- Support and prepare regulatory approval and permitting applications.
- Liaise responsibly with clients, stakeholders, other Indigenous governments, and provincial and Federal government bodies to advance projects.
- Conduct wildlife assessments, primarily fish, amphibians, and other species depending on projects.
- Perform water quality assessments and all stages of environmental studies from proposal to reporting.
- Design and implement habitat restoration, bank stabilization, and management (e.g., erosion/sediment control).
- Provide environmental advice to guide project design and planning.
- Develop proposals, including work programs, budgets, and schedules.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

3.0 QUALIFICATIONS

- 5 to 10 years of experience in a similar role or an equivalent amount of experience and education.
- Bachelor's Degree in Biology, Environmental Science, Natural Resources Management, or related field.
- Registered or eligible for registration as an R.P Bio with the College of Applied Biology in BC (other designations may be considered).
- Experience in BC's aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems with an understanding of flood infrastructure.
- Strong understanding of federal and provincial regulatory processes and upcoming policy changes. (i.e.: fisheries, water, etc.).
- Knowledge of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its implications for reconciliation.
- Proven experience in habitat assessments, environmental monitoring, permitting, and reporting.
- Strong report writing and communication abilities.
- Proficiency with GIS, ArcMap, eDNA, mobile data collection, and data management is an asset.
- Physical ability to conduct field visits in varying conditions, including remote areas in all weather conditions.
- Willingness to work on weekends, holidays, and long hours as needed.
- Experience working with wildlife and fish (fish handling is an asset).
- Ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with peers, managers, community members, contractors, and suppliers.
- Project management skills are essential.
- Knowledge of the SFN community and people.
- Experience in working with First Nations communities and/or organizations is considered an asset.
- First Aid certification is beneficial; training will be provided if necessary.
- Valid driver's license and willingness to provide a driver's abstract.
- Boat license is an asset.
- Swift water training is an asset.
- First Nations Descent is considered an asset.

TO APPLY:

Please email your cover letter & resume to Human.Resources@sumasfirstnation.com
Deadline: 12/16/2024

Looking for a Hands-On Career?

Start with Try-A-Trade

Explore the rewarding world of trades with BC Hydro's Try-A-Trade program. This paid work experience offers Indigenous candidates the chance to experience and learn about trades in a real-world workplace setting. Whether you're just starting your career journey or exploring new opportunities, Try-A-Trade is a great way to gain:

- On-the-job experience working alongside skilled BC Hydro professionals
- Practical knowledge and technical skills to kick-start your career in the trades
- Connections and support networks to help you succeed



Recent Try-A-Trade participants tour BC Hydro's trades training centre

What You'll Do

Through the program, participants will:

- Receive essential safety training to prepare for the job
- Shadow experienced professionals in trades, and construction roles
- Explore potential career paths within BC Hydro and the trades industry

This program bridges Indigenous candidates into exciting opportunities—whether it's an entry-level role, BC Hydro's pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship programs, or positions with our contractors.

Who Can Apply?

The Try-A-Trade program is open to all Indigenous candidates across B.C. who are interested in pursuing a trades career and have graduated high school with English 12, Math 11 and Physics 11.

Get Started Today.

connie.strayer@bchydro.com

bchydro.com/tryatrade

Looking for a Career in Tech?

Start with Try-A-Technical

Explore the world of technical careers with BC Hydro's Try-A-Technical program! This paid work experience offers Indigenous candidates the opportunity to develop technical skills in a workplace setting. Whether you're starting your career or transitioning into a new field, Try-A-Technical provides:

- Hands-on experience in technical roles alongside skilled BC Hydro professionals
- Professional development opportunities to grow your knowledge and career potential
- Connections and mentorship to help you navigate your career journey



Start a career working for BC Hydro

What You'll Do

As a participant in the program, you'll:

- Gain on-the-job experience in MoveUP technical roles (such as customer service and operations)
- Work in various departments to understand BC Hydro's operations and career pathways
- Receive career guidance, mentorship, and professional support to prepare for future roles

This program is designed to bridge Indigenous candidates into technical careers at BC Hydro.

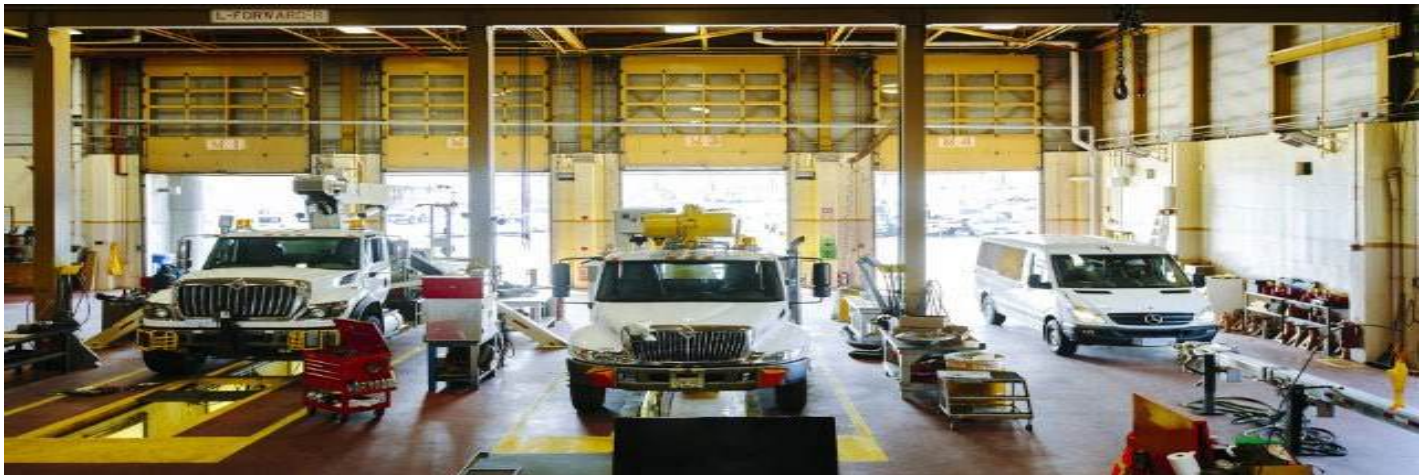
Who Can Apply?

The Try-A-Technical program is open to all Indigenous candidates across B.C. who are interested in exploring a career in technical roles and meet the program's eligibility criteria.

Get Started Today.

connie.strayer@bchydro.com

bchydro.com/tryatechnical



Are you interested in a BC Hydro career?

Currently accepting applications for the following:

- Try A Trade
- Try A Technical
- Indigenous Professionals in Development

Deadline to Apply

January 19, 2025

December 30, 2024

January 15, 2025

Why BC Hydro?

We're investing more than \$2 billion per year in major capital infrastructure projects to help meet the growing demand for safe, reliable power. We're upgrading transmission lines, building new substations, and investing in our hydroelectric generation facilities. We aim to provide meaningful and challenging work, opportunities for growth and a healthy work/life balance. We've been recognized for excellence and been named one of B.C.'s Top Employers and one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers for four years in a row.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Visit BC Hydro Careers Page
- Create or update your candidate profile
- Upload Resume, Cover letter & proof of pre-requisite completion, and required documentation listed in posting
- Click on the Apply Button in the posting and follow steps

[See full postings, qualifications & application steps at:](https://www.bchydro.com/toolbar/careers.html)

<https://www.bchydro.com/toolbar/careers.html>

FOR INFORMATION OR SUPPORT WITH APPLICATION:

Connie Strayer-Regional Specialist

Indigenous Employment & Training

connie.strayer@bchydro.com

 **BC Hydro**
Power smart



**Innovate your way,
at no cost to you.**

Digital skills for
careers and life.

Course	Program	Dates
GIS/GPS Mapping	Foundations	Nov 4-15, 2024
Data Analytics	Foundations	Nov 4 - Dec 13, 2024
Drone Stewardship	Futures	Nov 18-29, 2024
Intro to Web Development	Foundations	Nov 18-29, 2024
Web Development	Focus	Jan 13 - Feb 7, 2025
Exploratory	Foundations	Jan 13 - Apr 4, 2025
GIS/GPS Mapping	Futures	Jan 20 - Mar 14, 2025
Network Technician	Focus	Feb 24 - Mar 28, 2025
Digital Transformation	Foundations	Feb 24 - Mar 7, 2025
Digital Transformation	Focus	Mar 17 - Apr 11, 2025

Scan this or visit
technologycouncil.ca to apply



First Nations
Technology Council

BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS TRAINING

Every Friday by Appointment

Are you looking to improve your basic computer skills? Join our workshop every Friday! Whether you're a complete beginner or just looking to brush up on your knowledge, our sessions are designed to help you navigate the digital world with ease. Call our office to book 604-858-3691!



CALL NOW TO BOOK!!

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

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

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

Canada



Sto:lo Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training is please to announce:

Piping Foundations Program

Learn the basics of Plumbing, Sprinklerfitting and Steamfitting!

Moved To Seabird Island College in Agassiz



Upon successful completion, students are awarded a certificate of completion and given credit for completion of Level 1 apprenticeship in their chosen trade!

JAN 06 - MAY 30, 2025

Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Apprenticeship Services Program

Financé en partie par le gouvernement du Canada par le biais du Programme du service d'apprentissage



For more information contact us at 604-858-3691 or info@saset.ca

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

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

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



STO:LO ABORIGINAL SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT TRAINING IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE:

CAREER

Fair 2025



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Join Us for a Day of Opportunities and Growth!



10:00AM - 3:00 PM



February 5, 2025



Chilliwack Landing
Sports Centre
45530 Spadina
Ave
Chilliwack, BC



Canada



STÓ:LŌ ABORIGINAL SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Targeted Wage Subsidy & Student Employment Placement

April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2025

For Targeted Wage Subsidy (TWS):

Proposals can start April 1, 2025, for a term of up to 52 weeks, ending March 31, 2026. SASET will accept proposals on a continual basis through the 2025-2026 year.

Please have them marked as follows:

Sto:lo Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training
Bldg 5A – 7201 Vedder Road
Chilliwack, BC V2R 4G5
RE: 2025–2026 PROPOSAL

Targeted Wage Subsidy (TWS) application deadline is January 17, 2025

Student Employment Placement (SEP) application deadline is January 24, 2025

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

All program information and forms are available on SASET website
Visit our website at: www.saset.ca

TARGETED WAGE SUBSIDY (TWS)

Assessment Time Frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum four (4) weeks
Eligible Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be Indigenous, status/non-status, on/off reserve who resides within the SASET catchment area Must be 18 years of age or older (not currently in school) Unemployed No longer required by law to attend school Participant may have marketable skills but lack work experience in area in which the work experience and/or training will occur Not be receiving other Service Canada supports funding All Service Canada Personal Information Forms (PIFS) and Client Consent Forms (CC's) must be submitted prior to commencement of program,
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an employment opportunity for an unemployed eligible participant who requires assistance to overcome existing or anticipated labour market barriers. This opportunity may lead to continued employment with the sponsor, or a full-time employment opportunity To provide a wage subsidy, employment related costs and related training dollars for an unemployed eligible participant Sponsors will endeavor to hire participant upon project completion Outcome is that the participant will have meaningful employment attachment at the end of the TWS
Eligible Employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Bands/Tribal Councils Not-for-profit employers (less than 100 employees) For-profit employers (less than 100 employees) All for-profit businesses/organizations must be operational for a period of 1 year or more
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects provide skills to assist the eligible participant in removing employment barriers Activities should prepare eligible participants for gainful employment outcome May be full-time or a minimum of 30 hours per week On-the-job and/or off-the-job training are encouraged
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum 52 weeks. April 1 – March 31.
Eligible Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following are eligible costs, subject to negotiations Not-For-Profit Participant wages: subject to job description and skill set For-Profit Employers: capped at minimal wage and applicable MERCS, with the employer topping up salary and MERCS to job value rate. Mandatory Employment Related Costs (MERCs): Canada Pension Plan (CPP), Employment Insurance (EI), Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) rate, and 4% holiday pay on actual hours worked. SASET covers costs only for "actual" hours worked and does not pay sick leave, bereavement leave or overtime. Training costs (includes training costs, textbooks, instructional material) Special costs are negotiable for participants with disabilities It is expected sponsor will provide top-up wages and their portion of the mandatory employment related costs (MERCs) and other costs not covered by TWS as part of the sponsor contribution
Approval Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SASET Program Officer reviews proposal content and poses assessment questions to sponsor Projects under \$50,000 are reviewed and approved internally by SASET Projects \$50,000 and over are reviewed internally and then approved by SASET Advisory Committee at their next convened meeting
Application Process:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It takes a maximum of four (4) weeks to assess a proposal The following documents are required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cover letter <input type="checkbox"/> Completed and signed original TWS application <input type="checkbox"/> Band Council Resolution (BCR) or board motion decision sheet <input type="checkbox"/> Job title and detailed job description <input type="checkbox"/> Detailed training plan (include dates, time frames, number of hours, activities, and objectives) <input type="checkbox"/> Course outlines and locations for any off-site training of accredited training program
Sponsor/Partner Contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify or outline Sponsor/Partner contributions