



## SGS Chair Report - Kúkwpi7 Darrell Bob



I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank all those who attended, contributed and donated to the New Year's Pow Wow hosted by Xaxli'p this year.

We are three quarters through SGS fiscal year now. Prior to Christmas break, the Steering Committee met with BC Hydro. The Steering Committee discussed closing communications with the communities,

Nation, SGS and BC Hydro. Having said that, we came up with a strategy to work in clear points of contact for procurement issues. SGS spearheaded a procurement meeting with the directly impacted communities which is based on the Agreements. The meeting was held on January 14, 2015 at the SGS office. This was followed by a meeting of the participating communities on January 23,

2015 to review the recommendations and report. Also, a draft list of upcoming projects was briefly reviewed. It will be reviewed in more detail with BC Hydro. BC Hydro Managers and Project Managers will meet with the St'át'imc communities on January 29, 2015 at the Ucwalmicw Centre Society at 9 a.m. After this meeting, the St'át'imc communities will again meet to further discuss the opportunities and collaboration on potential projects.

The next St'át'imc Fundraiser to support our students for scholarships and bursaries will be held June 26, 2015 in Pemberton, BC at the Big Sky Golf course.

On another note, the International Indigenous Leadership Gathering will be held June 4 – 7, 2015 in Xaxli'p. We would like to thank Upper St'át'imc Culture Language and Education Society for working with the gathering and assisting with tax receipts for donations.

Until, the next newsletter, I would like to wish blessings to you families and loved ones.

## CAPACITY BUILDING – Nora Billy, GIS Technician



Nora Billy is SGS' GIS Technician since 2012. Nora is a Xaxli'p member and her Grandparents are Casimir Billy(Xaxlip) and Katie Dick (Qwixwen); Nels Leon Kenoras(Adams Lake) and Catherine Calhoun(Skeetchestn). Her Great Grand Parents are Svyen(Carl) Billy (Xaxli'p), Mary Jane Kilma and Amelia Saul (Qwixqwen), Johnny Dick

and Leon Kenoras and Mary Ann.

As a GIS Technician, Nora's work includes the design and layout of Maps (Cartography) and the maintenance of the data – such as shapefiles. She works with the Environment team under Sue Senger Environment Lead; Nadine Gray- Heritage Lead; and Matt Manuel. Natural Resources – LTC. Nora received her GIS Certification through Okanagan University College in Salmon Arm in 1999. She also has a Certificate in First Nations Studies (SFU); and a Bookkeeping Certificate from Vancouver Community College. Most of her training was on the job while working as Lands & Resource Coordinator, Lands Manager and Forestry Manager with Xaxli'p which all required GIS skills. Nora adds, "I love that I can do work that I enjoy. I can continue to fine tune my GIS skills on the job. I enjoy seeing my work displayed and that people like the work that I do. I really like our team and working as a team on projects. I am happy to use my knowledge and skills to the best of my ability here." Nora plans on completing a Diploma program for GIS through Online courses as well as on the job training development to enhance her GIS skills and techniques. Nora is excited and proud to be a part of the work our Nation is doing.

## CAPACITY BUILDING – Wes Payne



Wes Payne is working for St'át'imc Eco-Resources (SER). He is from Sekw'el'was and his mother is Maureen Larochelle. His Grandparents are Adam and Martina Larochelle, Jack Payne and Margaret Payne. Wes was hired by NSF 9 years ago for the IPT smolt outmigration project which is now named BRGMON 13.

Wes' work includes angling, tagging, smolt counting, constructing, and weir trapping. Training that Wes has completed includes his first aid, swift water rescue, BC Hydro safety training, bear awareness training and bio-engineering. Wes says he loves the work that he does, "I am outdoors and I get to participate with great people and I love learning about fish, the sciences and how we can improve BC Hydro operations. I like it when we get young people excited about fish." Wes intends to get his electro-fish shocking ticket to work on more projects. This role has allowed Wes to work at home and close to his family.

**"I am outdoors and I get to participate with great people and I love learning about fish... "**

**WES PAYNE**

## Fisheries Update

Janice Billy, Fisheries Manager and Councillor Robert Leech attended the Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning for Fraser Salmon that was held December 16-18, 2014 at Quesnel, BC. The participants of these informative meetings consist of Fraser River First Nations, as well as Vancouver Island First Nations and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) that provides input and share information of the Fraser River fish stocks for Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) purposes. These meetings will be held three times throughout the year December, January, and March.

Some of the discussions include Chinook and post season, review outlook, discussions of IFMP, and pre-season planning. The IFMP is a document that the DFO uses to guide the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. It is developed to manage the fishery of a particular species in a given region, it combines the best available science on a species with industry data on capacity and methods for harvesting that species.

The Forum process involves First Nations to meet at both Tier 1 (First Nations only) and Tier 2 (First Nations and DFO) levels. Fisheries management issues, along with other potential issues for each fishing year, are addressed through this process. This is considered as a first step in

**“The strongest message according to Councillor Robert is the need to address the dangerous low abundance of the Early Stuart.”**



Robert Leech at Conference on Fisheries

what should be a multi-step consultation process to address DFO's stock and harvest management plans, which could potentially affect aboriginal fishing rights. The completion of a full consultation and accommodation process is expected to occur at local levels.

The strongest message according to Councillor Robert is the need to address the dangerous low abundance of the Early Stuart. This will no doubt bring all the nations together to strategize how save the Early Stuart from extinction. It is uncertain about the long effects of the Mount Polley mine disaster. These meetings bring all nations together to discuss the future of our Fraser River salmon.

It is encouraged that we continue to learn and be educated of the fishing stocks, the St'át'imc Government Services will host a Pre-season fisheries forum and all St'át'imc are welcome.

The date for the fisheries forum will be in March 2015. Once it has been confirmed notice will be distributed.

For more information please refer to the website: <http://www.frafs.ca>

## Habitat Mapping for Enhanced Decision Making

Remote Sensing is a widely used and accepted way to collect information about land cover. Skilled computer analysts can interpret the information to answer important management questions. Common uses include monitoring deforestation, projecting forest re-growth, and classifying wildlife habitat. In 2014, the St'át'imc Government Services (SGS) Lands & Resources Department initiated the remote sensing project entitled Habitat Mapping for Enhanced Decision Making, in partnership with Dr. Nicholas Coops at UBC (Canadian Research Chair in Remote Sensing). The goal of the project is to use state-of-the-art geographic information and geo-spatial modeling tools, along with satellite imagery, to create contemporary and historic spatial information about habitats and ecosystems within and around St'át'imc territory.

A progress update on this project was presented to the Stewardship Advisory Committee this week by Curtis Chance, the SGS intern working on the project. A graduate of the Remote Sensing Department at UBC, Curtis has been working at the UBC labs under Dr. Coops and along with Dr. Sue Senger in Lillooet, using satellite images to develop wildlife habitat maps. With seamless, cloudless imagery compiled from 2013/2014 as the base, Curtis has been classifying the images into small pieces, 30m pixel squares in size. This classified information (raster) can then be used to develop maps for ecosystems, wildlife habitat and much more. By using satellite images from the past, we will also learn something about historic disturbances on the landscape. This will help build our understanding of changes on the landscape over time.

The project is scheduled to complete in April 2015, at which point Sue will continue working with the products to refine habitat and ecosystem information that will inform management and conservation strategies, and cumulative effects analysis. Funding for the project comes from SGS Lands & Resources, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Science Internship Program, with additional support from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Engage Grant.

For more information, contact Sue Senger at SGS (250-256-0425).

## St'át'imc Scholarship & Bursaries

We are pleased to inform the following have been selected by the Jury to receive graduate and undergraduate Lifelong Learning Scholarships. The scholarships were established to recognize outstanding full time students enrolled in post-secondary education who have achieved positive academic records and financial need. The award value and information about the study of the programs the students are enrolled in are provided below. The St'át'imc Eco-Resource also made a \$2000.00 contribution to award all successful applicants.

Congratulations and best wishes for a productive and successful academic year.

### Graduate Scholarship Awards (\$5000.00)

Clifford Casper (Seton Lake)  
Masters in Business

### Under Graduate Awards (\$1000.00)

Jackson Rossen (Seton Lake)  
Program of Study Police & Justice Studies  
Morris Prosser  
Program of Study BA English Literature-Sociology (Seton Lake)  
Kaylee Shields (Seton Lake)  
BA Arts  
Gillian Paul (Lil'wat)  
Computer Technician Diploma Program  
Frances McDonald (Tskw'aylaxw)  
Visual Arts and Design

### Health & Careers (\$1000.00)

Shawna Sabourin (Seton Lake)  
Licenced Practioner Nursing

## UBC and St'át'imc Partner to Study Salmon Migration

Source: <http://communityengagement.ubc.ca/the-university-of-british-columbia-and-statimc-first-nations-partner-to-study-salmon-migration/>

For thousands of years, the St'át'imc First Nations around Lillooet, BC have benefitted from an abundant salmon resource on the Seton River. The Seton River watershed supports two populations of sockeye salmon as well as coho, Chinook, and pink salmon. However, hydroelectric development in the 1950's saw the Seton Dam constructed on the Seton River. Although the dam has a fish ladder that allows fish to pass the dam so they can reach upstream spawning grounds, the impacts of the dam on salmon remains largely unknown.

To assess the impacts of the dam on salmon, the Pacific Salmon Ecology Laboratory in UBC's Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences has partnered with St'át'imc Eco Resources (SER) to carry out a five year project to study salmon migration past Seton Dam. Led by professor Dr. Scott Hinch, the project involves two Master's students (Collin Middleton, Vanessa Minke-Martin), a PhD student (Nolan Bett), and two research technicians (Nicholas Burnett, Matt Casselman) who work alongside local First Nations to capture, tag, and monitor the migration of salmon as they swim up the Seton River and past Seton Dam to spawning grounds. Since the start of this program three years ago, six First Nations technicians have been trained in salmon tagging and sampling techniques with additional technicians to be trained in the future. This training has increased the capacity of the St'át'imc, so that they can run future monitoring programs, and also provide important local employment. In addition, the broader community has been engaged through presentations to the surrounding First Nations communities. Ultimately, this partnership will improve migration conditions for salmon and allow the St'át'imc First Nations to be stewards of their salmon resource.

For more information, contact Dr. Scott Hinch, Professor for the Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences.

### St'át'imc Stewardship Advisory Committee

The vision of the SSAC is of a continuing and renewed relationship between St'át'imc people (úcwalmicw) and the land (tmicw). This past year, SSAC focus has been on developing the baseline tools and procedures needed to support the Vision. So far this year, St'át'imc Stewardship Advisory Committee has met 6 times at the following locations:

- May 21, 2014 meeting held at the LTC/SGS Office Meeting Rm
- June 25, 2014 meeting held at the Bridge River Multipurpose Rm
- July 29, 2014 meeting held at the N'Quatqua Hall
- October 1, 2014 meeting held at the Lil'wat Ullush Centre
- November 26, 2014 meeting held in Xaxli'p Administration Bldg
- January 27, 2015 meeting held in T'it'q'et Council Chambers

The SSAC will continue to meet once every 1 or 2 months throughout the St'át'imc Nation. Topics of discussion have included:

- Road Access Management and Grizzly Bear Objectives
- Information Sharing Agreement between St'át'imc Government Services and the communities
- Community updates
- SLRD Agricultural Plan
- Bridge Seton Watershed Strategic Plan
- Updates from the Fisheries Program
- Invasive Plants



Committee members include:

JOHN TERRY – XWISTEN  
 RANDY JAMES-TSAL'ÁLH  
 TRAVIS PETERS-N'QUATQUA  
 CHIEF SHELLEY LEECH-T'IT'Q'ET  
 PAULINE PETERS-SAMAHQUAM/CO-CHAIR  
 RANDAL CHARLIE – XA'XTSA  
 COLLEEN JACOB - XAXLI'P  
 BRENDA MCDONALD- TS'KW'AYLAXW  
 HANK WILLIAMS -SKATIN  
 JESSICA HOPKINS – SEKW'ELW'AS

LIL'WAT IS INVOLVED FROM AN  
 INFORMATION SHARING PERSPECTIVE

Please contact Lita Gomez (778-209-0245), or your community representative if you have any questions about the St'át'imc Stewardship Advisory Committee

## St'át'imc Eco-Resources (SER) Update - Interim General Manager, Norm Leech



Norm and Allison

We have made progress in a number of areas. We are setting ambitious targets for ourselves over the next three years through new clients, projects and revenues. This will inform our business planning guide our activities.

We are planning our new website where we can post opportunities for the St'át'imc Nation and also receive feedback from citizens. We can also share our successes like the fact that 25 St'át'imc have been employed through the BCHydro monitoring projects as technicians over the past year, but that is just the beginning.

Recently we were able to contribute \$2,000 toward the SET Lifelong Learning bursary and scholarship fund. Congratulations to the 2 student recipients! We plan to set criteria for another fund supporting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) bursaries in the future.

Overall it has been a busy and exciting couple of months. I have attended many meetings and heard from most of the chiefs and staff but most importantly from many of the citizens who are asking how they can benefit from the Settlement Agreement. We are glad to say that we see tremendous opportunities for our Nation if we prepare ourselves now.

## SET Update – Laura John, SET Manager

Objective 1: PRE-NATAL: Prenatal Education promotes wellness and the prevention of illness by providing information and support to pregnant women, their partners

and families to enhance capacity, facilitate informed decision-making and maintain or enhance their baby's physical and emotional health.

Pre-natal health is considered the most important stage in lifelong learning continuum as it provides the developmental foundation for all later learning and increases the likelihood of educational successes (A challenge worth meeting, 2004). Prenatal care is important to the health and future of the St'át'imc. "A healthy pregnancy and birth, followed by a child's healthy growth and development during the first years of life, will have long-lasting benefits" (Health Canada).

If everyone better understood early human development and the many ways in which a mother's health and nutrition influence the lifelong health of her baby, many people—women and men—would behave differently toward pregnancy and pregnant women. Additionally, improving the health and nutrition of girls of all ages would become the high priority it should be.

St'át'imc health services in prenatal education and support is based on the following values, beliefs and philosophy:

- The experience of prenatal education is only one of several factors that contribute toward a healthy pregnancy, birth outcome and child development.
- The perinatal is a unique and important developmental stage in the life of a woman, her partner and family.
- The expectant woman's main support person throughout the perinatal period provides unique support different from other care providers. This support person may be the woman's partner, friend, family member, etc.
- Expectant women are the active members in the learning process. All women and their partners are unique and have different values, arising from the anticipation or expansion of parenthood.
- Capacity building related to parenting knowledge, skill and ability to develop secure attachments need to start in the prenatal period and continue to be reinforced through the birth and postpartum experience.
- Education and support are based on available evidence and best practices.

SET will be providing Prenatal Education Posters and brochures for the St'át'imc Communities and Health Centres.

## St'át'imc Principal's Report – Kúkpwi7 Perry Redan Update

The Principals met on December 9, 2014 in Vancouver. The Principals meet once a year and determine ways to improve implementation of the St'át'imc Agreements. The Principals also met with the Steering Committee prior to their own meeting to ensure communication and update on progress to date.

Recently, Kúkpwi7 Perry attended the meeting of the participating communities that was scheduled on January 23, 2015 to discuss collaboration on upcoming hydro procurement opportunities.

As the St'át'imc Principal, Kúkpwi7 Perry states, "I had the privilege of observing our St'át'imc entities coming together and addressing the short term communication and procurement issues identified by the communities. I am encouraged that all the parties are working collectively on these important matters."

"I had the privilege of observing our St'át'imc entities coming together..."

### Meeting Dates:

Steering Committee Meeting – June 25, 2015

SET Committee – February 3, 2015 in Pemberton

St'át'imc Chiefs Council (SCC) – February 4, 2015

SGS Board Meeting – February 23, 2015 in SGS Boardroom, Lillooet

### Events:

SGS Golf FundRaiser June 26th, 2015 at the Big Sky Golf & Country Club in Pemberton, BC

## SGS Address

10 Scotchman Road, Lillooet BC V0K 1V0  
(the former T'it'q'et band office)

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