



*St'át'imc Government Services*

# Winter Newsletter

St'át'imcets word for Christmas is Klísmes







## Bridge River Watershed

St'át'imc has a Settlement Agreement with BC Hydro and the Province of B.C. that was created in 2011 and it covers aquatic resource management. Part of this Agreement was to develop a Watershed Strategic Plan that has strong linkages to existing programs including local and regional land use planning processes, fisheries and wildlife programs, and water quality. The overall purpose of the Watershed Strategic Plan is to better understand how important St'át'imc values may be impacted by existing and future development activities (e.g. industry, utilities, transportation, etc.) within the Bridge-Seton watersheds.

SGS Environment contracted Two World Consulting (TWC) and Gilwa Consulting Inc. (GCI) to complete the initial scope that will feed into the

development of a final Bridge-Seton Watershed Strategic Plan. Work on this project will primarily involve desktop studies and utilize existing data relating to St'át'imc values and publicly available land use planning documents, industry tenures, and government databases. This data will be analyzed to produce an Indigenous Values and Impacts Report that describes important St'át'imc values within the Bridge-Seton watershed, existing land use planning processes, and areas where land/resource development activities occur. The activities completed to date are project scheduling, workplan, research methods, and collection of internal St'át'imc data and industry tenure information. Future project activities for the Bridge-Seton Watershed Strategic Plan are a literature review summary for inclusion into the final report, review and analysis of spatial data, production of maps, a table of contents, and an Indigenous Values and Impacts Report. SGS Environment will have an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the literature review, analysis, table of contents, and reporting.

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## **Bridge River Transmission Project: Upgrading a Key Transmission Corridor through St'át'imc Territory**

You might not know their name, but you are probably familiar with two of the main transmission lines that run through St'át'imc territory: 2L90 and 2L91. The distinctive twinned lines start in Seton, continue the South side of Seton Lake towards Lillooet, and then cross behind the town of Lillooet above the Heights before crossing the Fraser on their way to Fountain Flats and, eventually, along the Highway 99 up to Kelly Lake Station. If you have hiked the trail up to Red Rock, you have crossed underneath them.

These lines need upgrades. The 2L90 was originally constructed in the early 1960's (1963-65) and both 2L90 and 2L91 were destroyed by a fire in 2002 and had to be restored. There was another fire in 2004 where both those lines were destroyed again and this time only 2L90 was restored with sections utilizing 2L91. Currently, some of the poles are aging and need to be replaced and others need to be raised to make them and the whole line safer. To make those upgrades, some roads will need to be repaired so that crews can access the

poles to make the needed repairs.

This is one of the larger projects scheduled to take place in St'át'imc Territory over the next few years and it is unique in that it spans across the territory of many different communities including Tsal'alh, Sekw'el'was, T'it'q'et, Xwisten, Xaxli'p and Ts'kw'aylaxw. St'át'imc communities, St'át'imc Government Services (SGS) and BC Hydro (BCH) have been collaborating on this project to incorporate community interests, environmental concerns and business opportunities for St'át'imc into the project.

In the coming months and over summer 2022, each community will identify representatives for the project that will share information about the territory with BC Hydro project team and crews. They will work with BCH, The SGS Heritage Team and Szumin'ts, and environmental company owned by Tsal'alh to ensure that environmental, heritage and community values are protected throughout the project.

Work that was identified in the first version of the design: The 77 km line has 343 wood structures have been identified as potentially needing work. Of those structures, it has been estimated that about 100 poles may need replacement, about 30 poles may need structural work, and 3 line spans may need recontouring work to improve line clearance.

We look forward to keeping you updated as the project unfolds and will be asking community liaisons to share information with us that we can then report out to the Nation.

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## **BC Hydro Indigenous Scholarships & Bursaries Program**

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### 2021/2022 Award Recipient – Lil'wat Nation



**Mason Ducharme**

**Award:** Scholarship \$5000

**Program:** PhD of Public Administration

**School:** University of Victoria

I would like to become a professor at UVic upon graduation. Receiving this scholarship allows me to focus more on schooling. Indigenous students who are considering applying for the BC Hydro's Scholarships & Bursaries program should do it, it's well worth the time.

## Indigenous Scholarships & Bursaries Program

### 2021/2022 Award Recipient – Ts'kw'aylaxw



**Alysha Edwards**

**Award:** Scholarship \$5000

**Program:** PhD Anthropology

**School:** University of Montana

After eventually earning more credentials and furthering my archaeological understanding of this region, I hope to be able to continue to work in my own traditional territory within the St'at'imc Nation in the preservation of our culture and the creation of collaborative relationships with government and industry. This scholarship will help me in preparing for a career in academia and/or cultural resource management.