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Summer 2021 Newsletter



Summer Students





Valerie Peters

Communications Service Coordinator

My name is Valerie Peters; I am the student Communications Service Coordinator at SGS. I enjoy being a part of the SGS team! So far, I've expanded my network and skills within my few weeks here already. I've met so many amazing people in the different departments of SGS and other companies. I'm expanding my skills by improving my graphic design skills from creating an informative poster for the community to view on the SGS Facebook page and I'm gaining comprehensive knowledge on what goes on in the company by attending/shadowing meetings. Lastly, I went on a field trip with a few other co-workers to tour two other St'át'imc communities out the Lillooet Lake area. We visited Samahquam and Xa'xtsa, we stopped at a waterfall near 46km west of Lillooet Lake road, along with a lunch break at Harrison Lake. It was an overall beautiful experience to tour the area! I'm excited to learn more throughout my time here.



Chanvre Oleman

Environment Project Summer Student

So far, I love working here and I met so many people from the St'át'imc territory. I was able to know the teamwork's efforts for the environment projects, such as the Grizzly bear DNA and the Fraser Bighorn sheep monitoring projects.

The first field day I went to was at N'Quatqua with Braeden (Heritage Summer Student), Darwyn (Wildlife and Lands Assistant), Ellen (Environment Manager) to meet Jolene Patrick (former N'Quatqua Lands Department Manager) and talk about the location of the hair snags and the improvements needed to be done for the GB DNA project. We also met Chris Fletcher (N'Quatqua Hatchery Manager) and he showed us around the hatchery and its water flows.

Another field trip I went on with the SGS Environment team was to Boothroyd to determine news locations for the hair snag set-ups. It was a long bumpy drive after we visited Grizzly Falls. From this trip, I learned that bears like to bite onto trees to get sap, which leave massive teeth and claw marks.

I also attended the GB Translocation Ceremony with SCC. The purpose of the translocation is to move the bears to a less disturbed area and to increase this population. I learned that there were about 17 grizzlies in the Stein-Nahatlatch area. The ceremony was a terrific experience, where we sang songs, said our prayers, ate traditional food, and gave away gifts.

The next big field day was to go to Mount Currie and Rogers Creek for the GB DNA project. I helped Darwyn with the fieldwork by moving rocks and trees off the road, which would help the Lil'wat crew, Maxine Bruce (Lil'wat Fisheries Manager) and Tammie Jenkins (Lil'wat Environmental and Fisheries Technician) to set up the hair snags. I learned that it is hard work to get to a certain location. I also learned that fireweed is helpful in medicines, plantain is the best medicine to heal, thimble berries are delicious, and black caps had the best taste. I heard about the oral story of "Twin Peaks" and it was amazing to be able to see it in the field.

The other project I have been working on with the SGS Environment team with is the Fraser River Bighorn sheep monitoring project. So far, the wildfires have set back the project schedule from an earlier date in June. I was able to identify what kind of sheep are in a herd of, including ewes, yearlings, and lambs. We look for sheep that have Movi, which is caused by a bacteria and can lead to respiratory diseases, such as pneumonia or tuberculosis in domestic sheep and goats.





Cheyenne Watkinson

Heritage Technician Summer Student

Well, let me tell you how my summer went working as a summer student in St'at'imc Government Services (SGS) Heritage Department. It was a great opportunity and experience to learn about the St'at'imc Territory's traditions, cultural heritage sites, and engage with the territory's members. I was fortunate to be apart of a great crew that showed me what a fun and supported group looks like. Truthfully, I had experienced toxic and hurtful crew environments prior to my employment at SGS, and was nervous, but SGS Heritage ensured me that this is not that kind of team. It was a new breath of fresh air coming into this work environment and I am grateful. And I benefitted from the learning experiences I had throughout the summer of 2021. I was able to interact with various communities, organizations, and contractors on projects such as:

- Green River Investigations at Nqeql'alus
 - Performed excavations on house pits. Main goal was to locate burned roof beams. My unit partner Alysha and I found 5 roof

beams within our unit location.

- Reservoir Archaeology Program
 - Performed shovel tests and mapping of the area at Seton Lake.
- As-When Projects w/ BC Hydro
 - Performed heritage monitoring and screen testing for BC Hydro's pole replacements.
- URSUS Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA)
 - Performed assessments with URSUS at certain pole replacements that were located within archaeological sites.
- Heritage Inventory Project
 - Located and mapped cultural depressions for SGS's Heritage Inventory.

Throughout the summer months I also received training that allowed me to be on the projects listed above, and I am grateful I was able to gain such opportunities.

One last thing that I would add to my experience is something that I learned from the SGS organization, and that is how a work environment should be. Beforehand in previous jobs, I was always told to be 100% professional and worked myself into a burn out. I thought that is how every job must be, even if it didn't make me happy. And by working like that, I noticed I didn't make many connections with my co-workers and other organizations/contractors. SGS has taught me that it's ok to also have fun, its ok to take a little break to just say hi to a co-worker and have a laugh. And for that, I am thankful.

Thank-you SGS and Canada Summer Jobs!





SGS Sunstone Golf Club Tournament
FUNDraiser
For St'át'imc Scholarship Fund



September 16, 2021 | 10am
Sunstone Golf Club
in Pemberton, BC

\$700 per team of 4 or \$200 per player
18 Holes

Gold Package \$2500
Silver Package \$2000
Bronze Package \$1500

For more information on packages
including prizes, sponsors, and registration
forms please contact:

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(250) 256-0425

Signup form
tinyurl.com/52hpkwnc

Fundraising event at the Sunstone Golf Club and Sunstone Bar & Grill 1730
Airport Rd
Pemberton BC V0N 2L3

Sign up form:
<https://tinyurl.com/52hpkwnc>

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