

[View this email in your browser](#)



March 2023

Environment



Figure 1: <https://greenadmiral.ca/plants/soapberry/>

Xúsem – Soapberry – *Shepherdia canadensis*

SGS Environment has decided to have a “Berry of the Month” segment in each of our newsletters. This month is on Xúsem, commonly known as “Soapberry” or “Foamberry”. Soapberry is a deciduous shrub that is usually found on dry, rocky, or sandy soil sites and can thrive in nutrient poor sites due to its ability to fix nitrogen. It has several medicinal properties which include (but not limited to) the treatment of flu, indigestion, and constipation. Soapberry is used in several ways and can be dried and made into tea, utilized as soap, or eaten as food. Perhaps the most well-known way to prepare soapberry is to make “ice cream” using the berries. This process involves picking the small red berries (which taste both bitter and sweet), crushing the berries and then whipping them to activate their foaming properties. The result is foamy dessert, often sweetened with sugar or other berries. A very special plant indeed!

If you (or anyone you know) has a suggestion for future segments of “Berry of the Month” please drop an email to either one of SGS Environment technicians at nmorgenstern@statimcgs.org or nandrascik@statimcgs.org.

British Columbia Forest Professionals Conference (BCFP)

SGS’ Environment Technician and Forester-in-Training, Nina Andrascik, virtually attended the 75th BCFP annual conference and annual general meeting this past month. The conference spanned over three days and consisted of multiple plenary panels, breakout sessions and keynote speakers. One of the sessions was focused on Indigenous Leadership and co-managing BC’s forests where panelists, Chief French from Takla Lake First Nation, Lori Ackerman CEO of Blueberry River Resources Ltd., and Lenny Joe CEO of the First Nations Forestry Council, all shared stories and discussed the past relationships with industry to the present to the future of co-management and Indigenous led management. They called for the need for a professional’s role to take on additional dimensions in their work to learn and encompass traditional knowledge and practices into their lens of practice of professional forestry and they shared their perspectives and visions for the profession.

The new Chief Forester of BC, Shane Berg, spoke twice at the conference and shared some new information and announcements. Shane spoke of a relatively new opportunity agreement for First Nations called a Wildfire Salvage Opportunity

Agreement (WSOA). Essentially, a WSOA would allow for faster reforestation and action on harvesting severely damaged areas by wildfire through the leadership of First Nations. A WSOA would enable the direct award of a forestry license to First Nations to streamline the process and allow the harvest of some logs while they still hold some commercial value. Given the recent history of severe wildfires around St’át’imc Territory, this could be an economically viable way to help remediate the land and manage it for the way of the Nation’s desires and not of a local licensee. More info can be found [here](#).

A second announcement that has not been officially made yet was about removing the line of a GAR (Government Actions Regulation) that says when managing for the land as a license holder you can manage it as long as to not “unduly reduce the supply of timber from British Columbia forests.” With this removed, it could allow for more innovative silviculture practices with higher amounts of deciduous species in stocking standards or allowance for return of natural grasslands in some areas. Furthermore, as of February 15th, the Ministry made some announcements on new measures for old growth, forest stewardship, collaboration with First Nations all in an eight point plan; news release and plan can be found [here](#).

The conference also consists of the BCFP’s Annual General Meeting (AGM). One of the main announcements at the AGM was switching the regulatory body’s name from the “Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals” to “British Columbia Forest Professionals”. The word *association* indicates a group or a club; whereas in reality under the new Professional Governance Act (passed in late 2018), registrants are upheld to professional standards and morals that should be kept and if not, reports can be filed against individual members [here](#), and they will be investigated. In fact, you can view on their website [here](#) a list of occasions where action was taken against registrants.

Another key part of the AGM was discussing diversity within the profession and the status of registrants compared year to year. In 2022, 22.8% of the registrants were female and 77.1% were male, 44% of all trainees and practicing registrants are over the age of 50, 4% of all registrants self-identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis and they saw a 3.7% decrease in new trainee sign-ups. These statistics as a young female registrant called for both alarm and optimism as with many current registrants ageing out in the years to come. It creates space for more young, innovative, and resilient-minded folks who want to steward the land for the better and be put in positions where they can create and push for change. I believe the BCFP staff have work to do to improve recruitment for a diverse workforce, work towards having registrants of different backgrounds and help pair trainees with sponsors who will motivate them to success.

For more info, you can read the 2022 annual report [here](#). Overall, it was an informative conference with many more sessions and a variety of topics covered. If anyone has any questions about the BCFP or processes to enroll as a registrant, please don’t hesitate to reach out to nandrascik@statimcgs.org. Thank you!

Implementation Manager



Hello Everyone, My name is Margaret Michell (nee Adolph) and I am from Xwisten. My father is Victor Adolph, Sr.(X’axlip) and mothers are Marie Bobb (Spuzzum) and Florence Peters (Lytton). I would like to introduce myself in my new role at SGS as the Implementation Manager.

The past 27 years, I have been involved with development and implementation of the St’at’imc-BC Hydro Settlement Agreement. During these years, my main role has been Administrative Assistant. But during the Agreement negotiations, I had done other roles such as the Liaison Officer and Main Table Negotiations Table support staff.



The Implementation Manager primary role is monitoring the implementation processes to ensure commitments of the Settlement Agreements are met. The Implementation Manager collaborates with the SGS Relations Manager on projects and engagement at all levels. Works with other Department Managers responsible for the implementing program deliverables, and as required with St’át’imc Communities and BC Hydro to ensure the Settlement Agreements are administered as agreed.

I am looking forward to working with the St’at’imc Communities, SGS team, and BC Hydro in my new role. For me it will be different to be at the front of things, as I always had been working in the background.



Capital Planning

One of the more critical studies / engagement activities coming up in the next few months is the Accommodations and Logistics Study. The study scope includes:

Transportation

- Collecting information from agencies about exiting travel routes including known safety and slope stability issues, maintenance practices, planned improvements, load ratings, etc
 - Terrain hazard mapping and rating along relevant routes, including the Hurley, Highway 40 and Highway 99
 - Anticipated traffic volumes and patterns for upcoming BC Hydro projects
 - Options for transporting materials, equipment, and people to and from work sites
- Evaluating options and developing recommendations for potential improvements which could include road widening, geometric improvements, re-surfacing, subgrade repairs, sightline improvements, construction of pull-outs.

Accommodation

- Existing accommodation inventories and planned developments
 - Project needs for worker accommodation and related amenities
 - Availability and capacity for food services, telecommunications services, domestic water supply, sanitary sewer services and solid waste disposal
 - Assessing options including onsite and distributed accommodations
- Understanding interests and concerns related to housing availability and affordability, addressing potential for negative social behaviours related to temporary workers in communities, potential economic and community opportunities related to supply of temporary housing, etc.

Evaluating options and developing recommendations for potential accommodation solutions

Community engagement will occur in 2023, please watch for invitations and participate to ensure local knowledge and data is captured and considered in any recommendations.

Evaluation results and preliminary recommendations are expected in Fall 2023.

Explore project related information at your own pace by accessing information on SharePoint.

Here is a small sample of what you can find on the [St'át'imc SharePoint Information Portal](#):

- Reports on the [Reservoir Archaeology Program](#) (RAP) and the [Seton Lake Environmental Mitigation Program](#) (SLEMP). If you have any questions regarding RAP or SLEMP, please contact Heritage and Culture at heritage@statimcgs.org
- [List of the BC Hydro projects](#) in St'át'imc Territory
- Copies of the [BC Hydro project opportunities](#) that have been provided to St'át'imc businesses
- Materials and notes on the [Quarterly Capital Planning Meetings](#)
- A [glossary of commonly used project and system terms](#)

The St'át'imc SharePoint Information Portal access now requires Multi-Factor Authentication – an instruction sheet has been sent out on how to set this up. The

instructions also provide a way to contact tech support should you have a problem. If you did not receive the instructions, please call Sherry Kane at SGS (778.771.5903)



Community Adult Learning Centre (CALC)

Community Adult Learning Centre (CALC) provides educational and vocational training services to individuals living in the northern St'at'imc territory. CALC has contracted St'at'imc Government Services Education and Training (SET) program to develop a 3-year training plan for T'it'q'et, Sekw'el'was, Xwisten and Tskwaylaxw to administer funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST).

We will be setting up sessions with each of the communities and have a survey for the community members to complete. Dates for each session still need to be determined.

The purpose of the survey is to gather information for training and capacity building needs to develop training plans for T'it'q'et, Sekw'el'was, Xwisten and Tskwaylaxw, over the next 3 years. There will be a draw for gift cards if you wish to complete the survey and share your name with us.

Draw prizes (Five chances to win)
one (1) \$25 Chevron Gift Card
one (1) \$25 Amazon Gift Card
two (2) \$25 Visa Vanilla Gift Cards
one (1) \$50 Visa Vanilla Gift Cards



Copyright (C) 2023 St'át'imc Government Services. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

Grow your business with  **mailchimp**