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September Newsletter



Environment

The SGS Environment team completed the initial set-up wildlife camera traps for the community of Xa’xtsa (Douglas) at the start of August to monitor the local Elk population. A total of 29 wildlife cameras were set-up in and around the community over the course of three days. The locations for cameras were based on Elk collar data previously collected by the province, which displayed preferred trail routes and bedding areas. The SGS team was joined by Krayg Charlie, a community member of Xa’xtsa, for a day of field work. Orientation of each camera trap was based on information provided by Darwyn John (Wildlife and Lands Assistant, SGS) who has a wealth of knowledge and previous experience with trail camera set-up was invaluable to the team. The community of Xa’xtsa plans to utilize the information collected to determine Elk population health which will help inform their management plan for hunting in the area. The SGS team would like to thank Krayg and Darryl Peters (TTQ) for their assistance and knowledge during this trip. The team will be backdown to Xa’xtsa at the end of August to collect the photos from each camera and will continue monitoring into the upcoming year.

Hot Bats Project

The SGS Environment team has been helping Dr. Zenon Czenze (University of New England in Australia) with the Hot Bats Project. The field work has included the capture of bats using net systems, attaching tiny transponders on their backs using animal safe and degradable glue, and then tracking the bats using telemetry. The capture of bats was centralized around two areas: Fountain Lake and Splitrock’s Upper and Lower Spawning Channels. The goal was to locate the bats in their natural daytime roosts which may include abandoned buildings, caves, and both dead and living trees. After locating their roosts, additional monitoring equipment was set up to log the bat’s temperature throughout the day. Based off this information, Dr. Czenze’s team can propose alternative bat roosts (if current roosts are not suitable), and to better understand how bat’s body temperature and roost selection varies with climate

change. The study focused on Little Brown Myotis (a species listed as federally endangered), but other bat species have also been tagged including Long-eared Myotis and Yuma Myotis. The Environment team would like to thank Dr. Czenze’s team for sharing their knowledge and time on this project.



Bridge River site

A new article from research at the Bridge River site titled: Emergence of persistent institutionalized inequality at the Bridge River site, British Columbia: the roles of managerial mutualism and coercion has recently been published out of the University of Montana department of Anthropology by Dr. Anna Marie Prentiss, Thomas A. Foor, Ashley Hampton, Matthew J. Walsh, Megan Denis and Alysha Edwards (SGS Heritage Technician).

Abstract

Persistent institutionalized inequality (PII) emerged at the Bridge River site by ca 1200–1300 years ago. Research confirms that PII developed at a time of population packing associated with unstable fluctuations in a critical food resource (anadromous salmon) and persisted across multiple generations. While we understand the demographic and ecological conditions under which this history unfolded, we have yet to address details of the underlying social process. In this paper, we draw on Bridge River's House pit 54 to examine two alternative hypotheses. Hypothesis 1, mutualism, suggests that household heads signaled to maintain and attract new members as a means of supporting the demographic viability of the house. Inequality is indicated by variation in prestige markers but less obviously in economic fundamentals. Hypothesis 2, coercion, asserts that the more successful households developed control over access to critical food resources, forcing others into the choice between emigration and subjugation. Inequality is indicated by inter-family differences in prestige markers and economic fundamentals. Results suggest that

inequality emerged under a mutualism scenario but persisted for subsequent generations under more coercive conditions.

This article is part of the theme issue ‘Evolutionary ecology of inequality’.

Prentiss Anna Marie, Foor Thomas A., Hampton Ashley, Walsh Matthew J., Denis Megan and Edwards Alysha
2023 Emergence of persistent institutionalized inequality at the Bridge River site, British Columbia: the roles of managerial mutualism and coercion. Phil. Trans. R. Soc. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2022.0304>

The article isn’t open access but anyone who wishes to see the full article can contact me directly (aedwards@statimcgs.org).

New Staff





My name is Char Alec. I’m from Xaxli’p. I lived here for 18 years with my husband Chester Alec. I’m the new employee at SGS as SET Data Entry Clerk. My schooling background is Home Care Assistant (HCA). I started on August 8, 2023.

You can find me in my office; Monday–Friday; 8–4pm or can phone me (250) 256-0425 Ext 912, my direct line is (266) 620-1589 or email me at dataclerk@statimcgs.org. I look forward in meeting you all and hope to see you.



Cait Cameron is proud to return home to join the St'át'imc Chiefs Council team as Policy Advisor. Cait's Grandparents are W. Michael Kane and Rose-Marie Kane. Cait brings over 6 years of professional experience from the capital of Europe, working with numerous governments and organizations around the world. She holds a BA in Philosophy with Distinction and an MA in Public Policy and Global Affairs.



My name is Cheyanne Watkinson and I am excited to be joining the team as the Communications Specialist supporting the St'at'imc Chiefs Council (SCC). I have a diverse background of work experience and I have recently completed my Associate Certificate in Graphic Design at BCIT. I am passionate about networking, creativity, and finding new innovative ways to communicate to communities. In my free time (and depending on season), I enjoy hockey, golf, drawing, & biking. I am looking forward to contributing my skills and knowledge to the team and help the organization drive towards creating a bright future for the St'at'imc Nation. I cannot wait to meet more people and do not be afraid to say hi! Thank-you for your warm welcome.



My Name is Michelle Edwards, and I am the Tmicw Coordinator for the SCC. I am the former Chief of the communities of Sekw’el’was and Qu’iqten, who I proudly served for 12 years. My education is in Natural Resource Management and administration. I have a passion for the land and all that it provides for us. I hope to see more of you during Nation Engagement Forums.

**Our annual golf tournament is postponed.
Alternate fundraising event will be
held at later date.**

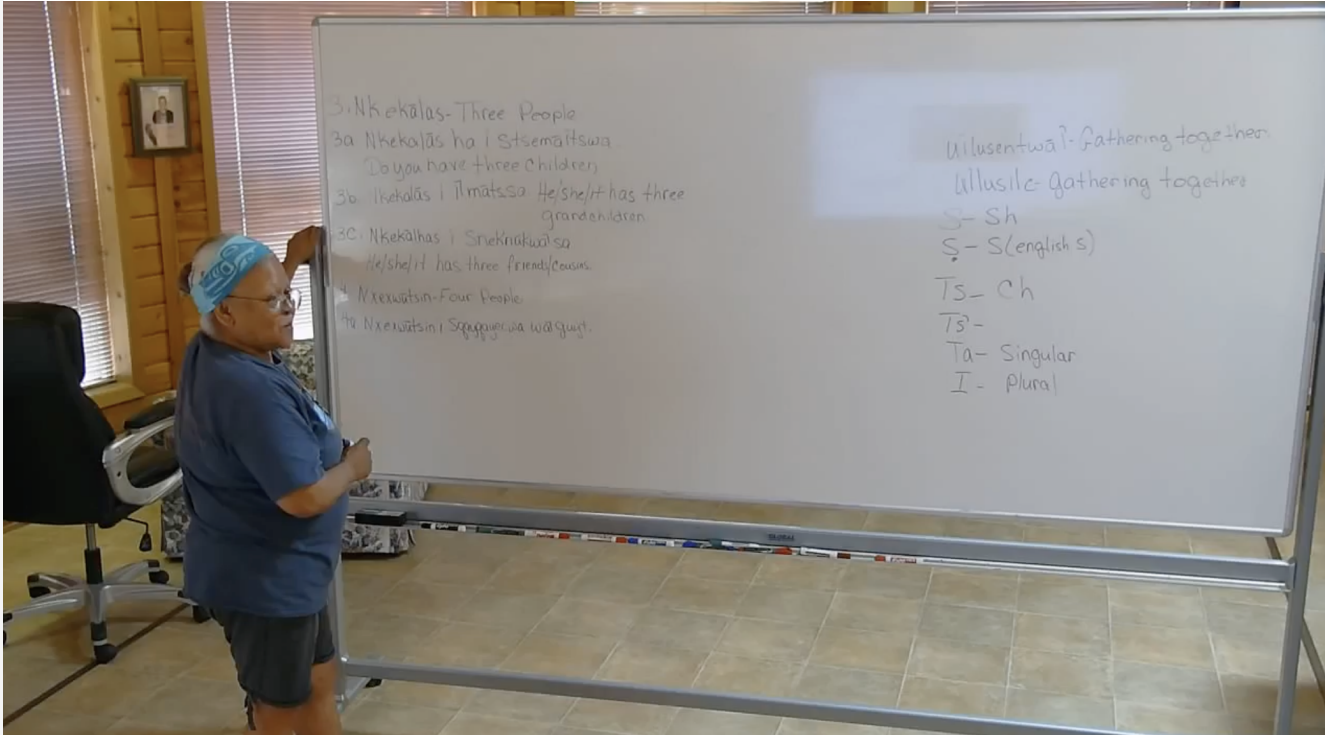
St'át'imc Scholarship
FUNdraiser

POSTPONED



Date and location to be determined.

Email to be added to our contact list
reception@statimcgs.org





BC Hydro gave \$25,000 towards our Language Program

We received \$25,000 from BC Hydro to help us with our Language Program. The Language sessions are live every Tuesday at 10:30am on our St’át’imc Government Services Facebook page and taught by elder Linda Redan.



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