



December 2022 Newsletter



Culture and Heritage

SGS Culture and Heritage full time staff, Chester Alec and Nadine Gray, and on-call heritage monitors Samual Copeland and Tammy Peters, are working on several projects this fall and winter. Our work is supported by Talicia Kane, GIS Technician, for fieldwork, digital recording of archaeology sites and map production. Work on the Bridge River Glacier Weather Station Project was completed with Lil'wat Heritage Technician Misha Gabriel.

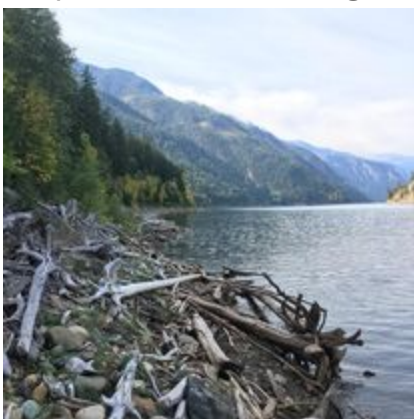


Misha, Nadine and Chester at the Bridge River Glacier Project.

The crew has been working on reporting on the field work results for the Downton and Carpenter Reservoir Archaeology Program, conducting fieldwork for the Seton Lake Erosion Mitigation Project and monitoring on BC Hydro projects, specifically pole replacements.

Archaeology and Monitoring Work

The crew monitored 4 pole replacements and completed fieldwork for several projects. The field work involved archaeological impact assessments under an Archaeology Permit held by WSP (formerly Wood) at the Bridge River Glacier Weather Station, the Mission Ridge Weather Station and the Terzaghi Dam Safety Boom. Talicia and Nadine completed the archaeological site maps and interim reporting for these projects.



Survey Work at Carpenter

Seton Lake Erosion Mitigation Project (SLEMP)

In an on-going effort to understand and mitigate erosion, a buoy was deployed on Seton Lake in September 2020. The buoy has collected wind and wave intensity, duration and direction on Seton Lake for the last two years. This data will contribute to a better understanding of wind and wave effects on the shoreline of Seton Lake and assist SGS Heritage with subsequent phases of SLEMP. On October 18, Chester went in the field with Steve Hall (Crane Creek Enterprises) to retrieve the buoy from Seton Lake. A crane rented from Lillooet TimberMart ensured the safe removal of the buoy from the lake.



Active Job Posting

A job posting for on-call heritage field technicians is available on the SGS webpage and is also available on the St'at'imc Facebook page. We encourage qualified people to apply for this position for work on BC Hydro projects throughout the year. Anyone interested in heritage work with SGS can contact us via email heritage@statimcgs.org or at 250-256-00425 extension 224



Environment



Nicole and Nina collecting a water sample from the Yalakom River

SGS Environment continued its project assessing the presence, absence, and habitat use of salmonid species at risk (SAR) in the Yalakom River. In September, water was collected to test for the presence of Chinook environmental DNA (eDNA) in this field program. Now in a much chillier November, water samples were collected to test for Coho eDNA. The Yalakom River is over 50 km long and the field samples covered 10 sites along the length of the river before and after various fish barriers that occur to see if salmonids can pass these barriers. As SGS Environment has a community partnership with Xwisten for the project, Xwisten's technician Ray Bob joined us each day in the field to assist in water collection and filtration. The team was also joined by Matt Coombs (Fintegrate Fisheries & Watershed Consulting Ltd.), a fish biologist contracted by SGS Environment to provide eDNA sampling oversight.



From left to right: Nicole, Ray, Matt, and Ellen pictured filtering the water samples

Half the process, as our manager likes to say, takes place in a hotel room where each collected bottle of water gets filtered by using pumps to suck the water samples through tiny filters. The filters then get folded delicately in half and then quartered, put into a labeled coined envelope, sealed, and submerged with silica beads before getting sent off to be analyzed at a lab called Bureau Veritas (BV). BV takes the filters and runs them through analysis and qPCR to see if there are in fact any exogenous genetic materials from Coho on these filters. If eDNA from the desired species is strongly detected, it can be documented as present through eDNA analysis. In spring 2023, we will be doing another eDNA field program to test for fry emergence.

SGS Environment gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) to fund the community engagement component of this project.



SGS Environment Manager, Ellen, with ear snipping for DNA, COVID swabs, tonsil samples and lymph nodes already extracted and ready to be processed

SGS Environment's Manager, Ellen Reyes, and Technicians, Nicole Morgenstern and Nina Andrascik, headed to Cranbrook for a week in November to take part in a training workshop from Provincial Wildlife Health Biologist, Cait Nelson. The team was taught how to dissect tonsils and lymph nodes from deer, lymph nodes, and the obex from moose and elk, collect DNA samples, and swab mule deer, white-tailed deer, moose, and elk for COVID. The team spent two and a half days sampling 144 heads with 127 tissue samples sent to a lab in Abbotsford to test for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Cait Nelson also stressed the importance of maintaining healthy working relationships with the hunters in the region, as they play a vital role in gathering information on CWD.

CWD is a prion disease that accumulates within the brain of deer (and other ungulates, like elk and moose). It is an infectious neurological disease that is 100% fatal but, it is rare to visually see sick animals even if they are CWD positive. SGS Environment took part in this program in the East Kootenays to learn, observe and start considering the logistics of how to bring this project back to St'át'imc territory. The benefits of implementing a similar program would include CWD knowledge sharing, community-based workshops on the sampling process, and general education for hunters and people consuming this food source.

The SGS Environment team would like to thank Cait Nelson for hosting us in Cranbrook for this workshop, and we're excited to see how this knowledge on CWD and ungulates can contribute to the long-lasting health of mule deer in the St'át'imc territory.



Nicole and Nina in action to extract the necessary samples



Education

St’at’imc Lifelong Learning Fundraiser Golf Tournament and networking event was held on *September 15, 2022*, at the Sunstone Golf Club and Sunstone Bar & Grill. The St’at’imc Government Services Education and Training

This year we greatly surpassed our fundraising goal of \$35,000 by raising a total of **\$59,125!**

The event was held to raise funds for the St’at’imc Scholarship Awards Program supporting St’at’imc Lifelong Learners. St’at’imc Scholarship Lifelong Learning Awards Program is devoted to making a difference in the community. SLLS provides scholarship awards to lifelong learners attending Post-Secondary, Skills & Trades, and/or personal professional development. For the past couple of years, COVID-19 has greatly impacted our ability to raise funds for this valuable program.

Businesses, organizations, and communities were invited to put teams of four into the Golf Tournament. On top of the basic entry fee, there were also sponsorship opportunities available.

Gold Sponsorship (\$2,750)

- Tsalalh Development Corporation Bell
- Norpac Construction
- BC Hydro
- Four our Future
- St’at’imc/BC Joint Planning Forum
- Lillooet’s Finest Water

Silver Sponsorship (\$2250)

- Allteck
- Hazelwood
- N’Quatqua
- SGS Heritage
- Xaxlip Development Corporation

Bronze Sponsorship (\$1,750)

- Colliers Project
- Mandell Pinder

Other Teams

- Al Boldt Consulting
- Deloitte Wealth Management Services
- Lillooet Tribal Council
- TLC

Prize Donations

- Whistler Jet Boat Tours
- Antares, Lightfoot Gas and Market
- St’at’imc Government Services

- Bell
- Sockeye Solutions
- Lillooet TimberMart
- Tsalalh Development Corp/Liltem Hotel
- Diana Adolph
- Colliers Project Management
- Norpac

Other Sponsors who donated directly to the Scholarship Fund

Donated \$2000 or more

- Linda O’Donaghey
- BC Hydro
- SLRD Electoral area B

Donated \$1000 or more

- Sage Legal LLP
- Pemberton & District Chamber of Commerce
- FMI
- BC Assoc. of Professional Archeology
- N’Quatqua
- BMO

Donated \$500

- Unison

Capital Planning

The public Request for Proposal for the Bridge River Units 1 to 4 is now underway – bids are due January 18, 2023. A bidder site visit was conducted in early October and a second site visit is planned for November 30.

Project highlight – LaJoie Dam Improvement Project – estimated completion date is 2023

Earlier work on this project recommended the leading alternative is to rebuild the dam to its original height in part to maximize water flow controls. The project is in the very early conceptual stage.

CONCEPTUAL > FEASIBILITY > DEFINITION > IMPLEMENTATION (2032)

Three early opportunities for St’át’imc businesses have been identified:

1. Worker accommodation – either hotel(s), camps or alternatives
2. Construction of access roads and laying down areas near the construction site
3. Rock Quarry development and operations – near the construction site

A working group of interested communities has been formed to conduct a detailed review of the accommodation opportunity. This work is expected to take up to a year to complete.

Much more detail on the logistics of transportation, access, lay down, and worker accommodation requirements is expected in late 2023 when the access and accommodation studies are scheduled to be complete. An engagement program for these studies is planned for throughout 2023, to get input on considerations, options, and recommendations. Please watch for invitations to participate in your community. Explore project-related information at your own pace by accessing the 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](#) and the [Seton Lake Environmental Mitigation Project](#)
- [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'at'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)



Are you interested in a BC Hydro career?

Currently accepting applications for:

- Indigenous Relations Coordinator
- Indigenous Relations Specialist
- Indigenous Professional in Development

Deadline to Apply

Nov 18, 2022

Nov 22, 2022

Dec 16, 2022

Why BC Hydro?

We're investing more than \$2 billion per year in major capital infrastructure projects to help meet the growing demand for safe, reliable power. We're upgrading transmission lines, building new substations, and investing in our hydroelectric generation facilities. We aim to provide meaningful and challenging work, opportunities for growth and a healthy work/life balance. We've been recognized for excellence and been named one of B.C.'s Top Employers and one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers for four years in a row.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Visit BC Hydro Careers Page
- Create or update your candidate profile
- Upload Resume, Cover letter & proof of pre-requisite completion, and required documentation listed in posting
- Click on the Apply Button in the posting and follow steps

See full postings, qualifications & application steps at:

<https://www.bchydro.com/toolbar/careers.html>

FOR INFORMATION OR SUPPORT WITH APPLICATION:

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