

# SXFN

# ANNUAL REPORT

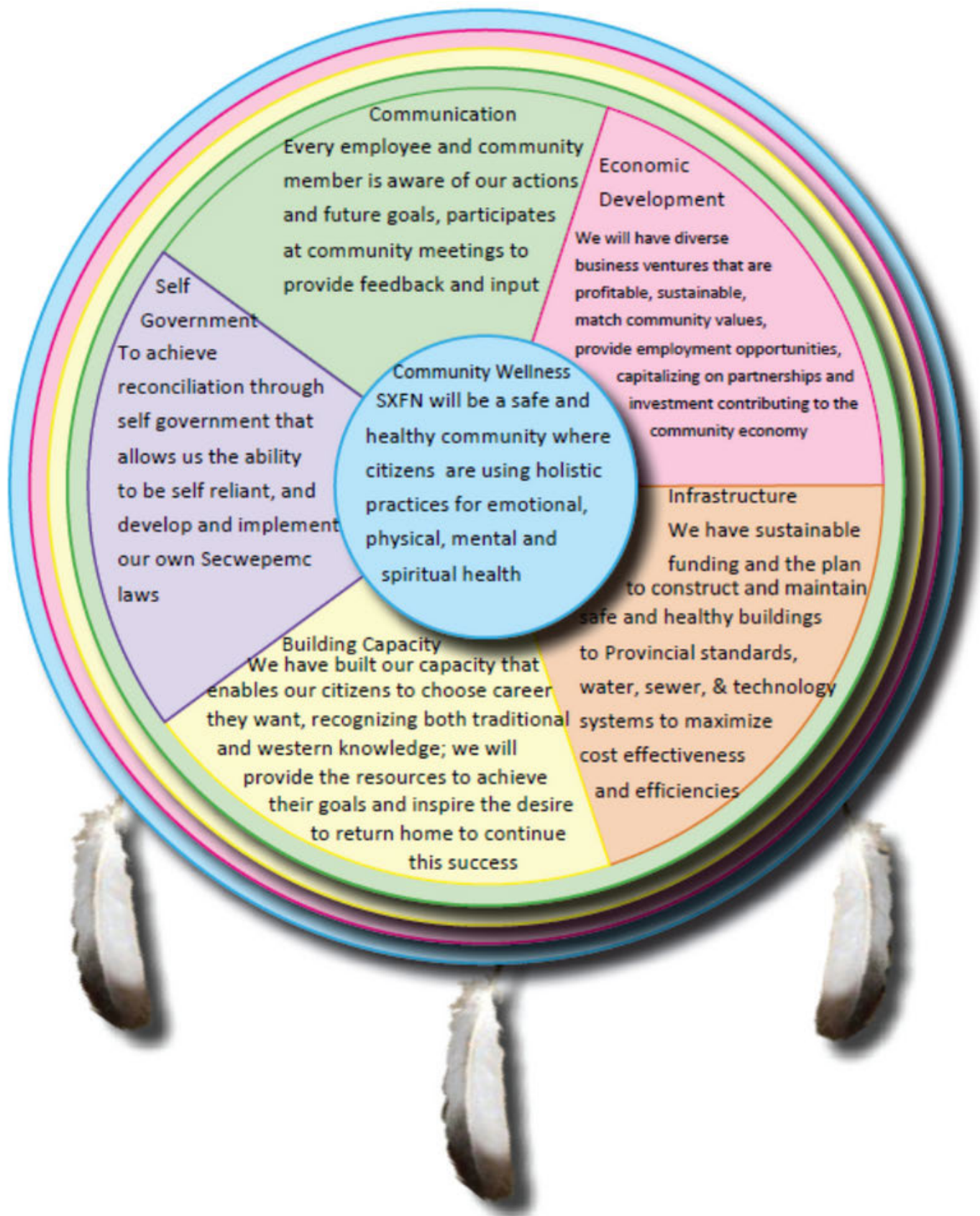
2021-2022



# Table of Contents

A message from Kukpi7	_____	<b>04</b>
Former Band Administrator	_____	<b>06</b>
Towards self-determination	_____	<b>09</b>
Health and Wellness report	_____	<b>12</b>
SXFN Stewardship report	_____	<b>17</b>
Child and Family Services	_____	<b>19</b>
Education	_____	<b>20</b>
Housing	_____	<b>22</b>
Audited financial statements	_____	<b>23</b>

# Our Mission and Values



# Chief's message

## Highlights of work being done

**By Hank Adam**  
SXFN Kukpi7



- Yecweminul'ecw Agreement (YA) Extension Agreement signed In October 2021 with the expectation of having it wrapped up October 2022, with Principles of UNDRIP incorporated into the Document as well as Consent Language.
- Reuter Ranch Lease agreement signed in June of 2022 with the possibility of negotiating the purchasing over the coming year.
- Big Bar Guest ranch section 35 transfer has four issues to satisfy: one is the Access, two is the Dam and there are two environmental issues.
- Big Bar Land Slide, this year the fish were able to pass the slide without assistance.
- Last year, November 2021, the Structured Decision Making process was set to start and end May 2022, to determine if we needed to hire another contractor to work at the site. It was determined that wasn't needed.
- West Fraser Agreement was initiated to begin negotiating with John Liscomb leading.
- Tempus Exploration Agreement was agreed to in February 2022 for Capacity Development and Exploration at Blackdome.
- Northern Secwepemc Cultural Museum announcement of four million toward the construction of the building in March 2022.
- Draft final Settlement Agreement on compensation with respect to AFN/Moushroom First Nation Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Class Action, Reached Agreement in Principle.



# Elected council busy in 2022

## SXFN Council highlights

- In February 2022, council signed an agreement with Tempus for capacity development and exploration at Blackdome
- Council attended a funding announcement for the Northern Sewcwepemc Cultural Museum. Four million dollars was committed by the federal government, to add to the museum project.



IN MARCH 2022, SXFN COUNCIL ATTENDED THE FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE NORTHERN SECWPEPMC CULTURAL SOCIETY'S MUSEUM.

# Former Administrator notes

## Highlights of work being done

**By Marilyn Camille**

SXFN Band Administrator 2014-2022



- As we reflect on the past year, we all take a deep breath and see much work planned and completed. As you will see in this report our team has been busy and accomplished great changes for SXFN.
- The energy level of the organization is one of exhaustion for many who have been on the front lines, carrying out community supports amidst the COVID but we have accomplished much and look forward to the new staff joining us and bringing new energy in the next year.
- Early in the first quarter our Emergency Operations Center meetings ended as many of the COVID Restrictions were lifted by the province – a great relief for so many, but also created anxiety for others. This was a great learning for our community, and we really got to see the strength we have as SXFN in the knowledge of our communities on so many levels.
- Our approach to date has been working with personal growth resources such as Zandra Ross, Epona Horse Retreat and Tracy Leach. The plans for summer of 2022 are to hold on the land events to revive the traditional practices that can be so meaningful to emotional healing.
- Summer was once again highlighted with fires in our territory and this required the council and emergency team on teleconferences and video meetings in response. I am grateful we had an emergency person in the position this year to join the council in responding to external and internal communications.

# Notes from former Administrator

## Work begins on Bill-C92

- Reuter Ranch Lease was also a priority this year as the lease is in its last year and the goal was to have a cattle operation on the ranch and with some quick work by our ranch-experienced members and the council, twenty-five cow/calf herd was purchased and a new brand SX was obtained. We can only look forward to great outcomes to reviving the ranch life for our future generations with opportunities such as this. In addition, council met with the current owners to discuss future possibilities of an ownership vs leasing the ranch.
- SXFN council and Treaty staff are continuing to work on the Interim Measures that involve Ranch Acquisitions for those bands of the NSTQ.
- Children and Families – NSTQ staff started work on the Bill-C92 Act funding proposal and SXFN staff have been front and centre at these meetings and have taken every opportunity to bring the information sessions to our members through both Video and face to face community sessions. The response to learning exactly what this means for SXFN members and their families was great and we continue to work on information that will support everyone in the process of taking over SXFN Jurisdiction of their Children and Families.



A SACRED FIRE WAS HELD TO HONOUR THE 215 CHILDREN FOUND AT KAMLOOPS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL. SHOWN HERE ARE STUDENTS FROM DOG CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

# Notes from former Administrator

## SXFN structure changes to reflect new model

- The Stewardship Department was involved at the forefront of the work at the Big Bar slide. SXFN members were able to get valuable employment experience there. SXFN was able to get some Social Licences Revenue out of the project as well. It was great to have staff on the team who knew about that process in stewardship and finance.
- Capital – SXFN was able to access funds for a new teacherage for RSESS and the approval from ISC and CMHC for four housing units. It is amazing what we can do when we have our management positions filled. We are still lacking a housing committee and the term of reference is in the process of being updated.
- These are a few of the many things that the current team are working on and I encourage all members to inquire and see where you may be able to fill some of the SXFN vacant positions. The future is bright for SXFN we welcome committed and enthusiastic employees to join our team. COVID has taken a toll on our face-to-face meetings; however, I believe we can rise above those challenges and look for the opportunities and learn from those challenges revealed for us as SXFN and continue the work before us.
- SXFN has been reviewing our organization structure with the goal of moving beyond the Indigenous Affairs (DIA) Program positions to be a self-sustaining government. As such titles and roles have changed in the last year.
- We are operating during a time of Truth and Reconciliation and very importantly “De-colonizing” our organization to provide culturally appropriate services. This work will take open and respectful dialogue and support from one another to get there. Once again Kukstecw-kucw for all the work you all do for your families and community.



# Towards self government

**By Hank Adams Jr.**

Director of Self-Government & Negotiator



## **What Is Our Vision?**

- Recognition of NStQ Inherent rights
- Self Determination
- Self-Government based on Secwepemc Jurisdiction, Laws and Practices
- NStQ leading and defining its future

## **How Will We Get There?**

- NStQ's path to self-determination is through a meaningful and lasting NStQ Treaty. In the Secwepemc language the NStQ treaty agreement will be called Tscentwécws, which means "To Agree" or "Make an Agreement".
- The Tscentwécws Agreement will recognize inherent NStQ jurisdiction and law-making authority on NStQ lands.
- The Agreement will acknowledge and honour Secwepemc laws and traditions. It will reconcile traditional laws with modern laws. Inherent Jurisdiction
- NStQ's inherent jurisdiction over its lands has always existed.
- NStQ is a Secwepemc Government and will address and resolve land interests, implement UNDRIP principals, support economic opportunities and protect culture and language throughout its lands.
- Tscentwécws will benefit all parties. This can only be achieved by acknowledging the past and looking to the future as partners.
- We believe this work can be completed in five years. The NStQ leadership and a significant shift in Federal and Provincial attitudes and policies means we are more aligned than ever before and committed to a balanced and fair agreement.

# Major successes and Progress

## RETSCENTWÉCWSTEQELMUCW

- Increased participation of NStQ Chiefs in the Treaty negotiation process
- BCTC Loan Eliminated (\$32 million saved)
- End of extinguishment mentality (by government) to a collaborative and ongoing government to government relationship
- Annual Grants Are Now Paying the Costs of Treaty Completion (no repayment)
- SXFN Ranch (In Negotiation)
- ITA Parcels - Early Transfer of Lands
- Completed Chapters
- Land Titles
- Implementation
- Justice
- Fisheries
- Ratification
- Transition
- Conducting offsites to gather NStQ Chiefs and NStQ Leadership Council views and direction
- Treaty Team actively engaged in negotiations
- Treaty Team led Treaty Completion Timeline
- Significant Progress on Fish Co-Mandate and Fish Chapter
- Comprehensive Review of UNDRIP and implementation plan into the T-Agreement
- Members and Citizens Engagement Meetings
- Shared Decision-Making Model is becoming a reality

# Increased engagement

## Development of new policies

- Increased engagement and meaningful negotiation with federal and BC representatives
- Development and implementation of the new Rights and Reconciliation Policy
- Natural Resource Management
- Yecweminul'ecw Agreement Implementation and Updating
- First Nations Summit – Working Group Participant – Shared Management of Land and Resources
- Big Bar Fish Bypass
- Various Community based Agreements
- Forestry Protection and Harvesting



CLARA CAMILLE,  
DARLENE LOUIE,  
DAVID LOUIE  
AND KUKPI7  
HILLARY ADAM  
ON A LAND  
TOUR,  
SEPTEMBER  
2021

# Health & Wellness

**By Judith Rietveld**

Former Director of Health and Wellness



- This past year was one of growth, resilience and working through challenges. The health team grew to include a team of eleven full-time members – two Community Health Representatives, Covid Liaison/Health Director support, a receptionist/medical transportation clerk, a receptionist/injury surveillance clerk, a Cultural Support Worker, Right to Play Mentor, Recreation Co-Ordinator, two gym supervisors, and two janitorial staff. Our Head Start Program grew to include the Head Start Co-Ordinator, Head Start Worker, Head Start Support Worker, Cook, and Janitor.
- Our staff learned to adapt and modify programming to meet COVID social distancing requirements while still providing services, and we were overjoyed when we could gather together again.
- Three Corners Health Services Society continues to work with the SXFN Health Team to bring professional and alternative health providers and programming to the community, as well as offering some programming in Williams Lake. Services include Primary Care Practitioners (Nurse Practitioners and a Family Doctor), Home and Community Care, Licenced Practical Nursing, Dental Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Youth Counselling. Also offered are the Healthy Living Program and Family Connections and some options for staff training.
- Healing Touch, Foot Reflexology and Certified Raynor Massage were available monthly at each health station.

# Health and Wellness

## Supporting the community through COVID

- The Stswecem'c Xget'tem Health team had a busy year providing adapted programming for young parents and youth, preparing meals for various events within pandemic protocols, offering smaller group opportunities to allow for social distancing and carrying on the task of supporting the community through several bouts of COVID. The team worked together to create and distribute cleaning packs, check in on ill members and assist and train people to administer rapid tests.
- Medical transportation continues to be available, with some variation in the rates due to fuel price inflation and fluctuation. Being in a semi-remote community gives us access to this extra funding to assist with medically required travelling and accommodations when applicable.



AFTER TWO YEARS OF DEALING WITH COVID-19, HEALTH TEAM MEMBERS, MARTINA CAMILLE, JUDITH RIETVELD AND CANDY MILLER ENJOYED CELEBRATING EVENTS SUCH AS PINK SHIRT DAY.



# Health and Wellness

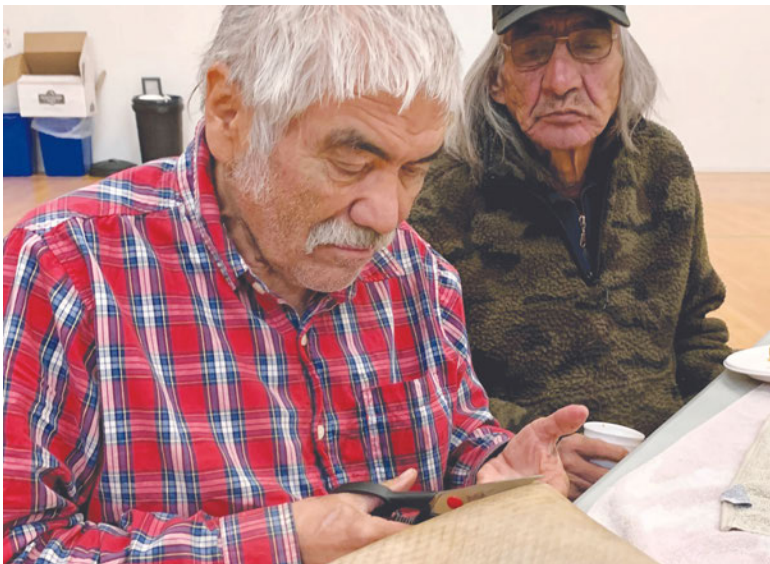
## Integrating language and culture

- The health department has been working on integrating language and culture into the programs and services, with workshops and activities for melamin collection and processing and more on-the-land activities, realizing that the connection to the land and each other leads to a healthier community.
- Capacity has been a challenge, with some positions remaining vacant (Community Wellness Advocate), but there has been an increased focus on supporting access to treatment options for individuals when needed. We continue to strive to fill the position.
- The two new workout gyms have been completed and running for much of the year. Schedules for open hours can be adapted to meet the need of the community as we see how things roll out.
- Tyler from TCHSS and Kayla have been able to utilize the spaces to offer some strength and workout training. There is huge potential for the gym programs – we are always open to suggestions.
- The coming year is an exciting one, with garden programs, many on-the-land camps and cultural activities, youth events and opportunities to gather and celebrate each other.
- The SXFN Health team is working towards a holistic, strength-based, full-circle of care approach to health and wellness. We work to lift people up and celebrate their gifts and share them with others.

# Goals for the coming year

## Cultural safety training

- Upgrades to both health stations (removal of carpets, new lights and portable power generators)
- Continuing recruitment for a Community Wellness Advocate (A&D Worker) and a Health Director
- Further development of the Right to Play Program to include the schools and intergenerational activities
- Supporting programming/community groups to address residential school trauma
- A stronger infusion of language and culture in our health stations (display of art/drums)
- Development of a 5-year SXFN Health Plan, tailored specifically to our community and its needs
- Continued increase in the health budget through grant-writing and advocating with our partners
- Increased awareness and movement forward with cultural safety and humility through ongoing engagement with Interior Health Authority and local hospitals and governments
- Finding a balance between western and traditional methods in our health services, community and lives



A FOCUS ON CULTURAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DRUM-MAKING WILL CONTINUE THIS YEAR. LARRY EMILE AND CHRIS SARGENT.

# A personal note

## Last six years learning experience as Judith moves into new role as Chief Administrative Officer

On a personal note, I would like to say how much of a blessing and a true learning experience it has been to spend the last six years with this great team of people. We have had our ups and downs, challenges, arguments, conversations, and comings together. I have witnessed the development of a team of people passionate about their jobs, their community, and each other, and it is with a heart split between sadness, excitement, and trepidation that I have moved into the Chief Administrator Officer role for the upcoming years. Since I came to the community in 2015, the people and the land have held me, and helped me to find my strength, my voice and my centre. I thank you for that.

We are actively recruiting candidates to fill the Director of Health and Wellness position who will be a good fit and continue the good work. I continue to advocate for the team and for the community – to support the vision and goals of the people – you are family – I’m just wearing a different hat.

Judith

# SXFN Stewardship

## Referrals impacting SXFN



**By Ross Wilson**

Director of Stewardship

- Total NStQ referrals: 959 referrals were submitted to the NStQ portal between April 1, 2021 and March 30, 2022. Every referral needs to be assessed for potential impacts to SXFN Rights and Title, even if those projects aren't in the territory. For example a referral that may impact water upstream from SXFN can affect the water here in the territory.
- Total SXFN referrals: 311 referrals were found to have potential impacts to SXFN and were responded to. The referrals responded to were for a wide range of activity, including: arch studies, forestry harvests, placer mining claims, and lots of work to assess and restore areas that were affected by two of the main fires in the territory in 2021: Flat Lake fire and the Churn Creek fire.
- Negotiated exploration agreement with Tempus Resources for mining activity at Blackdome, ensuring Tempus is committed to sharing benefits from their work with the community. The agreement was signed by SXFN Chief and Council in February of 2022.
- SXFN crews worked as fish techs during salmon migration as part of on-going Big Bar landslide response to ensure safe and successful passage of sockeye passed the landslide and to their spawning grounds

# SXFN Stewardship

## Guardian program launched

- Crews worked security at Churn Creek as part of on-going Big Bar landslide response to ensure sensitive work to better understand challenges with salmon migration in the Fraser River.
- Started renegotiation on the Yecweminul'ecw Agreement in an effort to continue to improve the work and relationships between SXFN and provincial ministries
- Launched SXFN Guardians
- Guardians carrying out arch work in areas where the Churn Creek fire burned discovered a fairly large arch site with pit homes and other physical evidence of the communities' presence in the area
- Guardians took on many different types of training this year, from RISC training so they can participate in arch work, to learning how to fly drones, to wilderness first aid
- Continued work as part of the Secwepemcul'ecw Restoration and Stewardship Society with many of SXFNs Secwepem'c neighbouring communities to improve technical capacity amongst Secwepem'c communities and work together to restore and protect Secwepemcul'ecw in relation to the Elephant Hill Wildfire of 2017.



THE GUARDIANS SPENT A LOT OF TIME ON THE LAND THIS YEAR. THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN ON A TRIP TO DOG CREEK CAVES.



# Children & Family Services

**By Marissa Fontaine**

Child and Family Transition Coordinator



- SXFN is currently navigating the need and provision of culturally appropriate services for Secwepemc Children and Families by exercising its' inherent right to Child and Family jurisdiction. The Child & Family service area for SXFN will not be limited to On-Reserve but rather its' jurisdiction will include all its' Secwepemc members regardless of where they reside once the Secwepemc Child & Family Laws are in place. Services will be provided to both On-and-Off-Reserve members. There is a tremendous amount of work for our Secwepemc Nation in this regard and it will require our members to be actively engaged throughout this process.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) currently provides Protection Services to SXFN on an interim basis, until SXFN has our Secwepemc Jurisdiction in place. So, both MCFD and SXFN are currently providing services. MCFD provides the Protection Services while SXFN provides Prevention Services.
- It is SXFN's intention to establish either a Children & Families Committee or a Grandmothers' & Grandfathers' Council or Group to do the preliminary work for CFS Jurisdiction laws, policy and procedures that informs the Children and Families delivery of services to its' SXFN Secwepemc members. The Group title will be changed and determined in accordance with Secwepemc language, customs, and practices.
- The SXFN Youth will continue to be involved and invited to Children & Families community engagement sessions throughout the CFS jurisdiction process

# SXFN Education Programs

**By Linda Simon**

Former Interim Education Director

## **SXFN EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

The Post Secondary Student Support Policy was approved in January of 2022 with improvements to the following:

- increase to monthly allowances for all post-secondary students;
- incentives for student's success and marks, and course selections such as finance & commerce, computer science; environment, education and engineering.
- clear direction in terms of application process and new applications (fillable forms) on the web-site
- tutoring support students requiring assistance
- COVID support funds made available to all students.

This fiscal year the Post-Secondary Education Program supported students in a broad range of studies including: Social Work, Education, Arts and Business. Students attended universities such as the University of BC, TRU, SFU, NVIT, demonstrate that SXFN students are meeting the high admission standards that each of these universities have set for acceptance into their institutions.

## **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

The Local Education Agreement was signed in July of 2021 with the inclusion of the following purposes:

- acknowledges the important role of schools, to build a positive effective, collaborative, constructive relationship to improve the First Nation's educational outcome
- shared accountability mechanism for both the First Nation and the Board regarding the education of First Nation students in the School District,
- curriculum, material, and resources will meaningfully reflect the First Nation's culture, values, languages and traditions as approved & delivered by the First Nation.

# SXFN EDUCATION

## Inclusion of Culture and Language in Education

### **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Based on this framework agreement and the support of the First Nations Education Steering Committee students can enhance their studies with the inclusion of land-based learning, culture & language programs, and more self-directed learning activities that will provide them with course credits. This will enhance the teaching of students at the Rosie Seymour Elementary School (RSES) and the Dog Creek Elementary School and students attending school in Williams Lake. The purchase of ipads, desktops, smart-boards and other equipment support greater learning opportunities for students at RSES and Dog Creek Elementary School.

This year RSES had an enrollment of 27 students with the majority of student in grades 1 to 4 and the Dog Creek Elementary School had an enrollment of 12 students and two boarding students in Williams Lake.



THE TERRY FOX RUN IN CANOE CREEK.

KELVIN BOSTON, BERNADETTE BILLY AND MASON BILLY.

# SXFN Education

## Training and employment programs & services

The continued support from Aboriginal Skills Employment & Training Strategy (ASET) and the Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services programs provided financial support to member's in programs such as heavy equipment operations, training for the Guardian Program, support for young drivers and the summer employment program.

## Housing and Infrastructure

- Benchlands completed phase one
- 2 houses CMHC started
- Culvert project mill road

THESE  
DUPLEXES WERE  
COMPLETED AS  
PART OF PHASE  
1 OF  
BENCHLAND  
PROJECT. NOW,  
TWO HOUSES  
ARE NEARING  
COMPLETION





# Consolidated Financial Statements

## Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation Consolidated Financial Statements March 31, 2022

Please note: the following pages are taken from this year's consolidated financial statement; however, they do not form the entire financial package. Anyone who would like a copy of the complete financial statements can contact the SXFN main administrative office and obtain a printed copy.

### Independent Auditor's Report



To the Members of Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation:

#### Qualified Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation and its subsidiaries (the "Nation"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at March 31, 2022, and the consolidated statements of operations, accumulated surplus, changes in net financial assets, cash flows and the related schedules for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Nation as at March 31, 2022, and the results of its consolidated operations, changes in its net financial assets and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

#### Basis for Qualified Opinion

Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation holds investments in two entities, SXDC Ltd. and SXD Limited Partnership. The audited financial statements were not available for these entities as of the audit report date. Therefore, we are unable to determine whether adjustments are required to investment in government business entities and earnings (loss) from investment in government business entities.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Nation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

#### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Nation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Nation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Nation's financial reporting process.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.



ACCOUNTING > CONSULTING > TAX  
800 - 299 VICTORIA STREET, PRINCE GEORGE BC, V2L 5B8  
T: (250) 564-1111 F: (250) 562-4950 MNP.ca



# SXFN ANNUAL REPORT

Thank you for attending the Annual Meeting.



**Stswecem'c  
Xget'tem**  
FIRST NATION