

# Shuswap Band Newsletter

Pellkwétmin (January) 2025

## Message from Chief & Council

Weyt-kp membership;

We are pleased to share the latest developments and initiatives from Chief and Council, reflecting our ongoing commitment to the prosperity and well-being of our community.

**Forestry:** Wrapping up discussions with BC on Strategic Forestry Envelope funding and looking to purchase additional volume for the communities forestry business. We are developing Shuswap Band Guidelines for the forest sectors management and practices. Old Growth protection is a concern, and the Band is working towards drafting a management plan that takes ecological and cultural values into account. This plan is specific to the Revelstoke area and is in conjunction with other Secwepemc Communities. Wildfire abatement continues around the reserve.

**Water:** Columbia River Salmon Recovery Initiative continues to be led by our community. More information can be found at [columbiariversalmon.ca](http://columbiariversalmon.ca) and everyone is encouraged to visit the site to become informed on what the Nations, along with BC and Canada, are doing to address the loss of salmon. The Fish in Schools Program will continue again this year with more tanks being set up by the Band. We look forward to the release again in May.

The Band is purchasing additional watercraft to meet the needs of our fisheries program. Those watercrafts are low impact and will allow for the Band to conduct studies in areas of sensitivity such as the wetlands. This equipment is another step in Shuswap bolstering its capacity in the fishery field which is of importance to the Band.

**Columbia River Treaty:** CRT works are being conducted at a fast pace and looking to have final Treaty language by December 20 of this year. The Nations have dug in hard on what we expect the Province and Canada to provide if they want Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC). FPIC has been said to be important to Canada and high-level meetings/negotiations are ongoing amongst the 5 Governments. That timeline is being proposed to get ahead of the Trump regime that will be in power in January 2025. This timeline does not appear feasible and if not met will allow the Nations more time to deal with our Side table discussions and resolution. The Band along with other Columbia Collaborative Communities are meeting with SNTC in discussions around our Interim Benefits Sharing Agreement with BC.

**BCHydro:** Revelstoke 6 is on BCH's list of priorities right now and is the center of much of the Band's engagement with them. BCH is requiring an extension to their EA Certificate application and the Band has been engaging with BCH on this matter.

**Ministry of Transportation (MoTI) is now Ministry of transportation and Transit (MoTT)** The Band is working with MOTT on the widening of the highway through Shuswap Reserve Lands and still reviewing potential replacement lands. There has been much activity in our region with land acquisitions by other groups and Shuswap needs to respond and protect what is near and important to the Band.

We appreciate your continued support and engagement as we move forward with these important initiatives. Together, we will ensure that our community thrives and our cultural heritage is preserved for generations to come.

# Pellkwetmín (January) 2025

Stay at Home Moon

## Shuswap Band Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 SB Admin & Health Center CLOSED	2 SB Admin & Health Center CLOSED	3 SB Admin & Health Center CLOSED	4
5	6 SB Admin & Health Center OPEN  <i>Thai Massage @ HC</i> 	7	8 Massage w/ Lyn 250.341.5668  <i>Acupuncture @ HC</i> 	9  <i>Good Food Box</i> 	10	11
12	13  <i>Thai Massage @ HC</i> 	14 Dr. Clinic 	15 Massage w/ Lyn 250.341.5668  <i>Acupuncture @ HC</i> 	16  4:30-7pm Band Hall	17	18
19	20  <i>Thai Massage @ HC</i> 	21 Foot Care Clinic 	22 Massage w/ Lyn 250.341.5668  <i>Acupuncture @ HC</i> 	23  <i>Good Food Box</i> 	24	25
26	27  <i>Thai Massage @ HC</i> 	28 Dr. Clinic 	29 Massage w/ Lyn 250.341.5668  <i>Acupuncture @ HC</i> 	30	31	







# PANORAMA PROGRAM

**Exciting news, friends! The Panorama program is kicking off on January 12th, and we're all set for 10 fantastic Sundays of fun together! Make sure to sign up by noon on the Thursday before each session so you don't miss out on any of the action!**

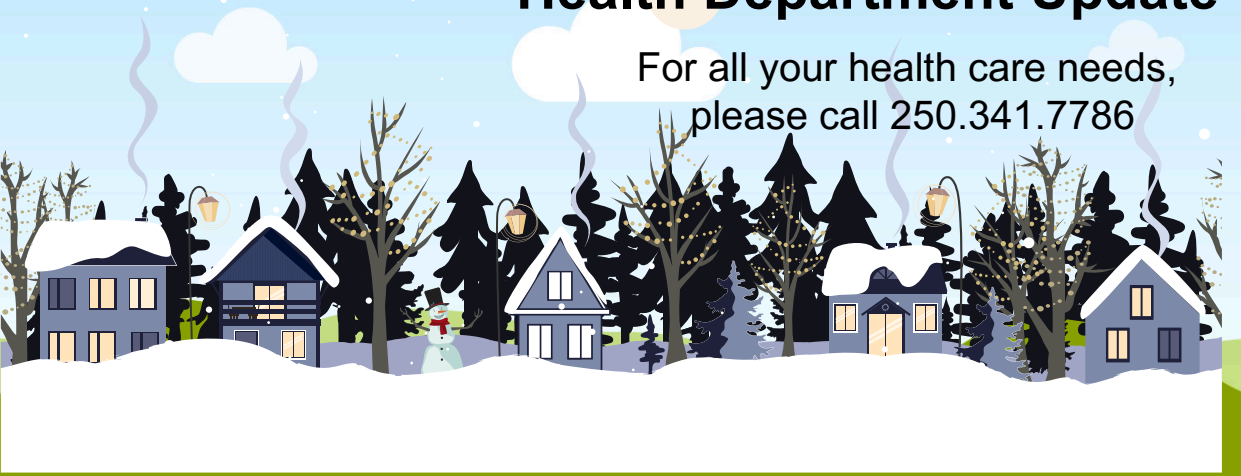
**Just a friendly reminder: let's keep our space enjoyable by steering clear of drugs, alcohol, and smoking during our lessons.**

**And remember, showing up on time means more time for fun! Can't wait to see you there!**



# Health Department Update

For all your health care needs,  
please call 250.341.7786



Good Food  
Box Days:  
January 9  
&  
January 23



## Doctor Clinic

January 14  
&  
January 28

## Foot Care Clinic

January 20  
if needed  
January 21 also

To book your appointment, please call  
the Shuswap Band Health Center.

## Massage and Acupuncture:

Thai Massage  
Every Monday

Acupuncture  
Every Wednesday

Massage with Lyn  
Every Wednesday

Call the Health Center  
to make a appointment

Call Lyn at her  
office in Radium  
250.341.5668



Naloxone kits including nasal kits can be picked up for free at your local pharmacy or at Shuswap's health department. We also have harm reduction supplies for anyone in need. Staff will support you with your needs in a confidential and safe manner.

- Naloxone kits (nasal and needle) training available upon request.
- Fentanyl testing strips (training available upon request)
- Harm reduction supplies (sterile needles, sharps bins, sterile cookers with filters, safer sex supplies, straight and bubble pipes, etc.)



## Specific Claim Information

A 'specific claim' is a claim made by a First Nation against Canada for a historic wrong. They typically relate to claims where Canada has either breached its obligations under a historical treaty, or breached its obligations managing a First Nation's assets, including reserve lands, natural resources, and band money. For example, a specific claim may relate to mistakes made in surveying a reserve, the illegal removal of land from a reserve, or the illegal occupation of reserve land. Specific claims can be brought to the federal government for negotiation and settlement.

In the context of Shuswap Bands specific claims, the Eastern Parcel, the entirety of Juniper Heights to the mountains was intended to be designated as Reserve lands, a process that remained incomplete.

The second specific claim for the 1,940 acres reflects Canada's failure to allocate this specific parcel of land to the Band as directed by the Royal Commission in 1916.

This claim has been approved to begin negotiations. This process can take up to three years however, we are in the process of getting a Department of Justice lawyer assigned to this file and we have asked for the same lawyer and negotiating team as the Eastern Parcel Claim, as this settlement negotiation was completed in record time.

## Specific Claim: Eastern Parcel



**Claim has been approved. The negotiated amount payable to Shuswap Band has been sent to Ottawa.**

This is where we are.  
We expect to have approval on the amounts soon.



**Once approved Prepare for possible referendum.**

Canada typically mandates a referendum for settlements over a certain dollar amount.



**Community Engagement for Fund Distribution.**

Decide **how to** distribute funds & **how much** money should be distributed? Saved? Lump sum? monthly?



**Financial Literacy Classes.**

Mandatory financial literacy classes for members prior to the release of funds.



**Release money to members.**





# Shuswap Band Notices & Events

## Dinner & BINGO Night

January 16, 2025

Shuswap Band Community Hall

4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

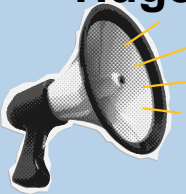
Dinner will be served at 4:30pm



BONANZA \$500



## Huge shoutout to Curt, Tyler, Mike, and Floyd over in Public Works!



These guys have been working hard lately – they help with every food box, keep our woodpile stacked with split wood, and deliver it to everyone who needs it. They've really went above and beyond this year, delivering more wood than ever, so much that we haven't had a single call about anyone running out! From looking after our fleet of 17 vehicles, to plowing, they're super busy, but they still make time to do the dirty work like cleaning up trash around the Reserve.



**SAVE THE DATE**

## Wellness Day & Open House Friday, May 2

We have lots of exciting things planned for this day- so mark it on your calendars now.

It seems like a long ways away- but it will be here before you know it!!





# Kenpesq't Asserts Rights and Self-Determination with Major Forestry Milestones

Submitted by TJ Neault, General Manager  
Kenpesq't Territorial Operations

Kenpesq't, the economic development corporation of the Shuswap Band, is proud to announce several significant achievements within Kenpesq't Forestry that highlight the Band's commitment to self-determination and the assertion of its rights and title within its traditional territory.



Photo 1 – Kenpesq't labelled ribbon being placed in the Golden TSA.

Kenpesq't Forestry has begun the process of laying out logging cut block boundaries under its own name for the first time (Photo 1). This important step represents progress in reclaiming stewardship over the Shuswap Band's lands and managing resources in alignment with Indigenous values. As this work unfolds, Kenpesq't Forestry will continue to demonstrate its dedication to sustainable resource management.

In addition, Kenpesq't Forestry is undertaking three substantial wildfire risk reduction projects, including two near Invermere and one in Banff National Park. The Banff project is the largest Kenpesq't has undertaken as a Prime Contractor and reflects Kenpesq't's growing expertise in forestry operations. The Invermere projects highlight Kenpesq't's focus on collaboration, as they involve a partnership with a Band member-owned business that prioritizes employing Band members (Photo 2), further supporting community growth and prosperity.



Photo 2 – Band members working on a Kenpesq't project to reduce wildfire risk by cutting and burning ladder fuels in the Juniper Heights area.

These achievements are just the beginning. Stay tuned as Kenpesq't Construction and Kenpesq't Territorial Operations also have many exciting initiatives underway, further showcasing the Shuswap Band's commitment to economic growth, environmental stewardship, and community development. Together, these milestones underscore Kenpesq't's dedication to asserting sovereignty, fostering prosperity, and honouring the Shuswap Band's ancestral responsibilities while building opportunities for future generations.





# Secwepemctsin Splukw





# Shuswap Band Land's Update

Submitted by Sierra Stump, Director of Lands & Public Works

## **Firewood:**

Please be advised that wood deliveries are only available to Elders and Social Assistance clients. Additionally, we provide firewood at two community locations accessible to all members: the Church Subdivision and the North Subdivision (Stoddart).

**Gates within the Community:** Please note that by direction of Chief and Council and due to concerns from community, certain roads within the Reserve Boundaries have been gated for safety and fire precaution. These gates are not meant to keep Shuswap members nor staff from any areas of the Reserve.

The passcode to many of the community gates is set to 1999 and will be changed intermittently. These codes are open to all membership, please feel free to share the codes with other members. We ask that you respect the wishes of the community and do not remove the locks. Due to lock thefts at the cemetery and vandalism at the gate at the end of Pontoon Rd, those codes have been changed. We kindly ask you to call the office for those new gate codes. 250.341.3678.

All gates will have restricted access signs installed that will direct members to call the office for access codes, in addition to word of mouth.

**Wills and Estates:** We still have funds available to cover the costs for members to make a will and other services. The Estates Management Funding Program intends to work collaboratively with Shuswap Members to educate the public about estate planning and administration. We have created an easy handbook (email us for a copy) for members and can also assist with:

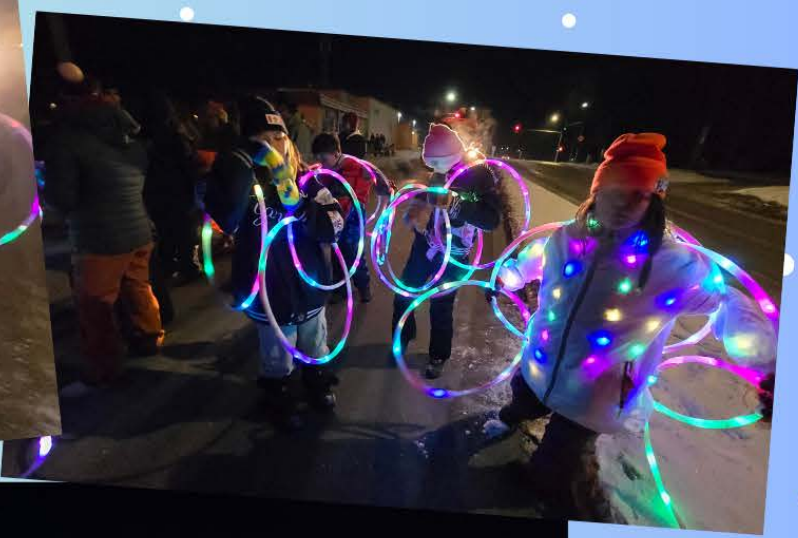
- communicating the benefits of estate planning and the importance of making wills and power of attorney decisions
- raising awareness of settlements and how they may impact estates, dependent adults, and their caregivers
- providing support for estates impacted by settlements
- increasing the role of First Nations in the management of estates
- make a will, change a will, get a Power of Attorney or a Personal Representative Agreement.

**Please contact 250-341-3678 ext 1014 for more information or appointments or email [sstump@shuswapband.ca](mailto:ssstump@shuswapband.ca)**





# Light up Night Parade







**EXCITING  
NEWS**



*2025 Youth Summer trips  
are now being finalized.*

*Please watch for details*

**If you are interested and would  
like to receive more information,  
please provide your email address  
to Kaylene Earl -  
[educationadmin@shuswapband.ca](mailto:educationadmin@shuswapband.ca)**

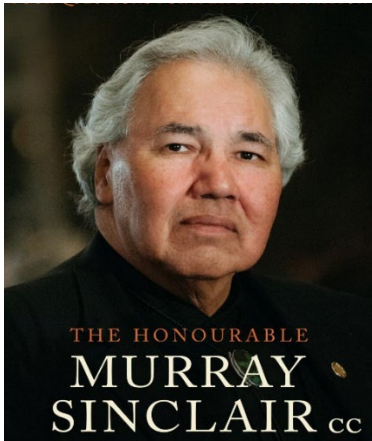
# Telling Our Stories

“Understand the history to understand what to do about it”

Senator Murray Sinclair

January 6, 2025

Gerard Gregoire, Indigenous Patient Navigator



Sadly, we lost an Indigenous champion when former Senator Murray Sinclair passed away November 4, 2024 at age 73.

Murray Sinclair was of Cree and Anishinaabe descent. He was a lawyer and was the first Indigenous judge in Manitoba. He became chief commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) into residential schools and following the final report of the TRC, he was appointed to the Canadian Senate as a senator from Manitoba.

As the chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), he challenged Canada to confront a dark chapter of history and laid out a transformative path toward healing.<sup>1</sup>

I had the privilege to hear Murray Sinclair speak in Kimberley in 2019. His story and words inspired me greatly. Of the many things he shared that day, one phrase stuck out in my mind, “Understand the history to understand what to do about it”. He was responding to a question from a non-Indigenous participant in the audience about reconciliation and moving forward.

This quote reminded me of the time I started to learn the truth of our Indigenous history through the compulsory Indian Studies course I took as part of the Bachelor of Social Work program at NVIT in 1991.

Our Indian Studies instructor was a Blackfoot woman named Marie Smallface-Marule. Every Indian Studies class, she opened a new can of worms as we steadily discovered the new colonial government’s intentions, attitudes and tactics to subjugate the Indian as they

moved toward their goal of acquiring all the rights and title to Indian lands and its rich resources in the making of Canada.

Our Indian Studies class was a mixture of business administration, communication and social work students.

The social work students would gather and debrief following each class. We shared our disgust, anger and shock as it dawned on us that the Indian Act, Indian Reserves, residential schools, small pox infected blankets, the spread of tuberculosis, crooked Indian Agents and many other policies all amounted to cultural genocide. We were pissed.

We asked our instructor if we could take time before the end of each class to debrief as a whole and one of the business students piped up, “Come on Social Work, it’s in the past, get over it.”

At this point I think it’s helpful to repeat the message from Murray Sinclair from a previous Telling Our Stories.

### ***Murray Sinclair Responds To People Who Want Indigenous People To Get Over Residential Schools***

*Sen. Murray Sinclair offered a powerful response Tuesday to Canadians who wonder why indigenous people don’t just “get over” the trauma of residential schools.*

*Anna Maria Tremonti, host of CBC’s “The Current,” asked the former chief commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission during a public forum in Ottawa on missing and murdered indigenous women what he would say to people who pose that question.*

*“My answer has always been: Why can’t you always remember this?” Sinclair said.*

*“Because this is about memorializing those people who have been the victims of a great wrong. Why don’t you tell the United States to ‘get over’ 9/11? Why don’t you tell this country to ‘get over’ all the veterans who died in the Second World War, instead of honouring them once a year?”*

<sup>1</sup> The Niagara Independent



*"Why don't you tell your families to stop thinking about all of your ancestors who died? Why don't you turn down and burn down all of those headstones that you put up for all of your friends and relatives over the years? It's because it's important for us to remember. We learn from it."*

*"And until people show that they have learned from this, we will never forget, and we should never forget, even once they have learned from it, because this is part of who we are. It's not just a part of who we are as survivors and children of survivors and relatives of survivors, it's part of who we are as a nation. And this nation must never forget what it once did to its most vulnerable people."*

*The true number of children who died in residential schools will likely never be known, but according to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, 3,201 confirmed deaths were reported.*

*Many students were physically or sexually abused, underfed and even used as subjects in nutritional experiments.*

*March 30, 2017 - Emma Prestwich, Huffington Post*

After some angry and aggressive debate between the business and social work students, Marie Smallface-Marule denied our in-class debrief request because we had too much information to cover in a short time. However, she did encourage us to keep meeting after class as we had been.

The guy who told us "To get over it" represented the ignorance of both, Indians and non-Indians alike. He would later become Chief of his Band where he eventually learned that he had to confront historical colonization because it still existed and impacted his Band and his people to the day.

I think it's safe to say that the entire Indian Studies class, and we were all Indians, were ignorant of our colonial history. Why?

In public school and mainstream society, we were all being taught that colonization was the best thing that happened to the primitive, heathen and inferior savages and we were buying into that belief.

Here's another Murray Sinclair piece from the Ottawa Citizen:

*But Sinclair emphasized that one of the most important messages that will come from the report (Truth and*

*Reconciliation Commission) is that the consequences of the school system are far more wide-reaching than many realize.*

*"This is not an aboriginal problem," he said. "This is a Canadian problem. Because at the same time that aboriginal people were being demeaned in the schools and their culture and language were being taken away from them and they were being told that they were inferior, they were pagans, that they were heathens and savages and that they were unworthy of being respected — that very same message was being given to the non-aboriginal children in the public schools as well."*

*As a result, he said, many generations of non-aboriginal Canadians have had their perceptions of aboriginal people "tainted."*

*"They need to know that this history includes them," Sinclair said of Canadians.*

*He said many people have told the commission they did not know their country had set up a school system that treated aboriginal children so poorly.*

*Sinclair said that now that those stories about "damaged" people have been told and it is clear that "Canada is responsible for that damage," it's time for aboriginals and non-aboriginals to forge a better relationship.*

*"This is about your grandchildren," Sinclair said he often tells people.*

*"Because we're leaving them this society. And do we want to leave them a society in which they are always in conflict? Or do we want to leave them a society in which they see themselves as partners in this wonderful nation that we want to have, but we don't yet have."<sup>2</sup>*

In September 2024, two months before he passed, Murray Sinclair's book, "Who We Are: Four Questions for a Life and a Nation" hit the book stores.

In the book, he tells his story from the time he was as a child to becoming a father, activist, lawyer, judge and senator. And as the book title suggests, he guides us to ask one of the most important life questions: Who are we?

I encourage you to get this book and read it, you can borrow mine when I'm done.

*Best wishes to you all and May 2025 be filled with reconciling, healing and building healthy, respectful and equal relationships!*

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<sup>2</sup>Mark Kennedy, Ottawa Citizen



IT HAS BEEN OVER 30 YEARS SINCE SHUSWAP BAND  
HAS HAD A LOCAL EDUCATION AGREEMENT WITH  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 6

This agreement acknowledges and ensures  
First Nations central role in First Nation education  
and  
First Nations students access to quality education.



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# LEA CELEBRATION



DANCE  
PERFORMANCE

FEAST

JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION

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FEBRUARY 20, 2025  
DAVID THOMPSON SECONDARY SCHOOL  
THEATRE  
5:00PM - 7:00PM

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# Celebrating Secwepemc Language Learning at SD6



As the calendar year comes to a close, the Secwepemc Language Learning Class at School District 6 (SD6) recently celebrated the culmination of their efforts to promote and preserve the Secwepemc language. Every Thursday, students and educators gather at JA Laird Elementary School for an immersive language experience that fosters both cultural appreciation and linguistic skills.

This fall, Tisha, Shayne, and Jenna have been instrumental in guiding our students through the nuances of the Secwepemc language. Their dedication and enthusiasm have played a significant role in engaging our young learners and instilling a sense of pride in their cultural heritage.

Students from Windermere Elementary School and Eileen Madson Primary School have actively participated in this enriching program by taking the Shuswap Shuttle to attend classes in person. Meanwhile, students from Edgewater Elementary School have connected remotely, participating via TEAMS to ensure that distance does not hinder their learning experience.

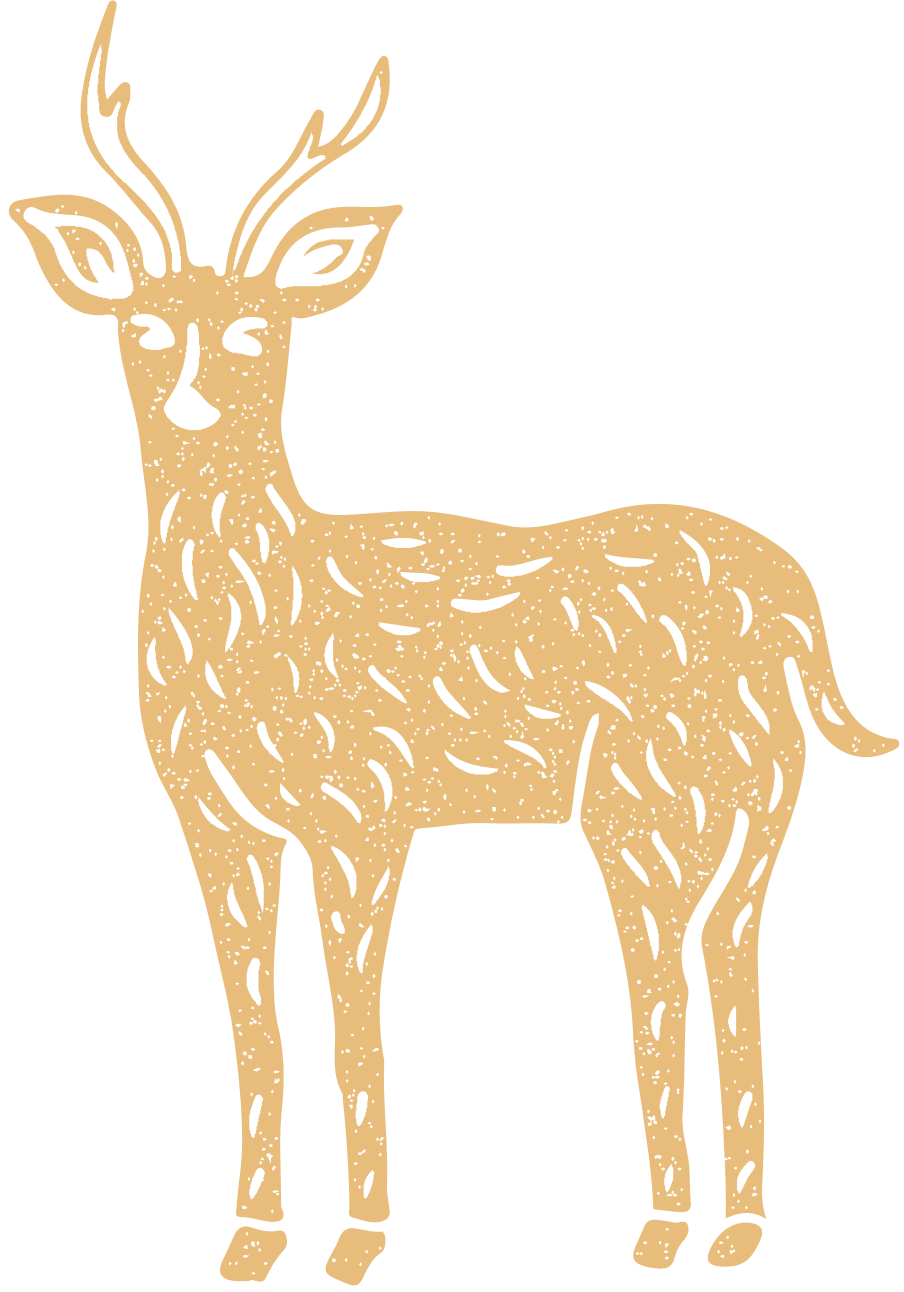
A heartfelt thank you goes out to Tisha, Jenna, and Shayne for their remarkable efforts in teaching our students the Secwepemc language. Their passion for language preservation and community engagement is truly commendable, as they inspire the next generation to embrace their cultural roots while learning a valuable skill.

As we look forward to another year, the Secwepemc Language Learning Class continues to serve as a beacon of education and cultural pride within SD6, proving that language is not just a means of communication, but a vital link to identity and heritage.





# CALLING ALL ELDERS AND KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS



SD6 has requested a  
consultation with  
Shuswap Band Elders  
and Knowledge  
Holders  
to review the SD6  
Elders and Knowledge  
Holders Handbook



**10:00AM-NOON**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2025**

**SHUSWAP BAND BOARDROOM**



Snacks & Honoraria will be provided







BC Elders Communication Center Society (BCECCS)/2025 Elders Gathering

1415 Weiwaikum Rd. Campbell River, BC, V9W 5W9

Ph: 250-286-9977

Toll Free: 1-877-738-7288

Email: [bcelders@telus.net](mailto:bcelders@telus.net)

Fax: 250-286-4809

Website: [www.bcelders.com](http://www.bcelders.com)

Contact: Donna Stirling, Coordinator

Please do not call with event questions  
Email is much faster: [bcelders@telus.net](mailto:bcelders@telus.net)

# 2025 ELDERS GATHERING

## Theme “Moving Forward Together”

EVENT DATES: August 26-27, 2025,  
With GROUP LEADER Early Check-In  
Aug. 25th from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

PLACE: Vancouver Convention Centre,  
East Building, 1055 Canada Place,  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 0C3

For registration, booth forms, etc. go to [www.bcelders.com](http://www.bcelders.com)  
and click on the Elders Gathering and the Gathering News





# Community Corner

**Congratulations** to another Shuswap Band member for being able to discard his “L” from the back of his vehicle.

**Happy Birthday Shayne from your fellow classmates!**

**Happy Birthday Sasha!!! We love you. xoxo from your family**



## Funnies



- My roomba just beat me to a Cheeto that I dropped on the floor. This is how the war against the machines begins.
- Yes, life is hard now but in the 2000's your co-workers could secretly nominate you for What Not to Wear.
- I respect people who leave the office for lunch everyday. It takes a strong person to go back to work twice in a day.
- When you are young and you drop something, you just pick it up. When you're older and you drop something, you stare at it for a while, wondering if you actually need it anymore.
- I've been in bed for 20 minutes and I've just remembered, I came upstairs for a pen.
- Saying "have a nice day" to someone sounds friendly but saying "enjoy your next 24 hours" sounds threatening.
- "How did you and your husband meet?" Me: "He burned me at the stake in 1645 and I swore revenge in another life".
- Is it just me, or does no one disappear in the Bermuda Triangle anymore?
- I go to work, I make my co-workers wonder what is wrong with me, and I clock out.
- It's Thursday, or as I like to call it: Day 4 of the hostage situation.
- My friend got a tattoo on his arm that says, "comparison is the thief of joy", and I am really debating getting the same tattoo on my arm but a little bit bigger!
- I would be so much better off if Amazon required a breathalyzer before purchase.
- Currently working on a diary full of lies. I want my loved ones to read it after I die and be like: "wait...what?"
- One of my neighbors owns several cats. On a recent visit she introduced them to me. "That's Astrophe, that's Erpillar, that's Aract and that's Alogue". I asked, "where on earth did you get such unusual names?" "Oh, those are their last names" she explained. "Their first names are Cat".
- When 2 people argue online I believe whoever spells correctly.
- When you die people cry and beg for you to come back but, when you do, there's all the running and screaming...

May 2025 be filled with Love, Laughter, Brightness and Hope!

Wishing you all a *Happy New Year!*

Shuswap Band Administration Office  
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Invermere, BC V0A 1K2  
250.341.3678

