

Our year in review!
SHUSWAP BAND 2023

Shuswap Band Chief & Council



Chief
Barb Cote



Councillor
Mark Thomas



Councillor
Richard Martin



*This has been a wonderful year for us.
Cheers to good health and a Happy New
Year!.*

Here is a peek into some of the meetings that our elected council attended in 2023.

Oath of office for new Council term, Columbia River Treaty meetings, attending and hosting monthly Shuswap Nation Tribal Council All Chiefs meetings, MOTI opening of highway 1 at Kicking Horse Canyon, 2nd year Ceremonial Salmon Release, Annual Salmon Festival, Minister's meetings, Quarterly Columbia Collaborative Meetings, SKIP meetings, quarterly band membership meetings, biweekly chief and council meetings, attend portfolio themed meetings (ie wildlife, parks/recreation/health/finance etc), biweekly health and safety, biweekly directors meetings, Christmas Party for Shuswap Band membership.

It is a glimpse into what work Shuswap Band is doing to better the future for the next 7 generations!



*Together we
are
strong!*





So many great things happened in 2023!!

Annual Salmon Festival



2023 Ceremonial Salmon Release



Shuswap drummers & singers attended a wide variety of events

Wellness day at the Health Center



First ever Shuswap Band Float in the Invermere Light up the Night Christmas Parade



These are just a few...



The Shuswap Band Staff was busy

Culture & Community



Shuswap kids performed at so many places, the opening act for events and local businesses, they were also in schools, and in the Christmas float



Opening for Elders Group Cranbrook

We made baby boards!



Men drumming & singing/ Community drum making



Salmon canning

Ribbon dress & Shirt Making

Digging Bitter-root



A fan making class!



Hoop dancers practicing
Singing at the Guardian's Awards





Education



The Education Department had a great year with many success stories.

*The Night of Celebration held in April was an opportunity for community members to be recognized for their accomplishments and achievements this year.

*One of our post-secondary students has graduated this year, and we have 3 others that are continuing their education.

*The Drivers Training classes have had 6 participants in total, with one already achieving his goal to receive his "N" prior to Christmas.

-*Elders and SD6 luncheon heard from the Elders what they would like to have incorporated in the schools for the Shuswap students and we now have an Elder in Residence in the schools.

*A ski program was designed for our K-12 students, providing them with a ski pass and gear.

*Swimming lessons are taking place with 5 youth and one Elder participating.

Summer was a great time to be a Shuswap youth! We had 1 day trip and 4 overnight trips throughout the summer. It was amazing to see the new friendships and memories that were made.



Finance

Finance is updating our finance system, and the team has been doing training this year. Moved our membership payments from once a year, to quarterly.

Once our system is underway we will start to EFT quarterly payments to membership.



Pictured: (Left to Right) Katherine Stevens, Wanda Laboucan, Candice Sam, Sue Ellis



Guardians

As we approach the conclusion of another impactful year, it's essential to reflect on the incredible journey we've undertaken as stewards of Secwepemcul'ecw. Our collective efforts, commitment, and achievements have shaped the past year into one marked by meaningful progress and significant contributions to the community.



Community Cleanup and Infrastructure Development

Our commitment to community well-being was demonstrated through active participation in local cleanup initiatives.

Furthermore, we took pride in contributing to the construction of a community sweat lodge, fostering a sense of unity and cultural richness.



Training and Skill Development

The year began with a four-month training program that equipped our team with essential skills and knowledge. This foundation laid the groundwork for our successful endeavors throughout the year.

Engagement with Proponents and Ministries

Building on our commitment to collaboration, we successfully worked with multiple proponents on projects that align with our mission. The relationships we established with the Ministries of Forests and Mines have proven instrumental in navigating challenges and promoting sustainable practices.

Archaeological Projects

Participating in multiple archaeological projects allowed us to connect with our region's rich history. By preserving and understanding our past, we contribute to the cultural heritage of the Shuswap community.

Elders Interviews for Lost Gathering Area

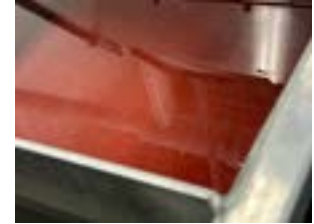
One of the most significant initiatives this year has been our commitment to revitalizing our lost gathering area. Through interviews with elders, we are diligently working to revive and restore this crucial part of our cultural heritage. This project not only connects us with our roots but also ensures that future generations can enjoy and learn from these sacred spaces.





Ecosystem Restoration in Wetlands

Our hands-on involvement in wetlands ecosystem restoration showcased our dedication to preserving the natural environment. Through our efforts, we contributed to the health and vitality of the Shuswap wetlands, leaving a lasting positive impact.

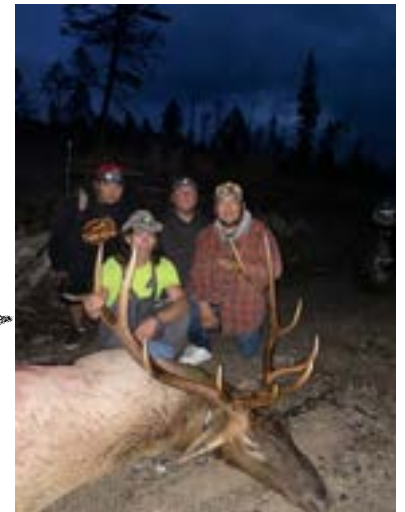


Salmon Hatchery Work

The Shuswap Guardians Teamed up with the Ktunaxa Guardians and Okanogan Nation Alliance (ONA), Having the ONA teach us how to do some of the duties, including catching the salmon by Seine Netting in a local creek in the ONA Area but at the same time learning how to separate the salmon while still on the water then having people in dry suits float downstream with the salmon once all the bags are full to put them in enclosures built in the located in the creek, after that's done, we were taught on how to separate the good eggs from the bad eggs once that was done we were brought into a different part of the hatchery to activate the eggs so they can grow into fry and once they get to a certain size pit tagging stage begins than after all those stages they bring the salmon to communities for salmon releases for salmon restoration.

Guardian Hunting Trip

The beginning of October Richard, Hawk and Jay Nick took the Guardians out to Finley creek for a week to take the guardians on a trip to teach them on how to properly use firearms and skin and gut a animal. The guardians were successful on their hunt they were able to get a cow elk.



Looking Forward

As we conclude this year, let us carry the momentum of our achievements into the future. Our dedication to community, culture, and environmental stewardship positions us as guardians of Secwepemcul'ecw. Looking ahead, we aim to build on these successes, forge new partnerships, and continue our mission with passion and purpose.



Gratitude

I extend my deepest gratitude to each member of the Shuswap Guardians team, every Shuswap band department, and the Chief and Council. Your hard work, resilience, and dedication have been the driving force behind our accomplishments. Together, we have made a positive impact on our community and environment, and I am excited about the possibilities that the coming year holds for us.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and contributions.
Sincerely, Shuswap Guardians



Health



Some highlights from this year.

- *Hosted an overdose awareness day event at the Shuswap Health Centre
- *Hosted Don Burnstick during National Addictions Awareness week
- *Two health staff attended the First Nations Health and Wellness Summit with FNHA
- *Two great turn outs for the community Wellness Days in the spring and fall
- *Meat canning work shop
- *The elders gathering was a great turn out





Housing & Social



Housing

Maintenance and Repairs, several homes participated in the Health and Safety, Structural and Energy Audits. We then received funding from CBT and CMHC to provide vinyl windows and exterior doors, blow in insulation up to R60, cleaned furnaces and ducts, moved elders w/d up to the main floor from the basement, repaired and replaced copper piping, replaced blower motors from furnaces and other maintenance. We have applied for funding to install solar panels on several homes, funding is pending. We also applied for funding to install heat pumps for Elders this will allow Elders to get away from burning wood all together or choose to do a combination, these units will be able to cool homes with air conditioning.

Social Development

We are happy to announce that our Social Assistance work load has decreased due to the employment of Shuswap Band. Social Assistance rate is 8 percent.

I would like to Wish all a Festive Season and a Joyous 2024





Lands, Utilities & Public Works

This was a busy year for Kinbasket Water & Sewer as we brought operations in house for the maintenance and delivery of our water system. There was a lot of behind the scenes work to develop and implement procedures, but we recruited an excellent team that got the job done in record time. We now have two buildings going up in the spring to house the Public Works and Kinbasket Water and Sewer offices and operations shop. We look forward to hosting you at our open house!



Pictured: (left to right) Gage Martin, Jesse St. John, Tyler McKay, Sierra Stump, Vaughn Taylor, Jarret St. John, Curt Johnson

Kinbasket Water and Sewer has completed much needed risk assessments and full system sweeps to locate and exercise all valves to ensure proper function. KWSC can now review and assess high risk areas that need to be priority for re-investment. Along with all of this data collection, the operations team has replaced 3 Fire Hydrants, 2 well pumps and a septic system on reserve. The operations team is ready to respond to any water emergencies 24/7 and is continually looking for better ways to efficiently maintain the system.

Kinbasket Water and Sewer in cooperation with Shuswap Band has invested in a lot of fire protection equipment.

- Rooftop Sprinklers kits with fireproof hoses for all member and band owned homes on the Reserve
 - A portable 500-gallon water tank that sits on our flat deck plow truck.
 - Fire hoses and attachments to utilize our own hydrants.
 - Portable generator to run our pump house so in the event of a power outage, we will be able to keep the water flowing.
 - A series of generators and trash pumps to fill tanks or systems directly from creeks or other water sources and keep any vulnerable member homes with power.
- Stay tuned as we are hopeful to receive funding for a mobile wildfire structure protection unit (enclosed trailer) that holds all of our equipment year-round.





A new playground

Shuswap Band had two playgrounds constructed, one at the North Subdivision and one at Village Loop Rd (church subdivision). After the playgrounds were constructed, we added covered seating and picnic tables. Landscaping will finish off the project in the spring. What a great addition to our community!



Shuswap Band contracted Urban Arts Architecture to meet with Council, membership and staff to design and provide us with a conceptual model for our much-needed Administration, Health and Community Use building. Urban Arts has designed T'Sou-ke First Nation Commercial Complex, Radium Hot Springs Community Hall/Library and SFU First People's Gathering House to name a few. They design facilities that incorporate and showcase First Nation culture and history. We look forward to hearing from the community in the New Year about what you would like to see included in it.

We expect to hear back from ISC early in the New Year on how much they will contribute to our much-needed Water System Upgrade and when we can begin construction.

Shuswap Band received funding for a meat processing plant with a full walk-in cooler and fridge unit. Planning and construction began in early October and should be completed by the spring. We look forward to keeping you updated on this amazing addition to our community.



Our Fleet of Trucks

Territorial Stewardship

The TS Department has had a very busy year, some of the events and projects we that have worked on:

*Engagement with MoTI (Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure) on the Radium Wildlife Overpass, to ensure that the bighorn sheep are protected and that vehicle strikes are reduced. We also have monitors on the Radium Hill making sure drivers are driving cautiously and are aware of the active herd.

*Development of a Fish & Wildlife Table with the BC Government - this will help us progress any fish and wildlife topics that our community, technical staff, or Chief and Council deem important priorities with the government quickly and effectively

*Sqlewúlcw (Sun Creek) Wetland Renaming - we worked with BC Wildlife Federation to rename Sun Creek Wetland to Sqlewúlcw to honour the beaver that was released in the area.

*Plant ID Book release - all members were gifted a Shuswap-published field guide that featured 24 plants and their cultural, medicinal, and technological uses.

The guide features art by two Shuswap youth and involved months of Elder and Knowledge Keeper consultation, research, writing, and formatting.

*Several Parks Canada site visits to ensure Shuswap interests and language are represented on the land - including trips to Redstreak and Takkakaw Falls.



*Began the development of a cultural use area in Kootenay National Park by visiting two potential sites with Elders, Youth, and community members to assess which spot would be best for privacy, amenities, access and ceremonial purposes.

*An agreement was made with Parks Canada to provide free access hangtags to the Parks and Radium Hot Pools for all Shuswap Members

**The 2nd Annual Ceremonial Salmon Release was successfully held, with members from Shuswap, other Secwepemc, Ktunaxa, and Okanagan Bands in attendance to release salmon fry into the Columbia River.

*Continuation of vital Columbia River Treaty (CRT) talks, research, and negotiations.



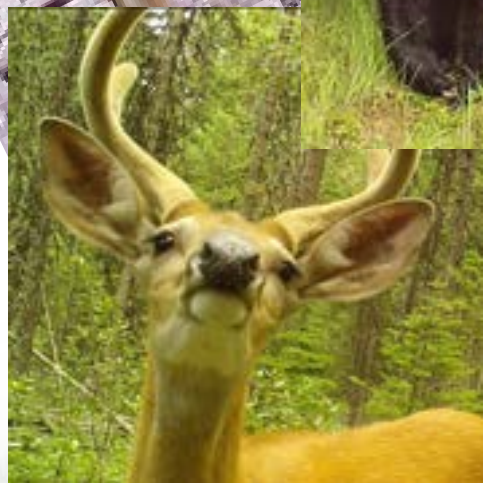
Wildlife

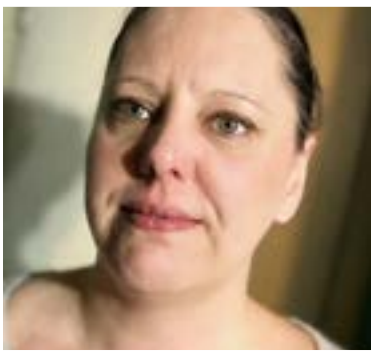
Wildlife staff have been working on elk stewardship initiatives including elk counts, reviewing the regional elk plan to ensure Shuswap's perspectives are included, the camera trap study (we tagged 388,000 photos!), talking with the range branch about improvements for elk and working on developing new projects to give us better information on how we can improve elk habitat. Caribou and sheep have also been big focuses this year along with recreation management. We have been working with other nations to plan habitat restoration for caribou in the Central Selkirks and Columbia North herds. For sheep, we continue to monitor them on Radium Hill and participate in the overpass design and monitoring. Finally, we have been working on developing new initiatives for the coming year on badger and wildlife health, stay tuned for those!



Fisheries

This year Shuswap Fisheries and Aquatics have been busy supporting a number of different projects, beginning with the Annual Ceremonial Release of Salmon in May, to which planning for 2024 has already begun – stay tuned for an update on this in January! This year we have seen a lot of planning, capacity building, and collaboration with the other Nations and partners in the Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative (CRSRI), as we look to organize and strategize our future work related to furthering our objectives within bringing the salmon home. We hope to provide further details on the planned studies and work for CRSRI in early 2024. Shuswap Fisheries and Aquatics staff continue to support technical work on the Columbia River Treaty. Shuswap Band has recently begun a new initiative of bringing Okanagan Nation Alliance's (ONA) Fish in Schools Program to School District #6. This year Windermere Elementary and McKim Middle School were randomly selected out of the schools interested to participate in the Fish in Schools Program and we look forward to supporting their learning and finding ways to provide this to even more schools in the future.





Stephanie Miller
Admin Assistant-HC



Vaughn Taylor
Senior Utility Operator



Angela Eugene
Office Manager



Jillian McDonell
HR Practicum Student



Gage Martin
Utility Operator in Training



Jesse St. John
Utility Operator



Brent Wilson
Student Navigator



Curt Johnson
Maintenance Supervisor



Jill Edwardsen
HR Manager



Tisha Tardif
Language Coordinator



Sandy Dehart
Reception



Deb Hoag
Shuttle Bus Driver



Tony Pascal
PT Shuttle Bus Driver



Andrea Sakamoto
Councillor



Scott Cope
Fisheries Biologist

Lets not forget all the great things that happened in the community....



Alex McCluskie



Jamie Thomas



Meagan Eugene

Some members got their licenses



Gage Martin
Won Gold in NAIG



Some won awards

Madison Richards
Won Silver in the NAIG



Memphis Martin
Won the "Hawk Award"



Chayton Martin
Indigenous Team BC



Robyn & Tisha Tardif received their Secwepemc Language
Proficiency Diploma





Others wrote books-
Sasha Eugene wrote a book
of poetry "Ninem"

Some Shuswap members went to Summer Camp and
travelled all around


(Education Department comprised a booklet with all the pics!!- cant wait to see it!)



Others hunted, camped, danced, sang, and drummed.





 Some members had great co-labs, this one was with BC Wildlife Federation & a Youth Guardian Program at Blue Lake



As a community we held and attended several events, some were:

Above: Truth & Reconciliation Day

Above: MMIW Walk 2023

Below: Two of our Elders honoring our community for grand entry at the National Elders Gathering 2023

Below : Performing the Honor song for Remembrance Day in Invermere



We have just touched the tip of the iceberg of all the amazing things happening for us!

It's been a wonderful year for the Shuswap Band.

Can't wait to see what 2024 brings us!

