



Education Department

Quarterly Report

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Reflecting the Strategic Plan

LEADERSHIP

GOAL: SELF-GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL IDENTITY OF SIB.

- To implement an education program where students can attain the skills necessary for the 21st century world while rooted in their language and heritage.
- To research best practices on addressing Halq'emaylem language revitalization and to begin to plan for oral language development for Seabird Island Band members. The plan is to offer a Halq'emaylem language program at the Seabird College leading to a certificate the first year, diploma and Degree in the subsequent 4 years.
- Developed a five year strategic plan to address the severe language loss by implementing an oral transfer fluency program commencing Spring of 2023.
- To revitalize Halq'emaylem language in a meaningful and sustainable way so that fluency in the language becomes the norm.
- To validate the importance of Halq'emaylem language and culture by ensuring that each classroom participates in cultural and ceremonial activities. The high school visited a long house in Chilliwack.
- The academic program will need to be strengthened to address the education gap caused by the pandemic.

MEMBERSHIP

GOAL: ENGAGED, EMPOWERED AND SELF-SUFFICIENT SQ'EWQELO:MEXW

- The Seabird Community School will engage parents to have a strong voice in the education programming of their children;
- The first parents meeting took place on November 2022 and the next one is scheduled for January 24th, 2023 at the school gym. There will be a family fun night and a presentation about how trauma affects the developing brain of a child.
- The Seabird College has been pursuing relationships with other institutions to offer additional educational opportunities to the membership in areas that are required by the Band such as Conservation Officers, Building Inspectors, Entrepreneurship, LPNs etc. The Seabird College will offer a Construction Craft Workers program in the Fall of 2023 as well as 4 other programs.
- The Seabird College is aware that gaining confidence and public trust from the community is a priority.

ENVIRONMENT

PROTECT AND ENHANCE S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW, INCLUDING LAND, WATER AND AIR CONSISTENT WITH TÓMIYEQW

- All education buildings will follow the recycling protocols and teach climate change to the students;

- The Sciences offered at the high school are beginning to include notions of “sustainability”, “ecology” and research is required as to past, best practices, worldview of how the environment was maintained by Sto’lo people.
- Seabird College plans to offer aquatic and eco-restoration programs and the potential partners are being identified and will be approached now that the Program College Coordinator has been hired.

CULTURE, HEALING, HEALTH & WELLNESS

GOAL: ÁY:MEXW – HEALTHY PEOPLE, PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND SPIRITUALLY.

- The Seabird Community school will be implementing an alternative program for the students who are at risk or high risk of dropping out, getting into trouble with the legal system, not completing high school, early pregnancy etc. One teacher will be hired and a counsellor to meet the needs of the students..
- Teach staff and students about medicinal uses of plants, (This has not yet happened)
- To continue to implement trauma informed practices in the school and provide training to the employment department and Seabird College (In process);
- To bring traditional knowledge keepers into the school and to take the students out to the land as required (more commitment and buy-in from staff is required);
- To instill pride in the Sto;lo identity in the students and to provide professional development to the staff so that they become knowledgeable about the background of the students and the community. (The first PD is coming up with Keith Carlson on January 27, 2023 at Camp Squeah)

INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL: AN ECONOMICALLY STABLE COMMUNITY THAT MEETS THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS FOR FUTURE GROWTH.

- To address the issue of overcrowding at Seabird elementary School (there are staff operating from offices in the hallways and students were on waitlists to attend Seabird Community school);
- There are discussions between Directors of Education and Infrastructure that Seabird may require a middle year’s school in the future.
- To obtain a permanent structure for the Seabird College and to include student dorms and a daycare.
- Feasibility studies will be done this year 2023.