

## SGS Chair Report - Kúkwpi7 Darrell Bob



**S**GS is working at closing the communication gap between SGS and the communities. To do this, we took a new approach by visiting the communities and off reserve locations to educate members about SGS and its programs. The team includes: Ernest Armann (SGS), Al Boldt (BCH), Janice Whitney (SGS), Jeremy Higham (BCH), Lita Gomez (SGS),

Laura John (SGS), Bonnie Adolph (SGS) and I. In some communities there was a bit of struggle for attendance, but other communities had an amazing turnout. It was great to see a lot of people coming out. We are looking forward to this approach next year pending budget allocations and will incorporate your feedback for improvements.

At the last SGS board meeting we had discussions about our new video series. The first video will be focussed on fish as our nation considers ourselves salmon people as it is our main food source and diet staple. Our approach was to explore pre- hydro impacts. Zumak was in abundance and people hung only zumak. The Terzaghi dam impact wiped out the zumak. The first DVD will be released soon and we are still considering the theme for the second and third video and still having discussions with BC Hydro on what it will look like. Also, one of the purposes for doing this series is to help BC Hydro employees understand our position and the impacts from building the hydro dam. The long term effects have taken a toll on our people with the loss of the fish. Signing the agreement, gives us an opportunity to look at replenishing the salmon in the bridge system. On behalf of SGS, I would like to thank Jeremy Williams for producing the video.

SGS and SCC also had a two day planning session in

Squamish on November 18 & 19, 2014. A report will be generated soon and will require some follow up work; however, the session was productive for the tribe at large. The session was also another means to close the communication gap between Chiefs Council, its organizations, and to create a better understanding of the roles each organization plays within the nation.

In closing we would like to wish you all and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas on behalf of the SGS Board of Directors.

**“Signing the agreement, gives us an opportunity to look at replenishing the salmon in the bridge system.”**



PHOTO: **Samahquam signing of Education Leadership Accord in Mission.** Left to Right: Clara Smith, Howard Smith Jr., Malcolm Smith Sr. Ernest Armann in back. Seated: Chief Kathleen Smith & Laura John.

## St'at'imc Constitution Initiative

### Steps towards a New Story

*“Across Indian Country, a growing number of Native nations are working hard to reclaim control over their own affairs, create vibrant economies, revitalize their cultures and languages, and rebuild healthy societies -- all on their own terms.” Dr. Stephen Cornell, Lecturer, Native Nations Institute*

St'at'imc leadership have embarked on a multi-year constitution development project to capture and enrich St'at'imc principles and values to strengthen and empower their inherent right and responsibility to self-rule. Nxe'kmenlhkálha múta<sup>7</sup> nt'áqmanlhkálha (Our Laws and Way of Life).

A St'at'imc constitution is one expression of self-rule and self-determination. A constitution is the collective determination of what the people say is the “over all architecture” of how St'at'imc will govern themselves.

It expresses what St'at'imc values, principles are and what is important in preserving and enhancing the nation's sovereignty.

Last year, a small group of representatives were appointed by their respective communities to lay the foundation for the St'at'imc constitution initiative.

It was a successful first year. With the strong leadership support of the St'at'imc Chiefs, the SCC Chair, the Project Manager and the Constitution Team the deliverables of the first year's project were met, and expectations were exceeded.

#### Accomplishments of the Constitution Initiative - Year 1

- Development of a Constitution Team competency matrix to guide community selection of team members.
- Development of a Constitution Team Terms of Reference to guide the team's work.
- Development of a Constitution framework that helps identify future discussion points and areas of research.
- Draft of Nation constitution values.
- Development of a Community Engagement Strategy to ensure ongoing and meaningful involvement of ucwalmicw and communities.
- Training of Constitution team members in the areas of constitution development, facilitation and planning, community engagement & strategy development, and project monitoring & reporting.
- Community meetings with Elders to identify values, traditional governance practices, traditional decision-making processes,

and to determine how traditional governance can be applied in today's context.

Highlights for this year's work is building upon the above noted accomplishments and have planned team training workshops, team strategy sessions and community consultation sessions.

Workshops include:

- Constitution Development Best Practices and Research Approaches
- St'at'imc Constitution Research Inquiry Methods and Tools
- Conducting St'at'imc Constitution Research, Analysis and Reporting

Further, the work plan will focus on looking at the following issues

- Nation level decision-making, rights, responsibilities, powers and limits
- External Nation relationships
- Peacekeeping and enforcement
- Citizenship
- The relationship of community responsibilities, rights and powers to the collective - St'at'imc government.

The team has expanded from 6 St'at'imc representatives to 11 this year. The following people offer an abundance of expertise, wisdom and perspective.

Stacey Austinson, SCC Government Advisor  
 Randell Charlie, Xa'xtsa  
 Chief Lucinda Phillips, Lil'wat  
 Kukwpi<sup>7</sup> Perry Redan, Sekw'el'was  
 Chief Michelle Edwards, Sekw'el'was  
 Jolenne Redan, Sekw'el'was  
 Chief Larry Casper, Tsal'alh  
 Ida Mary Peter, Tsal'alh  
 Issac Adolph, Xaxli'p  
 Chief Shelley Leech, T'it'q'et  
 Bradley Jack, Xwisten

The St'at'imc Constitution Initiative blog:  
<http://statimc-constitution.posthaven.com>

## Future Generations Profile



PHOTO: Left to right, Elijah Michel left, middle Chris John, & Kathleen Street on the right: sampling IE weighing, measuring, classifying and releasing fish for growth samples.

**Chris John** is the fisheries supervisor for Bridge River band and Coldstream ecology. He is a Xaxl'ip member who has been living in Xwisten the past 7 years. Chris' parents are Dixon John and Janice Lupton (nee Brady). Chris works mainly on Bridge River for BRGMON 1 that involves working with juvenile fish in Bridge River and undertaking tasks such as, juvenile growth sampling, habitat surveys, stock assessments. Chris became involved with this type of work after completing the Environmental technician

**"It's great to work outdoors and feel you are doing something good for the environment."**

course offered by Sekw'el'was. Other training Chris has completed includes: Swift Water Rescue, First aid Level 1, and Excel. Chris enjoys his work because "it's great to work outdoors and feel you are doing something good for the environment. The work always changes and is most always challenging".

## Capacity Building

**Darwin John** Darwin is working as the Wildlife & Lands

Assistant. He is from Tsal'álh and his parents are Matilda John (Terry) of Xwisten, and Vincent Sam Casper John (Pabby) of Tsal'álh. On his Dad's side his Grand Mother is Josephine John and Casper John. And, on his Mom's Xwisten side his grandparents are Richard (Dick) Terry, and Mary Terry. Darwin was involved in several planning sessions working on the goals for the new organization once the hydro agreement was ratified. Darwin then returned to school to complete the Natural Resources Technology Diploma from NVIT and hoped he would finish in time to apply for a position with SGS. He applied for the Wildlife and Lands position and was one of the successful candidates.

One of the main projects Darwin works on is the Mule Deer Project. This project includes the Mule Deer Health which he collects deer heads for testing, and sets up workshops for our team with various communities. Darwin also maintains, sets up and downloads pictures from field cameras within the Territory. There are 3 now in the Yalakom Watershed and the team is monitoring



various animal movements in the drainage. It started out as monitoring for Mule Deer but quickly escalated to other animal movement on the various trails. Darwin also assists with the Grizzly Bear and black Bear monitoring project and data

collection on various fields such as Waypoints for stream crossings and roads. Additional training Darwin has completed includes the Wild links and Roads workshop. He has also attended the 1st year for the bear aware session, a Sediment and Erosion control session, and MS professional 2010.

Darwin adds that he enjoys his work, "this is the type of work that I feel I have trained for all my life. In my role with Northern St'át'ime Communities as a Funeral Organizer and helper I've had the opportunity to talk to many Elders during quiet times and they told me a lot of information through their stories about the Northern Territory and how they used the plants and animals. We also had numerous discussions on Land Management practices no longer used." Darwin's future goals include acquiring a Professional standing as a Registered Forest Technologist which he is currently researching.

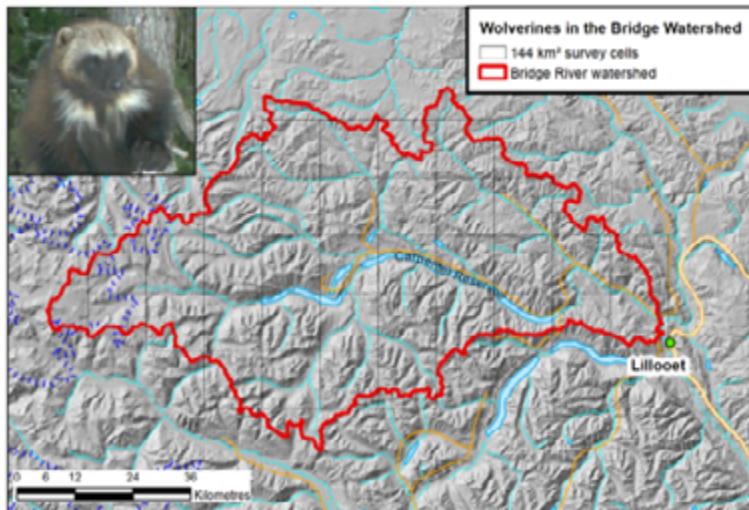
## Wolverines of the St'át'imc Territory



Wolverines that occur in St'át'imc traditional territory face a number of increasing threats that might be putting their populations at risk. Fur harvest, habitat losses due to forestry, mining, and hydroelectric reservoirs, and disturbance caused by industrial and recreational activities in the backcountry all may be affecting the population. To help keep the wolverine population healthy, we need to know more about where they occur, how many

there are, and better understand how human activities affect where wolverines can still make a living in this incredible landscape.

To figure out where wolverines occur in the Bridge River watershed, we will be putting out remote cameras and hair snaggers – much like has been done for grizzly bears – in 34 “cells” throughout the 4,750 km<sup>2</sup> watershed, including the Bridge, Yalakom, Tyaughton, Gun, and Hurley River drainages. These camera and snagger stations have bait and lure that draws the wolverine to the site, then the animal hopefully climbs a run-pole to try to get to the bait, which is strung up between 2 trees. The run-pole is positioned so that the remote camera can take a good photo of the animal. As the wolverine climbs the run-pole, they also have to pass by barbed wire and alligator clips that collect hair that we can use for DNA fingerprinting. Wolverines won't be harmed by visiting these stations.



These camera and snagger stations will be located in about half of the cells this year and will be up and running from early January until mid-April. Late winter is the best time of year to look for wolverines as they move around more and are drawn to bait when food is scarce during this time. And there are fewer grizzly bears around to damage the stations then, too!

With this project, we want to get a better understanding of the effects of on-going and new human activities and other threats on the sustainability of the wolverine population. The goal of our work is to reduce these risks so that the wolverine population is healthy enough to maintain continued sustainable use by St'át'imc communities. As with Grizzly bears, if the ecosystem sustains the wide-ranging wolverine, then we know the system still has some resilience as wilderness.

We would love to hear about your sightings of wolverines in the Bridge watershed. Please contact [Rich Weir \(250-356-8186, Rich.Weir@gov.bc.ca\)](mailto:Rich.Weir@gov.bc.ca) or [Sue Senger \(250-256-7523, ssenger@telus.net\)](mailto:ssenger@telus.net) if you have any sightings or just want more information on the work. If you happen to see us out in the bush this winter, please feel free to stop by and chat. We're always happy to talk about this amazing creature of remote backcountry wilderness!

## St'át'imc Eco Resources (SER)

Kalh Wa7 alap nSneknukwa. Norman Leech nskwatsitisa. T'it'q'etmeckan.

I have been contracted to be the Interim General Manager for St'át'imc Eco Resources (SER) for 6 months. SER was created by the Chiefs Council to generate wealth and benefits for the St'át'imc Nation through the Hydro Agreement.

My job until April 30 will be to develop business plans, organizational structure, strategic relationships, partnerships and opportunities to achieve those goals for all the St'át'imc communities and citizens. The Board of Directors and Staff have accomplished a great deal toward these goals and my job is to assist them in further transforming the vision of the chiefs and communities into reality. The Directors are Darryl Peters, Arnold Adolph, Merle Alexander, Neil Philcox and Peter Parrish. The Staff are Bonnie Adolph, Gilda Davis and Jude Manahan.

My email address is [normleech@gmail.com](mailto:normleech@gmail.com) if you wish to contact me.

## St'át'imc Principal



**Kukpwi7 Perry Redan** is the St'át'imc Principal. BC Hydro also has a Principal, Lyle Viereck. The Principals meet at least once a year until the tenth anniversary. The Principals determine ways to improve the implementation of the St'át'imc Agreements. The Principals will be meeting on December 9, 2014 in Vancouver.

## Meeting Dates

- **Steering Committee Meeting** - December 9, 2014 in Vancouver, BC.
- **St'át'imc Chiefs Council (SCC) Meeting** - January 7, 2015 in Lillooet, BC.
- **St'át'imc Education and Training Committee (SETAC) Meeting** - January 28, 2015 (location to be determined)
- **St'át'imc Government Services (SGS) Meeting**- February 23, 2015 @ SGS Office in Lillooet, BC.

## SGS Address

SGS new office location is 10 Scotchman Road, Lillooet BC V0K 1V0 (the former T'it'q'et band office).

**Phone:** (250) 256 0425 **Fax:** (250) 256 - 0445