

JANUARY 2023

NEWSLETTER



The Xwisten Chief, Council and Staff would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. May the new year bring peace, joy and happiness.

The next community band meeting will be on January 8th in the gymnasium at 10:00am

Bridge River Indian Band

PO Box 190 Lillooet, BC V0K 1V0

12210 Joseph Road

Phone: 250-256-7423

Toll Free Phone: 1-888-256-7423

Admin Fax: 250-256-7999

Health Fax: 250-256-2443

Lands Office Phone: 250-256-7997



BRIDGE RIVER INDIAN BAND

P.O. BOX 190, LILLOOET, BC V0K 1V0 • PH: (250) 256-7423

ADMIN FAX: (250) 256-7999 • HEALTH FAX: (250) 256-2443

December 29, 2022

To Xwisten Members,

Re: Xwisten Newsletter Update

We hope you are keeping warm and drive safe out and about.



The following are updates for this month:

- **Thank You to Maintenance and Lands Staff for plowing roads throughout the holidays**
- Next Band Meeting January 8, 2023
- **Christmas Community Dinner had a great turn out**
- There will be Band Emergency contact during Holiday Break
- Housing repairs/issues, please contact Administrator
- Reminder to those with outstanding House Arrears to make a re-payment plan
- Five-plex tenants are currently moving in
- Wood delivering to Elders and Social Assistance Clients in process for their wood quota and wood is to be used for heating homes only, not for bonfires
- Community Wood available on Saturday and Sunday 8am to 2pm, thank you to Kenny Thomas for assisting
- Encourage people to apply for current Job Positions open are, Community Health Representative, Early Child Educator, Lands Coordinator, Operations & Maintenance, Infrastructure Manager
- Reminder to review Draft Election Code
- Xwisten Fire Volunteers still looking for new members ongoing
- Reminder for Fire Smart clean up, general garbage, including vehicles, for emergency services and personal, having access to yard and home encase of emergency and local services
- Telus Internet Fibre installation project, estimated next spring

Gary Forsyth
Administrator





BRIDGE RIVER INDIAN BAND

P.O. BOX 190, LILLOOET, BC V0K 1V0 • PH: (250) 256-7423

ADMIN FAX: (250) 256-7999 • HEALTH FAX: (250) 256-2443

NOTICE

XWISTEN BAND MEETING

Date: **January 8, 2023**

Start Time: **9:00am**

Location: **Gym**

AGENDA

1.) Review Meeting Minutes

- i. November 20, 2022

Other agenda items to be decided by Chief & Council.



1st Xwisten Elders Bingo

Date: January 14, 2023

Time: 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm

Where: (MPR) Multipurpose Room

(Behind the Bridge River Indian Band Office Building, downstairs)

Cards will only be sold day of bingo at MPR.
6 up for 10.00 each, plus \$1 extra 3-up

Special thank you to our volunteers:

SherryLee Michell
Nikki Frank



Happy New Year Everyone! From the Bridge River Elders



Bridge River Elders Luncheon

Date: January 18, 2023

Time: 12:Noon

Where: MPR- Multipurpose Room

Xwísten energizer challenge



Community Dinner and Energizer Challenge Registration

Date: Thursday January 19th, 2023

Time: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Gymnasium

Join us for a community dinner to celebrate the launch of the Xwísten Energizer Challenge!

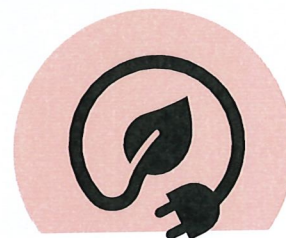
We are starting this community-wide challenge to:



Reduce the costs of our BC Hydro and heating bills



Have a fun and friendly competition with other homes in the community



Learn about simple actions to save energy in our homes

Please bring a **BC Hydro bill or your **MyHydro account login** information if you would like to register for the challenge!**

We can help with setting up your MyHydro account if you need assistance.

**Contact Christina Ledoux if you would like more information.
Phone: 250-256-7423 Email: communitydevelopment@Xwisten.ca**

Sponsored by EcDev and CommDev with financial assistance provided by NRCan.





Xwisten energizer challenge

1

Sign up for the Energizer Challenge with a BC Hydro bill or MyHydro account login. We can help with setting up your MyHydro account if you need assistance.



Earn points by completing weekly energy conservation and efficiency actions shown on your Energizer Calendar

2

3

Add up the points you've earned by completing energy conservation and efficiency actions each month



Submit your total monthly points earned for your chance to win prizes and be named the Energizer of the month!

4

5

Keep completing weekly energy saving actions and earning points over the course of the Energizer Challenge



Win prizes and see how much you saved on your energy bills after participating in the Challenge for 1 year!

6

Please contact Christina Ledoux for more information.

Phone: 250-256-7423 Email: communitydevelopment@Xwisten.ca

Sponsored by EcDev and CommDev with financial assistance provided by NRCan.



Xwísten energizer challenge

What are some energy conservation actions in the Energizer Challenge?



Turning off the lights when not in the room



Turning down the heat at night



Taking shorter showers



Putting on a sweater instead of turning up the heat



Washing clothes in cold water

What are some energy efficiency actions in the Energizer Challenge?



Installing LED lights in your home



Installing a programmable thermostat



Installing low-flow showerheads and faucets



Shrink wrapping windows in winter



Insulating hot water pipes

Xwísten Christmas Dinner



Special Thank you!

Bridge River Band Chief and Council

Talisker Resources

Indigenous Outreach Society of Canada

Lillooet Public Library

Drumming Group

Micah and Cooks

Bridge River Staff and Departments

Talisker
RESOURCES



IOSC



On October 20, 2022

Economic Development Coordinator Michael McGee (on the left) was in office and had the opportunity to meet with Xwísten member Franklin Ledoux (on the right). In 2022 Bridge River Band began to discuss important issues regarding food security. Membership input is essential for understanding community needs. Over the next while engagement sessions will be underway to collect data. We would like to hear about your experience with Agriculture.



Why is Agriculture important to you?

What is your community doing now to support Food Security?

Do you have experience growing food?

Are you interested in learning about Agriculture?

What defines successful Agriculture to you?

If you have ideas, recommendations, or want to share your experiences please connect with us!

Michael McGee – ecdev@xwisten.ca

Christina Ledoux – communitydevelopment@xwisten.ca



XWÍSTEN ELECTION CODE

.....*Leadership selection the Xwísten way*.....

WHAT IS A CUSTOM ELECTION CODE AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

An Election Code defines how we select our leaders and the system of how they are elected. Leadership selection is at the heart of good governance. At Xwísten, we need to feel that our leaders have been selected through a valid and fair process.

The Indian Act bound Xwísten to a leadership selection process that was not our own. **Today, we have designed and drafted our own Xwísten Election Code, as directed by our members.** Our Xwísten Election Code better reflects our culture and the needs of our community.

WHAT WORK HAVE WE DONE TO GET TO THIS POINT?

EARLY 2019.....SUMMER/FALL 2019.....WINTER/SPRING 2020..... COVID-19 PAUSEAUGUST 2021.....JANUARY 2022.....MARCH 2022.....SEPTEMBER 2022.....NOW							
Began the process of developing Xwísten Election Code.	Held meetings with and developed surveys for community and council members to discuss the Xwísten Election Code.	Developed a first draft of Xwísten Election Code with member feedback and several rounds of legal review.	March-July 2021 COVID-19 PAUSE	Submitted Xwísten Election Code to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for review.	Incorporated ISC's comments and overruled changes with Chief and Council.	Council approval of draft Xwísten Election Code.	Gathered feedback on and shared contents of the Xwísten Election Code.
							Clarifying final details on Xwísten Election Code and aligning related policies.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Finalizing last details. To make sure our Election Code is robust, there are some final details we want to confirm and make sure related policies fit together seamlessly.

Engaging with community members. We will keep you updated about the changes to our leadership selection process and want to hear what you think.

Vote to ratify the election code. The Xwísten Election Code must be voted on and approved by a majority of voters (50 percent + 1 vote by secret ballot) to become official.

Submit our Xwísten Election Code to ISC. After ISC passes a Ministerial Order proclaiming the removal of the Xwísten band from the election provisions of the Indian Act, our next scheduled election will follow the process outlined in our Xwísten Election Code.

HOW WILL ELECTIONS LOOK FROM NOW ON?

Election day will look the same, but there are some key changes to the overall process that members said they want to see. For more information about these changes or other questions about our Election Code, contact our technical support: William Trousdale, EcoPlan, at 604-228-1855 ext. 1, william@ecoplan.ca.



LILLOOET TRIBAL COUNCIL

650 Industrial Place, PO Box 1420, Lillooet BC, V0K - 1V0
T: 250-256-7523 F: 250-256-7119 info@lillooettribalcouncil.ca

SAVE THE DATE **ST'AT'IMC POST-SEASON FISHERIES FORUM**

In-person or Virtual



Date: January 27, 2023

Time: 9am – 3:30pm

Place:

59 Retasket Dr.

T'it'q'et Hall

Lillooet, BC

DOOR PRIZES AVAILABE THOSE PRESENT
(must confirm name & community/organization)
Lunch Provided

Instructions for virtual: TBD



CONTACT PERSON:

Janice Billy, LTC Fisheries Manager 250-256-7523

jbilly@lillooettribalcouncil.ca

To: Xwisten Community

From: Bridge River Management LP

Update: December 1st, 2022

The Board of Directors have been meeting regularly, every month, and are keeping updated on all the businesses, as well as working with the Chief and Council on Strategic Planning for the band and its other companies.

Our Board consists of 4 band members – Dezmond Allen (President), Allison James (Secretary), and Darrin Michell (Community Representative). Also, Susan James (Council Representative) Our other two members are Trevor Chandler and Jeff Paquin.

Lillooet Disposal Services

Lillooet Disposal Services is our busiest business offering services for septic pump outs, portable toilets, and garbage bins – in Lillooet, also to all surrounding 5 St'at'imc communities - Tskwaylaxw (Pavilion), Xaxlip (Fountain), Sekwelwas (Cayoose Creek), Titqet (Lillooet) and Tsalalh (Seton Lake), as well as Goldbridge, Bralorne, and Lytton, BC. We are expanding our business with more portable toilets and more bins for the construction side. We are still doing residential services for the District of Lillooet and are looking for other opportunities as well. We also have purchased a newer pumper truck to add to our fleet of vehicles. (See picture)

Bridge River Logging

We are looking to see what we all want in the company and are looking for more opportunities. We currently have a logging truck, 2 graders, a log loader, and a grapple skidder operating as we speak. We did a few jobs with the rehab of the fires and did firewood work for the community.

Xwisten Contracting

It was a very busy season for our water trucks due to the fires, as we were called to assist with the Nohomin Creek Fire northwest of Lytton, BC. Our dump trucks as well, have been keeping busy in Lytton, BC. We also purchased another truck to add to our fleet of vehicles. (See Picture)

If you have any questions, please come to our office, and see us. 😊 We are open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday. 14140 Pithouse Road. We would also like to wish you all a:

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

From Our Staff: Bradley, Florence, Bruce & Valerie, Murray, Howie, Michael, Steven, Kenneth, and Leanne.



**Please send all Education
Inquiries to**

education.coord@xwisten.ca

Jennifer Phillips

1-250-256-7423 ext. 232





Hi, my name is Jennifer Phillips and I have been hired as Education Coordinator with the Bridge River Band.

I have been part Xwisten for over 20 years and consider Bridge River Community home. I started working with the Bridge River Band as an on-call receptionist but soon had the opportunity to work in the Headstart/Daycare program. I was determined to pursue an education and began attending online courses while working casual with School District 74 as an Education Assistant. During this time, I was still employed as an on-call receptionist with Bridge River. There was a great need for Early Childhood Educators identified within the Xwisten community. Opportunity was presented to work full time in the Headstart/Daycare program, and I accepted. During the EA program I had accumulated mandatory courses to apply for my Early Childhood Educator Assistants license to practice. I then decided to switch my education direction and work on my ECE diploma. While employed at the Headstart/Daycare program I gained valuable work experience from planning, organizing, and implementing educational activities for healthy childhood development. I acquired manager skills through workshops, mentoring, and support from the Education Coordinator. I believe my knowledge of Xwisten membership will assist in creating a deeper connection while identifying needs of the community.

I am looking forward to working with and supporting our students through their educational journey. Please feel free to connect with me anytime at 250-256-7423 ext. 232

New Lands Staff Member



Vroni Lambinet PhD – Xwísten Lands
Superintendent, Biologist

Vroni is a biologist, who has been working with different animals ranging from birds to honey bees and over the past two years was given the chance to gather some experience with fish, mainly in the Bridge River Valley.

Vroni has a Biology Diploma from Germany and a PhD from Simon Fraser University Canada. She has over 9 years' worth of experience in behavioral biology, entomology, and the Earth's magnetic field, and has authored numerous peer reviewed publications.

After her academic time in Canada, she moved back to her home in Germany working as a study director for a company that specialized in ecotoxicology. During this time, she was studying the effects of plant protection products on honey bees as a part of their registration process for Europe.

Lillooet remained a special place to Vroni and after 3 years of being back in Germany, she decided to move back to Lillooet. Since arriving back, she was given a chance to live and work in the area. She is now excited to have been given the chance to work for Xwísten.

One-Time \$500

CANADA HOUSING BENEFIT



The Government of Canada is providing a **one-time payment of \$500** to lower-income renters to help with the cost of rent.

This benefit is available to renters who:

- have an adjusted family net income of \$35,000 or less for families, or \$20,000 or less for individuals
- are at least 15 years of age and their principal residence is in Canada on December 1, 2022
- pay at least 30 per cent of their 2021 adjusted family net income on rent in 2022

Apply through CRA My Account.

To get your payment faster, register for direct deposit in CRA My Account.

Applications close on March 31, 2023.

An online web form is available if you are unable to sign in to or register for a CRA My Account. Applicants who are unable to apply online can call the CRA at 1-800-282-8079.

For more information and how to apply, visit
canada.ca/one-time-housing-benefit



Canada



One-Time \$500

CANADA HOUSING BENEFIT



The one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit aims to help lower-income renters who are struggling with the cost of rent.

Who can apply

You may be eligible for a one-time payment of \$500 if:

- you have filed a 2021 tax return
- you are at least 15 years of age on December 1, 2022
- you have an adjusted family net income of \$20,000 or less (individuals) or \$35,000 or less (families)
- you are a resident of Canada for tax purposes in 2022
- your principal residence is located in Canada
- you paid rent for your own principal residence in Canada in 2022
- you paid at least 30% of your 2021 adjusted family net income on rent in 2022

How to apply

Apply through CRA My Account. To get your payment faster, register for direct deposit in CRA My Account.

An online web form is available if you are unable to sign in to or register for a CRA My Account. Applicants who are unable to apply online can call the CRA at 1-800-282-8079.

Applications close on March 31, 2023.

Get ready to apply

To speed up the process:

1. Sign up for a secure CRA My Account and direct deposit.
2. File your 2021 income tax return (including your spouse or common-law partner's income tax return).
3. Update your address, marital status, and banking information.

Impact to other benefits

The one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit **does not** impact other federal benefits, like the Canada Workers Benefit, the Canada Child Benefit, the Goods and Services Tax Credit, and the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

This new federal one-time payment operates separately from the monthly Canada Housing Benefit which is co-funded and delivered by the provinces and territories.

70023 20221110-003A

To learn more, visit
canada.ca/one-time-housing-benefit



Canada



PLEASE PUT ABOVE YOUR TOILET

For a Healthy Septic System



Only requires number 1 and number 2

To the person using this toilet, please avoid putting anything into the septic system that doesn't break down naturally or anything that takes a long time to break down.

Materials such as oils, grease, fat, disposables diapers, tampons and their holders, condoms paper towels, facial tissues, cat box litter, plastics, cigarette filters, coffee grounds, eggshells, and other kitchen wastes, should NEVER be put into the septic system.

Looking Back on 2022

We'd like to take a moment to reflect on all the work that the LRISS team accomplished in the past year, with the help of our partners, funders, and community members. Some of our highlights from 2022 include:

Annual Planning Meeting & AGM

Partners provided feedback for LRISS to incorporate into our field activities for the 2022 season. We also took this opportunity to showcase our new Priority Ranking Tool, which gives LRISS the ability to choose priority sites based on values and vectors on the land base for treatment.



Wild Parsnip Treatment on T'it'q'et Wetlands

In partnership with the the P'egg'ig'lha Council (T'it'q'et) and the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council (SSISC), Wild Parsnip sites received a second year of herbicide treatments. This invasive plant is high on our Priority Plant List, as it contains compounds that can cause serious rashes, burns or blisters to skin when exposed the sap and then sunlight.

Broom - Busted!

In spring of 2022, LRISS received the first report of Scotch Broom in our region. This report came from a BC Hydro worker, who had recently received training on invasive species from LRISS. The identification was verified, and the plant was removed before it had a chance to flower.



Tree-of-Heaven Inventory

Tree-of-Heaven was placed on our species priority list under the Eradicate category this year because our funding partners raised the concern that this species was a host for the invasive insect, Spotted Lanternfly. LRISS recorded 60 sites in the region, covering 3.9 hectares. The majority of the sites were on private land in local residents' yards.



St'át'imc Invasives Training & Removal Project

LRISS initiated a training and removal project for all of the six northern St'át'imc communities. This was a great hands-on opportunity to continue building capacity while removing invasive plants.



Thank you to all our supporters who made this work possible. Keep an eye out for more highlights in our 2022-23 Annual Report, coming out later this spring.



LOVE IS SECURE

Using Technology Safely

- Check your Privacy and Security settings often.
- Set up a new email account on a safe device and choose hard to guess passwords.
- Password protect your devices and turn off your Bluetooth and Location when not in use.
- Use a safer device if someone has access to your online activities.

Online Safety

- You can't always be sure who is at the other end when communicating via technology. Be cautious about private information you post online.
- Remember, you have no control over nude or sexualized photos sent via technology.
- Save, take photos, record and screen shot harassing and threatening texts, messages and emails.

Take Action

- Share safety concerns with trusted friends and family.
- Trust your instincts. Someone who knows a lot about you, or who you often run into, may be monitoring you.
- Call the police or talk to a safe adult if you are stalked, harassed, or threatened.

Being stalked, controlled, harassed, threatened or bullied via technology is **Not Okay**. Violence is **Not Your Fault**. It's okay to talk with others about your feelings.

There are people you can talk to:

Victim Link 1.800.563.0808

Kids Help Phone 1.800.668.6868

www.DomesticViolenceBC.ca

www.bcsth.ca

Crisis Text Line for Youth text CONNECT to 686868 for English and
PARLER à 686868 for French



Love is trusting Help for an Abusive Teen

- Take responsibility for your actions. No one deserves to be abused or controlled.
- "Change for Yourself First." You may want to stay in your current relationship, but even if you don't, stopping the abuse will help you in your next relationship.
- Talk to a friend you can be honest with about your concerns and plans to change. Ask your friend to hold you accountable if they see you being abusive.
- Take a break. Try spending some time away from your girlfriend or boyfriend.
- Decide now to walk away from an argument before it escalates. Let your girlfriend/boyfriend know your plan.
- If your family or friends are also abusive in their relationships, find ways to spend less time with them. If that's not possible, pay attention to how you feel when you witness others being abused.
- Be patient with yourself. Admitting you want to change your behaviour is a huge step; but don't expect things to change overnight.
- Ask a teacher/adult to refer you to an anger or healthy relationship class or counsellor who can help.

Adapted from Love is Respect. Org

- Violence Against Women at any age is NOT OKAY and it is OKAY to Talk with Others about Your Feelings.

There are people you can talk to:

Victim Link 1.800.563.0808

Kids Help Phone 1.800.668.6868

www.YouthInBC.com

www.DomesticViolenceBC.ca

OUR JOURNEY through WINTER FIRE SAFETY

COOKING SAFETY

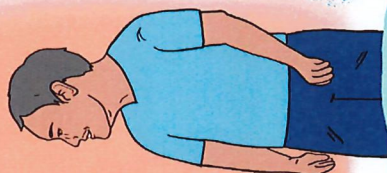
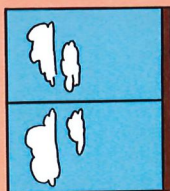


Keep a Fire Extinguisher in the Kitchen

Put a Lid on a grease fire & turn off the stove

Don't Leave cooking food unattended

Keep Kitchens clean & tidy



HOME HEATING SAFETY

Keep Wood Stoves and Chimneys CLEAN

Always use DRY FIREWOOD in YOUR WOOD STOVE



Never use oven, Gas Range or BBQ to heat your home

Never Leave Space Heaters unattended



PUT OUT CANDLES before going to bed or when leaving home

CHECK ON YOUR ELDERS & NEIGHBOURS

Spend time Together

Clear House Numbers



SMOKE ALARMS & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

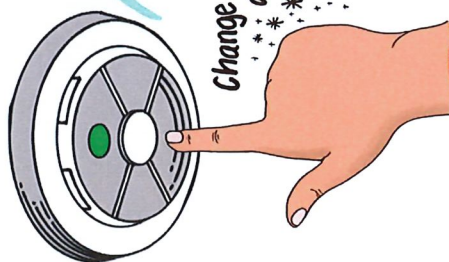
Install Detectors & ALARMS in your home

HAVE A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



Change the BATTERIES as needed and Test them MONTHLY

REPLACE ALARMS & DETECTORS every 10 YEARS



CANDLE SAFETY

Keep out of REACH OF CHILDREN & PETS

Place in a STURDY HOLDER



DON'T LEAVE BURNING CANDLES UNATTENDED

Keep candles away from flammable materials



Shovel walks & driveways

BRING FOOD & medicine



HAVE A
CONCERN
ABOUT
PROVINCIAL
OR LOCAL
PUBLIC
SERVICES?

YOU CAN TALK TO US

BC OMBUDSPERSON | 1-800-567-3247



OMBUDSPERSON
BRITISH COLUMBIA

OMBUDSPERSON LAUNCHES NEW PATHFINDER INITIATIVE

WHO ARE THE PATHFINDERS?



4 Regional Pathfinders will be raising awareness about the Ombudsperson's services in Indigenous communities. They are working to build trust and provide guidance to people who may want to raise a concern to the Ombudsperson's office if they believe they have been treated unfairly when receiving provincial or local public services. They join the office with awareness and knowledge of the communities they will be reaching.

HAVING A PRESENCE IN COMMUNITIES

Pathfinders will be working in communities, providing information about the Ombudsperson to individuals and meeting with community leaders and support agencies. They will be offering presentations about the Ombudsperson's role and holding in-person appointments where they will help members of the public raise concerns.

IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO BE TREATED FAIRLY

The BC Ombudsperson is committed to supporting and actively advancing reconciliation through work with Indigenous Peoples; First Nations, Métis and Inuit. Through our Indigenous Communities Services Plan (ICSP) currently under development, the office aims to strengthen our partnerships with Indigenous service providers, community leaders and individuals to ensure all Indigenous Peoples across BC are treated fairly by provincial and local public services under our jurisdiction. The Pathfinder Program is an important part of this work.

5 REGIONS

The Pathfinders are working in each of the five health regions of B.C.



PATHFINDER CONTACT INFO



The Pathfinders can be reached at:

CRYSTAL BIRD NORTHERN BC • INTERIOR BC

CBird@bcombudspersonpathfinders.ca

LENNY LAROCK FRASER VALLEY • INTERIOR BC

LLarock@bcombudspersonpathfinders.ca

WENDY SIMON VANCOUVER COASTAL

WSimon@bcombudspersonpathfinders.ca

JUSTINE THOMSON VANCOUVER ISLAND

JThomson@bcombudspersonpathfinders.ca

About the Ombudsperson: The Ombudsperson's office receives and investigates concerns from the public when they believe they have been treated unfairly when receiving provincial or local public services. The office is independent of government and impartial. The office's services are free.



OMBUDSPERSON
BRITISH COLUMBIA

News Release

December 14th, 2022

Ombudsperson Pathfinders raising awareness, building trust and facilitating complaints about provincial and local public services in Indigenous communities across B.C.

Victoria – The B.C. Ombudsperson has launched an initiative as part of the office's commitment to building sustainable and ongoing relationships rooted in respect and reciprocity with Indigenous Peoples and communities across British Columbia. Four engagement specialists, known as Ombudsperson Pathfinders, are working with First Nations, Métis and Inuit people to provide information about the Ombudsperson's role. They are also guiding members of the Indigenous public to find the best avenue to bring concerns forward if they believe they have been treated unfairly by public sector organizations in B.C.

"Government policies and processes have unfairly impacted Indigenous people throughout history and systemic racism has resulted in intergenerational harm," said Ombudsperson Jay Chalke. "As a result, there is a distrust of public organizations and this can be a barrier to bringing concerns forward. The Pathfinder initiative is one way of trying to help address this challenge."

The Ombudsperson Pathfinders are connecting with Indigenous people and communities and are working across B.C., meeting with community members and leaders, attending community events and holding in-person complaint clinics when requested.

The Office of the Ombudsperson is independent from government and has the authority under B.C. law to investigate more than 1,000 provincial and local public bodies including schools, health authorities, provincial government ministries, local governments and Crown corporations like BC Hydro and ICBC. Where an Ombudsperson investigation finds a person has been treated unfairly by a public body, outcomes can include recommendations for an apology, financial reimbursement, changes in decisions or broad improvements to the administration of public programs that impact many. The Ombudsperson also has a legal mandate to investigate allegations of serious wrongdoing in the workplace from current and former public sector employees.

"We are developing culturally safe and trauma informed approaches that will help us serve Indigenous people including people with intersecting identities better," said the Ombudsperson's Indigenous Liaison Officer Jolene Andrew. "Indigenous people might not know our services are for them or don't feel like they can trust us. Pathfinders are a direct connection to the Ombudsperson's office which can assist in getting answers to concerns Indigenous people may have about provincial and local public services. This helps ensure they are being treated fairly."

To find out more about the Ombudsperson Pathfinder Program and the Ombudsperson's Indigenous services contact Cindy Allen at Callen@bcombudsperson.ca or visit: <https://bcombudsperson.ca/about-us/our-indigenous-services>

Media Contact: Sara Darling 778 679 2588

Ombudsperson Pathfinders across B.C.



Crystal Bird, Northern/Interior Region
cbird@bcombudspersonpathfinders.ca

Crystal is an artist, musician, Feng Shui Design Consultant and social justice activist from the Ts'msyen (Tsimshian) Nation. Crystal comes with a strong grass-roots background in community advocacy and brings over 25 years of experience collaborating with various organizations rooted in social justice activism. Crystal has a life-long appreciation for education in all its forms and has a background in Anthropology (First Nations, Women's Studies and Psychology) and Archaeology through Coast Mountain College, Camosun College and the University of Victoria. She is passionate about holding systems to account and addressing systemic barriers.

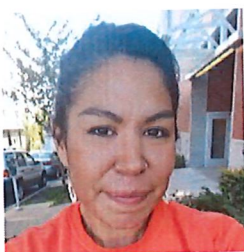
"Indigenous people use oral teachings to help those who do not know, to understand our ways. We can combine the essence of our personal experiences with the influence of the B.C. Ombudsperson to teach others what it is like to be Indigenous in our province, and also effect and create positive change now and in the future, for every one of us." – Crystal Bird, Ombudsperson Pathfinder for northern BC and the Interior.



Lenny LaRock, Fraser Valley/Interior Region
llarock@bcombudspersonpathfinders.ca

Lenny's current role at the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society as Regional Community Developer and Jordan's Principle Service Enhancement Coordinator, has her coming to us with experience in networking and reaching Indigenous communities across the province. Lenny, who is a Sts'ailes First Nation member, is a Delegated Social Worker with a BA in Child and Youth Care; a Certified ECE with a Diploma in Working with Children with Special Needs; a Certified Family Support Worker; a Certified Case Management Strategies and Preventative Security Worker; and, a Certified Respite Worker with MCFD. Lenny has extensive experience working in

communities and with families and is passionate about working with Indigenous communities and learning more about culture.



Wendy Simon, Vancouver Coastal Region

wsimon@bcombudspersonpathfinders.ca

Wendy (Haida/Mohawk) brings experience as the former Dean of Student Services and Registrar at the Native Education College. Wendy is grateful for her many teachers who have provided the cultural education that is at the heart of her social work practice. Wendy holds a Masters in Social Work and was awarded a Medal of Excellence from Wilfrid Laurier University. Wendy's community approach begins with upholding the laws of the lands and building good relations. She enjoys travelling and the honour of hearing peoples' stories as a trained counsellor and death doula.

"Indigenous people have their own laws based on the protection of the sacred including people, cultures, lands & waters. The Pathfinders bring this wisdom and strength to the Office's mandate which helps us co-create a more equitable approach to fair treatment." – Wendy Simon, Ombudsperson Pathfinder for Vancouver Coastal.



Justine Thomson, Vancouver Island Region

jthomson@bcombudspersonpathfinders.ca

Justine was Executive Director of a non-profit society and developed programming for mental health and wellness. Justine is a mindfulness facilitator, a master trainer in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and has worked alongside Indigenous communities throughout BC. She brings a strong trauma-informed skill set to the Pathfinders team. Justine completed her MA in Socio-Organizational Psychology and received her training from the International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution at Columbia University. She is a wife and mother of two and is grateful to live on the traditional lands of the Lək̓ʷəŋən-speaking people.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit people deserve to be treated fairly when accessing government programs and services. The response to the Pathfinder initiative has been promising. As Pathfinders, we create awareness and guide confidential individual reports with safety and compassion. Equity, inclusion and respect for all Indigenous peoples are essential stepping stones on the road to reconciliACTION. – Justine Thomson Ombudsperson Pathfinder, Vancouver Island.



BRIDGE RIVER INDIAN BAND

P.O. BOX 190, LILLOOET, BC V0K 1V0 • PH: (250) 256-7423

ADMIN FAX: (250) 256-7999 • HEALTH FAX: (250) 256-2443

Job Posting

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR

Full Time Permanent Position

Bridge River Head Start / Daycare Program is seeking an individual to commit to providing high quality care to children aged 0-6 years with interest in working in a unique program and ensuring that there is use of best practice provided during the program delivery.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Ability to work with parents, children, and elders
- Must Participate in all aspects of the program including outdoor activities, luncheons, community functions and workshop / training opportunities
- Strong communication skills (Oral and Written)
- Strong computer skills an asset (Email, Word, Excel, PDF, PPT, Outlook, Fax, Photocopier, Scanner)
- Assist with administrative duties (or willing to learn) report writing, filing, proposal writing, daily attendance, invoice writing as per parent/guardian and government agencies, etc.
- Apply St'at'imc cultural values and benefits to all aspects of daily programming
- Work flexible hours and willing to attend conferences & professional development programs, sometimes outside of office hours
- Chaperone all trips, Driving Bridge River Head Start / Daycare vehicle as needed
- Maintain the cleanliness and service Bridge River Head Start / Daycare vehicle routinely

Qualifications:

- Early Childhood Education Assistance License to Practice
- CPR Infant First Aid
- Clear Criminal Record Check
- Current on all immunization shots
- Food Safe Certificate
- Class 4 Drivers License preferred
- Speak the basic St'at'imc words and commands an asset (or willing to learn)
- Knowledge of St'at'imc Traditions and Culture an asset

Only those short listed will be contacted

Please submit your Cover Letter and Resume to:

Gary Forsyth, Administrator
Bridge River Indian Band
P.O. Box 190, Lillooet BC, V0K 1V0
Fax: 250-256-7999
Email: administrator@xwisten.ca

Deadline: Open Until Filled



BRIDGE RIVER INDIAN BAND

P.O. BOX 190, LILLOOET, BC V0K 1V0 • PH: (250) 256-7423
ADMIN FAX: (250) 256-7999 • HEALTH FAX: (250) 256-2443

JOB POSTING

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE & HOUSING MANAGER

Full-Time Position

The Manager of Operations, Infrastructure & Housing is responsible for the planning, coordination and supervision of the Housing, Operations and Maintenance Services department, and activities related housing initiatives, overseeing the delivering the Band's infrastructure, housing, preventative and corrective maintenance, major and minor capital improvements, capital construction projects, and ensuring timely and appropriate maintenance of infrastructure and housing assets. This position is responsible for assisting with the development of a budget for the infrastructure and housing assets and apply for appropriate funding; and monitors the expenditure of the budget on an ongoing basis. The Manager works closely with all contractors and subcontractors to ensure they adhere to the budget and deadlines for any infrastructure and housing related projects.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible for planning organization of preventative maintenance work.
- Responsible for multi-year capital plans and projects including the identification, planning, development, preparation and submission of plans and cost estimates. Engaging and selecting consultants to provide architectural and engineering services.
- Establish and maintain a filing system for capital projects including design drawing as-built drawings, inspection reports, feasibility studies, site plans, project evaluations, computer data etc.
- Maintenance of a Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)
- Working with a variety of housing inventory, including Section 10 Mortgages, Section 95 Rental Housing, and private housing stock
- Coordinates, manages, and oversees all housing activities to ensure that houses are maintained, files are kept up to date, tenants are adhering to policy as set out in housing policy and tenant agreements, including history
- Prepare budgets and financial forecasts for infrastructure and housing needs both current and future
- In collaboration with the Finance Officer, monitors costs and expenses, and uses information found in financial reports to make appropriate decisions as it relates to routine maintenance, renovations of overall improvements to the housing stock and infrastructure
- Works with contractors for selecting and awarding bids
- Submits funding proposals for new housing and housing repairs and applies for funding of all types of housing assistance
- Manages and responds to all requests for both emergency and routine repairs to housing units by community members
- Educates community members on proper maintenance for homes and infrastructure

TRAINING, EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- 3 - 5 years' directly related experience including management experience in a public service or Indigenous Government service delivery environment.
- Advanced education (degree or technical diploma) specializing in infrastructure, engineering, maintenance
- Understand the CMHC program, as well as construction experience is an asset
- Demonstrated ability to work in a team environment with minimal supervision
- Experience in management and budgeting
- An exceptional leadership skill and the ability to lead and develop the performance of others.
- A creative thinker with highly developed problem-solving skills.
- Able to manage a variety of overlapping projects and have proven project management experience.
- Experience and understanding of Federal and Provincial Legislation pertaining to First Nation Infrastructure and Housing, is considered an asset.
- Technically literate with intermediate level computer skills including MS Office.
- Able to work a varied work schedule including evenings and weekends. Some travel required.

Wage: \$32.00 per hour minimum ~ Depending on experience

Closing Deadline: October 7, 2022

While we welcome all candidates, only those selected for an interview will be contacted

Fax Cover Letter with references and Resume to:

Gary Forsyth, Band Administrator

Fax: 250-256-7999

Please contact Gary Forsyth, Administrator for full Job Description



BRIDGE RIVER INDIAN BAND

P.O. BOX 190, LILLOOET, BC V0K 1V0 • PH: (250) 256-7423
ADMIN FAX: (250) 256-7999 • HEALTH FAX: (250) 256-2443

Job Posting

LANDS COORDINATOR/FIELD TECHNICIAN

Fulltime Position

The Lands Coordinator is responsible for managing Environmental monitoring and working with Xwisten land referrals. You will be writing proposals and responsible for writing reports, communications for Lands Department. The Lands Coordinator is part of a team that works closely with the Lands Manager, Lands Superintendent and Lands Office Manager to organize and administer Resource Stewardship.

MAIN DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Writing proposals, reports and briefing notes
- 2) File management, electronic and hard copy, maintain AOS referrals system
- 3) Reviewing referrals, information sharing, confidentiality agreements and provide recommendations and follow-up with Lands Manager and Lands Superintendent, respond based on guidelines created by the Lands and Resource Department and the (Draft) St'at'imc Land Use Plan within the identified timeline.
- 4) Research and gather information as related to referrals and requests for information.
- 5) Assist with environmental monitoring field work as required, conduct site visits and meet with proponents
- 6) Collaborate with other Xwisten departments, as necessary.
- 7) Work with Lands Staff, Council and Elders to accompany officers on the proposed site visits to identify any issues or concerns present for the proposed development. Arrange Elder transportation.
- 8) Participate in training as directed.
- 9) Involved with implanting Lands Department Safety
- 10) Other duties as requested by the Lands Manager and Chief and Council.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Grade 12 graduation, preferably with some post-secondary experience
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Proficient in MS office suite, comfortable using a Windows computer, strong data entry skills and time management and organizational skills
- Strong knowledge of St'at'imc values and culture.
- Environmental Skills Certificate
- RISC Archaeological and CMT Inventory Certificate
- Able to work independently and as part of a team.
- Flexible and adaptable to changing priorities.
- Must have valid Class 5 drivers license and abstract
- Good physical condition to do field work.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

- Office work, participating in various meetings
- Willingness to travel outside of regular hours for field work and meetings

Pay scale: \$18:00-\$24.00 per hour depending on experience

Please contact Gary Forsyth, Administrator for full Lands Coordinator Job Description

Deadline

Gary Forsyth, Administrator
#1A Joseph Road, PO Box 190
Lillooet, BC V0K 1V0
Fax: 250-256-7999

Closing Deadline: Open Until Filled

Only those short listed will be contacted



BRIDGE RIVER INDIAN BAND

P.O. BOX 190, LILLOOET, BC V0K 1V0 • PH: (250) 256-7423
ADMIN FAX: (250) 256-7999 • HEALTH FAX: (250) 256-2443

Job Posting

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE

Fulltime

Under the direction of Xwisten's Health Manager, the CHR is responsible for providing health promotion and prevention programs for Xwisten community members.

Responsibilities include:

- Performs all duties and responsibilities in accordance with the Xwisten policies, standards, and procedures, and as directed by the Health Manager
- Maintains confidentiality on all matters relating to the affairs of Xwisten
- Provides health care services through planned home visits, clinics, and educational workshops
- Provides clients with information and access to First Nations Health Benefits and Pharmacare coverage
- Organizes workload management and communication strategies that relate to the health programs
- Assessing community members health needs with the Xwisten Community Health Nurse
- Administration (Record Keeping/Information Flow): Maintains Xwisten client file system to ensure confidentiality of Health Files including Patient Files.
- Does referrals to other health professionals and service providers as required
- Completes reporting requirements as per FNHA policies and guidelines.
- Participates as a team member in planning community health plans, attend staff meetings, departmental planning sessions
- Acts as an advocate for families in need of health care services and encourages ownership and responsibility of the individual's health care needs
- Keep updated on the Health of Bridge River Community and its members.
- Performs other duties and responsibilities as necessary in the performance of the position, as assigned by the Health Manager. Ensure the Bridge River Community is informed on health issues (hold or promote attendance at health fairs, information sessions, workshops, testing, etc).
- Ensure all reporting requirements and funding agreements through First Nations Health Authority are adhered to.
- Administer the First Nations Health Programs you oversee:
 - Non-Insured Health Benefit (NIHB) Program
 - Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program
 - CHR
 - Water Sampling
 - AIDS/HIV
 - Diabetes
 - and other short-term funding programs as they arise.
- Assist and work with the other health departments, Ama7 Swa7, and Social Development, Recreation and Elders, to carry out programs for the community.
- You (and other Bridge River Staff Members) are not responsible for transporting community members to medical appointments.
- Other duties as assigned by Health Manager

Qualifications:

- Education & Training background in Health Field.
- Grade 12 with post-secondary education and Community Health Representative Certification.
- Knowledge of First Nations Health Authority, Interior Health Authority, Northern St'at'imc Health Outreach Services, and other health care providers of the surrounding communities is beneficial.
- Minimum of 3 years' experience working in the health field in a First Nations community or setting
- Knowledge of First Nations culture and traditions and history
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Leading a healthy lifestyle
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Strong Computer Skills Certification Training
- Must pass a criminal record check
- Must hold a valid B.C. driver's license
- Must have a reliable vehicle

Wage: \$21.00 per hour minimum ~ Depending on experience

Closing Deadline: Open Until Filled

Fax Cover Letter with referrals and Resume to:

Gary Forsyth, Band Administrator

Fax: 250-256-7999

Only those short listed will be contacted

January 2023 Community Newsletter Submissions

HAPPY NEW YEARS to all my Family & Friends, keep it safe, and hope like heck it's a more enjoyable, healthier & prosperous year for each and every one of you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Wishes to Aunty Gladys on 2nd, Grand-Niece Alma-Maria on 5th, Big HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes to son Keith on 6th, Sister Carolyn & Nephew Andrew M on 12th, Granddaughter Nevaeh on 16th, Grand-Niece Flora on 17th, Niece Jay-Lynne on 26th... hope you all have the most WONDERFUL day 😊.

PIZZA NITES: this month January 19th & 20th, weather permitting.

From Debbie Jack

I would like to wish my sister Sharon Joseph and friend Saul Terry a very happy birthday on January 4th.

From Sharon Joseph

Happy New Year 1st of all. Happy Birthday to niece Alma Peters on Jan 2nd & Happy Birthday to Ian James also on 2nd. And birthday wishes to everyone having a birthday in Jan. 2023. See you all at New Year Pow wow. Thank you also goes to all the Staff & Board members at Bridge River Xwisten for all your dedication & hard work. Love & best wishes in the New Year.

From both Lena Sangret & Dave Swann.

January 2023

Youth Worker: Davis Williams
(250-256-7423 Ext:239)
bryouth@xwisten.ca

December '22							February '23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 	2 Office Closed Winter Break	3 Office Reopens!! Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	4 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	5 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	6 	7 	
8 	9 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	10 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	11 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	12 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	13 	14 	
15 	16 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	17 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	18 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	19 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	20 	21 	
22 	23 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	24 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	25 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	26 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	27 	28 	
29 	30 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	31 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	1 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	2 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	3 	4 	
5 	6 Homework Club 3:30pm-5:30pm	Notes				Hello, I am always available for youth to call in office for suggestions, help or resources! We must stay COVID safe! Parents must pick up their children after Homework Club. Calendar subject to change, will provide updates and notices when changes are made	

January

Home & Community Care

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 <i>Foot Care</i>	4 <i>Foot Care</i>	5	6	7
8	9	10 <i>Foot Care</i>	11 <i>Foot Care</i>	12	13	14
15	16	17 <i>Foot Care</i>	18 <i>Foot Care</i>	19	20	21
22	23	24 <i>Foot Care</i>	25 <i>Foot Care</i>	26	27	28
29	30	31				

EVENTS

OFFICE: 250-256-7423
Cell: 778-209-8933

FOOT CARE WEDNESDAYS

Book with Angelica
250-256-7423 Ext. 237

STD & Cervical
Cancer
screening

Anytime
Book with Angelica
250-256-7423 Ext. 237

Head Start Daycare

January 2023 Stexwa7uziken 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Word of the week: Skimalts/ Ice	2 CLOSED	3 Problem Solve: Cars in ice? Practice Pronouncing: Skimalts	4 Ice Painting on paper Picture Recognition: Skimalts	5 Frozen Hands Sight Recognition: Skimalts	6 Ice Volcanoes Find the word: Skimalts	7
8 Word of the week: téqen/ Dig out something	9 Create your own ice ball Practice Pronouncing: téqen	10 Ice Ball Excavate Picture Recognition: téqen	11 Letter Recognition Excavation Site Recognition: téqen	12 Ice Painting Word Tracing: téqen	13 Counting Ice Find the Word: téqen	14
15 Word of the week: Maysalts/ Build or fix a house	16 Build Your Own Igloo with Ice Practice Pronouncing: Maysalts	17 Build Polar bear a den Picture Recognition: Maysalts	18 Penguin 2D shapes Site Recognition: Maysalts	19 Artic Yoga Word Tracing: Maysalts	20 Blubber & Ice Experiment Find the Word: Maysalts	21
22 Word of the week: Ascw/ Seal	23 A, B, C Artic Practice Pronouncing: Ascw	24 Feed the Penguin 1,2,3 Picture Recognition: Ascw	25 Swim in the Ocean Site Recognition: Ascw	26 Artic Small World Play Word Tracing: Ascw	27 Arctic Match Land, Water, Air Find the Word: Ascw	28
29 Word of the week: úqwal/ Feathers	30 Feathers and Oil Experiment Practice Pronouncing: úqwal	31 Build Your Own Igloo craft Picture Recognition: úqwal				

CLOSED : JANUARY 2, 2023



January 2023

Birthdays



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Ian James Ryan Napoleon	3 Morgan James	4 Valerie Adrian Angus Doss-Ned Sharon Joseph	5 Gregory Peters	6 Angus Aleck Keith Durban	7
8	9 Charles James Phyllis James	10	11	12 Andrew Michel	13 Ellisa Gallagher Andrea Ward	14 Tommy Aho
15	16 Nevaeh Durban Edna Frank Penny James	17 Elizabeth Allen	18 Whitney Alexander Raymond James	19 Jimmy Aho	20 Bonny Forsyth Lorrinda James	21
22 Terry Thomas	23 Marilyn James	24 Ryan Dumouchel Frankie James	25 Sandra Tom	26	27 Harold James William A.D. James Rebecca Terry	28
29 Rocker Brady Levi James-Ned Alexander Thomas	30 Avaya Denego Lawrence Lanoue	31	 <p>WINTER FUN!</p>			