

# STÁUTW FIRST NATION

## NEWSLETTER

[www.tsawout.ca](http://www.tsawout.ca)

February 2026



### **Road Closure – Starting March 2nd – STÁUTW Rd. Between Tetayut and Longhouse Rd.**

Starting on March 2, there will be a road closure on STÁUTW Rd. for sewer and drainage upgrades. See page 02 for more details.

### **Housing Surveys**

Community members are invited to take part in two short housing surveys that will help guide future housing planning in STÁUTW. One is for culturally supportive housing and the other about demographics. Each completed survey is eligible for a \$50 Thrifty Foods gift card as a thank you for your time. See page 09 for more details.

### **Inside this issue:**

- P.02 Road Closure
- P.03 Membership Committee EOI
- P.04 Community News
- P.09 Housing Surveys & News
- P.11 Elder's Calendar
- P.12 Fisheries Food Distribution
- P.15 Community Dinner
- P.16 Education
- P.17 Youth News & Calendar
- P.19 Wellness Stats.
- P.21 Garbage Compost & Recycling

# Community News

## Road Closure – Starting March 2nd – STAUTW Rd. Between Tetayut and Longhouse Rd.

We would like to acknowledge the inconvenience this road closure may bring to the community and we have done our best to coordinate emergency, transit and construction services to ensure this closure is as short as possible. We would like to thank everyone for their patience as we complete the sewer and drainage upgrades for our new Early Learning Childcare Centre.

STAUTW FIRST NATION

### Attention: Road Closure

STAUTW RD.

Starting March 2, 2026  
for Approx. 1 Month  
Civil Work, Sewer &  
Drainage

## Important Information

- STAUTW Road will be closed as a through route between Tetayut Rd. and Longhouse Rd.
- This is a full 24/7 road closure
- Longhouse Lane/Road remains accessible via the “other side” of STAUTW (toward Church/Pullock) for local access only.
- Residents and the Longhouse can still be reached, but there is no through traffic between Tetayut and Longhouse during the works.
- Pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk will remain open.
- All signs will be maintained regularly to allow for maximum visibility and will remain clear of any materials that may reduce their visibility.
- All signage will be set up to command the respect of vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians to ensure the safety of both the travelling public and the workers.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Project Manager: Jun Baek – [projectmanager@tsawout.ca](mailto:projectmanager@tsawout.ca)







**STÁUTW FIRST NATION**

7728 TETAYUT RD | SAANICHTON, BC | V8M 2E4

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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STÁUTW First Nation is seeking to appoint members to the Tsawout First Nation Membership Committee who shall each have the opportunity to serve a two-year term from date of appointment.

The STÁUTW First Nation Membership Law (2013) says the following regarding vacancy in term:  
**18.1** A membership Committee of seven (7) members, all of whom are at least eighteen (18) years of age and none of whom are members of Council will be appointed by Council.

**18.2** Appointments to the Tsawout First Nation Membership Committee will be made in a manner so as to provide for a broad representation of the Tsawout First Nation community. At least two (2) SELWÁN and one (1) youth member will be appointed to the committee.

**SELWAN** means an adult person who is a member of the STÁUTW First Nation and who has gained and continues to hold the trust, respect and confidence of the STÁUTW First Nation and who has a good knowledge of the customs of the STÁUTW First Nation.

**Youth Member** means a member who is between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty-five (25).

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Any eligible voter, whether or not resident on Tsawout reserve lands, is eligible to be appointed to the Tsawout First Nation Membership Committee.

### COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

The Tsawout First Nation Membership Committee's responsibilities include the following, as set out in the STÁUTW First Nation Membership Law (2013) and at the instruction of the Lands Manager:

- Meet at least quarterly to consider applications for membership and provide written recommendations (along with reasons for those decisions) to Council regarding the acceptance of membership applications.
- Assess and make decisions with regard to whether a person applying for membership has a criminal record that disqualifies them from becoming a member.
- Hear appeals from decisions made by the Tsawout First Nation Membership Administrator and make written recommendations (along with reasons for those decisions) to Council on the matter under appeal.

The Tsawout First Nation Membership Committee must act in accordance with all Tsawout First Nation Laws and Policies, including the STÁUTW First Nation Membership Law (2013), Tsawout First Nation Financial Administration Law, and any other Tsawout First Nation laws and policies that generally apply to Tsawout First Nation committees. The Membership Administrator provides administrative support to the Tsawout First Nation Membership Committee and acts as the liaison between the Tsawout First Nation Membership Committee and Council.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

The STÁUTW First Nation Membership Law (2013) states that the Membership Committee will be appointed by Council in a manner so as to provide for a broad representation of the Tsawout First Nation community. Council will appoint no more than five (5) members to the Tsawout First Nation Membership Committee, taking into consideration the importance of:

- Having at least one (1) youth representative.
- Ensuring there is elder representative.
- Ensuring that there is broad family representation.
- Ensuring that there is broad skillset of those represented on the Tsawout First Nation Membership Committee.

## TIME COMMITMENT AND COMPENSATION

The Tsawout First Nation Membership Committee is an ad hoc panel, and all of its work must remain within the Tsawout First Nation's annual budget. The Compensation for Committee members is set by Council.

Interested persons should apply by providing the following information before 4:00pm on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026:

- Full Name
- Mailing address
- Email address
- Telephone number
- A brief summary of your knowledge of STÁUTW culture and traditions, educational background, work and volunteer history.
- 

**Please submit completed applications directly to:**

Jaclyn Charlie  
Membership Clerk, Tsawout First Nation  
7728 Tetayut Road  
Saanichton, BC V8M 2E4  
P: 250-652-9101  
E: [membership@tsawout.ca](mailto:membership@tsawout.ca)

**TSAWOUT  
COHI Kids 0-7  
Dental Screening &  
Varnish Day  
Wed, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

Location: Tsawout Health  
Appointment Times: 10-2pm  
(closed 12-1 for lunch)

Please email to book:  
[Denise.Baillet@IslandHealth.ca](mailto:Denise.Baillet@IslandHealth.ca)



### **Planned Power Outage - February 3rd**

BC Hydro will be completing pole replacement work at 2899 Mt Newton X Rd on Tuesday, February 3, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

This work will require a temporary power outage impacting only two notified community members. BC Hydro will notify the affected customers directly, and there will be no impact to other residents in the area. Cultural monitors will be utilized for excavation work.

Traffic control will be in place to ensure public safety and to assist with access and egress. Traffic management will be centralized roadside at the posted address.

 **BC Hydro**  
Power smart



**PLANNED OUTAGES**



# WE'RE HIRING!

## JOB FAIR 2026

Join us

Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

5:30pm - 7:30pm

- competitive wages
- recruiting for spring and summer employment in most departments
- department representatives available to provide information and receive resumés



## GROW WITH US

exclusive gate opening

\*complimentary admission/no garden access\*

[butchartgardens.com](http://butchartgardens.com)

800 Benvenuto Ave Brentwood Bay BC

# WSÁNEĆ COLLEGE

## EDUCATION & CAREER FAIR

Please join us to learn more about the education and career opportunities available.

THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 26

12:30–3:00 pm

### LOCATION:

WSB Gymnasium  
7449 W Saanich Rd  
Brentwood Bay, BC  
V8M 1R3



- **WSÁNEĆ COLLEGE**  
Adult Dogwood programming, post-secondary programs, supports & services.
- **POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS**  
Programs, supports & services, education planning.
- **LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS & BUSINESSES**  
Employment opportunities and career planning.
- **DOOR PRIZES & SWAG**

For more information please contact:  
Erica Bisgrove: [ebisgrove@wsanecschoolboard.ca](mailto:ebisgrove@wsanecschoolboard.ca)



# Community News

## Exploring a Potential Partnership - Engagement Dates

### Partnership Presentation & Community Dinner

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: STÁUTW First Nation Gymnasium

### IN-PERSON VOTING

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026

Time: 9:00 am – 8:00 pm

Location: STÁUTW First Nation Gymnasium



If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact [tsawoutquestions@westbow.ca](mailto:tsawoutquestions@westbow.ca)

## Exploring a Potential Partnership Opportunity

Tsawout First Nation is exploring a partnership opportunity grounded in long-term stewardship and shared values.

Tsawout leadership is in early discussions with Westbow Group of Companies about a potential partnership that would bring more than 200 acres of land into Tsawout's reserve. This opportunity is focused on creating lasting economic strength for future generations through carefully planned development.

Westbow Group is a family-owned company with a long history of working alongside communities to build places that create lasting value. Guided by a commitment to partnership, respect for the land, and giving back, Westbow approaches development with a long-term lens—prioritizing sustainability, relationships, and community benefit.

Any partnership would be shaped by Tsawout values, priorities, and leadership.

Transparency and community voice are central to this process. Westbow Group will be hosting a series of engagement sessions in January for Tsawout members to share details about the proposed partnership, answer questions, and hear feedback directly from the community.

Following these engagement sessions, Tsawout members will determine whether to support moving forward with this partnership. Engagement dates and times will be shared soon.



# Housing Surveys

## Demographic Housing Survey

Your input is important! This survey focuses on current housing conditions in STÁUTW, including overcrowding, the need for repairs or renovations, accessibility and opportunities for future housing development.

This will help guide applications for funding to support home repairs, renovations, and the development of additional housing. Your responses will directly support planning efforts to strengthen and improve housing for our community.

Each survey entry is eligible for a **\$50 Thrifty Foods Gift Card** (limited to one entry per household).



**SCAN QR CODE FOR  
DEMOGRAPHIC  
SURVEY**



## Culturally Supportive Housing Survey

Tsawout is exploring the need for culturally supportive housing to better support community members who face challenges maintaining housing, including mental health, substance use, and other high support needs. This short survey will help us understand the level of need in our community and identify the types of supportive housing and services that would be most beneficial for Tsawout.

This survey focuses on Culturally Supportive Housing and is being conducted in partnership with the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society to better understand community needs and priorities in this area.

Each survey entry is eligible for a **\$50 Thrifty Foods Gift Card**. This survey may be completed by each member of a household.



**SCAN QR CODE FOR  
CULTURALLY SUPPORTIVE  
HOUSING SURVEY**

### Questions?

Questions regarding this survey can be emailed to our Housing Manager: [housingmanager@tsawout.ca](mailto:housingmanager@tsawout.ca).

## Help Shape Our Community's Future – Your Homeownership Journey is Beginning

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ÍY, SŁÁĆEL,

The Housing Department is developing a homeownership program to better support our community members in building homes on Certificate of Possession (CP) land. To create a program that truly meets your needs, we want to hear directly from you.

We're asking: What is your biggest hurdle when building your own family home on Certificate of Possession land? Your experiences and insights are invaluable. Whether you've faced challenges with financing, financial management, land surveying, navigating conversations with banks, or other obstacles, we want to understand what barriers exist so we can address them effectively.

### How to Share Your Feedback:

Please reach out to us via email or stop by the Housing Department in person:

- Jun Baek, Project Manager – [projectmanager@tsawout.ca](mailto:projectmanager@tsawout.ca)
- Monique Horne, Housing Manager – [housingmanager@tsawout.ca](mailto:housingmanager@tsawout.ca)

We look forward to hearing from you and working together to build a stronger, more accessible homeownership pathway for all Tsawout members.

# Elders Calendar of Events

## ELDERS CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Elders Craft Drop In 1-4pm	3	4 Elders Bannock and Tea 9-11am	5	6	7
8	9	10 Elders and Youth SENCOTEN class 3-5pm	11	12	13 Elders Valentines Dance Fundraiser 5pm-9pm	14
15	16 Elders Story Telling 3-5pm	17 OFFICE CLOSED -STAT-	18 Elders Bannock and Tea 9-11am	19	20	21
22	23	24 Elders and Youth SENCOTEN class 3-5pm	25 Elders Loonie Toonie 10am-5pm	26 Elders Self Care Day 10am-3pm	27	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14



ST'ATW FIRST NATION



# STÁUTW Fisheries Member Food Distribution

We're pleased to announce a food distribution for STÁUTW members. Please come prepared with adequate freezer space.


STÁUTW First Nation Fisheries

## MEMBER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

**February 11**      On Reserve Door-to-Door Distribution for Elders

**February 12**      Community Pick-up:

- STÁUTW Band Office 4 pm - 7pm
- Real Canadian Superstore Cowichan ([291 Cowichan Way, Duncan](#)) 4 pm - 6 pm



PLEASE PROVIDE A NOTE, TEXT OR PHONE CALL IF YOU ARE HAVING  
SOMEONE PICK UP FISH FOR YOU

Frozen Sockeye

Frozen Chum

Please make room in your freezers because we have lots to hand out!

Please bring a cooler or container

### Elders Door-to-Door Delivery – Wednesday, February 11

Elders will receive their food packages delivered directly to their homes on February 11.

If you are not home, you may leave a cooler with ice on your doorstep, and our team will fill it for you.

### Community Pick-Up – Thursday, February 12

All other STÁUTW members are invited to pick up their food at one of the following locations on Feb 12:

- STÁUTW Band Office – Gymnasium Side Entrance 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Real Canadian Superstore Cowichan (291 Cowichan Way, Duncan) 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

### Important Notes:

- Distribution will only be available on these dates. Please do not contact the Band Office to request pick-up outside of these times.
- If you are unable to attend on these dates, please organize someone to pick up on your behalf.
- If you are picking up for someone else, you must bring their status number and a message (note, text, phone call) from them confirming you are authorized to collect their food.
- Please bring a cooler or container for your distribution.

#### What's Included in the

- Frozen Sockeye
- Frozen Chum

# Fisheries Update

## Crab & Clam Harvesting

Over the past weeks, Fisheries has been busy crab fishing, with successful deliveries made to Elders and a community pick-up day - thank you to everyone who came out, they went quick!

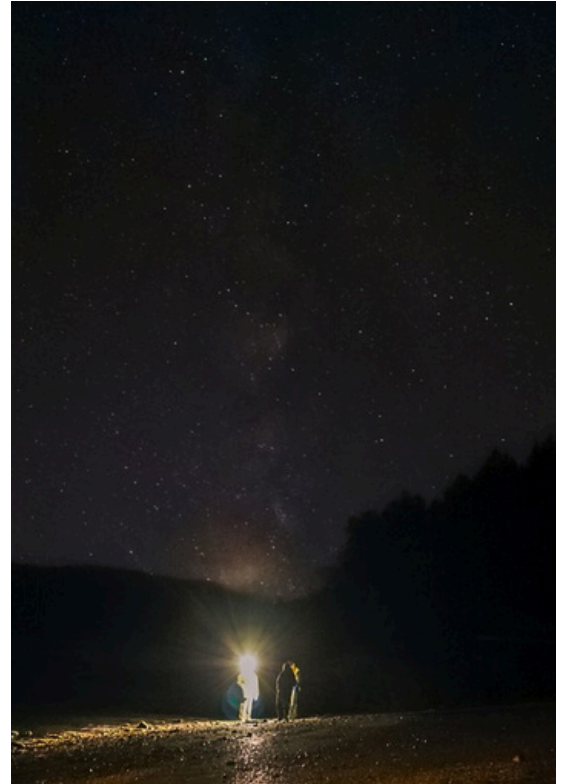
We also recently hosted a clam digging night with community, and it was great to be out on the beach together sharing knowledge and harvesting. We plan to continue organizing more outings like this and encourage everyone to come out and join us when they happen.

## Salmon Release with Education Department

Fisheries has been collaborating with Education and currently has a tank set up with 100 chum salmon eggs, which will hatch and be released into Tetayut Creek later this spring.

## Stewardship Gathering on Salt Spring Island

Finally, four Fisheries staff travelled to Salt Spring Island to attend a stewardship gathering with technical staff from the WSÁNEĆ Nations. The gathering focused on sharing stories, identifying overlaps in our work, beach digging and sea garden knowledge sharing, and brainstorming future collaboration opportunities for aligned projects.





# Fisheries Update

## BRUV System

This month, Fisheries worked with DFO to develop training videos for using a Bait Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) system. These BRUV's function by having two cameras recording a bait cup to see what fish species are present and what the seafloor is like. With the 2-camera setup, we will be able to not only identify the species of marine organisms but also have an accurate measurement of size.

During this outing, Fisheries got to deploy the system in various locations of QEN,T and got our first look at the seafloor to incorporate into our Dungeness crab surveys.

If you would like to learn more about the BRUV system and the work we are planning on doing with it, feel free to contact the Fisheries department!





# Fisheries Update

## Community Seafood Feast

Tsawout Fisheries is very excited to be hosting a seafood feast for community alongside a conversation about QEN,T, Tsawout's Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area. This gathering will take place Wednesday, February 25th from 5pm-8pm at the Band Office Gymnasium. We hope you can join us to enjoy a meal together and learn more about this important work.



## Fall 2026 NEW COHORT STARTING

### W̱SENĆOTEN, ISTW̱

“moving the language forward through the breath of the people”

**APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED FEB 17<sup>th</sup>**



### Program information

- Focus on building new SENĆOTEN speakers
- Full-time program (Monday-Friday)
- Offered at the W̱SÁNEĆ College
- Begins September 2026
- W̱SENĆOTEN, ISTW̱ is a laddering program, that begins with a one-year certificate and leads into a Bachelor of Arts degree in Indigenous Language Proficiency through UVIC.
- Pre-requisites: English 12
- A partnership between Indigenous Education, in the Faculty of Education at UVIC, and the W̱SÁNEĆ School Board
- The program focuses on learning SENĆOTEN, and preparing students for further academic paths:
  - Year 1 Certificate in Indigenous Language Proficiency
  - Year 2 Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization
  - Year 3 & 4 Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Language Proficiency in SENĆOTEN

 Contact your local Post-secondary advisor

 Contact Us

Tye Swallow,  
[tswallow@wsanecschoolboard.ca](mailto:tswallow@wsanecschoolboard.ca)  
or  
Colleen Juricic, Language Programs Assistant,  
Indigenous Education, UVIC [iedlpa@uvic.ca](mailto:iedlpa@uvic.ca)  
250-721-7824,



# Education News

## Early Learning and Care Diploma

WSÁNEĆ College is pleased to announce that they will be offering an Early Learning and Care Diploma program in partnership with Camosun College in the fall of 2026.

Length: 2 years (20 months).

Prerequisite: Must meet the prerequisite of C+ or higher in English 12.

This is a full-time program offered at WSÁNEĆ College.

If you are interested, please send an email to:  
[rsylvester@wsanecschoolboard.ca](mailto:rsylvester@wsanecschoolboard.ca).



## Youth News

### Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference

We have received 10 tickets for the Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference during spring break. These tickets will be going to youth that are helping out at community events, attending school and actively involved in our youth program.





# FEBRUARY 2026 YOUTH CALENDAR

have questions? please contact Emma at [youthcoordinator@tsawout.ca](mailto:youthcoordinator@tsawout.ca)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 gym drop-in! 4pm-6pm YOUTH PHONE LINE 3:30-4:30pm	3 youth drop-in 3-6:00pm Jam Night!	4 youth drop-in 3-5	5 home work club 3-6pm	6 youth drop-in 2pm-4:30pm YOUTH PHONE LINE 3:30-4:30pm	7
8	9 gym drop-in! 4pm-6pm YOUTH PHONE LINE 3:30-4:30pm	10 youth drop-in 3-6pm jam night	11 youth drop-in 3-5	12 homework club 3-6pm	13 Pro-D day Healthy Relationships & Movie Day! 	14 
15	16 gym drop-in! 4pm-6pm YOUTH PHONE LINE 3:30-4:30pm	17 OFFICE CLOSED -STAT-	18 youth drop-in 3-5	19 Youth Swim Night @ Panorama Rec	20 youth drop-in 2pm-4:30pm YOUTH PHONE LINE 3:30-4:30pm	21
22	23 gym drop-in! 4pm-6pm YOUTH PHONE LINE 3:30-4:30pm	24 Elders and Youth SENCOTEN class 3-5pm	25 youth drop-in 3-5	26 homework club 3-6pm	27 Pizza Night w/ RCMP 6-9pm YOUTH PHONE LINE 3:30-4:30pm	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8  ST'ATW FIRST NATION	9	10	11	12	13	14

At STAUTW, we believe wellness support should feel welcoming, safe, and tailored to you and your family. Every conversation is confidential, voluntary, and designed around your needs. You can fill out a confidential intake online at the Tsawout website or stop by in person, we're here for you. You can call us at 250-652-8353 for questions.



## January Snapshot

- Family Advocates supported: 15 STAUTW Families
- Wellness Counsellors connected with: 43 Community Members

That's 58 moments of support where families and individuals had someone to walk beside them this month. 🙌



## Family Advocates – Walking With Families

Our Family Advocates are here to:

- Offer guidance, mediation, and advocacy for families.
- Help navigate supports with MCFD, NLTUO, and external agencies.
- Connect you to social services, education, and resources.

Think of us as your bridge to the services that help families thrive. 🌈



## Crisis Support – You're Never Alone

If you or someone you know needs help right away, here are 24/7 crisis supports:

☎ KUU-US Crisis Line: 1-800-588-8717

☎ Vancouver Island Crisis Line: 1-888-494-3888

📱 Text Line: 250-800-3806 (6–10 PM PT)

☎ Mental Health Support Line: 310-6789

🚑 Medical Emergency: 911.



## **Wellness Counsellors – Meet the Team**

Available in-person or virtually—so support is always within reach.



### **Alan Boden, MA, RCC**

Joined us in May 2025 and brings 26 years of counselling experience. Alan offers caring, practical strategies to help with:

- Anxiety, depression & low self-esteem
- Grief & loss
- Life transitions (career, family, relationships)
- Recovery from trauma & addictions
- Parenting and family support



### **Vassilena Johns, RPC**

With us for over two years, Vassilena has been building strong community relationships. She focuses on holistic, culturally grounded wellness, offering support with:

- Stress, anxiety & burnout
- Grief, loss & trauma healing
- Emotional well-being & lifestyle choices
- Building confidence & resilience

Her goal? To support your spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health in a respectful, inclusive way.













## **Closing Note**

Thank you to everyone who reached out this month—you remind us that community wellness is built together. If you're thinking about connecting, consider this your gentle nudge. We'd love to hear from you.



# February Garbage, Compost & Recycling

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	 					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	 					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	 					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	 					

**Garbage Pickup:** Garbage and compost is managed by CCR and picked up every Monday

**Recycling (Bi-weekly):** If your recycling is missed or not picked up, call Emterra at 250-385-4399. Call by 11:00 AM the next day and they'll most likely be able to do a pick-up. If later, it would have to wait until the next pick-up date.

*Reminder that the Heavy Garbage Program has ended. Please do not leave heavy garbage on the side of the road. We continue to clean up the dumpsite on Longhouse Road from the previous years programs. Please discard your heavy garbage at local metal recycle or Hartland Landfill.*