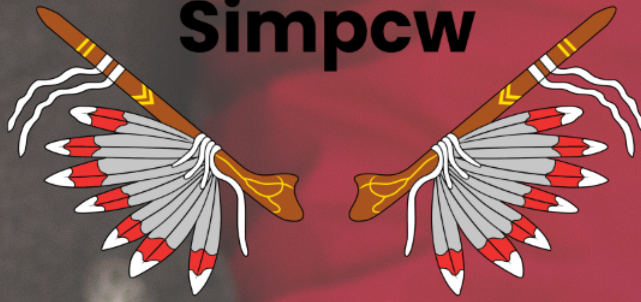


Simpcw



People of the Rivers

**2022/2023
Annual Report**

OUR HISTORY

The Simpcw are part of the Secwepemc, or Shuswap, Nation - one of 17 Bands who historically (and currently) lived in the Thompson River Valley.

Simpcw's lands covered an area of roughly 5,000,000 Ha: from North of McLure to the head waters of the Fraser River at McBride; to Jasper in the East and South to the head waters of the Athabasca River.

Archaeological surveys have found winter sites and food cache pits throughout the region, including finds in Finn Creek, Vavenby, Birch Island, Clearwater, Little Fort, Chu Chua, Barriere, Louis Creek, Tête Jeune, and Jasper.

Traditionally, the Simpcw people were known for their hunting abilities; much of the Simpcw culture centres on the gathering of local plants and animals for survival. In the summer months, hunting camps were established above the North Thompson and upper Fraser Rivers, where Simpcw people caught fish, primarily salmon, with nets, spears and weirs.

They also hunted wildlife that lived in the forests and fields, and smoked or dried the meat for storage, so they would have food for the winter months.

Plant collection was common; food, medicines and technology were common uses for the vegetation they collected.

Simpcw people often interacted with other First Nations bands that lived nearby, as well. They actively traded with other Secwepemc bands, as well as other Nations throughout the area. Sometimes, they fought with other Nations from BC and Alberta, usually over natural resources and land.

Currently, Simpcw First Nation has nearly 800 members, many of whom live in Chu Chua, the location of the main village of Simpcw First Nation.

Many Simpcw members still practice and maintain traditional knowledge and customs, which are taught at Neqweyqwelsten School, along with the regular BC elementary school curriculum.

However, Simpcw is also an active part of the modern workforce, with many business owners and professionals in the membership.

The community remains close-knit, with community gatherings and other events happening often.



OUR VISION

The Simpcw are a culturally proud community, valuing healthy, holistic lifestyles based upon respect, responsibility and continuous participation in growth and education.

OUR MISSION

Simpcw First Nation is committed to creating a strong future for our people.

We strive to uphold our culture, as well as work towards economic sustainability and professional development for our community.

Chief and Council



kúkwpí7
George Lampreau



Tkwem7íple7s
Christine Donald



Tkwem7íple7s
Ron Lampreau Jr.



Tkwem7íple7s
Alison Green



Tkwem7íple7s
Chris Bowser



Tkwem7íple7s
Amanda Celesta



Tkwem7íple7s
Larry Lampreau



Leading with Vision, Inspiring Success

The Simpcw Chief & Council would like to recognize each Simpcw and Community member for contributions over the past year. We are excited to share some significant achievements and initiatives that Council has diligently worked on in the past year. These accomplishments reflect our commitment to improving our Community and pursuing a sustainable, prosperous future.

As stewards of our Tmicw, preserving our natural environment is paramount. As Simpcw People, protecting and preserving our land, culture, and heritage are of utmost importance to us. We have successfully implemented the Simpcw Environmental Assessment Policy to protect our ancestral lands and resources.

This policy ensures responsible development that respects our cultural heritage and safeguards the environment for future generations.

The Dunn Lake Road Realignment Project has begun. This undertaking will enhance transportation, access to essential services, and overall quality of life for our Community Members. We are dedicated to delivering a project that aligns with our vision for a sustainable future.

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic and increased cost of living have created challenges for many Simpcw members. In response, we launched a Food Security Program to ensure that all members, whether on or off-reserve, had access to nutritious and affordable food during these trying times.

Keeping our Community connected and informed is a top priority. We are pleased to announce the successful launch of the Communikit Simpcw App, which serves as a hub for community news, events, and communication. This digital platform will help us stay engaged and connected in the digital age.

Social Development had the privilege of hosting the 1st Melukwintem Conference in the picturesque setting of Jasper, Alberta. This conference served as a platform for our Símpcwemc to unite, share ideas, and strengthen our cultural ties. It was a resounding success, reinforcing our commitment to cultural preservation and community unity.

We are proud to have successfully hosted our first in-person Community Planning Session since the pandemic's onset. This gathering allowed us to engage in vital discussions about our shared future, ensuring that our Community's voice remains at the forefront of all our endeavours.

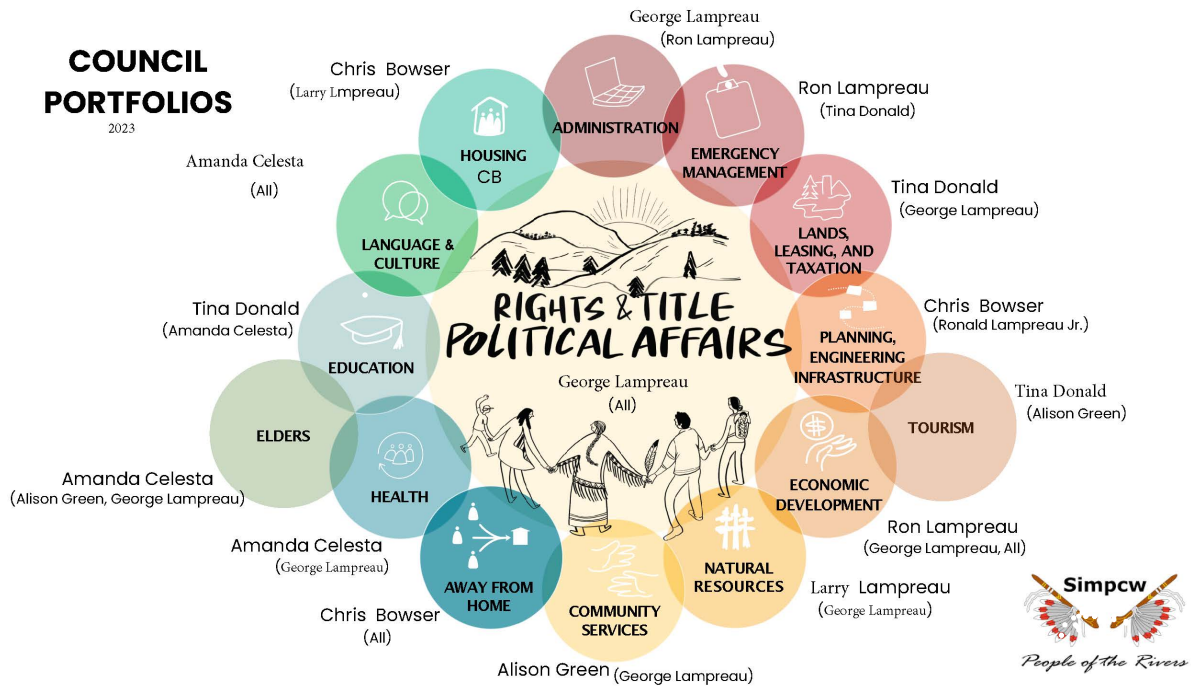
As we reflect on these achievements and look ahead to a brighter future, we want to express our gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and dedication to our Community. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will continue to make our Community a thriving and harmonious place for generations to come.

Yerí7 skukwstsétsemc!

Chief and Council

2022/2023

Chief & Council Portfolio

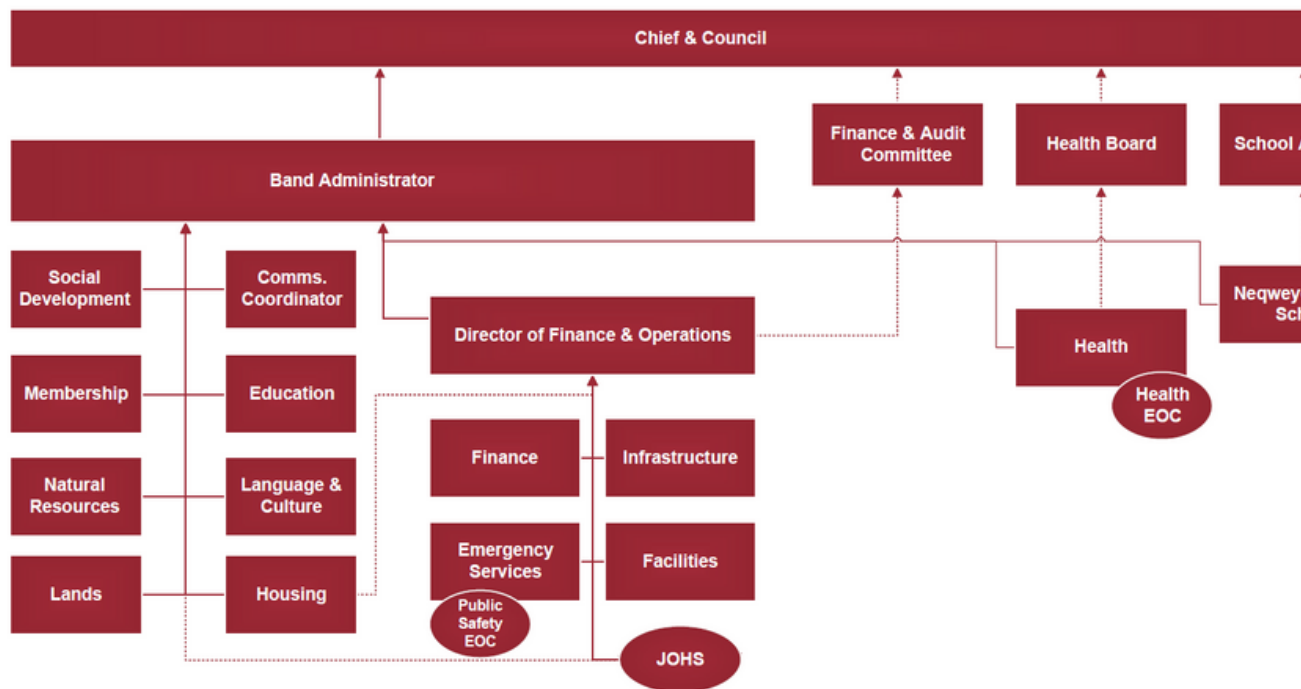


2022/2023

Organizational Chart



Organizational Chart (2022/2023)



2022/2023

Financial Statements

SIMPCW FIRST NATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
March 31, 2023

SIMPCW FIRST NATION
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
March 31, 2023

EXHIBIT

	CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:	
A	MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING	
A1	INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	
A2	CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	
A3	CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	
A4	CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS	
A5	CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF REMEASUREMENT GAINS AND LOSSES	
A6	CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	
A7	CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	
	NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
	CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF TANGIBLE	
	CAPITAL ASSETS	APPENDIX 1
	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES -	
	SEGMENTED	APPENDIX 2

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The financial statements of SIMPCW FIRST NATION have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. When alternative accounting methods exist, management has chosen those it deems most appropriate in the circumstances. These statements include certain amounts based on management's estimates and judgements. Management has determined such amounts based on a reasonable basis in order to ensure that the financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects.

The integrity and reliability of SIMPCW FIRST NATION's reporting systems are achieved through the use of formal policies and procedures, the careful selection of employees and an appropriate division of responsibilities. These systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is reliable and accurate.

The Band Council is responsible for ensuring that management fulfils its responsibility for financial reporting and is ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements. The Council carries out this responsibility periodically through its Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is appointed by the Council and meets periodically with management and the members' auditors to review significant accounting, reporting and internal control matters. Following its review of the financial statements and discussions with the auditors, the Finance Committee reports to Council prior to its approval of the financial statements. The Committee also considers, for review by the Council and approval by the members, the engagement or re-appointment of the external auditors.

The financial statements have been audited on behalf of the members by Grant Thornton LLP in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards.



Chief



Administrator

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of SIMPCW FIRST NATION

EXHIBIT A1

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of SIMPCW FIRST NATION (the First Nation), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the consolidated statement of accumulated surplus, consolidated statement of operations, consolidated statement of remeasurement gains and losses, consolidated statement of change in net financial assets and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the First Nation as at March 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the First Nation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Matters

We draw attention to the fact the supplementary information included in Exhibits B1 to B3, C1 to C2, D1 to D2, and Schedules 1 to 36 do not form part of the financial statements. We have not audited or reviewed this supplementary information and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a review conclusion or any other form of assurance on this supplementary information.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the First Nation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the First Nation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the First Nation's financial reporting process.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of SIMPCW FIRST NATION (continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the First Nation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the First Nation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the First Nation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the First Nation (which is the group entity) to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with Chief and Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Grant Thornton LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Kamloops, Canada
July 31, 2023

SIMPCW FIRST NATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
March 31, 2023

FINANCIAL ASSETS	2023	2022
Cash	\$ 10,681,467	\$ 15,299,958
Term deposits	21,028,775	6,028,775
Restricted cash (Note A5)	530,741	384,737
Investments held in trust (Note A4)	3,955,193	3,892,149
Marketable securities (Note A4)	8,028,792	8,169,150
Grants and accounts receivable (Note A6)	3,771,114	1,937,488
Investment in government business enterprises (Note A7)	174,846,435	110,341,407
Investments and advances (Note A8)	42,673	42,673
	<u>222,885,190</u>	<u>146,096,337</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accruals	1,525,572	1,571,283
Prepaid rents	5,526	3,937
Mortgages payable (Note A9)	1,001,033	1,055,435
Deferred revenue (Note A10)	3,232,595	3,564,140
	<u>5,764,726</u>	<u>6,194,795</u>
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	<u>217,120,464</u>	<u>139,901,542</u>
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (Note A11)	10,091,561	9,863,853
Prepaid expenses	598,667	67,204
	<u>10,690,228</u>	<u>9,931,057</u>
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (Note A12)	<u>\$ 227,810,692</u>	<u>\$ 149,832,599</u>
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS IS COMPRISED OF:		
ACCUMULATED OPERATING SURPLUS	\$ 227,415,841	\$ 149,832,599
ACCUMULATED REMEASUREMENT GAINS	394,851	-
	<u>\$ 227,810,692</u>	<u>\$ 149,832,599</u>

COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Note A13)

APPROVED BY THE FIRST NATION:

 Chief

 Administrator

SIMPCW FIRST NATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACCUMULATED SURPLUS
Year ended March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS - OPERATING, beginning of year	\$ 149,832,599	\$ 76,734,555
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>77,583,242</u>	<u>73,098,044</u>
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS - OPERATING, end of year	<u>\$ 227,415,841</u>	<u>\$ 149,832,599</u>

SIMPCW FIRST NATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
Year ended March 31, 2023

	Budget	2023	2022
REVENUE:			
Government transfers:			
Indigenous Services Canada	\$ 4,644,799	\$ 5,789,030	\$ 4,319,456
First Nations Health Authority	1,171,071	1,204,460	1,638,396
Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation	68,203	68,203	118,204
Province of B.C.	3,386,570	4,336,422	3,667,670
Fisheries & Oceans Canada	324,821	284,450	159,197
Other revenues:			
Rental	127,674	133,324	129,430
Impact Benefit Agreements	69,500	139,785	249,179
Investment income	413,647	1,011,210	939,528
Income - Ottawa Trust Funds	-	12,268	4,139
Income from investment in government business enterprise	-	72,755,028	72,153,567
BC First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership	108,805	758,467	382,360
Other	6,894,092	5,203,403	5,123,012
	<u>17,209,182</u>	<u>91,696,050</u>	<u>88,884,138</u>
EXPENSES:			
Band Revenue	908,235	801,273	4,277,842
Local Revenue	-	6,611	2,184
Band Government	3,175,719	2,997,849	2,484,691
Social Services	1,824,515	2,531,294	1,628,029
Education	2,260,251	1,780,472	1,902,857
Community Development	2,507,097	1,186,954	965,608
Natural Resources	4,897,308	3,275,910	2,764,157
Health	1,505,425	1,289,376	1,269,854
Housing	323,609	243,069	490,872
	<u>17,402,159</u>	<u>14,112,808</u>	<u>15,786,094</u>
EXCESS (SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (192,977)	\$ 77,583,242	\$ 73,098,044

SIMPCW FIRST NATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF REMEASUREMENT GAINS AND LOSSES
Year ended March 31, 2023

	2023
ACCUMULATED REMEASUREMENT GAINS, beginning of year	\$ 831,231
UNREALIZED LOSSES ATTRIBUTED TO:	
Portfolio investments	(329,639)
AMOUNTS RECLASSIFIED TO THE STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS:	
Portfolio investments	<u>(106,741)</u>
ACCUMULATED REMEASUREMENT GAINS, end of year	<u><u>\$ 394,851</u></u>

SIMPCW FIRST NATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS
Year ended March 31, 2023

	Budget	2023	2022
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (192,977)	\$ 77,583,242	\$ 73,098,044
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(2,909,541)	(807,163)	(1,225,944)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	563,429	520,884
Change in prepaid expenses	-	(531,461)	(1,406)
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	16,024	141,886
Unrealized loss attributed to portfolio investments	-	394,851	-
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	(3,102,518)	77,218,922	72,533,464
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, beginning of year	139,901,542	139,901,542	67,368,078
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, end of year	\$ 136,799,024	\$ 217,120,464	\$ 139,901,542

SIMPCW FIRST NATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
Year ended March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 77,583,242	\$ 73,098,044
Non-cash charges to operations:		
Amortization	563,429	520,884
Loss on disposal of assets	16,024	141,886
Reinvested income / losses from marketable securities	(142,881)	(341,386)
Reinvested income from Restricted cash / investments held in trust	(12,268)	(340,652)
Equity income from government business enterprise	(72,755,028)	(72,153,567)
(Increase) decrease in:		
Grants and accounts receivable	(1,833,626)	(883,530)
Prepaid expenses	(531,461)	(1,406)
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable and accruals	(45,711)	(159,077)
Deferred revenue	(331,545)	(1,184,320)
Prepaid rents	1,589	1,310
Cash flows from (used in) operations	<u>2,511,764</u>	<u>(1,301,814)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from term loans and mortgage	-	126,067
Mortgages payable reduction	(54,402)	(51,813)
Cash flows from (used in) financing	<u>(54,402)</u>	<u>74,254</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Marketable securities	407,132	-
Drawings from partnership	8,250,000	3,850,000
Restricted cash / investments held in trust	74,178	326,338
Cash flows from investing	<u>8,731,310</u>	<u>4,176,338</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL ACTIVITIES:		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(807,163)	(1,225,944)
Cash flows used in capital	<u>(807,163)</u>	<u>(1,225,944)</u>
INCREASE IN CASH RESOURCES	10,381,509	1,722,834
CASH RESOURCES, beginning of year	<u>21,328,733</u>	19,605,899
CASH RESOURCES, end of year	\$ 31,710,242	\$ 21,328,733
CASH RESOURCES IS REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash	\$ 10,681,467	\$ 15,299,958
Term deposits	<u>21,028,775</u>	<u>6,028,775</u>
	\$ 31,710,242	\$ 21,328,733

See accompanying notes to financial statements



Finance Department:

The Simpcw First Nation Finance Department operates under the Financial Administration Law and Finance Policy. Simpcw First Nation is in the sixth year of the ten-year grant.

Highlights of the Finance Department for 2022-2023

- Sixth year of the Ten-Year Grant
- Director of Finance Andre Taniguti
- Approved annual budget for 2023-2024
- Director of Finance establishing tracking for Vacation Time, Sick Leave, and Employee Benefits with Easypay, Easystub, and SAGE 300
- Audit performed in June and July 2023
- Finance Department employees:
 - Accounts Payable Crystal Celesta
 - Payroll Clerk Ronda McInnes
 - Accounts Receivable Roxane Jones
 - Finance Manager Shelley Frank

Plan for 2023-2024 fiscal:

- To switch Accounting Software from SAGE 300 to SAGE Intacct, the launch date is October 1, 2023
- To switch Purchase Order Software from SAGE APA to Yooz and the launch date is October 1, 2023
- To switch Payroll Software from Easypay to Workzoom and the launch date is October 1, 2023
- The Finance Staff will be trained in all the new accounting programs with virtual meetings with companies and tutorial classes.
- Director of Finance establish a better banking rate for the organization, the finance staff will be trained with the new online banking institution. The organization is moving from printing cheques to Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT)



SimpCW Land Department
PO Box 220
7555 Dunn Lake Road
Barriere, BC V0E 1E0
250-672-9995 ext. 224

LAND DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 1, 2022 – MARCH 31, 2023

Reported by Emily Proskiw, MSc

OVERVIEW

SimpCW's Land Department has been slowly growing and is excited about plans for the future. This department deals with the management, planning, and administration of land on-reserve, and collaborates with external bodies for larger strategic community planning initiatives. This department coordinates surveys, subdivision, leases, permits, and registration of land transfers, as well as provides support services for housing, infrastructure, and natural resource management.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On-Reserve Land Use Plan

The Land Department is preparing for a multi-year undertaking to create a new land use plan in conjunction with the creation of a land policy and land-use regulations (zoning) to ensure the plan is actionable and decisions about land-use are made transparently and fairly. The Land Department has applied for funding to help cover the cost of this work.

A Land Use Plan is a long-range visioning document that captures existing knowledge and helps Chief and Council make informed and consistent decisions about how land is used and protected in the future. SimpCW's current Land Use Plan was completed in 2017 but it due for comprehensive review. This plan represents a status report of current land use rather than a vision of how we want to guide development looking into the future. SimpCW is rapidly growing and requires a land use plan created by Símpcwemc (SimpCW peoples) to ensure our communities grow in an environmentally sensitive, culturally appropriate, and organized way which takes lessons from 7 generations past in order to tknémentem (preserve the land) for 7 generations into the future.



Raush Valley IPCA

Chief and Council designated the Raush Valley an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area. This self-declaration is made based on the inherent rights and jurisdiction that Simpcw has over Simpcwúl'ecw, our unceded territory, as the decision-makers and stewards of the tmicw (land). Designating the Raush Valley as an IPCA is a commitment to Simpcw's intentions to conserve this biodiverse valley, and to protect Simpcwemc (Simpco peoples) traditional and ongoing use of the area.

The Land Department has applied for a significant amount of funding from the Federal Government to develop additional mechanisms to protect the Raush Valley. We expect this project to create long-term economic opportunities for Simpcwemc, who would be trained and hired for environmental conservation and monitoring, enforcement, cultural heritage work, and public education. It will also create opportunities for agri-tourism and regenerative tourism, providing chances for visitors to learn about and participate in traditional harvesting and hunting in the valley, and engage in on-the-land physical recreation.



Lot Awards

The Land Department is responsible for responding to requests from Members for land to build a home on. Lot awards are the decision of Chief and Council, informed by the Land Use Plan and recommendation from the Land Department. Since April 2022, two members have been awarded a lot for residential purposes. We look forward to more homes being built in Chu Chua!



Table of Lands

The Land Department has instituted a table of lands and accompanying filing system for managing land records, specifically to order the original copies of paperwork we have pertaining to all parcels on reserve and the instruments that have been registered against them. As these records are slowly organized, we have been digitizing them and filing electronically as well. This makes it easier for members to request information about their lands and copies of important paperwork.

Land Registry

All land transactions and interests are registered in a database called the Indian Lands Registry (ILR). Simpcw is responsible for providing correct information and submitting all required documentation to ensure interests and transactions are properly completed and registered. The Land Department has been working to resolve outstanding issues from previous land management to ensure that the ILR accurately reflects the land transactions and registered interests of Simpcw Members.

In addition to resolving errors, we have also awarded 12 Certificates of Possession for lands where houses previously under rent-to-own agreements or a mortgage have been paid off. The Land Department has assisted in resolving land issues pertaining to 4 estates, and opened files for 5 claims of traditional land holding.

LOOKING AHEAD

On-Reserve Land Use Plan

Once funding is secured, the Land Department will begin the 2-year project of developing a new Land Use Plan for Simpcw's 5 reserves and 4 addition-to-reserve parcels. This will be a community driven process with many opportunities for participation by Members.

Territorial Stewardship Plan

At the direction of Chief and Council, Simpcw is going to embark on a multi-year project to develop a Territorial Stewardship Plan. This territory-wide land use plan and will cover the entire 5,000,000 hectares of Simpcwúlecw (Simpchw Territory). It will provide a long-range vision that captures existing knowledge to ensure the wellbeing of the tmicw (land), tmesmescén (wildlife), séwllkwe (waters), and qelmúcw (people).

Stewardship planning connects the goals of sustainable development, good governance, and economic viability. It also strives to balance opportunities for economic development with stewardship and/or protection of Simpcwúlecw. A Territorial Stewardship Plan represents an opportunity for Simpcw to translate Indigenous Knowledge about the territory into a formal plan which will enable Simpcw to:

- Gather and integrate community knowledge into stewardship planning;
- Define expectations for those engaging in use and development of Simpcwúlecw across all sectors;
- Make informed, consistent decisions about how Simpcwúlecw is used and protected in the future; and
- Engage in co-development with the province on strategies and initiatives to protect environment, land, and resources.



Geohazard Assessment and Community Risk Mapping

We know that Simpcw's reserve land presents some geotechnical challenges: North Thompson IR is bounded by steep slopes on the east and a floodplain on the west as well as home to a number of steep creeks cutting east-west; Louis Creek is on a floodplain; Boulder Creek is a rockfall hazard. The Land Department is going to be seeking funding to formally assess these geohazards that community members speak of often. This assessment will include community engagement and risk mapping for communication.

This assessment will tie into our upcoming land use plan as it will give an indication of where different types of development can and cannot safely occur. It will also allow the Infrastructure Committee and Emergency Services Committee to strategically plan for protection of essential infrastructure in the event of a natural hazard.

Land Policy

Simpcw does not currently have a Land Policy. Such a policy would govern the process of awarding and allotting land, requesting land transactions, addressing claims of traditional land holdings, and addressing competing land claims. The Land Department will begin developing this policy in the coming year in collaboration with a Land Committee, who will assist with land-related decision making and the creation of policy.

Tourism Plan

Simpcw has many opportunities for tourism both within our reserve land and in the larger Simpcwúlcw. At the direction of council, we are going to embark on a tourism plan in the coming year which will take stock of these opportunities and challenges and identify strategies to grow our participation in the tourism sector.



Simpco Housing Department
PO Box 220
7555 Dunn Lake Road
Barriere, BC V0E 1E0
250-672-9995 ext. 271

HOUSING DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 1, 2022 – MARCH 31, 2023

Reported by Emily Proskiw, MSc

OVERVIEW

The purpose of Simpcw's Housing Department is to ensure that community needs for housing on-reserve are being met. Through our 12 rental units and 10 rent-to-own units, we provided affordable housing to 49 people in the year of 2022-2023.

We have been making housing a priority in recent years, with the formation of a Housing Committee, the adoption of a new Housing Policy, and elimination of rental arrears. The Housing Manager is responsible for tracking conditions of band-owned home. We maintain asset management records indicating general lifespan of housing components so we can strategically plan for housing maintenance in the long term. In addition to this, we complete annual inspections to identify any other maintenance needs.

The Housing Committee, made up of the Housing Coordinator, 4 staff, and 1 councillor, provides recommendations to council and direction to the Housing Coordinator on housing issues. While the Housing Coordinator tracks and coordinates maintenance on these units, most of the maintenance is completed by Simpcw's operations and maintenance department unless experts or specialists need to be brought in.

The Housing Coordinator also works to provide private homeowners with information and resources about their homes: available renovation funding, rebate programs, and contractors in the area to name a few. Maintenance of privately owned homes is the responsibility of the homeowner. There are some programs available to Simpcw to support the repair and maintenance of privately owned homes like Indigenous Services Canada's Housing Support Program and CMHC's Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program. For repairs and maintenance on privately owned homes under these funding programs, the Housing Coordinator coordinates the work, payment, and all reporting.



PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Long-Range Housing Planning

Simpco has completed Phase 1 of our Integrated Housing Plan. Data for this phase came from three main sources:

- Housing Inventory – Students went door to door surveying on-reserve members about their homes including the housing type, the number of bedrooms, the number of occupants, and the condition of the home.
- Community Survey – An online and paper survey titled “Simpco Housing Needs” was sent out to all members asking them about their current views of housing on-reserve and their housing needs.
- Community Engagement – Two sessions were held to gain a better understanding of the community’s thoughts regarding housing. Attendees were polled on several housing-related questions. These sessions were open to all members and were available both in-person and online.

Phase 1 of this project resulted in a housing needs assessment which summarizes the review of existing housing on-reserve, projects future population growth, and estimates the number of homes that will need to be built in the next 20 years both by Simpco and privately by members. Copies of the Housing Needs Assessment can be requested from the Housing Department. Some key findings from the report were:

- The population of Simpco is expected to grow to 993 members by 2041 (200+ increase in members), with the assumption that the share of on-reserve members will increase.
- Simpco will need to build approximately 84 homes by 2042 to meet the current and anticipated demand.
- There is enough Band-land to support the development of 84 homes. However, Simpco needs to develop denser housing types in order to accommodate the number of homes required on a limited land base.

Nekúsem Re Kwséltkten-Kt

In March 2023 Simpco partnered with Paradigm Building Solutions and Simpco Resources Group to apply to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s Rapid Housing Initiative. This project will see 15 new units of housing in the form of 5 triplexes be developed in the Coal Creek Subdivision.





Maintenance and Upgrades

As our rental stock is ageing, the Housing Department is prioritizing the maintenance and upkeep of these units. The completion of inspections in rental and rent-to-own units in fall 2022 created a list of 87 maintenance items that needed to be completed. These inspections have not been regularly done due to the absence of a Housing Coordinator, so the list of repairs was longer than anticipated. The Maintenance Department prioritized and scheduled these repairs and have completed roughly 37% of them. The remainder of these will be completed over the coming months.

Health and Safety Renovations

Indigenous Services Canada has a program for renovations of privately-owned homes On-Reserve which will provide a subsidy for half the cost of regular renovations and the full cost (up to a cap) for health and safety renovations as determined by a First Nations Health Authority inspection. The Housing Department submitted applications for five privately owned home through this program and received confirmation of the funding in March 2023! These renovations will be completed in the summer of 2023.

Market Housing Policy Updates

SimpCW has two programs that Members can pursue to obtain a mortgage for residential development or purchase. The policy that governs these programs is called the Market Housing Policy, which provides details above and beyond the Housing Policy. Reserve land cannot be used as collateral for a loan because reserve land cannot be seized, or alienated from the First Nation. This means that for all home loans on-reserve banks require a guarantee from the band, which requires that the band agree to take on the loan if a Member were to default.

In December, 2022 Chief and Council amended this policy to increase the loan amounts that Simpcw will guarantee for Members. Simpcw Members can now obtain a mortgage for up to \$500,000 for a new construction or purchase so long as they qualify on their own financial merit. If you have any questions about the Market Housing Policy, please contact the Housing Coordinator.

Elders Fund

The Housing Department manages an Elders Fund which provides supplementary financial support for housing maintenance and renovations to Registered Status First Nations who are 65 years of age or older and are permanent residents of Simpcw First Nation.

The amount of money available to each Elder changes year by year depending on the amount of money that Chief and Council put into the program. For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, each registered Simpcw Elder living permanently on-reserve was eligible for \$1000. This program operates on a reimbursement process, so Elders can submit receipts for materials or work done by a qualified professional and the Housing Department will reimburse them. In 2022-2023, 6 of 37 eligible Elders utilized this fund, and \$4,337.16 of funding was distributed.



LOOKING AHEAD

File Management

A priority action for the Housing Department next year is the implementation of a records management system. The Housing Department holds a wealth of information that is valuable for both the band and for private homeowners, such as records of sewerage systems, water line locations, and blueprints. Due to turnover of Housing Coordinators, these files have become scattered and boxed. By organizing and digitizing we can integrate these records into our planning and ensure we have information available to Members.

Information Sharing

The Housing Department wants to create a package for homeowners that provides information, identified as a strategic planning priority action. This package will provide information about home insurance, funding available for private homeowners, a will application, maintenance information, and a description of the types of housing aid that the band does and does not provide.

Maintenance and Renovations

There is more funding available for the maintenance and renovation of band-owned units. Next year, we will replace the windows and doors in duplex and triplex through CleanBC's Income Qualified Program and Natural Resource Canada's Greener Homes Grant. We would like to expand this heat pump program to the remainder of Simpcw's rental stock, including the Elders Home.

Policy Updates

There is a policy that governs this Elders Fund which was adopted by Chief and Council in Spring 2021. This policy is due for review as it is creating questions and does not align with the way the Elders Fund is being administered in practice. The Housing Committee has added this policy to the list of policies up for review and amendment and it will be looked at in the coming year.

The Housing Committee has given direction to develop policy and procedures to guide the application for funding to renovate privately owned homes, such as for Indigenous Services Canada's Housing Support Program and CMHC's Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program. Simpcw has not submitted new applications for these program over the past year because there are concerns about equity of access. We will be developing a process to notify members of a funding call, allow them to apply to Simpcw documenting the work that needs to be done, and allow Housing Committee to adjudicate which units will receive funding. Once these policies are in place, Simpcw will release a call for members to apply to be considered for these funding opportunities!

Integrated Housing Plan Phase 2

Phase 2 of the Integrated Housing Plan will kick off next year, and Chief and Council are considering potential subdivision locations based on input from community at a November engagement as well as geotechnical constraints and timelines. Once the Integrated Housing Plan is completed, we will have development concepts for a new subdivision in Chu Chua and be ready to survey lots for award to Members for residential development.

MEMBERSHIP



Just letting everyone know that I have status cards and to bring 2 passport photos when you come to get a new status card.

There is an update from Indigenous Services Canada—Vancouver, they are no longer doing regular status cards at their office.

We are no longer doing registration; you can register online.

They are encouraging people to apply for the Secure status card.

It is quicker if you go to the government office to apply, and they will be able to help you with the application.

THE NUMBER IS 236-330-9961 OR TOLL FREE 1-800-567-9604

ISC would like to encourage members to apply for the secure status card. there is an application on the indigenous services Canada site:

[Indigenous Services Canada - Canada.ca](https://www.indigenous-services.ca)

Status cards for non-band members and members who have lost or had their card stolen there is a charge of \$25.00.

There are still band members on the band list who have passed away, the Executor can either send me a copy of the death certificate and I will submit it to Indigenous Service Canada, or you can submit when you register for the executor of the estate. You will need at least three copies of the death certificate.

Please update your address if you have moved! Or are a new member!



2022/2023

Natural Resources

Department

Annual Report



NATURAL RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report

April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

Kerri Jo Fortier, NRD Manager

SUMMARY

The Natural Resources Department (NRD) is responsible for the overall health, conservation, protection and management of the land and resources within Simpcwúlecw. NRD performs the “on the ground” work related to referrals/applications, research, archaeology, cultural heritage, environment and wildlife protection.

REFERRALS

In 2021, NRD began to utilize NationsConnect, a communication portal, which streamlines applications with 700+ industry and government users. Project-specific conversations provide back and forth messaging within NationsConnect, combining email and a communication log by tracking communications against the project for easy access, retrieval and reporting. Referrals received in the fiscal years: 2021/2022 = 716; 2022/2023 = 739.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. April 2022 = 96 | 7. October 2022 = 44 |
| 2. May 2022 = 61 | 8. November 2022 = 34 |
| 3. June 2022 = 103 | 9. December 2022 = 25 |
| 4. July 2022 = 111 | 10. January 2023 = 55 |
| 5. August 2022 = 86 | 11. February 2023 = 36 |
| 6. September 2022 = 45 | 12. March 2023 = 43 |

FIELD TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

In 2021, the Field Technicians started to use the GeoKeeper app, to collect, house and manage the field data. NRD can use this data to monitor environmental change over time, identify sites on the land for protection and mitigation, and support land-based decision-making.

Three (3) Símpcwemc were committed as Indigenous Monitors (IMs) to monitor activities during the construction and expansion of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP) in Spreads 3, 4a, 4b, and Reactivation.

Remainder of the Field Technicians, completed monitoring for forestry development activities, utilities expansion and/or upgrade projects, road & housing construction monitoring. There are nine (9) Field Technicians, all Símpcwemc!

PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES, POLICY/PROCECURES:

A. Specific Claims:

- Tête Jaune Cache (TJC) – This claim relates to the traditional village site land (2 square miles) where Canada breached its fiduciary duty to protect the village at TJC for the use and benefit of Simpcw. Canada accepted the Specific Claim on December 18, 2020 and entered into negotiations with Simpcw on February 25, 2021. NRD has drafted an Ethnography Report to support our Specific Claim and a draft was provided to our legal counsel for review on June 9th and for review by Canada/the Crown on June 23rd. Maps have been developed and submitted stating our position on where the reserve should have been allocated, in addition to satellite reserves to encompass significant fishing stations and grazing/pasture. Next steps are meeting with the Canada/the Crown in person here in Chu Chua on November 14th to discuss the ethnography and present our position on what the reserve should have looked like/included.
- Dunn Lake Road, Chinook Cove Ferry Road, Windpass Road – claims to be reviewed by Simpcw and submitted for negotiation to Canada.

B. BC Hydro (BCH):

- Simpcw and BCH executed a Campfire Agreement on March 10, 2023. The Agreement will establish the principles, engagement model, focus areas, resources, processes from which BC Hydro and Simpcw will develop further reconciliation measures and advance our long-term relationship. Since the Agreement was executed, BC Hydro has provided funding for:
- Simpcw and BCH worked collaboratively to support Youth in exploring IT career paths with a goal of providing four (4) Simpcw Youth the opportunity to gain practical skills and paid work experience. \$31,000 was contributed by BCH to this project.
- Cultural Management Plan (CMP) is being developed between the Secwépemc, Sylix, Sinixt, and Ktunaxa Nations regarding a more comprehensive approach to the Archaeological Management Plans that currently are in place in BC Hydro reservoirs including Kinbasket, Arrow Lakes and Whatshan. The Sinixt Confederacy/Colville Confederated Tribes have asserted that they should lead and manage this work. A Briefing Note has been prepared and provided to Chief & Council for review and recommendation as to how to move forward following the Sinixt assertion that the project should be theirs in a letter they authored to BC Hydro, SNTC, the Okanagan Nation Alliance, and Ktunaxa Nation Council.

C. Dunn Lake Road Revitalization Project (DLRRP) – Field Technicians monitored the construction and expansion of the Dunn Lake Road from November 2022 to October 2023. Paving will be completed next week. There will be additional culvert work by the Maintenance Building (old CCVFD Hall) in late Spring or early Summer 2024.

D. Parks:

- Wells Gray Park – Field Technicians participated in an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) in June 2023 at Trophy Meadows. Proposed expansion of the main parking lot, approximately 5.3 km of proposed trail upgrades, 14 new tent pad locations, upgrades to 6 existing tent pads, 4 pit toilet locations, and 3 meal prep locations at Sheila Lake Campground.
- Mt. Robson Provincial Park Signage Celebration – this took place on Sunday September 17th as a part of the Simpcw Days event and was very well received by community and Parks. A short documentary is being produced about the event which will be released on social media through both Simpcw channels and BC Parks channels.
- The Jasper Exhibit was postponed from September 2023 to potentially June 2024 due to an issue with the contractor who was building the exhibit. Archives and Language House took the opportunity to revise the panel text to include references to Simpcw also being known by the names Snake and Snare/Snaring in the area, after which the Snake Indian River and Snaring River/Snaring Mountain are named, helping to assert our presence in the Park.

E. Policy, Procedures:

- Simpcw Assessment Process (SAP) – Simpcw Council has approved the Simpcw Independent Environmental Assessment Process in May 2023. Is a Review Process coordinated by Simpcw to ensure Community members interests, concerns and perspectives are appropriately considered and addressed in the review and assessment of proposed Projects in Simpcwúlcw. This project will transfer to Administration and will become the responsibility of the Major Projects Coordinator, once hired.
- The public-facing Simpcw Directives have been reviewed and amended to make them more flexible and applicable to a variety of projects and concerns held by Simpcw, including climate change, wildfire, and invasive species management, and Símpcwemc access to the tmicw.

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- Land Guardian Training occurred April 17 – May 19, 2023; 9 participants.
- RISC Archaeology and CMT Training (RISC) occurred on June 5 – 9, 2023; 6 participants.
- Cultural Heritage Monitor training occurred on July 5 and 6, 2023.
- 4x4 Off-Road Training on August 3, 2023.
- Upcoming training: Snowmobile and Boating certification.

STAFF CHANGES:

- Archives Coordinator started on March 20, 2023 – Mary Mackenzie.
- Wildlife Coordinator hired in May 2023 – Wayne Sim.
- G2G Coordinator hired in August 2023 – Holly Jackson.
- Audrey Todd has returned to NRD – September 2023.
- Title and Rights Coordinator position will be interviewed in a couple weeks.
- Major Projects Coordinator position has been posted.

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT (G2G):

1. FORESTRY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, APPLICATIONS, PROJECTS:

- Managing for Old Growth Strategies within Simpcwúlecw. This is now been included in the Interim Stewardship Plan.
- Within the Kamloops Timber Supply Area, the Apportionment decision has not been announced but we anticipate it will be shortly. Apportionment for the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) within the Kamloops Timber Supply Area (TSA) – Jointly Simpcw and Stk’emlúpsemc te Secwépemc Nation (“SSN”) Tk’emlùps te Secwépemc and Skeetchestn have submitted an option of 25% volume within the Kamloops TSA. Simpcw will be negotiating for approximately 137,165m³.
- We are currently working on the Robson Valley Timber Supply Review and will be soon working on the Kamloops Timber Supply Review with the current pressures of harvesting on the Simpcwúlecw, we are starting a Timber Supply Review on the campfire to ensure a sustainable cut.
- We have been working on cumulative affects studies, forest health management and stocking standards within the Simpcwúlecw. This is to ensure that we are managing Simpcwúlecw for future generations.
- We are working collaboratively with SRG forestry department on initiatives that support Simpcw’s directives such as road deactivation, forest health and Interim Stewardship Plan (Raft).

QS UPDATES:

- Simpcw Government-to-Government (G2G) efforts continue at both the Qwelmínte Secwépemc (QS) and the Simpcw campfire level. In August, Holly Jackson was hired as the new G2G coordinator.
- The QS is focusing on restructuring and has pivoted to Agreement in Principle (AIP) discussions. The AIP will support the advancement of a Collective Forestry Agreement (CFA).
- The Province and the QS office (QSO) have been holding AIP Stewardship meetings with communities and campfires. Simpcw’s meeting is coming up next week where we will highlight our Interim Stewardship Plan, our intention to build a Territorial Stewardship Plan and Simpcw’s 6 Directives.
- While the QS is restructuring, Simpcw continues to support the collective. At the same time, Simpcw is continuing to put its number one priority at the campfire level. At the campfire, Simpcw has the following Working Groups: Campfire, Forests, BCTS and Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI). Monthly meetings are held with each of the Working Groups.
- BCTS continuing discussion on managing operating areas on Simpcwúlecw with the ultimate goal of equally managing it.



2022/2023

Social Development

Annual Report

SIMPCW FIRST NATION
 GENERAL BAND MEETING REPORT
 April 1, 2022 – MARCH 31, 2023
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



STAFF

Social Development Manager:	Carmen Hance
Family Support Worker	Marissa Eustache
Social Development Clerk:	Janet Donald
Event Coordinator:	Megan Sim
Social Development Assistant:	Elise McInnis
Yecwemintem Coordinator:	Kathleen McDonald
Jurisdiction Consultant:	Allen Cummings

NEW STAFF

Family Support Worker	Michelle Harel
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COUNCIL PORTFOLIO

Primary Rep.	Alison Green
Alternate Rep.	Tina Donald

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Income Assistance
- Nutritional Coaching
- Child Welfare Advocacy
- Child Welfare Governance
- Productivity Coaching
- Prevention Programming
- Cultural Events
- Compassionate Care Funding

*Not all programs listed

INCOME ASSISTANCE APRIL 1, 2022 – MARCH 31, 2023

On-Reserve Income Assistance:

Serves as a last resort for eligible on reserve individuals and families. Assessments are based on the following criteria: Financial need, employability, family composition and age, as well as available financial resources in the household.

Basic Need Income Assistance:

Support allowance for basic things a person needs that are not included in their shelter allowance: Food, clothing, and transportation.

Utility Income Assistance:

Covers the actual housing cost (rent, heating, utility costs, wood & heat), and basic phone services. If a homeowner, Shelter Income Assistance will cover the mortgage payments and house/contents insurance. Sometimes, the funding may include water, sewage disposal, and garbage services.

Special Needs Income Assistance:

A one-time financial help for people who have emergent needs (to prevent danger to physical health or immediate child protection). This is only for applicants already on IA.

Person with Disability (PWD) Income Assistance:

Monthly benefits for people living with certain times of physical or mental disabilities. These benefits can help people who cannot work, or look for work, because of their disability.

Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers Benefit (PPMB):

Benefits for people who have a medical condition that seriously impacts their ability to find or keep a job. This does not include an addiction.

IA DISTRIBUTION:	Total:
CMHC	\$19,930.00
Basic Need IA*	\$215,488.38
Utility IA	\$22,809.00
Special Needs IA	\$915.00
PWD IA	\$
PMBB IA	\$
TOTAL IA DISTRIBUTED:	\$259,142.38
Type of Client:	# Of Clients:
Singles	127
Families	64
In Families	173
Funerals	9
Total # Of Clients	373

*Due to a higher volume of clients and funerals, the Basic Need/Shelter/Utilities allocation has increased.



CHILDREN IN CARE:	Total:
Total Children in Care	22
On Reserve (CCO)	0
Out of Care on Reserve (Family caring for children)	4
Off Reserve (TCO & CCO)	18
New Incidents Reported	33

Highlights:

‘TCWESÉMENTEM’ (WALKING TOGETHER) – Simpcw’s Historic Community Agreement, being the only existing agreement in BC History.

INDIGENOUS GOVERNING BODY DESIGNATION – Existing in 9 Provinces and 2 Territories. Simpcw is the only nation to have this designation across Canada.

CHILD & FAMILY COMMUNITY SERVICES ACT – Carmen and Allen were invited by the Ministry for Children and Family Development to participate in legislative amendments to the child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA). Both signed Confidentiality Agreements and were provided with written drafts of the amendments which were primarily intended to legally recognize the inherent child welfare jurisdiction of Indigenous Nations. They diligently provided written and verbal feedback in consultation meetings held directly with Simpcw.

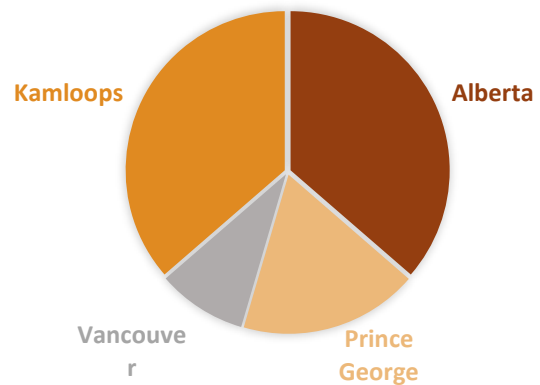
PASSING OF AMENDMENT BILL – Acting Kukpi7 George Lampreau was one of the five Kukpi7’s invited to speak at the official ceremony and sit in the Legislature during the Passing of the Amendment Bill.

YECWEMINTEM (JURISDICTION)

Jurisdiction Engagements

- May 5 – 8, 2022: Edmonton
- June 2 – 5, 2022: Prince George
- August 15 – 16, 2022: Elders (Chu Chua)
- August 25 – 28, 2022: Kelowna
- September 15 – 18, 2022: Edmonton
- October 20 – 23, 2022: Melukwintem Conference
- November 3 – 6, 2022: Prince George
- November 18 – 20, 2022: Youth (Kelowna)
- December 8 – 11, 2022: Vancouver
- January 19 – 20, 2022: Elders (Chu Chua)
- February 9 – 12, 2022: Kamloops
- March 23 – 26, 2022: Calgary

Engagement Distribution (4 Regions)



Jurisdiction Highlights

ENGAGEMENTS – New members have been attending regional Engagements. Through registration, Simpcw has a contact list of over 180 members – some of whom are connecting with family and their Simpcw heritage for the first time. The Jurisdiction Team is on track to host twelve Engagements in 2023 every 4 – 6 weeks.

DRAFT SECTIONS – Seven draft sections have been reviewed by Membership throughout the Regional Engagements. Sections one to four reviewed July – December 2022, and the second set of three are currently being reviewed from January – July 2023.

AWAY FROM HOME SUCCESSES – Through Engagement sessions, the SCFSA has diligently ensured that Simpcw’s Social Worker – Lisa. W – is able to attend. Due to Lisa’s involvement with members at the functions, she has built relationships with Simpcw’s Away From Home Membership. Though Lisa would not be the Social Worker to support these families, she has been a contact point for a few members seeking information about fostering Simpcw children and other child welfare support. Through this connection, she can liaise between membership and appropriate services within their area.



SIMPCW YOUTH – In November 2022, Simpcw hosted the first Youth Engagement facilitated by former Youth in Care, Raven McCallaum. She brought a great new energy and is keen to continue being involved with Simpcw. Additionally, a graphic designer joined the session and created a beautiful visual to capture the thoughts and perspectives of Simpcw’s Youth:



SECTION 92.1 AGREEMENT (Tcwesmentem “Walking Together”) – Signed between Simpcw First Nation and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), the document is a legally binding operational agreement. It sets out roles, responsibilities, and funding between the two parties in all planning, care, and decision making under British Columbia’s Child, Family, Community Services Act (CFCSA). Simpcw is now the lead role in numerous training orientation sessions for MCFD and Delegated Indigenous Child & Family Services Agency Social Workers.

Tcwesmentem Video – Simpcw created a powerful video featuring real-life experiences of Simpcw Members impacted by historical and ongoing child welfare practices of the Provincial Child Welfare System. It emphasizes the now required involvement of Simpcw in all aspects of child welfare pertaining to Simpcw Members.

Gitsegukla First Nation – Simp cw and the Gitsegukla First Nation signed a one-of-a-kind declaration in March 2023 to work together to develop an Inter-nation Agreement with respect to child welfare. On the same day, the two Nations conducted a historic traditional trade; Simp cw provided Gitsegukla with a copy of the Tcwestmentem Agreement, and in return, Gitsegukla committed to providing Simp cw with 400 Sockeye Salmon during the Salmon Run in June 2023. This Salmon will be distributed to Simp cw Away from Home members.



PREVENTION

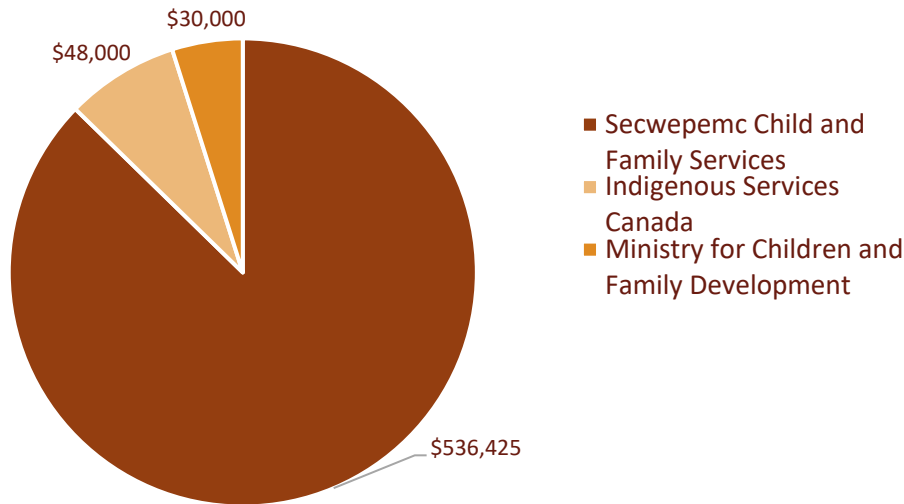
EVENT / PROGRAM / INITIATIVE	# Of Participants	Date:
Organization of Tcwestmentem Signing Ceremony	55	April, 2022
Calling our Children Home Ceremony	202	October, 2022
Distribution of Meat Packages to Four Regions	106	December, 2022
Winter Clothing Grant (AFH / Young Adults)	71	December, 2022

PROMOTING WELLNESS & HEALING:

- Poverty reduction
- Cultural enrichment
- Family wellness activities
- Direct Individual & Group support
- Support in accessing kinship care where possible and if needed
- Traditional Decision-Making regarding child protection concerns
- Early Intervention family support when child protection concerns arise
- Supporting SCFSA & MCFD in preventing children & youth from entering care
- Community connections and sense of belonging within activities for families & children



PREVENTION FUNDING ALLOCATION



SECWPEMC CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES (SCFSA)

PRACTICE MODEL

Operating Standards: Current Protection teams operate under the standards of the CFCSA, the Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standards and Indicators (AOPSI), and Chapter 3 of the Child Protection Response Model.

Commitment: SCFSA has made a commitment to implement a world leading approach to collaborative child protection practice.

Approach: Signs of Safety have been fully implanted in all aspects of the Agency and supports family-and community-lead decision making. SCFSA is proud that we created our own care-plan tool that is rooted in Signs of Safety and creates care plans that are culturally safe. The Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD) has granted SCFSA an exemption to follow its practice standards in support of this care plan that was developed in collaboration with our 7 member communities.

Community Engagement

- SCFSA has maintained a consistent and familiar presence in all the 7 communities.
- SCFSA staff participate in all Yecwemintem Re Kwseltkten-Kt (“Looking After Our Relations/People”) Engagements.
- SCFSA staff participated in the development of the ‘TCWEŠÉMENTEM’ (WALKING TOGETHER) agreement.
- SCFSA Family Preservation Caseworker Lisa Wortelboer participates in Social Developments/Simpcw’s events/activities.

Board Representatives

Primary - Carmen Hance: Having been the President for over 6 years, Carmen stepped down in 2023 due to orientation / training sessions with the province. She now holds the title as Vice President.

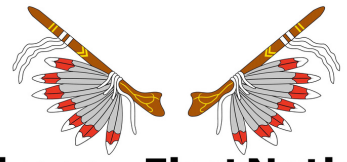
Alternate - Alison Green: Alison is the Council Designate and has been on the board since July 18, 2018.



2022/2023

Simpco Health

Program Annual Report



SimpCW First Nation
People of the Rivers



SimpCW Health Program

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 -23





VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

Vision

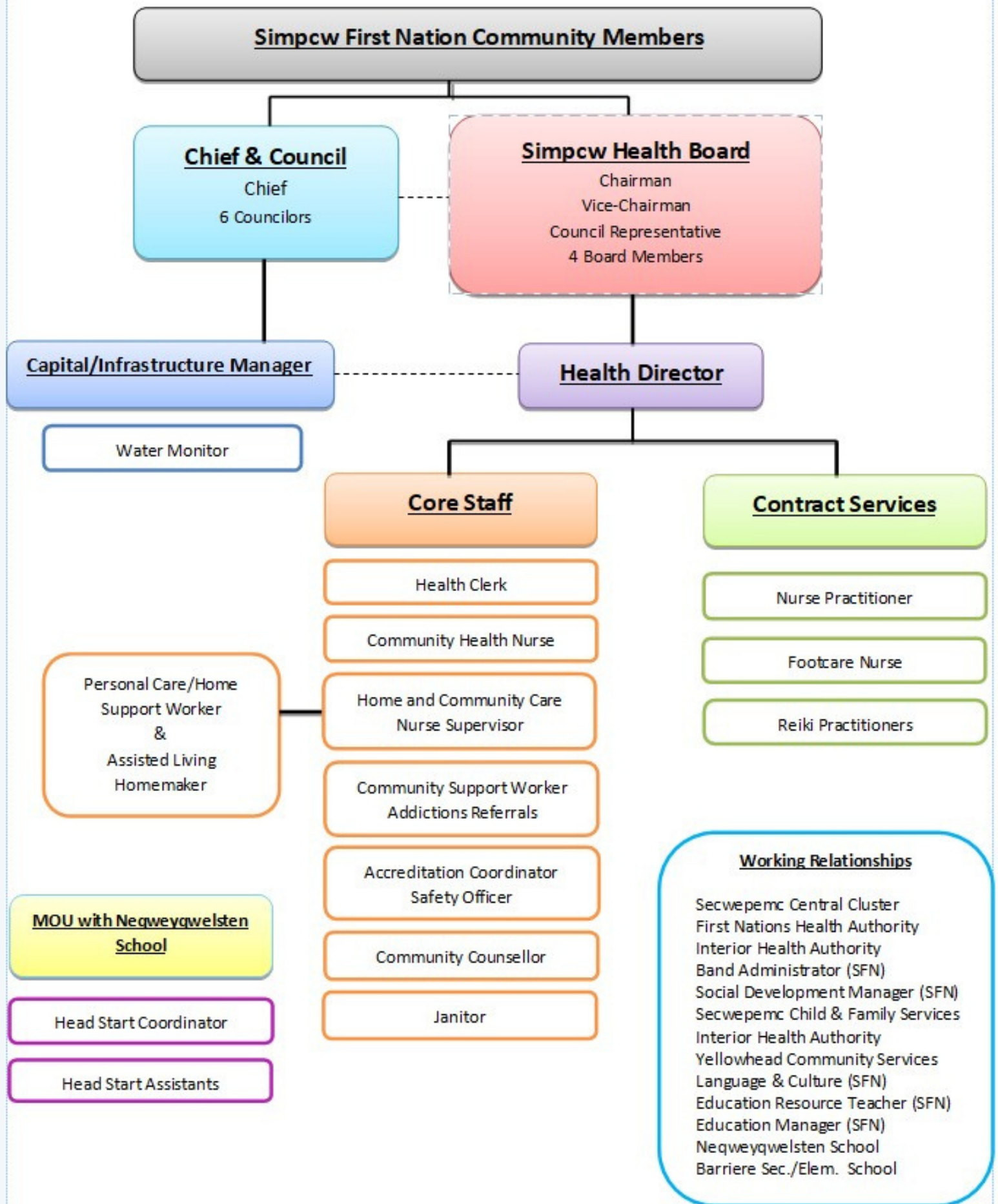
Cwelcwélt-Kucw té qelmúcw
We Are Healthy People

Mission

Simpcw Health Program embraces and is committed to supporting Simpcw in creating **WELLNESS** in all aspects of life. Our holistic philosophy guides us to be **HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS** that create **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES** that are balanced in all phases of **SPIRITUAL**, **PHYSICAL**, **EMOTIONAL** and **MENTAL** well-being.

February 2008

SIMPCW HEALTH PROGRAM – ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

MARIE MATTHEW

It has been a very busy year for Health Program Staff and SimpCW Health Board and there have been significant changes over the course of this fiscal year. Unfortunately, our community has had to deal with an unusually high number of deaths and we acknowledge the significant losses of loved ones among our members, knowing that it is a time of grief for many. And this sense of loss is made more profound as we all move into a post-pandemic era, recognizing that the “new normal” is a time of lingering stress in a changing world where there is increased uncertainty about the future. Throughout these unsettling times, Health Program staff have continued to lead, supporting the community and providing workshops and healthy activities to restore balance among the SimpCW.

In spite of the tumultuous times, the year has resulted in many positive outcomes. During the year, there was a focus on planning. Important activities that informed the Health Strategic Plan were: a community meeting, during which membership identified priorities; staff and board planning sessions that linked back to community priorities; and a comprehensive community assessment survey that provided extensive feedback about programs and services and provided information about high priority needs. Staff worked diligently to thoughtfully integrate the wealth of information collected, from all stakeholders, into a beautifully crafted Strategic Plan which guides our activities going forward.

These activities also ensured that the Health Staff and Board were prepared for the June visit of the Accreditation Survey team from Accreditation Canada. Under the guidance of the Accreditation Coordinator, staff worked diligently to ensure that the hundreds of standards that needed to be met were being addressed. Meanwhile, the Health Board was also charged with reviewing and ratifying documents and confirming that the necessary governance standards were in place. On a somewhat tearful June afternoon, the Accreditation Canada team reported out, announcing that SimpCW Health had, once again, achieved Exemplary Standing with Accreditation Canada.

It was this year, as well, that the recognitions granted by Rural Coordination Centre of BC, for SimpCW’s community planning approach and delivery of health services, resulted in the opportunity to present at RCCbc’s Innovations conference. The video of SimpCW Health Programs that had been created was featured at the summer international Toward Unity For

Health conference in Vancouver and later shared with the community at our Annual General Meeting. These accolades were publicized to the broader community after the Health Director was interviewed for an article in the local newspaper.

The Board further strengthened their positive relationship with Council, signing off an Administrative Services Agreement with them which confirmed that the Board is entrusted with the responsibility for guiding Simpcw health programs and services.

The significant achievements buoyed the spirits of staff and board members alike; however, it took a great deal of time and effort on the part of the Health Director to fill positions, as continued staff changes kept her in a constant quest for nurses and other staff. One of the opportunities that arose was that our community was scheduled to join the provincial Primary Care Network, which opened the door to having a Nurse Practitioner, Medical Office Assistant, and another health professional available to our clients on a regular basis.

In spite of the challenges noted, by year-end, staff shortages had all been addressed, a community counsellor was in place to deal with clients' trauma, and various workshops and programs were being offered to support community members along a healing path, leading unswervingly toward our vision that "Cwelcwélt-kucw te qelmúcw - We are a Healthy People."



SIMP CW HEALTH BOARD

BOARD MEMBERS

Marie Matthew - Board Chair

Alison Green - Council Representative

Ian Cameron - Board Member

Tom Eustache - Board Member

Eddie Celesta - Board Member

Tracey Narcisse - Board Member

Charli Fortier - Board Member

The Simpcw Health Board and Simpcw Health Staff wish to acknowledge those who have passed away since the end of our reporting period and the development of the Annual Report. We express our condolences to family and friends who have lost loved ones, including those who we were unable to include in this report.



HEALTH DIRECTOR

SHELLEY LAMPREAU

Weyt-kp xwexéytep Simpcwemc. I am pleased to present the Simpcw Health Program's Annual Report to the Community, which provides an overview of the programs and services delivered from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023. The Annual Audit Report providing the financial results for the 2022/23 fiscal year is available for review at the Health Department.

First and foremost, I would like to express gratitude for the support from the Simpcw Health Board of Directors and Chief, Council, and the community. And, most importantly, to the Health staff, including long-term and newly-hired employees. The Health team continues to demonstrate their dedication and support to the program, the clients, and their fellow team members.

In the past year, the Health Program had a few changes in staff including the addition of a Community Health Nurse, Keshia Fengler. As a former university professor, Keshia brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our team. Nonie Finch joined our team as a Home Care Aide. Nonie has proven to be a fierce advocate for her clients with a desire to increase equitable healthcare access for Indigenous people. Lastly, we expanded Jennifer Jules' hours to address the gap in our Assisted Living program. Jennifer provided weekly homemaking services to eligible clients within the community.

The 2022/23 fiscal year proved to be a year of acknowledgment and celebration. Firstly, the Simpcw Health Program received Accreditation with Exemplary Standing from Accreditation Canada. With a tremendous effort from the Health Board and the Health staff, our department scored 99.8% on the survey with over 600 standards of excellence achieved. Secondly, Simpcw presented a video documentary at the Network Towards Unity of Health celebrating our commitment to community consultation and community-led programs and services. This was an opportunity to share Simpcw's best practices at provincial and international conferences.

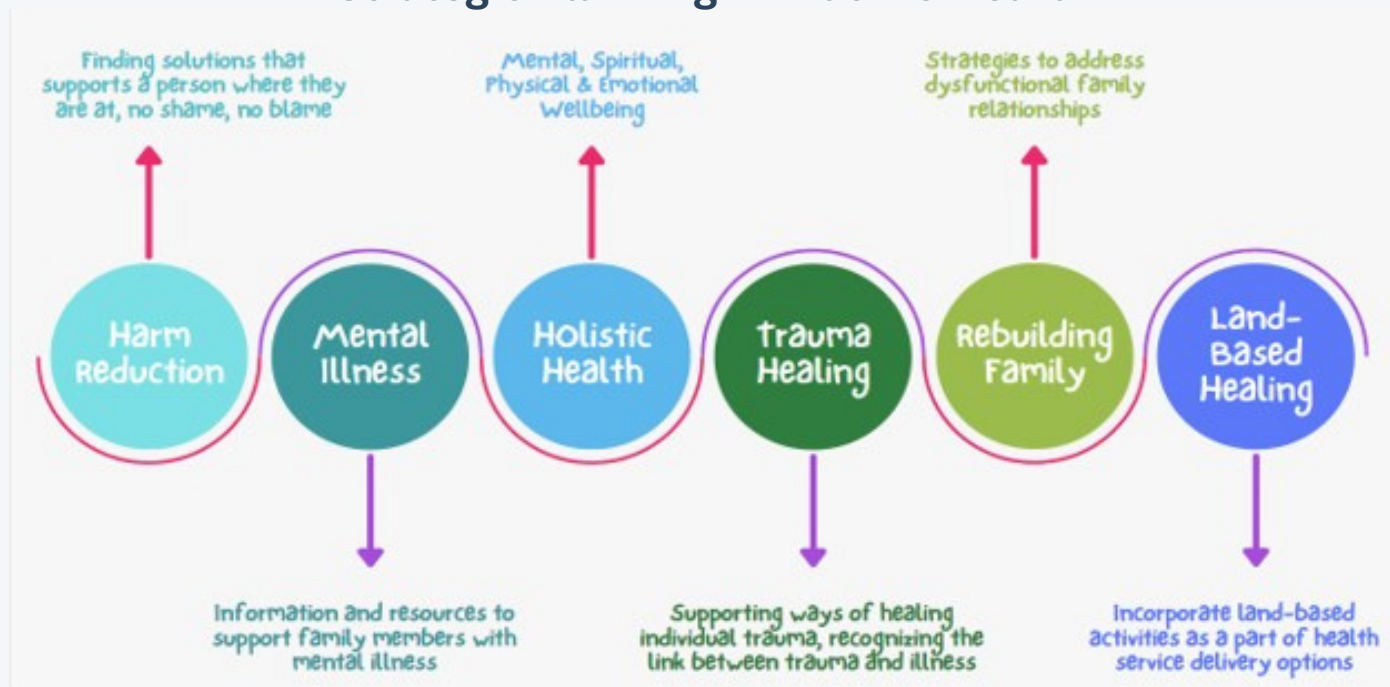
Although I withdrew my name as the Interior Region Representative on the First Nations Health Directors Association Board of Directors, I remained active at the Secwepemc Nation Caucus. As directed by the Secwepemc Chiefs, the SHC started the process of creating a society

that will allow for autonomous and independent decision-making. Currently, I am a First Director for the Le7 te Melamen Health Society, the new society name for the Secwepmec Health Caucus, vetted and approved by Secwepemc Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- Accreditation Survey
- Towards Unity for Health presentation
- Hosted Trauma-Informed Yoga
- First Nations Health Directors Association Annual General Meeting
- Calling Our Children Home conference in Jasper
- Health & Career Fair
- Food Safe Certification
- Primary Care Network Forum
- SFN Community Planning Retreat in Kamloops
- Addictions Recovery & the Indigenous Perspective Conference - Calgary
- Celebration of Lives planning
- Secwepemc Health Caucus Management Committee
- SHC Emergency Preparedness Forum & SHC Strategic Planning
- Jordan's Principle presentation
- Collaboration with IHA & FNHA for a Nurse Practitioner
- Secwepemc Health Director Meetings
- Simpcw Health Board meetings

Strategic Planning - What We Heard



Health Priorities



OTHER THEMES

- **Treatment Follow-Up and Aftercare**—creation of supportive follow-up and aftercare plans that include family and other support systems
- **Community Support Groups**—revitalization of the Men's and Women's Wellness Groups
- **Financial Planning and Budgeting**—community workshops on personal finances and budgeting
- **New Facility**—construction of a new building that allows for increase access to health professionals
- **Clinical Counselling Supports**—access to full-time, in-community, mental health supports that utilizes various modalities—western and cultural practices
- **Physical activities**—programs for all ages—youth to elderly
- **Water Systems**—equitable access to potable water



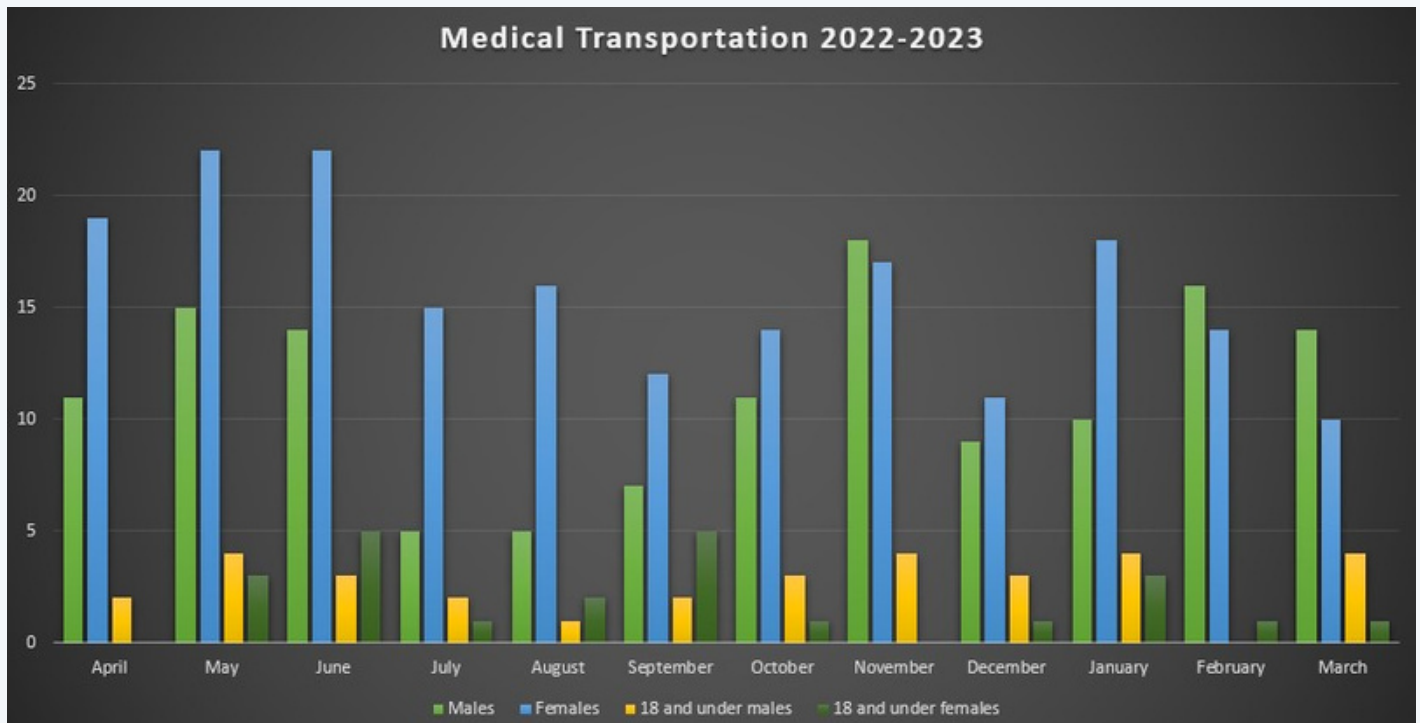
HEALTH CLERK

BRENNA CELESTA

As the Health Clerk, I continue to be busy assisting clients with Medical Transportation/Patient Travel, the Elders Medical Fund, and the Community Medical Fund. Clerical support is also provided to Simpcw Health Staff and the Simpcw Health Board along with general office administration work.

We continued to have Nurse Practitioner appointments throughout the year. I supported the Medical Office Assistant with scheduling appointments, updating client files, and screening visiting clients.

The Medical Transportation Program provides financial assistance to status community members who must travel outside of Barriere to attend doctor's appointments, specialist appointments, dental appointments, and other medical services that cannot be accessed locally. For the 2022/23 fiscal year, approximately twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000) was provided to clients living on-reserve who required medical transportation assistance.





COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE

KESHIA FENGLER, RN

Our mandatory community health program facilitates client wellness through a holistic health approach. The programs provided by Simpcw Health include the following: communicable disease management including, pandemic intervention (immunizations & screening), and TB screening, childhood immunizations; Maternal child health & child development; home and community care; and lastly our walk-in clinic for community members to access nurse consultation and referrals as needed.

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued with mandatory programming while preparing for Accreditation
- Keshia Fengler an RN new to Barriere joined the team as the Community Health Nurse
- Sue Baril was hired as a Home Care Aid
- The annual Health Fair had an amazing turnout with thirty-three (33) vendor staff members from FNHA, IH, and Kamloops. Highlights include Palliative Care, Respiratory Therapy, Child & Family Development, COHI, Big Little Science Center, and more!
- Forty (40) people attended the Community Hearing Screening provided by Hearing Life
- Fifteen (15) Community Members attended the 3-day BC Aboriginal Diabetes Conference in Penticton
- Eight (8) elders attended the Vaccine Lunch & Learn where the Community Health Nurse provided updates and information on Routine Vaccines, COVID-19
- TRU Nursing Student, Caitlin was here for three (3) months. She completed health assessments, helped the Community Health Nurse with routine vaccinations for those 5yrs+, and provided health and hand hygiene education to the children at Neqweyqwelsten School
- The Health Program utilized the BC EHS Paramedicine Program, where a BC EHS Paramedic comes into the community and collaborates care with the Community Health Nurse. This program is currently being utilized by four (4) Community Members
- Pharmacy Medication reviews took place over two days where nine (9) Community Members had a one-on-one session with a Pharmacist to review their medications and to ask questions
- Stuff Health Clinic provided for Neqweyqwelsten School primary students and Little Moccasins Head Start students
- Sponsored a community Health Challenge and a staff Water Drinking Challenge

- Seabird Island visited the community and met with thirteen (13) Community Members to provide a complete health assessment, review Diabetes Management, and provided an individualized diabetic care plan
- Mammogram assessments were completed in collaboration with BC Cancer, where twenty (20) Community Members took part in the screening
- School Anaphylaxis Plan was created and implemented in Neqweyqwelsten School. The Community Health Nurse also provided education to school staff regarding Anaphylactic Emergency Management and Asthma

PRENATAL NUTRITION PROGRAM

- Prenatal nutrition program did not see any new infants this year but continued to support some families from the year before.
- Eligible families continued to receive monthly grocery gift cards for any children in the household under 2 yrs

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

- All regular vaccine programming was able to resume. This includes all routine infant, child, and adult vaccines
- Near the end of the year we were able to put an emphasis on catching up with children and elderly who missed their routine vaccines during the pandemic
- One hundred eleven (111) clients were immunized over the course of the year with two hundred twenty-four (224) immunizations administered by our Community Health Nurse
- Fall 2022 Influenza Vaccination rates for a total of ninety-four (94) vaccinations:
 - **6 months - 8 years** - 5 vaccinations
 - **9 years - 17 years** - 15 vaccinations
 - **18 years to 64 years** - 49 vaccinations
 - **65 years and older** - 25 vaccinations

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROGRAM

- The CD program wrapped up many activities from the COVID-19 Pandemic
- COVID-19 immunization clinics were completed. Seventy-nine (79) COVID vaccinations were administered in the Fall 2022 clinics
- COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters are now recommended at 6-month intervals, with the newest boosters coming this Fall along with the influenza vaccines
- Contact tracing and testing are no longer required or offered unless required for specific cases and/or for severe illness requiring hospitalization
- We continue to offer TB testing for treatment programs and those starting immunosuppressive therapy
- Sexual Health information and screening program continued its programming as well



HOME & COMMUNITY CARE

RHIANNON HALL, RN

The Home care program does complex case management, care coordination, and assessments for support in the home. Care includes personal care, assistance with household tasks, transportation for medical appointments, accompanying clients to appointments, medication management, and support between agencies. This program supplements home support programming with the Interior Health Authority. This program does not replace support from family and friends, and they are encouraged to continue supporting the client.

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- Five (5) new admits and three (3) discharges from the program.
- Assessments and Care Planning
- In-home care assistance and assisted living supports
- Meal preparations
- Medication reviews, pick-up, administration, and monitoring
- Medical transportation and accompaniment
- Health advocacy and support
- Physician and pharmacy consultation
- Foot care
- Medical equipment management - lending program, inventory and maintenance



Bottom Row L-R Celena Slater, Rosemary Donald, Myrt Fortier, Mary Fortier, William Pete, Mona Jules, Rose Miller, Eunice Donald, Eddie Celesta, Louisa Celesta
Top Row L-R Pam Eustache, Ralph McDougall, Ken Donald, Wayne Eustache, Shirley Eustache, Ian Cameron, Dianne Cameron, Don Bowser, Harold Eustache, Paul Celesta, Ernie Celesta, Melvin Joseph, Cathy Hall, Gloria Celesta



HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE

NONIE FINCH, HCA

I have been the Home Support/Personal Care Worker in the Home and Community Care Program since January 2022. In this position, it has been my privilege to support our clients, including families and Elders, with home-based care specific to their health needs. I followed the mandate set by First Nations Health Authority for developing home and community care services that “respect traditional and contemporary approaches to healing and wellness. These services assist people who have chronic and acute illnesses and receive the care they need in their home or community.”

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Home Care Program had five (5) new admissions and three (3) discharges from the program.
- The Home Care Program provides complex case management, care coordination and assessments for support in the home. Care includes personal care, assistance with household tasks, transportation for medical appointments, accompanying to appointments, medication management and support between agencies. This program supplements home support programming with the Interior Health Authority. This program does not replace support by family and friends as they are encouraged to continue supporting as much as possible.





ASSISTED LIVING

JENNIFER JULES

I am very excited to join the Home Health Services team to provide homemaking services to clients residing in Simpcw. Due to my commitments at Little Moccasins Head Start, I have been available to provide housekeeping in the afternoons during the school year and deep cleaning services during spring break, Christmas holidays, and the summer months when the Head Start program is non-operational.

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- Seven (7) clients received homemaking services including light housekeeping - dishes, vacuuming, laundry, sweeping and mopping floors, dusting, cleaning bathrooms, changing bedding/linen, taking out trash and caring for houseplants; and deep cleaning - cleaning appliances and furniture, cleaning inside cupboards/closets, washing walls and windows, and cleaning behind/under heavy furniture.





FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

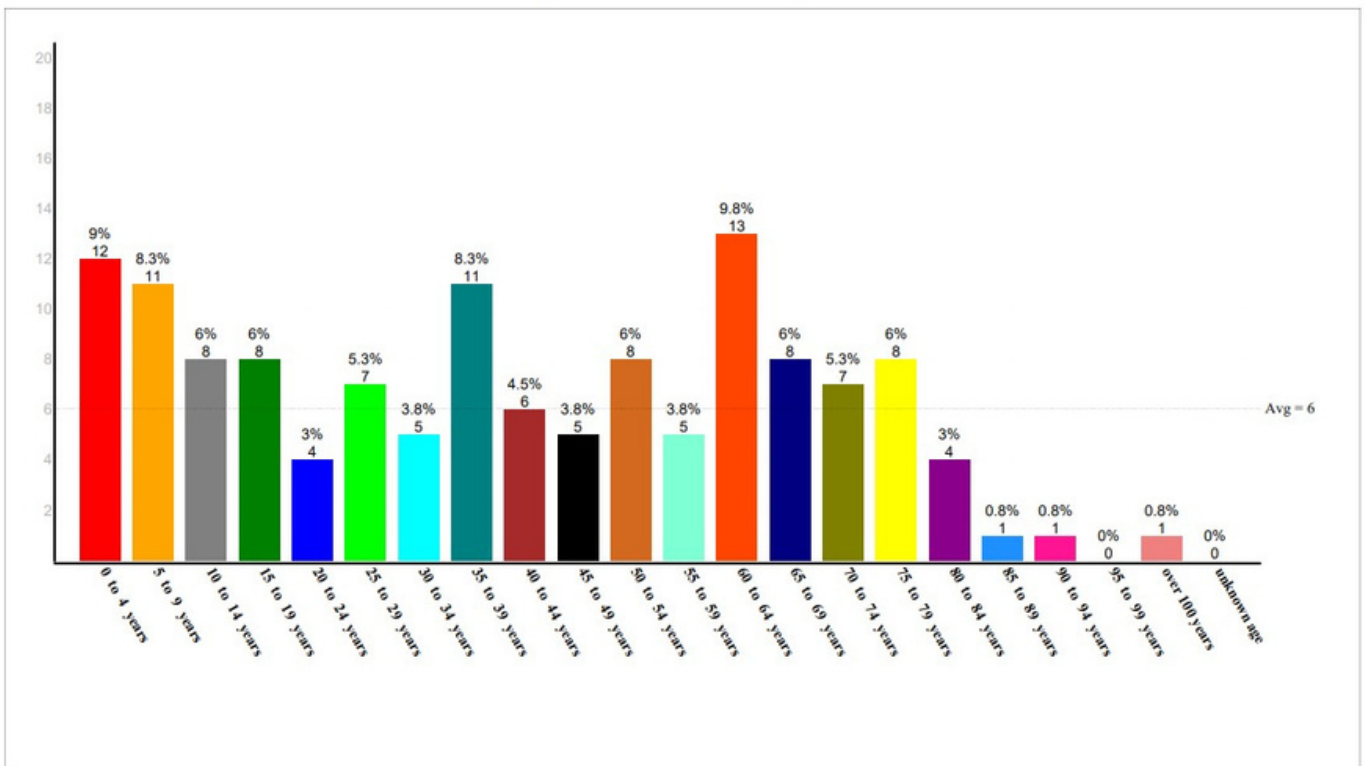
DR. LISA CREELMAN, DNP, MSCN, NP(F)

For the past five (5) years, Lisa Creelman has been providing Nurse Practitioner services to Simpcw community members. Lisa's position is a joint project between the Interior Health Authority and the Secwepemc Central Cluster comprising of Simpcw, Skeetchestn, Tk'emlups, Whispering Pines, High Bar, and Bonaparte. Although the project ended, Lisa continued to provide services until the end of the fiscal year.

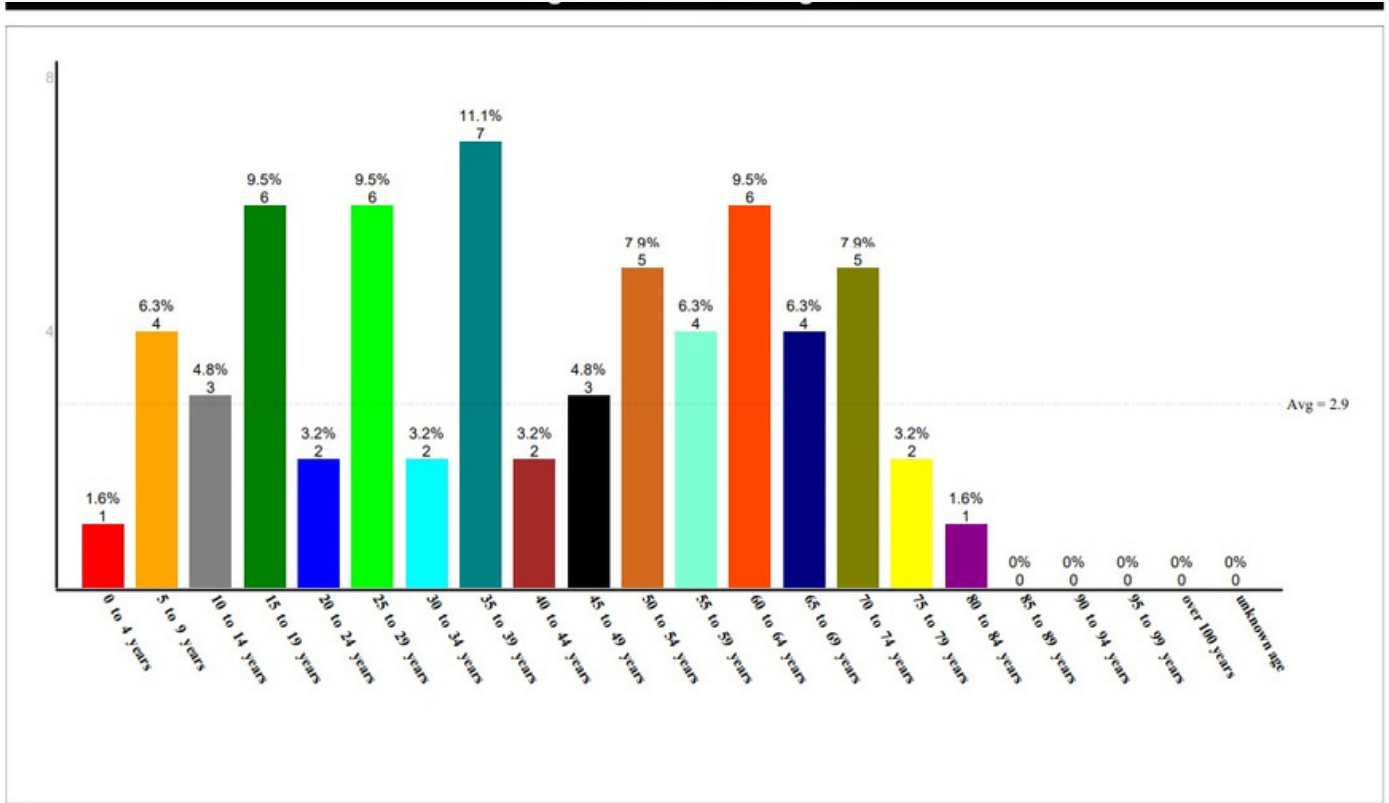
As a Nurse Practitioner, Lisa diagnosed and treated illnesses, ordered lab tests, prescribed medications, performed medical procedures, and provided referrals to specialists and other allied practitioners. Lisa incorporated a holistic approach with her clients, addressing their physical, mental, and emotional needs. Lisa was a part of the collaborative team that included Simpcw's nurses, and other health staff that offered a client-centered approach to care.

Over the years, Lisa accomplished a major milestone by attaining her Doctor of Nurse Practice (DNP), a professional doctorate degree in nursing, the highest level of nursing education. *Congratulations to Lisa!*

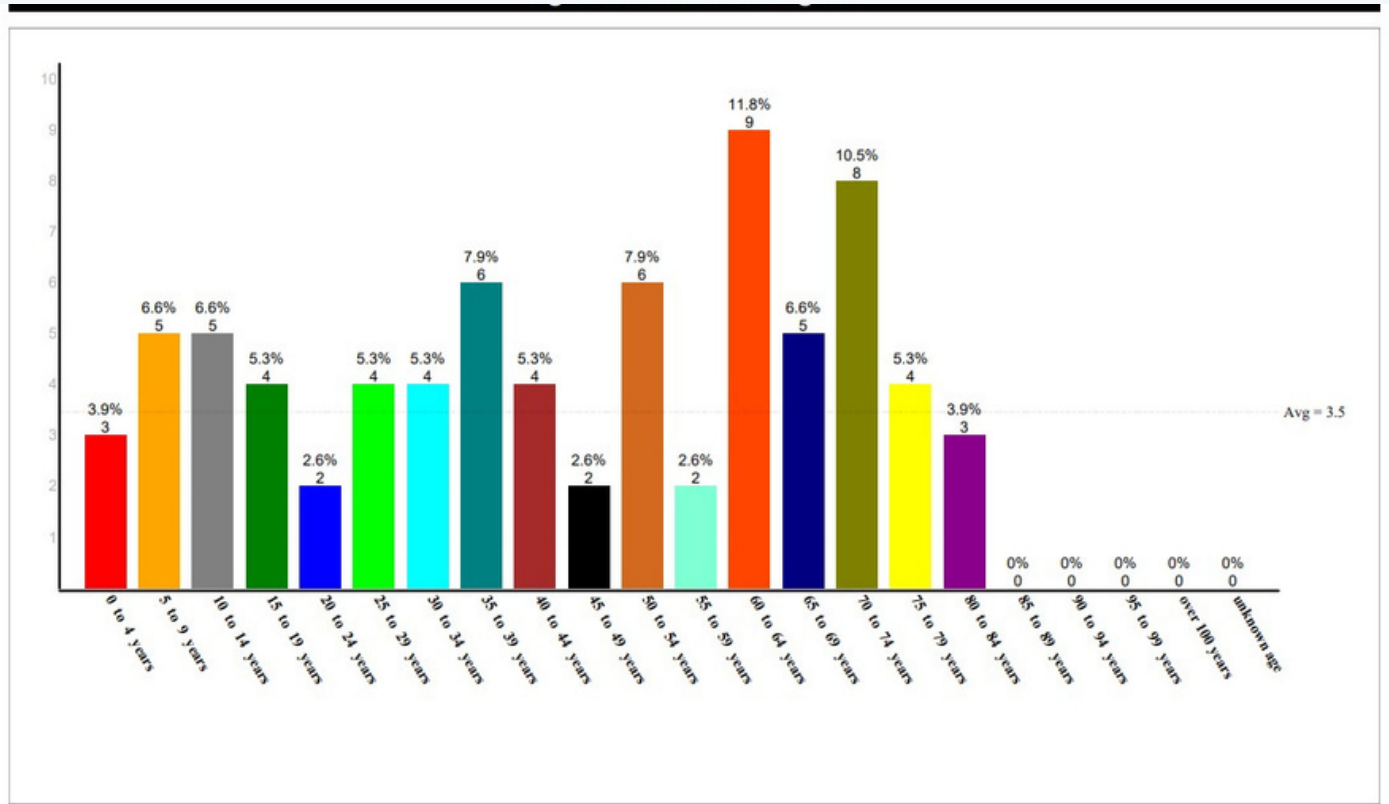
CLIENT VISITS 2022/23



AGE DEMOGRAPHICS 2022/23



REFERRALS 2022/23





COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER

DAKOTAH CASEY

Weyt-k, my name is Dakotah Casey, and I have been employed with Simpcw First Nation since August 2021, now as the Wellness Worker & Elders Coordinator. I am a Tsilhqot'in member who moved to Chu Chua after spending the past few years supporting my nation in connecting with health services. There I learned how important culture is for connection and gained experience working with individuals struggling with substance use, unstable housing, complex conditions, at the end of life, or healing. The educational background I bring to Simpcw Health is an Undergraduate Degree in Social Sciences Majoring in Psychology.

Having spent my formative childhood years in Clearwater, attending Simpcw First Fish Ceremonies on Raft River, I am ever grateful for the connection I feel with the community and territory of Simpcw. It has been my pleasure to be in the position to support community members toward personal wellness goals and contribute to community wellness through events and activities.

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Elders Program**
 - Spring Craft Fair
 - 50/50 draw
 - Winter Bazaar
 - Fundraising Dinner
 - Planning for the trip to Whitehorse, Yukon
- **Women's Wellness Group**
 - Paint night
 - Baking night
 - Planning meeting
 - Palm reading with Laurel
- **Community Wellness Activities**
 - Traditional wellness packages
 - Family activities grant
 - Kids winter clothing grant
 - Coffee house x 2
 - Movie night
 - Family paint night

- Youth camping trip at Johnson Lake Resort
- Dunn Lake Escape
- Trauma-Informed Yoga for Healing
- Clothing exchange
- Remembrance Day event
- Halloween dinner and movie
- Book Club - Monkey Beach
- Celebration of Lives community planning meetings
- Community Wellness Day
- Music, Meal & Movie Night
- Fitness Program
- **Addiction Referrals and Consultations**
 - Support for individuals seeking treatment services, including completing the treatment referrals packages, arranging medical transportation, providing counseling support options, and developing after-care plans
 - National Addictions Awareness Week
 - Sober walk
 - Board games
 - Trivia
 - Naloxone kits
 - Fentanyl testing strips
 - Lunch
 - Not All Heroes Wear Capes
 - Interior Health presentation
 - Fentanyl testing strips
 - Naloxone training





COMMUNITY COUNSELLOR

JENNIFER KERSLAKE, BA, MACP

Weyt-k. My name is Jennifer Kerslake and I have been working as a community clinical counsellor for Simpcw members in Chu Chua over the past year. My career started as a primary teacher in the remote community of Baker Lake, Nunavut in 1998. When I returned home to Barriere, I taught for 15 years before becoming a counsellor. After obtaining a Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology, I became the School & Family Consultant and Counsellor for SD #73 in the beautiful North Thompson Valley in 2013. Since leaving the school district to become the Community Clinical Counsellor for Simpcw First Nation, I have never felt more welcomed and at home as I do in the Chu Chua Community.

Over the past year, I have supported Neqweyqwelsten school students in small groups working on a wide range of topics from peer relationships, anxiety, and family dynamics to coping with the everyday challenges of growing up in today's world. I also provided workshops for parents in the school as well as Professional Development for the staff.

In addition to working with the school, there have been 20 youth (both children and teens) and 32 adults (including elders) who have accessed counselling support. Services ranged from one-to-one counselling, family and/or couples counseling, parenting tips, and spiritual conversations, along with strategies to combat anxiety, conflict, and building self-esteem, as well as navigating through grief and loss. Counseling does not have to be in an office; the community garden, the mountain trails, or walkabouts have made a natural setting for genuine conversations on the healing journey. Meeting people where they are at and where they feel most comfortable is the goal of creating a safe place to provide the best care for the client.

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- Johnson Lake Youth Camp
- Jasper Melukwmintem "Gather Together" Conference & Calling Our Children Home Ceremony
- Trauma-Informed Yoga
- End of Life Guide through an Indigenous Life Course
- Alberta Recovery Conference
- Health and Wellness Summit
- HR Downloads courses

- Suicide Prevention Training
- Mental Health First Aid Training
- Work Shops for Neqweyqwelsten Parents
- Self-referrals
 - Community members
 - Community Staff
 - School Staff (with parental consent)
 - First Nation's Education Workers
- Aboriginal Health Clinic
- Victim Services
- Secwepemc Child and Family Services
- Probation Office
- Royal Inland Hospital
- Kamloops Women's Safe House
- Parkview-Youth Mental Health
- Youth Safe House





LITTLE MOCCASINS HEAD START

ARLENE MITCHELL & JENNIFER JULES

The Little Moccasins Head Start Program encourages children to enjoy life-long learning that guides them to be healthy individuals. The program values our language keepers and our children as our language carriers. It is our responsibility to guide children in the language, cultural beliefs, and cultural practices as each child is a part of what makes our community whole. We acknowledge and honour the expertise of both young and old.

Throughout the year, the Little Moccasins Head Start program has the privilege of Secwepemctsin language classes and culture programming delivered by Charli Fortier, Tiffany Bowser, and Angie Rainer. The programming includes daily Secwepemctsin lessons, arts and crafts, and activities that promote a strong connection to Mother Earth. We believe these powerful teachings create strong, independent, and proud individuals who have a positive self-image as Secwepemc children.

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- Registered Head Start students - 12
- Total outreach visits - 93
- Parent and Tot Days - 99
- Eagles Nest staff day trip
- Swag bags - 12
- **Training** - FNHA Community of Practice, Security Awareness, Duty to Report, FNHA Privacy Course, A Back to Basics Guide to Calm, Common-Sense, Connected Care Giving, Supporting Children with ASD, and Behavioral Challenges in the Early Years, Supporting Children with ASD and the Behavioural Challenges in the Classroom, Anxiety, and Children - Helping them Cope, IT Risk and Cyber Training, Effective Communication, WHMIS 2015, PIPEDA Training, Protecting Confidential Information, Occupational Health and Safety, Workplace Violence, and Harassment, Helping Young Children with Anxiety and Emotional Regulation: Connection before Intervention, Parents workshop for Anxiety
- **Meetings** - Childcare Administration, FN Pedagogies, BC Aboriginal Childcare Society, FNPN, staff meetings, parent meetings, and Neqweyqwelsten School staff meetings
- **Celebrations** - Easter party, wildlife park, Simpcw graduation, Barriere water park, beach fun day, Orange Shirt Day, Halloween party, Cenotaph gathering, pictures with Santa, Winter Solstice, Christmas party, Teddy Bear Clinic with CHN, Valentine's party, Pink Shirt Day, COHI with Dr. Ciriani, licken picking, handwashing with Buggy, St. Patrick's Day



ACCREDITATION COODINATOR

ERIN DUNCAN

It gives me great honour to announce that in July 2022, the SimpCW Health Program was awarded Accreditation with Exemplary Standing through Accreditation Canada, which is the highest level of rating that is possible – less than 10% of Health Organizations globally are able to achieve it. Out of the over 600 Standards and Required Organizational Practices (ROPs) that pertained to our Health Program and its services, there was only one unmet standard, which we've been told is exceptional. So, what does that mean for us now? Well, the work has just begun. Accreditation will continue to be an ongoing process for staff and board members of assessing our health organization against global standards of excellence, and more importantly, the evolving needs of our community. In doing so, we will continue to identify what is being done well and what needs to be improved upon or further developed. It enables us to further understand how to make better use of our resources, increase efficiency, enhance quality and safety, and reduce risk. We do this because better quality means better health for our clients, staff, board members, and community!

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES & ACTIVITIES

- Strategic Plan 2022-2027
- Annual Operational Plan
- Risk Register and Management Plan
- Communications Plan
- Quality Improvement Plan
- Health Staff Contingency Plan
- Patient Safety Culture Action Plan
- Onsite Emergency Response Plan
- Staff Wellness Plan
- Environmental Scan
- New Hires Orientation Manual

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- Created staff-specific Working Alone written procedures
- Conducted Incident Analysis, as required
- Conducted Client and Staff satisfaction surveys
- Added Patient Safety and Quality Improvement to staff minutes
- Co-created a Nursing-Services Policies and Procedures Manual

- Revised the Home and Community Care Program Client Handbook
- Training, auditing, and recording of staff Hand Hygiene initiatives

MANDATORY TRAINING TO ALL HEALTH STAFF

- Duty to Report
- FNHA's Privacy Course
- Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Direct/In Direct Professional Clinical Care Providers
- WHMIS 2015
- Naloxone Kit Training
- Strategies and Actions for Independent Living (SAIL) Fall Prevention Training
- Occupational Level 1 First Aid & AED Training
- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Training
- LivingWorks START Suicide Prevention Training

OTHER SAFETY INITIATIVES

- Onsite Emergency Response Plans
- Upgraded all first aid kits to meet WorksafeBC's Workplace requirements
- Annual inspection/maintenance of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs),
- Updated all SDS binders and emergency signage
- Health Department-specific Janitor with training in hospital-level cleanliness, COVID-19 disinfection, and working with Workplace Hazardous Materials





SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

FRANK EUSTACHE

As part of the Environmental Public Health Program, First Nations Health Authority provides the Drinking Water Safety Program to the Simpcw community. The program monitors and provides advice on the quality of drinking water from community wells and reservoirs using the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. The key benefit to the community is the water is sampled and tested on a regular basis to monitor and test for microbiological contamination. These tests provide a mechanism for maintaining drinking water quality. To maintain safe drinking water, five samples are collected weekly at Chinook Cove, Louis Creek and at Coal Creek to test for coliforms, e. coli, and chlorine. Once a month samples are taken to a lab in Kamloops to test for metals and physicals. Yearly tests are done on all individual water systems. To date, we have not had any major concerns except for the occasional problems in individual well systems. These problems are mostly due to water changes, treatment upsets and sometimes “critters” falling into the wells.



JANITORIAL

RALPH MCDUGALL

As an Accredited with Exemplary Standing organization, the Health Department is required to uphold “hospital-level” janitorial standards. These standards are meant to provide a sanitized work area that meets the required hygiene and cleanliness mandated in health care.

Over the past year, the janitor has completed Health Department-specific training in hospital-level cleanliness, COVID-19 disinfection, and working with Workplace Hazardous Materials. The Accreditation Coordinator conducts audit reviews and compliance tests to ensure the minimum standards are being met. The janitorial duties include daily cleaning of the health department and the Head Start room, and annual “deep” cleaning of both departments.



REIKI

CHELSEA HARRIS

We had another successful and enjoyable year with the Simpco Elder's Reiki Program. We hold weekly 1-hour Reiki Sessions every Wednesday at the Spiritual Center for Community Elders. We were thrilled that Linda Ewashina, who started the program in 2004, returned as a second practitioner. This year, I celebrated my 15th year as a Reiki Practitioner at Simpco. Both Linda and I truly treasure the connections and friendships we've formed over the years here and feel fortunate to continue to share a healing modality that still surprises us with the positive and uplifting impact it has.

Some of the feedback we received from our clients this year is that regular Reiki sessions:

- Keep them feeling energized yet centered
- It feels like hitting the reset button every week
- It helps greatly with pain relief and keeping the body flexible
- Participants enjoy the opportunity to 'check in' with their bodies and where their emotions are at week to week (self-awareness and reflection)
- The social connection is appreciated and nourishing after coming out of Covid Regulations

We had a total of twelve (12) participants with an average of eight (8) sessions per day which is maximum capacity for the program! It's amazing to us that we've kept such momentum and we're grateful for the opportunity to continue working within the community.





SIMPCW FIRST NATION

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