SEABIRD ISLAND BAND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Toti:lt q'ep tset

Our learning together

Winter 2025/2026
Volume: 1 Issue: 4

College | Lalme' Iwesawtexw | School | Youth Program | Employment



Seabird Island Band

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Seabird Island Community,

As we move through winter, I am filled with gratitude at the hard work and dedication of our students and staff: our Digital Marketing Management Diploma and Early Childhood Educator Diploma students and our Adult Dogwood. We welcomed our first Indigenous Professional Cook cohort. Our Piping Foundation students are preparing for final exams, and we continue expanding partnerships that create opportunities for our community. We are thankful that the college again donated 400 liters of homemade soup to support holiday hampers distributed to Seabird community members.

At Lalme'Iwesawtexw, our grade 10 culinary students prepared food for our Literacy Night which brought 100 people together. We are adapting our land-based learning through challenging weather and launched powwow dancing that will lead to a community powwow in June.

Our Youth Program created meaningful connections through events like Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week and workshops on Healthy Relationships and Substance Use & Misuse.

Employment Services continues removing barriers through driving school, the Community Labour Pool, and valuable training opportunities.

These accomplishments are possible because of the dedication of our staff, the support of our community, and the commitment of our students and families. Together, we are building a stronger future while honoring our culture and traditions.

In gratitude,



Barbara White
Director of Education
Seabird Island

IN THIS ISSUE:

College

- Student Graduations **p.3**
- Community Outreach **p.3**
- Seasonal Activities **p.4**
- Piping Foundation Students Prepare for Final Exam **p.4**
- Indigenous Professional Cook Level 1 **p.5**
- Supporting Early Childhood Educators **p.5**
- About Seabird College **p.6**
- Upcoming Courses **p.7**
- Contact Information **p.7**
- Post-Secondary Student Support - Application Deadlines for 2026 **p.7**

Lalme' Iwesawtexw School

- Land-Based Learning **p.13**
- Eymexw Awards **p.13**
- Christmas Concert **p.14**
- Make and Take **p.14**
- Literacy Night **p.14**

Youth Program

- Youth Life Skills Workshops **p.15**
- Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week **p.15**
- Chawathil Career Fair **p.16**
- School District 78 Powwow **p.16**
- Outdoor Youth Development Program "Contented Spirit – Sthalethi seywelh" **p.16**
- Upcoming Events **p.17**
- Contact the Youth Program **p.17**

Employment Services

- Community Labour Pool Program **p.18**
- Driver's Education **p.18**
- Upcoming Training & Workshops **p.19**
- Income Assistance Office Hours **p.19**

SEABIRD COLLEGE

Recent Achievements and Events

Student Graduations

Congratulations to our Digital Marketing Management Diploma and Early Childhood Educator Diploma students who completed their studies in December, and our Adult Dogwood students who graduated in January. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and hard work. These programs align with high-demand job sectors, and we're confident our graduates are well-prepared for their next steps.





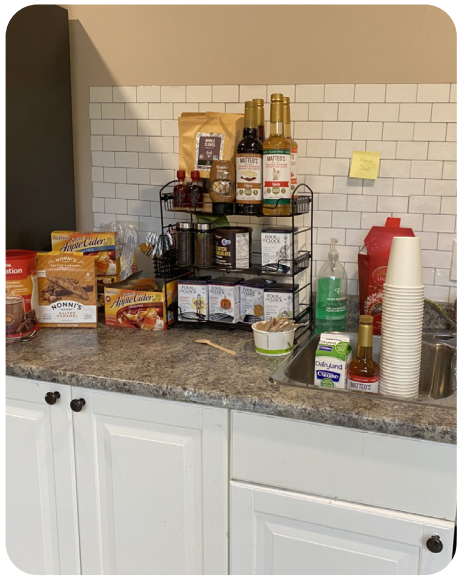
Community Outreach

For the second consecutive year, the college donated 400 litres of homemade soup to support holiday hampers distributed to Seabird community members. This initiative strengthens the partnerships we continue to build and reminds us of the importance of connection and care within our community.



Seasonal Activities

In December, Seabird Island Band employees enjoyed a day of pampering with spa treatments including mini manicures and pedicures, chair massages, and reiki sessions. We extend our sincere thanks to Human Resources for organizing the day, along with the coffee/ tea/hot chocolate station and Christmas dinner.



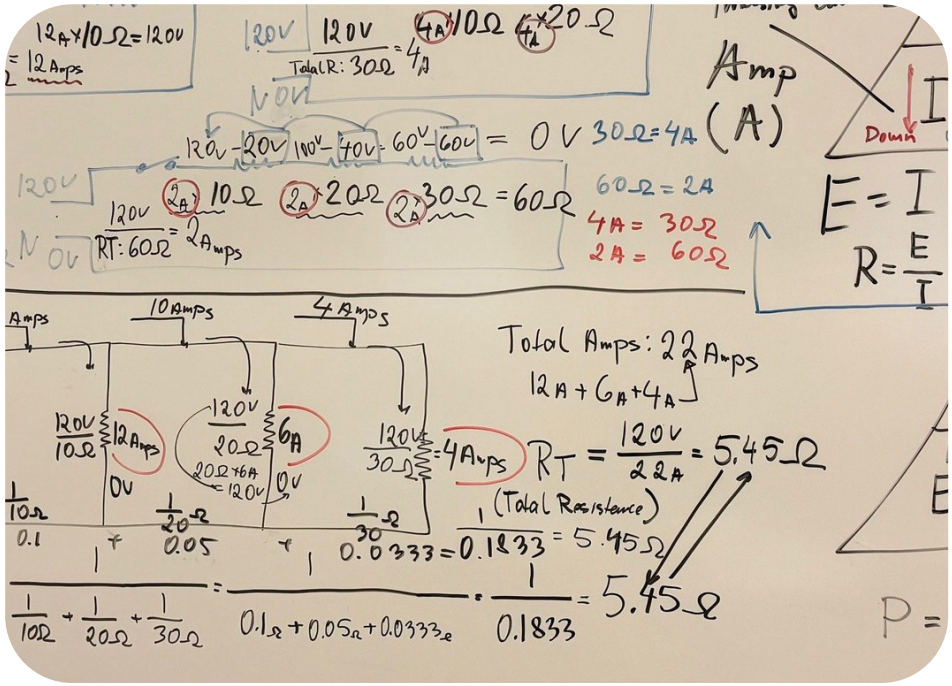


Current Programs

Piping Foundation Students Prepare for Final Exam

Students in the Piping Foundation Diploma program are preparing for their final exam on February 6. This 21-week program, delivered in partnership with the UA Piping Industry College of BC, provides essential skills and knowledge to launch careers in the piping trades.







Indigenous Professional Cook Level 1

We received overwhelming interest in our Indigenous Professional Cook Level 1 Program, with applications far exceeding available seats. After conducting interviews to ensure equitable access, we welcomed our new cohort on January 12th.

Supporting Early Childhood Educators

We're partnering with Sprott Shaw College in Chilliwack to offer a specialized Infant and Toddler Care course for Early Childhood Educators, enhancing professional development and career opportunities while strengthening the quality of care provided to families.



About Seabird College

Seabird College provides accessible, culturally connected post-secondary education and skills training for Indigenous students. We offer diploma programs, certificate courses, and Adult Dogwood completion in partnership with leading institutions.

What We Offer:

- Free tuition for Indigenous and Indigenous-identifying students
- Daily breakfast and lunch provided
- Student support services including counseling, cultural support, childcare assistance, and transportation support (case-by-case)
- On-campus resources including SASET Employment Services and access to driving school
- Smaller class sizes for personalized attention
- Community-based learning that keeps you connected to family and culture



Stay Connected:
www.facebook.com/SeabirdCollege

Visit Us:
Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (excluding statutory holidays)

Upcoming Courses

- Carpentry – September 8th
- Health Care Assistant – March 30th (29 weeks)
- Licensed Practical Nursing – October 5th
- Medical/Dental Office Assistant – September 28th
- Medical Device Reprocessing Technician – May 18th
- Medical Lab Assistant – May 25th
- Mental Health and Addictions Care Worker – March 30th (49 weeks)

Program Planning for 2026 and Beyond

We are working closely with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) on proposed changes to our course offerings for 2026 and beyond, ensuring our programs remain responsive to labour market trends and community needs.

Contact Information

Recruitment & Marketing Coordinator:

Stephanie Smith

Phone: 604-796-7037

Email: colrecruit@seabirdisland.ca

Post Secondary Coordinator (Seabird Band Members):

Shannon Beaty

Phone: 604-796-8001

Email: postsecondary@seabirdcollege.ca

Website: www.seabirdcollege.ca



Post-Secondary Student Support - Application Deadlines for 2026:

- April 1st for September Enrollment
- October 1st for January Enrollment
- January 1st for May Enrollment

Applications received after deadlines will be waitlisted. Funding is limited and not guaranteed.

www.seabirdcollege.ca Phone: 604-796-6839 or Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca

Seabird College
EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE

Let us help you achieve your educational goals!



CARPENTRY LEVEL 1

LOCATED @
UFV Chilliwack

DATES: SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

Overview:

Carpentry program will prepare you for entry into the carpentry trade and the provincial apprenticeship program. Learning topics include:

- Reading and interpreting drawings
- Using specialty equipment
- Site and building layout
- Building concrete forms
- Framing a building
- Finishing internal and external details

Career Opportunities:

Carpentry is a growing business with endless job opportunities for those with a strong work ethic and a knack for getting the job done. Graduates from the Carpentry program will be prepared for employment in the following industries:

- Modular Housing construction
- Building Equipment
- Shipping and Delivery
- Building Maintenance
- Supply Sales
- Construction
- Carpentry

In partnership: University of the Fraser Valley

Financial support provided by: Employment and Social Development Canada / Canada

For more information, contact;
Stephanie Smith
College Recruiter & Marketing Coordinator
Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca
Phone: 604-796-6839
2812 Chowat Road, Agassiz BC

www.seabirdcollege.ca Phone: 604-796-6839 or Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca

Seabird College
EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE

Let us help you achieve your educational goals!



HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT

LOCATED @
Sprott Shaw Chilliwack

START DATE: MARCH 30, 2026

Overview:

The HCA Program prepares students to become effective front-line caregivers in both community and facility settings. Under the supervision of a healthcare professional, graduates provide person-centered support that promotes the physical, emotional, cognitive, and social well-being of clients.

Career Opportunities:

- Acute/Complex Care Facility
- Adult Day Care
- Assisted Living
- Home Support Agencies
- Long Term Care
- Private Homes
- Self-Employment as a HCA
- Special Care Units

In partnership: Sprott Shaw College — Learning with Purpose since 1903

Financial support provided by: Employment and Social Development Canada / Canada

For more information, contact;
Stephanie Smith
College Recruiter & Marketing Coordinator
Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca
Phone: 604-796-6839
2812 Chowat Road, Agassiz BC

www.seabirdcollege.ca Phone: 604-796-6839 or Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca

Seabird College
EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE

Let us help you achieve your educational goals!



LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING

LOCATED @ Sprott Shaw Abbotsford

START DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2026

Overview:

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in BC deliver nursing care to patients and families across all ages in hospitals, community settings, residential care, and home care. Working closely with physicians, Registered Nurses, and Registered Practical Nurs, LPNs apply their knowledge, skills, critical thinking, and judgment to provide safe, competent, and ethical care as key members of the healthcare team.

Career Opportunities:

- Health Care Aid
- Licensed Practical Nurse

In partnership: Sprott Shaw College – Learning with purpose since 1903

Financial support provided by: Employment and Social Development Canada / Canada

For more information, contact;
Stephanie Smith
College Recruiter & Marketing Coordinator
Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca
Phone: 604-796-6839
2812 Chowat Road, Agassiz BC

www.seabirdcollege.ca Phone: 604-796-6839 or Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca

Seabird College
EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE

Let us help you achieve your educational goals!



MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANT AND DENTAL RECEPTIONIST

LOCATED @ Seabird College

START DATE: SEPT 28, 2026

Overview:

The **Medical Office Assistant** and **Dental Receptionist** program equips students with the skills needed to manage medical offices effectively. The curriculum includes medical billing, coding, and the use of electronic health records, ensuring graduates are prepared for administrative roles in healthcare.

- Training in medical/dental billing, coding, and electronic health records.
- Development of communication, appointment scheduling and organizational skills.
- Preparation for roles in various healthcare settings.

Career Opportunities:

- Office Assistant
- Receptionist
- Medical Records Clerk
- Billing Specialist
- Clinical Assistant

In partnership: WCC Western Community College

Financial support provided by: Employment and Social Development Canada / Canada

For more information, contact;
Stephanie Smith
College Recruiter & Marketing Coordinator
Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca
Phone: 604-796-6839
2812 Chowat Road, Agassiz BC

www.seabirdcollege.ca Phone: 604-796-6839 or Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca

Seabird College
EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE

Let us help you achieve your educational goals!



MEDICAL DEVICE REPROCESSING TECHNICIAN

LOCATED @ Seabird College

START DATE: MAY 18, 2026

Overview:

The Medical Device Reprocessing Technician Certificate program is designed to equip students with the essential skills required for the critical role of sterilizing and preparing medical instruments and devices in healthcare settings.

Career Opportunities:

- **Hospitals and Surgical Centers:** Ensuring surgical instruments are properly sterilized and ready for use.
- **Clinics and Dental Offices:** Managing the sterilization of patient care equipment.
- **Laboratories:** Handling and sterilizing lab instruments to maintain a contamination-free environment.
- **Veterinary Clinics**

In partnership: WCC WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Financial support provided by: Employment and Social Development Canada / Canada

For more information, contact;
Stephanie Smith
College Recruiter & Marketing Coordinator
Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca
Phone: 604-796-6839
2812 Chowat Road, Agassiz BC

www.seabirdcollege.ca Phone: 604-796-6839 or Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca

Seabird College
EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE

Let us help you achieve your educational goals!



MEDICAL LAB ASSISTANT

LOCATED @ Seabird College

START DATE: MAY 25, 2026

Overview:

The Medical Laboratory Assistant Program trains students to support diagnostic testing by collecting, handling, and processing biological specimens. With a strong focus on safety, specimen collection, and quality control, graduates are prepared for entry-level roles in medical laboratories.

Career Opportunities:

- Medical Laboratory Assistant
- Phlebotomist
- Laboratory Technician
- Pathology Assistant
- Clinical Support Worker

In partnership: WCC WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Financial support provided by: Employment and Social Development Canada / Canada

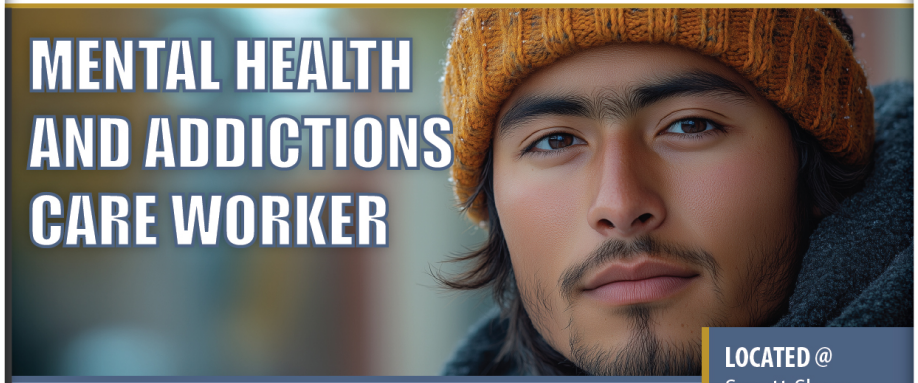
For more information, contact;
Stephanie Smith
College Recruiter & Marketing Coordinator
Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca
Phone: 604-796-6839
2812 Chowat Road, Agassiz BC

www.seabirdcollege.ca Phone: 604-796-6839 or Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca

Seabird College
EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE

Let us help you achieve your educational goals!

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS CARE WORKER



LOCATED @
Sprott Shaw Chilliwack

START DATE: MARCH 30, 2026

Overview:

The Mental Health and Addictions Care Worker program has been designed to provide students with the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills required for employment as an Addiction Worker. The program focuses on developing group facilitation skills as well as entry-level skill development in 1-to-1 counselling. Principles of communication are explored in great depth and students receive Non Violent Crisis Intervention certification and First Aid training. Strong focus is given to the ability to multi task and prioritize, organizational and detail skills, professionalism, confidentiality, interpersonal skills and being a team player. Community Support Workers and Mental Health and Addiction workers can be found working in women's shelters, mental health and addiction recovery facilities, homeless shelters, and more.

Career Opportunities:

- Child and Youth Care Worker
- Community Support Worker
- Day Care Assistant
- Developmental Disabilities
- Family Place Worker
- Parenting Support Worker
- Residential Support Worker
- Settlement / Newcomers Service Worker
- Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Support Worker
- Women's Shelter Worker

In partnership: Sprott Shaw College — Learning with purpose since 1903

Financial support provided by: Employment and Social Development Canada / Canada

For more information, contact;
Stephanie Smith
College Recruiter & Marketing Coordinator
Email: colrecruit@seabirdcollege.ca
Phone: 604-796-6839
2812 Chowat Road, Agassiz BC

LALME' IWESAWTEXW | SEABIRD ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Schools are for children, and they come first!

At Seabird Island Community School, we are deeply committed to nurturing the whole child and empowering them with the knowledge, values, and skills to lead successful, enriching lives while honoring their Indigenous roots.

Registration Information:

Registration packages are available at the Seabird Island Band Office entrance or at our school reception. Contact us for more information.

Phone: 604-796-3061 | 1-800-788-0322

Email: education@seabirdschool.ca

Website: www.seabirdschool.ca



Recent Events and Highlights

Land-Based Learning

December's land-based learning adapted to extreme weather conditions. Our first Wednesday was successful with outdoor activities including making medicine bags, net-making, and beading keychains, with fires providing gathering places for storytelling and carving. When excessive rain caused flooding and strong winds created safety concerns, we moved activities indoors—continuing cultural learning and food sovereignty education through traditional dancing and drumming, food preservation using dehydrators, and beading.

Throughout January, we planned ice-skating activities for the first two weeks, getting students moving despite poor weather. During the other Wednesdays, School Elder Yammo engaged students in learning to process a hide for traditional use, while we offered teachings on traditional Stó:lō dancing and drumming, as well as powwow dancing. The powwow dancing started January 28th and will continue every two weeks until June, when we'll host a community powwow at the School.











Eymexw Awards

On December 17, we hosted our final Eymexw Awards of 2025, celebrating great attendance through November and honoring students who made positive impacts in their classes. Fifty-seven students were celebrated for perfect attendance, with 26 working on 2- or 3-month streaks earning gift cards. Staff were also honored with Eymexw hoodies and thanked for their dedication and hard work.

Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas Concert was postponed from December 11 to December 16 due to flooding, but was a huge success! The gym was full of families who were amazed at the work students put in to memorize their lines and songs. Community members expressed pride at the cultural elements, including drumming and singing that opened and closed the performance.







Make and Take

On December 18th, the school hosted our annual Make and Take event, where students crafted gifts for friends, family, or themselves. Tables were hosted by Health, Pre-Employment, the Youth program, Seabird College, and our culture/art and science teachers. Students from K4 to Grade 12 made hot chocolate bags, fern-imprinted t-shirts, beading, decorated cookies, and Christmas ornaments.

Literacy Night

On January 26th, we hosted our second annual Literacy Night, bringing families together to explore literacy in fun ways. This year's focus was on literacy beyond reading—we set up board games in different classrooms for students and parents to play together. Door prizes included all the games and many books. Our Culinary Arts 10 students prepared dinner: pasta bake with sausage and mushrooms, plus strawberry rhubarb crumble and ice cream for dessert. Around 100 people joined us for the evening.



YOUTH PROGRAM

Youth Activities for Connection and Growth

Drop-In Program: Join us every Wednesday and Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Recent Activities and Events

Youth Life Skills Workshops

The youth program successfully delivered workshops on Healthy Relationships and Substance Use & Misuse, with four participants completing all six sessions and receiving certificates.





Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week

Youth attended the opening night Red Dress event, honoring and remembering missing and murdered family and community members through fashion, movement, and ceremony.

Chawathil Career Fair

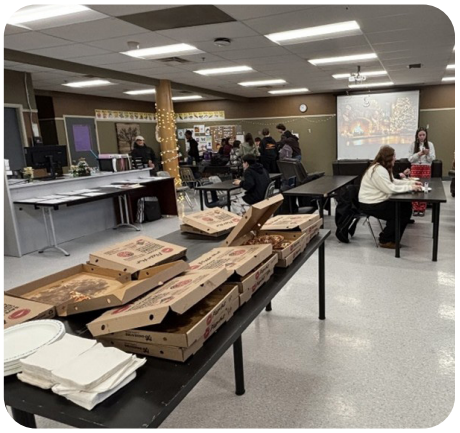
The youth team participated in the career fair, connecting with potential employers and exploring career options and training opportunities. Staff supported youth in practicing networking skills and identifying resources for future goals.

School District 78 Powwow

Youth attended the powwow, which provided cultural enrichment, celebrated Indigenous traditions, and fostered a sense of pride, identity, and belonging.







Outdoor Youth Development Program "Contented Spirit – Sthalethi seywelh"

The youth team hosted a lunch-hour meet-and-greet at AESS, offering youth an opportunity to connect with staff and provide feedback on interests and activities.

Throughout December, youth collaborated on building gingerbread houses, participated in poetry and reading activities, and engaged in extended holiday drop-in hours featuring roundtable discussions on Indigenous sovereignty, environmental stewardship, family dynamics, and colonialism. Youth explored healthy relationship topics and practiced financial literacy through thoughtful Christmas shopping activities.

The Youth and Young Adults Connection Specialist participated in community engagement activities and launched a monthly rock-climbing group at Shxw'ow'hamel. Weekly visits to AESS continue providing support to youth attending off-reserve schools.

Upcoming Events

Weekly Cultural Nights

Starting in February, the program will host weekly Cultural Nights at the Youth Centre, supporting youth in exploring their cultural identity, learning their family tree, and building connections with extended family members.

Youth Conference - April 2026

Planning is underway for the inaugural Youth Conference, focusing on Healthy Mind and Healthy Spirit for youth and their families. The conference will incorporate teachings on traditional wellness, crafting, food, ancestral knowledge, and cultural practices, with one full day dedicated to land-based learning.

Contact the Youth Program

Call or text:
604-793-8575 | Phone: 604-796-0198

Email:
youthprogram@seabirdisland.ca

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/SeabirdYouthGroup



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Employment Services & Skill Development Programs

Overcoming barriers, building bridges, providing opportunities and support—we are here for you!

Community Labour Pool Program

As a member of the Community Labour Pool, you'll be called upon to assist with tasks across different sectors of Seabird Island Band. This program offers work experience, mentorship, and supplemental income.

Apply: Visit Employment Services at Seabird College or online at www.seabirdisland.bamboohr.com/careers/605

Driver's Education

Seabird driving school is accessible to anyone attending Seabird Community School, Seabird College, Pre-Employment Supports Program, and/or Seabird Island Band community members. We offer support to pay driver's license fees for eligible participants. Services include theory, in-car road lessons, and transportation to tests.

Contact us today!

Call: 604-796-2177

Email: employmentservices@seabirdisland.ca

Top 5 Reasons to Get a Driver's License:

1. **Independence & Freedom:** Go where you want, when you want
2. **Career Opportunities:** Many jobs require a valid license
3. **Valid Identification:** Universally accepted photo ID
4. **Convenience:** Easier errands and transportation
5. **Social & Personal Life:** Road trips and visiting friends on your terms



Upcoming Training & Workshops

- **Feb 10-14** – Indigenous Mapping for Stewardship and Cultural Heritage Management
- **Feb 16** – MaintainBC Intro to Property Management (12-week program at Seabird!)
- **Feb 24 – Mar 4** – Microsoft Office & Minute Taking Workshops
- **Mar 3-7** – Employment Prep Training
- **Mar 10-21** – Wildfire Fighting Training
- **Mar 24-28** – Spring Break Program | First Aid, WHMIS, and more!

Income Assistance Office Hours

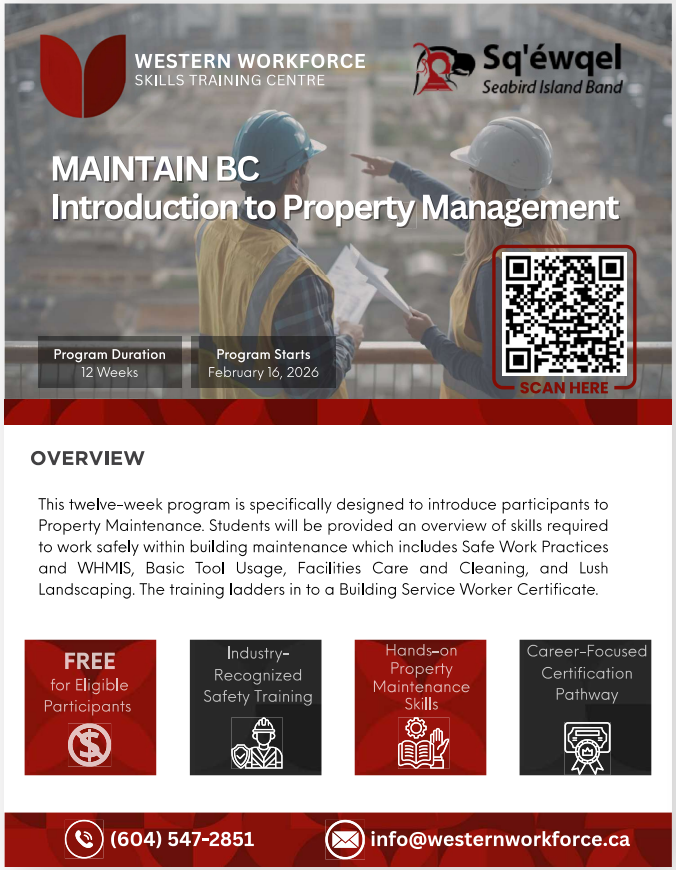
Monday to Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 604-796-8048

Email: Income.Assistance@seabirdisland.ca







Contact Information

Toti:lt q'ep tset is published by the Seabird Island Education Department.

For more information or to contribute to future editions, contact:

EAtoEdu@seabirdisland.ca

p.20