

COLDWATER INDIAN BAND

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025



Chief

Lee Spahan

Kristopher Oppenheim

Interim Band Administrator

Ron Aljam

Public Works/Fire Chief

Dale August

Executive Assistant

Cynthia Jager

Social Services Coordinator

Velma Collins

Social Services Clerk

Indian Register Administrator

Vacant

Finance Coordinator

Vivian Steinhauer

Finance Officer

Faye Aljam

Finance Clerk

Donald Kraus

Housing Coordinator/Taxation

Stephanie Archie

Education Coordinator

Kris Oppenheim

Lands, Wills and Estates

Vacant

Economic Development Coordinator

Ani Rainville

Receptionist

Jennifer Andrew | Crystal Andrew

Adults in Home Care



P.O. Box 4600, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8

Coldwater Band Office

2249 Quilchena Avenue, Merritt BC

Phone: (250)-378-6174

Fax: (250) 378-5351

Toll Free: 1-877-378-6174

Coldwater Administration Office

#301-230th Street Coldwater Reserve

Phone: (250) -378-6174

Fax: (250)-378-6153

MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance and sustain our quality of life through wellness and culture and to utilize and preserve all our resources for now and future generations.

**Chief and Council Meetings
General Band Meetings
2024-2025 Fiscal Year**

Chief & Council Meeting	Virtual General Band Meetings Coldwater Band Hall
April 10, 2024	April 18, 2024
April 24, 2024	
May 8, 2024	May 16, 2024
May 22, 2024	
June 12, 2024	June 20, 2024 Community BBQ/new member speech
June 26, 2024	
July 10, 2024	July 18, 2024
July 24, 2024	
August 14, 2024	none due to Food gathering season
September 11, 2024	September 19, 2024
September 25, 2024	
October 9, 2024	October 17, 2024
October 23, 2024	
November 13, 2024	November 21, 2024
November 27, 2024	
December 11, 2024	none due to holidays
January 8, 2025	January 16, 2025
January 22, 2025	
February 12, 2025	February 20, 2025
February 26, 2025	
March 12, 2025	March 20, 2025
March 26, 2025	

Coldwater Indian Band
Hybrid General Band Meeting (GBM)
Coldwater Band Hall

February 20, 2025
Meeting #13-2024/25
6:30 p.m. doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. 6:30 p.m. Opening Prayer
2. Council Updates **10-minute limit per update**
 - a. Michael Smithers
 - b. Jackie Aljam
 - c. Shawn Bob
3. 7:00 p.m. – Topics of Discussion **Limit of 10-minutes per topic**
 - a. Approve General Band Meeting Minutes
 - i. September 19, 2024
 - ii. October 12, 2024
 - iii. November 21, 2024

Has been sent to membership for the November General Band Meeting. If anything needs to be amended let me know before the meeting so motions can be made.

Motion #01-10-2024/25

Moved by Coldwater Indian Band membership to accept the September 19, 2024 General Band Meeting minutes as submitted or with the recommended amendments.

Moved by:

All in favor with ___ abstention

Second by:

Motion Adopted

Motion #02-10-2024/25

Moved by Coldwater Indian Band membership to accept the October 12, 2024 Special Governance Policy Meeting minutes as submitted or with the recommended amendments.

Moved by:

All in favor with ___ abstention

Second by:

Motion Adopted

Motion #03-10-2024/25

Moved by Coldwater Indian Band membership to accept the November 21, 2024 General Band Meeting minutes as submitted or with the recommended amendments.

Moved by:

All in favor with ___ abstention

Second by:

Motion Adopted

4. Open Floor Discussions (Be mindful of the Rules of Engagement)

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

Meeting ID: 296 042 110 044

Passcode: jA72iK6c

DIFFERENT WAYS TO JOIN ZOOM MEETINGS

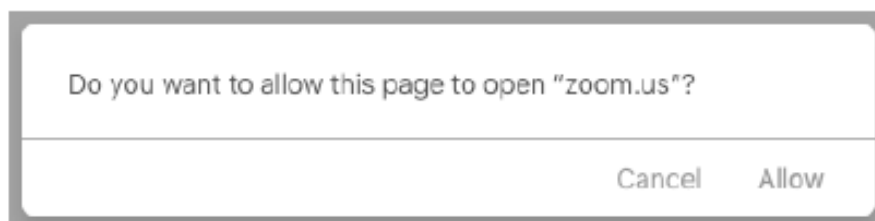
1. Joining via the link in your email or calendar invitation

Majority of people are familiar with joining Zoom calls via this method. Click the join link in your email or calendar invitation.

Join Zoom meeting link

<https://zoom.us/j/116738253?pwd=TEU2V29mWDIjRHI1Y01wTmpKOG96Zz09>

Depending on your default web browser, you may be prompted to open Zoom.



Here is a 53 seconds YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFhAEoCF7jg>

2. Joining the meeting via telephone/call the meeting

If you'd rather use your phone to call the meeting, that's an option too. In the email invitation you receive, you'll see the teleconferencing number. Call the number usually provided under "One tap mobile".

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/116738253?pwd=TEU2V29mWDIjRHI1Y01wTmpKOG96Zz09>

Meeting ID: 1 [redacted] 53

Password: 03 [redacted] 5

One tap mobile
.,116738253# US Toll

Dial by your location

US Toll

Meeting ID: 1 [redacted] 253

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ahVgtN32c>

- i. On your phone, dial the teleconferencing number (usually provided under "one tap mobile") in your invite.
- ii. Enter the meeting ID number (also available in the email invitation) when prompted using your dial-pad.

3. Joining through your Android or iOS (iPhone) mobile app

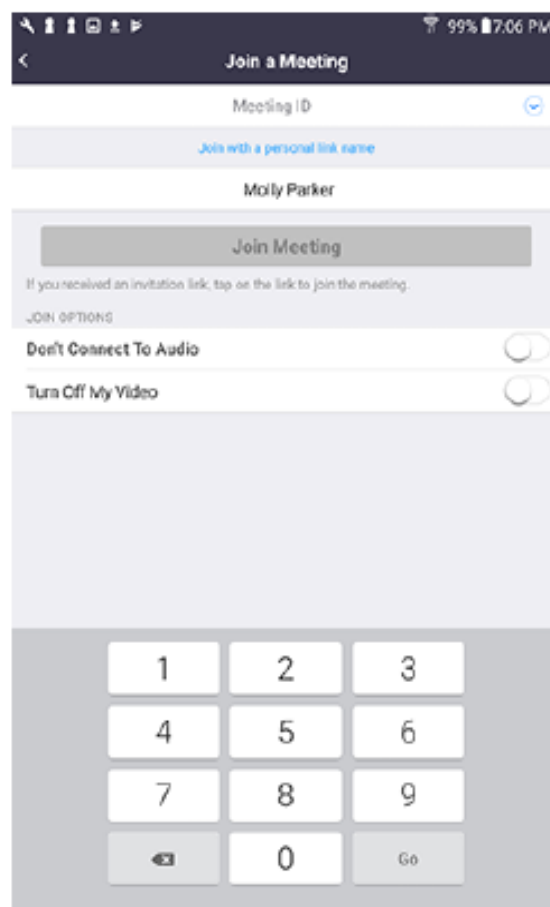
- i. Open the Zoom mobile app. If you have not downloaded the Zoom mobile app yet, you can download it from the Google Play Store (for Android) or Apple Store (for iOS).
- ii. Join a meeting using one of these methods:
 - Tap Join a Meeting if you want to join without signing in or
 - Sign in to Zoom then tap Join.



Join

iii. Enter the meeting ID number and your display name.

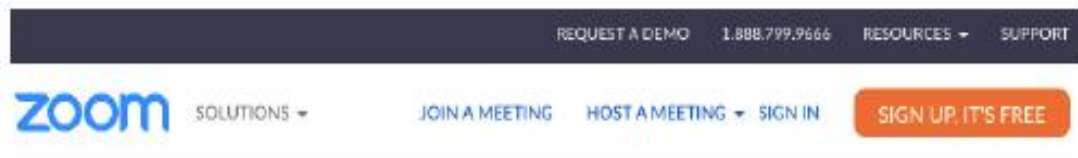
iv. Select if you would like to connect audio and/or video and tap Join Meeting.



Audio and video options

4. Joining the meeting via a web browser

- i. Open your web browser (Safari, Chrome or Mozilla Firefox).
- ii. Go to join.zoom.us.
- iii. Enter your meeting ID provided in the email/calendar invitation and click join.



Join a Meeting

Meeting ID or Personal Link Name

Join

[Join a meeting from an H.323/SIP room system](#)

5. Joining through your Windows or Mac computer if you have Zoom app downloaded

- iii. Open the Zoom desktop client.
- iv. Join a meeting using one of these methods:
 - a. Click "Join a Meeting" if you want to join without signing in.

The Zoom logo is displayed in its characteristic blue, lowercase font.

Join a Meeting

Sign In

- b. You also can be part of a zoom meeting by clicking "Sign in", then click Join.



Join

- v. Enter the meeting ID number and your display name.
- If you're signed in, change your name if you don't want your default name to appear.
 - If you're not signed in, enter a display name.

Join a Meeting

You can click on the options if you right away want mute your audio and turn off your video

Meeting ID or Personal Link Name

Grant MacLaren

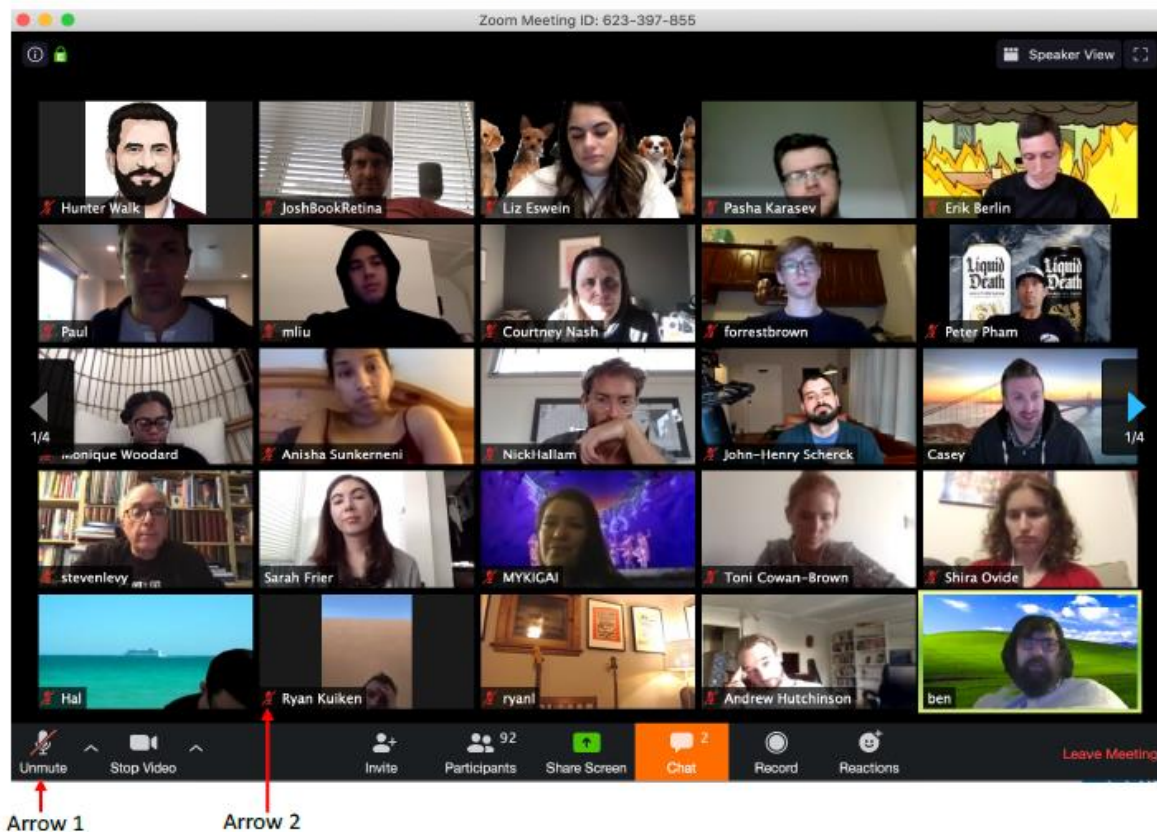
Do not connect to audio

Turn off my video

Join Cancel

What to note during Zoom calls:

- All participants are usually encouraged to mute their microphones (located at the very bottom left corner of your screen) throughout the meeting, unless if they wish to make a comment. See the arrow below (arrow 1). This helps minimise any background sounds and ensures better quality of sound for everyone. The host may also opt to mute everyone's microphone at the beginning of the meeting. This is usually indicated by a red microphone crossed with a forward slash (see arrow 2). Note the difference between Sarah's screen (who's microphone is unmuted) and everyone else.



Helplines:

Coldwater Membership,

ʔéx kw h̄ (Hello), yé tk siłáqt (Good day), here is helplines if needed in the new year.

Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline – 1.833.900.1010

Hope for Wellness Help Line (24 hrs. – 7 days a week) – 1.855.242.3310

Mental Health and Substance Use Support – 1.866.585.0445

Canada Suicide Prevention Service (24 hrs. – 7 days a week) – 1.833.456.4566

Kids Help Phone – 1-800-668-6868

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Crisis Line – 1.867.982.0123

Mental Health Crisis Line (24 hrs. – 7 days a week) – 1.800.737.4668

National Indian Residential School Crisis Line for Residential School survivors and family (24 hrs. - 7 days a week) – 1.866.925.4419

MMIWG2S+ Support line – 1.844.413.6649

Missing Children Society of Canada – 1.800.661.6160

Victim Link (24 hours) – 1.800.563.0808 BC211 – 1.604.875.6431

CSC Victim Services Pacific Region – 1.866.806.2275

KIDS COUNT TOO! – 250.423.6800

Húmet (Goodbye),

Cheryl Rule, Vice Chief of Coldwater Band

BC AFN Women's Representative

HEALTH SUPPORTS AND RESOURCES

Virtual Doctor of the Day Open to all First Nations people and their families living in BC. All doctors and allied health care professionals are trained to follow the principles and practices of cultural safety and humility. Call **1-855-344-3800** to book an appointment with the Virtual Doctor of the Day.

By calling **8-1-1**, you can speak to a health services navigator, who can help you to find health information and services; or connect you directly with registered nurse, registered dietitian, qualified exercise professional, or pharmacist.

Hope for Wellness Help Line offers immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention by phone or online chat. Call toll-free **1-855-242-3310** or start a confidential chat with a counsellor at **hopeforwellness.ca**.

Tswo Tun Le Lum Society Toll-free line **1-888-403-3123**

Indian Residential School Crisis Line is a national service for anyone experiencing pain or distress as a result of their residential school experience. Call toll-free **1-866-925-4419**.

Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society provides crisis services for Indigenous people in BC. Adults/Elders line: **250-723-4050**
Youth line: **250-723-2040**
Or call toll free **1-800-588-8717**.
Learn more at **www.kuu-uscrisisline.com**.

Métis Crisis Line is a service of Métis Nation British Columbia.
Call **1-833-MétisBC (1-833-638-4722)**.

Kids Help Phone 24/7 A National support service offering professional counselling, information and referrals and volunteered, text-based support to youth. Call **1-800-668-6868** or text the word **"connect"** to **686868** to access text support.

Call **1-800-SUICIDE** at **1-800-784-2433** anytime of the day or night if you or someone you know is thinking about ending their own life or needs someone to talk to about suicidal thoughts or ideas.

**If you are experiencing a health emergency call 911
or go to the nearest hospital.**



Weekly Activities	Location	Day of the Week	Times
Youth Drop-in	Coldwater Health Building	Tuesday	Afterschool
Men's Group	Coldwater Health Building	Bi-Weekly Wednesday	6-8pm
Women's Group	Coldwater Health Building	Tuesday* (See calendar attached)	5:30-8pm

**Coldwater Prenatal and Postnatal 0-1 year
@ Coldwater Health Building**

Meal provided with beverages

Any food allergies please contact

250-315-9535- Angela community health nurse

Drop in classes

Nov 6 4:30 to 6PM – Pizza and apple crisp

Dec 9 4:30 to 6PM

Jan 6 4:30- 6PM

Feb 10 4:30 -6 PM

March 3 4:30 -6PM

April 7 4:30 – 6 PM

May 5 4:30 – 6 PM

June 2nd 4:30- 6PM

Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP)

Gift cards provided monthly

First Health Solutions

Professional Support for Health Organizations

Counsellors Available!

Trauma, Stress, Anxiety, Relationships
In-person, and Virtual Appointments.



Neil Burrows, RSW has been working with indigenous groups across Canada since 1990, providing professional training, critical incident debriefing, trauma counselling and program consultation.

Much of Neil's work centres on Lateral Violence and working with groups to overcome the colonial impacts on their workplace health.

Neil completed his studies at Lakehead University (ON) and the University of Victoria (BC) and currently resides in Williams Lake, BC. He will be providing services in-person, and virtually.

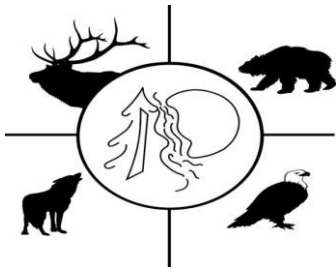
Carolyn Charleyboy, M.Ed., RCC



A member of the Tsilhqot'in Nation (T-sidedel / Redstone) with 6 years of post-graduate counselling experience, Carolyn will be available for Zoom / Phone sessions. Carolyn is trained and certified in Indigenous Focusing Oriented Therapy (IFOT), as well as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL), she is available to work with youth and adults. Carolyn completed her education at the University of British Columbia (UBC), as well as the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), and currently resides in Williams Lake, BC.

In-Person Appointments will be once per month at the Access Center, CW Reserve.
Virtual Appointments can be booked throughout the month on Phone / Zoom.

Call / Text (250) 615-6863 to book directly, or get assistance through your Social Services Department, 250-378-6174 for Cynthia or Val.



Coldwater Indian Band

PO Box 4600, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8

2249 Quilchena Avenue, Merritt, BC

Phone: (250) 378-6174

Fax: (250) 378-5351

Band Administrator, Public Works, Lands Wills & Estates, Housing, Economic Development

#301-230th Street Coldwater Reserve

Phone: (250) 378-6174

Fax: (250) 378-6153

Chief and Council (Executive Assistant), Finance, Social Development, Education

ANY HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

*Believe in yourself
Be Amazing Today
Anything is Possible
Never Give Up*



**YOU HAVE
OPTIONS**

WHO ARE THINKING ABOUT ATTENDING POST SECONDARY SCHOOLS or TRAINING INSTITUTES FOR THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR SHOULD BE STARTING THE PROCESS OF APPLYING TO SCHOOLS AND GETTING YOUR APPLICATIONS IN. THE DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 2025.

PLEASE COME IN TO SEE STEPHANIE AT THE BAND OFFICE OR EMAIL HER AT Stephanie@Coldwaterband.org

to get the process started.

MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance and sustain our quality of life through wellness and culture, and to utilize and preserve all our resources for now and future generations



2025 OUTDOOR Soccer Registration Opens Feb 3rd at 1pm



Go to the registration page of our
website www.merrityouthsoccer.com



Merritt Youth
Soccer Association



**Early bird
Registration Ends
March 16th**

IMPORTANT DATES:

Registration closes March 31st
Season Begins SECOND Week of April
Season Ends THIRD Week of June

**Season Starts SECOND
Week of April 2025**

Contact us for more info:
info@merrityouthsoccer.com

Soccer is our favourite season!



Nicola Native Lodge Society Housing Application

TEMPORARY APPLICATION FORM



The NNL housing applications are available at either of the band offices and at the Scw'exmx Tribal office.

Contact the Executive Director Vaughn Sunday at 250-378-4235 or by email director@scwexmxtribal.org for more information.

You can drop off your applications at the Scw'exmx Tribal office.

2090 Coutlee Ave, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8

Project Description

The Nicola Native Lodge will open in the spring of 2025. It is comprised of the following:

20 – Studio Units

20 – Single Bedroom Units

6 – Two Bedroom Units

6 – Three Bedroom Units

6 of the units are fully accessible and 36 Units are adaptable

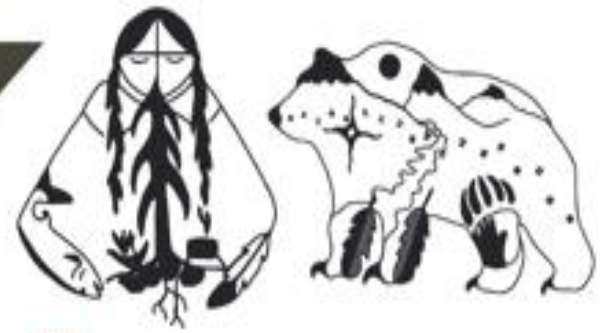
Eligibility

- Priority will be given to members of the Nicola Five First Nations
 - Upper Nicola Band
 - Lower Nicola Indian Band
 - Coldwater Indian Band
 - Nooaitch Indian Band
 - Shackan Indian Band
- First Nation applicants from other Bands wanting to apply to the Nicola Native Lodge must indicate what Band/First Nation they are from along with a copy of their status card

It is understood that the online applications through BC Housing will be available at a later date and the information collected now will then be transferred.

The Nicola Native Lodge Society is working on a pet policy, and it is anticipated that the NNL facility will be smoke free.

BE PART OF THE DISCUSSION



Scw'exmx Tribal Council

February 26, 2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join us to reflect and report on our 2023-2024 fiscal year.
We welcome your feedback.

*Lunch Included

*Door Prizes



MERRITT CIVIC CENTRE
1950 Mamette Ave
Merritt, BC V1K 1B8



WEDNESDAY
February 26, 2025



TIME
10:00-4:30



More Information
Liz Gilchrist
(250) 378-4235
egilchrist@scwexmxtribal.org

The Nicola Native Lodge Society
invites you to attend



2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February 26, 2025

Open to all Shackan, Nooaitch, Coldwater, Upper Nicola
and Lower Nicola Members and families.

Refreshments provided
Door Prizes

 **WEDNESDAY**
February 26, 2025

 **MEETING TIME**
9:00-11:00

 More Information
Sharon Stone
or **Liz Gilchrist**
P: (250) 378-4235

 **MERRITT CIVIC CENTRE**
1950 Mamette Ave
Merritt, BC V1K 1B8



COLDWATER INDIAN BAND

PO BOX 4600, MERRITT, B.C., V1K-1B8



2249 Quilchena Avenue, Merritt, B.C.
PHONE: 250-378-6174 / FAX: 250-5351
Band Administrator, Public Works, Education,
Lands, Wills & Estates, Housing, Economic Development

#301-230th Street, Coldwater Reserve #1
PHONE: 250-378-6174 / FAX: 250-378-6153
Chief & Council, Executive Assistant,
Finance, Social Development

Band Administrator: Job Posting

Coldwater Indian Band (CWIB) requires the service of a Band Administrator who will provide overall management, supervision, and leadership to the Coldwater Administration Office Staff and programs. The candidate will oversee administrative and financial matters within the job description guidelines. The administrator will support the Chief and Council in implementing the strategic plan and other directions given by the leadership. The administrator will oversee the programs and services, including Land, Wills & Estates, Public Works, Education, Finance, and Social Development. This position reports to the Coldwater Band Council and will involve networking with the Government, external agencies, and other First Nations. Coldwater Band reserves the right to give preference to qualified Aboriginal applicants.

General Requirements, Qualifications and Experience:

- ❖ Post Secondary Degree in Business or Administration and/or
- ❖ Minimum of 5 year's experience in a senior-level position.
- ❖ Excellent interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills, including proposal writing.
- ❖ Develop and implement policies and procedures.
- ❖ Experience with finances and personal management (HR, Finance Laws, Federal Labor Law).
- ❖ Work with a diverse team of professionals.
- ❖ High level of competency using the computer/ software, and website (Accounting, Office 365, Web Portals).
- ❖ Exceptional management, supervisory, and office administration skills.
- ❖ Experience working with Provincial and Federal agencies, Indigenous Services Canada, CMHC, and First Nations Government.
- ❖ Knowledge of First Nations issues in Canada.
- ❖ Experience working with documents and record management systems.
- ❖ Valid Driver's License
- ❖ Ability to pass a Criminal Record Check

Salary Range: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

Position: Full-time, benefits package, a probationary period of 6 months, and performance evaluation.

Please submit a detailed cover letter and resume explaining how you meet the requirements of the job posting.

This job posting will be posted internally until February 7, 2025.

External posts will commence February 10th 2025 to the February 28th 2025 deadline.

Applications will be accepted until 4:00 pm on February 28, 2025.

Attention: Coldwater Human Resources Committee

Email: msmithers@coldwaterband.org

MISSION STATEMENT

C'eletkwmx is committed to enhancing the quality of life of Scw'exmx through empowering programs and services that meet their needs, as well as sustainably managing our resources, in accordance with our C'eletkwmx values.



FNESS Emergency Management Online Training

FNESS is pleased to announce we are offering
FREE online **Emergency Management and Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)**
training sessions every *Thursday and Friday* 9:00 am – 11:00 am
starting **January 23, 2025**

At the end of the EOC Series, you will have a better understanding of emergency management and how to support a Community EOC.

January 23 - Introduction to Emergency Management

- Definitions, terms and the 4 Pillars of Emergency Management
- Emergency Management Cycle
- Response goals and emergency program

January 24 - Incident Command System (ICS) Basics

- Evolution of ICS
- Major functions - purpose and organization
- ICS application
- Resource management

January 30 - EOC Director

- Communication with policy group and key stakeholders
- Delegating - EOC Team
- Authority and decision maker

January 31 - Liaison Officer

- Connecting with Emergency Management partners
- Emergency Management Subject Matter Experts (SME)
- Liaise with neighbouring jurisdictions and other levels of government

February 6 - Information Officer (Communications)

- Media relations
- Social media monitoring
- Updating staff and membership
- Community messaging

February 7 - **Safety Officer and Worker Care**

- Occupational health and safety regarding response staff
- Safety consideration in action planning process
- Prepare to respond and support your community
- Mental health and wellness support

February 13 - **EOC Operations Section**

- Communication with incident site command
- Coordinating site support activities
- Implementation of action plans

February 14 - **EOC Planning Section**

- Sharing information - posting within EOC
- Collecting and evaluating information
- Mapping and information boards

February 20 - **EOC Logistics Section**

- Community owned resource lists
- Local suppliers and contractors
- Regionally shared resources

February 21 - **Finance and Administration Section**

- Eligible expenses
- Expense Authorization Form (EAF's) and Resource Requests
- Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA)

February 27 - **Evacuations**

- Alerts – Orders – Rescind
- What to consider in an Evacuation Plan
- Host Communities and support

February 28 - **Emergency Management Program Support**

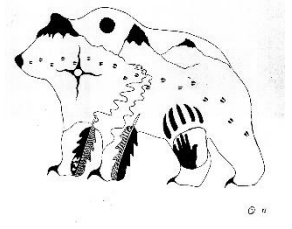
- Core fundamentals of Emergency Management Plans
- Emergency Program Coordinator (EPC) – roles and responsibilities
- Public Education and Emergency Preparedness

If you are interested in attending or require more information, please contact the Preparedness Team at preparedness@fness.bc.ca



Scw'exmx Tribal Council (STC)

Title & Rights Stewardship
#202-2090 Coutlee Avenue
P.O. BOX 188, MERRITT, BC V1K 1B8
Phone (250) 378-4235 Fax (250) 378-9119
e-mail: administration@scwexmxtribal.org



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Title & Rights Analyst

Closing date: Once position is filled

Term: Full-time

Wage: Wage scale dependent on Experience & Education

Post Secondary Education and/or experience with Title & Rights preferred but willing to train for the position to a suitable candidate.

Scw'exmx Tribal Council (STC) / Title & Rights Stewardship department requires a Title & Rights Analyst to join our team that will be responsible for analysis of Title & Rights review over notifications submitted by federal/provincial, regional, municipal governments and industry for lands, water and resources within the Nlaka'pamux and Syilx sovereign Traditional Territory and provide operational support to STC member bands decision making processes, and Free, Prior and Informed Consent to protect and advocate for Inherent Rights and Title.

Job Duties and Skills:

- Knowledge of referral / consultation processes is a benefit, there will be on-the-job training.
- Communicate with community representatives/leadership regarding projects
- Communicate with industry and governments regarding projects
- Follow procedural duties as set out by the Title & Rights Stewardship structure
- Provide analysis of adverse title and right impacts
- Understanding of Inherent Rights and Title
- Develop mitigations and recommendations for infringements to title rights
- Responsible for level 2, 3, and 4 applications from provincial governments and industry submitted to the Title & Rights Stewardship department.
- Carry out processes for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) decision – making for member bands and from the Decision – Making Policy
- Provide support/information sharing/recommendation to leadership tables/bands/governing bodies
- Coordinate and/or facilitates meetings
- Communication to governments on adverse impacts to inherent rights and title and next requirements
- Ability to adapt to on-the-job training of required skills with indigenous laws / principles, consultation processes, Free Prior Informed Consent, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Aboriginal Case Law.

Email Resume to Jeanette McCauley, Title and Rights Stewardship Manager jmccauley@scwexmxtribal.org



Stuwix Resources Joint Venture

2-98 Hwy 8, Merritt, BC V1K 0A7

Phone: 250-378-2277

Employment Opportunity

Job Title: Natural Resource/Forestry Summer Student
Location: Merritt, B.C.
Term: May 1 – August 31, 2025
Wage: Hourly rate

Duties:

- Assist in monitoring(quality) of tree planting program
- Monitor(quality) and administer site preparation projects
- Perform and evaluate quality of silviculture surveys
- Collect and compile pre-harvest timber development data

Supervision and Training that will be provided:

- Daily one-on-one direct supervision by Forest Technician &/or Operations Supervisor
- Student will be provided with experience in road and block reconnaissance, layout and boundary painting
- Student will be provided with experience in site plan field data collection and development
- First Aid and Fire Suppression Training if required

Required Qualifications:

- Currently enrolled in a Forestry, Natural Resource Program
- Valid B.C. driver's license
- Physically fit
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Sound knowledge of current computer systems and software applications

Please submit your resume NO LATER than March 31, 2025 to:

Stuwix Resources Joint Venture
2-98 Hwy 8, Merritt, B.C. V1K 0A7
Email: admin@stuwix.com
: generalmanager@stuwix.com

COLDWATER MEN'S GROUP

WILL BE HELD EVERY **WEDNESDAY**

@ Coldwater Health Building

6:00 – 8:00pm.

If you have any questions or need a ride, please
contact: **John Paul Antoine @ (250) 280-0563.**

Transportation & Snacks are provided.



SCHSS

SCW'EXMX COMMUNITY
HEALTH SERVICES SOCIETY

Title & Rights Stewardship Department
Invites you to Attend

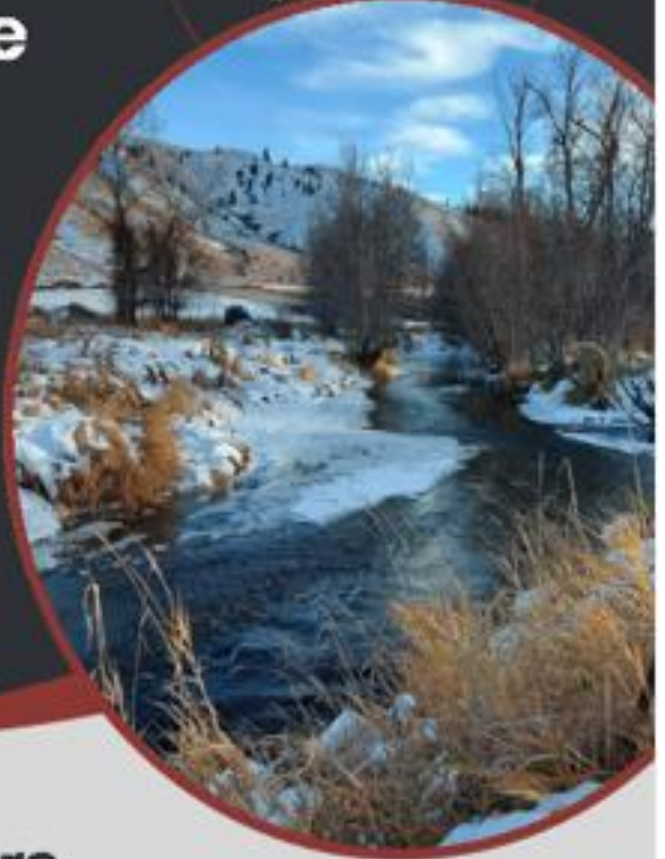
Our Inherent Right to Self-Governance Workshop

WHEN: February 11th & 12th, 2025

WHERE: Merritt Civic Centre

9am -4:30pm

Lunch Provided Both Days
Registration!



Open to all Band Members

Transforming the way First Nations Govern

- The Origin and Content of the Indian Act
- Historical Struggle for Recognition of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights
- The Five Pillars of Our Inherent Rights to Self-Government
- Putting Consultation and Accommodation to Work
- Inherent Rights Strategy
- Governing our Lands and Ourselves

Facilitated by Satsan
(Herb George)
and Chris Robertson



Registration Required
at

jmccauley@scwexmxtribal.org
(250) 378-4235

Conayt

SOUP KITCHEN



EVERY THURSDAY at
2164 QUILCHENA AVENUE
MERRITT, BC V1K 1B8

11:30AM - 12:30PM



<https://www.conayt.com>



reception@conayt.com



(250) 378 - 5107





**First Nations Child
and Family Services
and Jordan's Principle
Settlement**

**The first Claims
Period opens**

March 10, 2025

First Claims Period for First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement to open March 10, 2025

TORONTO, December 13, 2024 – Class Members of the **First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement** will be able to submit their Claims for compensation starting on March 10, 2025.

The first Claims Period to open is for the Removed Child Class and the Removed Child Family Class, which represent two of nine Classes included in the Settlement. These first two Classes include First Nations individuals who were removed from their homes as Children between April 1, 1991, and March 31, 2022, while on reserve or in the Yukon and placed into care funded by Indigenous Services Canada, as well as their Caregiving Parents or Caregiving Grandparents.

When the first Claims Period opens, Removed Child and Removed Child Family Class Members can make their Claim for compensation by submitting a Claim Form to the Administrator. Until then, compensation is not available.

Individuals who are adults (Age of Majority) as of March 10, 2025 will have three years from the date the Claims Period opens to submit their Claim; however, minors (those who have not reached Age of Majority as of March 10, 2025) will have three years from the date they reach the Age of Majority to submit their Claim.

"Class Members can take steps now to prepare for when the Claims Period opens," says David Sterns, Class Counsel, partner at Sotos LLP and member of the Settlement Implementation Committee. "If you are planning to submit a Claim, we encourage you to start getting ready for the Claims Period by making sure you have government-issued identification and a mailing address. You should also have a bank account in your name so that the Administrator can deposit compensation directly into your account."

Class Members will not have to pay anyone to help them submit their Claim to receive payment under this Settlement.

Several resources and supports will be available at no cost to help Class Members submit a Claim. Currently, the Settlement's Contact Centre (1-833-852-0755) is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. ET to 8 p.m. ET, excluding statutory holidays. Once the Claims Period opens, the Contact Centre will also be able to connect Class Members to Claims Helpers, who can provide one-on-one support with completing the Claim Form virtually or in-person, where available. Claims Helpers can also assist Class Members with connecting to local services and wellness resources.

General information and updates about the Settlement and the Claims Process are available to Class Members through the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle website. Class Members who have questions about the Settlement can also contact the Administrator at 1-833-852-0755.

Mental health counselling and crisis support is available to Class Members 24 hours a day through the Hope for Wellness Helpline at 1-855-242-3310 or at the Hope for Wellness website. Counselling is available in English, French, Cree and Ojibway upon request. Children and youth can also call the Kids Help Phone anytime at 1-800-668-6868 or text FIRSTNATIONS to 686868..

About

The First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement Agreement was approved by the Federal Court on October 24, 2023, and intends to compensate those harmed by discriminatory underfunding of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and those impacted by the federal government's narrow interpretation of Jordan's Principle. The \$23.34 billion Settlement Agreement followed compensation orders from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal in 2019, which addressed systemic discrimination against First Nations Children and families.

Case study explores why some homes are more likely to survive a wildland-urban fire

November 28, 2024



McDougall Creek wildfire reaches the west side of Okanagan Lake south of Bear Creek Provincial Park on August 17, 2023. (Source: Publicly submitted.)

In a season that stands out for unprecedented wildfire activity, the 2023 Grouse Complex of wildfires was one of the most destructive wildland-urban fire events the Okanagan region has ever experienced.

A wildfire complex usually has two or more fires burning simultaneously in close proximity. It is typically assigned an incident management team, reflecting the increased danger that multiple fires may pose to nearby communities. The Grouse Complex of wildfire included the McDougall Creek, Clarke Creek and Walroy Lake wildfires.

Before it was over, 15,076 hectares were consumed, 30,700 people were evacuated, 303 structures burned and insured losses exceeded \$480 million. The impact on those affected by these fires, especially those who lost their homes, is incalculable.

To better understand how wildland-urban fires move into and through communities, the [BC FireSmart Committee](#) and the [Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction](#) enlisted [FPInnovations](#) to conduct a post-fire analysis of the Grouse Complex.

The study's key objectives include an analysis of how the fire spread and what factors contributed to a structure's ignition or survival.

Background: weather, fuel and topography set the stage

First reported on August 15, the McDougall Creek wildfire grew to a high intensity, [Rank 6](#) crown fire by August 17 due to a combination of very dry fuels, rugged terrain and strong winds. Long-term drought conditions, several weeks of high temperatures, low relative humidity (RH) values and minimal precipitation in the weeks before, set the stage for fast-spreading, high-intensity crown fires, which spread through the forest canopy.

An already challenging situation was made worse when an unusually dry, fast-moving cold front stalled east of Kelowna. This weather event resulted in a towering convection column that lofted embers thousands of metres ahead of the main fire front, producing a massive number of spot fires. Embers from the McDougall Creek wildfire travelled over 2.5 kilometres across Okanagan Lake to ignite the Walroy Lake and Clarke Creek wildfires.

Some of the key findings of the study revealed that:

- Fire entered neighbourhoods almost exclusively via embers, rather than direct flame contact, quickly shifting from a wildfire to several urban fires burning simultaneously.
- The presence of flammable materials within 10 metres of structures emerged as one of the most significant factors influencing whether a structure was damaged by the fire or survived.
- Yards containing cedars, junipers, unpruned coniferous trees and an abundance of other easily ignitable materials were particularly problematic.
- Homes situated on steep slopes, often with overhanging decks above flammable vegetation, were particularly vulnerable.
- Fire entered many homes due to the proximity of flammable materials and vegetation and the failure of combustible soffits, allowing the fire to spread into attic spaces.
- Timely action by fire suppression personnel to remove or douse combustible materials, saved neighbouring structures.

Recommendations for residents based on case study findings:

- Remove or relocate combustible items (e.g. firewood, scrap lumber, propane tanks, fuel cans, plastic patio furniture and recreation equipment, etc.) within 10 metres of a structure.
- Establish a 1.5 metre zone around structures free of all combustible material (vegetation and non-vegetation).
- Manage coniferous vegetation from 1.5 to 10 metres from a structure according to FireSmart guidelines using spacing, thinning, pruning and planting leafy (deciduous) species.
- Remove, reduce or replace combustible vegetation on slopes immediately below structures.
- Construct decks from fire-resistant materials, keep them well-maintained and remove combustible items on and under decks. If deck replacement is not immediately possible, manage combustibles on and below the deck.
- Plant low-flammability deciduous tree species 10 to 30 metres from structures.
- Review the [FireSmart BC Begins at Home Guide](#) for detailed instructions on how to keep your home safe.
- Visit the [FireSmart BC Landscaping Hub](#) for design tips and plant recommendations.

Recommendations for governments and industry:

- Develop a cold front categorization system to enhance preparedness and response strategies.
- Investigate new soffit technology and materials to improve fire resistance.
- Development policies and practices should strive for better integration of established FireSmart principles for land use and planning including:
 - Limiting development in high wildfire risk areas.
 - Expand Wildfire Development Permit Areas, aligning their guidelines across jurisdictions and enhancing enforcement of regulations.
 - Increase zoning bylaw setbacks in heavily forested and rural areas.
 - Introduce or enhance landscaping and fencing regulations to establish non-combustible zones around structures.

Smoke from pile burning in Lindley Creek Road area will be visible to nearby communities

January 8, 2025

MERRITT – The BC Wildfire Service will be continuing to conduct a fuel management project located at the Lindley Creek Road area approximately 3.5 kilometres west of the City of Merritt.

BC Wildfire Service crews will be working to burn approximately 20 piles starting as early as Thursday, January 9, through to the end of February. This project is taking place in conjunction with the Cascades Resource District for Wildfire Risk Reduction purposes.

Smoke from piles may be visible to residents from the City of Merritt, and surrounding communities. Pile burning will only proceed if conditions are favourable. BC Wildfire Service personnel will carefully prepare, control, and monitor these piles at all times.

To report a wildfire, unattended campfire or open burning violation, please call 1 800 663-5555 toll-free or *5555 on a cell phone.

People can follow the latest B.C. wildfire news:

- on X (Twitter): [BC Wildfire Service \(@BCGovFireInfo\) / X](#)
- on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo>

Contact:

Fire Information Officer

BC Wildfire Service

Kamloops Fire Centre

250 554-5965

KFCINFO@gov.bc.ca

Connect with the Province of B.C. at www.gov.bc.ca/connect.

TERRESTRIAL CUMULATIVE EFFECTS INITIATIVE & WEST ROUTE COMMITTEE

Summary for Coldwater Indian Band for the period September 1, 2024 to December 15, 2024

These notes provide an update on work since the last summary in July 2024, by project. During this period:

- **For the west route committee process (Section 1.0):** meetings were put on hold while negotiations to develop agreements regarding operations were underway. Activity is expected to resume shortly, as noted below in section 1.0.
- **For the TCEI process (Section 2.0):** Following summer interviews, PGL has been preparing a first draft of the Cumulative Effects Assessment. Progress to date and expected next steps are described in Section 2.0.

1.0 West Route Committee Update:

West Route work is transitioning from a focus on construction to a focus on all TM Operations in Coldwater territory. A summary of future activities is as follows:

- **Committee future:** Legal counsel is currently advancing the Relationship Agreement. This will eventually come to Chief and Council for review before being finalized.
- **Interim Activities:** In advance of a final Relationship Agreement, a number of pipeline matters require attention. These fall loosely into two categories:
 - Completion and restoration work on the West Route
 - Maintenance and enhancement work on Line 1 through the reserve.

Moving forward on these issues:

- **BC Groundwater** will be the lead in providing support on the Integrity Dig and on discussions surrounding enhancement of the ROW;
- **PGL** will be the lead in providing support to West Route discussions.
- **Upcoming meetings:**
 - BC Groundwater will be facilitating with TM in January 2025 to discuss the Integrity dig.
 - Also in January, PGL will be helping convene a meeting with TM to discuss West Route issues. These include:
 - Renewing the IM contract
 - Ongoing restoration work
 - Roadway decommissioning

2.0 Main take-aways from the Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative activities:

The last Committee meeting was held on November 9, 2024. Key take-aways for the period since the last briefing note are:

- The project remains on target and on budget for completion by March 31, 2025 (the project sunset date and federal fiscal year end).
- Deliverables for March 31, 2025 will include:
 - A detailed written Assessment Report and Maps detailing Cumulative Effects to Coldwater Cultural Heritage that can be used in legal discussions with Proponents and the Crown
 - A "plain language" written report, also with maps, that summarizes the Assessment Report
 - A video overview of the report that can be posted on the CIB website
- All documents will be provided to Chief and Council for Review and Approval.
- In addition, all the base mapping and interview data will be provided electronically as it is the property of CIB

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Committee will be in January 2025.



Safety Notice

Forest Harvesting and Hauling Operations

A99513 Block NK0001

Where: Harvesting of block NK0001 between Coldwater IR 1 and Coquihalla Hwy. Planned hauling of logs on Comstock Road from block NK0001 up to Coquihalla Hwy. See attached map

When: **January – early February 2025**

Who: Stuwix Resources – Supervising

Logging Contractor – TBD

Why: Wildfire Risk Reduction. As part of a coordinated effort between the Ministry of Forests, First Nations, and Stuwix Resource Ltd., block NK0001 is being harvested on Crown Land near the Coquihalla Hwy and Coldwater IR1 that will then be subsequently treated by hand to reduce wildfire risk. Signage will be erected.

Avoid use of Comstock Road from old post and rail mill to the Coquihalla Hwy.

Contacts:

Robert Dunsmore – Harvesting Supervisor - Stuwix Resources – 250-315-8014

Shaun Hales – Planning Forester – Stuwix Resources – 250-510-3083

Mike Smithers – Senior Technician – Stuwix Resources – 250-315-3594

BYLAW COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED FOR NEW TRESPASS BYLAW



Trespass Committee members

- Would be available to meet in the evenings
- Would be ok with being recorded.
- Would have the Coldwater community interests at heart.

The meeting date is to be determined. If you are interested on joining the committee. Please call Kris Oppenheim at the Band office to apply.

Phone# 250 378-6174

Email: kristopher@coldwaterband.org



COLDWATER INDIAN BAND

PO Box 4600 Merritt, BC V1K1B8

(250)378-6174 | kristopher@coldwaterband.org | coldwaterband.com

WILLS



I AM KRISTOPHER OPPENHEIM. I AM THE LANDS, WILLS, & ESTATES ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE COLDWATER INDIAN BAND.

IF ANYONE IS LOOKING TO DO THEIR WILLS. I CAN GIVE YOU A TEMPLATE OR YOU CAN COME IN AND FILL ONE OUT. IT IS BETTER TO HAVE ONE THEN NOT TO HAVE ONE. THIS WILL HELP YOU SAY WHO GETS WHAT AND HAPPENS AFTER YOUR GONE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU CAN GET A HOLD OF ME AT THE COLDWATER BAND OFFICE IN TOWN.

Call Band Office at (250) 378 - 6174



WHEN YOU HAVE EVERYTHING IN ORDER, YOU HAVE THE SAY ON WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR ASSETS. NO ONE ELSE CAN TAKE YOUR POSSESSIONS!



250-258-0577

Coldwater Security on Weekends

The driver's name is SEAN

Coldwater Band has security patrolling in the evenings. They will be driving a neon green Lower Nicola vehicle. Should you need to contact them or if you become aware of any suspicious activity, **please do not hesitate to call them.**

Conservation Officer contact number – 1-877-952-7277

Make sure to leave a detailed description of what you are calling about, as listed below, if it pertains to what you are reporting. You will have to listen to the message and follow the prompts. There is a voicemail at the end of the prompts to state what you are reporting, leave your contact details, etc.

Emergencies- 911 (accidents, criminal activities, vehicles speeding, etc.)

When reporting to 911, to create files with the RCMP please make sure you indicate the following:

1. What you are reporting or have witnessed.
2. Where you witnessed.
3. Date and time you witnessed.
4. Leave a contact number that you can be reached at in case they need to contact you.
5. When calling for an ambulance, state clearly to 911 the house number, street address or road name and clearly that you are located on COLDWATER INDIAN BAND

Bear Sightings

Please call the
Conservation officer at:
1-877-952-7277

Press 1

If you observe dangerous wildlife in an urban area involved in any of the following, please report the incident:

- Accessing garbage or other human supplied food sources.
- Instances where wildlife cannot be easily scared off.
- Dangerous wildlife is in a public location like a park or school during daylight hours.
- When a bear, cougar or wolf is seen in a urban area.

The more sightings reported, then they are able to do something about the animals.

When Do Conservation Officers Respond?

Conservation Officers respond to conflicts with dangerous wildlife where there is a risk to public safety.

Examples of these situations include responding to attacks, bears breaking into buildings, repeated dangerous wildlife encounters at or near public locations, and situations where dangerous wildlife has become habituated (no longer afraid of humans) or food conditioned (dependent upon human provided foods) and now present a risk to public safety.

Contacting the Police for emergency/non-emergency calls

Emergency phone number

(for immediate police attendance)

9-1-1

Merritt detachment phone number

250-378-4262

Monday to Friday 8:30-4:30 will ring to the Merritt detachment dispatch.

After 4:30 p.m. and on weekends, you have the option of leaving a voice message or connecting to an operator.

The operator will be able to contact an on-duty member via radio.

Crime Stoppers for anonymous TIPS

1-800-222-8477

Crime Stoppers will take several days to get to a member so do not use for immediate action.

Merritt detachment online reporting

[Online Crime Reporting | Merritt RCMP \(rcmp-grc.gc.ca\)](https://rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

Can also be accessed by the city of Merritt website page under Merritt RCMP online reporting

This is meant to provide citizens with the convenience to report certain crimes online while freeing call takers and frontline staff to focus on the higher priority calls, which improves overall safety and response times in the city.

It is important to know that **not all crime can be reported** via the online process.

Citizens will be able to report the following crimes online:

- Damage/mischief to property under \$5,000
- Damage/mischief to a vehicle under \$5,000
- Hit and run to an unoccupied vehicle or property
- Theft of bicycle under \$5,000
- Theft under \$5,000
- Theft from vehicle under \$5,000
- Lost property

Incidents **must also satisfy** the following conditions to report via the online process:

- No witnesses or suspects.
- Item(s) lost or stolen must cost less than \$5,000
- Vandalized property or vehicle will cost less than \$5,000 to repair.

There are no items involving personal identity, firearms, licence plates or decals.