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# OUR MISSION To create and operate successful businesses, develop sustainable capacity, and generate income opportunities while preserving shared cultural and ecological values for generations to come. OUR VISION Thriving Splatsin-owned businesses creating genuine wealth for Community.

## Your Spring Newsletter

### Welcome to the Spring 2024 Edition of the Splatsin Development Corporation (SDC) Newsletter!

As the vibrant colors of spring surround us, it's with great pleasure that we extend a warm welcome to all our esteemed members, partners, and friends. This season, we're excited to highlight the spirit of collaboration and the power of teamwork that fuels every aspect of our endeavors.

Within these pages, you'll find a mosaic of stories and updates from all corners of the Splatsin Development Corporation family. From the hard working divisions of SDC Corporate, Yucwmenlúcwu, and Quilakwa Investments, each branch brings its unique contribution to our collective journey.

This newsletter edition serves as a testament to our shared commitment to progress and prosperity. Through cooperation and synergy, we continue to reach new heights, driving positive change and making meaningful impacts within our community and beyond.

Here's to a fruitful remainder of the spring season, and to the boundless potential that lies ahead!

## **HR News**

#### WorkBC Job Fair

Val and Jimmy represented our team with enthusiasm at the WorkBC Job Fair held on March 7, 2024. At our booth, we proudly displayed our latest posters and engaged with attendees who showed interest in future opportunities within Construction, Archeology, and Environment. We also had the pleasure of collecting resumes from talented individuals eager to join our growing workforce.

In the spirit of celebration, we're thrilled to announce Jag Young as the lucky recipient of the Quilakwa Gift Card. Congratulations, Jag, and thank you to all who stopped by to connect with us!

The Archeology & Cultural Heritage department is hiring Junior Technicians! If you know someone who loves working outdoors, encourage them to submit their resume to human.resources@splatsindc.com.





## **Quilakwa RV Park & Campground**





## Kraft Hockeyville 2024

March 30, 2024: Unfortunately, Enderby wasn't selected as the overall winner, missing out on the grand prize of \$250,000, which would have been used to fix the Enderby Arena. However, the city still did well by behing chosen as one of the top 4 nominations and received \$25,000!

Quilakwa RV Park and Campground's Bryce & Ash Tarves joined the community and Sportsnet at the community's rally event to cheer Enderby on.

#### **Easter Celebrations**

On Sunday, March 31, 2024, Enderby's Easter Celebrations were held at Barnes Park.

Quilakwa RV & Campground provided crafts for everyone in attendance. There was a great turn out and the event was enjoyed by all.



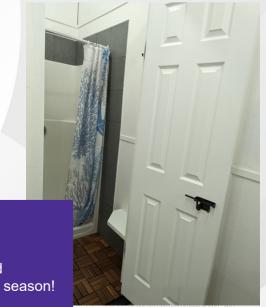


#### Fire!

On the evening of April 1, a fire broke out directly across the river from Quilakwa RV & Campground's beach, which was a scary situation. Quilakwa staff helped to provide direction as to where the fire was burning because we had the best viewing point. Thank you to the firefighters who were quick and thorough at putting out the fire.

#### **New Shower Renos**

New shower renovation has been completed on the main campground washrooms. Ready for the camping season!



## Residential & Light Construction Update

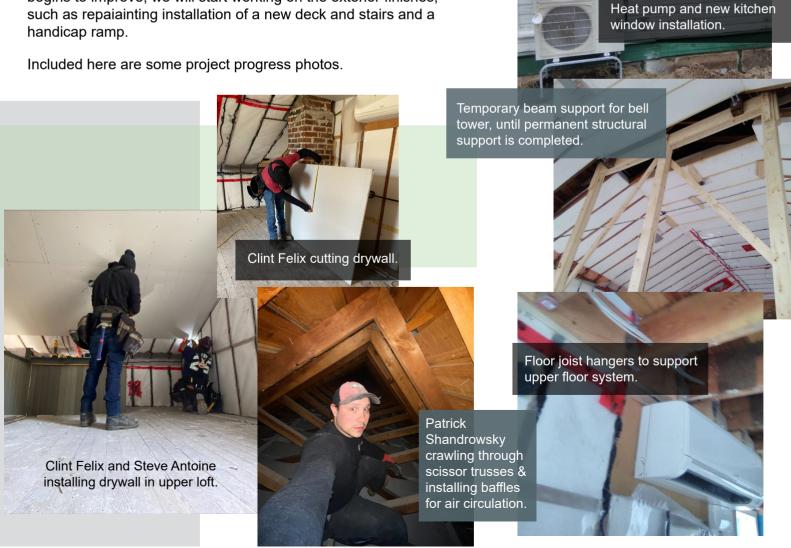
Hello Splatsin Membership!

My name is **Garry Yablonski** and I am the Operations Manager with Yucwmenlúcwu's Residential Construction Division. I have been with SDC for approximately five months.

I previously had the opportunity to work with Mike Christian on the St. Mary's Catholic Church Heritage project. As Mike was departing to his new role as for Splatsin Kukpi7, he asked me to oversee the completion of this project.

We are now close to completing the structural components of the facility, and have finished the electrical rough-in In addition, we have for the most part completed the installation of the insulation and vapor barrier in preparation of interior wall and ceiling finish.

The team is also doing some additional work to the foundation, such repairing foundation wall crack, as well completing damp proofing and exterior insulation and backfill. As the weather begins to improve, we will start working on the exterior finishes, such as repaiainting installation of a new deck and stairs and a handicap ramp.



Foundation repairs. Next damp proofing, then exterior foam.

## Civil Construction News

## Greetings from Yucwmenlúcwu's Civil Construction division!

We're excited to share an update on the progress of the Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail development for the 2024 season. After the resounding success of the two-kilometer pilot section in Enderby last year, we're forging ahead at full speed. Yucwmenlúcwu's Civil Construction team is leading the charge as the primary construction contractor.

As we speak, construction work has commenced on the rail trail segment spanning from Kilometres 1.5 to 4.5, marking a significant step forward in this ambitious project. Check out the photos of our progress below!













In March, SDC's Safety department orchestrated targeted ATV training sessions for team members, led by seasoned instructors. These sessions covered vehicle mechanics, safety protocols, and emergency procedures, fostering both technical expertise and a culture of safety consciousness.





In early April, Safety organized comprehensive first aid training sessions for team members.



Led by certified instructors, these sessions covered essential first aid techniques, including CPR and emergency response protocols.















**OFFICE WORKER** 

Pre-shift stretching benefits everyone, whether working in the field or sitting in the office.







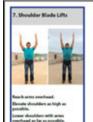




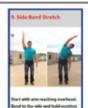




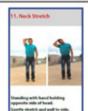






































## It's Tick Season!

After spending time in bushy or grassy areas, review this checklist for areas to check. If you find a tick, carefully remove it following these instructions. Remember, seek medical attention if you're worried about illness from insect bites.

## **HOW TO REMOVE A TICK**



Use clean fine-point tweezers to slowly pull it straight out.



Wash the bite area with soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitizer.



Contact your health care provider if you are not feeling well.

For more information, including detailed tick removal steps, visit Canada.ca/LymeDisease

## What's New in Forestry

#### **MCF Site Prep**

In the latest update from our Yuc Forestry division, we're excited to share insights from our recent site preparation endeavors within the Monashee Community Forest (MCF).

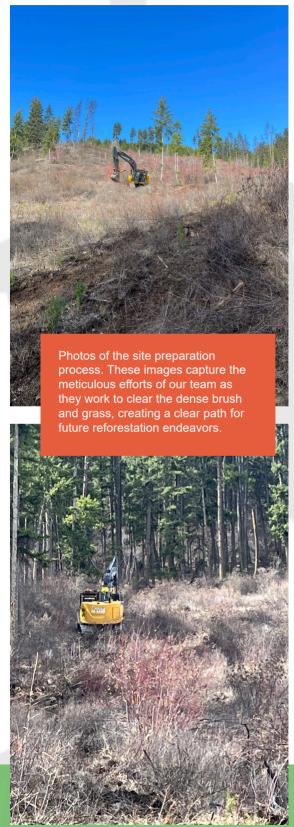
Specifically, in Block 6-3 of the MCF, our team identified a significant challenge posed by a dense layer of snowberry, ocean spray, and grass brush. This well-established vegetation layer presented a formidable obstacle for newly planted seedlings. Despite our efforts, we observed that none of the seedlings were able to thrive in this environment.

Upon closer examination, it became evident that the brush and grass were not only absorbing vital moisture but also casting shade and outcompeting the young seedlings, hindering their establishment and growth.

To address this issue and pave the way for successful reforestation efforts, our team undertook comprehensive site preparation activities. By clearing the obstructive vegetation and creating optimal conditions for seedling growth, we aim to ensure the longterm health and resilience of the forest ecosystem in Block 6-3.

Through meticulous planning and execution, we're committed to fostering a thriving and sustainable forest environment within the Monashee Community Forest. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue our efforts to nurture and protect our natural landscapes!





## **Environmental Planning & Management**

## Shuswap River Fish Habitat Restoration

Yucwmenlúcwu is taking an active approach to restore bank stability and enhance salmon habitat on the Lower Shuswap River near Enderby. By working with Splatsin landowners, qualified habitat restoration experts, and permitting authorities we are building restoration prescriptions with the intention of completing enhancement at one site in summer 2024 while planning to pursue larger and expanding restoration initiatives in future years.



Bank erosion restoration site candidate assessed during a project team site visit conducted on March 26, 2024.



Youth participants displaying their artwork created during the community engagement session on Feb. 24, 2024.

## Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program

Near the end of February, Yucwmenlúcwu met with Splatsin community members to discuss changes proposed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) regarding their Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program. The objective of the engagement session was to ensure Splatsin interests and values are heard, understood, and safeguarded.

In March, after many hours of research into policy change concerns and incorporating Splatsin recommendations, a final document was submitted to DFO as a technical memorandum. This memorandum incorporated the shared insights from knowledgeable anglers and Splatsin youth who captured the meeting with their artwork. Scans of each youth's art accompanied the technical document to tell a story beyond words.

Though many Nations and communities throughout Canada have commented on the changes proposed by DFO in this program, Splatsin is the only community we are aware of that has involved a community meeting and visual depictions. Yucwmenlúcwu is pleased to provide technical support to Splatsin Title and Rights and will continue to do so where capacity allows. Thank you to all of those who contributed!

## Fisheries Season Pre-Planning and Upcoming Opportunities

Yucwmenlúcwu is anticipating several upcoming initiatives related to fisheries and fish habitat, especially this summer and fall. Several positions are contingent on the successful receipt of funding from grants and will be confirmed as the year progresses. Weare hopeful this will result in several job positions opening for community members.

Opportunities proposed include:

- Community Fisher(s)
- Community Fish Smoker/Distributor
- Fish stream walks to identify and count fish along different rivers/streams
- Splatsin Catch Surveying
- Catch Surveying along Mabel Lake
- And potentially more!

If you have interest in, or questions about, any of these positions please do not hesitate to contact Kyle, Yucw-menlúcwu Fisheries Biologist, at **kyle.krahn@splatsindc.com** for more information and timelines. We will be posting these positions as soon as we can confirm them, but it is always good to share your interest early in the process as many grants are confirmed just before the work is set to begin.

## **Habitat Restoration and Monitoring in the Bigmouth Valley**

Monitoring work has been ongoing to document wildlife use in Bigmouth valley since 2017 following implementation of habitat restoration works. To do this, cameras have been set up to capture images in the upper Bigmouth River valley (i.e., the 'restored' area) as well as in the adjacent Louis Lee valley (i.e., the 'active/unrestored' area) to compare differences in the rates of use in these two areas to evaluate the long-term success of restoration.

While results are still yet to be determined, images have been collected and recorded annually with additional data collection expected in spring/summer 2024.

Below is a sample of images captured in fall 2022 through spring 2023.







April 20, 2023 in Big Mouth Valley, north of Revelstoke.





#### Splatsin Continues to Invest in Selcweyecn (Caribou) Recovery

Yucwmenlúcwu's environment team hosted two in-person engagement events on February 29th and March 11th, 2024 on southern mountain caribou (selcweyecen). Splatsin community members, including elders and leadership representatives attended to discuss the status of selcweyecen in Secwepemcúlecw and to consider next steps in assisting selcweyecen recovery. During the events, some great collaborative discussions were had about selcweyecen. Background on their historic as well as their current population range and status was presented and seasonal habitat use and ecology, issues surrounding land-use, habitat loss/alteration, and the resulting changes to the predator-prey system that have led to caribou decline were all discussed.

As a provincially red-listed and federally threatened species selcweyecen in Secwepemcúlecw are facing a myriad of threats. Selcweyecen now exist in a fraction of the historic range. While complex, the decline of caribou has largely been attributed to an imbalance in the predator-prey system whereby large-scale alterations of habitat have led to an increase in other ungulates such as moose and deer. In essence, removal and conversion of old or mature forest into young forests results in more available browse and forage leading to an increase in the abundance and distribution of moose and deer. These ungulates are now considered the most abundant 'primary prey' species within expansive landscapes that historically supported selcweyecen. Predator populations have responded to this increase in prey abundance with negative consequences for selcweyecen which are now facing unsustainable rates of predation in the face of these large-scale changes.

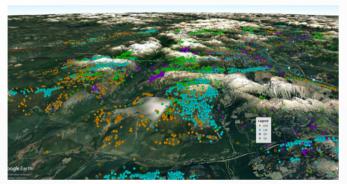


Figure 1: Google Earth image with a northward view of areas of the Columbia North population displaying selcweyecen locations coloured by season (early winter, late-winter, spring, and summer) and displaying the extent of selcweyecen habitat use. This image shows the Upper Seymour River valley (foreground left) and Myoff Creek (foreground right). The Revelstoke Reservoir (aka the Columbia River is shown on the right).



Figure 2: Google Earth image (with a northward view) displaying the existing habitat protections (orange polygons) for selcweyecen. Within range of the Columbia North population, approxiately 35 percent is protected for caribou.



Figure 3: Image of a valley in the range of the Columbia North population displaying forestry impacts stretching from valley bottom to high-elevation. The alteration of mature forests to young forest ecosystems create habitat conditions suitable for primary prey ungulates such as moose and deer creating an overlap between these ungulates and caribou thus increasing predation risk to caribou.



Figure 4: Image of the upper Argonaut Creek watershed near Mica BC. This and other critical selcweyecen habitats are currently unprotected.

Splatsin and Yucwmenlúcwu have been deeply involved in selcweyecen recovery efforts over the past decade. Initiatives like the Revelstoke Rearing in the Wild maternity pen, assisting with research and monitoring of caribou and primary prey, and the restoration of critical habitat have all demonstrated Splatsin's caretaker responsibilities. During this time, the North Columbia population has increased by nearly 60%. However, much of these gains have been made through invasive management actions such as predator management while impacts to critical habitat persist. Thus, decisions on the management and protection of habitat are still needed to fully support the long-term recovery of selcweyecen populations. Additional engagement events are anticipated for Splatsin community members to assist and inform decisions and the next steps in selcweyecen recovery.

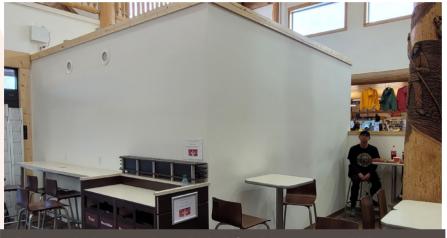
For more information, or to get more involved, please reach out to Corey Bird by e-mailing corey.bird@splatsindc.com.

## Quilakwa Investments

### **Indigenous Art Opportunity**

Quilakwa Investments is looking to promote Indigenous artists along the two walls shown in the photo below.

- Must be a painting, drawing, or etching framed at between 12" x 12" and 24" x 36"
- · Looking to feature up to 6 local/regional artists
- We will create a small plaque below each piece of art with the artist's name, background, and title of the piece.



Please submit proposals to nik.visch@quilakwa.ca or call Nik at (250) 838-0775, ext. 131 to discuss further if you have questions.



#### Q's Vapor Vault

Coming Soon to the Quilakwa Centre: Q's Vapor Vault! Get ready to discover a diverse array of e-cigarette products and accessories, curated to elevate your vaping experience. Additionally, indulge in a premium selection of Cuban cigars, handpicked to satisfy aficionados and newcomers alike. Stay tuned for the grand opening of Q's Vapor Vault, where quality meets convenience for all your vaping and tobacco needs.



#### **New Chester's Chicken Location**

We are just about ready to transition Chester's Chicken to its new location, right beside Tim Hortons. We are excited to increase efficiency and product offerings with this new set-up. Work has been completed by one our valuable partners, Dynasty West Contracting.



## **Community Expo**

SDC hosted a booth at the Greater Vernon Community Expo on April 20. Pictured L to R are Aaron Deans, Christine Duggan, and Nik Vischschraper.