Leadership Onboarding Package

TABLE OF CONTENTS

S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW TE ÍKW'ELÒ. XYÓLHMET TE MEKW' STÁM ÍT KWELÁT.

This is our land. We have to take care of everything that belongs to us.

STÓ:LŌ DECLARATION
Est. 1975

We, the people of the Stó:lō Tribes, know the Creator put us here.

The Creator gave us laws that govern all our relationships to live in harmony with nature and mankind.

The laws of the Creator defined our rights and responsibilities.

The Creator gave us our spiritual beliefs, our languages, our culture, and a place on Mother Earth which provided us with all our needs.

We have maintained our freedom, our languages, and our traditions from time immemorial.

We continue to exercise the rights and fulfil the responsibilities and obligations given to us by the Creator for the land upon which we were placed.

The Creator has given us the right to govern ourselves and the right to self-determination.

The rights and responsibilities given to us by the Creator cannot be altered or taken away by any other nations.

We, the people of the Stó:lō Tribes, openly and publicly declare and affirm to the people and governments of Canada and British Columbia:

That the people of the Stó:lō Tribes have held and still hold aboriginal title, and aboriginal rights to all land and resources within our Tribal territory.

That the people of the Stó:lō Tribes have never reached any agreement or treaty with the governments of Canada and British Columbia concerning the occupation, settlement, sovereignty or jurisdiction over our land.

We, the people of the Stó:lō Tribes, declare and affirm our inalienable right of aboriginal title and aboriginal rights to the land, the mountains, the minerals, the trees, the lakes, the rivers, the streams, the sea, the air, and the other resources of our land. We declare that our aboriginal title and aboriginal rights have existed from time immemorial, exist at the present time and shall exist for all future time.

We, the people of the Stó:lō Tribes, declare that we shall do all in our power to see that the governments of Canada and British Columbia recognize in law, and in practice, our aboriginal title and aboriginal rights.

What is the S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA)?

S'ólh Téméxw is the halq'eméylem name for the shared traditional lands of the Stó:lō. In English, it can be translated as 'our world' or 'our land'. S'ólh Téméxw contains the highest concentration of shared, overlapping Indigenous interests in Canada. Additionally, it also holds Canada's third-largest city and largest port. These factors make it a particularly complex landscape with many stewardship needs.

The S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA) has 17 Stó:lō First Nation members and is a self-defined organization based on common interests and taking care of the land. The STSA acts as a collective on behalf of Stó:lō title and rights holders and is overseen by a board of appointed political representatives and a 3-person elected exective.

The STSA communities are signatories to several engagement agreements, and provide direction over operations, including the People of the River Referrals Office (PRRO), the Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF), and the S'ólh Téméxw Guardians (STG).

S'ólh Téméxw: 'Our World, Our Land'

Map Date: 12/2/2014

History of the S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance

Signing ceremony in 2018 with STSA SEA Co-Chairs Scott Fraser (BC Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation) and Chief Angie Bailey

The STSA itself is not a rights-holding entity and was initially founded on a collective of signatories to the STSA-BC Strategic Engagement Agreement (STSA-BC SEA) - a form of government-to-government relationship. Since then, it has expanded to include a Protocol Agreement with the government of Canada and related federal agencies.

The initial negotiations for the STSA-BC SEA began in 2010 and the Stó:lō SEA (SSEA) Pilot Project was launched in 2012. This led to the creation of the People of the River Referrals Office (PRRO) to assist with implementing the SSEA. Once the Pilot Project was proven to be an effective program, a fully implemented SSEA was established in 2014 and in 2016 the initial 3-year term of 2014-17 SSEA was extended to a 5-year term (2014-19).

The Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF) was then launched in 2018 and in 2019 the SSEA was renamed to the STSA Strategic Engagement Agreement (STSA SEA). That same year, the second 5-year term of the STSA SEA was launched (2019-24) and in 2024 the STSA-BC SEA was renewed for its third 5-year term (2024-2029).

The latest unit of the STSA, S'ólh Téméxw Guardians Program (STG), was launched in 2020 and expanded in 2024.

STSA-BC SEA Government-to-Government (G2G) executive meeting in 2019

STSA Operations
Three Interconnected Arenas

Makes the referral process more proactive

Creates a data collection feedback loop

Collaborative Stewardship

Engagement or Consultation

S'ólh Téméxw Guardians

Informs and monitors referral outcomes
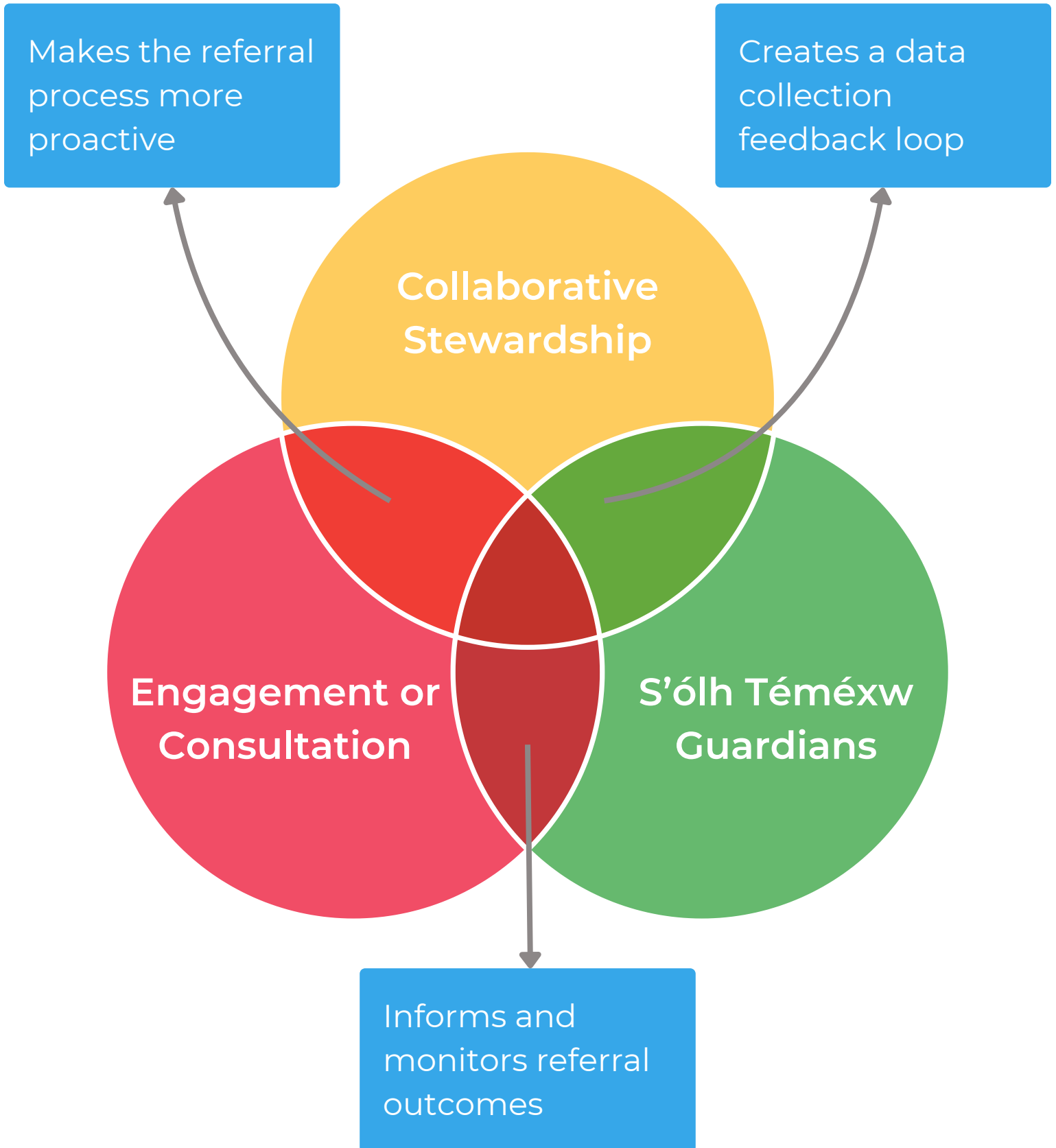
STSA Strategic Framework

VISION

Supporting Stó:lō Peoples (the Aboriginal title holders) in making strong stewardship decisions that honour and maintain the integrity of our relationship with S'ólh Téméxw.

VALUES

S'ólh Téméxw te íkw'elò. Xyólhmet te mekw'stám ít kwelát.
This is our land. We have to look after everything that belongs to us.

Xaxastexw te mekw' stam.
Respect all things.

Xólhmet te mekx' stam s'i:wes te selsila:lh chet
Take care of everything our great grandparents taught [showed] us
Haqles chexw xwelmi:ay staxwelh
Remember the future generations.

Ewe chexw qelqelit te mekw' stam loy qw' esli hokwex yexw lamexw ku:t
Don't ruin, waste, destroy everything; just take what you need.

Lets'emó:t
One heart, one mind.

Yoyes sq'otel lhe'a te s'eyes
Working together in a good way.

MISSION

STSA uses principles of Stó:lō worldview to inform stewardship practices and partnerships that advance Stó:lō rights and interests throughout S'ólh Téméxw.

CORE OPERATIONS

STSA Stewardship and Collaborative Stewardship

S'ólh Téméxw Guardians

Engagement, Consultation, and Regulatory Processes

Advocacy & Lobbying

Governance and Decision-Making

PRIORITY AREAS

Confirm and Increase Stó:lō Title and Rights Holders at the STSA Table

Advocate for Government-to-Government Relationships and Agreements

Establish and Support First Nations Relations & Strategic Alliances

Protect, Promote, and Advance Stó:lō Rights and Title for Stó:lō Peoples and S'ólh Téméxw

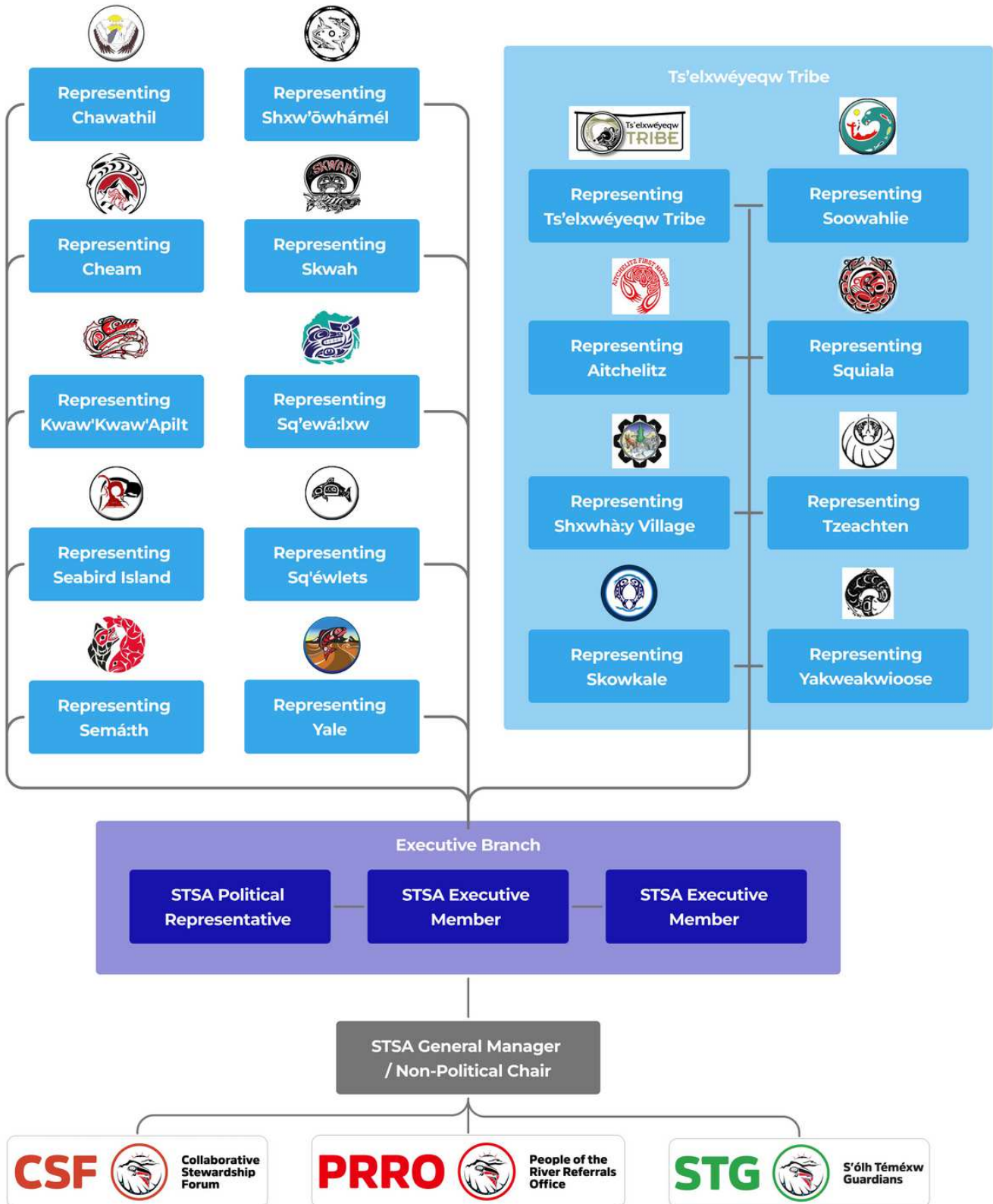Develop & Strengthen Stewardship Policy, Consultation, Regulation, & Decision-Making Tools

Build and Maintain Internal Systems for Funding, Capacity, and Governance

Holistic Stewardship of Lands, Waters, and Sxexómes (Resources)

Enhance Community Engagement Through Land-Based Education & Promotion of Stó:lō Culture

S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA)

2025 Organizational Chart

STSA — S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance

Representing Chawathil

Representing Shxw'ōwhámél

Representing Cheam

Representing Skwah

Representing Kwaw'Kwaw'Apilt

Representing Sq'ewá:lxw

Representing Seabird Island

Representing Sq'éwlets

Representing Semá:th

Representing Yale

Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe

Representing Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe

Representing Soowahlie

Representing Aitchelitz

Representing Squiala

Representing Shxwhà:y Village

Representing Tzeachten

Representing Skowkale

Representing Yakweakwioose

Executive Branch

STSA Political Representative

STSA Executive Member

STSA Executive Member

STSA General Manager / Non-Political Chair

CSF — Collaborative Stewardship Forum

PRRO — People of the River Referrals Office

STG — S'ólh Téméxw Guardians

What We Do & Don't Do

YES

✓ Assess and address potential impacts of proposed projects on Stó:lō title, rights, and interests (environment; heritage focused) within S'ólh Téméxw

✓ Engage with the Proponent and the Crown on behalf of the STSA

✓ Respect on-reserve and tribal jurisdictions

✓ Aim to provide the best available information collectively available to STSA Leadership / Decision-makers to inform their decisions

✓ Support a parallel pathway of decision-making (STSA- based and federal/provincial-based), establishing a regulatory framework in place of 'consultation'

✓ Acting on behalf Indigenous title and rights holders

NO

✗ Address on-reserve issues – unless requested/approved by the respective First Nation

✗ Assist with Procurement

✗ Administer First Nation Benefit Agreements

✗ Initiate Asset Acquisition

✗ Mediate Equity Issues

TERMS OF REFERENCE FRAMEWORK

Ratified June 2019

STSA TERMS OF REFERENCE FRAMEWORK

1.0   BACKGROUND

1.1   Stó:lō rights, title and interests exist throughout S'ólh Téméxw.

1.2   As a result, Canada and the province of British Columbia are required to consult Stó:lō Peoples on any proposed developments throughout S'ólh Téméxw.

1.3   *S'ólh Téméxw te íkw'elò. Xyólhmet te mekw'stám ít kwelát*
      (This is our land. We have to look after everything that belongs to us.)

1.4   Stó:lō relate to the lands and resources in terms of collective responsibility and a form of title relationship strongly connected by stewardship. The right to care for the lands and resources of S'ólh Téméxw is therefore both a privilege and an obligation.

2.0   WHO IS STSA?

2.1   The S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance ("**STSA**") is an alliance of Stó:lō First Nations who believe that Stó:lō best care for the land and resources by working together.

3.0   WHAT IS STSA'S PURPOSE?

3.1   STSA supports Stó:lō Peoples (who are the Aboriginal title holders) in making strong collective stewardship decisions that honour and maintain the integrity of Stó:lō Peoples' relationship with S'ólh Téméxw.

3.2   Through this work, STSA plays a role in ensuring the recognition, protection and promotion of our member First Nations' Stó:lō rights and interests throughout S'ólh Téméxw.

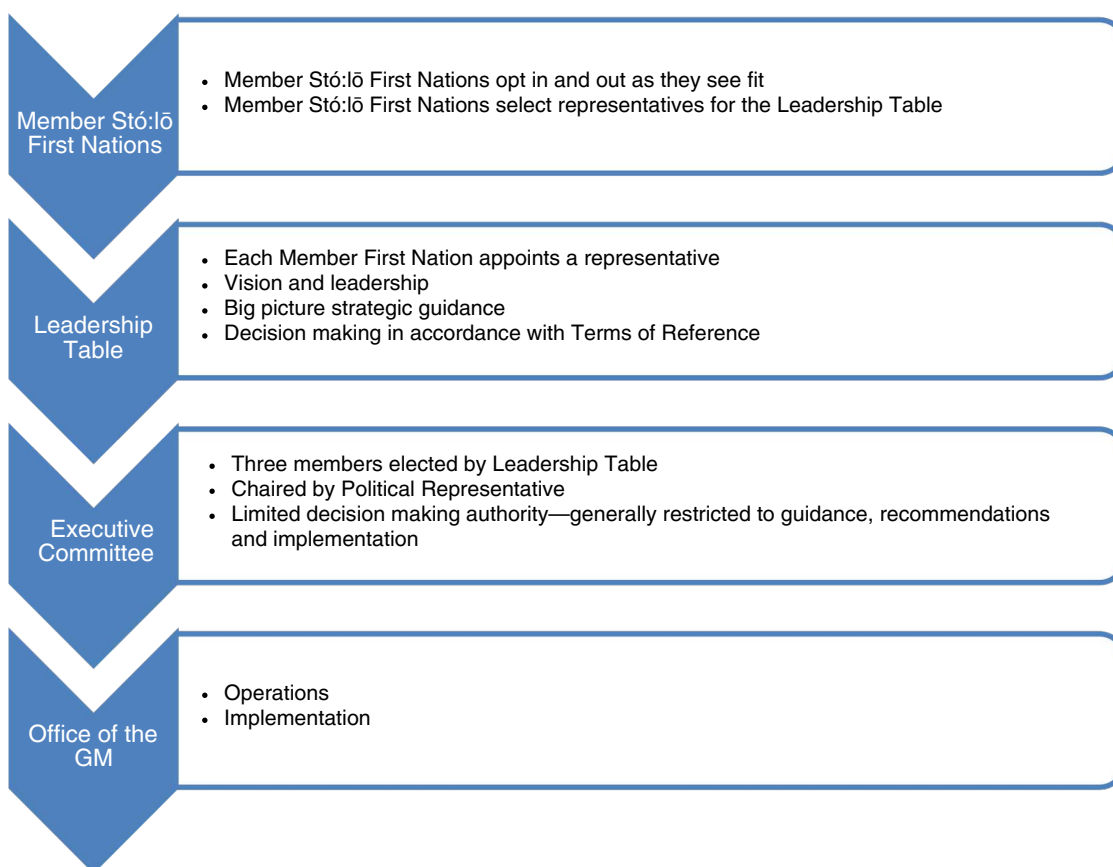3.3   STSA helps Stó:lō First Nations implement various stewardship, engagement and decision-making agreements.

4.0   WHY IS STSA IMPORTANT?

4.1   STSA is a Stó:lō collective that works cooperatively to secure strength in numbers. Together, this collective has a greater ability to pool resources and leverage a unified Stó:lō voice resulting in:

   (a)   more positive engagement opportunities with other governments;

   (b)   a more compelling case for funding;

   (c)   a more compelling case for capacity and process support; and

   (d)   a greater ability to respond to referrals and more powerful referral responses through a recognized collective voice.

4.2 Working together, we are able to form better Nation-to-Nation and government-to-government relationships that enable:

(a) better protection of cultural sites;

(b) better protection of the environmental integrity and sustainability of the land and resources;

(c) enhanced education and engagement, both externally and internally;

(d) more powerful exercising of Stó:lō rights;

(e) better development of co-management objectives; and

(f) better employment and economic opportunities.

5. DECISION MAKERS

5.1 The primary decision makers within STSA are:

Member Stó:lō First Nations
- Member Stó:lō First Nations opt in and out as they see fit
- Member Stó:lō First Nations select representatives for the Leadership Table

Leadership Table
- Each Member First Nation appoints a representative
- Vision and leadership
- Big picture strategic guidance
- Decision making in accordance with Terms of Reference

Executive Committee
- Three members elected by Leadership Table
- Chaired by Political Representative
- Limited decision making authority—generally restricted to guidance, recommendations and implementation

Office of the GM
- Operations
- Implementation

6. MEMBERS – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Any Stó:lō First Nation may apply for membership to the Leadership Table by submitting a Band Council Resolution ("**BCR**") requesting membership. An application is approved

and the Stó:lō First Nation admitted as a Member First Nation if approved by a Special Majority Resolution.

6.2 Any Member First Nation may terminate their membership in STSA by submitting a BCR to the Leadership Table at least 45 days prior to the effective date of the termination.

6.3 Being a party to any particular Nation-to-Nation or government-to-government agreement is not a prerequisite for membership in STSA and a Stó:lō First Nation may be a member without being a party to any such agreement. However, if:

(a) a matter for decision by STSA requires a decision at any level that relates to a particular agreement, only the Member First Nations or their representatives (as the case may be) who are parties to the particular agreement will be eligible to vote or make those decisions and non-signatory representatives may be asked by the signatory Member First Nations to recuse themselves; and

(b) if a Member First Nation is not a party to a particular agreement, they have no entitlement to any of the benefits provided for in that agreement although nothing in these Terms of Reference prevents signatory Member First Nations to a particular agreement from electing to share the benefits of such agreement with non-signatory Member First Nations.

6.4 Currently, the Member First Nations are:

Aitchelitz	Skowkale	Shxwhà:y Village	Seabird Island
Squiala	Tzeachten	Yakweakwioose	Soowahlie
Kwaw-kwaw-Apilt	Cheam	Sumas	Skwah
Chawathil	Yale	Skawahlook	Scowlitz
			Shxw'ōwhámél

7. LEADERSHIP TABLE – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 Each Member First Nation appoints a voting representative and an alternate to the Leadership Table by a letter signed by a majority of that First Nation's Council (each, a "**Representative**"). The term lasts until a letter signed by the majority of Council removes them, they resign, or they cease to be a member of Chief or Council for the appointing First Nation. All Representatives have a positive obligation to report regularly to their Council.

7.2 Voting representatives and alternates must be a members of Chief or Council for the community and cease to be a Representative if they lose office. Other delegates can be sent to meetings but have no vote.

7.3 Representatives cannot be removed by the Leadership Table. If there are serious concerns, the Leadership Table can write letter to community asking for reappointment.

7.4 A Member First Nation may, by letter signed by a majority of that First Nation's Council, appoint another Member First Nation's Representative as their proxy. This is intended to allow a broader group like a tribe to participate collectively without diluting their voice.

7.5 Quorum for all Leadership Table meetings is Representatives from the greater of: (i) a simple majority of Member First Nations; or (ii) 9 Member First Nations; provided

however that one Representative holding multiple proxies can never constitute quorum themselves.

7.6 Notwithstanding section 7.5, quorum for any decisions relating to a specific agreement is a simple majority of Member First Nations who are parties to that agreement.

7.7 Representatives may participate in Leadership Table meetings via telephone or other electronic means and will be counted for quorum and able to vote on all matters properly before the meeting.

7.8 With respect to Leadership Table decisions,

(a) an "**Ordinary Resolution**" requires a simple majority;

(b) a "**Special Majority Resolution**" requires a positive vote of two-thirds or more; and

(c) a "**Unanimous Resolution**" requires unanimous positive votes;

of votes at a quorate Leadership Table meeting.

7.9 The Leadership Table appoints a chair by Ordinary Resolution (currently the meeting chair is the General Manager).

7.10 The meeting chair prepares agendas to be approved by the Executive Committee.

7.11 The Leadership Table strives to make consensus-based decisions:

(a) "**consensus**" means no explicit dissent but can have abstentions (unanimous approval after abstentions)

(b) if there is no consensus despite striving to reach consensus, the Political Representative can call a vote which will be decided in accordance with these Terms of Reference.

8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

8.1 The Executive Committee will consist of one Representative elected by the Leadership Table to be the "**Political Representative**" and two additional Representatives elected by the Leadership Table to be "**Members-at-Large**". Elections for these positions will be carried out as follows:

(a) any Representative can nominate themselves or another Representative for either the Political Representative or a Member-at-Large position;

(b) voting will be by secret ballot;

(c) the last place candidate will be eliminated from the ballot after each round (i.e. run-off voting system);

(d) the first nominee to get over 50% of the vote will be elected for the position;

(e)   in the case of the Member-at-Large positions, once the first Member-at-Large is elected another vote will be held for the second position using the remaining nominees.

8.2   All members of the Executive Committee will remain in such role until:

(a)   the term of office expires;

(b)   the individual is removed by a Special Majority Resolution of the Leadership Table;

(c)   the individual ceases to be a Representative; or

(d)   the individual resigns in writing to the Leadership Table.

8.3   The term of office for the Political Representative will expire on the first STSA meeting in each odd-numbered year. The term of office for the Members-at-Large will expire on of the first STSA meeting in each even-numbered year. If a member of the Executive Committee ceases to hold office prior to the end of their term, a by-election will be held in accordance with section 8.1.

8.4   The Political Representative will be responsible for:

(a)   co-chairing the Nation-to-Nation and government-to-government tables with federal and provincial representatives;

(b)   speaking on behalf of STSA; and

(c)   chairing meetings of the Executive Committee.

8.5   The Executive Committee will not have approval authority but will be responsible for:

(a)   reviewing, commenting on, and providing recommendations in relation to the work for the STSA;

(b)   attending events on behalf of STSA as required or requested by the Leadership Table from time to time; and

(c)   assisting and directing the Office of the General Manager in between STSA meetings.

8.6   All Executive Committee members, while acting in their role as such, are expected to act in the collective interests of the STSA and not their individual Member First Nation.

9. **DECISION MAKING MATRIX**

9.1 The following matrix further outlines the roles and responsibilities of the four decision makers with respect to common STSA decisions:

Decision Type	Member First Nation Approval[1]	STSA Leadership Table[2]	Political Spokesperson / Executive	Office of the General Manager
Addition of new Member First Nation		Special Majority Resolution to add.		
Minor amendments to major agreements[3]	BCRs if a Member First Nation is disproportionately affected or rights are being taken away.	Ordinary Resolution if Member First Nation approval not required.		
New/non-minor amendment to major agreements	BCRs to approve.			
Memoranda of understanding and other agreements that are not "major agreements"		Ordinary Resolution to approve.		
New/amendment to Stó:lō policy/law (heritage, consultation etc.)	BCRs to approve.			
STSA policy that applies to process/ implementation of SEA (eg policy directing PRRO)		Ordinary Resolution to approve.		

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[1] i.e. BCR from each member community. STSA cannot "drag" a community along, but a subset of members could sign an agreement independently of others.

[2] Representatives of each Member First Nation.

[3] "**Major Agreement**" includes: (i) any government-to-government agreement with the Provincial Government; (ii) any Nation-to-Nation agreement with the federal government; (iii) any other agreement that might reasonably be expected to impact any Member First Nations' right or title; or (iv) any agreement designated as a Major Agreement by the Leadership Table; BUT does not include any agreement that is First Nation or Tribe specific that is related to or an outcome of a Major Agreement. "**Minor amendments**" are any amendments that do not substantively affect the rights of the signatories thereunder.

Decision Type	Member First Nation Approval[1]	STSA Leadership Table[2]	Political Spokesperson / Executive	Office of the General Manager
STSA policy with scope beyond process/implementation of SEA (eg actual land use, project dev; AR/AT)	BCRs to approve.			
S'ólh Téméxw Use Plan	Each band adopts (or not) by BCR.	Ordinary Resolution to approve in principle.		
Approval of TOR and amendments thereto		Ordinary Resolution to approve.		
Annual budget/work plan/amendment		Ordinary Resolution to approve.		
STSA response to level 1 and 2 referrals	Each Member First Nation delegates as it sees fit to the Office of the General Manager.			Generally, GM approves, or implements policy for his reports to approve.
STSA response to level 3 and 4 referrals	Each Member First Nation delegates as it sees fit to the Office of the General Manager. Generally, each FN/signatory responds in its territory unless a decision is made to act as a collective.			
Create agendas for executive meetings with province (G2G)			Executive approves but circulates to Leadership Table for comment before finalizing.	GM provides support and input to Executive.

Decision Type	Member First Nation Approval[1]	STSA Leadership Table[2]	Political Spokesperson / Executive	Office of the General Manager
Acting as a collective outside of existing agreements (for example, the Sto:lo Collective in the NEB process; sending letters of support; seeking intervenor status)	BCR to approve.			
All non-GM human resources matters (supervision and discipline of staff, etc)				GM has ultimate responsibility for oversight of managers; managers and staff hold responsibilities per policy and job descriptions.
Supervision and discipline of GM		HR decisions with respect to GM require Ordinary Resolution.	Point of connection between Leadership Table and GM.	
Supervision of Political Spokesperson / Executive		HR decisions with respect to Political Spokesperson / Executive require Ordinary Resolution.		
Funding applications	Only if required by funding terms.	Ordinary Resolution to approve (unless funding terms require BCRs).		Provide advance notice to all stakeholders.

10. GENERAL

10.1   A "**Related Party**" means any person or entity with which a Representative has a personal, family or business relationship and for which a Representative is, may be, or may be considered to be, motivated to provide a benefit of any kind.

11. REPRESENTATIVE REIMBURSEMENT AND/OR COMPENSATION

11.1 A Representative must not exercise his or her discretion as a Representative in order to directly or indirectly receive a personal benefit, either for the Representative or for a Related Party. In general, Representatives act without remuneration (though the Leadership Table may develop policy for the remuneration of the Executive Committee).

12. RULES REGARDING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

12.1 If an individual consents to be and performs the functions of a Representative, including an alternate Representative, he or she will be bound by these rules.

12.2 A Representative must not:

(a) exercise his or her discretion as a Representative in order to directly or indirectly receive or deny a benefit, either for the Representative or for a Related Party;

(b) take part in the discussion of, or vote on, decisions that would directly benefit the Representative or a Related Party;

(c) accept gifts, hospitality, or entertainment other than those having nominal or insignificant value or related to cultural protocol;

(d) be a member of a hiring or selection committee where an immediate family member has applied for the position; or

(e) directly or indirectly use or allow the use of STSA equipment, vehicles, keys or property for any purpose other than official STSA business or as authorized by STSA policy.

12.3 A Representative must not be part of a discussion or participate on a committee where decisions on the allocation of STSA resources may benefit the Representative or a Related Party without first declaring the conflict of interest.

12.4 It is each Representative's responsibility to inform the other Representatives of any potential or existing conflicts of interest with regard to the Representative or a Related Party.

12.5 A Representative will not use information obtained as a result of his or her position for the benefit of himself or herself or any Related Party.

12.6 Upon becoming aware of a potential or existing conflict of interest, a Representative must immediately declare the conflict and must remove himself or herself from decision making, or if it is agreed upon by the Leadership Table that the conflicted person's participation is necessary, have the conflict noted in minutes of the meeting.

13. APPROVAL

13.1 These Terms of Reference were approved by Ordinary Resolution of the Leadership Table on June 24, 2019.

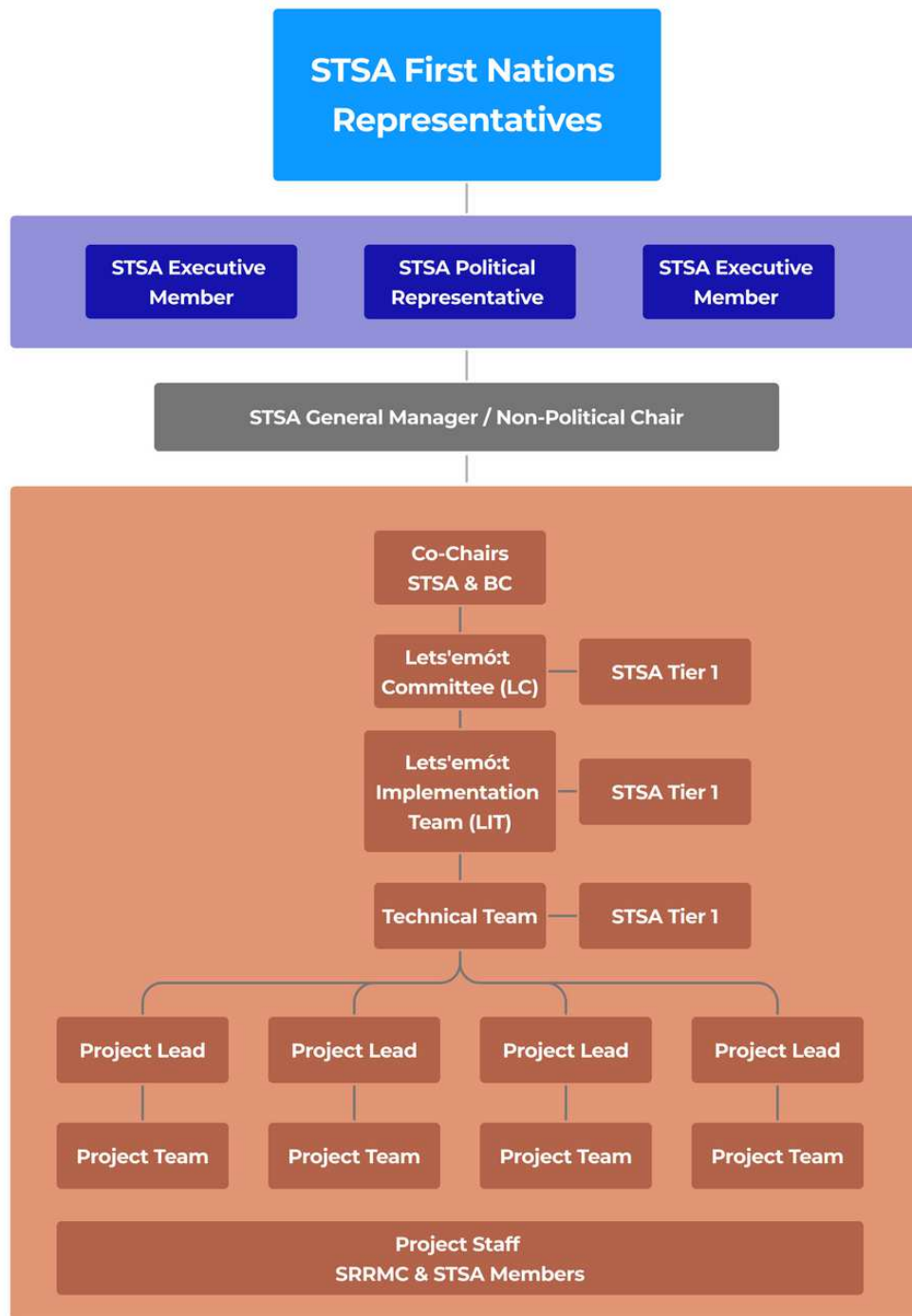# Sharing Responsibility for Environmental Stewardship

This Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF) is one of the groups formed out of the Collaborative Stewardship Framework between the S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA) and the Province of British Columbia.

Together, the Province and the STSA are exploring the development and implementation of joint stewardship activities to mitigate impacts to values of importance for environmental sustainability. An overarching purpose of the forum is to co-develop joint recommendations for the possible application, amendment or creation of provincial legislation and regulation, policies, management approaches, and information and monitoring programs relating to environmental stewardship and shared decision-making processes.

The Province and the STSA are approaching these projects with the shared vision of collaboration using the term Lets'emó:t (meaning "one mind" in Halq'emeylem) to guide their actions. The goal is for the forum to continue to build the foundation for a positive Government-to-Government relationship between the parties and to advance reconciliation based on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the work that evolves from engagement on the Draft Principles that guide the Province of British Columbia's relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF) - Organizational Chart

2025

CSF — Collaborative Stewardship Forum

STSA First Nations Representatives

- STSA Executive Member
- STSA Political Representative
- STSA Executive Member

STSA General Manager / Non-Political Chair

Co-Chairs
STSA & BC

Lets'emó:t Committee (LC) — STSA Tier 1

Lets'emó:t Implementation Team (LIT) — STSA Tier 1

Technical Team — STSA Tier 1

- Project Lead — Project Team
- Project Lead — Project Team
- Project Lead — Project Team
- Project Lead — Project Team

Project Staff
SRRMC & STSA Members

CSF
Collaborative Stewardship Forum

Current Projects & Priorities

SELECTION OF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS:

G2G Organizational Structure & Relations Theme
- CSF founded in 2018
- Received $1.5 Million in funding in 2024
- Helped negotiate a deal with the Province for long-term program funding (5-year terms)

Land Use Planning Theme
- Completed draft of Sxótsaqel/Chilliwack Lake Park Plan
- Forestry Operational Guidelines

Cultural Site Protection Theme
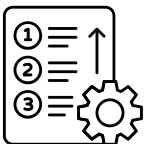- Established Section 4 of the Heritage Conservation Act

Monitoring & Enforcement Theme
- Supported the establishment of S'ólh Téméxw Guardians Program

Stó:lō Youth and Cultural Education Directive Theme
- Land and Governance Youth Summer Education Program

CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- Build-up forum capacity (including increase in staff)
- Expand current projects to include more areas of S'ólh Téméxw
- Continue relationship-building with partner organizations
- Advance shared decision-making

Implementing the STSA-BC Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA) & Federal Protocol Agreement
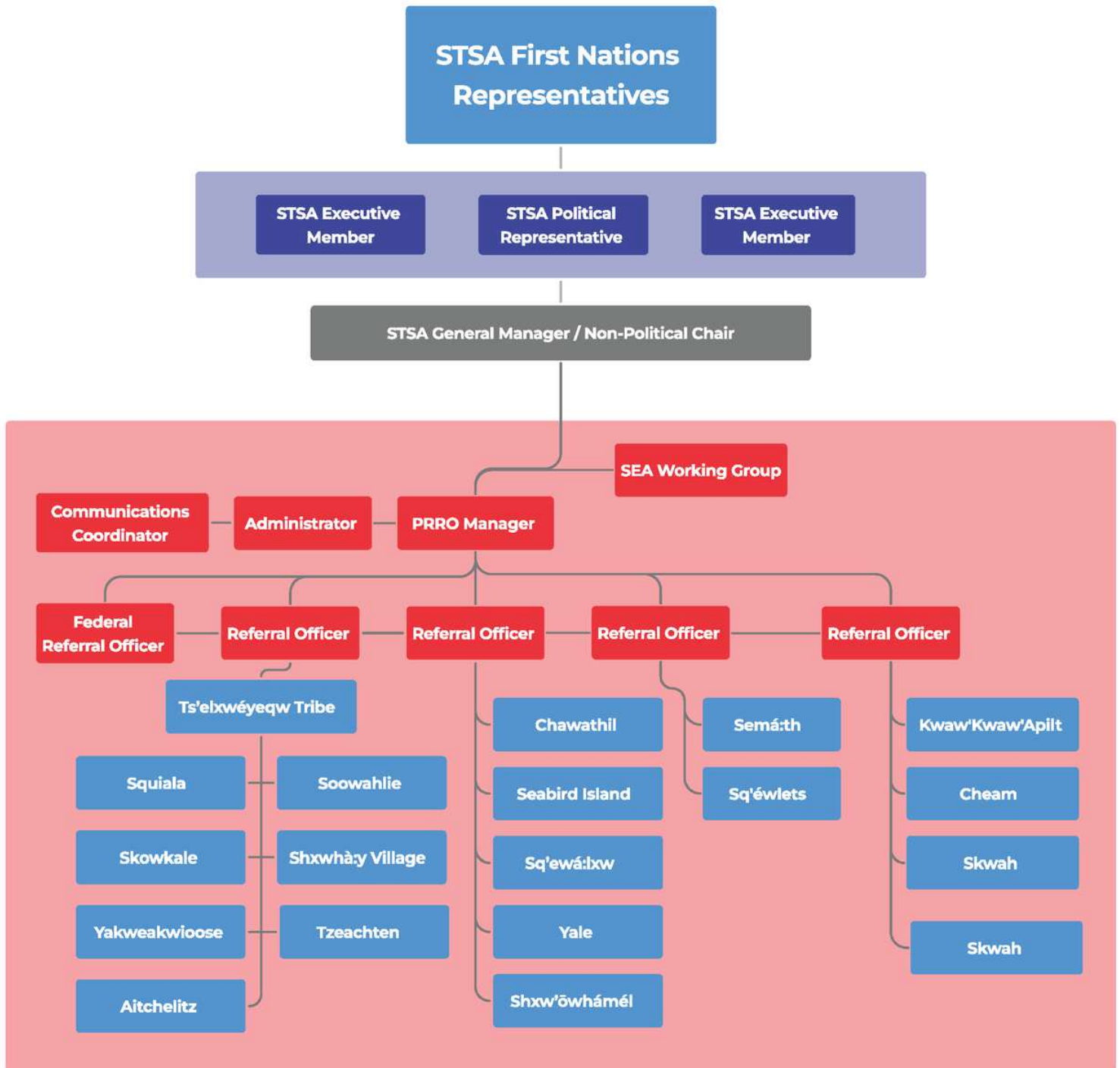
The PRRO was established as the single point of contact for the administration of Referrals and for formal communications between the Province, delegates, and signatory Stó:lō First Nations. Through the Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA), the PRRO is mandated by signatory Stó:lō First Nations to provide administrative support and technical review of referrals. The PRRO prepares the rapid appraisal & preliminary response and may prepare the final response for signatory Stó:lō First Nations.

The People of the River Referrals Office (PRRO) began operations in the spring of 2012. The PRRO facilitates meaningful engagement and on behalf of the S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA) communities using StoloConnect, a custom-designed referrals management and engagement facilitating web portal. The PRRO receives, analyzes, reports on, and tracks referral submissions from private industry, crown corporations, civic governments, regional districts, the Province of British Columbia, the Government of Canada, and any other parties interested in development within S'ólh Téméxw. The PRRO itself does not hold the Indigenous rights and title necessary to provide Indigenous consultation directly but rather acts as a facilitator for the STSA communities.

The PRRO maintains a dedicated, ambitious staff who strive daily to make the Indigenous engagement process in S'ólh Téméxw meaningful for Stó:lō communities. For more information on Stó:lō, STSA, and PRRO please refer to the "S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance Land and Resource Use Consultation and Decision-making Policy", approved by STSA Leadership January 2015.

The People of the River Referrals Office (PRRO) - Organizational Chart

2025

PRRO — People of the River Referrals Office

STSA First Nations Representatives

- STSA Executive Member
- STSA Political Representative
- STSA Executive Member

STSA General Manager / Non-Political Chair

SEA Working Group

- Communications Coordinator
- Administrator
- PRRO Manager

Federal Referral Officer

Referral Officer
- Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe
  - Squiala
  - Soowahlie
  - Skowkale
  - Shxwhà:y Village
  - Yakweakwioose
  - Tzeachten
  - Aitchelitz

Referral Officer
- Chawathil
- Seabird Island
- Sq'ewá:lxw
- Yale
- Shxw'ōwhámél

Referral Officer
- Semá:th
- Sq'éwlets

Referral Officer
- Kwaw'Kwaw'Apilt
- Cheam
- Skwah
- Skwah

Accomplishments & Current Priorities

SELECTION OF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Rejection of the Manning Park Giant Copper Mines Notice of Work in the Upper Skagit Headwaters
- 2024 STSA SEA Amendment (following major amendments in 2014, 2020);
  - Annual funding increase
  - Evergreen agreement
  - Added BC Environmental Assessment Office and BC Hydro (BC Hydro is the 1st crown corporation to sign onto the SEA)
- All targets met by PRRO in the 2023/2024 fiscal year
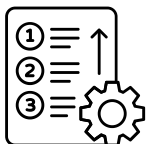
CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- Staff growth
- Expansion of STSA-Canada Consultation and Engagement Protocol (STSA CCEP)
- Continue to collaborate with the SRRMC's Research and Special Projects Unit on Major Projects
- Continue to meet STSA SEA targets
- Advancement of STSA member-based decisions and regulatory conditions

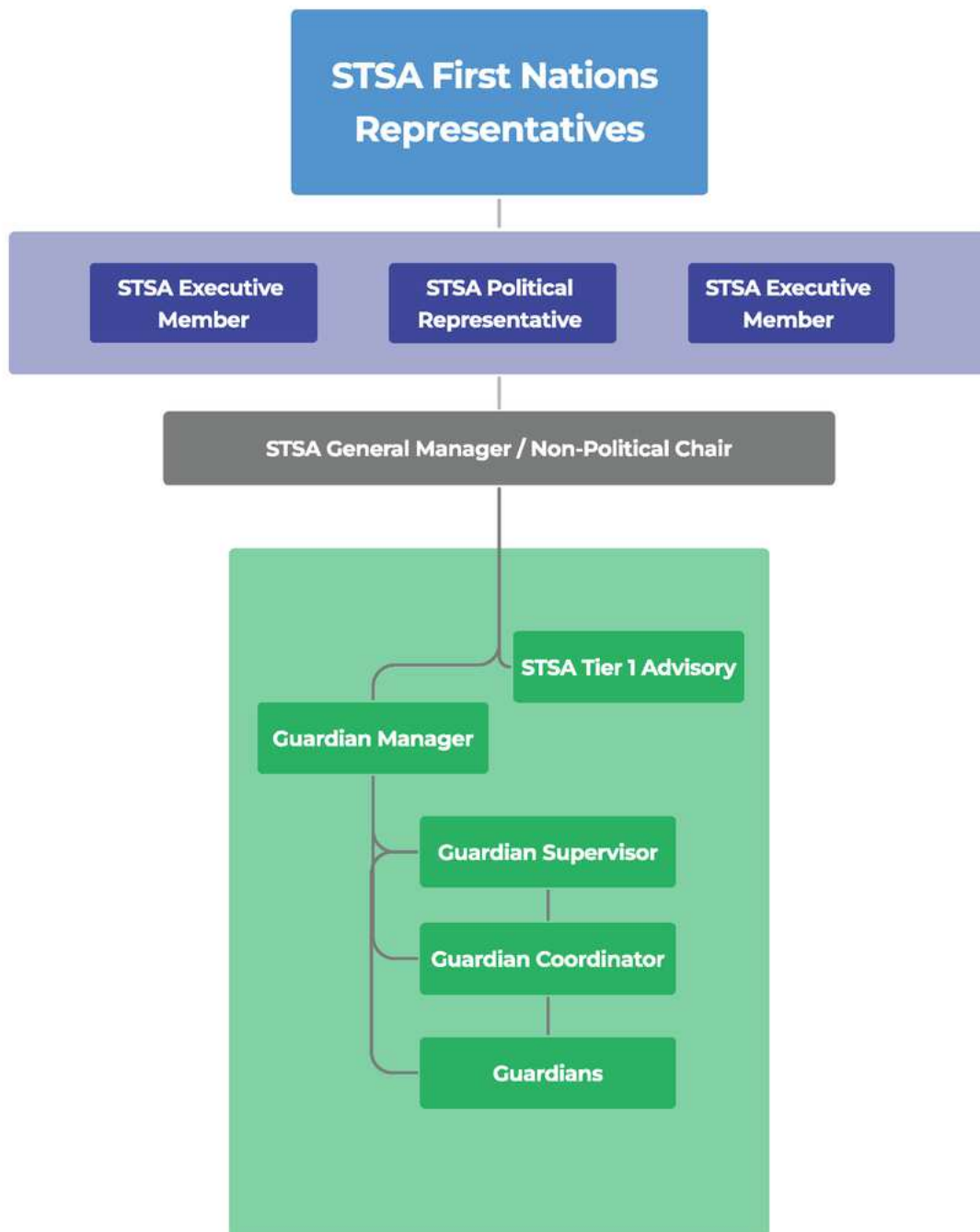# Monitoring, Enforcement, & Environmental Stewardship

The S'ólh Téméxw Guardians (STG) are a team of individuals who are motivated, collaborative, and dedicated to advancing Stó:lō-led Indigenous caretaking of the land, the water, and natural and cultural values in S'ólh Téméxw, focusing on the lower Fraser River region.

The Guardians act on behalf of the 17 Stó:lō First Nations of the S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance. Their work includes the monitoring of environmental and cultural sites linked to Stó:lō policies and regulatory processes, natural and cultural heritage stewardship, recreation management and relations, cross-cultural awareness, research support, and Indigenous Monitoring for development projects - including the Trans Mountain Expansion Project and the Enbridge Sunrise Expansion Project.

The STG also supports environmental resource needs and continues to develop the program to serve our communities better.

S'ólh Téméxw Guardians (STG) - Organizational Chart

2025

STG S'ólh Téméxw Guardians

STSA First Nations Representatives

STSA Executive Member

STSA Political Representative

STSA Executive Member

STSA General Manager / Non-Political Chair

STSA Tier 1 Advisory

Guardian Manager

Guardian Supervisor

**Guardian Coordinator**

Guardians

Current Projects & Priorities

SELECTION OF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Online curriculum developed
- Team expansion to include four Guardians
- Moved into dedicated office space on Coqualeetza grounds
- Completed BC Parks Boot Camp
- Successful participation and training for Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) & Enbridge Rupture Detection System (RTS)
- Working collaboratively with other SRRMC Units and STSA communities, as well as outside agencies and staff (e.g. BC Parks, Natural Resource Officers, and Conservation Officers)
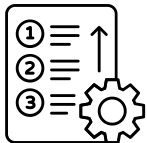
CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- Staff growth
- Expansion of Guardian work throughout the tribal areas of the STSA members
- Continue participation with the Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF) on stewardship projects
- Continue monitoring work on the TransMountain Pipeline project
- Continue monitoring work on the Enbridge-Sunrise Expansion project
- Review the online Guardian curriculum to allow for participants from outside organizations
- Launch the in-person Guardians training program that will be offered at Seabird College, in conjunction with Seabird Island
- Participate in the Guardian exchange program with the Champagne and Aishihik Nations of the Yukon (August & September of 2024)
- Participation in emergency response situations

ONBOARDING CHECKLIST

These are some suggestions on how you can start
to familiarize yourself with STSA operations.

☐ Read the Leadership Onboarding Package

☐ Go through relevant documents: (available upon request)

- Detailed STSA Organizational Chart
- SEA Agreement – Current
- Federal Protocol Agreement
- HCA S.4 Pilot Agreement
- Collaborative Stewardship Forum Brochure
- Enbridge Key Project Information
- STSA Glossary of Terms

☐ Send your working email address to Executive Administrative Assistant Tara Green

☐ Book a StoloConnect Introduction Course with PRRO Manager Matt McGinity

☐ Send your Nation or Tribe official logo to Communications Coordinator Dani Kent

☐ Put the next meeting date in your calendar

☐ Book a tour of Coqualeetza Site with SRRMC Administrative / Office Manager Tracey Joe

☐ Attend a CSF 101 Info Session

IMPORTANT LINKS

STSA Website
https://thestsa.ca/

Stó:lō Connect Knowledge Base
https://www.stoloconnect.com/referrals

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/U-2.2/

KEY CONTACTS

STSA Executives

Chief Angie Bailey

STSA Political Representative

Chief Darwin Douglas

STSA Executive Member

Councillor Loren Muth

STSA Executive Member

KEY CONTACTS
STSA Staff

Dave Schaepe
SRRMC Director/STSA GM and Chair

Tracey Joe
Manager SRRMC Operations

Tara Green
Executive Administrative Assistant

Dave Schaepe

Matt McGinity
PRRO Manager

Jamie Benton
*Environmental Stewardship &
Research Unit Manager*

Matt McGinity

Jamie Benton

Sandy McDonald
Referrals Administrator

Sheila Joe
S'ólh Téméxw Guardians Supervisor

Sandy McDonald

Sheila Joe

Raymond Kobes
*Collaborative Stewardship Forum
Program Coordinator*

Dani Kent
Communications Coordinator

Raymond Kobes

Dani Kent