



Stó:lō Women Learning, Leading & Growing Together

The Story of 2025/26

THÉLÁ:YLEXW AWTXW
FOUNDATION

Who We Are

Our vision is Stó:lō families thriving in healthy and united communities where Stó:lō womxn stand in their power as weavers that connect us together



Thélá:ylexw Awtxw Foundation, the House of Life Givers, is a Stó:lō womxn's non-profit dedicated to amplifying the voices and leadership of Stó:lō womxn. Guided by the Life Givers before us, we carry their work forward by gathering, sharing teachings, and taking our rightful place at the heart of our community and nation.

Our Mission

We are committed to rematriation in action where Stó:lō ways of being are entrenched in everyday living and no one is left behind.

Annual Report Contributors

Joanne Hugh, Program Manager
Janis Brooks, Leadership Pathway Lead
Lolly Andrews, Women Empowerment

Dr. Nancy Patricia Charlie, Sel yaal
Sharon Desnomie, Photographer
Leslie Bonshor, Auntie / Board

Message From the Aunties / Board



This past year has reminded us of something our Matriarchs have always known: women hold an important responsibility within our families and communities. We care for, connect, teach, organize, advocate and help hold our families together. We carry knowledge from those who came before us while thinking about the generations still to come.

That responsibility is at the heart of Thélá:ylexw Awtxw Foundation.

Our work has created a way for Stó:lō women to gather—to sit together, walk together, learn together, share stories, strengthen relationships and talk about what is happening in our families and communities. And most importantly, we listen.

Our members continue to tell us they want more connection, more opportunities to learn together, more cultural sharing, more wellness, and more ways for Stó:lō women to support and learn from one another. Those voices shape what we do.

They are why we continue our Matriarch Gatherings and Teas, Self Love Self Care Day, On the Land and hiking activities, podcast conversations and community gatherings. They are also why we are creating new opportunities in leadership, research, justice and advocacy.

Message From the Aunties / Board

We do not believe we have all the answers. We believe the answers emerge when we bring women together, listen carefully and make room for the knowledge, experiences and gifts that already exist within our people. “When Matriarchs shape the questions, different answers emerge.”

This year, we saw that principle come to life in new ways—from our first full-day Research Symposium to our new Stó:lō Women's Leadership Program, where 12 women are learning, sharing and growing together. We are also continuing to strengthen the Foundation itself so that our members have more ways to participate and stay connected. After several years of development, we are proud to launch our new membership portal at this year's Annual Gathering.

We often say, We are the system. For us, that means taking up our responsibility—to care for one another, strengthen our families, create opportunities for our women, share what we know, ask difficult questions and contribute to the overall wellness of our communities and Mother Earth.

This work belongs to all of us. We are grateful to the Matriarchs, Aunties, members, volunteers, partners and supporters who continue to gather with us, teach us, challenge us and help shape what comes next. We will continue to listen. We will continue to gather. And we will continue to learn and grow together.



Connection, Wellness & Belonging



Gathering is part of the
medicine.

Our members continue to tell us clearly: we need more opportunities to be together.

Not every gathering needs a formal purpose. Sometimes what women need most is a place to sit together, share food or tea, walk on the land, laugh, learn something new, tell stories and reconnect.



When Stó:lō women gather, relationships grow. Teachings are shared. Younger women spend time with Aunties and Matriarchs. Someone hears a story they needed to hear. Someone realizes they are not alone. And often, through simple conversation, we begin to understand more clearly what our women, families and communities need.

That is why connection continues to shape so much of what we offer.



We listen to our members, and we shape the work together. When women ask for more connection, we find ways to gather. When they ask to learn, we create opportunities to learn together. When they tell us they need wellness, culture, movement, conversation or simply a safe place to be among other women, we pay attention.

For us, gathering is not separate from wellness.

Matriarchs Gathering at Fraser River Lodge

Our Matriarchs Gathering is one of the places where we come back to what grounds this work. It is an opportunity to sit together, listen, remember, share teachings and talk about what our women and communities are experiencing.

There is no expectation that every gathering must produce an immediate answer or action plan. Sometimes the most important outcome is creating the space for Matriarchs to speak freely and for the rest of us to listen.

Their stories help us understand where we have come from. Their experiences help us see what has changed—and what has not. And their guidance continues to shape where Thélá:ylexw Awtxw goes next.



Matriarch Tea

Sometimes the most meaningful conversations happen around a kitchen table.

Our Matriarch Teas are intentionally simple. We gather over tea and food, sit together and allow conversation to unfold naturally. Several of the communities invited us in, and many gathered at the home of lead Matriarch, Nancy Patricia Charlie.

There is room for laughter, storytelling, teachings, concerns, ideas and whatever women arrive carrying that day. Many of the conversations centered on family trees and belonging; something Auntie Pat knows very well.

These gatherings remind us that connection does not always need to be programmed. When women have a comfortable place to be together, learning happens naturally. Relationships grow. And we hear more clearly what our members are asking for.

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There is always
room at our table.”



Honouring Auntie Pat

Our hands are raised to you,
Dr. Nancy Patricia Charlie (Auntie Pat)

This year brought a very special moment for our Foundation and for the many people whose lives have been touched by Nancy Patricia Charlie – Sel yaal, our Auntie Pat.

Following her nomination by Thélá:ylexw Awtxw Foundation, Auntie Pat was selected to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of the Fraser Valley—a beautiful recognition of a lifetime of leadership, service, teaching and care.

For decades, Auntie Pat has helped strengthen Stólō families and communities through cultural resurgence, family preservation, ceremony, community wellness and mentorship. She has stewarded the Charlie family longhouse for more than 30 years, contributed to culturally grounded approaches that keep children connected to family and community, and shared her knowledge generously with generations of women, leaders and young people.



But those of us who know Auntie Pat also know that her leadership has never been about titles or recognition. It is found in the way she welcomes people, tells the truth, shares a teaching, holds families together and reminds us of our responsibilities to one another. That is why watching her walk across the stage at Convocation was so meaningful.

The honour may have been presented to Auntie Pat, but the moment also celebrated the knowledge, strength and leadership of Stólō Matriarchs—and recognized that the teachings carried within our communities have shaped lives and created change for generations.

We are incredibly proud to walk beside you, learn from you and continue carrying this work forward.

3rd Annual Self-Love Self-Care Day

On February 28, 2026, 80 Stó:lō women gathered at Fraser River Lodge for our 3rd Annual Self Love Self Care Day. Each year, this gathering reminds us that the women who spend so much of their lives caring for families and communities also need opportunities to be cared for, to learn and to reconnect with themselves and one another.

A powerful keynote from Lolly Andrew and Joyce Leppington opened the day with an important message: healing does not need to come from only one place. We can draw upon the strength of our own cultural teachings while also using tools from mainstream wellness practices that help us heal and become stronger. Throughout the day, women moved through workshops focused on Food is Love, Heart-Centred Leadership, Yoga, a Wellness Tea Party and Wellness Walking.

The day was filled with learning, movement, conversation and connection. And, as always, we listened to what the women told us afterward. They asked for more hands-on activities such as weaving and beading. They suggested fewer workshops with more time to participate deeply. They asked for individual wellness opportunities such as massage and somatic practices.



3rd Annual Self-Love Self-Care Day

That feedback is already helping us think about next year. Another message came through loud and clear: women want to learn our Stó:lō Women's Song. So we expect more singing gatherings in the year ahead.

This is how our programming grows. We gather. We try something. We listen. And then we shape what comes next together. Our hands are raised to everyone who helped hold the day, including our workshop leaders, MC Carrielynn Victor, Events Coordinator and Floor Manager Randi Lee Charlie, and all of the women who came ready to participate, learn and care for themselves.

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When women tell us what they need, our responsibility is to listen.



On The Land & Hiking Together



The land gives us another way to gather.

Our hiking and On the Land activities bring Stó:lō women together in S'ólh Téméxw to walk, learn and experience the land in relationship with one another.

Along the way there are conversations about plants, medicines, places, histories and teachings. There is also laughter, encouragement and the simple experience of doing something together.

Women of different ages and abilities participate, creating opportunities for knowledge to move naturally between generations.

These outings continue because our members have told us they value them. They want opportunities to be active, to learn more about the land and to spend time with other Stó:lō women.

So we keep walking together.

Annual MMIW Walk



Every year, we walk to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and to stand with the families and communities who continue to carry loss. On May 4th this year we partnered with Wilma's Transition Society and walked along the Chilliwack Rotary Trail.

The walk is remembrance, but it is also connection, education and advocacy. Dr. Nancy Patricia Charlie, our Lead Matriarch was the highlight speaker of this event as we try to bring awareness, support and healing to the horrific legacy of domestic violence. Thela:ylexw Awtxw House of Life Givers is committed to finding pathways led by women for women with women on strategies and supports within community to find a positive path forward from these terrible cycles within families and communities. We each got to do a special prayer memorial with a single rose thinking of any woman in our lives who need support to make it through any type of violence. It was a beautiful and sombre moment. We shared a lunch at the Peach Rd. part of the trail and enjoyed the conversations and ideas that formulated for next year.

Walking together creates a visible reminder that the safety of Indigenous women and girls is a collective responsibility.

It also creates space for generations to learn together. Young people hear stories and begin to understand why this work matters. Families walk together. Partners stand beside us. Songs are shared. We remember those who are missing. We honour those whose lives were taken. And we continue to call for the changes necessary to keep our women and girls safe.

The work is not finished. Neither is our responsibility.

Taking Our Place: Leadership, Voice & Empowerment

Stó:lō women have always been leaders. Leadership happens in our families, around our tables, in our workplaces and communities, and in the many ways women care for, organize, teach, advocate and hold people together.

This year, we created a new space to explore what leadership looks like when we begin there. Our first Matriarchal Leadership Cohort brought together 12 Stó:lō women for a journey grounded in relationship, reflection and shared learning. The intention was never simply to teach women how to lead. It was to create space for women to recognize the strengths they already carry, learn from one another and explore what matriarchal leadership looks like in today's world.



Learning In Circle

The greatest outcome of this first cohort may be the relationships that formed around it: stronger connections, greater self-awareness, renewed confidence and a growing circle of women committed to leading with courage, compassion, accountability and care.



Throughout the year, the cohort gathered with Matriarchs, facilitators and guest speakers to explore leadership through many different lenses. The women talked about communication and conflict, storywork, nervous system regulation, embodied leadership, understanding their own leadership styles and the responsibilities they carry within their families, workplaces and communities.

But some of the most important learning did not come from a presentation. It came from the circle. It came through women telling the truth about what leadership asks of them, hearing another woman describe an experience they recognized, celebrating one another's successes and realizing they did not have to carry their responsibilities alone.

As the relationships grew, so did the learning. Women began recognizing that intuition, empathy, listening, relationship and care—the qualities that conventional leadership systems sometimes undervalue—are also powerful leadership strengths.

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**We don't have to lead
the same way to walk
the same path.**

From Learning to Something Bigger

Something else happened through the cohort.



As the women talked about their experiences, patterns began to emerge.

They raised questions that went beyond their own individual leadership journeys: What makes it possible—or impossible—for Indigenous women to participate in leadership development? Why do we measure Indigenous women's leadership by how many women have been invited into existing systems instead of asking whether those systems can hold the kind of leadership our women bring? How do we make sure the knowledge held by today's Matriarchs and Elders reaches the generations who will carry it next?

Those conversations became three position papers.

1. Participation Without Support

The first paper asks us to look at the hidden cost of participation.

Many Indigenous women lead in several places at once—in their employment, families, communities, cultural work and volunteer responsibilities. Attending leadership development can mean taking unpaid leave, arranging childcare, travelling at personal cost or stepping away from responsibilities that do not disappear simply because they are attending a program.

If we value Indigenous women's time, knowledge and leadership, our programs and funding models need to demonstrate that value through reciprocity—including honoraria, childcare, travel support and other practical ways of removing barriers.

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Inviting women to participate is not the same as making participation possible.



2. Beyond Representation

The second paper asks a deeper question about leadership and governance.

It is important to have Indigenous women at decision-making tables. But presence alone is not enough.

We also need to ask whether the table itself has room for the leadership women bring.

The women in this cohort described leadership as relational and collective, grounded in love, care, accountability, cultural identity and responsibility to future generations.

The cohort explored leadership through the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical realms—reminding us that good governance must consider the whole person and the whole community.

The challenge for systems is not simply to make more room for Indigenous women inside existing structures, but to allow Indigenous women's ways of leading to help transform those structures.

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This is not an alternative
to governance.
It is governance.



3. When Knowledge Walks Out The Door

The third paper turns our attention to the generations.

Some knowledge is not learned from a manual. It is learned by sitting beside someone. Listening. Watching. Asking questions. Coming back again. And being in relationship long enough for teachings to be shared when the time is right.

Our cohort experienced this directly through time spent with Matriarchs, Elders and Indigenous women who have walked leadership paths before them.

It also revealed how vulnerable this knowledge can be.

Many teachings have been carried through families and communities without ever being formally documented. Their continuation depends upon relationships between generations and upon having the time and space for knowledge to move from one woman to another.

That requires more than a workshop. It requires continuity. It requires relationships. And it requires investment over time. The women participating today are learning from the women who came before them while also preparing to carry that knowledge forward. That is a responsibility we take seriously.



Our ways of leading
belong there too.

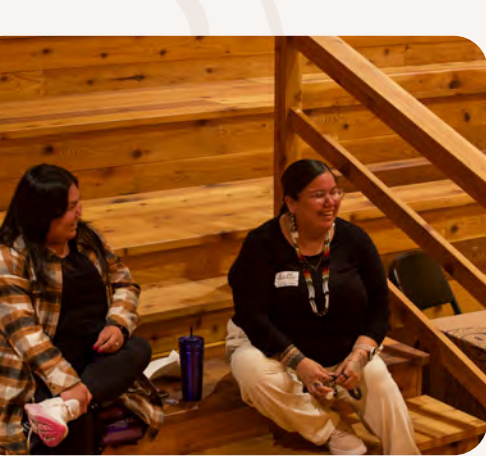
What We Are Learning

This first cohort has taught us that leadership development can become much more than training. When women have time to gather, build trust and learn together, their individual experiences become collective knowledge. That knowledge can help us identify barriers. It can challenge systems. It can shape policy. And it can help us imagine something different.

We want Stó:lō women to take their rightful place wherever decisions affecting our people are being made. But we also want them to arrive in those spaces knowing that they do not have to leave who they are at the door.

Our Voices Shape the Work

Research, justice, advocacy & systems change.



For a long time, Indigenous women have been invited into conversations after the questions have already been asked, the priorities have already been set, and the systems have already decided what they think the problem is. We want to do something different. We believe Stó:lō women must be part of shaping the questions, defining the issues and deciding what meaningful change looks like.

This year, that belief became much more visible in our work. Through new research partnerships, our first full-day Research Symposium, the launch of Weaving Strength, continued advocacy and participation in conversations about justice, policy and systems change, Stó:lō women are increasingly helping to shape the work from the beginning. We are learning that when our Matriarchs, Aunties and members are given the space to speak from their own experience, the conversation changes.

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**When Matriarchs shape the questions,
different answers emerge.**

Thélá:ylexw awtxw Research Symposium

A Matriarch's perspective on the research.

This year, we hosted our first full-day Research Symposium focused on research from a Matriarchs' perspective. It was an important day for us. Research has had a complicated history in Indigenous communities. Too often, Indigenous people have been studied, documented and written about without having meaningful authority over the questions being asked, the knowledge being gathered or what happens with that knowledge afterward. We wanted to begin from a different place.

What happens when Matriarchs are not simply invited to participate in research, but are part of shaping it? What questions become important? What knowledge is valued? What responsibilities come with collecting and sharing that knowledge? And how do we make sure research benefits our women, families and communities?

The day created space for researchers, community members, Matriarchs and partners to learn from one another and begin exploring those questions together. For us, this was more than a symposium. It was part of a larger shift toward research relationships grounded in respect, accountability, reciprocity and Stó:lō ways of knowing. We want research partners to work with us, not simply conduct research about us. And we want our Matriarchs and women to help determine what happens next.



What We Are Seeing

Research relationships are beginning to look different. There is greater recognition that Stó:lō women hold knowledge that belongs at the beginning of the research process, not only at the end. We are also seeing more opportunities for Stó:lō women to participate as partners, advisors, Knowledge Holders and decision-makers.

Weaving Strength

**Reclaiming, revitalizing and restoring Stó:lō women's roles
through law and leadership.**

This year also marked the beginning of Weaving Strength, a new initiative focused on Stó:lō women, Indigenous law, justice, leadership and systems change.

The vision behind this work is ambitious: Stó:lō women at the forefront of advocating for and applying Indigenous laws, influencing systems and strengthening justice within our communities. The project brings together legal education, leadership development, cultural revitalization, research and advocacy. But before women can take up more space in legal and policy systems, we also need to understand what knowledge, experience and strengths already exist within our membership—and what additional learning women are asking for.

That means listening first. The work includes opportunities to identify the skills and strengths already held by Stó:lō women, understand what training and development women want, create spaces for discussion about gaps and opportunities, and build relationships with partners who are willing to adapt their approaches so they are meaningful for our members.

The intention is not simply to help women navigate existing systems. It is to strengthen their ability to influence them. Stó:lō women carry knowledge of our own laws, histories, relationships and responsibilities. That knowledge belongs in conversations about justice, policy and reform.

The work also recognizes that our Grandmothers, Mothers and Aunties have always held important roles in maintaining the wellbeing of our people. Reclaiming and strengthening those roles is part of strengthening justice itself.

What We Are Seeing

Justice is not only about courts or legislation. It is also about whether women understand their rights. Whether they have access to knowledge. Whether their experiences are believed. Whether they are able to advocate for their families. And whether the systems affecting our people are willing to make room for Indigenous laws, values and ways of knowing.

Weaving Strength gives us another way to bring those conversations forward.

Building Research Relationships

Our Research Symposium was not an isolated event.

This year, we continued developing new research partnerships and exploring what meaningful research relationships can look like for Thélá:ylexw Awtxw Foundation.

We are interested in research that responds to what our members are asking about—not research that arrives with predetermined questions and looks for Indigenous women to validate them.

That means taking the time to build relationships. It means asking who benefits. It means ensuring Stó:lō women are involved in decisions about how knowledge is collected, interpreted and shared. And it means recognizing that the lived experiences and cultural knowledge carried by our women are forms of expertise. As these relationships develop, we are continuing to learn alongside our partners. We do not expect to have every answer immediately. We expect to ask better questions together.

We celebrate the meaningful partnerships we have established this year with Dr. Amy Parent, Dr. Brittany Bingham, Dr. Wenona Hall and others who share our commitment to Indigenous-led research.

These relationships are helping us explore what becomes possible when Indigenous women and communities are not simply participants in research, but leaders in shaping the questions, the methods and what happens with the knowledge that is gathered.



BC Rematriation & Research Governance Network

This year, Thélá:ylexw awtxw Foundation also became part of the growing B.C. First Nations Women's, Two-Spirit Rematriation and Research Governance Network through the Stó:lō Womyn Pilot Pod.

The Network brings together Matriarchs, Two-Spirit leaders, Knowledge Holders, researchers, students and Indigenous organizations to strengthen Indigenous authority over research that affects our lands, waters, knowledges, languages, health, governance and futures.

Our Stó:lō Womyn Pilot Pod is focused on strengthening Stó:lō Matriarchal leadership, mentorship, governance and protocols, identifying research priorities defined by Matriarchs, supporting leadership and education pathways, and exploring how Indigenous-controlled organizations can navigate research funding and governance systems.

Working alongside Dr. Amy Parent, Board Chair Leslie Bonshor and other partners, we are helping to shape what a matriarchal-led research pod can look like when governance remains grounded in our own communities, relationships and responsibilities.

This work is part of something larger. Across B.C., the Network is creating space for Nation-based and Indigenous-controlled organizations to develop their own approaches to Indigenous Knowledge Research Governance, while remaining connected through shared learning, leadership and relationships. For us, this is another way of ensuring that Indigenous women are not simply included in research systems. We are helping to shape how those systems work.



Returning to The Heart

This year, we took another step toward building research systems that recognize Indigenous knowledge, leadership and governance on our own terms. Together with Dr. Amy Parent at Simon Fraser University and a national and international group of Indigenous researchers, Knowledge Holders, leaders and partners, we developed a major research proposal called Returning to the Heart: A Transformative Indigenous Knowledge Research Governance Constellation for Our Collective Futures.

The proposed work asks an important question: what would research look like if Indigenous Peoples had greater authority over how our knowledge, languages, data and stories are governed, protected and shared?

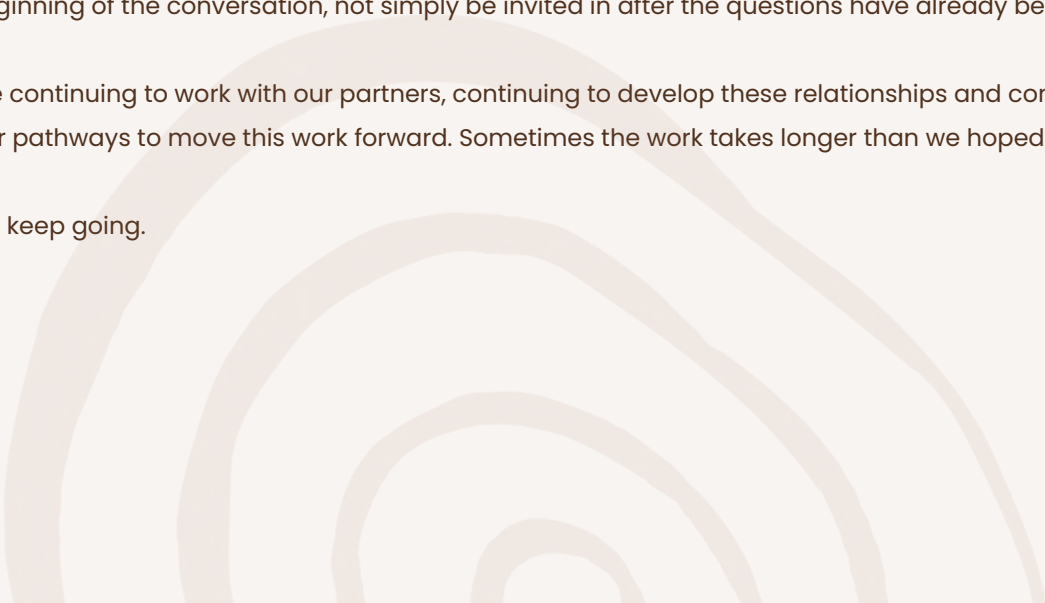
At the heart of the proposal is Indigenous Knowledge Research Governance – the Indigenous-led processes, relationships and structures that guide research involving our knowledges, languages, lands and rights. The project was designed around Indigenous self-determination, matriarchal leadership, Indigenous Storywork, data sovereignty, language revitalization and relationships between generations.

The application brought together an extraordinary constellation of Indigenous and allied researchers, Knowledge Holders, educators, community leaders and partners across Canada and internationally. Thélá:ylexw awtxw Foundation was positioned not simply as a community partner, but as a leader in shaping the research and its direction.

The proposal was not funded in this funding round. But we do not see that as the end of the work. The relationships built through the process are still here. The questions are still important. And the need for Indigenous-led approaches to research governance has not gone away. In fact, the process itself helped us clarify what we believe about research: that Indigenous women and Matriarchs must have a place at the beginning of the conversation, not simply be invited in after the questions have already been decided.

We are continuing to work with our partners, continuing to develop these relationships and continuing to look for pathways to move this work forward. Sometimes the work takes longer than we hoped.

We will keep going.



IMPACT: Investing in Matriarchal Power, Access, Care, & Traditional Wellness

Another important research relationship taking shape is IMPACT – Investing in Matriarchal Power, Access, Care and Traditional Wellness. IMPACT is a proposed five-year, Indigenous and community-led research project focused on the experiences of Indigenous Peoples during menopause and the ways traditional knowledge, Matriarchal wisdom and community priorities can shape better care. Too often, menopause care is designed through Western biomedical systems without enough space for Indigenous knowledge, traditional wellness practices or the realities that shape Indigenous Peoples' access to care. IMPACT begins somewhere different. It begins by listening.



The research will create opportunities for Matriarchs and Indigenous Peoples who menstruate to share their experiences, teachings and knowledge about menopause and wellness. Through Indigenous Kitchen Table Methodology, sharing circles and community gatherings, the project will explore what culturally safe menopause care could look like across First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities in B.C.

The work also looks beyond individual experiences. IMPACT aims to build an Indigenous-led network focused on menopausal health, gather a stronger understanding of barriers and priorities, and develop community-driven guidelines to help shape future policy, programs and clinical practice. For us, this is important because health systems should not simply ask Indigenous women to fit into existing models of care. Our knowledge, our experiences and our ways of understanding wellness belong in shaping the systems themselves.

IMPACT brings together Indigenous researchers, community leaders, clinicians, policy leaders and Knowledge Keepers, with guidance from Matriarchs. It creates another opportunity for the voices of Indigenous women to move from being heard to helping shape what happens next. This is the kind of research relationship we want to continue building – one grounded in listening, reciprocity, Indigenous knowledge and the understanding that the people most affected by a system should have a meaningful role in changing it.

When Matriarchs shape the questions, different answers emerge.

Advocacy and System Change

Our work increasingly brings us into conversations with governments, agencies, researchers, service providers and other organizations. We enter those spaces carrying what we have heard from our members. We hear when women tell us systems are difficult to navigate. We hear when they say services do not reflect their realities. We hear when they ask why their voices were not included sooner. And we hear when they identify solutions that already exist within our communities.

Our responsibility is to carry those voices forward. This last year we met with partners of B.C. Patient Quality and Safety and invited them to engage with our members, to hear from them directly. We took our voices into post secondary, including the University of the Fraser Valley and presented at their Peace & Reconciliation Xwelítəm Siyáya, Simon Fraser University on the inclusion of Indigenous women in ethics considerations, wherever we have been invited or needed to share our voice, we have found a path to do so.

Earlier this year, Chilliwack Division of Family Practice and Chilliwack General Hospital reached out for support in the naming of a new Maternity Clinic. They initially were seeking support for their opening ceremony. We were also informed they were looking for an appropriate Halq'emeylem name for the new clinic. We formed a committee and held a meeting with all of the partners. We included the Sto:lo Shxweli Halq'emeylem Language Program in the planning and naming ceremony for this new maternity clinic. The ceremony took place on Friday May 29, 2026 at the Chilliwack General Hospital. We had four beautiful ladies help with the drumming and singing of our Stó:lō Woman's song to help unveil the new name of the clinic – Eho:temaxtw which means "a home to wrap them in care". Another example of inclusion that will have a lasting impact for all entering into this facility for their care.

But inclusion alone is not the goal. We want Stó:lō women to influence all decisions effecting our families, our communities and future. The leadership work undertaken this year reinforced that systems also need to make room for the way Indigenous women lead. Our leadership cohort described leadership as relational, collective and grounded in care, accountability, cultural identity and responsibility to future generations. Those values should not have to be set aside when women enter governance, policy or institutional spaces.



Strengthening the House

Membership, relationships & sustainability.



The work people see is only one part of the story. Behind every gathering, every conversation, every partnership and every new opportunity is the quieter work of building a strong house around it.

For Thélá:ylexw Awtxw Foundation, that means strengthening our governance, supporting our volunteer Board, growing our membership, improving communications, building new partnerships and creating the systems needed to carry this work forward.

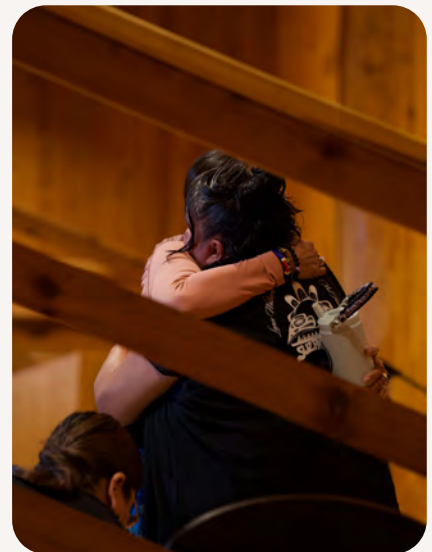
This year is especially meaningful because we are in the final year of our Vancouver Foundation Thrive funding. That support has helped us move from simply having a vision to building the structure needed to sustain it.

We have grown our membership, strengthened our organizational systems, expanded our relationships and created more opportunities for Stó:lō women to participate, lead and stay connected.

But sustainability for us is not only about administration. It is about making sure the house is strong enough for women to enter, contribute, learn, lead and help shape what comes next.

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Our ways of leading
belong there too.



Growing Our Membership



Our members are at the centre of everything we do.

They are not simply participants in programs. They are the women whose experiences, questions, ideas and knowledge shape the direction of the Foundation.

As our membership continues to grow, so does our responsibility to stay connected to the women we serve.

We want members to know what is happening. We want them to have opportunities to participate. We want them to tell us what they are seeing in their families and communities. And we want them to help shape the work.

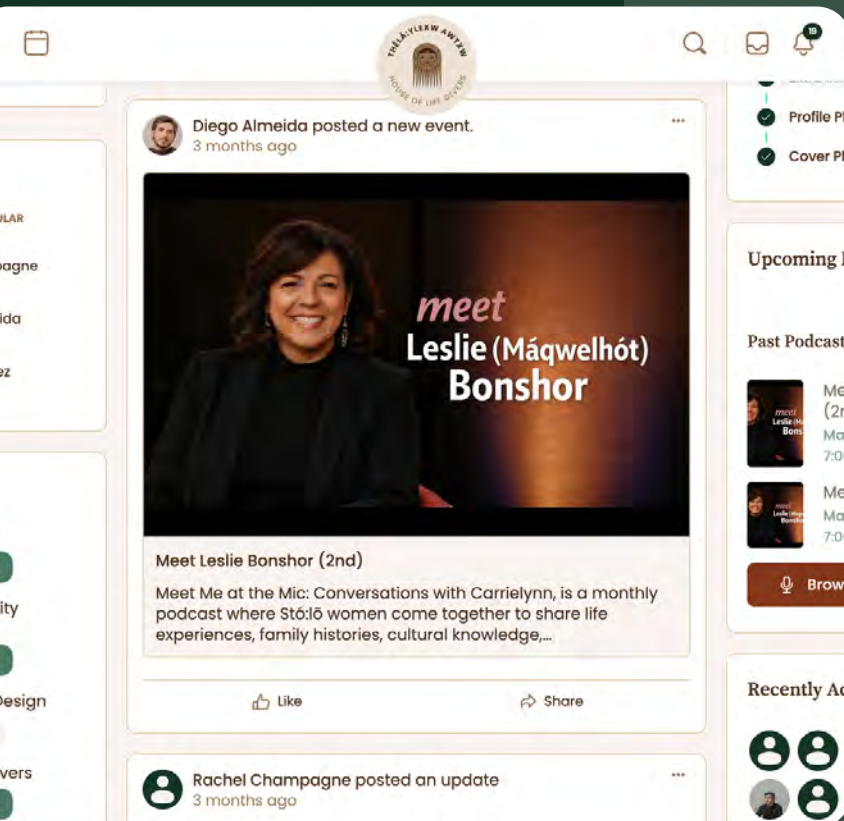
The growth of our membership tells us that Stó:lō women are looking for places to connect with one another. Our responsibility is to make sure that connection remains meaningful.



Launching Our Membership Portal

For the past several years, we have been working toward a better way to connect with our members. This year, that work becomes something tangible. We are thrilled to launch our new membership portal at our Annual Gathering. The portal will give members another way to stay connected to the Foundation, learn about upcoming activities, share information and participate in opportunities as they develop.

For us, this is much more than a technology project. It is part of strengthening the relationship between the Foundation and the women who guide our work. As we grow, we need ways to remain close to our members. The portal gives us another mechanism to listen. And listening is how we continue to grow in the right direction.



Never Miss a Gathering

Every hike, event, and community night lives in one place. RSVP easily, receive reminders, and keep the post-event conversation going.

Find Support & Connection

Connect with Stó:lō womxn in groups and forums to share ideas, support each other and join conversations that matter to you.

The Latest News

Get notified the moment a new episode of our beloved podcast drops or something important happens in our community.

Sharing Our Stories

Membership, relationships & sustainability.

Not all of our gathering happens in the same room. Our online spaces have become another way for Stó:lō women to find one another, see themselves reflected, celebrate the women in our communities and stay connected to the work happening across Thélá:ylexw Awtxw Foundation.

We have learned that visibility matters.

Seeing a Matriarch celebrated matters. Seeing Stó:lō women wearing their ribbon skirts matters. Hearing our language matters. Seeing women walking on the land, gathering around a table, caring for themselves, leading a conversation or sharing something they know creates another kind of connection.

Our social media is not simply a place to advertise events. It has become part of how we tell our own stories.

We are here.



Honouring Those Who Support Our Work

Our hands are raised to you for seeing us! For answering
our call for support to do this good work with our womxn.

vancouver
foundation

THE
HOUSSIAN
FOUNDATION

 NEW
RELATIONSHIP
TRUST

 Law
Foundation
of BC



Crown-Indigenous Relations
and Northern Affairs Canada
Relations Couronne-Autochtones
et Affaires du Nord Canada



United
Nations

United Nations Declaration Act



We'd Love to Connect

Thélá:ylexw awtxw Foundation—The House of Life Givers—is a non-profit organisation formed by Stó:lō womxn for Stó:lō womxn to offer opportunities for us to connect, to celebrate our heritage and uphold tradition, and to collaborate on creating social change that positively impacts our people.

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_____ Connect

