

## Yukon men's group embraces the power of building relationships

**EXCERPT:** In July, twenty-one men in the Yukon gathered for a powerful week of human connection. Over nightly campfires, salmon-smoking, and hands-on construction projects, the week focused on creating a place of respect and non-judgment for men to meet each other on equal footing and discuss what they were going through in their lives.

This event, called a 'relationship-builder', is one of a series of initiatives for Yukon men led by **The Nelson Project**. The goal of these retreats is to teach a simple but fundamental skill: respectful relationship-building.

"Our main focus is on building a strong foundation through relationships and showing the benefits of maintaining respectful relationships for people's lives," says Nelson Lepine, SN Director of Infrastructure and TNP board member. "We are here to listen and have discussions with the guys, because after all, they have a PHD in their own lives, we don't."

Learn more about the week and see more photos at the link below.

[Read the Full Blog](#)







*Building sawhorses.*



*Archery using handcrafted arrows.*



*Campfire chats.*



*Skinning and smoking salmon.*

## **YAWC talks funding gaps with CIRNAC**



**Yukon Aboriginal Women’s Council (YAWC) recently had the opportunity to meet with the Minister Marc Miller of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) this month.**

YAWC’s meeting with Minister Miller successfully covered the major gaps in funding that exist for Northern communities and organizations, such as a lack of necessary mental health supports and funding that takes into consideration the higher costs of operating in the North.

[As we’ve written about before](#), lobbying is a crucial tool for Indigenous communities and organizations to ensure their voice and needs are heard in government outside of existing funding mechanisms. YAWC looks forward to continuing these discussions with CIRNAC on an ongoing basis to best serve and promote the needs of Indigenous women in the Yukon.



*A note: since this meeting took place, Minister Miller has been reassigned to a new and important ministry portfolio. We wish him well and look forward to continuing this work with new CIRNAC Minister Gary Anandasangaree.*

## Other Community and Staff Photos



*Community Analysts Melissa Bates (left) and Jessica Woskett (right) with song-writer, artist, and activist Kym Gouchie (middle) at a National Indigenous Peoples Day event in Prince George.*



*Ulkatcho First Nation has officially broken ground on their new mercantile. This expanded grocery and convenience store will be attached to their recently finished gas station, bringing more diverse food options and employment opportunities to the Anahim Lake community. Congrats Ulkatcho! Thank you for having us at the ceremony.*







**A team of volunteers and friends of Takla Nation mark Sockeye salmon fry** by clipping the adipose fin prior to their release into the wild. When the fish eventually return to Takla as full-size salmon, the hatchery will be able to tell which ones were hatchery-raised. This lets them know if their efforts to increase the size of the fish population were successful. Pic taken by Darren Shankel, SN Director of Education.

## Funding to keep an eye on...



**Opens today:** [ESDC's New Horizons for Seniors program](#)

Up to \$25,000 for community-based projects that are designed by seniors for seniors. This program funds projects that empower seniors in their communities and contribute to improving their health and well-being. *Reach out to your SN contact if you'd like to discuss this fund.*

**[Just Announced: Future funding for Indigenous food sovereignty](#)**

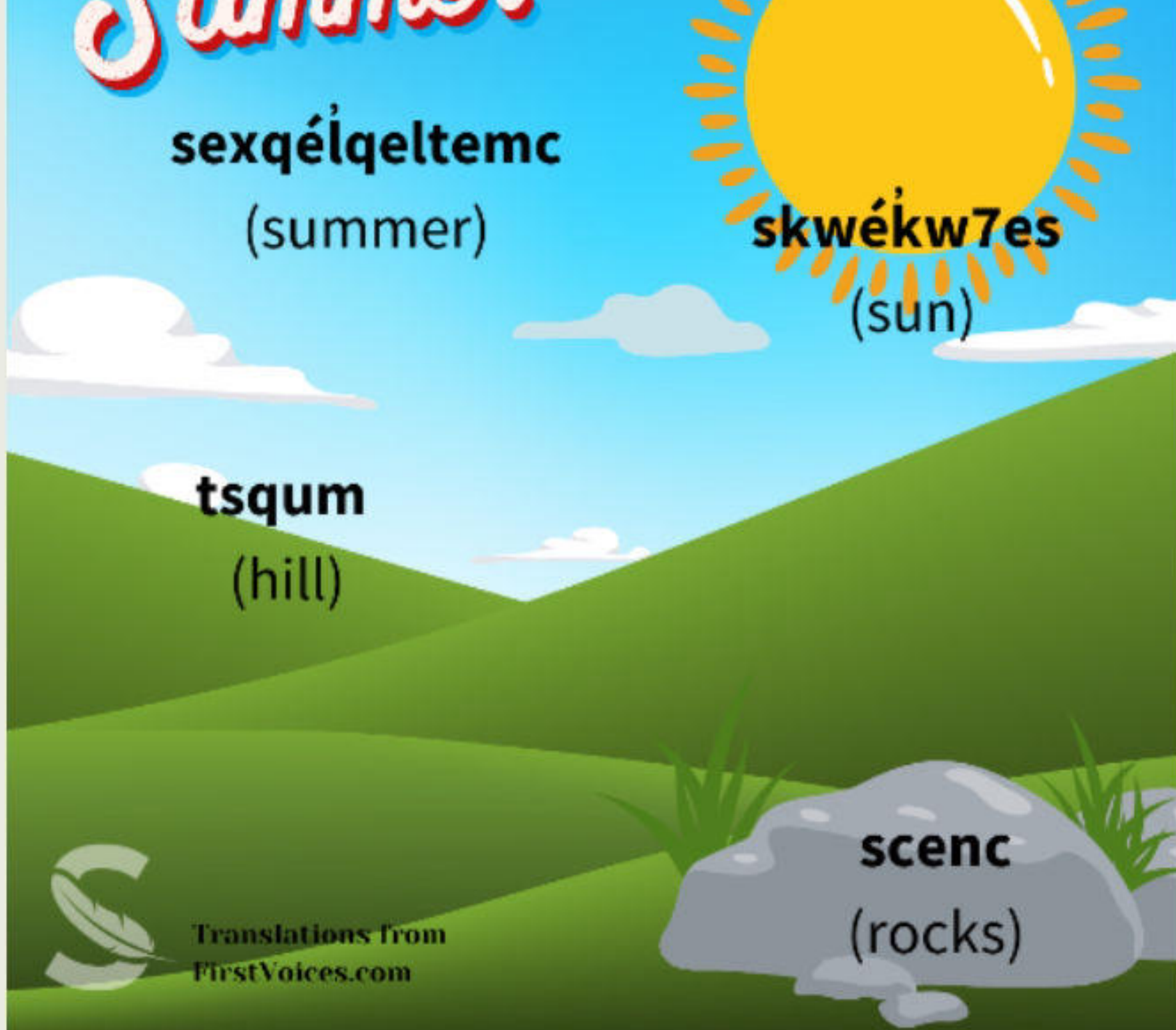
A new \$30 million program administered by New Relationship Trust aims to support more sustainable food production, community food security, and enhance participation in the agriculture and food sectors for Indigenous communities and businesses. *While it's not yet accepting applications, your SN contact will keep an eye out for further news.*



Summer







Summer is well underway, so check out these Secwepemctsin words for July! Get outside and enjoy the warm summer sun in nature's splendour. 🌞 😊

**sexqé'qeltemc** - summer

**skwé'kw7es** - sun

**scenc** - rocks

**tsqum** - hill

Paste the words into the FirstVoices search bar to [hear their pronunciations.](#)

Our head office is on the lands of Secwepemctsin-speaking people and we are thankful to work with Secwepemc communities. Words are selected and designed by our Admin Assistant Brenna Barley, who is learning Secwepemctsin.

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Thanks for reading! See you next month.

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