

Lillooet Learning Communities Society
Sát'mec Ull'usmíntwal' Swátet.scal



ANNUAL REPORT

January 1st to December 31st

2025

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St'át'imc Territory





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Letter from the Board Chairpeople



Toby Mueller

January to July 2025

This year brought significant leadership transitions for LLCs. When both the Managing Director, Megan Rempel and I had time away early in the year, Jacquie Rasmussen stepped in as Interim Director, providing steady leadership for several months. In recognition of her sustained commitment over the past two years, the Board also formally changed Megan's title to Executive Director. As always, we continue working to balance the ambitious goals of our Theory of Change with the real capacity of the people carrying out the work.

In July, I stepped down as Board Chair after nearly a decade in the role. In this period, the organization grew from a \$30K annual budget to over half a million. It has been a privilege to be part of that journey, and I'm grateful to be in a quieter role. We were thrilled to welcome Norm Leech back to the organization as Chair, and I look forward to continuing as Treasurer.

In the autumn, we lost Alice Kidd, one of the founding grandmothers of Lillooet Learns. Alice understood, decades ago, that non-profits need strong organizational foundations, independent income, and personal passion to endure. The legacy of her work (a gathering space for artists and farmers on Main Street, support for Elders, justice alternatives, and hope for the future) continues to guide us today.



Norm Leech

July 2026 to Present



This feels like a time of transition and opportunity to be in Lillooet. Especially after being away for many years.

A new generation of community leaders brings energy and ideas and a healthy skepticism about all the old ways of doing things. I encourage the questioning of the systems that may have outlived their usefulness while also respecting the ancient wisdoms that served communities perfectly well for thousands of years. Especially the lessons learned directly from the land.

I look forward to exploring these opportunities together as Chair of Lillooet Learning Communities Society.



Community Impact



Lillooet Learns is a community development organization that creates an enduring learning community by helping people, organizations, and communities build the relationships and the confidence to work together. We create opportunities for communities to identify shared priorities, strengthen local leadership, and take collective action toward a good life for all in Northern St'át'imc Territory.

Stronger communities are built through connection.

Education, justice, arts and culture, economic development, and community wellbeing are all connected to building socially just and economically thriving communities.



Scúzas es7áma smáwal' lta St'át'imcúlmecwa, a good life for all in St'át'imc territory.





Executive Summary



The growth and community support Lillooet Learns experienced in 2025 was immense. In my work, I am constantly inspired by people's dedication, their care for their neighbours, and their willingness to keep showing up, even through challenges, to improve well-being for everyone who lives here. This year I moved into the role of Executive Director, fitting as our scope of work, team, and budget continue to grow. It's an honour to be trusted to take on this leadership role and to be of service to the board, staff, and the people I work alongside to turn community visions into reality.

Lillooet Learns really began to establish itself and mature beyond the "startup phase" that re-shaped the organization when the Community HUB was founded in 2021. It was a year of stabilizing, securing additional resources, and working through the natural growing pains of programs now in their second or third year of delivery. I had set a goal to grow Lillooet Learns toward a million-dollar operating budget, and in 2025, we reached \$766,000.

Our operations team also grew, with Sasha Fergusson joining to help coordinate the Elder Connect program; Onesimo Maguwu came on part-time to support strategy and organizational systems, bringing extensive experience from the non-profit sector; and Monique Knudson transitioned from a temporary position to become the Volunteer and Communications Lead.

Something I'm especially proud of is the number of St'át'imc community members who have joined our team. This year we welcomed Charlene Kane to the board, who is a wealth of knowledge. I'm glad that both the vision and the action of the organization are meaningful to the people of the land. I carry reconciliation with me in my work, and I believe Lillooet Learns can build an effective model for bridge-building and furthering the participation and leadership of St'át'imc in all communities in the territory. The more people who participate, contribute, and lead in community, the more beautiful and resilient our communities become.

I continue to be moved by what this small, dedicated team has accomplished in such a short time. It has truly been a year of stabilizing, and I love meeting the people this work draws in to build change alongside us. I look forward to the bright future of this organization and our communities. It is something special that people can feel the moment they walk through the doors of the Community HUB.

With Gratitude,

Megan Rempel





Who We Are



This group of dedicated people is why we are able to achieve all that we do. We are grateful to them and all of our volunteers and contractors who help in specific roles or on community projects.

Operations Team

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Megan Rempel - Executive Director | 8. Monique Knudson – Volunteer & Coms Lead |
| 2. Onesimo Maguwu – Strategy Advisor | 9. Sasha Fergusson – Elder Connect Coordinator |
| 3. Nik Pauls – Store and Facilities Lead | 10. Rita Pollock – Executive Assistant |
| 4. Christine Mahaits – Seniors Wellness Navigator | 11. Lenore Alec – HUB Coordinator |
| 5. Amber Muranko – Financial Coordinator | 12. Nicolas Strubey – HUB Assistant |
| 6. Olivia Brown – Indigenous Court Coordinator | 13. Fabian Peters – Indigenous Court Coordinator |
| 7. Jacquie Rasmussen – Interim Director | |



Board of Directors

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Toby Mueller & Norm Leech - Board Chairs | 7. Janna Pike - Director |
| 2. Moon Moore - Board Co-Chair | 8. Matilda Fenton - Director |
| 3. Toby Mueller - Treasurer | 9. Kwimxstn John - Director |
| 4. Lauren Roberts - Secretary | 10. Daryn Scotchman - Director |
| 5. Kim Davy - Director | 11. Charlene Kane - Director |
| 6. Lynda Sampson - Director | |



Financial Statement of Revenues

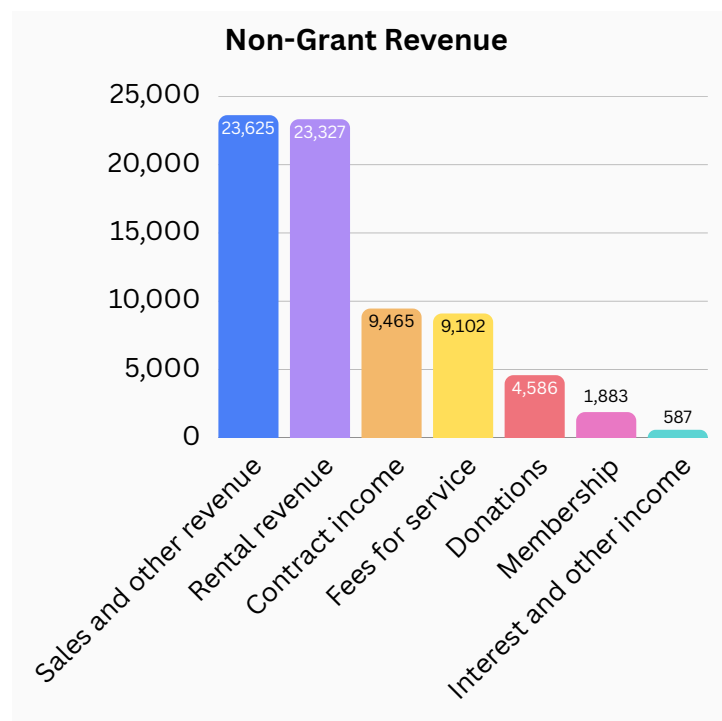


In 2025, Lillooet Learns grew its operating budget by 34% over 2024, reaching \$766,945 in total revenue. This is a major milestone on our path toward long-term financial sustainability.

This year also marked a step forward in organizational maturity. With support from our accountant partners, Kinetic Books and Accounting and Loewen Kruse, we strengthened our internal financial systems and produced our first compiled financial statements. Official, externally-reviewed statements will give our funders, partners, and community a clear, transparent picture of how resources are used.

January 1 2025 to December 31 2025

REVENUE	
Government grants	467,097
Non-government grants	204,441
Sales and other revenue	23,625
Rental revenue	23,327
Community funds	14,992
Contract income	9,465
Fees for services	9,102
Gaming grants	7,840
Donations	4,586
Memberships	1,883
Interest and other income	587
Total Revenue	766,945



Grants remain our foundation, together making up about 88% of total revenue. But we continued building resilience beyond grant funding, through HUB social enterprise sales, rental revenue, service contracts, memberships, and community donations, each a small but growing piece of a more diversified funding base.

Funders





Financial Statement of Expenses

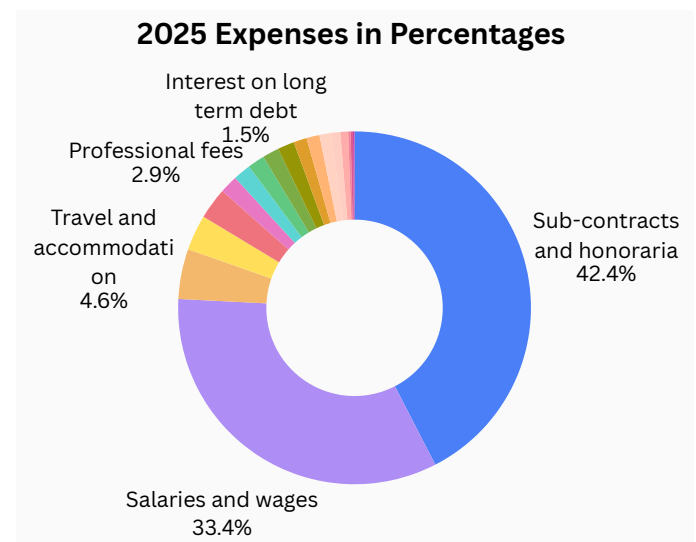


January 1 2025 to December 31 2025

EXPENSES	
Sub-contracts and honoraria	318,691
Salaries and wages	250,645
Travel and accommodation	34,409
Program supplies	24,480
Professional fees	21,623
Utilities	12,444
Meals and food	12,062
Funds disbursed	11,750
Interest on long term debt	11,491
Office	11,453
Insurance	9,061
Training	9,001
Advertising and promotion	7,871
Software and subscriptions	6,427
Occupancy	5,330
Fees and bank charges	1,696
Cost of goods sold	1,636
Equipment	1,017
Total Expenses	751,087
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	15,858

OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)	
Recognized deferred grants for capital assets	21,751
Amortization	(34,619)
Total Other Income (Expenses)	(12,868)
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	2,990

After capital asset costs and amortization, only \$2,990 remained as surplus this year. Lillooet Learns is prioritizing the build-out of an operating reserve (targeting up to six months of expenses) to strengthen long-term sustainability and resilience.



Sub-contracts, honoraria, salaries, and wages together made up over 75% of total expenses. People continue to be our largest asset and this reflects our belief that community development happens through people: the staff, contractors, and Elders who deliver programs and hold relationships in community.



The Lillooet Community HUB



The Lillooet Community Connect Innovation HUB is where local people, organizations, businesses, artists, governments, and St'át'imc communities come together to collaborate, learn, and build a better future.

Founded in 2021 out of a series of community dialogue sessions about the gaps in the region's non-profit sector, the HUB was built as a social enterprise: a place that offers services communities actually need, while generating revenue that sustains the non-profit organization's work. The HUB is the infrastructure behind all of Lillooet Learns' programs and projects that make this work possible.

The HUB Store

Space & Resources

- Shared space, tools, and coordination
- Conditions for community-led action
- Support for initiatives no single org could do alone

- Supporting local makers and artists
- Growth of the social enterprise
- Creating a welcoming community space

Communication & Information

- Local info and resource connection
- Community engagement
- Volunteer connections program

Community-Led Collaboration

- Service contracts with regional partners
- Project management for partner orgs
- HUB Partner Network

Volunteer Connections

The 'Volunteer Connect' was renewed this year to expand beyond the seniors-centred volunteer pools to come under the Community HUB. The volunteer base grew from 60 to 83. We continue to grow an ongoing pool of volunteers to help with our services but also those of our partners. There were less volunteers than 2024 and more paid staff, resulting in a total of approximately **600** volunteer hours for a value of **\$18,000**.

You Spoke, We Listened

In the fall, the HUB gathered feedback from customers, board directors, and partner organizations through a public survey, interviews, and community conversations. People told us the HUB is doing well, but there is still work to be done on transportation barriers, unclear pathways for getting involved, and creating structured ways for partners to collaborate while contributing to local economic life. In response, Lillooet Learns is renewing the HUB Partner Network and Circle Meetings in 2026 as a dedicated space to keep these conversations going and strengthen connections between organizations.

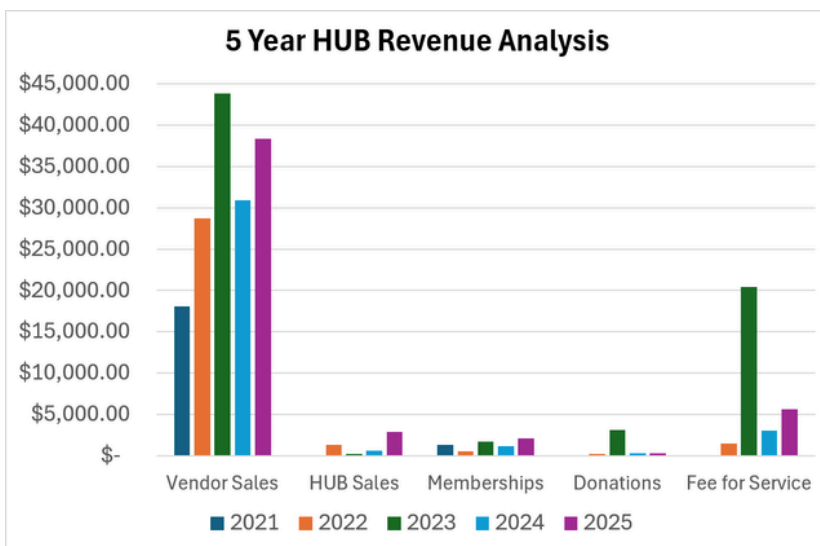
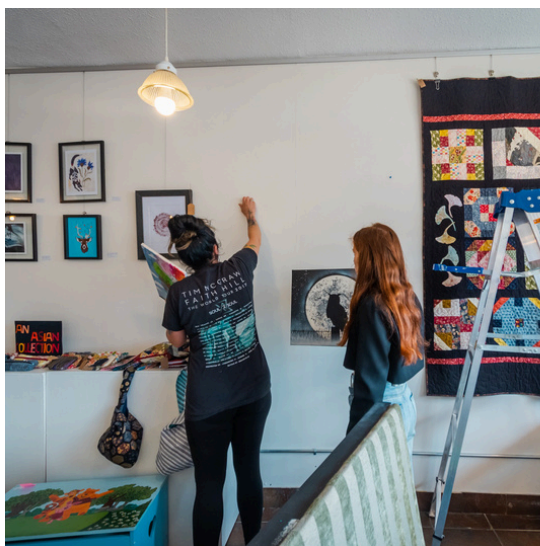


Growing Community Capacity



The HUB's growth this year shows up in more than one number. Vendor sales through the store grew community income directly, while different revenue streams from rent, events, and service contracts grew. The HUB is becoming less reliant on any single source of funding. The revenues we make go to our largest expense: our people.

The store's sales dipped in 2024 after an unusually strong 2023, driven that year by a volunteer's concentrated time in the space. 2025's rebound to \$38,936 reflects a more sustainable, ongoing level of activity. Early in the year, the HUB store and Lillooet Grown Store also began sharing a till, cutting down on duplicate systems and making checkout more seamless for shared customers.



Local Economy

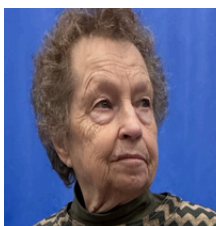
These community members, out of 130+ local vendors made the most income in 2025. We are so grateful to all of our members and vendors that share their creativity and art with the community and our organization.



Gillian Smith



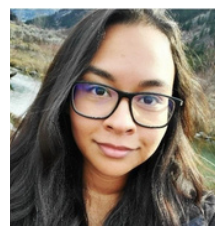
Norm Retasket



Barb Tuemp



Angela-Jean Louis



Darynn Scotchman

Service Contracts

The team delivered 2 service contracts: Squamish Lillooet-Regional District Diversion Education and the Lillooet Library Community Literacy contract. Through the Healthy Aging programs, we also awarded contracts to the Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society and the Lillooet Elks.



Healthy Aging

Bringing services to aging adults in the community to support social connection, wellbeing, and independence at home.

Growing older in Northern St'át'imc Territory should not mean growing more alone. The Elder Connect program brings together practical help at home, food and social connection, health navigation, and community gatherings, so that seniors and Elders can stay independent while staying connected to the people and places that matter to them.

This year, Elder Connect grew beyond single-funded services for seniors. Sasha Fergusson, as the program coordinator, led Better at Home and Social Meals, and Christine Mahaits led the startup of a new service called Social Prescribing that gives seniors one on one support in navigating health, housing, and caregiving needs. Together they both reached seniors across the Lillooet Area and six St'át'imc communities. When one participant asked for support for her spouse living with dementia, Christine started a Peer Support Group for Caregivers of Dementia Patients that has met every two weeks since November. That same listening shaped bigger gatherings and events, from two out-of-town trips to Kamloops to the Knowledge with Health Gathering.



Listening to seniors is what shapes the program and services, and the Elder Connect Advisory Group meets quarterly to ensure community participation and feedback collection

April 2025 – March 2026 Highlights

- 235 seniors participated in Elder Connect
- 2,100 Better at Home services delivered
- 892 friendly visits and check-ins provided
- 749 meals and food supports provided
- 640 Farmers' Market coupons distributed
- 1,294 connections made to community resources
- 30+ community partners connected
- 9 gatherings, workshops, and outreach events





Social Connection for Seniors



Building a Healthy Aging Network

Elder Connect is growing into a network of practical support, food access, health navigation, and community connection held together by relationships between Lillooet people.

Seniors connect through a friendly visit, a shared meal, or a booth at the Farmers' Market. They participate through gatherings, workshops, and events built around what they say they want. Programs collaborate behind the scenes, referring people to whichever service fits best. And seniors empower each other and the program, from the Advisory Committee to the caregivers who started their own peer support group. Collaboration shows up between partner organizations through projects, joint services and the number of referrals.

At the two-day Knowledge with Health Gathering, 150 Elders came together with family, health workers, and partners including the First Nations Health Authority and Interior Health for workshops, wellness stations, and an open mic where Elders shared stories and songs. At the closing circle, one participant described reconnecting with an old friend they had first met at residential school.

Seniors are shaping the program in other ways too. Ninety percent of Elder Connect's volunteers are seniors themselves, and events like the Elders Gathering grow out of weekly planning meetings that treat seniors and St'át'imc community members as co-planners, not just guests. When one Better at Home client's health made housework unmanageable, regular support from a contractor gave her the confidence to welcome her grandchild home again.

All of the gatherings and connections are ongoing as the Lillooet Learns staff, volunteers, and contractors support seniors one-on-one with friendly visiting, yard work, housecleaning, grocery delivery, garbage runs and transportation.

Finally, Lillooet Learns established the Elks Hall as a seniors gathering space that will welcome people from all backgrounds and ages to come together.





Lillooet Indigenous Court



The Lillooet Indigenous Court Program, governed by the Lillooet Indigenous Court Steering Committee, finished its 2nd year and continued to focus on developing program and governance systems.

Olivia Brown contributed her administrative and legal expertise to the program, helping to create file structures and get the program organized. At the end of summer, Olivia went on to find new opportunities. Fabian Peters was hired as the new coordinator.

The team and elders were able to attend the National Gathering of Elders (Kanata) in Edmonton in October. This was in collaboration with Nicola Valley Indigenous Court and their group of elders, to be a celebration, a thank you, and to learn more about what is happening for Indigenous communities on a variety of topics, including justice. There was a great S'ta'timc representation for the Grand Entry, where the flag was proudly flown.

Throughout these transitions, the program's core work continued steadily, supported by 9 Elders sitting in court and 1 new recruit, Bob Deroy, joining by year's end. Some statistics include:

- 5 clients graduated from court
- 6 court sessions with pre-court meetings
- 5 Elders' meetings
- 7 workshops and trainings
- 2 conferences/symposiums





Restorative Justice



The concept of restoring balance, connection, and community healing has been part of Lillooet Learns since its incorporation in 2002. At the end of 2025, we began to plan how to bring restorative justice programming back to the community with a renewed, decolonized approach.

“Circles are ancient. To me, restorative justice is relearning how we used to resolve conflicts between ourselves, face to face, before we somehow became afraid of having the conversation... of potential conflict, potential confrontation.”

- Norm Leech

During her time with Lillooet Learns, Olivia held a Restorative Justice circle in collaboration with Lytton First Nation. Community partners showed strong interest in renewing these circles, and Lillooet Learns applied for several funding streams to relaunch the program through a decolonized lens. Letters of support from the RCMP and DFO backed this renewal as they recognized the need for an Indigenous-led approach to justice priorities in the territory.

In December, staff, board members, and community partners attended Restorative Justice BC's Decolonizing Restorative Justice workshop in Kelowna. The training deepened the group's understanding of trauma-informed practice and the history of colonized approaches to justice, which reinforced the need to build a program that truly serves the people who need it most.

A Restorative Justice Planning Committee was formed to guide this work, which includes Norm Leech, Cliff Casper, Moon Moore, Toby Mueller, Charlene Kane, and Fabian Peters.

Tsal'alh First Nation committed to funding the startup costs of the program and an initial training planned for 2026 through funding from the BC First Nations Justice Council.





Community Initiatives



Behind many of this year's community initiatives is a shared foundation of the Community HUB itself. As Lillooet Learns' home base on Main Street, the HUB provides the physical and organizational infrastructure: meeting space, equipment, staff capacity, and a central, accessible location that lets community-led ideas get off the ground. All of the initiatives drew from the HUB as community infrastructure.



100 People Who Care

A volunteer-run micro-grant program: community members donate \$100 four times a year, pooling funds to support a local cause each time. In 2025, \$10,800 was distributed to Just Do It Sports, Lillooet Elks, Lillooet Rock and Gem Club, and Lillooet Community Christmas Hampers.

Mentorship and Training

A wage-subsidy partnership with the Lillooet Tribal Council helped hire and train Lenore Alec as HUB Coordinator and Nicolas Strubey as a summer student. Lenore completed a special events coordination course at Thompson Rivers University, alongside training in computer applications and small business and non-profit administration.



The Elks Hall

A new partnership with the Lillooet Elks is turning their hall into a more accessible gathering space for seniors and the community, with maintenance and programming shared between both groups. A longer-term lease and partnership are planned for 2026.



Looking Forward



Lillooet Learns is looking to combine efforts and focus areas that can be seen and built across all of our programs, rather than operating from distinct 'services' and funding buckets. We needed to do them separately at first to learn what works, and now we can de-silo our own organization and programs through cross-functioning staff and shared systems.

Areas of Focus

Social Connection & Healthy Aging

Supporting community connections through gatherings, community engagement sessions, advisory circles and committees, volunteer coordination, and inclusion of seniors and elders.



Community Development & Sector Collaboration

Strengthening participation, community information, economic development, and collaboration by engaging and coordinating with community members and organizations.



Community Justice & Decolonization

Advancing restorative approaches to community life, building culturally informed justice systems, and re-creating a decolonized way of being and living in community.



What We Are Building

- 1 Participation pathways** for people to connect, contribute and lead
- 2 Community information systems** that improve access to services and local knowledge
- 3 Stronger collaboration systems** and networks between organizations, communities and sectors
- 4 Community-led economic development** and regional capacity building
- 5 Restorative and decolonized approaches** to justice and community conflict
- 6 Coordinated action** through the HUB as a platform for change



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