



SURROUNDED BY CEDAR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services acknowledges the Lkwungen people, now known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, as the traditional keepers of this land upon which we are situated. We raise our hands in gratitude to the Lkwungen people for allowing our agency and staff to live, work, and play on their lands.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Jennifer Chuckry

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Lkwungen people as the traditional keepers of this land that our offices are located upon. I have been living on this amazing territory for the last 14 years, and I give thanks to the Lkwungen people for allowing me to live, work and play on your unceded territories. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to each of you in my new role as Executive Director at Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services. I have had the great fortune of crossing paths with many of you throughout the years in the various roles I have held at the agency, spanning back to 2004, when the agency was still in its infancy. With gratitude I raise my hands to our Board of Directors for providing me with the opportunity to step into this new role, and for the most amazing team of people whom I am blessed to work alongside each day! Lastly, I raise my hands to my family; to my three wonderful children, my husband and my beautiful nosim for the unconditional love, support and patience they offer me each day. I look forward to connecting with our community partners over the next several months and joining hearts and we focus on our most sacred gifts: our children and youth.

Annual General Meeting

Surrounded by Cedar's Annual General Meeting took place on Lkwungen Territory, January 26, 2017 at the Parish of St. Peter/St. Paul Hall.

The evening opened with a traditional welcome and song by Yuxwelupton and was chaired by Wush'q. The meeting saw an excellent turnout of community support, with many new faces, long-time supporters, and the return of some community partners whom the agency had not seen in some time! Many words of encouragement were shared from the floor, which was heartfelt and uplifting for both the Board of Directors and the Agency as a whole. Elections saw Della Preston and Suzanne Wilkinson return to their positions on the Board for another three-year term, and welcomed Bruce Underwood for his first three-year term. A spectacular meal was prepared by Jessica Sault, allowing each of us to leave with a full heart and a full belly. With gratitude, I raise my hands to everyone who was able to attend, for each person who spoke and shared their words of support for the Agency, and to our wonderful staff who made such a wonderful evening possible.



GATHERING OUR VOICES YOUTH CONFERENCE

Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference was hosted in beautiful Kelowna BC this year from March 21st -24th. We are so honoured to have been able to support five amazing young people in our care to attend this year! This conference brings together over a thousand Indigenous youth from across the province to participate in a conference that highlights the importance of culture, tradition and wellness.

I would like to acknowledge these youth for their active participation in their workshops, exemplary behaviour and role modeling. The workshops they attended included archery, healthy relationships and connecting to Elders. We spent time listening to stories and songs. Our youth also engaged in a project that will be presented at the Vancouver Airport, which addressed the importance of an ongoing and meaningful connection to the land, as Indigenous people. We enjoyed lots of evening activities too: a youth talent show and the youth dance. All of our youth were gifted and honoured as part of the Youth in Care dinner which was a beautiful ceremony that acknowledged the unique trials and accomplishments of being a youth in care. I am so honoured to have been a witness to this event.

I would also like to acknowledge Ricky-Lee Watts, a wonderful Youth Worker, for chaperoning this event. Ricky brought years of experience working with youth. The youth gravitated towards him for his unwavering energy and travel stories which turned into late nights of story-telling! We all look forward to Gathering Our Voices next year!!



BCAAFC | BC Association of
Aboriginal Friendship Centres



Thank you Ricky Lee Watts!!

Flying the friendly skies to Kelowna GOV 2017



The entire staff would like to welcome Jennifer Chuckry to her new role as Executive Director!



Alysha Brown has been named Team Leader of the Guardianship Team.

Nola Campbell has joined the team as Permanency Social Worker.

Bel Manson has taken on the role of Permanency Social Worker.

Maren Gray will be supervising the Admin Team.

Rachel Street has joined the team as our new Intensive Youth Worker.

Sandra Lacroix is working with the Cultural Department as Cultural Support Worker.

Jennifer Dreyer has returned to the Child & Youth Counseling Dept after her maternity leave.

We bid farewell to **Yoanda Chua** who stepped in to assist the admin/resource team for 6 months.



CULTURAL PROGRAMMING UPDATE

We have had a busy few months with 3 Youth and Elder dinners, a Professional Development day camp and a Spring Break camp as well as our ongoing Leadership program.

Pro D Day February 24th, 2017

We spent the morning outside enjoying nature and learning the importance of honoring our natural world and in the afternoon we welcomed guest Curtis Henry from the Pauquachin Nation. Curtis Henry shared teachings regarding working with cedar. While Curtis was with us, our young people worked very diligently on sanding and painting their own mini-paddles to take home.



Youth and Elder Dinners Jan 11, 2017, February 15th, and April 5th, 2017

It is always a pleasure to spend some time with our elders, share a meal and have interesting conversations. We were fortunate enough to have 3 Youth and Elder dinners this winter into spring. Our elders always share so much of their own experiences and knowledge with the youth.

Youth Leadership Program (XE XU T ULUS THUT)

Leadership continued at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre where youth engaged with the Alternatives to Violence program and facilitators through various interactive and role playing activities.

Earthwalkers Spring Break Camp March 27th-31st, 2017

A whole week of fun activities ensued with our Earthwalkers camp. We enjoyed a Royal BC Museum visit where our young people learned more about where they were from and viewed some of the traditional tools used and regalia their families wore. Kaleb Child (Musgam'dzi from the Kwakwak'wak Nation) joined us one afternoon to share songs, stories and fun with us. Seneca Ambers (Tlowitsis-Ma'amtagila from the Kwakwak'wak Nation) taught us how to care for and create cedar roses from cedar bark strips. Gordy Bear (Cree/Metis) joined us on our final day to teach us how to make drums and drumsticks. As well as share teaching regarding the drum. Gordy shared songs and stories with us throughout the day as families and caregivers helped string the drums.



RESOURCES

The Surrounded by Cedar resource team is actively recruiting new caregivers. If you think you could open your hearts and your homes to British Columbia's most vulnerable children and youth, please connect with Wes Haase.

Your skills, knowledge and experience could make a significant difference for children and youth who could not remain with their families.

We can be contacted by email or telephone:

wes@scfcs.com or 250-383-2990 ex 209



**SURROUNDED BY
CEDAR CHILD AND
FAMILY SERVICES**

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Our vision is of healthy children who will grow up connected to their families, communities and culture. We will work together toward the day all children and families have skills, knowledge, education and support to ensure their children and their children's children will not enter the child welfare or justice systems.

NIŁ TU,O Baby Honouring

On April 6, 2017, I had the honour of attending a Baby Honouring Ceremony, an event hosted annually by NIŁ TU,O Child & Family Services to celebrate and honour their new bundles. Twelve little ones from the W̱SÁNEĆ communities were honoured at this event in a beautiful ceremony hosted at the Saanich Fairground, which was followed by an absolutely amazing meal. I raise my hands to Katharina Patterson and the team at NIŁ TU,O for the important work that they do, for paying honour to our most sacred gifts, and for inviting me to witness such wonderful work. Jennifer Chuckyry



Alex Nelson, Elder In Residence

Gilakasla and welcome readers. Firstly, thank you Creator for this moment and the teachings of "Natural Time", as Winter follows Spring and a sense of renewal begins! Thank you Lkwungen Nation as Sacred Keepers of these Lands!

Thank you Surrounded by Cedar for your continued expression of love and care.

I was honoured to witness and attend another great Youth Event, Gathering our Voices (GOV) hosted by BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres in Kelowna March 21-24, 2017. SCCFS Youth shared this experience with 1000+ Youth from across this Province.

The positive and healthy youth energy demonstrated togetherness and empowerment of a people coming together to celebrate who they are and where they come from! The Talent Show, the many awesome workshops, the inspirational speakers, the great Sport Give Away, the Dance, and the special Feast to honour Youth In Care.

Grand Chief Steward Phillips, along with his wife was the guest speaker for this Feast, and they offered a personal and emotional history of their experience as a Child In Care, and their marriage. He encouraged all Youth to remember that they all have a place in this world, and to believe that they could accomplish anything they set their hearts to, as he did!

With traditional Powwow Drummers setting a triumphant mood, special gifts were presented to each Youth In Care. Elders were asked to present these gifts, while friends, relatives, foster parents stood behind each youth and placed their hands on shoulder of the youth, as an act of love and care! What a powerful and emotional moment! I remain blessed to have witnessed this!

With the order of Natural Time, Summer will follow Spring. I am looking forward to another great youth event this Summer, the 2017 North American Indigenous Games, July 17-22. These Games will be in Toronto and will attract 5000+ Athletes from Canada and USA. I have attended all 8 of these Games (1990, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2014), and have been fortunate to be involved as an Athlete, a President of NAIG Council, and Executive Director for the 1997 NAIG which was hosted in Victoria.

As with Surrounded By Cedar, the North American Indigenous Games promote health and wellness in preparation for our Today & Futures!!! On May 12, 2017, I am looking forward to another Gathering at the Wawaditla Big House, "Nest to Wings"!

