



SURROUNDED BY CEDAR CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

JOB TITLE:	Lifelong Connections Worker	JOB STATUS:	Full-Time, Permanent
DEPARTMENT:	Support Services	REPORTS TO:	Team Leader, Support Services
JOB SUMMARY:	Under the supervision of the Support Services Team Leader and alongside the referring social worker, the Lifelong Connections Worker is responsible for seeking out extended family members for meaningful and lifelong involvement in the lives urban Indigenous children and youth in care. This work is done in collaboration with the social worker who maintains primary case planning responsibility, either at SCCFS or at MCFD.		

Located on the traditional territories of the Lkwungen People, Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services' (SCCFS) vision is of healthy children who will grow up connected to their families, communities and cultures. As an urban Delegated Indigenous Agency, SCCFS is committed to providing child welfare and support services that are rooted in strong cultural values and beliefs while focusing on the enhancement of resiliency in the urban Indigenous community.

Surrounded by Cedar receives its delegation through the Provincial Director of Child Welfare, who gives the agency the authority to undertake administration of parts of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*. Under its current delegation agreement, Surrounded by Cedar can administer C4 services (Guardianship). As part of its responsibility in caring for urban Indigenous children and youth in continuing care, the Lifelong Connections Worker plays a pivotal role in ensuring healthy identity development and strong relational permanence.

SCCFS strives to be a culturally safe employer, with a keen focus on Indigenous recruitment and retention. While working at the agency, employees will be involved in various cultural knowledge sharings, activities and ceremonies, while being actively engaged in urban Indigenous community events.

Purpose:

As a means of ensuring healthy identity development and strong relational permanence, the Lifelong Connections Worker will work alongside referring social workers to identify and locate a child or youth's extended family or other community members to build lifelong connections with. Wherever possible, these established connections may be explored as a permanency plan for the child or youth.

An integral part of the planning team, the Lifelong Connections Worker works collaboratively with all members of the child/youth's team, including birth family members, extended family members and the child/youth's Nation. A significant part of this role involves relationship and rapport building with people who are not trusting of the child welfare system or its processes. From time to time, the Lifelong Connections Worker may also be asked to participate in Care Plan meetings, offering insight into the child/youth's familial connections.



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Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Receive referrals from SCCFS and MCFD social workers for urban Indigenous children/youth in care;
- Meet with the referring social worker to gather additional information about the child/youth and to establish priorities for planning;
- Conduct physical and electronic file reviews and review other appropriate records to determine the child/youth's lineage;
- Connect directly with the child/youth, birth family members, extended family members, the child/youth's Nation(s), and others to gather and share information;
- Organize meetings with social workers, birth family members, extended family members, members of the child/youth's Nation(s), and others with the intention of establishing meaningful and lifelong connections for the child/youth;
- Collaborate with other organizations and participate in planning meetings as required;
- Offer education to family members on the various permanency options available;
- Create genograms for all children/youth referred to the program;
- Conduct SAFE Home Assessments when requested;

Financial Duties:

- Obtain approvals and required signatures for all spending;
- Track receipts for all spending on company credit cards;

Other duties include:

- Prepare written reports for the child/youth's file that document connections made with the child/youth's family, extended family, Nation(s), and others, including potential permanency options for the child/youth;
- Maintain and submit quarterly statistics to the Team Leader on work completed;
- Prepare closing summaries to be filed on the child/youth's child service file;
- Participate in staff and/or department meetings as required;
- Additional duties as required.

Qualifications

- A diploma in health and human services;
- Minimum 2 years' experience working directly with Indigenous children, youth and families;
- Working knowledge of British Columbia's child welfare system;
- Demonstrated experience working with Indigenous communities;
- Valid BC Class 5 Driver's license, clean driver's abstract and safe, reliable vehicle;
- Successful completion of a criminal record check under the *Criminal Records Review Act*;
- Proficiency in the use of Windows based computer applications including Excel, Word, Exchange and other standard computer applications;
- SAFE training would be considered an asset;
- Proficiency with GenoPro would be considered an asset;
- An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered.



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Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Excellent oral and written communication and comprehension skills;
- Active listening and critical thinking skills;
- Ability to function independently and in a team environment;
- Demonstrated organizational and time management skills; ability to work effectively under pressure and meet deadlines;
- Good knowledge of the vision and mission of SCCFS and how its programs fit into this;
- Ability to maintain positive working relationships with staff, clients, community partners, Elders, Chiefs, and Indigenous communities;
- Experience working in an Aboriginal not-for-profit organization while demonstrating a strong knowledge regarding the impact of colonialism within Indigenous communities;
- Model or mentor positive cultural influence, knowledge, and Indigenous ways of being;
- Ability to travel and maintain flexible working hours;
- Cooperative, courteous, flexible, good natured, and concerned with being helpful and making a good impression;
- Conscientious, maintains the highest level of confidentiality, persistent, resourceful, productive and pro-active;

Preference will be given to applicants who self-identify as Indigenous as per Section 41 of the Human Rights Code.

Closing Date: Friday, April 27, 2018

Your resume and cover letter which outline how you meet the qualifications required for this position can be submitted to the attention of:

Maren Gray, Executive Assistant

Email: maren@sccfs.com

Fax: (250) 383-2509