



Surrounded By Cedar Child and Family Services

Summer 2017 Newsletter

NEST TO WINGS

Once again, SCCFS hosted an awesome Traditional Celebration, "Nest to Wings", May 12th at Wawadit'la (Mungo Martin Big House). Through song, ceremony, feasting and words of encouragement 7 SCCFS Youth were honoured, blanketed and gifted. To see, feel and hear the strong sense of pride from both Youth and Witnesses is most empowering, and demonstrates resilience of the People. These Youth have been blessed and we are blessed to have them! Thank you SCCFS for opening up your Big House to make this Celebration happen! Alex Nelson



Alex Nelson

Eli Cranmer

Avery Nelson

Matt Ambers

Thompson Nelson

Thank you to our wonderful singers, dancers and to Toque Catering for an amazing feast! Congratulations to our graduates and our Youth as they continue on their journey. We are all so proud of you!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Surrounded by Cedar Foster Parent Association SBCFPA newsletter!

This first newsletter highlights upcoming events and includes information about events which have already happened prior to this mailing.

Recently we installed new signage in the reception lobby of SCCFS!

Thank you to Graphic FX and to Norman Croteau for helping to install this beautiful acknowledgment to the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.



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.





On June 1st 2017, Social Worker Nola Campbell and Team Leader Alysha Brown attended School District 61's Aboriginal Graduation at the Songhees Wellness Center. We were incredibly honoured to witness two of our Youth in Care walk across the stage. The night was filled with food, drumming and singing and acknowledged the hard work of all of the grads, caregivers and people who have supported them over the years. Our grads looked beautiful and were so proud of this huge achievement. Congratulations to our youth who graduated this year and best wishes for whatever the future has in store for you!

We look forward to attending next year to honour the grads of 2018!

UNITY DRUMMERS AND SINGERS

Unity Drummers and Singers are an urban Aboriginal group of community members who come together to drum and sing, while providing a safe and culturally sensitive space for family and community to gather.

Drum practices are open to anyone who may have an interest in spending time with community, while drumming until your heart is content. Practices take place weekly. If you don't have a drum, no worries! Several of our members bring extra drums to share.

Date: Every Friday Night

Location: Victoria Native Friendship Centre

Time: 6:00—8:30 pm

Feel free to bring a snack to share if you like!



2017 GATHERING OF BC ABORIGINAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS JENNIFER CHUCKRY

On April 25 & 26, 2017, I had the honour of participating in the Aboriginal Non Profit (ANP) BC Gathering in Richmond, British Columbia. This gathering was hosted by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and attended by Aboriginal non-profit (ANP) organizations from all over the province. During these two days, space and opportunity was provided for ANPs to share their experiences and resources, engage with the work being done in the ANPBC Strategy, while building unity and cohesion across the ANP sector. The gathering was loosely structured around three themes: where we came from, where we are now, and where we are going.

I was absolutely engaged throughout this entire gathering, and am so happy to have been able to attend an event with so many ANPs doing such amazing work in our communities. Fantastic information was provided, which will be incredibly helpful to SCCFS, including: Enhancing the roles of Elders and youth in ANP organizations; Strengthening connections to traditional values, culture and wellness in the workplace; ANP Pensions; Holistic Retirement Planning; and Promotional Materials. I raise my hands to the organizers of this event and to each of the speakers who shared such meaningful presentations. I look forward to the gatherings yet to come.

Overdose Crisis and Prevention Awareness - Jennifer Dreyer

In the first four months of 2017, BC lost 488 people to overdose. The overdose crisis has been very difficult for our community as we have all felt the overwhelming grief and loss impacting our families. SCCFS is committed to increasing knowledge about harm reduction and support services for families impacted by this crisis. In May 2017, SCCFS participated in Aids Vancouver Island's Overdose Prevention Community Action Plan and are regularly involved in advocating for our children and families. This Fall, in partnership with the Victoria Native Friendship Center, we will be hosting a series of community workshops including: Indigenous Harm Reduction, Traditional Modalities of Healing and Recovery, Coping with Grief & Loss through Culture and Connection, and Taking Care of Our Loved Ones Using Substances.

For more information contact counselling@scfcs.com.

Want to learn more? Contact any SCCFS Staff member to get your own Naloxone Kit and learn how to respond to an overdose.



ANSWER All Nations Strong Women for Education and Reconciliation DRUM GROUP Katie Jacobs

On the weekend of May 26th, the A.N.S.W.E.R women’s drum group was extended an invitation from the Port Alberni Friendship Centre to celebrate the opening of their new daycare. On our early morning travel to Port we stopped in Cathedral Grove to sing, drum and offer prayers. We stilled our spirits and thoughts in quiet moments honouring the magnificent trees and enjoying their whispered voices in the warm morning sunshine.



The Centre’s celebrations were opened with a prayer and with Elder, Kathy Robinson’s family sharing a song in celebration. Our A.N.S.W.E.R group offered appreciation for the Friendship Centre’s generosity supporting the drum group with funds to purchase jackets and T shirts with our logo. We opened with drumming and songs in our nations’ languages beginning with the Whale Song and dance. The medicine bear, eagle and wolf dances were performed by members of the group, closing the performance with the “Wildflower” song, welcoming the children in.

After the cultural performance we were hosted on a boat cruise by Ed Ross, who took us up the canal then up the river near the rapids. Our drum and songs echoed on the river. Along the shoreline we were greeted by happy waving children who were swimming and jumping from the bridge into the river.

We visited ‘Artistic Taxidermy Studio’ where we met artist Mike Stini who toured us around his shop, showing us his beautiful re-creations of Wolf, bison, cougar and other of nature’s creatures.

On Saturday morning, we were awake with the sun and went to the river below the rapids with our medicines accompanied by Elder, Kathy Robinson, her nephews, Trevor Little and Ed Ross. We were joined by Ricky Watts a member of the Port Alberni Nation, who is re-establishing his cultural connections with his nation. Cultural protocols and teachings were shared with us in preparation of entering the river. We offered four directions prayers to our ancestors, others, and for ourselves. We drummed and sang after the water prayers as we stood on the bank of the river in the warm morning sun. We returned home to Victoria Saturday afternoon with lighter hearts and peace in our spirits.

SOCCER—It’s not just a game!! ALEX NELSON (Elder in Residence)

I am currently coaching a U16 Boys Soccer Team, called “94 Calls”, and preparing to represent TEAM BC at the 2017 North American Indigenous Games hosted in Toronto, July 16-23!

People have stated, “What an interesting name for a Soccer Team, and ask about the name 94 Calls?” I also have been asked, “Why are you so passionate about playing and coaching soccer?”, and this is my answer!

This name idea comes from my personal story of attending St. Mikes Residential School in Alert Bay, when I was taken from Family and Community at the age of 7, and spent 7 years there! Today, the Truth & Reconciliation Commission presented 94 Calls to Action to deal with negative personal effects, and intergenerational effects of Residential Schools in Canada.

When we formed this team, I told my story to our young soccer players, and suggested the name. When I was in Residential School, soccer became my saving grace; to get away from the Institute, the smell, the staff, the regimentation, and negative daily treatment, and all that St. Mikes stood for! So, whenever we were given a soccer ball to go out and play, it was not just a game! It was freedom, enjoyment and nature! For me, soccer is not just a game, it is freedom! The players agreed with this name, 94 Calls!!

I’ve been coaching our Youth T-Birds Soccer Team for the past 20 Years, and I still play soccer....my passion continues!

Guilford Island—April 2017

T R A V E L O G U E

Social Worker Shelley LaFrance accompanied our little one on his first visit to his home territory in April. He, his caregivers and Shelley were all welcomed by his community. Everyone had a lovely time which included a tour of their new Big House. This experience is building on his strong sense of belonging, his culture and community.



Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services

Annual General Meeting

“Surrounded by Cedar’s Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 26th 2017 at the St. Peter & St. Paul’s Anglican Church (1379 Esquimalt Rd). Registration will open at 4:30pm with business and elections to follow by 5:30pm. The meeting will be concluded with a buffet style dinner. Visit our office to purchase your \$1.00 Membership!



Upcoming Community Events

TRADITIONAL DANCE Gathering

WHEN
Friday June 23, 2017
3:30pm – 8pm

WHERE
Songhees Wellness Centre
1100 Alexander St. Victoria BC

FEATURING: Indigenous traditional dancers - traditional drummers and dancers - justice children - traditional vocalists - traditional dancers

ALL AGES EVENT

ADVANCE TICKETS
Reserved tickets from Surrounded by Cedar (see 250-682-2999)

DINNER AT 5PM

PURPOSE
Traditional dancers and drummers demonstrate their skills for our children, youth and their families

DOOR PRIZES
There will be prizes to win

Doors open at 3pm

Greater Victoria Back to School Picnic

1401 Rockland Ave Government House

Saturday August 19
11:00 - 3:00 pm

Deadline is July 9, 2017

Everyone needs to register

38th Annual Kamloops Powwow

Celebrate the Secwepemc people's heritage in a spectacular way, at the 38th Annual Kamloops Powwow from August 4th – 6th, 2017. The Kamloops Powwow is one of the largest celebrations of First Nations' culture and heritage in Western Canada, and is a vibrant display of storytelling, song, and dance in traditional regalia. The Powwow represents many years of stories and events from previous years packed into three exciting days at the Secwepemc Powwow Grounds located 2 minutes from the city centre, alongside the South Thompson River in Kamloops.

STAFF UPDATE

WELCOME to Surrounded by Cedar



Surrounded by Cedar staff are delighted to announce the appointment of Brendan Elliott as Guardian Social Worker.

Brendan has many years experience with the Ministry for Children and Families with an emphasis on the reunification of Indigenous Children with family members.

Brendan looks forward to being a part of the collaborative approach practiced at Surrounded by Cedar and to expanding his knowledge of Indigenous cultures; practices and community.



Congratulations Jenna and family on the upcoming birth of your little one!

Celebrating Children and Youth In Care Week!

Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services

partnered with Indigenous Perspectives Society to honour Children in Care for BC's Children and Youth in Care Week. This was an opportunity to gather together to celebrate our children together. We shared food, songs and traditional crafts and had lots of fun! We were also able to host a youth event on June 8th 2017 where we gave away an Android Tablet and Beats Headphones!

7th Annual BC Children and Youth In Care Week Long Celebration
June 5th to 11th!

CELEBRATION OF OUR YOUTH
Child and Family Services
1437 Admirals Road, Victoria

CELEBRATION OF OUR KIDS
Indigenous Perspectives Society
956 Granderson Road, Langford

June 8th, 5pm to 7:30pm
FREE Family Event, activities for youth 13 and up
Mini lotion blankets, pizza, cake, prizes, including an ANDROID TABLET!

June 10th, 11 am to 2pm
FREE Family Event, activities for kids up to age 12
Games, bouncy castle, cake, cedar roses, gift bags, and more!

For more information, contact Melissa at melissab@surrounded.ca

STAND WITH YOUTH IN CARE | SURROUNDED BY CEDAR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES | INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES SOCIETY



Memories of the 7th Annual BC Children and Youth in Care Week!



The celebrations continued on June 10th at IPS. Stay tuned for 2018 Children and Youth in Care Week!

Fried Bread & Cedar bracelets with Island Montessori

Seneca Ambers

I was super privileged to meet and share a little bit of who I am with some of the cutest 4 to 6 year olds. First we talked about Cedar and all of the ways we Kwakwaka'wakw people used Cedar in our daily lives. The children ask many thought provoking questions, such as "do you guys wear animal hide, do you eat seal fat?" Then we made fried bread. All the children took turns and had a task each to complete (mixing ingredients, stirring, dumping the mix etc).

We fried it up and they enjoyed their creation. I had a blast and I was happy to share some time with some young ones.

