



Annual General Meeting Report

2016

Agenda

Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services
Annual General Meeting
The Parish of St. Peter & St. Paul
1379 Esquimalt Road

Thursday January 26, 2017

4:30 to 5:30pm Registration

5:15 Welcome to the Territory – *Bradley Dick*
Introduction by Chair – *Ron Rice*

5:30

1. Opening Remarks and Welcome from SCCFS President – *Della Preston*
2. Call meeting to order by Chair – *Ron Rice*
3. Establish Quorum
4. Review Agenda for January 26, 2017
5. Motion: To Accept Agenda for January 26, 2017
6. Review 2014/2015 AGM Minutes from October 27, 2015
7. Business arising from Minutes
8. Motion: To Approve 2014/2015 AGM Minutes
9. Report of the President – *Della Preston*
10. Motion: To Approve the Report of the President
11. Report of the Acting Executive Director – *Jennifer Chuckry*
12. Motion: To Approve the Report of the Acting Executive Director
13. Report of the Treasurer – *Niki Bresser and Auditor Bill Cox (BDO Canada)*
14. Motion: To Accept Financial Statements and Report of the Treasurer
15. Appointment of Auditor
16. Motion: To Accept the Appointment of the Auditor for 2016-2017
17. Questions to the Board from the floor
18. Board Elections – Call for Nominations
19. Motion: To Close Nominations from the Floor
20. Motion: To Adjourn Business

6:30 Prayer and Dinner

7:15 Closing

Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statement

Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services will provide child and family services rooted in cultural values and beliefs to restore and enhance the strength and resiliency in the urban Aboriginal community.

Vision Statement

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 system.



Core Values

All SCCFS employees, volunteers, contractors, practicum students and Board Members shall:

1. Support the belief that Aboriginal social and cultural traditions are the strongest resources for helping families.
2. Utilize the wisdom and applicability of traditional teachings in their practice.
3. Encourage and support the use of materials that are culturally relevant in content and method, in providing effective Aboriginal child welfare services.
4. Support the belief that the values and principles of traditional teachings support effective practice today.
5. Strive to work effectively within the context of Aboriginal cultural, to be culturally competent, and respectful.
6. Provide effective services to families with an understanding of history, the dynamics of oppression, contemporary politics, and the influence that these have in Aboriginal families' lives.
7. Support the belief that the highest priorities for child welfare are the child's safety and well-being.
8. Protect children through services that preserve and strengthen their families, extended families and their tribes.
9. Hold a commitment to a child's sense of belonging including the child's right to group up within his or her own extended family, Aboriginal community and culture.
10. Be committed to compliance with the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* and Aboriginal child welfare best practice standards.



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Members of the Board of Directors

Della Preston

President

Suzanne Wilkinson

Vice President

Jacque Green

Secretary

Niki Bresser

Treasurer

VACANT

Director

VACANT

Director

Jessie Jim

Nuu-Chah-Nulth Representative

Victor Newman

Elder Representative (On Leave)

President's Report, Della Preston

It's been a year of significant growth and change for the organization. We lift our hands to the Lkwungen peoples upon whose territory we live, work and play.

At our last AGM, two new board members were elected in: Nicole Bresser and Chelsea Kelly. Chelsea has since stepped away from the Board to pursue other opportunities and we thank her for her time with us.

Nella Nelson stepped down as President in March, 2016 and then stepped away from the Board entirely at the end of September, 2016. We acknowledge the time and passion that Nella has given to this agency from before its inception to this past fall. Nella has been a driving force with Aboriginal children in care for decades. We lift our hands to her years of service and time and energy.

Della Preston took over the Presidency position and Suzanne Wilkinson remained Vice President, while Jacquie Green and Nicole Bresser stepped into the other Executive positions. Jessie Jim continues to be our Nuu-Chah-Nulth representative and Victor Newman also continues on the Board; however, he has been on a leave of absence to focus on his health this past year.

Our employment relationship with Riley McKenzie has come to an end and the Board would like to thank her for her years of service and wish her well on her future endeavors. Jennifer Chuckry stepped into the Acting Executive Director role in early September and the Board has been working closely with her in this role. An offer for the Executive Director position has been made and negotiations are underway. An announcement regarding the agency's Executive Director is expected to be made in the very near future.

We were moving towards C6 delegation however with our most recent changes we are prioritizing our foundation and relationship with our community.

We also want to renew our commitment to Cultural Programming. The Cultural Programs are the heart of our work and so we have hired a new position of Cultural Support Worker to help the Cultural Programs Coordinator with this important work.

We had our first rescindment this past year; the CCO was cancelled and a ceremony followed. An exciting first for our agency! We are always so pleased to offer culturally relevant ceremonies to honour the important rites of passages for our children and youth. This includes Permanency Plans and the Nest to Wings Ceremony for those who are aging out of care.

Overall, the year has been an exciting one. We look forward to the coming year with a renewed sense of commitment for our children in our care. The work we do is important and we continue to keep our children at the center of everything we do. We lift our hands up to our staff, our families, our foster parents and our community for supporting us to continue to hold up these children in a good way.

Acting Executive Director's Report, Jennifer Chuckry

I acknowledge the Lkwungen people whose unceded territory Surrounded by Cedar is located upon, whose territory I live and work upon each day. I also acknowledge the W̱SÁNEĆ, T'sou-ke, MÁlexeł, and Scia'new people whose unceded traditional territory Surrounded by Cedar provides its services upon. I am a visitor here to this territory. I give thanks each day for the beautiful gifts of this land and for the beautiful people who have cared for this territory since time immemorial.

Transformation has been a common theme throughout Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services over the course of the last year. The agency has said farewell to a number of employees, while welcoming new employees in their place. Several staff members have stepped into new roles on an acting basis, filling in where they can, and ensuring that as little impact as possible was experienced by our children, youth and families. Two new positions were created by the agency towards the end of 2016, including a Float Social Worker and a Cultural Support Worker. These positions have brought great relief and support to their respective program areas. At the beginning of September, 2016, I was asked to act as the Executive Director. Initially, Robin Croteau covered as Team Leader for the Guardianship & Permanency Planning team, and in November, Alysha Brown assumed this role on an acting basis.

Permanency planning continues to be a focus within the agency, as well as ensuring that our cultural programming is strong and meeting the needs of the children and youth that we serve. At the end of March, 2016, our ASI contract was not renewed, and we lost the Permanency Planning Coordinator position that was funded through these dollars. This had a significant impact on the Guardianship & Permanency Planning Team, and completing all of the requirements for permanency plans has been and remains a challenge. SCCFS was fortunate to receive some extra funding through the Five Plus Five Program of MCFD, allowing the agency to contract with Loreen Keefe, who is assisting with the paperwork aspect of this planning.

Over the course of 2016, SCCFS also saw a foster parent support group establish itself. Several of the agency's caregivers are coming together on a regular basis to provide peer support to one another. This group also plans to focus on providing cultural mentorship to non-Aboriginal caregivers, which is absolutely fantastic!

In November, our staff and Board came together for a half day workshop with Kathy Camilleri, focusing on where we want to get to as a team. On January 18, our staff and board came together a second time to focus on revitalizing the strategic plan that was initially developed at the end of 2014. All staff training will take place at the end of January, focusing on topics such as harassment and bullying, non-violent communication, and lateral violence.

In closing, I would like to raise my hands to each member of the Surrounded by Cedar team. We host an incredibly amazing team of people who are exceptionally passionate about children, youth and the Aboriginal community as a whole. I am inspired each day by their dedication, their commitment, and their desire to change outcomes for our most sacred gifts.

Ekosi.

Staffing Update

There have been many changes to the Surrounded by Cedar team over the course of the last year. The list below outlines each of the agency employees at present:

Administration Team:

Jan Theunisz
Alana Lukenbill-Williams
Katie Jacobs
Charlene Barney
Yoanda Chua

Office Manager
Team Assistant, Guardianship
Team Assistant, Resources
Office Assistant
Temp Assistant

Elder in Residence

Alex Nelson

Elder in Residence

Support Services Team

Seneca Ambers
VACANT
Sabrina Williams
Jessica Sault
Sandra Lacroix
Jennifer Dreyer

Lifelong Connections Worker
Intensive Youth Support Worker
On Leave
Temporary Cultural Programs Coordinator
Cultural Support Worker
Child & Youth Counselor

Resource Team

Danielle St. Clair
Wes Haase

Resources Worker
Resources Worker

Guardianship & Permanency Planning Team

Kristina Griffiths
Shelley Lafrance
Jenna Bailey
Bel Manson
Nola Campbell

Guardianship & Permanency Planning Worker
Guardianship & Permanency Planning Worker
Guardianship & Permanency Planning Worker
Guardianship & Permanency Planning Worker
Float Social Worker

Leadership Team

Jennifer Chuckry
Maria Sampare
Robin Croteau
Alysha Brown
Maren Gray

Acting Executive Director
Finance Manager
Team Leader, Resources & Support Services
Acting Team Leader, Guardianship
Executive Assistant

Elder in Residence Report, Alex Nelson

Gilakas'la tle laxwala, Greetings Loved Ones! My name is Alex Nelson, born into the Musgamaqw-Dzawada'enuxw Nation located on mainland side across from North Vancouver Island. As your Resident Elder, please accept this as my 2016 Annual Report.

I am reminded of, and fully support SCCFS's Mission Statement: Surrounded by Cedar will provide child and family services rooted in cultural values and beliefs to restore and enhance the strength and resiliency in the urban Aboriginal community.

I take every opportunity to call Surrounded by Cedar "our BIG HOUSE", where we exercise, demonstrate and teach our values, principles, ceremonies and our way of Life! I accept the challenges of managing within our two worlds; the Indigenous World and the Non-Indigenous World.

My role as Resident Elder is defined by SCCFS's wish to "do things differently". The many Cultural Programs and Events profile this wish, and I am available to offer advice, perform the Master of Ceremonies role, and provide open /closing prayers using my traditional dialect. The following Events I have been involved in are:

1. BCAAFC's Gathering of Voices Provincial Conference, Children in Care Feast, March 22, 2016.
2. Welcoming & Recognition Ceremony, March 26-27, 2016, 2016
3. Rescindment & Returning Home Ceremony, March 29, 2016
4. Making New Relations Celebration, June 17, 2016.
5. Aging Out Ceremony, Nest to Wings at Wawadithla (Mungo Martin Big House) June 10, 2016
6. Foster Parent Appreciation Luncheon, October 25, 2016
7. Winter Feast & Celebration, involving Cedar Clause, Youth Animal Kingdom Performance & Drumming, December 14, 2016
8. Elder & Youth Dinners
9. Surrounded By Cedar Annual General Meeting, and Staff Meetings.

As a Work Place that inherits variety of stress factors, I meet with Staff and offer personal self-care advice and become a sounding board. I also offer and provide political support/advice to the Executive Director, and act as Agency Community Ambassador, including MCFD and local First Nations.

The Agency has experienced challenging times as there were so many Staff turn overs and changes. I had likened this to our Traditional Earth Quake Ceremony, where uncontrolled shaking, thundering silence and uncertainty overshadowed the great work of the Agency! However, my belief and hope is for this Agency to learn from this experience and apply traditional and Indigenous problem solving methods, as tools of truth and reconciliation.

I recommend the Agency build on its' current Elder participation and formally work towards recognizing an Elders Council. This Council would respond to shaping "how we do things differently." The Elders Council would act as a support to Resident Elder in conducting "Circle Talks", to trust build and harmonize all structures of Agency (Board of Directors, Community, and Staff). Our Future is Ours!

Guardianship & Permanency Planning Report, Alysha Brown

Hello Everyone! My name is Alysha Brown. I'm honoured to have been given the opportunity to act in the role as Team Leader for the Guardianship and Permanency Planning Team since November 2016. I'm also holding onto three youth from my caseload with some significant mental health and addictions issues. This has been a busy and challenging learning curve for me but I am hopeful that the New Year will bring some sense of stability back to the team. I am so honoured to work with Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services, alongside an amazing team of committed, like-minded people, who are so incredibly passionate about making a difference in the lives of our children and families in our urban Aboriginal community. I am forever grateful to the Lkwungen people who share their beautiful territories with all of us each day.

Over the course of the last year, there continues to be ongoing effort made to ensure that permanency planning happens for our children and youth in care in a timely manner. However, this has been extremely challenging for the team due to a loss in funding for the Permanency Planning Coordinator position. As workload permits, we continue to do the necessary work to move forward with our permanency plans: searching for family, identifying plans, and ensuring all processes have been thorough and complete. Our goal is to establish permanency for each child and youth within our agency.

There has been a tremendous amount of change on the Guardianship and Permanency Planning Team over the course of the last year. We have a great team of five guardianship social workers: Kristina Griffiths, Jenna Bailey, Shelley Lafrance, Nola Campbell and as of January 4, 2017, we welcome Bel Manson to the team. Together, they bring a wealth of knowledge and experience working with children and families within the Aboriginal community and I am so honoured to be able to grow and learn with these individual workers. We also have an amazing Team Assistant: Alana Lukenbill-Williams who has shared duties with the wonderful Katie Jacobs over the last several months.

Having said that, I was incredibly sad to see many of our workers choose different paths, both within the agency and externally. Connie Martin accepted a position at Indigenous Perspectives Society and has a Team Lead and teaching role there. Tanille Johnston has moved closer to family in Campbell River and is working for the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Alison Stark left her position to fulfill a life-long passion of becoming a foster parent and is caring for a sibling group of three from our agency! Wes Haase has transitioned to the Resources Team. And Lee Smith has also reunited with her family in Vancouver and accepted a position at Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services. I am honoured to have worked with this wonderful team of people and am looking forward to the new team coming together and forming a strong bond with the shared goal of supporting our children in care and working towards better outcomes.

As of December 31, 2016, Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services was providing services to 92 urban Aboriginal children and youth in the continuing care of the Director. This number has increased since our last AGM, when we were servicing approximately 90 children and youth in care. We strive each day to provide services rooted in culture and connectedness, working with children and youth from Nations stretching right across Canada. This number includes several inter-provincial transfers from Alberta and Manitoba, as well as courtesy work we provide for children placed in the care of Usma Nu-

chah-nulth Child and Family Services. Although the work is incredibly challenging, emotional, and complex, it is also equally as rewarding and heart-filling!

During the 2016 year, a total of 10 youth left care on their 19th birthdays. Many of these youth continue to engage with our agency in some capacity, well beyond their 19th birthdays, and we are also so grateful to have them come back and connect. A ceremony took place in June 2016 to recognize and honour this transition for our youth leaving care this year.

We saw two youth graduate from high school this year! What an incredible accomplishment for these young people. We are so incredibly proud of these youth and look forward to where their paths will take them next.

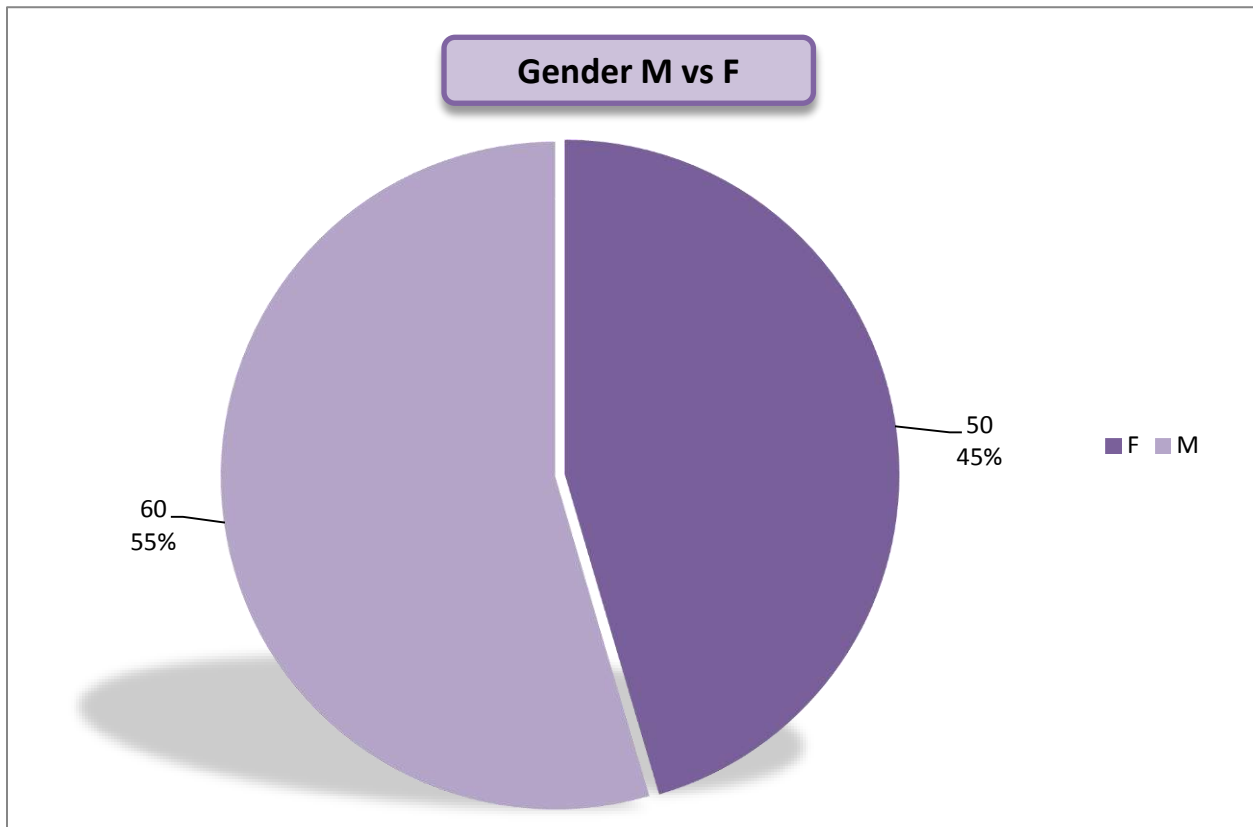
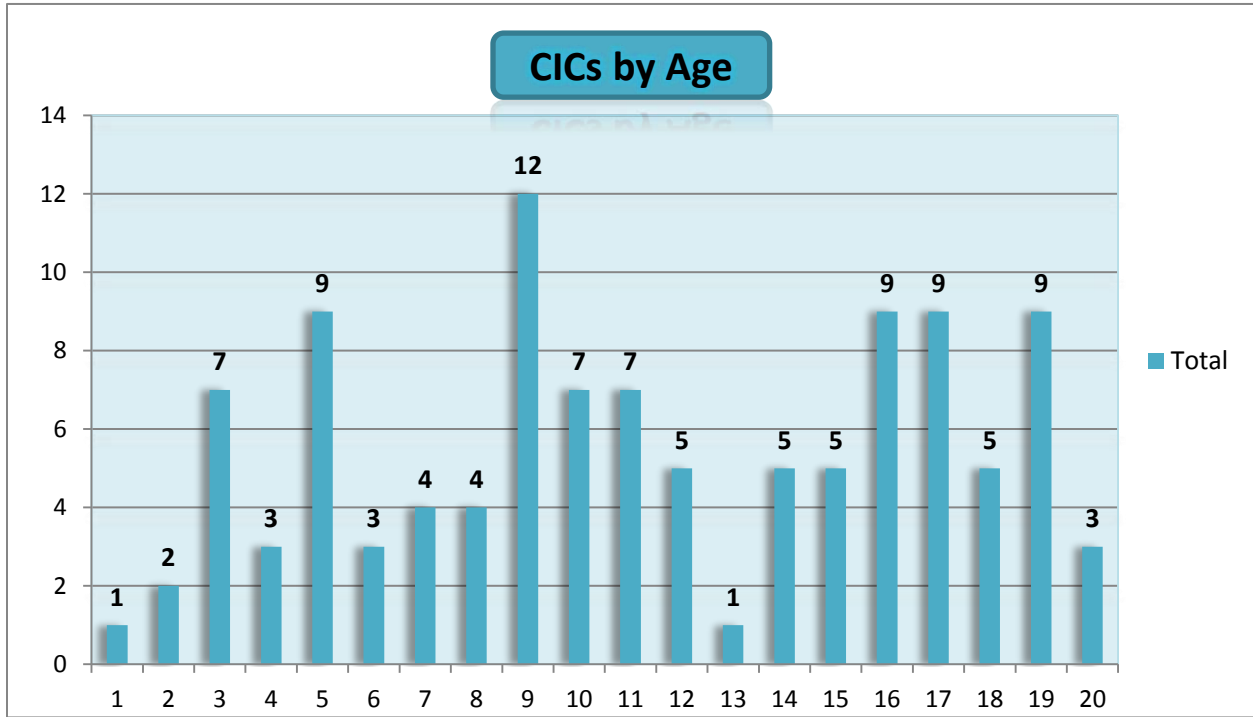
Our agency took two children in care this year to participate in the Hobiye Celebrations (Nisga'a New Year) in Vancouver in February, 2016. We had 8 youth participate in the Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference in Victoria in March 2016. In August, 2016, four of our youth in care travelled with staff to take part in the Kamloopa Pow-Wow in Kamloops BC.

Connecting children and youth to their home territories remains a priority for Surrounded by Cedar. We had the fortune of supporting several families in travel to home territories throughout the year. This included our children in care travelling to Alert Bay, Hazelton, Tofino and Zeballos to see family. More formal trips included many of our children participating in welcoming home ceremonies in Morricetown, Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory, Ahousaht and Squamish. These experiences continue to be incredibly powerful for the children and youth that Surrounded by Cedar serves. Families have been reunited, stories have been shared, and hearts have been filled. All children have a right to visit their home territories, and Surrounded by Cedar will continue to provide these opportunities as often as possible. The team looks forward to making connection to family and territory a priority for the upcoming year, with plans to travel to places like Haida Gwaii and Meadow Lake Saskatchewan!

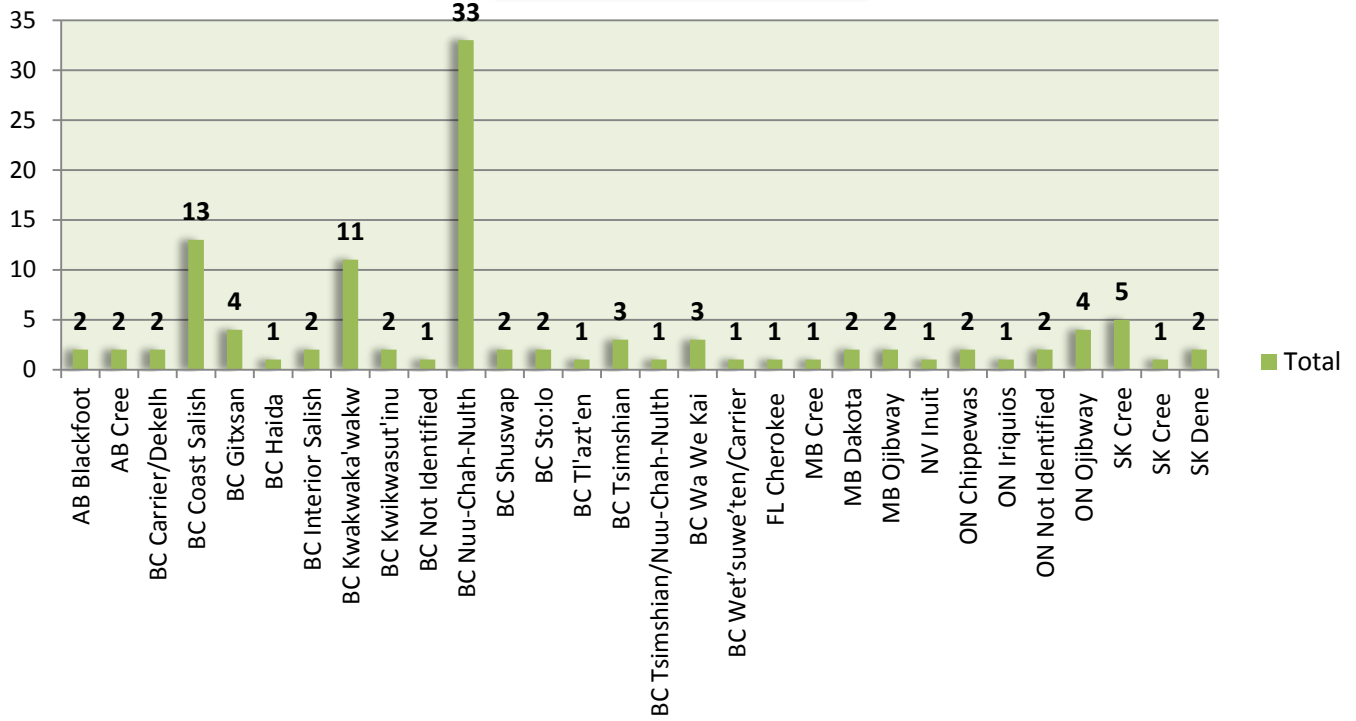
I look forward to the challenges and rewards that the next year will bring. The amazing commitment of the entire Surrounded by Cedar team fills my heart, and their devotion and dedication keeps me so grounded. Each day we plant seeds in the lives of our children, youth and families, and I am confident in saying that we are making a difference.

Child/Youth in Care Data

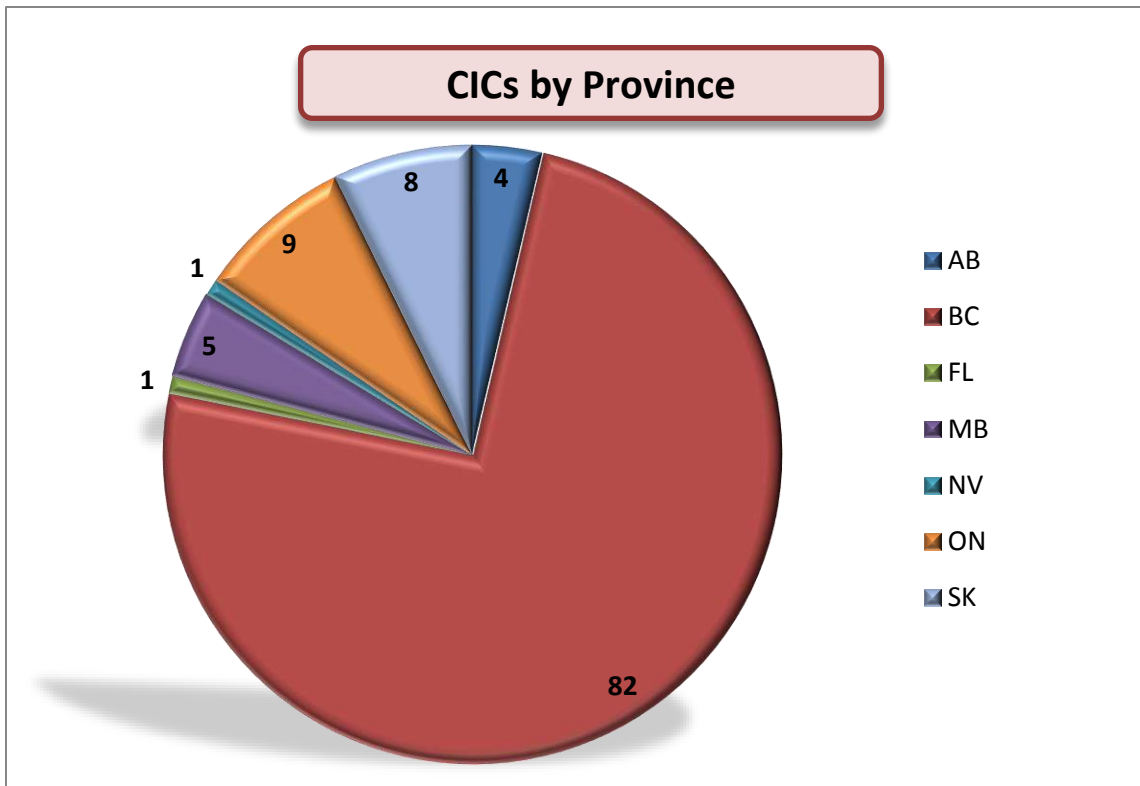
Note: Data reflects SBC caseload stats from October 01, 2015 to November 30, 2016



CIC Nation Count



CICs by Province



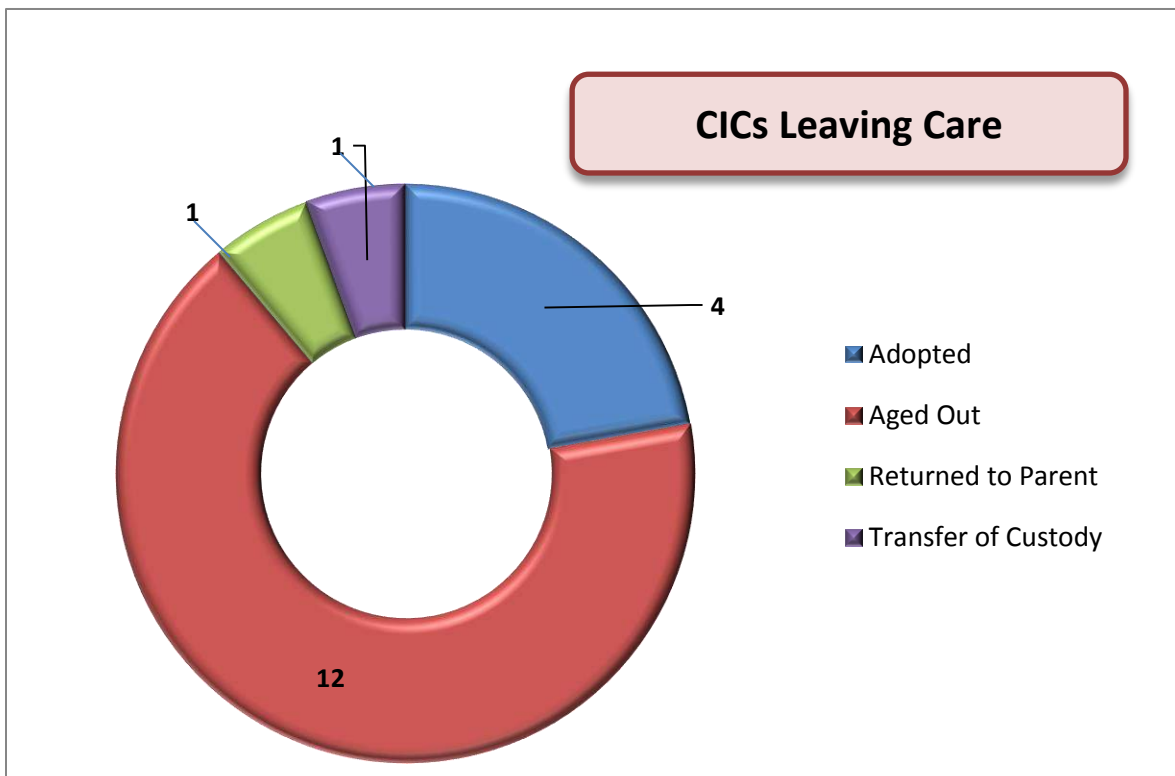
In December, 2015, two children in care were placed for adoption. This event was recognized through ceremony, including members of these children's Nation, extended family, adoptive family, foster family, agency staff and board.

In March, 2016, Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services cancelled its first Continuing Custody Order and saw a child returned to this father's care! This was certainly a milestone for the agency, and was celebrated in a very emotional ceremony. The agency raises its hands to Lee Smith, who was the Guardianship Social Worker responsible for this planning, as well as to the family for all of their hard work. A number of other rescindments are being explored within the Guardianship Team.

In June, 2016, the agency hosted its Nest to Wings Ceremony at the Wawaditla to recognize those youth who were transitioning out of care. Five youth participated in this ceremony, which was witnessed by community members, family members, foster families, staff and board. These youth were addressed by several members of the community, offered advice and support as they move forward in their new journeys, and were celebrated through song and dance.

In June and July, 2016, two children in care were placed for adoption. One event was recognized through ceremony, which took place at the Burnside Gorge Community Centre, and included members of his birth family, adoptive family, local community members, staff and board. The second event was recognized through a candle lighting ceremony.

Permanency planning remains a priority for SCCFS; however, due to the loss of funding for the Permanency Planning Coordinator position and the number of staffing changes to the Guardianship & Permanency Planning team, this work has slowed down. In December, 2016, a contract was established with Loreen Keefe, who is assisting with the paperwork side of finalizing a number of permanency plans.



Resources and Support Services Report, Robin Croteau

Good Evening,

My name is Robin Croteau and I have been the Team Leader for Resources and Support Services since October 2013. I have had the privilege of being part of the Surrounded by Cedar Team since January 2012 and am incredibly amazed each and every day by my colleagues, their passion for and dedication to the work they do.

Within the Support Services Team, there are 3 positions: Lifelong Connections, Intensive Youth Support, and Cultural Programming. The role of The Lifelong Connections Worker is to perform extensive searches for family members for both Surrounded by Cedar children in care and the Ministry for Children and Family Development Aboriginal children in care. This role is crucial to permanency planning for our children as a permanent home within family and community may be located, or connections established with family and community that have been lost, but at the very least provide the child/youth with a genogram and information around their heritage and where they come from.

The Intensive Youth Support Worker position was created in March 2014. The role of the intensive youth support worker is to provide support to high risk youth 12 to 19 years of age. These supports include but are not limited to connecting youth with cultural resources within the community, assistance with finding shelter, accessing basic needs or developing independent living skills through appropriate means. Both of these positions provide service to Surrounded by Cedar and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

The Cultural program continues to grow and provide integral cultural teachings and programs for our youth, Elders, community and families. The work that is done with our youth creates a strong sense of belonging and identity. Through Youth Leadership groups, Youth and Elder dinner, day camps during spring break and pro-D days, as well as summer camps on the land it is amazing to see how many of our youth have grown and learned over the past year. This year we were once again fortunate to have a youth through the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program assist with the cultural programming over the summer months.

In March 2016 an additional program was added. The Animal Kingdom Program instills the First Nations' teachings and is the foundation of the program. It is delivered in units of curriculum written by facilitator, Jessica Sault with 4 apprentices participating. There are 9 students who have embraced the culture and take it seriously. They worked hard during the Mother Earth Teachings, the Animal Unit, the Feasting and Protocols Unit, the Eagle Unit and the Art Unit. They are strong and proud dancers and singers.

Our resources also continue to grow. Currently we have a total of 49 foster homes as compared to 39 last year. In addition approximately 2 SAFE home studies have been completed with another 6 started, 3 of which will allow children to live permanently with family members. The recruitment of new caregivers is ongoing, and our plan is to recruit more care givers over the upcoming year. The South Island Region as a whole is in need of skilled caregivers who are willing to open their hearts and homes to some of our most vulnerable children and youth. Our agency continues to work closely with the Ministry of Children and Family Development in recruiting and sharing care givers. In October we held a luncheon for our care givers to honor them for the work they do in caring for our children. Without them we would not be able to do the work we do.

Over the past year there have been some staff changes within the Support Services Team and Resources. Resource Worker Sylvia Jones resigned from her position in May 2016 to pursue other ventures. We wish her all the best and miss her humor and insight. Her position was filled by Wes Haase who left his position with the Permanency Team to join the Resource team. We are happy to have him with us as he brings many different skills and knowledge with him.

In January 2017 Bel Manson resigned from her position as Intensive Youth Support Worker to take a vacant position on the Permanency Planning team. We have posted for the Intensive Youth Support Worker position and hope to have this filled by mid-February. Bel will be missed by the youth, professionals and community supports that she worked with.

Jessica Sault and Sandra Lacroix have been hired to cover the cultural program while Sabrina Williams is away from the office. Both Jessica and Sandra bring a wealth of cultural knowledge and skills to the program and we are grateful to have them.

Last year brought many changes and challenges to the agency, but we have managed to remain strong and committed to our children, families and communities. Without the acknowledgement, respect and support of each other the work we do becomes more difficult. Every day I see the passion, dedication and commitment to each other, our children, families and communities and am so proud of the team, the agency and the work we all do.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Croteau

Lifelong Connections Program Report, Seneca Ambers

2016 has been a year of many changes. Since last year I have been working on many projects. I have completed 1 SAFE study. I have also completed 13 Genealogies this year.

As the Life Long Connections Worker I spend a lot of time calling communities to enquire about familial ties that Surrounded by Cedar children might have with people in the community. I spend time searching online as well for contact information that may lead me to connecting with a child's community and family.

For the last quarter of 2016 I was given the opportunity to support the Cultural Team and I thank management for trusting this special program to me. I am honored, and thank everyone who supported me in a new, temporary role.

Highlights:

- Siblings were found in the United States for one of our youth. I am happy to report that this youth is now connected with her 3 siblings.
- I have been supporting one mother in her journey to have 2 of her sons returned to her. She is in the final stages of work and the hope is that her 2 sons will be living with her by February of 2017.
- Meeting and networking with other people working in the Family Finding field at the Best Practice Forum in Vancouver.
- Attended a 2 day SAFE review. The work that was accomplished during this review was exciting. The group consisted of MCFD and DAA workers. We analyzed the current SAFE program and put forward recommendations to make SAFE more aboriginal friendly.

Challenges:

- Communication with communities is still a barrier that I am trying to overcome.
- Waiting for people to get back to me is always an issue. There is no real resolve for this issue.
- Not meeting people in person can be a barrier. I am an anonymous person on the other end of a phone. Many communities are more responsive to face to face contact. This is a barrier for many reasons. Cost, distance and time are some factors in not being able to meet face to face.

Statistics

- Total referrals (opened and closed)
- The total number of referrals for this program since September 2012 is 92.
- The total number of referrals for this year is 27.
- Total of closed files for this year is 14.
- Current caseload is 31.
- Communities contacted
- There were approximately 17 separate communities contacted this year.

Intensive Youth Support Worker Program Report, Bel Manson

The Intensive Youth Support Services position began at Surrounded by Cedar in March of 2014. Its focus is to help support the continued capacity and skill development of either high risk youth or youth in need of additional supports outside of the traditional guardianship responsibilities. The youth worker is responsible for a variety of duties as it pertains to youth between the ages of twelve to nineteen. In addition, the youth worker could potentially be available to support youth who are post majority, however, only for a specified time while the youth child in care file is still open with the social worker responsible.

The relationship between the youth worker and the youth should be one of honesty, transparency and trust. This relationship is solidified over time and the expectation of the IYSW is to engage with the youth on a weekly basis. This regular connection will establish good rapport with each youth and give ample opportunity for the ISW to engage youth in healthy, supportive relationships.

Referrals to the IYSW generally come from social workers at the Ministry of Children and Families or from Surrounded by Cedar. The agency will accept referrals from other ancillary agencies that are working with urban Aboriginal families and youth as well.

Since the creation of ISW position in March of 2014, there have been 44 files opened and youth accepted, encompassing a variety of goals for each youth. The amount of time each file stays open is based entirely on the youth and his or her participation and engagement with the ISW as well as what each youth requires.

It is an absolute honour being able to meet and connect with these dynamic and resilient young people. They are willing, capable and wise beyond their vulnerable years. With patience, guidance and commitment from the IYSW, these youth have been able to fight addiction, connect with family, return to school and age out with a plan and a promising future.

The ability of the IYSW to build a relationship with the youth is imperative to the success of this program and the success of the youth. Humour, trust, understanding and suspending judgement are just a few of the qualities that are imperative to employ in this position. It's important to know that any small effort or achievement is a reason to celebrate, and understand any mistake or slip is not a failure but just a reason to try again. Trauma based practice and harm reduction are also very important approaches to embrace in this position.

These young people can, and many have, become happy, healthy and successful contributors to our communities. They need the chance and the support to make it happen. I am learning, every day, about the youth that I serve and even more about myself and how I can assist them in becoming who and where they want to be. I look forward to each and every referral.

Cultural Program Report, Jessica Sault & Sandra Lacroix

The Cultural Program witnessed many changes this past year with Megan Clarkson as the cultural support person and the addition of Jessica Sault and Sastup Minh - the Animal Kingdom. The Animal Kingdom enriched all who worked with the Animals and those that watched the dances. So many cultural teachings are imbedded in the program, as the children and youth emerged at the end of the year confident and culturally skilled.

The first half of the year, we held several Youth and Elder dinners where up to 25 youth, elders and community members gathered for a meal and knowledge sharing.

Community Events

- Community Think Tank - Feb 10th, 2016
- Building Bridges by Understanding the Village - April 2nd, 2016
- Youth Empowerment Night: "Breaking the Silence" - May 11th, 2016

Youth and Elder Dinners

- Feb 10th, 2016

Professional Development Day Culture Camps

- Feb 19, 2016: Drum making Workshop with Bradley Dick
 - 13 participants (11 were CIC) ages 6-12yrs old

Earthwalkers Spring Break Camp

- March 17-11, 2016
 - 12 children (9 CIC) attended between the ages of 6-12years.
 - Swimming, Quw'tsun sweatlodge, Raptors Centre, Goldstream Park, Compost Centre, traditional canoe teachings
 - 2 youth Apprentices assisted with Spring Break programming

Xe'Xu T'uluts'thut Leadership Program (XXTT)

- Youth Engagement Night – January 26th, 2016 @ VNFC
- Eagle workshop –
 - Facilitated by Jessica Sault
 - 24 participants
 - 2 youth apprentices assisted
- Mad Hatter workshop – Feb 9th, 2016
 - Internet safety workshop
 - 22 participants
- Creating Medicine Bundles and cases – March 8th & March 29th, 2016
 - 18 participants
- Alternatives to Violence training workshops – March 29th, April 12th, April 30th, 2016
 - April 5, April 19, April 26, May 3rd
- End of Year Ceremony – May 10th, 2016
- Drum Making Workshop – May 19th, 2016
 - Facilitated by Bradley Dick

The second half of the year the Cultural program continued with Pro D days, the Youth Leadership program (XTT), Youth and Elder Dinners and the Earthwalker day camps.

Earth Walker Day Camp July 20-24, 2016

12 participants

- Beacon Hill Park
- IMAX
- RBCM
- Medicinal Plants at Witty's Lagoon
- Goldstream hike

XTT Youth Leadership – Alternatives to Violence Summer Camp July 11-15, 2015

11 youth, 5 were children in care

- Protocol
- Cedar rose making
- Canoeing
- Rattle making
- Spirit stone making
- Spirit bath

Back to School Picnic August 13th, 2016

11 child/youth volunteer

- Assisted in the races
- Clean-up and teardown

Youth Waterslide Trip August 16th, 2016

9 youth, 4 in care

This was to thank the volunteers at the Back to School Picnic

Sastup Minh - Animal Kingdom July – September, 2016

10 participants, 8 in care

- Protocols, songs, dances, legends, mask protocols, regalia
- Dance camp in Port Alberni- extreme cultural teachings
- BCAAFC's Aboriginal Day performance at Centennial Square
- Pacific People's Partnership/One Wave Festival performance at Centennial Square
- Butterfly Ceremony- learned Butterfly song, released real butterflies

Youth & Elder Dinners September- November, 2016

12 youth and 10 elders

- Janis Jonasen- Sharing Our Gifts
- Gratitude Teachings, by actions
- Feasting, what it means, giving the leftovers (maamoot/mootala)
- Making meals together and presenting on a feast table
- Singing and dancing for elders
- Youth mentoring elders to drum
- Legends, learning traditional teachings

Pro-D Day

September-November, 2016

11 youth

- Sooke field trip to visit pictographs on rocks
- Mask Unit- Potlatch Ban, Mother Earth Teachings, types of masks, mask protocol, make paper masks, drums and their beats, song and ownership, legend, gratitude teachings
- Art and Music Unit- People, dancers, drums, songs, dancing, animals, ovoids, drawing, drum bag, cutting out stencils for bag, adding buttons, legend, gratitude

XXTT Youth Leadership

October- November, 2016

8 youth, 3 in care

- Grief and Loss Workshop
 - creating a safe place, boundaries, challenges, emotional literacy, mindfulness
- First Nation's timeline
- Potlatch Ban
- Residential schools
- Masks
- Protocols of big drum
- Pipe ceremony
- Eagle workshop and eagle teachings
- Making medicine pouches

Animal Kingdom

October- November, 2016

10 participants, 8 in care

- Learn songs, dances, legends, mask protocols, regalia
- Learn new whale song (with head band) and dance for Winterfeast
- Teach children to learn how to create their own style of dancing and looking after the agenda
- Make tunics for Winterfeast duties- learning to cut stencils, add buttons
- Make wall hangings, cut stencils, add buttons
- Learn Christmas carols in Nuuchahnulth and Kwakwaka'wakw
- Learn about elders and their special requirements
- Full dress rehearsal and prepare regalia for Winterfeast

Winterfeast

December, 2016

250-280 people

- Unity Drummers sang during arrivals and during dinner
- Youth prepared by smudging, visualizations and energy exercises
- Youth greeted visitors with tunics on
- Youth made sure everyone had water etc. while walking around hall
- Youth danced in the grand entry with the Whale song
- Youth sang Christmas carols in 2 languages
- Youth did dance presentation of the Animal Kingdom
- Staff of Animal Kingdom did dance presentation
- Everyone sang in final song of night

Child and Youth Counselor Report, Jennifer Dreyer

Service Activity

This report summarizes clinical services offered through the Child & Youth Counselling (CYC) program at SCCFS from October 2015-September 2016. The position was vacant from September 23, 2016-December 18, 2016.

Counselling Services

A total of 26 children and youth were engaged in counselling services from October 2015-August 2016. Services included individual counselling, family counselling, crisis services and mental health advocacy. A total of 18 referrals were made over the 10 month period. Referrals were received from SCCFS and MCFD social workers, school district 61 & school district 62, community mental health services, and family members. The primary reasons for referral included: historic trauma, transition trauma, emotional dysregulation/maladaptive behaviour, anxiety/depression, high risk behaviours, and grief and loss. Crisis services included suicide assessment, safety planning and risk management. The SCCFS Clinician also provided weekly clinical case consultation to the delegated team for all children in care with SCCFS.

Program Highlights

In Fall 2015, SCCFS joined MCFD's *Trauma Informed Practice (TICP) Steering Committee*. A group of MCFD and DAAs members committed to the education and implementation of Trauma Informed Practice. This group also serves as a reference group for the MCFD Critical Care & Intervention (CCI) on the south island.

In Fall 2015, SCCFS partnered with the Center For Youth and Society (CFYS) in the *Youth & Family Community Research Exchange* to learn more about the cultural skills that support Aboriginal youth aging out of foster care. In Spring 2016, graduate students from CFYS completed the project with a literature review and tip brief to support program development and advocacy work at SCCFS.

In early 2016, SCCFS was invited to participate in the *Aboriginal Cultural Adaption Working Group* of the MCFD Critical Care & Intervention (CCI). Together representatives from MCFD and DAAs helped to develop and implement an Indigenous lens to the program curriculum.

In addition to the above initiatives, SCCFS Counselling staff continued to participate at community mental health tables to collaborate on cultural wellness programming for Aboriginal children and youth in care and in community.

Future Directions

This Spring 2017, SCCFS CYC Department will complete a program evaluation of counselling services delivered at the agency. Through consultation with clients, community members and agency partners, the evaluation team will identify priorities for counselling services moving forward. This work will also inform the development of a Policy and Procedures Manual for the Counselling Department.

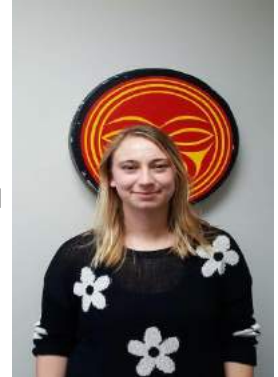
While counselling services are being reviewed, the CYC Department will put individual clinical counselling on hold, focusing on clinical group services, crisis services and clinical consultation. During this time, the CYC Department will also continue to work collaboratively with our partners on mental health initiatives for Aboriginal children in care and in community.

Aboriginal Youth Interns & Practicum Students

Over the course of 2016, we had the great pleasure of hosting one Aboriginal Youth Intern and one practicum student. Both brought such a wealth of knowledge with them to our team, and we were all incredibly sad to see their time with our agency end. We know that both will go on to do amazing work in our communities!

Aura Langston, Practicum Student

Aura is of mixed ancestry, Red River Metis and English decent. She was placed at SCCFS as a practicum student from the University of Victoria. While with SCCFS, Aura was in her final year of her Bachelors of Social Work in Indigenous Specialization program. She began her practicum in September and finished in early December. While with SCCFS, Aura did some amazing work around reviewing policy and procedures, shadowing various office social workers, and assisting with varying cultural programs. She also drafted the first round of harm reduction policies for the agency! Thank you Aura for all of your hard work, your wonderful energy, and your commitment to our children, youth and families.



Sheldon Anderson, Aboriginal Youth Intern

Sheldon Anderson was born and raised on Treaty 8 Territory of the Cree speaking peoples, living in Métis settlements, Indian reservations, and non-Indigenous communities throughout Northern Alberta.

He self-identifies as Woodlands Cree and Métis with Scottish/German ancestry, and is a member of Bigstone Cree Nation in Wabasca, Alberta.

Sheldon graduated from the Indigenous Studies Diploma Program at Camosun College in 2015. With the encouragement of education advisers, he applied to the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program (AYIP) for 2015/2016. He was one of a select few chosen from across the province to participate in AYIP year 9. He was placed with the Ministry of Agricultural as a Project Lean Intern and then with Surrounded by Cedar Family and Child Services as a Cultural Development Intern. Through the internship, he was exposed to experienced mentors, and Aboriginal leadership such as Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, Bruce Dumont President of Métis Nation BC, and Richard Wagamese, a nationally celebrated author. He was also selected by the founder of the Moosehide Campaign as the youth delegate and spoke about his commitment to ending violence against Aboriginal women and children.



Since finishing his internship, Sheldon has begun his studies at the University of Victoria in the School of Social Work! Best wishes to you Sheldon on your new journey. We all look forward to crossing paths with you in the field, where we know that you will go on to do amazing work!

Back to School Picnic



The annual Aboriginal Back to School Picnic (BTSP) initiative began in Victoria in 2003 as a small community celebration for a few children. One urban Aboriginal community-based organization, Surrounded By Cedar Child and Family Services (SCCFS) sought financial and volunteer support from four sister agencies: the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC), the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC), Hulitán Social Services and M'akola Housing Society and the First Nations Education division at School District 61 (Victoria) to develop and implement the first BTSP. This initiative resulted in over 100 attendees and 45 backpacks of school supplies offered to urban Aboriginal children. No questions asked.

The program has grown and changed with the guidance and support of SCCFS' leadership team, the Board of Directors and the amazingly talented BTSP Coordinator, Ron Rice.

In August 2017, we hosted ten events on the Island, the lower mainland and the coastal north, all done in collaboration with our friends at M'akola Housing Group and various Friendship Centres.

Our flagship event in Victoria was hosted at Government House for a second year and attended by Her Honour the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lt. Governor of British Columbia. We then stopped in Duncan, Campbell River, Courtenay, Port Alberni and Nanaimo. The following week, events were hosted in Surrey and Mission. For the first time, the Picnic was brought to Terrace and Prince Rupert thanks to our partners at M'akola Housing Group and RBC Royal Eagles.

SCCFS expresses its deepest gratitude to all its partners; The Province of British Columbia; RBC Royal Eagles; M'akola Housing Group; Vancity; Rina M Bidin Foundation; Scotiabank; Unitarian Church; Monk Office; Ridley Terminals; Turtle Island Events; MNP (Meyers Norris Penny) and the Capital Regional District.

This year we provided support to 2,701 students from pre-school to post-secondary in ten communities. We hosted in excess of 4880 people for lunch and celebration. Plans are already underway for 2017!

