

# Dream Speaker

Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services

Spring 2019 Edition



## *Nest to Wings Celebration Ceremony*

This year's Nest to Wings ceremony took place on the territory of the Esquimalt Nation in their Lelum - their Big House. The day was dedicated to our youth and were surrounded by SCCFS staff, family, caregivers, siblings, friends, and witnesses from the three island Nations of Vancouver Island (Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth, and Kwakwaka'wakw) as well as those from over the mountain.

This was a time to come together, honor and uphold our youth during a time of transition. They are becoming young adults and this ceremony was to remind them that they have support systems, loved ones that care about them, and people that they can reach out to when they need it.

The Nest to Wings committee at SCCFS worked very hard, ensuring that the ceremony ran in accordance with the agenda. However, it was equally important to ensure the honoring of the youth and remind them of who they are and where they come from - that they are never alone, and they will always have someone to turn to when things get rough, because life is unpredictable, but family is everything.



**Huy tseep q'u siem** to the Esquimalt **Hereditary Chief Edward Thomas (Esquimalt)** for your generosity, teachings, and patience with our SCCFS family and helping us with the work that we need to do.

**Huy tseep q'u siem** to our relatives from the Lekwungen Traditional Dancers for all the work that you did for us, and to represent our Coast Salish youth. Special thanks to **Beth and Lyla Dick (Lekwungen)** for being so flexible with the night.

**Kleko** to our Nuu-chah-nulth relative **Jessica Sault (Tsheshaht)** for representing our Nuu-chah-nulth relatives during the ceremony and for the delicious foods - the traditional foods were an incredible highlight.

**Gilakas'la** to our Kwakwaka'wakw relatives from Tsaxis (Fort Rupert). **Gilakas'la Hereditary Chief George Shaughnessy (Musgamagw Dzwada'enuxw)**, **Kaleb Child (Kwagu'l)**, **Tom Child (Kwagu'l)**, **Rolando Johnson (Kwagu'l & Musgamagw & 'Namgis)**.

**Kinanâskomitin** to our relatives from over the mountain for your songs and representing our youth from the furthest reaches of Turtle Island in the East that have made the Lekwungen territory their home. It is much appreciated.

# STAFFING CORNER

## ***New Faces Around the Office:***

**Courtney Amos** joined the team in May to cover the one year maternity leave position of receptionist and administrative assistant. Courtney, who is Hesquiaht on her father's side, recently completed her degree in Criminology. Welcome to the agency Courtney!

**Dawn Sather** is our new Child and Youth Counsellor at SCCFS. Dawn is Scottish on her mother's side and Norwegian on her father's side. Prior to moving to Victoria, she was living and working on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation in Prince George, BC. Dawn has her Master's Degree in Social Work. She has 19 years of experience working with children of all ages, with specialized training in early intervention with young children ages 0 – 5, attachment concerns, relationship difficulties, and trauma. Interventions include: play therapy, child-parent psychotherapy, somatic approaches, relational counselling and Circle of Security.

**Sarah Leggeat** recently started as the Cultural Continuity Worker Surrounded by Cedar. She is from the Tsartlip Nation on her mother's side and the Tsimshian Nation on her father's side. She recently graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Social Work with a child welfare specialization from Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Burnaby B.C. Sarah completed her fourth year practicum at Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society as part of the Family Preservation & Reunification team.

**Adam Gauthier** is coming to Surrounded By Cedar to join our Cultural Programs Team as part of the Indigenous Youth Internship Program – year 12. He is Coast Salish from the Tla'amin Nation on his maternal side and Cree-Métis from Lac Ste. Anne in Alberta on his paternal side. He has attained an Indigenous Family Support Certificate and Community, Family & Child Studies Diploma from Camosun College; and, is will be in the Bachelor of Child & Youth Care Program at the University of Victoria in September.

## ***Farewells:***

**Chelsea Young**, our receptionist and administrative assistant, will be off on a one year maternity leave while she welcomes a new baby girl. We look forward to meeting her new one soon and wish her all the best during this new journey.

## ***Staff in New Roles:***

**Marina King** has officially joined the Surrounded by Cedar team as the Intensive Youth Support worker. Marina recently graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor's degree in Social work specializing in Indigenous child welfare, upon completion of her final practicum here at Surrounded by Cedar. Congratulations and Welcome to the team Marina!

## ***Staff on Adventures!***

**Robin Croteau** Surrounded by Cedar's program manager will be taking a 4 month leave of absence from the agency and will be returning in September. While we will miss having her around the office during this time, we wish her all the best during her time off and look forward to her return.!

# CULTURAL PROGRAMS UPDATE

SARAH AND BRANDI

*As we move into June, we reflect on the wonderful programs, sessions and camps we have had over the past few months!*

## ***Xe'Xu T'uluts'thut Youth Leadership***

We continue to come together twice a month to build up our Leadership knowledge. Recently our Youth have been taking turns leading a session, sharing a gift they carry. They are already such strong leaders! In February through to Spring Break, we were able to learn from Maria Sampson about the medicine, Cedar. In 3 days the Youth were engaged in these teachings and each made their own cedar hat. We also went horseback riding and traveled to Squamish Territory, taking a tour of the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre where we learnt of their traditions and their important history of how the two Nations came together to support one another to bring the Centre to life and share it with visitors. We are currently planning our on the land summer camp, which will bring more fun and cultural opportunities to the Youth.



## ***Pro D Day Camps***

During our Pro D Day in April, we went to watch "The Great Bear Rainforest" at the IMAX. The children learned about the Indigenous Youth who have come to care for the lands in order to protect the bears and their habitat. At our last Pro D Day on May 17th, we came together to make buffalo hide drums and learn the teachings on how to care and respect this medicine.



## ***Building our Bundles***

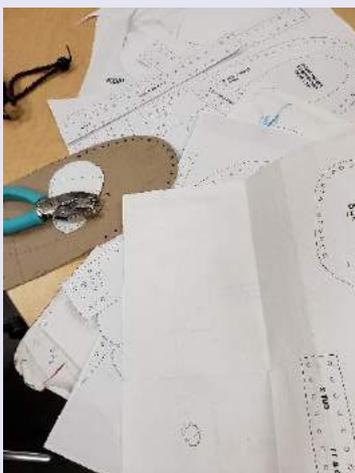
For the Building our Bundles workshop hosted in May, we had the very talented and knowledgeable Maria Sampson come in to teach our families how to make cedar boxes. It was a team effort as we stripped all of the cedar before learning how to weave the cedar into a beautiful box! Our last Building our Bundles workshop in June was a chance to finish up any crafts that we hadn't finished while sharing a delicious meal and singing and drumming. While we take a break over the summer we look forward to the return of Building our Bundles in September!

## ***Community Meeting: Adoption Delegation***

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Surrounded by Cedar hosted a community meeting to discuss its intention to acquire adoption delegation and to seek the community's support to move forward. The meeting was held in the Esquimalt Big House's kitchen and began with a territorial acknowledgement. Elder Alex Nelson opened the meeting up in a good way by offering prayer and encouraging words. Surrounded by Cedar staff shared a song to call the our children into the room and to ensure the focus of the conversation remained on them. A presentation by the working group was delivered, focusing on the agency's history, who we provide service to, the beliefs that ground the agency's practice, what permanency planning currently looks like, why adoption delegation is necessary, our philosophy around planning for adoption, and the agency's next steps. After sharing in a meal together, great conversation took place, including feedback to the agency about important considerations to make when planning for adoption. Overall, those in attendance indicated their support for the agency to move forward in acquiring adoption delegation and were grateful to be included in the conversation. Surrounded by Cedar would like to thank our membership, our foster parents, our community members, our sister organizations (NIL TU,O Child & Family Services, Island Metis Family & Community Services, Hulitan Family & Community Services) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development for taking part in this important conversation. We honour our relationship with each of you. We would also like to raise our hands and say thank you to SeeFood Catering for preparing a wonderful lunch and to the Esquimalt Nation for allowing us to gather in your space!

## ***Moccasin making work shop with Lindsay Delaronde***

In April, the cultural programs team had the opportunity to bring in caregivers and their children for a 3-session series to learn moccasin making with the very talented Lindsay Delaronde (Mohawk from Khanewake). Her years of experience in teaching and sharing was a gift, as we were able to witness the families learn and work together while going through the steps of cutting,



# CULTURAL CONTINUITY UPDATE

SARAH LEGGEAT

## *Gathering Out Voices Conference*

This past March myself and BSW practicum student, Marina King, had the opportunity to take 5 youth to attend the annual Gathering Our Voices (GOV) Indigenous Youth Leadership Training, hosted by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres. Each year BC Friendship Centres apply to co-host the annual event, with the locations rotating through Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, the Interior, and the North. This year it was held in Port Alberni, British Columbia.

For 4 of the 5 youth, this was their first time attending the conference. On the first day of the conference after registration, we attended the welcome dinner and opening ceremonies. During this time, we were welcomed by the Nation and had an opportunity to listen to speeches and words by the organizers of the conference. In the following days, the youth attended a variety of workshops sessions that were provided daily. Some of the workshops in which the youth attended included drum making, drum painting, archery, and many others. On the last night of the conference, the youth were invited to attend a Youth Dance Party event, which was hosted by DJ O Show. On the last day, youth in care were invited to attend a special formal dinner, where they were honoured. After a wonderfully served dinner, the youth were gifted with tablets and the drum group ANSWER shared a few songs with the attendees.



Overall, the trip was a success.

Each of the youth that they had enjoyed the conference and thought it was a fun experience. Next year GOV will be hosted in Kamloops, where we hope to bring more youth to experience the amazing event which offers culture, opportunity, and inspiration for indigenous youth.

## *Bella Coola Family Visit*

Over the May long weekend, I was able to take a youth to visit family in Bella Coola. The youth hadn't seen this family in nearly 10 years, but upon arriving at the airport, the youth was welcome home right away. After the exceptional reunion at the airport, a family dinner was held in their honour. It was a beautiful experience to witness and be a part of. I am now looking forward to the upcoming summer, where I will have the opportunity to bring more youth to their home territory.

## *Law Week 2019*

Surrounded by Cedar hosted a table at Law Day which was held at the Victoria Courthouse on April 13, 2019.

It was a free, family friendly and fun event for the public to learn about the justice system and justice related organizations in our community.



With the Native Court worker and Counselling Association of B.C. celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, Victoria's Law Day event had an Indigenous focus with a traditional welcome, Truth and Reconciliation talk, drumming and dancing, and a judge's talk on First Nations Courts. It was an informative day with many witnesses attending the days events.

## *Cultural Lunch and Learn : Food is Culture*

Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services, Indigenous Perspectives Society, Aboriginal Neighbors and the Foster Parent Support Services Society co-hosted a lunch and learn at VNFC on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 called "Food is Culture". The presenters, Aboriginal Health Dietician Fiona Devereaux and Elder Anna Spahan, shared the nutritional values and healing properties of traditional foods as well as some recipes and teas. There were approximately 50 participants at the event that included social workers, community members, foster parents, as well as children and their families.

Our next lunch and learn is scheduled for Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Wawadit'la (Mungo Martin House) where we will be learning about Indigenous Home and Family Structures. ***If you would like to register for this event please contact Janet Christie at [sicoord@fpsss.com](mailto:sicoord@fpsss.com) or 778-430-5459.***



## ***Social Work Week, Administrative Assistant and Support Staff Appreciation Days***

In March we celebrated Social Worker Week by honoring our amazing team of dedicated social workers. Mia, Jenna, Lee, Shelley, Danielle, Wes, Alysha, Bel and Courtney, we here at Surrounded by Cedar raise our hands to you for always going above and beyond for our children and youth. On April 24th we took the time to acknowledge and celebrate our Administrative Team. Maren, Alana, Katie, Chelsea, Maria and Andrae all play an integral part of the day to day running of the agency and we thank them for all that they do! In May, the agency celebrated Marina, Sarah, Brandi, Sarah L and Amy as the Support Staff Team for all of the work they do for your children and families!

## ***Centering Indigenous Ways of Being in Child Welfare: Perspectives from Multiple Systems in British Columbia***

On April 1, 2019, SCCFS, in collaboration with Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre, and the Representative for Children & Youth delivered a workshop to approximately 40 people at the NICWA conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Utilizing Indigenous story methodology, workshop attendees heard how each organization has been working innovatively to center Indigenous ways of knowing and being within the imposed, mainstream child welfare system. Various perspectives on the successes, challenges, and the creative and innovative ways in which these four organizations are serving Indigenous children, youth and families in British Columbia - and making a difference - were presented with the following outcomes in mind:

1. Deconstructing the impacts of mainstream child welfare within Indigenous communities;
2. Reclaiming Indigenous ways of knowing and being within the child welfare system(s);
3. Learning practical tools to apply these wise approaches to practice;
4. Exploring the innovation used for a system to support this;
5. Being inspired for systems change!

The 2019 NICWA Conference (1500 attendees strong) was a fantastic opportunity for Surrounded by Cedar to learn about all of the amazing work that is happening within Canada and the United States on behalf of Indigenous children, youth and families. It was also a fantastic opportunity for the agency to share some of its own wise practice and open the door for some great conversation. Surrounded by Cedar raises its hands to the Pueblo people for being such gracious hosts, to the NICWA conference organizers for a wonderful conference, and to the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre, and the Representative for Children & Youth for the partnership that was generated through this workshop.



## Surrounded by Cedar Swag available for purchase

All proceeds go directly towards agency programming



Hoodies



Sweatpants



Lunch Kits



Tote bags \$5.00

\$30.00

Water bottles

Available at SCCFS Cash or Cheque only

\$10.00

## Celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day June 21st 2019

### Events Around Victoria:

**ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY-** The community is invited to National Indigenous Peoples Day 2019 celebrations from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Royal Roads University on the traditional lands of the Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) and Lkwungen (Songhees) ancestors and families. The day-long event will include Indigenous practices and protocols, art, food and games.

**THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM**—Join the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations in celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day weekend with music, dance, food and the arts and best of all, it's all FREE! June 21, 22 and 23. Three days of spectacular performances on an outdoor stage in the plaza at the Royal BC Museum in the heart of downtown Victoria, BC. Each day starts with performances from the two local Host Nations and follows with shows from Indigenous performers from across the province!



## ***Traditional Storytime***

The Surrounded by Cedars Counselling Program continues to host the Traditional Storytime at the Bruce Hutchinson Library, Commonwealth Pool. We are thankful to be supported by Success by Six and the Greater Victoria Public Library. The program welcomes family members to join our guest speakers and SCCFS Child and Family Counsellor before and after the sessions to discuss ideas to help foster connection and reclaim traditional practices for children. Delia Filipescu is the librarian who thoughtfully selects and displays Indigenous children's books for the children and families to read and borrow.

Since January 2019, we have hosted Tlingit Hop Dancer, Teddy Anderson, whose story encourages inclusion of all cultures and recognition of the goodness within all people, especially those we struggle to understand. We also hosted Nella Nelson from the N'amgis Nation of Kwakwaka'wakw people. Nella's book, *Welcome Family and Friends to Our Big House*, provides insight into the traditions of Big House culture in Alert Bay, and includes an introduction to Kwakwala, the language the Kwakwaka'wakw people. Robert "Lucky" Budd has also been a guest. Lucky is a Canadian author, oral historian and CBC radio host. He is known for his book collaborations with artist Roy Henry Vickers. Each child received a copy of a book to take home with them and share with their caregivers and family. The Traditional Storytime program has been well attended with an average of 6 children and their parents and caregivers. The success of the program is due to the collaborative partnerships with all those involved. Many thanks to all those who have touch the lives of children and families.



## **KWAKWAKA'WAKW CULTURE NIGHTS**

This is for all Kwakwaka'wakw. We have acquired some space to practice our song/dance/language/culture and whatever we decide to do with the time we have together. We welcome children and their caregivers to join us. If you have any questions please contact Seneca at 250-508-8173 or [senecaambers@hotmail.com](mailto:senecaambers@hotmail.com)

### **Upcoming dates for 2019:**

June 29

July 13 and 27

August 10 and 24

**Time:** 5:45 -8:00 pm

**Location:** 950 Kings Rd, Victoria BC



## ***IPS Backpacks for Children and Youth***

Surrounded by Cedar was so honoured to receive 36 backpacks again this year from Indigenous Perspectives Society! These backpacks signified little care packages for some of our children and youth in care. They contained everything from colouring and art supplies, to teddy bears, to tablets which our young people loved receiving. One of them said it was like Christmas! This year, we focused on giving them out to our young people who are close to aging out, on independent living, or on Youth Agreements. We gave some out to younger children who did not receive them last year too.



***We are so grateful for this thoughtful donation to the agency – thank you so much, IPS!!***



## **Life Books**

*Working together to record the memories and histories of our children and families*

**“Creating a Path” Lifebook** (for Aboriginal children)

**“My Journey” Lifebook** (for non-Aboriginal children)



\$55.00 each + s/h

Phone: 250-383-2990

Email: [info@sccfs.com](mailto:info@sccfs.com)

## UPCOMING SCCFS EVENTS

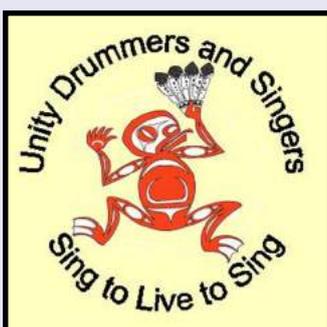
<b>BC Child &amp; Youth in Care Celebration</b>	<b>June 8</b>
<b>Traditional Storytime</b>	<b>June 8</b>
<b>National Indigenous People's Day (Office Closed)</b>	<b>June 21</b>
<b>Canada Day (Office Closed )</b>	<b>July 1</b>
<b>XTTT Youth Leadership Summer Camp</b>	<b>July 15—19</b>
<b>Earthwalkers Summer Camp</b>	<b>July 22—26</b>

### 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.

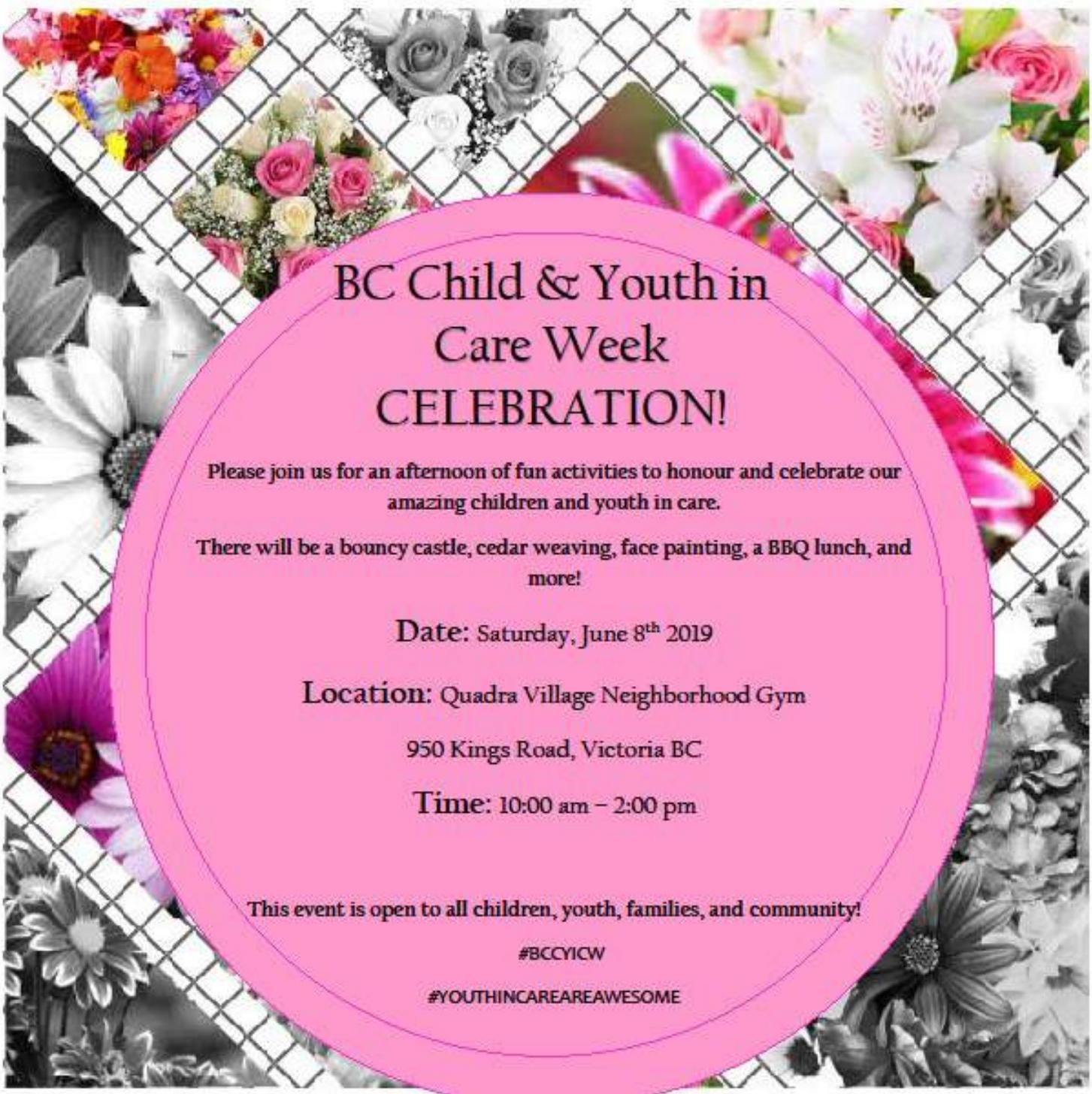
Practices take place weekly. If you don't have a drum, no worries! Several our members bring extra drums to share.



**Date:** Every Friday Night

**Location:** Victoria Native Friendship Centre

**Time:** 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.



## BC Child & Youth in Care Week CELEBRATION!

Please join us for an afternoon of fun activities to honour and celebrate our amazing children and youth in care.

There will be a bouncy castle, cedar weaving, face painting, a BBQ lunch, and more!

**Date:** Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 2019

**Location:** Quadra Village Neighborhood Gym

950 Kings Road, Victoria BC

**Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

This event is open to all children, youth, families, and community!

#BCCYICW

#YOUTHINCAREAREAWESOME



plus many more!