

Dream Speaker

Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services Summer 2019 Edition

Commitment Agreement Between Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services and Island Metis Family & Community Services

In May, 2019, Surrounded by Cedar, Island Metis Family & Community Services Society (IMFCSS), and Metis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) entered into a Commitment Agreement that will see all Metis children and youth in Continuing Care transfer to SCCFS, as well as Metis Youth receiving services through Youth Agreements (YAGs), and Metis young adults receiving services through the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program.

This Commitment Agreement will remain in effect until IMFCSS receives its delegation through the Provincial Director of Child Welfare.

SCCFS looks forward to nurturing its relationship with IMFCSS and MNBC and to ensuring that Metis children and youth receive services strongly rooted in Indigenous values and worldviews.



STAFFING CORNER

THE SURROUNDED BY CEDAR FAMILY

New Faces Around the Office

Kacie Poskitt - Lifelong Connections Worker

The team is excited to welcome Kacie Poskitt as our Lifelong Connections Worker, who will be covering the remainder of Kristy Potskin's maternity leave until September 2020! Kacie's ancestry is Scottish and Cree from Fort Alexandra, Manitoba. Kacie recently completed the Indigenous Youth Internship Program Year 12 and had a successful placement at the Ministry of Health's Office of Indigenous Health. She has experience as a Family Support Worker, Residential Support Worker, and many years working and supporting members in our community. *Welcome Kacie!*

Staff in New Roles

Robin Croteau - Program Manager

In May, 2019, Robin Croteau accepted the full-time, permanent position as Program Manager with the agency after having acted in the role for a period of seven months. A big congratulations to Robin and for her ongoing support to the work of the organization.

Wes Haase - Resource and Support Services Team Lead

A big Congratulations to Wes as he was the successful candidate for the Team Lead position for Resources and Support Services! Wes came into this role after having acted in it for the last 8 months as a temporary assignment. We wish you all the best in this new role and on this new journey!

Marina King - Resource Social Worker

Another congratulations to Marina as the successful candidate for the Resource Social Worker position at SCCFS! Marina has been working within the agency's Intensive Youth Support Program and prior to this, completed her degree in Social Work with her practicum placement taking place with the Resource Team at SCCFS. We look forward to supporting Marina on this new path.

Shelley LaFrance - Guardianship Social Worker

Shelley LaFrance has returned to her role as a Guardianship Social Worker after an 8-month temporary assignment on the Resource team. The team raises their hands to Shelley for all her hard work!

Lee Smith - Guardianship Social Worker

We are very happy to announce that Lee Smith has re-joined Surrounded by Cedar on a permanent basis as a Guardianship Social Worker. Lee is Cree Dene and worked with SCCFS from 2012-2016 before relocating to Vancouver BC to work for Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services. Lee brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience and we are thrilled to have her staying with us!

STAFFING CORNER

THE SURROUNDED BY CEDAR FAMILY

Farewells

Amy Whitney

On July 24, 2019 we said goodbye to Amy and wished her the best of luck on her new adventure as she moves to a new province! Amy has been with the agency since April 2018, and during her time she brought everyone many laughs and memories!

Andrae Dennis

The team wished farewell and best wishes to our part-time Finance Assistant Andrae, as he embarks on a full-time co-op placement with BC Ferries! Andrae has been working towards his Business Accounting Degree at Camosun College. We raise our hands to Andrae for the assistance he provided to our organization over the past 9 months.

Mia Yule

With mixed excitement and sadness, we say 'see you later' to the wonderful Mia, who is relocating to the Kootenays! Mia brought and shared many gifts and talents to the organization; we will miss her dad jokes, her beading and her tips, tricks and teachings for living off the land. Mia started in January 2018, as a practicum student and gaining full-time employment in May 2018. We send our love and support, from ocean to mountains!

Danielle St. Clair

Our wonderful and amazing Danielle will be taking an extended leave from the organization as she spends time focusing on her health. We appreciate all the well wishes received and assure they are being passed on. We raise our hands to Danielle for 7 years at Surrounded by Cedar and thank her for her continued dedication to our vision, mission and values.

Celebrating a Special Milestone

Charlene Barney - Part-Time Administrative Assistant

The Staff and Board of Directors at Surrounded by Cedar would like to acknowledge a very special milestone to our amazing Charlene Barney, who celebrated her 15 Year Anniversary with the agency this August!



CULTURAL PROGRAMS UPDATE

SARAH UNDERDOWN & BRANDI LANCASTER

Summer Camps

Earth Walkers Camp

Earth Walker's summer camp was such a great time, full of exploring, learning, culture and building new friendships.

Day 1: Our week started with a trip to Goldstream park where we explored the nature house and identified medicinal plants that grow in the park. The kids knew a lot of about the local plants within the park and shared some teachings that they learned from Elders and local knowledge keepers of the land with the younger ones that didn't know about them yet.



Day 2: We were joined by Kwakwaka'wakw Elder Jean Smith who shared her knowledge of Devil's Club, a medicine that carries a lot of benefits to our bodies. We listened and then had the opportunity to make our very own Devil's Club necklaces. Some even made two, one for themselves and one to gift to a loved one. In the afternoon, we went for a walk to a close by beach and enjoyed the sun.

Day 3: We travelled to China Beach just past Sooke to hike the beautiful forests and walk the beach. We spent the entire day here where the kids ran, explored under rocks and wrote in the sand.



Day 4: was spent at the Raptors Centre just past Duncan where we received a very informative tour about all the amazing prey birds we have here in BC, with close ups of Eagles and hawks. We also witnessed a "flight demonstration" which meant our kids had to really pay attention as the birds would fly right through our seats!

Day 5: Our final day together was here at Surrounded by Cedar where we spent the morning drumming and hearing songs from different territories. We spent our

afternoon crafting, which included coloring, beading and painting.

Xe'Xu T'uluts'thut Leadership Camp

This year 9 Youth and 4 chaperones from Surrounded by Cedar travelled to Tla-O-Qui-Aht Territory where we camped in Ucluelet.

Our first day was a 4-hour experience of canoeing to a local island called Meares island with two guides of T'ashii Paddle school.



We then took a wonderful hike through the island where traditional stories were shared as we hiked through the old growth forest. There they group saw CMT's that were 100's of years old, traditional plant medicines, and evidence of wildlife on the island.

Our second day we enjoyed a tour of the Ucluelet aquarium, we did a tour then the Youth took their own time exploring the vast sea life and educational displays. This aquarium is

very special because it is the constantly bringing in fresh water from the surrounding ocean which allows the filter feeders to be able to feed on what they need. In addition, they are also a catch and release aquarium meaning that they don't keep the marine life in captivity for their entire lives.



On the third day we were invited by the Tla-O-Qui-aht Education Coordinator to join them in a hot dog roast on the Community of Opitsaht. They are one the oldest communities within that area. They chartered a water taxi which picked us up on the Tofino boat ramp that took us 5 minutes to get to the other side of the water over to Opitsaht Reserve. We spent the day with the Youth of the Community where we had a beach hot dog roast for lunch and played a very competitive game of basketball. The Opitsaht youth are athletic!

Gratitude Crafternoon

In preparation for the Ucluelet camping trip a Gratitude Crafternoon was created to bring the youth together before the camp to create gifts as a thanks for hosting us within their traditional territories.

The youth made things such as Devil's Club necklaces (traditional medicine of all three island nations on Vancouver Island) that were also paired with Dentalium shells (form of currency pre-contact), and beads and Dreamcatchers as well. There was also a beautiful painting done by one of our youth- they painted a rendition of two hummingbird dancers facing each other.

We had a total of 7 youth, and one very kind foster parent whom volunteered to help the entire day! Also, on the Crafternoon roster to join us that day was a bunch of SCCFS staff that also contributed to the creation of gifts for the Tla-o-qui-aht people.



CULTURAL CONTINUITY UPDATE

SARAH LEGGEAT

Kamloopa Pow Wow

August 2 - August 4

This year I had the pleasure of attending the annual pow wow at the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc Powwow Grounds in Kamloops with two of our youth in care. On the first day of the pow wow there was a grand entry, which consisted of an array of dancers and drummers from many amazing groups. This is an event that draws people from all around the world, and the energy that surrounded the event was incredible to witness. Although the experience itself was amazing, what truly made the trip for me was seeing the looks on the youth's faces light up. They were absolutely amazed by the event and are eager to learn how to dance!



Ahousaht Sports Days

June 30 - July 2



I had the wonderful privilege of attending Ahousaht Sports Days with some of our Ahousaht children and youth, with the accompaniment of their caregivers. This event is an annual one where children and youth are able to participate in a variety of different physical activities. Upon our arrival the community was very welcoming and ensured that we had everything we might need. During our time the children and youth were able to enjoy some time playing in the ocean while also connecting with their family members. When we were on the way back home, Chief Greg Louie asked us to walk up to the podium with him.

Each of the children and youth were introduced and welcomed to the community, their relatives created a sea of waves and smiles. Finally, the Chief acknowledged the caregivers, for taking care of their children, and the Surrounded by Cedar Staff, for bringing their children home.

Nezul Be Culture Camps

July 21 - July 25



Every year Nezul Be Hunuyeh Child & Family Services welcomes their children, youth, and caregivers to Fort St James to participate in their cultural activities. This year, myself and some of our children in care from the Tl'azt'en Nation and Nak'azdli Whut'en Nation were able to attend. Some of the cultural activities this year included drum making, moose skinning, rattle making, and paddle painting. In addition to the cultural activities, there was also guest speakers and other forms of

entertainment arranged. Each day we were also provided with some amazing home cooked breakfasts and lunches.

Outside of the culture camp we were also able to connect with one of the children's extended family. The child was welcomed by all of the family members and was proudly introduced to the community. It was absolutely beautiful to see the child's family come together and show their endless love.

Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services and Island Health Protocol Signing

On May 30th, in a signing ceremony hosted at SCCFS, Surrounded by Cedar and Island Health entered into an updated protocol agreement. SCCFS signed its first protocol agreement with Island Health (formerly known as Vancouver Island Health Authority) in 2004, at a time when the agency was still developing and no children or youth had yet been transferred. Recognizing that much had changed over 15 years, SCCFS and Island Health agreed that an update was due, along with a renewal of the relationship between both organizations. The new

protocol agreement is built on the values of respect, inclusion, truth-telling, wisdom, belonging and resiliency – developed from the *Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework*. Surrounded by Cedar looks forward to its renewed relationship with Island Health and all of the opportunities for collaboration and partnership.



Annual General Meeting

Join us on Wednesday, October 23rd at the Burnside Gorge Community Center for the Surrounded by Cedar Annual General Meeting! Registration will open at 4:30pm with business and dinner to follow. Memberships are available for \$1.00 at the door. RSVP to frontdesk@sccfs.com. *Share with your networks! We hope to see you there!*

Surrounded by Cedar Swag Available for Purchase

All proceeds go directly towards agency programming



Hoodies
\$40.00



Sweatpants
\$30.00



Lunch Kits
\$5.00



Totes & Water Bottles
\$5.00 \$10.00

* Available at SCCFS by Cash or Cheque only



*Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services
Invites You To Attend*

The 2019 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019

*Are you interested in becoming a member and potentially
accepting a nomination to our Board of Directors?**

*We encourage you to submit a letter of interest and a copy
of your resume to:*

*Board of Directors
c/o Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services
#211-1497 Admirals Road
Victoria, BC | V9A 2P8*

*Burnside Gorge Community Centre
471 Cecelia Road
Victoria, BC | V8T 4T4*

*4:30 PM Registration
5:00 PM Business & Dinner*

\$1.00 Year Memberships Available

*As per SCCFS bylaws, a person must be a member for a minimum of 60 days
to accept a nomination. The term of office for Directors is 3 years.

Traditional Storytime

Join us at the Bruce Hutchison Library, at the Commonwealth Pool, for a monthly storytelling group for families featuring: traditional story tellers, art & songs, and free Indigenous children's books to take home for your family.

Storytime Circles will be Saturday's from 10:30AM to 11:30AM

Upcoming Dates:

October 12, 2019

November 9, 2019

December 14, 2019



Family members will be invited to join our SCCFS Child & Family Counsellor, before and after sessions to discuss ideas to help foster connection and reclaim traditional practices with children.

* For registration please contact Dawn by email at counselling@sccfs.com or by phone at (250)383-2990 ext. 232

Indigenous Youth Internship Program

My time at Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services (SCCFS) has been a valuable experience that I will not forget. I came to SCCFS via the Indigenous Youth Internship Program in partnership with the British Columbia Public Service. This program allowed me to come into this community organization as an intern to work in Cultural Programs for our children, youth, and families from June 3rd to August 30th. I was able to help organize and chaperone the annual Earth Walkers and XE'XU T'ULUTS'THUT Leadership Camps, assist Agreement with Young Adults, and witness Guardianship Social Work. I would like to raise my hands to SCCFS for showing me the ropes and what important work a Delegated Aboriginal Agency does daily. čęęhaθęč (I thank/honour you)

- Adam Gauthier



Victoria Native Friendship Centre's 50th Anniversary

A big Congratulations to the Victoria Native Friendship Center, who celebrates their 50th Anniversary this year. The VNFC began as a meeting place for Indigenous people living in the city offering services and a sense of community to our families living in Greater Victoria. The Center officially opened it's doors in 1970 in a one-room facility in the heart of downtown Victoria and now occupies more than 38,000 square feet, providing vital resources and programs for urban Indigenous people, families, children and youth. We raise our hands to you for all of your amazing work!



South Island Wellness Society Celebrates 10 Years

Surrounded by Cedar would like to congratulate South Island Wellness Society who celebrates their 10th year anniversary this year! A celebratory event was planned for September 8th at Beaver Lake and included food, singing, dancing, games and door prizes.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Building Our Bundles	October 1, 2019
Thanksgiving (Office Closed)	October 14, 2019
Annual General Meeting	October 23, 2019
Building Our Bundles	November 5, 2019
Remembrance Day (Office Closed)	November 11, 2019
Winter Feast	December 11, 2019

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 the 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 PM - 8:30 PM

Aboriginal Back to School Picnic

It was another successful Back to School Picnic! The Victoria picnic took place on Saturday, August 10th at Government House. This year 1282 backpacks were distributed to families in the Victoria community alone. In total, there were 3047 backpacks distributed. There were events for kids and families, including a photo booth, face painting, colouring, bouncy castles, and a variety of small games. The up island picnics were hosted in Duncan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Campbell River, and Courtney, and one picnic hosted in Prince George.

We wish to thank all of our volunteers and coordinators for their time and efforts. These events would not be possible without your dedication and contributions. We also wish to thank all of our funders for making this event possible in our community.

When our children go back to school, our hearts go with them.



2019-2020 Membership

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name (First & Last) : _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Preferred Method of Contact:

☐ Email ☐ Mail

*** Please note (per SCCFS constitution and bylaw) memberships expire the day before the SCCFS AGM. This means a new membership card will be required to entitle you to vote at this meeting. ***

OFFICE USE ONLY

Membership Fee Received: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signed By: _____ Dated: _____