

# **Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services**

**Annual Report  
2021/22**



We acknowledge that we are located in the traditional territory of the ləkʷəŋən People who have cared for these beautiful lands and sacred waters since the beginning of time. We remain humbled and grateful to do our work in your territory.

We also acknowledge that the delegated child welfare model under which we work is an imposed model in ləkʷəŋən communities, and in Indigenous communities across Turtle Island. Intricate governance systems that included the care and protection of children existed long before colonization.





## Our Logo:



In the spirit of spindles whorls, the logo for Surrounded by Cedar depicts an adult face with a smaller child's face inside the mouth. Surrounding these two faces are the dedrochronological rings of red and yellow cedar.

*"The red and yellow of the design symbolize red and yellow cedar, while the adult's face with the child inside its mouth represent the vitality of caring for future generations of children. I wanted the design to represent the growth of Surrounded by Cedar as an agency while also representing my personal growth as an artist." lessLIE*

The background of the entire page is a photograph of several fish, likely salmon or trout, swimming in clear water. The fish are silvery with some darker spots and are oriented horizontally, moving from left to right. The water is a light blue-grey color, and there are some faint, dark, leafless branches visible in the background.

## **Mission:**

**To provide child & family services strongly rooted in Indigenous cultural values and worldviews while ensuring urban Indigenous children and youth grow up connected to their family, community and culture.**

## **Vision:**

**To support the empowerment of the urban Indigenous community to continue the reclamation of traditional systems of caring for and protecting children so no child or youth will be placed into care.**



## Core Values

- SCCFS is a visitor to the traditional territories upon which it is located and upon which it carries out its business. SCCFS will ensure respectful relationships with the local territories and will acknowledge and honour the traditional keepers of the lands, waters and supernatural ones.
- Children are the most sacred gift given to the people by Creator and their safety and well-being must be honoured with the highest regard.
- Connection to spirit and identity through familial, hereditary and cultural linkages are the strongest protective factors in promoting safety and well-being amongst Indigenous people.
- All children and youth in care have the right to permanency that is timely and ensures a meaningful and ongoing connection to their families, Indigenous communities, and cultural identity.
- The work of the agency and its practice is firmly rooted in Indigenous world views and is grounded in Indigenous cultural values and beliefs.
- SCCFS honours the cultural diversity that exists amongst Indigenous communities across Turtle Island and promotes strong, engaged and meaningful relationships with its allies, community partners and sister agencies.
- Humility guides the work of the organization as it gently carries the intergenerational stories of urban Indigenous children, youth and families without judgement.
- Indigenous communities and families continue to heal from the destruction that colonialism and oppression have imposed, resulting in significant intergenerational trauma. Relationships with urban Indigenous children, youth and families will be trauma-informed, while acknowledging the resiliency that has always existed.
- We are good hosts and maintain a safe and welcoming space for all of our relations.
- We are responsible to the urban Indigenous community as much as we are responsible to the Director of Child Welfare and our funders.

# Table of Contents

Our Governance .....	1
Agenda .....	2
Minutes.....	3
Message from the Board .....	8
Message from the Executive Director .....	9
Report of the Practice Manager .....	11
Programs & Services Updates .....	12
Administrative Services .....	13
Cultural Services .....	14
Cultural Continuity .....	18
Guardianship .....	22
Resources & Support Services .....	25
Back to School Picnic, 2021 .....	30
Audited Financial Statements .....	31
Notes .....	44

# Our Governance

President: Bruce Underwood

Vice President: Sekwan Wabasca

Secretary: Sue Simard

Treasurer: Natasha Parrish

Nuu-chah-Nulth Rep: Joy Charleson

Knowledge Keeper: Vacant

Youth Council Rep: Carmin Blomberg

Director: Vacant

Director: Vacant



# Agenda

Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services  
Annual General Meeting  
Venue: Victoria Native Friendship Centre  
Wednesday, October 26, 2022

4:30 p.m. Registration Opens

5:00 p.m. Opening Prayer & Dinner

5:30 p.m. AGM Business

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Call to Order
- Establish Quorum
- Review Agenda
- Review 2020/21 AGM Minutes
- Business Arising from Minutes
- President's Report
- Executive Director's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Appointment of Auditor
- Questions from the Floor
- Board Elections/Appointments
- Meeting Adjournment

6:30 p.m. Honouring

7:15 p.m. Closing





# Minutes

Annual General Meeting (Virtual Meeting)  
October 20, 2021

## Board Members Present:

Bruce Underwood	Coral Mackay	Joy Charleson	Lonnie Gosek
Natasha Parrish	Sekwan Wabasca	Sue Simard	

## Absent:

Jacquie Green

Chair: Ron Rice (Wush'q)  
Teams Host: Maren Gray  
Minutes: Alana Proia

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Territory: Brianna Dick

1. Opening Remarks: Ron Rice, Chair

2. Meeting called to Order: 5:15 pm

3. Establish Quorum: 11 Members present

4. Review Agenda for October 21, 2020

- No changes or additions.

Motion: Move to adopt the Agenda for October 20, 2021

Moved: Bruce Underwood

Seconded: Sekwan Wabasca

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.

5. Review 2019/2020 AGM minutes from October 20, 2020,

Motion: Move to approve the 2019/2020 AGM Minutes

Moved: Sekwan Wabasca

Seconded: Sue Simard

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

7. Report of the President and Vice President: Bruce Underwood and Sekwan Wabasca
- Acknowledgements and introduction of self.
  - Reference to the Board report and highlights within the 2020/2021 Annual Report.
  - Acknowledgement of the COVID-19 pandemic and effects on staff, clientele, governance, and service delivery. Recognition of staff and Executive Director for their perseverance and resilience, and excellent care of self and clientele throughout the pandemic.
  - Reported that the Board Directors met monthly and reviewed the agency's budgets and finances regularly.
  - Recognition of work completed with Executive Director and Finance Manager. Gratitude to the Executive Director.
  - Comments from the Vice President.

Motion: Move to Approve the Report of the President and Vice President

Moved: Sue Simard

Seconded: Joy Charleson

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.

8. Report of the Executive Director: Jennifer Chuckry

- Opening remarks, acknowledgements, and introduction of self.
- The Executive Director reported the following highlights of the agency's business for the 2020/2021 fiscal year:
  - Continuing to advocate for program growth and funding to meet the needs of the urban Indigenous community throughout the fiscal year. Acknowledgement of Province for their continued support of the agency.
  - Successfully transferring all Métis files (CCO, YAG, and AYA) previously being served by the Ministry of Children and Family Development. SCCFS acknowledged Island Métis for their trust in the agency to take on this work while Island Métis pursues delegation; SCCFS deeply values its partnerships with Island Métis and MNBC.
  - Working to enhance the range of C3 services provided by the agency which is currently a gap within the urban Indigenous community.
  - Reducing capacity of the Cultural Continuity (CCW) program due to delayed announcement of funding commitment.
  - Continuing to advocate for funding for non-delegated services provided by the agency (Cultural Programs, Intensive Youth Support, Clinical Program).
  - Establishing MMIWG2S internal working group to review the work currently conducted by the agency and to make recommendations to better align with the Calls to Justice. The final recommendations will be made to the agency's Leadership team.



- Meeting all the readiness criteria to move forward with adoption delegation. This work is presently on hold while the Province determines funding and staffing formula for all DAAs hoping to conduct this work.
- Establishing permanency planning policy rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Acknowledgement to Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services for allowing SCCFS to adopt and modify their existing “Raising Our Children Together” Policy.
- Maintaining and developing strong relationships with the urban Indigenous community and ancillary/sister organizations.
- Adapting and hosting cultural programming, ceremonies, and travel to home communities while adhering to the evolving COVID-19 protocols and guidelines throughout the year.
- Adapting and hosting annual agency events to align with safe COVID-19 protocols including SCCFS’ Nest to Wings Ceremony, BC Child and Youth in Care Week Celebration, Foster Parent Appreciation, and Winter Feast. Participating virtually in the annual Moosehide Campaign.
- Developing and delivering over 1200 traditional food care packages to children and families.
- Rescinding 2 (two) Continuing Custody Orders, seeing 2 children return home to their families.
- Exploring the development of cultural agility training with special emphasis on new hires.
- Re-establishing an agency Youth Advisory Council to act as united voice for issues impacting urban Indigenous Youth in Care. Acknowledgement of United Way and Vancouver Foundation for providing the funding to support this work.
- Continuing to be involved with the South Island Indigenous Authority.
- Exploring the acquisition of co-owned office space with Island Métis.
- Increasing capital acquisition due to adapting to working remotely and assuming a lease on additional office space at Admirals Walk. Gratitude to TLD computers for donating desks and other officer furniture to the agency.
- Navigating both the challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and opioid crisis. Acknowledgement of agency counsellors, support services, and social workers on the ground actively working to support young people during these difficult times.

Motion: Move to Approve the Report of the Executive Director

Moved: Coral Mackay

Seconded: Bruce Underwood

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.

9. Report of the Treasurer: Sekwan Wabasca, Acting Treasurer & Sarah Vettoretti, BDO
- The Treasurer acknowledged the work of the Executive Director and Finance Manager.
  - Reported regular review of finances at monthly Board Meeting.
  - Reported regular reviews and conversations with Finance Manager and Executive Director.
  - Reported increase in funds and CYICs and decrease in travel expenses.
  - Financial Audited Statements were reviewed and approved by the Board at the October 2021 Board Meeting.
    - Introduction and comments from Sarah Vettoretti, Auditor for BDO Canada
    - Review of audited Financial Statements:
      - Statement of Financial Position
      - Statement of Operations
      - Statement of Changes in Net Assets
      - Statement of Cash Flows

Motion: Move to Accept the Financial Statements and Report of the Treasurer/Auditor

Moved: Bruce Underwood

Seconded: Lynne Crawshaw

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.

10. Appointment of the Auditor (Sarah Vettoretti exits meeting during appointment)
- Surrounded by Cedar recommends Sarah Vettoretti of BDO Canada as the Auditor for fiscal 2020/2021
  - Hearing no objections, the Appointment stands.
  - The Appointment was accepted by BDO.

11. Questions/Comments from the Floor

- None

12. Board Elections

- Call for Nominations (2 Directors' seats)
  - Nominee # 1: Natasha Parrish
    - Member in Good Standing: Yes
    - Natasha Parrish accepts the nomination and is declared into the seat by acclamation

Motion: Move to Cease Nominations

Moved: Sue Simard

Seconded: Sekwan Wabasca

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.



A recommendation under SCCFS' Bylaw #6.16 to appoint Jessica Rodriquez and Carmin Blomberg to the Board of Directors as Youth Council Representatives sharing one (1) Director's seat was put forward to the table.

Appointment : Carmin Blomberg and Jessica Rodriquez (Youth Council appointed representatives)  
Appointments Accepted.

Motion: Move to appoint Carmin Blomberg and Jessica Rodriquez as Youth Council Representatives to the Board of Directors Under Section 6.16 of the SCCFS Bylaws  
Moved: Sue Simard  
Seconded: Sekwan Wabasca  
All in Favour.  
Motion Carried.

Natasha Parish (incumbent) acceptance speech.

Successful candidates' acceptance speeches.

Closing Remarks, SCCFS President, Bruce Underwood.

13. Motion: Move to to adjourn Annual General Meeting business at 6:18pm  
Moved: Bruce Underwood  
All in Favour.  
Motion Carried.

# Message from the Board

I am both honored and humbled to have served as the President of Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services Society again for the past year. The Board continues to be supportive of our agency's staff who are providing exemplary quality service to our community members. Collectively, the Board remains committed by providing ongoing direction and support to the Executive Director, assisting with drafting an operational financial plan, reviewing and approving quarterly reports, and implementing or amending policy as required.

As I reflect back on what we accomplished, I recognize it's been a busy year. Some of our highlights are as follows: At the 2021 Annual General Meeting, SCCFS honoured various community partners who were instrumental in supporting SCCFS through the early days of the pandemic. Joy Charleson was appointed to the Board as the Nuu-chah-nulth Representative by the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council. A Youth Council was re-established at SCCFS in 2021, and two representatives from this Council were appointed to fill one board seat at the 2021 Annual General Meeting. The Youth Council completed a mural project, reflective of the local territory while celebrating the diversity of the children, youth and young adults who receive service through the agency. This mural was blessed and is hanging on the wall in the agency's programming space. Two active Board committees continued throughout the year – Governance and Finance. The Governance Committee has been involved in a significant amount of policy review and has taken on the responsibility of assessing how well SCCFS is incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing and being into its operations and practice. The Finance committee has been focused on ensuring fiscal accountability for the agency. We were able to hire a Finance Assistant (new position) to provide some much needed support to our Finance Manager.

We continued to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic with rotating schedules for staff throughout the year, with a full reintegration in December 2021. The pandemic has had a significant impact on the wellness of our children and youth, but in particular, our youth. We are witnessing a significant increase in mental health crises and addiction related issues. SCCFS has agreed to work with Red House Solutions regarding capital acquisition for SCCFS, in partnership with Island Métis. The agency's intention is to acquire its own building which would include housing for youth and Elders. In response to the public news regarding the reveals at T'kemlups te Secwepemc, SCCFS received various donations from community, including Bolen Books, The Old Hat Salon, as well as private donations. SCCFS has focused its attention on acquiring the full range of C3 services, including non-protection family service work, Special Needs Agreements, Voluntary Care Agreements and the Extended Family Program. An agreement has been made between SCCFS and MCFD to see this work transfer and we anticipate seeing this happen towards the end of 2022 or early 2023. Lastly, Robin Croteau retired officially in January, 2022, however, did return to the agency for a short period of time to provide some urgent support. We are grateful for all that Robin has contributed to our children, our families, and our community over the years she has served the agency.

Without your commitment, Surrounded by Cedar would not be where we are today. On behalf of the governing Board of Directors, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve another year for our membership and our families. I respectfully raise my hands to each and every one of you.

On behalf of the Board,  
Bruce Underwood





# Message from the Executive Director

Atamiskawêw,

It is with great honour that I prepare these highlights of the work of our agency through fiscal year 2021/22.

I humbly acknowledge that SCCFS is located on **ləkwəŋən** territory and express my gratitude to the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations for sharing your beautiful territories with so many of us. We are blessed to be here, surrounded by these powerful lands and these sacred waters. I also acknowledge the territories of the other Nations within South Vancouver Island whose lands we also do our work upon: **W̱SÁNEĆ**, T'Sou-ke, MÁlexeᓴ, and Scia'new.

The fiscal year continued to be impacted with the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring consistent flexibility from our team. Through the better part of the year, our team continued to work a rotating schedule, in office for one week and then from home for one week. During this time, our administrative and leadership teams worked in office full-time, allowing us to continue to respond to the needs of those we are here to serve. By mid-December, 2021, we transitioned all of our staff back into the office on a full-time basis. This decision was made based on what we were hearing from our teams, the isolation they were feeling working at home, and how necessary the in-person connection to each other was to hold up morale.

Throughout this fiscal year, we also started to understand the deeper impacts of isolation on our children, youth and young adults. As human beings, we are not meant to be isolated from one another for long periods of time. And as Indigenous people, the wellness of our spirits is reliant on our connection to each other, to our ceremonies, and our ability to gather. Well into the pandemic, we have experienced the mental health and well-being of many of our children, youth and young adults being profoundly impacted.

The opioid pandemic was declared by the Province of British Columbia in 2016. This pandemic is ravaging communities across the entire province, and we are witnessing record numbers of deaths as each year passes by. And with the imposition of the COVID-19 pandemic, the drug supply on the street has become increasingly more lethal. All program areas within SCCFS have rallied together to provide a tremendous amount of support to our young people who are using and to those who are deeply impacted with addiction. Our teams work tirelessly to wrap these young people in love, in support and in connection to their cultural identities, while also navigating the significant service gaps and access barriers that prevent many from getting the help they need and deserve.

And through all of this, so many of our young people are doing incredibly amazing and brilliant things! Many youth have made decisions to get clean and to walk in their sobriety. We have witnessed our children and youth excelling in their school programs, graduating from high school, and moving on to post-secondary studies. We have watched urban Indigenous youth in and from care step into leadership roles, through our leadership program and our Youth Advisory Council. They have used their powerful voices to inform systems and their creativity to build incredible pieces of art and various cultural pieces. It is an absolute honour to have the privilege to work alongside these incredible human beings!

Throughout this fiscal year, we continued to move forward with our service expansion in the area of C3 delegation. We finalized the number of urban Indigenous families currently receiving non-protection family services through the Ministry of Children & Family Development, giving us a fairly good sense of the work to come our way. Heading into fiscal year 2022/23, we will secure an additional location to deliver this service from and look to hiring a team of professionals who will deliver this critical service.

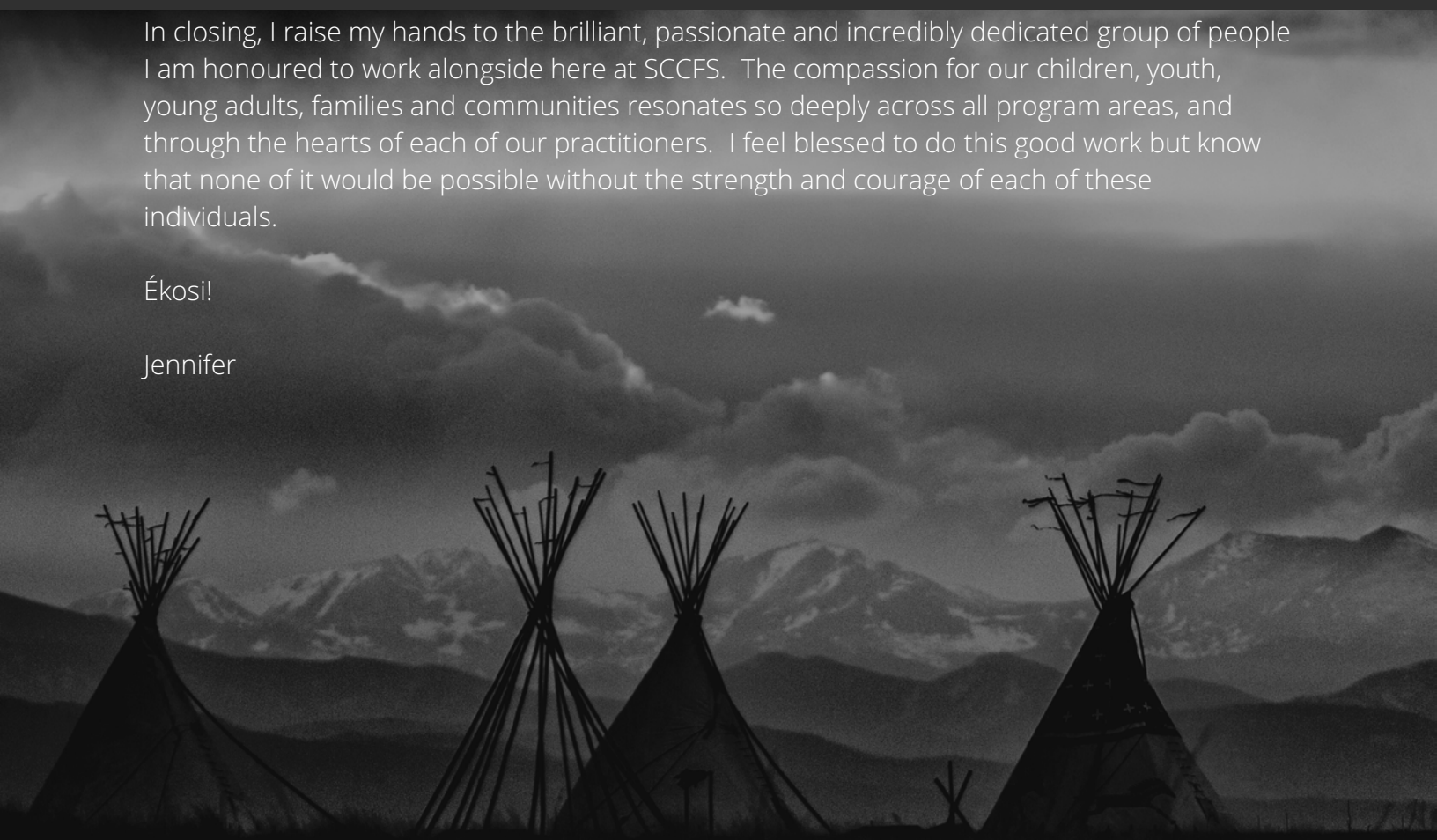
Beginning in 2018, SCCFS continued its work around exploring what coming of age ceremonies could look like for urban Indigenous youth living away from their ancestral territories. As part of this project, a graphic novel, "Becoming Wolf" was produced, which embeds the voices of our youth and community members who contributed to the project. A closing feast will follow this good work, and the second phase of the project will move over to our leadership group and Youth Advisory Council.

Surrounded by Cedar continued to be engaged with the South Island Indigenous Authority (SIIA), whose vision is to become the Indigenous Governing Body (IGB) for South Vancouver Island. This Authority includes nine South Island First Nations, along with three urban partners (SCCFS, VNFC and Hulitan). Through engagement with Nations and the urban Indigenous community, SIIA is working towards the development of legislation that is rooted in Indigenous ways of caring for and protecting children.

In closing, I raise my hands to the brilliant, passionate and incredibly dedicated group of people I am honoured to work alongside here at SCCFS. The compassion for our children, youth, young adults, families and communities resonates so deeply across all program areas, and through the hearts of each of our practitioners. I feel blessed to do this good work but know that none of it would be possible without the strength and courage of each of these individuals.

Ékosi!

Jennifer



# Report of the Practice Manager

In January 2022 we said goodbye to a long-standing colleague and practitioner. Robin Croteau reluctantly moved into retirement, after a long and successful career as a social worker, team lead and finally a Program Manager here at SCCFS. Her humor, candid nature and fierce sense of justice has been missed, and we wish her well on her new adventures.

I, Jenna Bailey, humbly accepted the position of Practice Manager to ring in the new year after a brief opportunity as Acting Team Leader of Guardianship and Permanency Planning from October 2021 to January 2022. The role I have held largely at SCCFS over the last 6 years has been as a Guardianship and Permanency Social Worker.

The Practice Manager is responsible for the overall management and practice of SCCFS' delegated and non-delegated service delivery, including Support Services, Residential Resources and Guardianship and Permanency Planning. In alignment with the vision, mission, and strategic direction of the agency, I provide supervision, coaching, vision, direction, and guidance to the agency's three Team Leaders and report directly to the Executive Director.

During the latter part of 2020 and into the 2021 fiscal year the focus was on:

- Human resources which included hiring for vacant and new positions.
- Overseeing practice and policy during the Covid-19 pandemic where practice directives and briefings were changing and advancing rapidly.
- Working collaboratively with Team Leaders and the Executive Director to re-structure programs and service delivery to meet the needs of our service users as well as the agency.

- Sat at discussion and planning tables around the expansion of SCCFS services into Family Service and Non-Protection work.
- Participated in the committee working towards an SCCFS therapeutic resource which offers a home rooted in culture and Indigenous ways of knowing and being.
- As the agency continues to work to solidify Adoptions Delegation, I continued to be an active member of the Adoptions Delegation Working Group alongside SCCFS staff and MCFD.
- Participated in the development and integration of the Raising our Children Together Practice Framework (adapted in partnership with VACFSS) to support the important work of permanency for all our Urban Indigenous children and youth in care of the Director.
- Participated in several policy/practice committees with MCFD, Provincial Office and other DAAs throughout the province.

This past year has come with much change and challenge. We have witnessed our community adapt and shift when needed, and seen workers adjust to the ever-changing demands within the field of social work.

We have witnessed the resiliency of our people and young ones, and been honoured to walk alongside many teachers throughout 2020 and 2021. I am immensely proud of the organizations ability to remain grounded in our vision and practice with our children and families at the center.

Marsi,  
Jenna Bailey





# Programs & Services Updates





# Administrative Services

The 2021-2022 year was about growth and change! As the community (and the world) 'opened'-up after the impacts of a global pandemic, it brought waves of excitement and change. Members of our team had opportunities to shift into new roles and we warmly welcomed new members to our small but mighty team! Our Admin also participated in a variety of training opportunities: from Advanced Excel to Integrated Case Management (ICM); from Supervisory Training to Occupational Health and Safety, and Suicide Prevention training. We participated in the agency's "Feeding Our Spirits in the Workplace", shared space with Knowledge Keepers in our community, and were thrilled to participate in community events such as the Orange Shirt Day, Pink Shirt Day, the MooseHide Campaign, and the Our Womxn Are Sacred Walk. We laughed, we cried and celebrated life changes including marriages, births and milestones.

The Administrative Team at Surrounded by Cedar is an exceptional group to work with thanks to the incredible work of Alana, Katie, Nicole, Lottie, Charlene, and Brandi. I am in constant amazement of their drive, their talents, and their dedication to the 'heart' work of the agency.

With much gratitude, we raise our hands to the Lək̓ʷəŋən people, the Keepers of the beautiful lands on which we have the honour and privilege of providing our services on.



# Cultural Services

## Cultural Programming

### XE'XU TULUTS'THUT LEADERSHIP GROUP 2021-2022

STAT: 6 youth enrolled for the year

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic had Leadership being held online for the latter part of the 2022 year, and once restrictions eased we were able to shift back into in-person programming.

A culturally safe learning curriculum was developed and has been delivered to our youth through great conversations and sharing in our sessions both online and in person. Topics included but were not limited to Indigenous food sovereignty, the potlatch ban, regalia, land sovereignty, land-based learning to name a few.

### EARTH WALKERS, SPRING BREAK 2021

STAT: 8 youth enrolled

Earth Walkers commenced in March. Youth participated in land-based activities within various contexts such as beach based activities, including plant-based teachings and enjoying a trip to Wild Play.

Youth created devil's club and bone bead necklaces with Brandi and Sheldon. They learned about local knowledge from a young Lkwungen knowledge keeper, Jessica Joseph. Youth made and received medicine bag teachings with Sarah. The youth also learned about those that wear button blankets and learned about the various territories such as: Owekeeno, Kwakwaka'wakw, Tsimshian, Xaay'da, Wet'suwet'en and Haisla to name a few.

### LEADERSHIP, SPRING BREAK 2021

STAT: 4 youth enrolled

Monday: Circle teachings with Stephanie Papik (Inuk) and starting their "Jean Jacket project".

Tuesday: Mad Hatter Internet Safety and yoga with Qatuwas (Heiltsuk & Ahousaht).

Wednesday: Continuing with the Jean Jacket project and a movie.

Thursday: Beading as medicine activity.

Friday: Completing their jean jackets and a button blanket presentation with Brandi ('Namgis & Musgamakw).

## EARTH WALKERS, JULY 2021

STAT: 8 youth enrolled

Youth did many activities within Earth Walkers such as: Hiking in SNIDCEŁ with plant knowledge cards, attending the Orca Exhibit at RBCM, viewing the 'On Beaded Ground' exhibit at Legacy Gallery, beading activity, and bird house decorating.

## BUILDING OUR BUNDLES, 2021-2022

STAT: 9 opportunities, averaging 10-15 people per session.

Building Our Bundles is a program offered once per month with the intention of bringing together children and youth, caregivers, families, community members and knowledge keepers to share ideas, teachings, and skills with each other.

### MARCH: MEDICINE MAKING WITH VANESSA PRESCOTT

Youth made a salve using traditional plant medicines that are Indigenous to these lands we all call home. They used poplar bud as their base for their salve.

### APRIL: TRADITIONAL ARTFORMS WITH BRIANNA BEAR (LKWUNGEN)

Youth learned about Lkwungen traditional art forms with Brianna.

### SEPTEMBER: WELCOME BACK BBQ!

COVID-19 restrictions closed it down and therefore it was turned into a 'meet and greet' with takeaway food boxes instead!

### OCTOBER: Q & A NIGHT FOR SCCFS FAMILIES.

We hosted a night for people to come together and let us know about things they wanted to learn. We wanted a greater insight about things our children, youth and families were curious about.

### NOVEMBER: SONG SHARING WITH ROBERT WILLIAMS (TLOWITSIS)

Robert shared his passion for language, songs and drumming.

### DECEMBER: GRATITUDE AND WINTER SOLSTICE TEACHINGS WITH SARAH U

Sarah and Brandi shared the meaning behind the winter solstice and the teachings instilled in us by our ancestral ways of being.

### JANUARY: GOALS FOR 2022

Goal Setting with Brandi and Sarah U



#### FEBRUARY: TEA MAKING

STAT: 15 people

The workshop where we discussed native plants used for tea and other herbs available to us. These herbs may not necessarily be native to the island but are mutually beneficial for our bodies.

#### MARCH: INDIGENOUS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

STAT: 16 people

Many joined us online for a viewing of a documentary about Indigenous food security and protecting a valuable food source, herring.

#### APRIL: NO BUNDLES- HIDE TANNING WEEK.

#### MAY: LAHAL BONE GAME NIGHT

STAT: 40 people

Lahal night at Wawadi'tla with our Lkwungen relatives.

### OUTDOOR EDUCATION, 2021-2022

#### HIDE TANNING, JULY 2021

STAT: 6 participants

Youth participated in deer hide tanning within the territory of the Tseycum Nation. They learned how to scrape, membrane, soak, stretch, and smoke their hides. They worked incredibly hard on them.

#### HUNTING TRIP, OCTOBER 2021

STAT: 5 youth, 4 adults.

2 cohorts went on hunting trips with Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw knowledge keepers/hunters on Sidney Island in the **W̱SÁNEĆ**, and **lə́kwəŋən** territories. Youth learned and practiced gun safety, target practice, skippering the boat, night-time hunting, seal hunting, and made tlubukw on cedar sticks .

#### HIDE TANNING ROUND 2, APRIL 2022

STAT: 5 youth, 3 adults

Mara Cur of Fern and Roe, facilitated youth in preparing hides, scraping, membranizing, and smoking their hides. Youth also helped process seal hide from the October hunting trip.

## **CHILDREN/YOUTH SUPPORT**

The cultural team creates time and space for when our children, youth and families need cultural supportive ways to get through challenging times such as grief and loss, experiencing mental health and challenges alike.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY CAMPS**

Cultural programs made the shift into virtual Pro-D-Day sessions. Due to the amount of virtual programming we were hosting, engagement became a struggle and activities were postponed until restrictions eased. The challenge with the easing of restrictions was that there still wasn't enough engagement even after programming returned to in-person, thus leaving cultural programs to cancel the remainder of the programming for the 2021-2022 school year.

## **URBAN YOUTH DINNERS**

The first urban youth dinner was held in June 2022. The plan is to further develop into a monthly program with youth gathering from various Nations with 'umbrella terms' for a large grouping of people with similar language, community connections, and ceremonies.

The first one held was for our Kwakwaka'wakw youth. They gathered with family members, relatives, the Life Long Connections Worker and Cultural Program team members. This allowed them to be together and learn about their tribe's origin stories, hear the language, and learn about their people's histories within a more intimate setting so as not to overwhelm the youth.

Plans for other Nations to gather is underway, especially for our youth that may be experiencing mental health obstacles such as anxiety, depression, and suicidality. These dinners are going to fill the youth with support, love and connection which is something that really helps when experiencing mental health lows. There's been a lot of positive community feedback as to them also wanting to partake in future dinners with youth.

# Cultural Continuity

## Visits to Traditional Territories

During the pandemic, travel to traditional territories to attend summer camps, cultural events, or community/family visits was/has been limited. However, with precautions in place, the Cultural Continuity Worker (CCW) and children and youth in care (CYIC) have been able to visit relatives, attend community summer camps, and take part in culture camps.

This year, the Cultural Continuity Program supporting children and youth in care to visit their ancestral territories in Chewaat, Ditidaht, Kyuquot, Meadow Lake Saskatchewan, and Hada (Bond Sound). There were 13 children/youth who attended these visits in total.

A group of SCCFS children/youth attended two community camps hosted by their community, the Ditidaht First Nation. One camping trip was on a remote part of their traditional territory, only accessible by boat. The other camping trip was hosted by the community at their local campground. One caregiver also attended the camp with all the children in the home.

The agency's Cultural Continuity and Life Long Connections programs attended another community camp-out in order to develop relationships with relatives of some children cared for by SCCFS.

One youth attended an immersive culture camp on their traditional territory near Bond Sound & Kingcome Inlet. The community built a cabin on a remote part of their territory, only accessible by boat or helicopter. The youth was immersed in language, drumming, and singing. They were taught about ceremony, attended a winter bath, and hiked among old growth forests.

## Local Cultural Opportunities

Two youth expressed an interest in learning more about plants and gardening. Through relationship building, the CCW secured a summer mentorship opportunity for the youth with Saanich Native Plants (now known as Satinflower nursery). The two youth spent one day a week throughout June, July and August, learning from staff, helping with the garden beds, and serving customers visiting the plant stand. The CCW and youth collaborated on how to thank the staff. They worked together and made handmade gifts to be given to the staff at an end of summer honouring. The youth and CCW drummed, sang, and shared words of appreciation to the Saanich Native Plants team.

A Cree youth shared that they dreamed of fancy dancing like they have seen at Pow Wows. The CCW was able to locate a local Pow Wow dancer, who could offer weekly dance lessons. A space at a local community center was secured for the lessons. The youth attended 8 lessons in total.

During the pandemic, regularly scheduled cultural opportunities were cancelled. However, three siblings from Nuuchahnulth communities were interested in learning songs from their own community. The Cultural Continuity Worker was able to reach out to local Nuuchahnulth members and found a local community member to spend time sharing teachings and songs with the siblings in an outdoor setting.

Another youth from a Nuuchahnulth community expressed an interest in connecting with his culture. The CCW arranged for a one-on-one lesson with a Nuuchahnulth weaver, and the youth learned how to make a cedar bracelet.

In their role, the CCW was asked to provide on-going cultural support to a family who were working alongside the Ministry of Children and Family Development and caring for an Indigenous relative. The worker attends monthly meetings to discuss how to support this child's Indigenous identity.

The urban Nuuchahnulth community in Victoria have organized weekly dance practices open to all Nuuchahnulth peoples. The CCW's have attended with caregivers and children in their home to connect the children to their community. The children have participated in dances, and some have drummed! Five (5) children from SCCFS have attended dance practice.

Both the Cultural Continuity Worker and Cultural Programs mentored a youth on how to make a drum and drumstick. After the drum was dried, the staff met with the youth to make a drumstick and "wake" their drum. The youth and staff spent an afternoon drumming, singing, and sharing teachings.



## EVENTS

The CCW approached the Guardianship Team and Life Long Connections Worker about the idea of arranging a meeting for two Nations & the SCCFS team, to discuss a sibling group in SCCFS care. SCCFS hosted the community representatives at the office and met with them over two days. The first day was for Guardianship Social Workers to meet with the representatives and discuss children on their caseloads they were supporting. We started the day by inviting all Social Workers to welcome the representatives into the space & introduce themselves. The Cultural Continuity Worker acknowledged the territory, welcomed the guests, and set the intentions of the meeting.

The second day's focus was to come together to discuss long term care plans, permanency options, upcoming cultural opportunities, and family trees of a specific sibling group. In attendance of this meeting was the Guardianship Social Worker, caregivers, Life Long Connections Worker, and extended relatives of the children. There are 12 children at SCCFS from this Nation's community.

During the pandemic many youths have been struggling with mental health concerns. CCW organized a cedar brushing for youth to be cleansed and supported as they go through a challenging time. Staff arranged for the brushing to take place at Goldstream Park and have this work be facilitated by a local Elder. Two siblings and their caregiver were able to be brushed. The family shared their appreciation for the ceremony and said they felt much lighter afterwards.

A young person had shared with their Guardianship Social Worker and CCW that they would like a piece of regalia to wear. The CCW found someone from his community to make him and his siblings matching regalia. To ensure the siblings received proper teachings of their regalia, the worker approached local community leaders from the Nuu-chah-nulth urban community. In collaboration with the Nuu-chah-nulth community, an event was planned where the siblings would receive their regalia. To ensure things were done in a good way, local cultural leaders were met with to learn about protocol and how SCCFS can provide support for this event. The CCW spoke at the event, supported food preparation, provided direction to Guardianship Social Worker, and organized gifts for the event (60 community members attended). SCCFS was able to support with the funding of a community dinner, pay caterers, buy gifts for gift giving, and pay the community workers. At the event, the Cultural Continuity Worker supported the caregiver & siblings throughout the event, communicated with the Nation/local community members, & co-hosted event.

The Cultural Continuity Program has the ability to provide cultural connection for children at SCCFS in creative ways. To meet the needs of a certain child at the agency, the worker went on a hike with the child and their caregiver. On their hike, they brought along a deck of cards with pictures of native plants and their uses. The child and caregiver had a scavenger hunt with the cards and identified plants along the hike.

A youth reached out to Cultural Programs staff requesting cultural support as they began their journey of sobriety. Staff shared words, uplifted the youth, and drummed them into the facility.

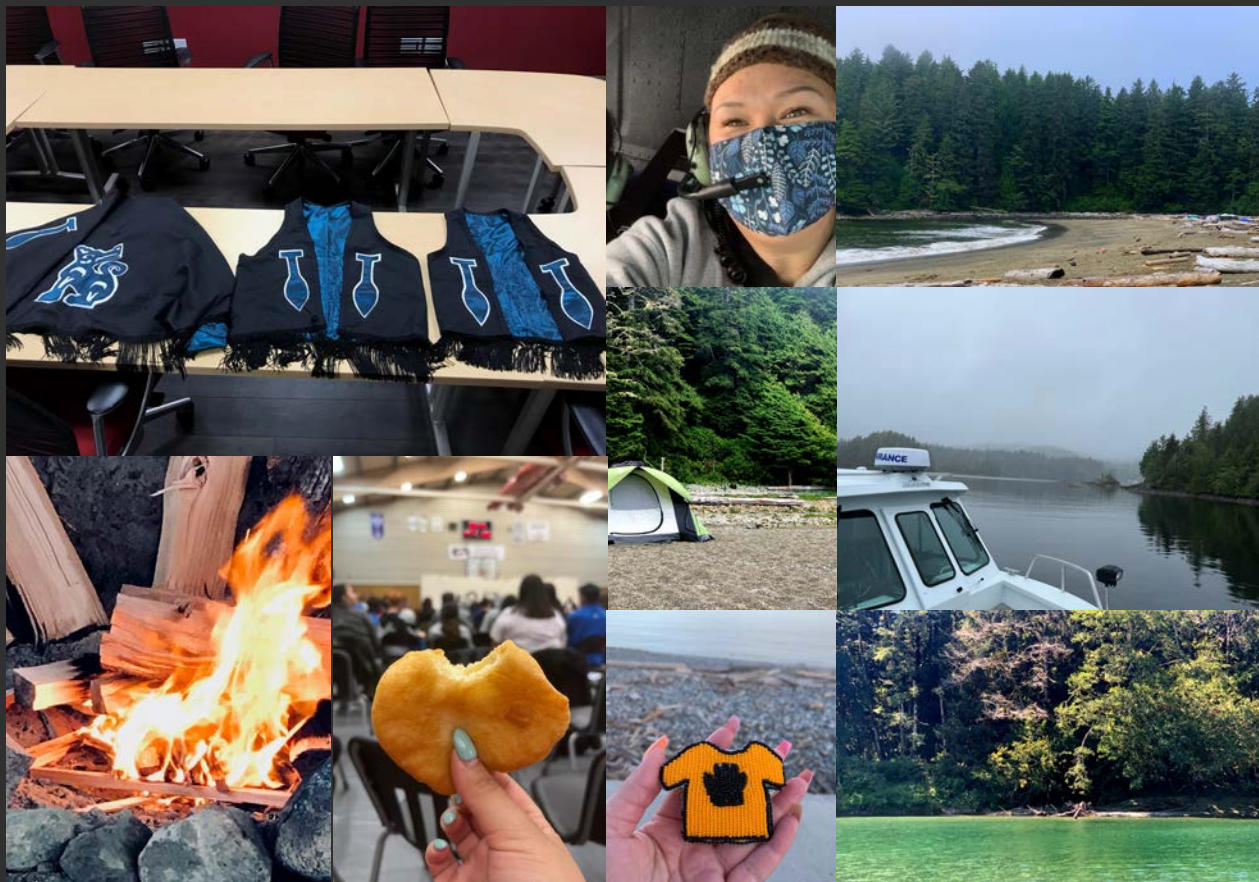
## Cultural Caregiver Support

The Cultural Continuity Worker maintains regular contact with SCCFS caregivers to answer questions, provide cultural support, and collaborate with caregivers when planning trips to territories or to attend cultural events.

The program also facilitated a virtual book club for caregivers! The books were written by Indigenous authors and provided an opportunity for caregivers to learn about Indigenous people, engage in discussions, and ask questions in a safe space. Each week a chapter was discussed. Seven (7) caregivers have participated in the book club to date.

## In home Support

On a referral basis, the Cultural Continuity Workers will meet with caregivers and children/youth in their home to learn about the child/youth's interests, the caregivers understanding of the child/youth's culture, and strategize how they could be further connected to culture and community. The CCW will email online resources for caregivers to purchase and send information on local events they could attend.



# Guardianship

Greetings! It is a great honour to present this report as the Acting Team Leader of the Guardianship and Permanency Planning Team. I am very grateful to continue working with the amazing team in my new position. This past year (April 2021 to March 2022) has been both a challenging and rewarding year. We continued to navigate the shifts and changes of the pandemic, and as guardians, ensuring that our responsibilities to our precious and sacred children and youth continued to be upheld. I am humbled and grateful to continue working with Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services and I raise my hands to the Lkwungen people who graciously allow us to do our work on their beautiful land.

During the year, we had a consistent team of incredible Social Workers: Bel Manson, Brian Garvin, Heather Mann, Amanda Star (nee Robertson), Natalie Henderson and Kacie Poskitt. We also had some changes during the year. Sharlet Strandlund joined the team from MCFD in the fall of 2021 with a temporary contract. Sharlet has been a great addition to the team, bringing with her years of experience and a passion to ensure children are with family and connected to their culture. In February 2022, Kacie Poskitt decided to move on from the agency and was replaced with Karissa Percival. During the year, Amanda extended her contract with Surrounded by Cedar for another year and Brian accepted a permanent position. Lee Smith continues to be on leave and her humour, dedication and experience is missed.

Alysha Brown took a one year leave from Surrounded by Cedar that started in October 2021 to be the Program Manager with K'wak'walat'si Child and Family Services in Alert Bay. Alysha's knowledge, passion and experience are missed here at Surrounded by Cedar, but she is an incredible addition to our sister agency, K'wak'walat'si.

Jenna Bailey returned from her maternity leave at the beginning of November 2021 and was the Acting Team Leader until the end of December 2021 when she moved into the Practice Manager role. I, Courtney, moved into the temporary Acting Team Leader role in January 2022 from my previous role of Guardianship and Permanency Planning Social Worker.

Kacie and Natalie continued their tireless and dedicated work supporting Métis children and youth in care, in collaboration with Island Métis Family and Community Services Society. Both workers had full caseloads, including Youth Agreements and Agreements with Young Adults, eagerly accepted new files from MCFD over the year and have built strong relationships with the children and youth they work with.

Together, the team brings a wealth of knowledge and experience working with children and families within the urban Indigenous community. I am consistently impressed with the team's ability to support the children, youth and families while also supporting each other. I feel so honoured to be able to grow and learn with these workers. We also want to acknowledge that we couldn't do our work without the support of all the other program areas within the agency, as well as supports from our sister agencies.

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services provided support and services to 201 Indigenous children and youth in the continuing care of the Director, youth on Youth Agreements (YAG), and young people on Agreements with Young Adults (AYA). This number is frequently in flux due to files being transferred to and from MCFD and Delegated Agencies around the province as well as the completion of permanency plans and youth turning 19. The number of youths that we work with continues to grow as we can keep young people connected to the agency to receive ongoing services with Temporary Housing Agreements, COVID-19 Extensions (YAG, ILA) and with the temporary and specific parameters around AYA programming.

Permanency Planning remains a priority for the team. During the 2021-2022 year, we completed a transfer of custody for one child to her long-term caregivers who were identified by biological mom as the family she wanted her daughter to be with. The summer of 2021 saw the loosening of travel restrictions within the province and country which provided long-awaited opportunities for several of our children and youth travel to their communities to visit family and reconnect with their culture. The team has made several strong relationships and connections with Nations and there are many other relationships with Nations that continue to be nurtured and developed. These collaborative relationships with Nations are integral and imperative for children and youth's permanency planning process and its wonderful to see these relationships grow.

During the fiscal year, a total of 16 youth in care and youth on Youth Agreements aged into the community (turned 19). All 16 of these youth continue to engage with our agency in some capacity: many continue to receive support within the Agreement with Young Adults (AYA) program as well as through extensions of other agreements due to COVID-19. During this time, we were actively providing supports to a total of 38 youth with Agreements with Young Adults (AYA). We saw 10 youth graduate from high school in June 2021! This is such an incredible accomplishment and milestone especially when considering the challenges that came with the pandemic. We wish these youth all the best on their learning journeys!



The team continues to face the complex and challenging issues that some of our young people experience with mental illness, suicidal ideation, addictions, the justice system, disconnection from family and culture and the lack of safe and stable housing. These are constant themes in the work that we do with our children and youth, and we continue to support our young people by collaborating and advocating with many agencies and services.



# Resources & Support Services

## Resources

At the close of the fiscal year, there were a total of 39 open caregiving homes.

- Five (5) caregivers are residential service providers. They provide child-specific services for our children and youth:
  - One specializes in the early years
  - Two support youth that are engaged with high-risk activities like substance use, homelessness, exploitation, etc.
    - One of these service providers has two agreements with SCCFS
      - A two-bed agreement for children with diverse needs
      - A five-bed resource located close to the downtown core
  - One is a long-term caregiver that is providing end of life care for a youth with a terminal diagnosis
  - One is a long-time caregiving couple who have provide support for several sibling groups over the years and are also adoptive parents
- 12 of these homes are extended family placements
  - Four are active permanency plans as transfers of custody
  - Two are involved in plans for an adoption
- 3 homes closed over this reporting period:
  - One was a family placement that broke down
  - One caregiving couple decided to take a break from caregiving
  - One residential contract for two placements was terminated due to staffing shortages for their frontline work
- We brought on 3 new caregivers over the reporting period:
  - The first is a Métis caregiver who can provide care for one child or youth
  - The second is a regular caregiver recruited through a youth's relationship network
    - Both homes have placements
  - The third was a couple who wanted to take on permanent care of their young family members
- Two homes transferred to the agency:
  - Both are extended family caregivers
    - One is working through a permanency plan
- High housing costs has been an issue related to recruitment of caregivers

## Intensive Youth Support

This program provides support to youth ages 12-27, both from Surrounded by Cedar and the Ministry of Children and Families.

- The caseload has been consistent at approximately 13 open cases.
- Practice is changing. There has been a steady decrease in one-time-only requests for tasks like applying for government identification, resumé support, or finding housing. There is a noteworthy increase in more complex referrals with youth who were involved with substance use and exploitation.
- Anecdotally, there seems to be more negative interactions between female youth and older men. The age of the involved youth seems to be decreasing as well, with 13- and 14-year-old youth becoming involved in street drug use, like crystal meth and heroin.
- The relationship between the Intensive Youth Support Worker and the youth remains a strong protective factor. The youth disclosed issues they would not discuss with their social worker or caregiver.
- The services provided include the following:
  - One-on-one support with youth engaged in high-risk activities.
  - Helping youth identify safety plans for both high risk situations and protection from self-harm.
  - Assisting youth to access resources related to their basic need for food and shelter.
  - General outreach.
- Again, this year there seemed to be a correlation between the increasing number of Youth Agreements and Agreements with Young Adults with the agency and the pressure on this program.
- The primary focus of the program remains the health and safety of the most vulnerable youth served by the agency.

## Life Long Connections

Over the reporting period, 35 individuals or families were served by this program with:

- 18 new referrals to the program
- 13 new referrals on a waitlist.

This program continues to connect with extended family networks and Nations to support permanency planning for children and youth served by the agency.

Over the past year, the Life Long Connections Worker has provided the following services:

- Completed 6 Genograms
  - 4 completed by previous worker.
  - 2 completed as the beginning of the family finding/permanency planning process.
- One (1) SAFE Home Study completed.
- Held 10 Guardianship files for 9 months – all had permanency plans nearing completion.
- One (1) trip to Ditidaht to meet with family, extended family and community leaders.
- Hosted the Ditidaht & Ahousaht Nations (including a delegation of extended family members) to meet with children from their communities and the assigned guardianship social workers.
- Completed six (6) Cultural Safety Agreements.
- One (1) child in care began his transition to live with his family and community.
- Discovered relatives for two siblings that were previously unknown to the Director and discovered local relatives for two other sibling groups.
- Completed one (1) permanency plan that resulted in a successful transfer of custody.
- Had conduct of the child service files and collaborated with MCFD counterparts to complete an adoption for two Surrounded by Cedar children.
- Developed ongoing contact with Nations/communities who continue to provide tangible resources for Surrounded by Cedar children in care (regalia and related supplies and support, language resources, swag, newsletters, Elder connections, knowledge keeper connections, etc.).



- Assisted with status applications for children/youth.
- Organized and hosted a family meeting for a sibling group of three (3) and being reintroduced to an extended family network who expressed interest to provide care in the future.
- SCCFS children were formally supported to express their desire to be adopted by their current foster parent during a meeting with their Nation – shared their feelings with their Nation’s leadership.
- The Life Long Connections worker was also an integral member of several committees and assisted with several events within the organization including:
  - Traditional Food Packages Committee: this group planned for and delivered 4 rounds of traditional foods to every child, youth and young adults served by the agency.
  - The BC Child and Youth in Care week events.
  - Nest to Wings Ceremony: this is an annual event in which the agency honours through ceremony, the journeys of youth in care through to let them know that they are not alone as they leave care and find their way in the world, as adults. In 2021, the agency had to plan around Covid-19 and gathering restrictions and planned several individual ceremonies within social/family pods.
  - The Annual Back to School Picnic: Due to restrictions of gathering in large numbers, the 2021 picnic was modified to meet social distancing guidelines related to Covid-19.
  - The Foster Parent Appreciation Planning Committee.
  - The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls working group
- Historically, the primary role of the LLCW included completing genograms and family searches. Once the permanent worker returned from a leave in mid-July 2020, the program began a planned shift and the LLCW started to take a more active role in permanency planning including the completion of proposal packages and cultural safety agreements.
- The worker is also revisiting family searches that may need to be updated. As we know, family strength and capacity shifts over time and searches completed within the last 18-24 months could potentially be outdated.

## Child & Youth Counsellor

For this reporting period, the Surrounded by Cedar counselling program has focused almost exclusively on direct, individual counselling. Throughout 2021-2022, the child and youth counsellor had:

- 51 total referrals.
- 34 children, youth and family members who received on-going counselling.
- Caseloads that fluctuated from 8-22 for each counsellor. At one point over the reporting period, a total of 34 children and youth were actively engaged in counselling.
- Seen (7) caregivers received consultation from an SCCFS counsellor.

### Individual Counselling

The counselling program offered face-to-face, telephone and video counselling modalities:

- Non-directive play therapy – art, sand tray, play, puppets, stuffed animals, and dolls
- Journaling
- Cognitive Behaviour Therapy

Participants were mainly children and youth in care however the clinician provided support to:

- Caregivers looking for feedback and assistance with attachment, mental health, self-harm, and addictions-related issues regarding the children and/or youth placed in their homes.
- Biological family members who were trying to re-establish relationships with their relatives in care.
- Youth who have aged out of care (out of the scope of practice) and were needing referrals to other counselling and mental health services.

### New Initiatives

- Community Healing Circle – this one-time initiative was held in partnership with the Surrounded by Cedar Cultural Programs department and was in response to the increasing number of overdose deaths of street involved youth serviced by the agency, and MCFD. As a result of this project, Surrounded by Cedar is developing a collaborative circle of support for youth at risk.
- The SCCFS Counsellor participated in some of the cultural camps to connect with children in care in a group setting, without the stigma of the counselling label.
- The child and youth counsellor has begun to work with parents whose children are in care. The purpose of these connections is to help parents re-establish connections and understand the impacts.

# Back to School Picnic, 2021

There were seven (7) events hosted for the 2021 Aboriginal Back to School Picnic which resulted in 1945 backpacks filled with supplies being distributed! The table below reflects each of these events and the number of backpacks and supplies distributed for each grade level. Senior kits reflect grades 8 – 12.

EVENT LOCATIONS	K	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6	Gr. 7	Senior	TOTALS
Victoria	84	93	95	100	99	103	108	122	438	1242
Duncan	28	23	24	28	26	29	31	32	126	347
Campbell River	3	3	0	5	3	4	4	4	17	43
Courtenay	5	3	9	6	4	5	9	5	24	70
Port Alberni	3	6	5	5	7	7	7	10	19	69
Nanaimo	3	2	5	6	4	6	5	4	21	56
Mission	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	24	128
TOTAL										1945

## Successes, Challenges & Lessons Learned

The 2021 Aboriginal Back to School Picnic saw 1945 backpacks filled with supplies distributed to Indigenous children and youth across British Columbia. Each year, this event fills a significant need within Indigenous communities as it aims to create a new educational journey for children than their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents experienced. Families who attended the Victoria events indicated deep gratitude for the BTSP and some shared stories of the financial pressure it alleviates as they prepare to send their children back to school. For other families, the BTSP has very much become a part of their annual preparations.

One of the observations made during the second year of hosting the BTSP in pandemic times - where the event has focused on distributing supplies vs. hosting big community events in each community - is that there was a slightly smaller registration list than usual. This suggests to those involved in planning that approximately 10% of families who sign up and attend the BTSP picnic may not attend based on poverty related issues. These families, instead, are looking for a sense of belonging and a connection to their community.

Also presenting in 2021 was the decision of some schools and school districts to provide school supplies to each of their students for a fee. This decision impacts some logistics for the BTSP and the focus is now on delivering vouchers to families with students in these schools instead of backpacks and supplies. These vouchers can be handed in to the school instead of money and the school or their PAC will invoice Surrounded by Cedar for the costs of the supplies. Ultimately, this changes the amount of space required in our supply transport vehicles, allows us to create easily adapted delivery models and spend time focusing on backpacks and gathering.

# Audited Financial Statements



**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family  
Services Society**  
**Financial Statements**  
For the year ended March 31, 2022

**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family  
Services Society  
Financial Statements  
For the year ended March 31, 2022**

---

**Contents**

<b>Independent Auditor's Report</b>	<b>1 - 2</b>
<b>Financial Statements</b>	
Statement of Financial Position	<b>3</b>
Statement of Operations	<b>4</b>
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	<b>5</b>
Statement of Cash Flows	<b>6</b>
Notes to Financial Statements	<b>7</b>

---

## Independent Auditor's Report

---

**To the Members of Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of the Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society (the "Society"), which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at March 31, 2022, and the Statements of Operations, Changes in Net Assets and Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 2022, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

---

## Independent Auditor's Report - continued

---

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Societies Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, the accounting principles in Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

*BDO Canada LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants

September 23, 2022  
Vancouver, British Columbia



**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society**  
**Statement of Financial Position**

March 31	2022	2021
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash (Note 2)	\$ 1,183,390	\$ 1,804,217
Restricted cash (Notes 2 and 6)	-	81,854
Accounts receivable	789,798	30,730
Prepaid expenses	98,301	70,215
	<u>2,071,489</u>	<u>1,987,016</u>
<b>Capital assets (Note 3)</b>	<u>146,275</u>	<u>200,301</u>
	<u>\$ 2,217,764</u>	<u>\$ 2,187,317</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 4)	\$ 359,555	\$ 310,231
Deferred revenue (Note 5)	160,885	76,172
Fund held for child care (Note 6)	-	81,854
	<u>520,440</u>	<u>468,257</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Operating reserves	1,551,049	1,518,759
Invested in tangible capital assets	146,275	200,301
	<u>1,697,324</u>	<u>1,719,060</u>
	<u>\$ 2,217,764</u>	<u>\$ 2,187,317</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board

 Director

 Director

**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society**  
**Statement of Operations**

<b>For the year ended March 31</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Grants	\$ 8,765,464	\$ 6,684,395
Donations	595,553	672,905
Interest	7	383
Other	299,710	585,838
	<u>9,660,734</u>	<u>7,943,521</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertising	72	67
Amortization	75,697	40,370
Child in care expenses	6,519,057	4,452,580
Insurance	11,942	6,066
Professional fees	115,442	110,838
Program expenses	278,038	359,396
Rent and services	232,438	204,475
Salaries and benefits	2,287,504	2,323,580
Security	584	1,140
Telephone	16,789	18,840
Training	9,336	9,561
Travel	34,419	21,980
Technical support	101,152	20,837
	<u>9,682,470</u>	<u>7,569,730</u>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<u>\$ (21,736)</u>	<u>\$ 373,791</u>

**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**

**For the year ended March 31**

	Operating Fund	Capital Fund	2022	2021
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 1,518,759	\$ 200,301	\$ 1,719,060	\$ 1,345,269
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	53,961	(75,697)	(21,736)	373,791
Interfund transfers	(21,671)	21,671	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 1,551,049	\$ 146,275	\$ 1,697,324	\$ 1,719,060

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**

<b>For the year ended March 31</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Cash provided by (used in)</b>		
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ (21,736)	\$ 373,791
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Amortization	<u>75,697</u>	<u>40,370</u>
	53,961	414,161
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Accounts receivable	(759,068)	14,021
Prepaid expenses	(28,086)	(58,526)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	49,324	112,526
Deferred revenue	84,713	(345,264)
Funds held for child care	<u>(81,854)</u>	<u>(47,692)</u>
	<u>(681,010)</u>	<u>89,226</u>
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Capital asset purchases	(21,671)	(135,869)
Restricted cash	<u>81,854</u>	<u>47,692</u>
	<u>60,183</u>	<u>(88,177)</u>
<b>(Decrease) increase in cash during the year</b>	<b>(620,827)</b>	<b>1,049</b>
<b>Cash, beginning of year</b>	<u><b>1,804,217</b></u>	<u><b>1,803,168</b></u>
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	<u><b>\$ 1,183,390</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 1,804,217</b></u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

---

## Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society

### Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2022

---

#### 1. Significant Accounting Policies

##### (a) Purpose

The mission of Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services Society (the "Society"), as adopted by the Board of Directors, is as follows:

The purpose of the Society is to provide child and family services (including statutory services delegated by the Province of British Columbia) to the urban aboriginal community in the Capital Regional District of British Columbia.

The Society is a registered charity under the Societies Act of British Columbia and is exempt from income taxes under Section 149 of the Income Tax Act. The Constitution of the Society does not permit the distribution of funds to the members. In the event of winding-up, the Society's assets shall be distributed to a recognized charitable organization in Canada with similar objectives or to one or more recognized charitable organizations in Canada.

##### (b) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared using Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNPO").

##### (c) Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Cost includes all costs directly attributable to acquisition or construction of the property and equipment including transportation costs, design and engineering fees, legal fees and site preparation costs. Amortization is recorded on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the capital assets commencing once put into use.

Estimated useful lives of property and equipment are as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years
Computer software	2 years
Leasehold improvements	Remaining lease term
Office equipment	5 years
Vehicles	10 years

##### (d) Revenue Recognition

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.



**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**

**March 31, 2022**

**1. Significant Accounting Policies - Continued**

**(e) Financial Instruments**

Financial instruments include cash, restricted cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. All financial instruments are recorded at cost or amortized cost less impairment, if applicable. Financial assets are tested for impairment when changes in circumstances indicate the asset could be impaired. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale or issue of financial instruments are expensed for those items remeasured at fair value at each statement of financial position date and capitalized to the financial instrument for those measured at amortized cost.

**(f) Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future. Significant estimates included in these financial statements are the estimate of useful lives of capital assets in the calculation of amortization.

**2. Cash and Restricted Cash**

The Society's bank accounts are held at one chartered bank. The operating, fundraising and gaming accounts are non-interest bearing.

**3. Capital Assets**

	<b>March 31,</b>		<b>March 31,</b>	
	<b>2022</b>		<b>2021</b>	
	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Accumulated Amortization</b>	<b>Net Book Value</b>	<b>Net Book Value</b>
Art work	\$ 10,381	\$ -	\$ 10,381	\$ 10,381
Computer equipment	185,883	121,597	64,286	107,802
Computer software	7,202	7,202	-	-
Office equipment	213,078	207,798	5,280	6,721
Leasehold improvements	78,913	54,342	24,571	28,695
Vehicles	54,943	13,186	41,757	46,702
	<b>\$ 550,400</b>	<b>\$ 404,125</b>	<b>\$ 146,275</b>	<b>\$ 200,301</b>

**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**

**March 31, 2022**

**4. Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities**

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities are government remittances payable of \$50,954 (2021 - \$25,275).

**5. Deferred Revenue**

	2021	Received	Recognized	2022
Deferred provincial grant	\$ 76,172	3,073,297	(2,988,585)	\$ 160,885

**6. Fund Held for Child Care**

In April 2013, the Society entered into a contract with the Ministry of Children and Family Development of British Columbia (the "Ministry") whereby the Ministry will provide funding to the Society to run the Children in Care (CIC) Guardianship program. The funds provided are only to be used for the costs incurred in the program and any unspent funds are carried forward to be used for next fiscal year.

All funds received have been spent as of March 31, 2022.

**7. Economic Dependence**

The Society received 91% (2021- 84%) of its revenue from Provincial Government Agencies and remains dependant upon funding from the Provincial Government.

**8. Commitments**

The Society has entered into a lease with a third party for premises, which expires in September 2023. The Society has also entered into a lease with a third party for its printers, which expires in January 2025. The minimum annual lease payments, excluding property taxes and operating costs, are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2023	\$ 117,849
2024	24,234
2025	3,828
	<u>\$ 145,911</u>

---

**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**

**March 31, 2022**

---

**9. Financial Instrument Risks**

The Society through its financial assets and liabilities, is exposed to various risks. The following analysis provides a measurement of those risks at March 31, 2022. There have not been any changes in these risks from the prior year.

**(a) Credit Risk**

Credit risk is the risk that Society will incur a loss due to the failure by its debtors to meet their contractual obligations. Financial instruments that potentially subject the Society to significant concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash and accounts receivable.

Bad debts for the past five years have been minimal and the allowance for doubtful accounts is \$nil at March 31, 2022 and 2021. At March 31, 2022, there were no accounts receivables outstanding more than 90 days. The maximum amount of credit risk exposure is limited to the carrying amount of the balances in the financial statements.

**(b) Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Society will not be able to meet its obligations as they fall due. The Society attempts to maintain adequate levels of working capital to ensure all of its obligations can be met when they fall due.

---

**10. Remuneration of Directors, Employees and Contractors**

The Societies Act (BC) requires that the Society disclose the total remuneration paid to the Directors, for either being a director or for acting in another capacity, as well as the total number of employees or contractors with annual remuneration equal to or greater than \$75,000 and the aggregate remuneration of those employees/contractors. During the fiscal period ended March 31, 2022 there was no remuneration paid to the directors of the Society (2021 - nil). A total of 6 (2021 - 6) employees/contractors received remuneration in excess of \$75,000 which resulted in an aggregate expenditure of \$548,967 (2021 - \$537,792).

---

# Notes