

Dream Speaker

Surrounded By Cedar
Child & Family Services

A seasonal
journey through
Winter 2023



250-383-2990



info@sccfs.com



1497 Admirals Road, Victoria BC

UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

AT OR AROUND
SURROUNDED BY CEDAR



YAC: Spring Sage Excursion
May 2nd - 4th

Our Women Are Sacred Walk:
May 5th

Moose Hide Campaign:
May 16th

Nest 2 Wings:
May 23rd

M A Y



National Indigenous Peoples Day:
June 21st

Summer Solstice Begins:
June 21st

J U N



Earth Walkers Summer Camp
July 22nd - July 26th

XXTT Leadership Summer Camp
July 8th - July 12th

J U L



250-383-2990



surroundedbycedar.com/

VISIT NOW



SURROUNDED BY CEDAR

RECENT EVENTS WITH SCCFS



Winterfeast

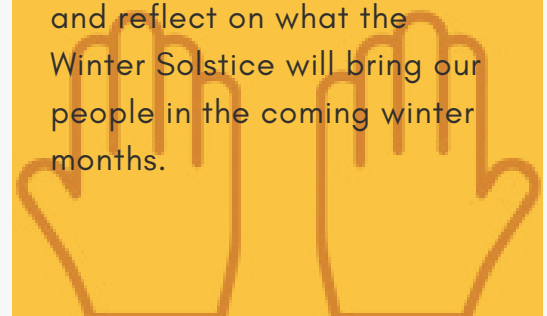


For many years Surrounded by Cedar has held Winterfeast at the Da Vinci center, and this year was sadly the last year that we will be able to host it at that venue. As the agency grows, so does the population of children, youth, and families we serve.

Winter, a time to reset, rest, and cleanse the lands via rain, snow, and winds. The annual Winter feast dinner is often filled with people, culture, and some snazzy door prizes that were given out to our children, youth, and families we serve.

Ever Growing

With the growth of the agency, we have been able to welcome so many families to share a meal, sing, and dance together as we pause and reflect on what the Winter Solstice will bring our people in the coming winter months.



Winterfeast



In addition, we would also like to take a moment to honor and say Huy ch q'u siem to one of the local Host Nation's members for agreeing to witness, observe, and attend Winterfeast and providing a warm welcome and acknowledgement of whose territory SCCFS's office(s) reside on. we'd like to send a huge Gilakas'la to our relatives from the Kwakwaka'wakw people for attending, singing, and observing the work we do as well. A big Klecko, Klecko to our Nuu-chah-nulth relatives from the West Coast for always being willing to witness and help in any cultural way they can for their Nuu-chah-nulth kin in care. Finally, last but certainly not least, we'd like to say Miigwetch to our Metis relatives from over the mountains for coming for the second year in a row and representing their Metis ancestors with some beautiful fiddle music and jiggling.

Hands Raised

Our Winterfeast team worked hard on gathering local prizes and swag from organizations, stores, and event centers to bring some experiential, hands on, and family oriented prizes for our children, youth, and families.

Thank you to all of our amazing donors!

Winterfeast Sponsors



MUNRO'S BOOKS



WildPlay[®]
VICTORIA



You'll feel like family.

THRIFTY FOODS

Eat happy



Winterfeast Sponsors



MALAHAT
SKYWALK



Pagliacci's

Fired UP!



Bolen Books

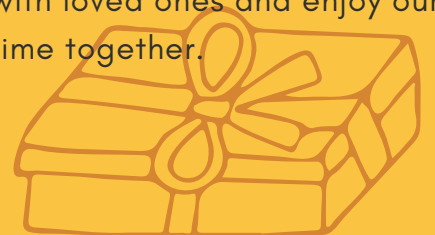
Winter Wellness



Taking care of oneself is crucial, and the SCCFS Wellness Committee puts in extensive effort to nurture our well-being as we carry out our tasks. In the winter, we engage in a lively game known as Indigi Bingo, which is vibrant, energetic, and ensures everyone departs feeling uplifted and rejuvenated.

“Christmas”

While many people choose to observe the Christmas holiday, and others a more traditional route; the Winter Solstice season is always a good time to come together with loved ones and enjoy our time together.



Winter Outreach



Surrounded by Cedar hosted a new event this year- The Winter Outreach. With the help of the Winter outreach committee, Surrounded by Cedar performed miracles this holiday season. The head of the committee, Amy Whitney, navigated a team of SCCFS employees, volunteers, and donators who successfully helped over 250 people in need. They compiled goodie bags filled with toiletries, snacks, holiday candy, hand warmers, gloves, touques, scarves, socks, and much more. As well as made homemade chicken noodle soup, vegetarian and beef chili, and bannock. Coffee, Tea, hot chocolate, blankets, clothing, and stuffed animals were donated by vendors, and off they went to the streets of downtown Victoria to handout all of their goodies. It truly was a one in a life time experience. They prayed, laughed, sang, smudged, and danced, while reminding our street families they are needed .

Outreach Origin

Amy Whitney started this committee as a result of a tradition in her household. Every year for the holidays, Amy would pack up her children and anything they could afford into the car, and they would hand it out to people in need. Whether that be 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, or goodie bags filled with necessities, Amy never let the holidays go by, without contributing as best she could. This was Amy's way of keeping her children humble and grateful.

Have a Heart Day



Organized by the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada. Activists, organizers, and community members march to the parliament to raise their voices against the discrimination and marginalization faced by the Indigenous people of Canada. The day is based on the ethos of reconciliation and the role individuals should play in demanding institutional change from the government. National Have a Heart Day is about organizing a movement that creates sustainable change in the lives of First Nations children and fills it with respect, love, and equal opportunities.

Observation

Empathy, understanding, and communication are all methods of reconciliation that heal our divisions. National Have a Heart Day is a special occasion for non-Aboriginal people to extend a helping hand to our aboriginal neighbors and express solidarity with them.

Welcome Ceremony



Once a year we hold up the new families, children, and youth who have joined the agency within the last year. We are honored to serve the urban indigenous community, and try to show this commitment in strong, culturally rooted programming and practice.

Humble Beginnings

One of our earliest welcome ceremonies was held in 2011 at Mungo Martin House, where we blanketed some of our earliest youths.



WORDS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I wish to convey my heartfelt appreciation for the warm welcome and support I've experienced during my three months at Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services. I feel an immense sense of gratitude for the opportunity to collaborate with our Board of Directors, team members, Elders, Nation members, community members, professionals, and caregivers in serving the urban, Indigenous community and upholding the sacred work that we do alongside the children, youth, young adults, and families.

It has been wonderful to connect with some of the children, youth, young adults, families, and caregivers. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to meet those whom I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet.

Additionally, I am excited about introducing myself to the South Island Nation members and our sister Indigenous Child and Family Service agencies to gain deeper insights into their community and cultivate positive relationships.

Staffing Corner

NEW FACES AROUND THE OFFICE

DEC
'23



**SUZANNE
PATTERSON**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are thrilled to welcome our new Executive Director; Suzanne to our team.

Suzanne is Metis of Cree and Scottish ancestry. She comes to our agency with experience in Guardianship, Child Protection and Leadership. Suzanne has also spent many years working within Indigenous organizations and communities, as well as with an Elder.

We have enjoyed working along side Suzanne these past few months and look forward to many more with her!

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the HR Specialist at SCCFS. My name is Monika Bhardwaj, and I am thrilled to embark on this journey of sharing valuable insights, ideas, and collaborative teamwork.

I did my graduation with honours in Psychology and have completed my higher education in HR and Leadership! I am deeply passionate about organizational development and change management. Through my work, I aim to continue to build a sense of community, ignite meaningful conversations, and provide you assistance with all or any people and culture matters.

Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of serving as your go-to HR person, and I look forward to our journey ahead.



MONIKA BHARDWAJ
HUMAN RESOURCES



BAILEY REIS
PRACTICUM STUDENT

Hi! I'm Bailey Reis and I moved to Lekwungen Territory in June 2023 from the Okanagan Syilx Territory. I have Metis / German ancestry on my mom's side and German / British on my dad's side. I'm in my last semester of my Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Victoria and am so lucky to be completing my final practicum at Surrounded by Cedar. I've had the opportunity to spend time with the Guardianship Team and meet many of the youth and families that work alongside the agency. In my spare time I enjoy exploring different beaches, hikes, and meandering through Bolen Books to spend unnecessary money

Did you know?

SCCFS MERCH IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!



HOODIE
COLOUR OPTIONS:
RED, GREY, NAVY
BLACK



REVERSE
SIDE



*"The most you can spend
on any child is time."*

Toque \$25.00



Hoodies \$50.00

Lunch Bag \$5.00



Tote bag \$5.00

Water Bottle \$10.00



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!

All proceeds go
directly to agency programming.
Please visit Admirals Reception at
211-1497 Admirals Road Victoria, BC V9A 2P8
or contact info@sccfs.com to purchase..

OUR WOMEN ARE SACRED

Merch Purchase Prices

1



T-shirts
\$20.00

2



Hoodies
\$40.00

3

Stickers
\$5.00

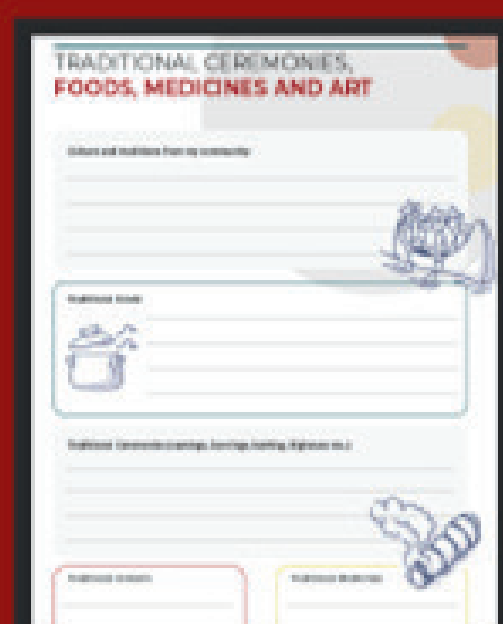
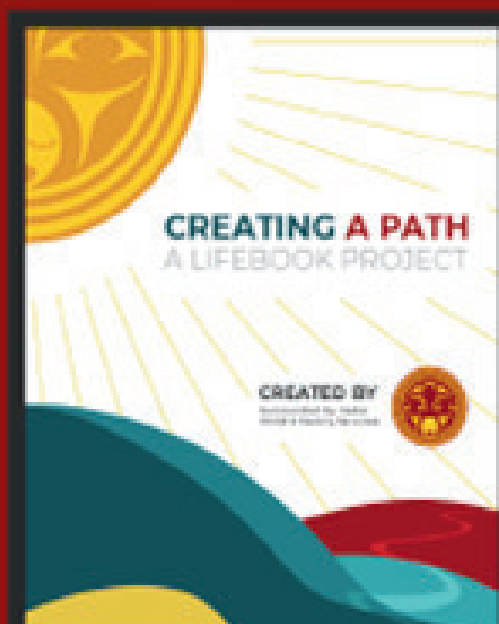
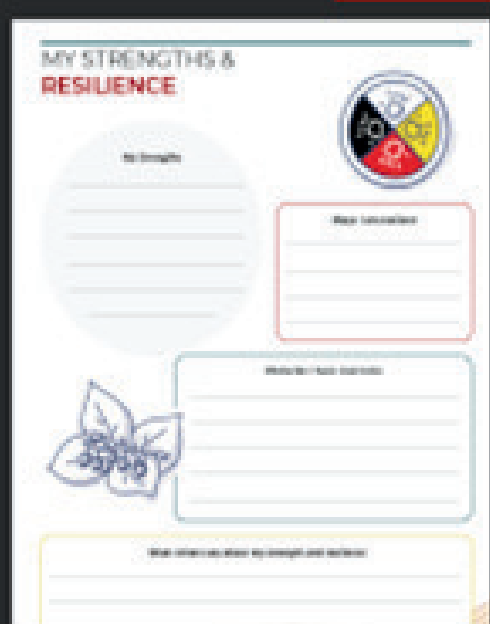


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Umbrellas
\$20.00



Visit our Admirals reception desk at
211-1497 Admirals Road Victoria, BC V9A 2P8
or contact info@sccfs.com to order.



CREATING A PATH LIFEBOOKS

Working together to record the memories and histories of our Indigenous children, youth and families

Surrounded by Cedar's updated Lifebook is now
available for purchase!

The books are \$75 each plus shipping

Please email info@sccfs.com

for an order form or call 250-383-2990 for more
information

First Nations Virtual Substance Use & Psychiatry Service

Culturally-safe specialist support for your health and wellbeing



1. Ask your health and wellness provider for a referral or call the First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day.



2. You and your provider can call the service together to set up an appointment by video or phone.



3. An assistant will connect you with a specialist to give you the support you need.

Support is available Monday to Friday
Learn more at [FNHA.ca/VirtualHealth](https://fnha.ca/VirtualHealth)



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Family Care Homes

There are many different ways you can provide support and care to the children and youth who need either long term or short term placements, emergency relief or even potentially adoptive homes. Becoming a Foster parent or Caregiver is a way to extend our hearts and homes to Indigenous children in the community. As a caregiver, you and the child or youth in your home will receive supports where you can provide a safe and loving placement for them child while they are away from their parents.



Interested in caregiving, or know someone who might be? If yes, please connect with one of our Resource Social Workers at becomeacaregiver@sccfs.com



Want to know more about what's happening at Surrounded by Cedar?

Join our Membership!

Memberships are \$1.00, renewed annually at the Annual General Meeting. Receive updates and invitations for agency events and activities, plus your membership will earn your vote at our Annual General Meeting!

**Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services
2023-2024 Membership Application**

Name (First & Last) : _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: (please check one)

Email ☐ Mail ☐

Please note (as per SCCFS constitution and bylaws), memberships expire the day before the SCCFS AGM

OFFICE USE ONLY

Membership Fee Received (\$1.00)? (please circle)

Yes

No

Signed By: _____ Dated: _____



Thank you for reading!

SCCFS' Dream Speaker Spring Edition will be
released in June 2024

"THE MOST YOU CAN SPEND ON ANY CHILD IS TIME."