

Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services



**Annual Report
2023/2024**

We acknowledge that we are located on the traditional territories 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.

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.

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.

Our Logo Through the Years:



In the spirit of spindle 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 dendrochronological 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

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 worldviews 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.

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Governance

2023-2024

President: Bruce Underwood

Vice President: Sekwan Wabasca

Secretary: Sue Simard

Treasurer: Dr. Jenny Morgan

Nuu-chah-nulth Rep: Joy Charleson

Director: Sherry Jakesta

Director: David Dick

Youth Council Rep: Vacant

Agenda

Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services Society
Annual General Meeting
Venue: Victoria Native Friendship Centre
Wednesday, October 23, 2024

4:30 p.m. Registration

5:00 p.m. Dinner and Territorial Welcome

5:30 p.m. Annual General Business

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Call to Order
- Establish Quorum
- Review Agenda
- Review 2022/23 AGM Minutes
- Business Arising from Minutes
- Report of Surrounded by Cedar
- Treasurer's Report
- Appointment of Auditor
- Questions from the Floor
- Board Elections/Appointments
- Meeting Adjournment

7:00 p.m. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Minutes

Annual General Meeting

October 25, 2023

Venue: Victoria Native Friendship Centre

Board Members Present:

Bruce Underwood Sekwan Wabasca Sue Simard Natasha Parrish
Carmin Blombertg

Board Member Regrets:

Joy Charleson

Chair: Della Preston
Minutes: Maren Gray
Dinner Prayer: Gigalis (Alex Nelson)
Territorial Welcome: Brianna Bear

1. Opening Remarks: Bruce Underwood (President), Della Preston (Chair)
2. Meeting called to Order: 6:25pm
3. Establish Quorum: 27 members
4. Review Agenda for October 25, 2023
 - o No changes or additions.

Motion: Move to adopt the Agenda for October 25, 2023

Moved: Bruce Parisian
Seconded: Carl Mashon
All in Favour.
Motion Carried.

5. Review 2021/2022 AGM minutes from October 26, 2022

Motion: Move to approve the 2021/2022 AGM Minutes as presented

Moved: Jennifer Chuckry
Seconded: Sekwan Wabasca
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

- Highlights included:
 - Regular meetings of Governance, Executive and Finance Committees.
 - Implementing recommendations made to Board Executive and Board table
 - Regular monthly meetings with a summer break
 - Recognition of Maria Owen, Finance Manager and Maren Gray, Executive Assistant for their support to the Board.
 - Acknowledgement of all staff; acknowledgement of Jennifer Chuckry and the work the agency has done for the children and families.
 - If members have questions, please contact Board Chair, Bruce Underwood, or a member of the Board.

8. Report of the Executive Director: *presented by Jennifer Chuckry, former Executive Director of Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services (Jennifer Chuckry resigned from her position, effective September 30th, 2023.)*

- Opening remarks, acknowledgements of guests, Alex Nelson and Brianna Bear for the beautiful welcome; acknowledgement of staff, and community members.
- Expression of gratitude to local territory keepers. Acknowledging the intricate systems of caring for children that have existed since time immemorial, and children have been honoured and held at the center;
- Recognition that the delegated services under which work is performed is an imposed system in Indigenous communities.
- The Executive Director reported the following highlights of the agency's business for the 2022/2023 fiscal year:
 - Navigating the full reintegration of staff and back into community events after navigating the Covid-19 pandemic impacts.
 - The First Our Women Are Sacred Walk was hosted on May 5, 2022, on the National Day for Awareness of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, also known as Red Dress Day.
 - A significant amount of energy was put into the expansion of C3 services to allow provision of non-protective family services. SCCFS has been advocating since the beginning to provide direct services to families, a piece of work that didn't come to fruition for many years due to funding struggles. It was an honour to navigate and move through the conversations and see the services transferred to the agency. The responsibility of caring for children and families is taken seriously and the agency is pleased to see Alysha Brown lead our new team of practitioners.
 - Surrounded by Cedar continues to work with South Island Indigenous Authority (SIIA) as a signor to their constitution. SIIA is moving through the processes to become the Indigenous Governing Body for Southern Vancouver Island.
 - SCCFS has working to create an Indigenous therapeutic care home for youth, rooted in love, care and Indigenous ways of knowing and being. The model of the home will genuinely wrap services and support around youth facing challenges or barriers to be in a standard living situation.
 - SCCFS and like all communities, have been deeply impacted by the opioid crisis in the province. The agency experienced the loss of young people, young people previously supported, and their families. Our hearts are with the grieving families, siblings and the practitioners.
 - SCCFS closely watched as the Federal court of Canada upheld its ruling in the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, ordering Canada to compensate First Nations children and their families impacted by their discriminatory federal child welfare system and chronic underfunding of on-reserve child and families services.
 - Expression of thanks and gratitude for the opportunity to sit with families and community for the last 13 years; hands raised to those who supported Jennifer's journey and to those who continue to support her in her new journey.

9. Report of the Treasurer: Sekwan Wabasca, on behalf of Natasha Parrish, Treasurer

- Financial Audit review of the agency's financial position as of March 31, 2023.
- A clear audit with no resounding concerns as reported to the Board by the auditors, BDO Canada. The audit followed the Canadian auditing standards for not-for-profit organizations. The auditors reviewed risks, internal controls, accounting policies, and overall presentation, structure and content of financial statements and found nothing concerning.
- SCCFS continues to have good working relationships with many funders and donors including the New Relationship Trust, the Victoria Foundation, and the Children's Aid Society
- The Board consistently reviewed monthly financial and consolidated statements and reviewed budget adjustments, as necessary.
- The agency has a strong Financial Team led by Finance Maria Owen, with the incredible support of both Farhad Poordakan and Crystal Sam.

Motion: Move to Accept the Reports of the Board President, Executive Director, and Treasurer

Moved: Bruce Parisian

Seconded: Cassidy Johnston

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.

10. Appointment of the Auditor

- Surrounded by Cedar recommends BDO Canada as the Auditor for fiscal year 2023/2024

Motion: Move to Accept the Appointment of BDO Canada as the Auditors for 2023/2024

Moved: Sue Simard

Seconded: Dakota Lachance

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.

Hearing no objections, the appointment stands.

Questions or Comments:

Bruce Underwood acknowledged Jennifer Charlesworth, the Representative for Children and Youth, for her attendance and the good work that she has personally brought to her role at the RCY.

11. Board Elections:

Call for Nominations – 2 Directors seats (three-year terms); 1 Directors seats (one-year term)

- Sekwan Wabasca nominated Dr. Jenny Morgan for a three-year term.
- Brianna Dick nominated David Dick for a three-year term.
- Sue Simard has nominated Sherry Jakesta for a one-year term.
 - No further nominations
 - Nomination accepted by Dr. Jenny Morgan
 - Nomination accepted by David Dick
 - Nomination accepted by Sue Simard.
 - All nominees elected unanimously

Motion: Move to Accept the unanimous election of Dr. Jenny Morgan, David Dick and Sherry Jakesta to the Board of Directors

Moved: Sekwan Wabasca

Seconded: Bruce Parisian

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.

A recommendation motion under SCCFS Society Bylaw #6.16 appoints Cameron Quinn to the Board of Directors to serve as the Youth Council Representative for one (1) year was presented to the membership by Sekwan Wabasca.

- Appointment: Cameron Quinn (Youth Council appointed representative).
 - Appointment accepted.

Motion: Move to to adjourn Annual General Meeting business at 7:10pm

Moved: Carl Mashon

Seconded: Jennifer Chuckry

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.

Honouring and Blanketing of Jennifer Chuckry, who served as Executive Director from 2017-2023 and was an employee of the agency for over 13 years.

SCCFS Staff sang and drummed Yuxwelupton's (Bradley Dick) Women's Honour Song, followed by a song shared by Jeffrey Charleson.

The Board blanketed Jennifer and community members shared words of love and encouragement.

Following final remarks from Jennifer, the SCCFS staff and guests sang the Lkwungen Celebration song in closing.

Report of Surrounded by Cedar

I would like to acknowledge the beautiful, traditional and unceded territory of the Ləkʷəŋən people, now known as the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations in which we serve and work alongside the urban, Indigenous children, youth, young adults, and families.

Over the 2023/2024 fiscal year, we have had many highlights and experienced many changes. We were very sad to see our former Executive Director Jennifer Chuckry depart to new adventures in her career, and we wish her all the best with everything. In the fall, we welcomed back Robin Croteau to fill in as Interim Executive Director as the Board continued with the search for a new Executive Director. In November, the agency hired Suzanne Patterson, Métis, from the lower mainland who started in mid December. Here are some highlights from the past 12 months:

- Continue to expand our space at Admirals Walk location with the renovation of a new space for youth programming.
- Continuation and growth of the non-protection family service program with people self-referring.
- More children and youth are being returned permanently to family or finding permanency with important people in their lives.
- More permanency plans will have been completed by the end of this calendar year than ever before.
- Our teams are dedicated to delivering the highest quality of work, despite the ongoing challenges that face our people (housing, mental health, etc).
- Continuation of annual events such as the WinterFeast, Nest to Wings Ceremony, the Welcome Ceremony, the Our Womxn Are Sacred Walk, and the Back the School Picnic.

As often comes with a shift in leadership, there have been some staffing changes as well. Through all this, we are pleased to recognize one particular employee who has steadfastly held on to our agency throughout the past 20 years. The Board would like to hold up Charlene Barney as our longest employee! Charlene is such a gift!! Charlene has been the heart of Surrounded By Cedar since she first started in 2004. Her gifts of love and light shine through all that she does. Charlene was formally recognized by the province recently with receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal for community contribution. Charlene has been a very active member of this community for as long as I can remember. She is extremely well connected and her contributions to our collective have been numerous. When I think of community members who actively and consistently contribute to the urban indigenous community, Charlene always pops to mind. Surrounded By Cedar has been so fortunate to have Charlene as part of our family for two full decades.

On the other end of the length of employment spectrum, the Board received Suzanne Patterson's resignation in early October. We wish to thank Suzanne for her time and commitment to our agency for the 9 months that she was with us, and we wish her all the best for her future endeavors. We are now in the in-between-state of Executive Directors, and we are grateful for Jenna Bailey, our Practice Manager to back fill the role for the time being while the Board explores filling the role permanently.

While life flows on with highs and lows, we continue offering impactful service and support to children, youth, young adults, and families, while maintaining our agency's strong foundation in Indigenous cultural values and perspectives. Our goal is to ensure that urban Indigenous children and youth grow up connected to their families, communities, and culture.

On behalf of the governing Board of Directors, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve another year for our membership and our families. We respectfully raise our hands to each and every one of you.

On behalf of the Board,

Bruce Underwood & Sekwan Wabasca

The background of the page is a close-up photograph of weathered wood bark. The bark is peeling and flaking, revealing a reddish-brown inner layer. The texture is rough and layered, with various shades of brown, tan, and grey. A semi-transparent white rounded rectangle is centered horizontally across the middle of the page, containing the text "Programs and Services" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Programs and Services

Report of the Practice Manager

The Practice Manager is responsible for the overall management and practice of SCCFS' delegated and non-delegated service delivery, including Support Services, Cultural Programs, Residential Resources, Out-of-Care Resources, Non-Protection Family Service Programs 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 four Team Leaders and report directly to the Executive Director.

During the 2023 & 2024 fiscal year the focus was on:

- The continued expansion of our Voluntary Services (C3), and settling into our second office location at 915 Fort St
- Supporting the hiring of vacant and new positions
- Reporting on service gaps and program successes
- Overseeing practice and policy, some of which has changed dramatically, particularly within the Youth Transitions sector, as well as Provincial oversight on private visit standards with Children and Youth In-Care
- 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
- Consultation and support with practitioners navigating complex situations and planning for our child and youth in care
- Partnering with The Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness to open an SCCFS Therapeutic Resource
- Attended the Director's/Partnership Forum in Haida Gwaii, BC to continue to be at the forefront of practice and priorities of Indigenous Child & Family Service Agencies (ICFSA)
- Participated in several policy/practice committees with MCFD, Provincial Office and other ICFSAs throughout the province
- Sits on various planning committees to support the events and ceremonial work that goes on at SCCFS

Upon reflection of this last year, I am humbled by the strength and determination of our families and young people who continue to guide us. I am proud of SCCFS's entire team which continue to be trail blazers within the world of Urban Indigenous child welfare. Cultural connection continues to prove to us as the most influential protective factor. The agency's commitment to ceremony, territory visits and activities centered in belonging is on-going, and I look forward to all the gifts and teachings this next year brings.

Marsi,

Jenna Bailey

Report from Administrative Services

Greetings everyone,

I am grateful to be working alongside our community partners, sister agencies and community members.

I have been acting as Office Manager for our Admirals location since November 2023. I am happy to provide the annual report for our administrative team for the year 2023-2024. This past year has proven to be a year of many changes but a year of adaptations and perseverance as well.

- Lottie LeBlanc has made the decision to change paths and has left the agency. I want to thank Lottie for the friendship we shared over the years, as well as the professional growth we experienced.
- We have three wonderful staff members who are at the roots of parenthood, and we are preparing to welcome them back to our agency with warm arms.
- We have one admin team member who recently gained their official Canadian citizenship.
- We are also happy to share that 3 temporary/contracted staff members were successful applicants and are now permanent staff members with both the Admirals Rd or Fort St team.
- Our lovely Charlene Barney celebrated 20 years with our agency this year and we are so honored to be able to work alongside her and hold her gentle spirit and kind heart very dearly.
- Our team booked **79** trips for our children and young adults to deepen their cultural connections and create stronger bonds with family members (up to August 23, 2024).

As this year held some staffing challenges for the Admin teams at our Admirals Rd and Fort St location, the team from both locations came together as a unit to support each other and assist the Guardianship & Permanency Planning, Youth Transition and Non-Protection Family Services continuously by:

- warmly welcoming visitors at each location
- preparing payments
- ensuring electronic and physical record keeping
- providing administrative guidance & support with referrals/applications/correspondence
- travel booking for all our families, children, youth and staff
- making sure that all IT needs are being looked after

The list goes on, but I would like to conclude with sharing my endless appreciation and gratitude by raising my hands to all Admin staff who diligently ensure that processes behind the scenes are enabling the wonderful frontline teams to walk alongside our children and families and support their commitment to serving our community and keeping our children & families at the center of our work.

- Nicole Leggeat

Report from Cultural Services

Highlights of 2023 - 2024

Nest to Wings

The 2023 Nest to Wings ceremony took place at the Wawadi'tla, Mungo Martin House. Urban Indigenous youth were acknowledged and uplifted during their transition from child to a young adult as they transition into community at the age of 19. These youth were held up and assurances were provided that while they may be turning 19, the agency's doors will always be open to them should they need any help along their journey.

Building Our Bundles Highlights

- Bone Game Night with Myk Charlie and members of his family of Lkwungen and Quw'utsun territories. We gathered at the Mungo Martin House where our children/youth and families heard stories and the traditional ways Lahal has brought Nations together for generations.
- Cedar Weaving with Laura Manson
- Painting bentwood boxes
- Dipnet Fishing at Goldstream Park
- Creating a beaded timeline of Mother Earth's story
- Creating medicine bags and receiving teachings around the importance of different medicines

Regalia Night

This year, the Cultural Program started a regular Regalia Night with members of the Youth Council and members of the Leadership program. With support of 3 Knowledge Keepers, eight (8) youth participated in creating their own regalia, which included ribbon skirts, button blankets, shawls, a beaded vest, and beaded moccasins. Two young people worked on an ongoing project to create regalia for a court date for a Transfer of Custody which is scheduled to happen later in 2024.

Earthwalkers Spring Break Camp

The Earthwalkers Spring Break camp focused on teachings around water. The 10 participants from Guardianship and Out of Care Families spent time at Goldstream Park, ocean beaches, and rivers where they received local teachings around the importance of waterways. As well, the children participated in crafting, fort building, and forest games.

Winterfeast

The 2023 Winterfeast was held at the Davinci Center. Due to the increase in families served by Surrounded by Cedar, the center was at capacity, with hundreds of families attending to share a meal and celebrate the winter solstice. Throughout the night, we hosted a photobooth, facepainting, and ornament making. As well, the community enjoyed cultural sharing from Nuu-chah-nulth singers and Metis dancers.

23

Group Opportunities Provided

330

Children, Youth, Families
Attendance

12

Individual Services Provided

Cultural Continuity Program

Visits to Traditional Territories and Events

- Visited Ahousaht with two youth to meet with family and community members
- Visited Port Alberni with one child to visit with family and create connections to help facilitate a child returning to family
- Travelled to Gabriola Island with 7 young adults for a retreat and to practice their GOV presentations
- Visited Ahousaht with four youth to attend the Christmas Celebration in the community
- Visited Ditidaht with a child to visit with family and community

8

Youth attended
Kamloopa Pow-wow

6

Youth attended
Gathering Our Voices Youth
Conference

5

Youth attended Hobiye
Nisga'a New Year
Celebration
in Vancouver

Local Cultural Opportunities

Dance Practice

The urban Nuu-chah-nulth population in Victoria gather every Monday to dance, drum, sing, & connect. Cultural Continuity has attended dance practice with children and youth from Nuu-chah-nulth communities. Cultural Continuity attends dance practice bi-weekly with caregivers & children in care.

Unity Drum Night

Cultural Continuity attends Unity Drum Night regularly as a support to the agency's children and youth who wish to attend.

Individual Caregiver and Child Support

- Cedar Brushing with Wayne Seward for two families going thru grief and loss
- Book Club Tuesday evenings with care givers where they were reading Rez Rules
- Carving project for a youth where they learned how to carve and creating a tombstone for their late father in Ahousaht.
- Bear Grease Play at University of Victoria with Caregivers and youth
- Attended a child's classroom to share cultural teachings and knowledge
- Two drum making workshops with caregivers and children in the home
- Attended the South Island Indigenous Authority community youth gathering with 3 youth

Youth Advisory Council

From April 2023 – March 2024, the Surrounded by Cedar Youth Advisory Council has consisted of 16 youth adults who hope to make a significant impact on Surrounded by Cedar, the urban community, and the child welfare system.

Over the last year, the Youth Council has participated and been involved in the following activities:

- Attend and learn/build skills/take on leadership roles.
- Create regalia from their respective territories. Being part of the whole process, including gathering materials and learning from Knowledge Keepers.
- Sit in on meetings aiming to create an Indigenous response support team at Victoria Sexual Assault Centre.
- Having youth present their projects at Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference. Their presentation was about growing up in care and was called “Invincible”.
- Engaging in conversation with South Island Indigenous Authority (SIIA) around what it means to be a child in care and providing recommendations to their work.
- Traveling to Merritt to meet with Elders from the territory to learn protocols around harvesting medicine.
- Travelling to Gabriola Island on a retreat to practice their “Invincible” presentation prior to Gathering Our Voices Conference.
- Starting to learn songs and being courageous to sing.
- Winning a grant for a medicine garden and starting to plan around how they can create their garden and share their project with the community
- Attending the arts-based workshop with Kinship Rising - a group that works at ending gendered based violence.
- Meeting with the Representatives for Children and Youth to discuss their experiences of being children in care.
- Attending Goldstream Park to meet with an Elder to learn about Salmon and Native plants.
- Participating in a youth drop-in night to encourage our youth who are not on council to come share a meal and space with one another.
- Connecting with the younger Leadership group at SCCFS and providing mentorship.
- Having youth participate and begin to take action in their healing journeys, evidenced by sharing when in meeting, knowing that changes in mood affect our ways of engaging with one another, initiating counselling, ceremony, healthcare.



Kamloopa



Sage Collecting

Dip net fishing at Goldstream Park



a storytelling project envisioned, written and created by Indigenous youth in care



Ditidaht totems



Drum making workshop

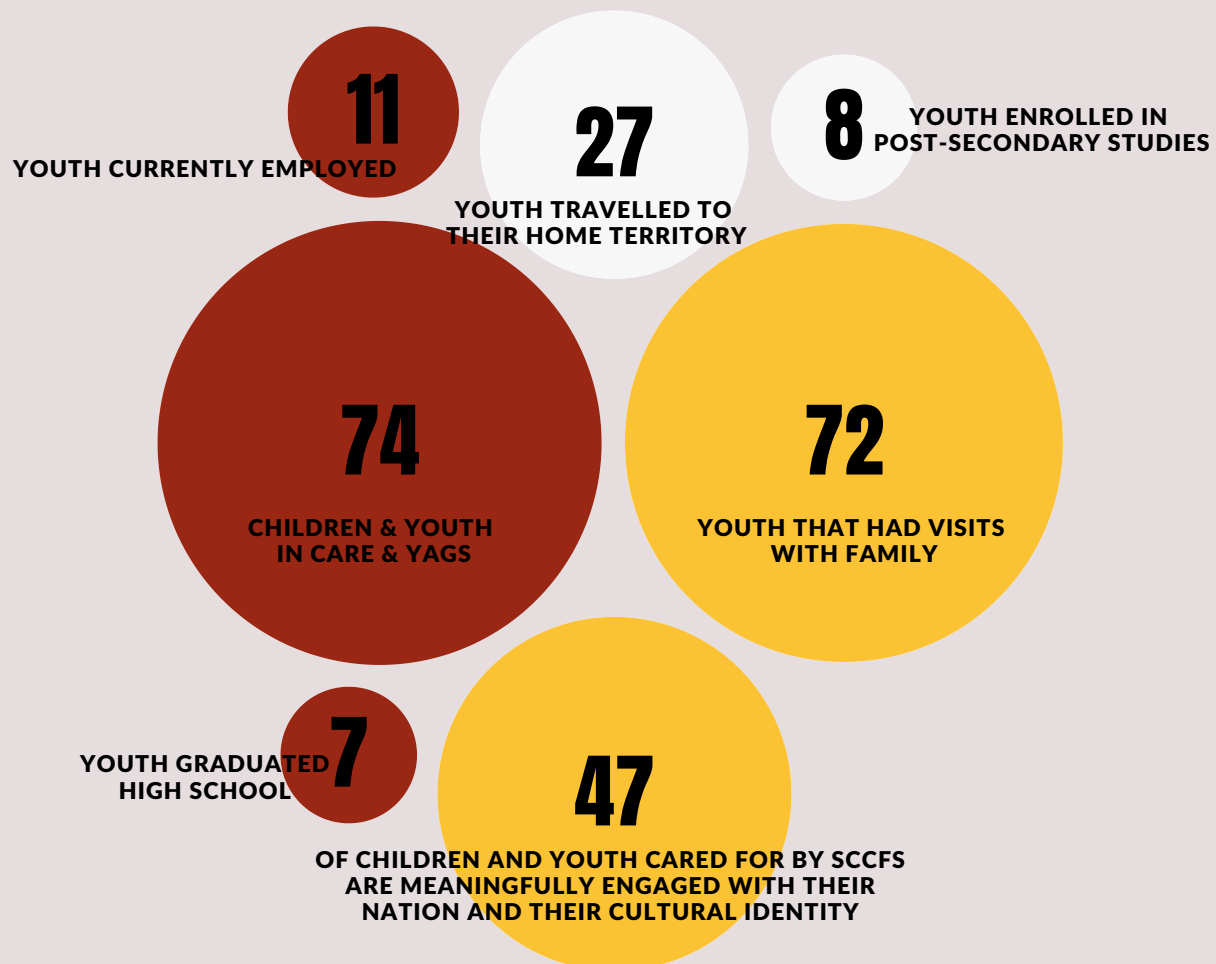
Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference



Report from Guardianship & Permanency Planning

The past year, the team has supported and witnessed children and youth participate in incredible opportunities and experience special moments; many children and youth travelled to Vancouver for Hobiye; 1 youth was the valedictorian of her graduating class, 1 youth was on the Dean's honour roll, and 4 youth obtained their driver's licenses.

A cancellation of a Continuing Custody Order was granted for a young teen who returned to his mom after over a decade in care! This was the accumulation of a lot of dedicated and hard work by mom and the patience of her son. We had a beautiful ceremony in the courtroom to acknowledge the family and afterwards a wonderful meal at the Fort Street office to celebrate the moment.



Over this past year, the Guardianship Team has also had to support several children and youth manage the deaths of their parents, family members, and friends. There was an extraordinary number of parents that passed away this year from drug overdoses. These losses have had a profound impact on the children and youth who are not only grieving the present loss of their family but also grieving a future with their parents and family that is no longer available for them.

We have seen an increase in the number of children and youth that are experiencing mental health concerns, including depression, anxiety disorders, self-harm, suicidality, neurodevelopmental disorders, and addiction. Access to appropriate mental health support is a major barrier for many of the children and youth to receive support and treatment.



Within the agency, there has been major growth in youth programming to meet day to day needs of youth as well as their transition to adulthood and community after turning 19.

It is expected that within the next few years, the number of completed permanency plans will significantly increase.

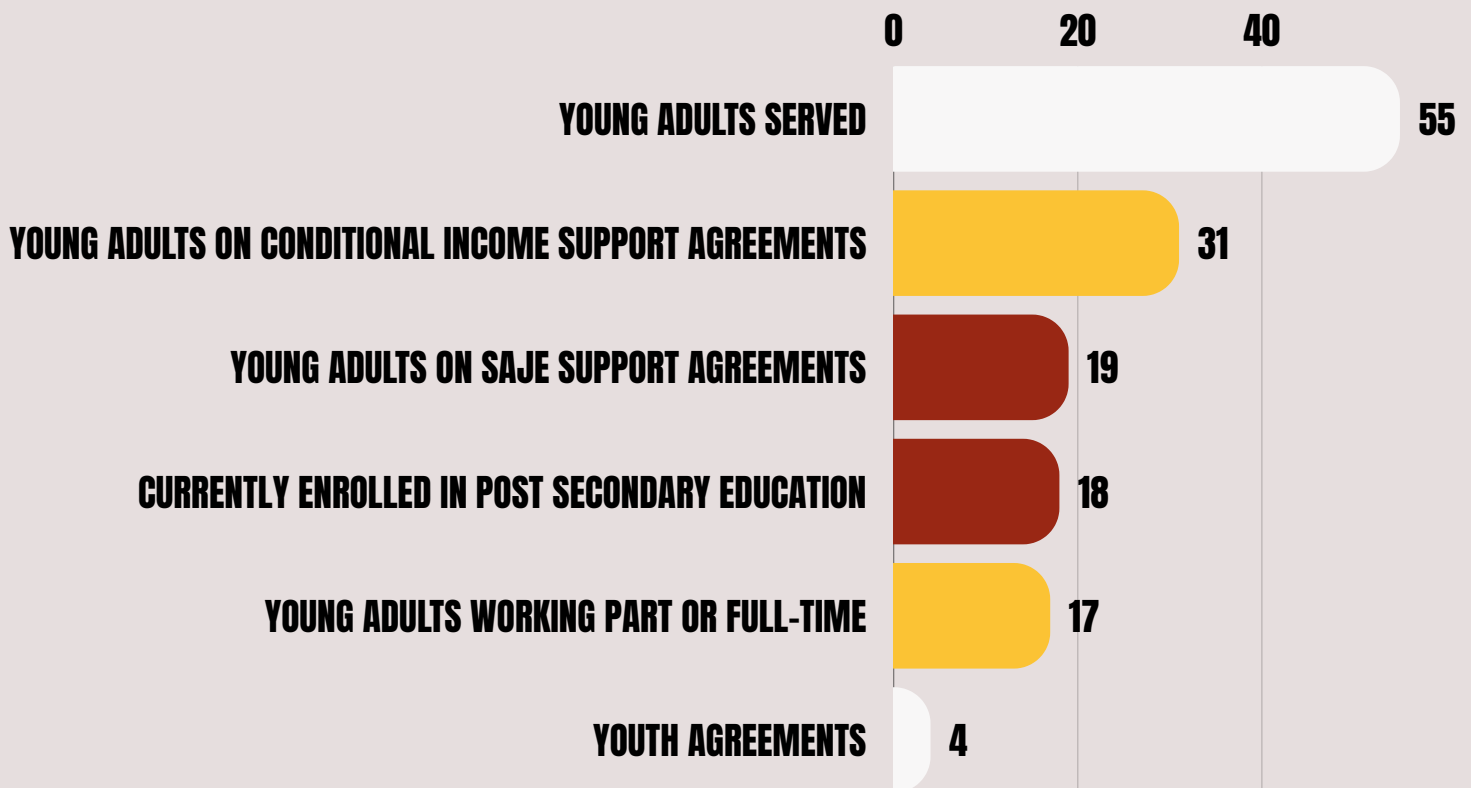
Courtney Norris-Jones,
Team Leader, Guardianship & Permanency Planning

Youth Transition Program

As the Acting Team Leader of Youth Transitions, I am happy to present the report for the April 2023 – March 2024 year.

I raise my hands to the Lekwungen people who host us on their land and raise my hands to all the Nations we work alongside to support the needs of urban young adults in the community.

As a new team within the organization, I am proud of the work we have completed with the young people, and I hope to work towards building the team into a more robust place of support and engagement with SCCFS youth. This year, the team experienced some changes in policy and procedure from the provincial level, with the addition of additional funding for mental health as well as life skills, training, and cultural connection. These two new funding streams were implemented by the provincial government in November 2023 and have provided much needed financial support for young people on Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) who have had very limited access to funding.



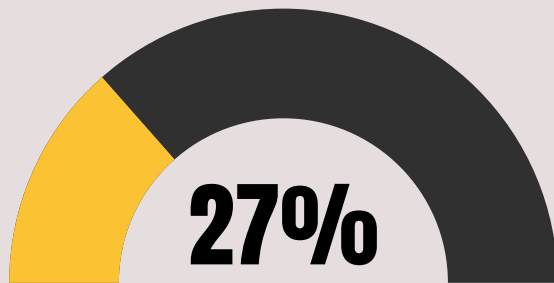
Travel to Home Community to connect Land & Culture

- Young adult travelled to Gold River with a support to visit family
- Young Adults travelled with her uncle to Oliver to visit family
- 4 young adults travelled to Kamloops for their first Pow Wow. All of these young people were from Pow Wow Nations.
- Young Adults travelled to Nootka Island for a camp-out with family
- Young Adult travelled to Saskatchewan to visit her family
- 3 young adults travelled to Zeballos for their community food harvesting and preservation event
- Young Adult travelled to Alberta to visit her mother and grandparents
- 8 young adults travelled to Gabriola Island for a retreat
- 3 young adults attended Hobiye in Vancouver
- 3 young adults travelled to Port Alberni to see their mother

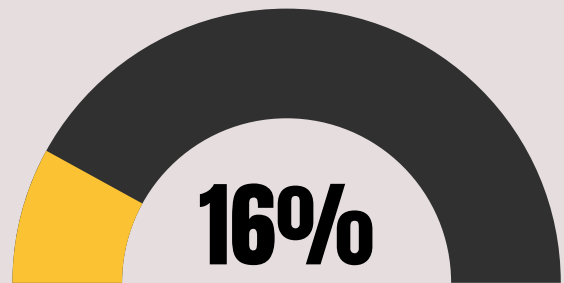
Mental Health and Substance Use

Throughout the 2023-2024 year, our team has seen young adults significantly struggling with mental health and substance use.

From April 2023-March 2024, we saw the following:



**OF YOUNG ADULTS
STRUGGLING WITH ACUTE
MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**



**OF YOUNG ADULTS
STRUGGLING WITH
SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

Resources & Support Services

Child & Youth Counselling Program

- Total number of referrals: 34 (carrying forward 20 from last year)
- Total number of individuals receiving services: 33
 - Total number of individuals ages 12 and under: 10
 - Total number of individuals ages 13 and over: 23
- Provided more accessible services, with 33% of individuals being provided with outreach services
- The individuals being provided services have been consistently attending sessions to work on their mental wellbeing
- Ongoing communication and relationship building with caregivers
- Future Goals: Group Therapy/Work for Caregivers

Intensive Youth Support Program

- Total number of referrals: 19
- Total number of youths receiving individual service: 36
- Attended high school: 16 High school graduates: 5 Attended college/university: 4
- Employed/started new job/attended employment program/volunteered: 10
- Got L driver's license/took driving lessons/got N driver's license: 5
- Secured rental housing: 5
- Went home to visit family and community: 13
- Application completed for/received status card/SCIS/Metis citizenship: 4
- Connected to primary care provider: 2
- Attended detox/treatment: 4
- IYSW provided support to the follow programs/events: SCCFS Cultural Programs, Youth Advisory Council, Regalia Night, Canoe Journey, Gathering Our Voices, Accompanied a youth to the Flying Dust First Nation Pow Wow

Lifelong Connections Program

- 28 Nations contacted to connect children/youth with their birth and extended family members and indigenous community
- Family finding within 28 different territories/Nations across Turtle Island
- Completed 12+ genograms
- Completed 8 Cultural Safety Agreements in collaboration with different Nations
- 22 Knowledge Keepers and Elders contacted

Non-Protection Family Service

This last year has been a whirlwind for the Non-Protection Family Services Team! I was hired in May 2023 to fill the position of Team Leader, and the rest of the Non-Protection Family Service Workers were hired in June and July: André Fontaine, Amy Whitney, Chantelle Douglas and Carrie Craghtten. In July and August, we settled into the new office space at 915 Fort Street. During this time, the team was not yet delegated so we spent some time building relationships with sister agencies, getting the community pantry up and running, engaging in suicide prevention training, addictions training and Family Support Worker training, as well as becoming familiar with data management systems and filing.

In September and October 2024, the team completed delegation training with Indigenous Perspectives Society and we began to receive file transfers from MCFD. By January 2024, the whole team was delegated and we were actively working with many families providing Voluntary Family Services, including:

- Making referrals to counselling and treatment programs
- Providing childcare resources and respite support
- Providing food security strategies, including grocery support and the community pantry
- Navigating housing, justice and education systems, to improve outcomes for families
- Supporting new parents with child safety equipment, education and support

We also support families with out-of-care and voluntary options for the care of children, including the Extended Family Program and Voluntary Care Agreements. We continue to support many families who are also navigating complex mental health and behavioral challenges.

From August 2023 to March 2024, our team supported:

36 Family Service Files (ongoing voluntary family support services)

52 Service Requests (short-term voluntary family support services)

96 children remained in the care of their parents

3 children were placed in Out-of-Care placements

(2 Extended Family Plan and 1 Voluntary Care Agreement)

64% of families we served accessed food security programs on a regular basis

70% of families we served received support accessing government programs like Persons with Disabilities, Income Assistance, Canada Child Benefit, Affordable Child Care Benefit, Housing Subsidies, and Legal Aid.

17% of families we served were either unhoused or living in temporary motel rooms – five (5) of these families now have permanent housing!

We are incredibly honoured and privileged to be able to walk alongside urban Indigenous children and families. We look forward to the year ahead!

Kinanâskomitin,
Alysha Brown

Back to School Picnic 2023

Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services, in partnership with the Victoria Native Friendship Center, and with the help of a wonderful crew of volunteers, hosted the 2023 Back to School Picnic on August 27th, 2023, at Government House.

It was a beautiful and sunny day as children, youth and families lined the pathways of the Government House grounds, excitedly anticipating their boxes of school supplies, new backpacks, and water bottles. Everyone, participants and volunteers, enjoyed the amazing activities, with multiple inflatable and interactive games, a popular virtual reality Roller Coaster and an even more popular, Euro Bungee! The Victoria Native Friendship Center team also hosted a Status Card Clinic throughout the day!

The BTSP Coordination team took the show on the road once again, delivering supplies to Duncan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Courtney, Campbell River and Mission. Across all communities, including Victoria, 2100 school kits from Kindergarten to Grade 12, were distributed!

The Back to School Picnic Event would not be possible without the amazing support of the Victoria Native Friendship Center, Hulitan Family and Community Social Services, M'akola Group of Societies, Island Métis Family & Community Social Services and the School District 61, along with the many community partners and volunteers that put their hearts into making a wonderful and impactful day for our children, youth, families and community members. We deeply thank you for your time and energy!

At the center of this event, is the incredible Wush'q (Ron Rice) as the Back to School Picnic Coordinator and the BTSP Coordination Team, to whom we raise our hands for their hours, hearts and efforts to put on a spectacular celebration for our community.

We thank and honour our funders for their continued support and financial contributions to such an important event that makes a big impact in our community, always keeping in the forefront:

*When Our Children Go Back to School,
Our Hearts Go With Them*

Back to school picnic 2023!



Victoria - 1128
Duncan - 454
Courtenay - 94
Nanaimo - 91
Campbell River - 81
Port Alberni - 72
Mission - 179
TOTAL: 2100 KITS DISTRIBUTED!

Audited Financial Statements

**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family
Services Society
Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2024**

**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family
Services Society**
Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2024

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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, 2024, 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, 2024, 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
Vancouver, British Columbia
September 19, 2024

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


March 31 2024 2023

Current Assets		
Cash (Note 2)	\$ 2,353,755	\$ 2,057,045
Investments (Note 3)	572,354	-
Restricted cash (Notes 2 and 6)	-	1,010,804
Accounts receivable	383,855	78,302
Prepaid expenses	134,034	128,167
	3,443,998	3,274,318
Capital assets (Note 4)	174,012	100,695
	\$ 3,618,010	\$ 3,375,013

Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5)	\$ 417,709	\$ 176,088
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	1,494,144	622,764
Funds held for child care (Note 7)	-	1,010,804
	1,911,853	1,809,656

Net Assets		
Operating fund	1,532,145	1,464,662
Invested in tangible capital assets	174,012	100,695
	1,706,157	1,565,357
	\$ 3,618,010	\$ 3,375,013

Approved on behalf of the Board


 _____ Director


 _____ Director

Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society
Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31	2024	2023
Revenue		
Grants	\$13,043,658	\$ 8,807,555
Donations	506,831	602,478
Fundraising	182,303	316,442
Other	374,664	190,636
Interest	8,663	6,000
	14,116,119	9,923,111
Expenses		
Advertising	473	77
Amortization	43,608	73,407
Child in care expenses	9,040,403	6,536,126
Insurance	18,594	14,410
Professional fees	171,689	152,130
Program expenses	425,478	398,371
Rent and services	571,718	366,993
Salaries and benefits	3,443,612	2,320,940
Security	5,414	369
Technical support	131,007	118,526
Telephone	30,686	20,015
Training	20,769	11,355
Travel	71,868	42,359
	13,975,319	10,055,078
	140,800	
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$	\$ (131,967)

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

For the year ended March 31

	Operating Fund	Invested In Tangible Capital Assets	2024	2023
Balance, beginning of year	\$1,464,662	\$ 100,695	\$1,565,357	\$ 1,697,324
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	184,408	(43,608)	140,800	(131,967)
Interfund transfers	(116,925)	116,925	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$1,532,145	\$ 174,012	\$1,706,157	\$ 1,565,357

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

For the year ended March 31	2024	2023
Cash provided by (used in)		
Operating activities		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ 140,800	\$ (131,967)
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Amortization	43,608	73,407
Unrealized gain from Investments	<u>(72,354)</u>	<u>-</u>
	112,054	(58,560)
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Accounts receivable	(305,553)	711,496
Prepaid expenses	(5,867)	(29,866)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	241,621	(183,467)
Deferred revenue	871,380	461,879
Funds held for child care	<u>(1,010,804)</u>	<u>1,010,804</u>
	<u>(97,169)</u>	<u>1,912,286</u>
Investing activities		
Capital asset purchases	(116,925)	(27,827)
Purchase of investments, net	(500,000)	-
Restricted cash	<u>1,010,804</u>	<u>(1,010,804)</u>
	<u>393,879</u>	<u>(1,038,631)</u>
Increase in cash during the year	296,710	873,655
Cash, beginning of year	<u>2,057,045</u>	<u>1,183,390</u>
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 2,353,755</u>	<u>\$ 2,057,045</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, 2024

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. 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.

As a not-for-profit organization, it is exempt from income taxes as a register charity under Section 149 of the Income Tax Act.

(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, 2024

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. Investments

In October 2023, the Society invested \$500,000 into mutual funds through Vancity Investment Management Ltd. Unrealized fair value increases amount to \$572,354.

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

March 31, 2024

4. Capital Assets

			March 31, 2024	March 31, 2023
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Art work	\$ 10,381	\$ -	\$ 10,381	\$ 10,381
Computer equipment	206,373	189,298	17,075	-
Computer software	7,202	7,202	-	-
Office equipment	269,337	219,905	49,432	31,457
Leasehold improvements	141,848	76,591	65,257	22,045
Vehicles	54,943	23,076	31,867	36,812
	\$ 690,084	\$ 516,072	\$ 174,012	\$ 100,695

5. Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities are government remittances payable of \$84,335 (2023 - \$29,694).

6. Deferred Revenue

	2023	Received	Recognized	2024
Deferred provincial grant	\$ 622,764	5,810,119	(4,938,739)	\$1,494,144

7. 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.

Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2024

8. Economic Dependence

The Society received 92% (2023- 89%) of its revenue from Provincial Government Agencies and remains dependant upon funding from the Provincial Government.

9. Commitments

The Society has entered into two leases with a third party for premises, which expire in June 2028 and October 2027. 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:

Year	Amount
2025	\$ 547,099
2026	554,019
2027	564,061
2028	571,102
2029	<u>69,970</u>
	<u>\$2,306,251</u>

10. 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, 2024. 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 was \$nil at March 31, 2023 and 2022. At March 31, 2024, 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.

Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2024

11. 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, 2024 there was no remuneration paid to the directors of the Society (2023 - nil). A total of 14 (2023 - 4) employees/contractors received remuneration in excess of \$75,000 which resulted in an aggregate expenditure of \$1,261,539 (2023 - \$335,017).