

SURROUNDED BY CEDAR
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES



2024-2025

ANNUAL
REPORT

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 systems of governance, which included the care and protection of children, existed long before colonization.

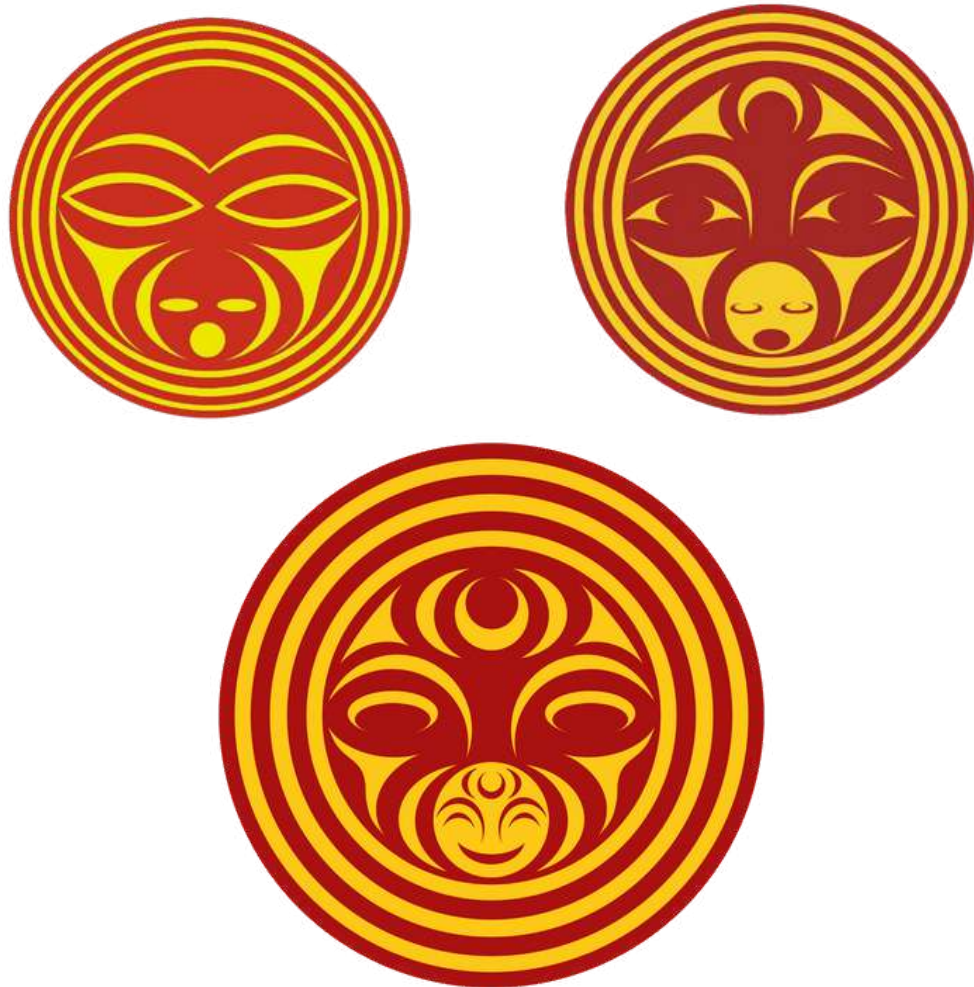
Vision:

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 2024-2025

President: Bruce Underwood

Vice President: Sekwan Wabasca

Secretary: Sue Simard

Treasurer: Dr. Jenny Morgan

Nuu-chah-nulth Rep: Vacant

Director: Sabrina Williams

Director: Vacant

Youth Council Rep/Observer: Latiesha Coulineur

AGENDA

SCCFS



ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

OCTOBER 30, 2025
4:30PM-7:30PM

01
DOORS OPEN & REGISTRATION

4:30PM

02
DINNER & TERRITORIAL WELCOME

- Territorial Welcome
- Prayer
- Dinner catered by Island Culinary Services

5:00PM

03
PRESENTATION

- INVINCIBLE - Our Voices from Care
A storytelling project envisioned, written and created by Indigenous Youth in Care

5:30PM

04
SONG-SCCFS

- Children's Blessing Song

05
BUSINESS & BOARD ELECTIONS

- Approval of the Agenda
- 2023/2024 Meeting Minutes
- Report of the Board
- Report of the Executive Director
- Treasurer's Report & Audited Financial Statements (2024-2025)
- Appointment of Auditor
- Board Elections
Three (3) Directors' seats for three (3) year term
One (1) Director's seat for one (1) year term

6:30PM

06
CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT

7:30PM





MINUTES OF THE
2023 - 2024
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services
 Annual General Meeting
231 Regina Avenue
October 23, 2024

Board Members Present:

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Bruce Underwood | Sekwan Wabasca | Sue Simard |
| Sherry Jakesta | | |
| Regrets: | Joy Charleson | Jenny Morgan |

Chair: Della Preston
Minutes: Janina Bahnsen
Dinner Prayer: Jessica Sault
Territorial Welcome: Yuxwelupton Bradley Dick

1. **Opening Remarks:** Bruce Underwood (President), Della Preston (Chair)
2. **Meeting called to Order: 6:18 PM**
3. **Establish Quorum (# of voting members): 8**
4. **Review Agenda for October 23, 2024**

- No changes or additions.

Motion: Move to adopt the Agenda for October 23, 2024

Moved: Sue Simard
 Seconded: Sekwan Wabasca
 All in Favour.
 Motion Carried.

5. Review 2022/2023 AGM minutes from October 25, 2023

Motion: Move to approve the 2022/2023 AGM Minutes as presented

Moved: Sue Simard
 Seconded: Sherry Jakesta
 All in Favour.
 Motion Carried.

Comment: Jennifer Chuckry notes that she was not the ED at the time of the AGM. She would like a comment to be added that she presented the report on behalf of the agency.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

7. Report of Surrounded by Cedar: Bruce Underwood and Sekwan Wabasca

- Highlights included:
 - o Referring to the report for details on each program.
 - o The board meets once a month and takes a look at the reports, auditing, and budgets and takes a more in-depth look every quarter.
 - o Personnel matters are being reviewed regularly.
 - Recent changes in the agency but the services are still being provided as needed to the community.

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Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services
Annual General Meeting
231 Regina Avenue
October 23, 2024

- o Moving forward with renovations on Admirals Suite C and set up of Fort St as well as the purchase of a FS vehicle.
- o Sekwan Wabasca, Sue Simard and Sue Coyle recognizing Charlene Barney as the longest team member at Surrounded by Cedar and her wonderful accomplishments incl. her King Charles III Coronation Medal for her significant contributions to her communities. Charlene was blanketed by Sekwan and Sue.

Motion: Move to approve Reports of the Board President as presented

Moved: Jennifer Chuckry

Seconded: Sue Coyle

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.

8. Report of the Treasurer: Sekwan Wabasca, on behalf of Jenny Morgan

Financial Audit review of the agency's financial position as of March 31, 2024.

- 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.
- Surrounded by Cedar continues to have good working relationships with many funders & donors including the New Relationship Trust of Victoria Foundation and Children's Aids Society amongst others.
- The board consistently reviewed 5-monthly financial statements and consolidated statements and reviewed budget assessments as necessary.
- Jenny Morgan as our treasurer approved the report while being home sick.

Motion: Move to Accept the Report of Surrounded by Cedar and Treasurer's Report

Moved: Sue Simard

Seconded: Bradley Dick

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.

9. Appointment of the Auditor

- Surrounded by Cedar recommends BDO Canada as the auditor for fiscal year 2024/2025.
- Review at the board meeting at September 17, 2024.

Motion: Move to Accept the Appointment of BDO Canada as the Auditors for 2024/2025

Moved: Sue Simard

Seconded: Jennifer Chuckry

All in Favour.

Motion Carried.

Hearing no objections, the appointment stands.

Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services
Annual General Meeting
231 Regina Avenue
October 23, 2024

10. Questions or Comments:

- Comment: Jennifer Chuckry raises her hands in gratitude to the Board and the team at Surrounded by Cedar.

11. Board Elections:

- Sekwan Wabasca acknowledges Sherry's time at Surrounded by Cedar as she is not renewing her term as Director and shares her deep appreciation for all the time and care Sherry shared.

Call for Nominations – 1 Directors seats (three-year term); 1 Directors seats (two-year term)

- Jennifer Chuckry nominated Sabrina Williams.
 - o No further nominations
 - ✓ Nomination accepted by Sabrina Williams.
 - ❖ Acclaimed to a three-year (3) term.

12. Motion: Move to adjourn Annual General Meeting business at 6:43 PM

Moved: Sekwan Wabasca
Seconded: Bruce Underwood
All in Favour.
Motion Carrie



REPORT OF THE BOARD

We would like to acknowledge the beautiful, traditional, and unceded territory of the Lək̓wəŋən peoples, the Songhees and x̱w̱sepsəm (Esquimalt) First Nations, on which we serve and work alongside urban Indigenous children, youth, young adults, and families. Over the 2024/2025 fiscal year, we have had many highlights and experienced many changes. We were happy to have Jennifer Chuckry return as Executive Director. Jennifer's return brought a steady hand, a clear vision, and a deep commitment to the children, youth, and families we serve. With her leadership, we have been able to strengthen relationships, refocus our priorities, and move forward in a good way. Her dedication to community, cultural safety, and organizational integrity has been felt throughout every level of Surrounded by Cedar.

Here are some highlights from the past 12 months:

- We are moving forward to ensure the continuity of culturally grounded, connected and responsive Leadership with the implementation of thoughtful and purposeful succession planning.
- We proudly expanded our Admirals Walk location, creating a welcoming new space dedicated to youth programming, community outreach and connection.
- Our Non-Protection Family Service program continues to grow, with more individuals and families choosing to self-refer and access culturally grounded support.
- We are seeing a meaningful increase in children and youth returning to family or finding permanency with significant people in their lives.
- We anticipate completing more permanency plans by the end of this calendar year than in previous years, reflecting the dedication of our teams and the strength of community collaboration.
- Our staff remain deeply committed to providing high-quality, culturally safe services, even as the broader challenges of housing insecurity, mental health, and systemic barriers persist.
- We continued to hold space for important annual gatherings such as the Winter Feast, Nest to Wings Ceremony, Welcome Ceremony, Our Women Are Sacred Walk, and Back to School Picnic, each one a celebration of identity, resilience, and belonging.

This year marked a period of steady growth and reflection. We welcomed new staff members and deepened our collective learning through community-led teachings. The Board of Directors met regularly throughout the year, maintaining a consistent monthly schedule and quorum at each meeting. We remain committed to strong governance, accountability, and supporting the organization's continued growth and cultural integrity. As we navigate the ever-changing realities of life, its joys, challenges, and everything in between, we remain rooted in our commitment to serving Indigenous children, youth, young adults, and families with care, consistency, and cultural integrity. Guided by Indigenous values and worldviews, we continue to walk alongside those we serve, ensuring that urban Indigenous children and youth grow up with strong connections to their families, communities, and cultural identities.

On behalf of the governing Board of Directors, we are deeply honoured to serve another year in support of our community, our families, and our membership. With humility and gratitude, we raise our hands to each of you for the trust, strength, and connection you continue to share with us.

On behalf of the Board

Bruce Underwood & Sekwan Wabasca



REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Good Evening,

I would like to start by acknowledging ləkʷəŋən people whose territory our offices are situated upon and express my gratitude to the Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations for sharing your lands with so many of us. I acknowledge the intricate systems of governance that have existed in your territories since the beginning of time and recognize the current systems of child and family well-being are imposed systems. I raise my hands to you as the keepers of these lands and waters and acknowledge your ancestors and supernatural ones who have guided you and shaped your stories, your teachings and cultural ways of knowing and being. I also acknowledge the territories of the other Nations within South Vancouver Island whose lands we walk humbly upon as we do our work: W̱SÁNEĆ, T'Sou-ke, MÁlexeł, and Scia'new.

I am honoured to have been provided the opportunity to return to the agency in the capacity of Executive Director and to have had the ability to support the work for the final quarter of the 2024/25 fiscal year. I raise my hands in gratitude to our team of incredibly dedicated professionals who believe deeply in the sacredness of the work we do and who give tirelessly of themselves in their nurturance of the children, youth, young adults, caregivers and families we have the privilege of working alongside. I raise my hands to the agency's leadership team who consistently shows up with their whole heart, striving to ensure urban Indigenous children, youth, young adults and families are at the center of all that we do. And finally, I raise my hands to our Board of Directors for their vision and for the ongoing support, wisdom and guidance they bring to the agency's governance.

Following my return in November, 2024, the agency has been focused on re-grounding itself in its Creation Story and those original visions of community while nurturing our Core Values and providing opportunity to hear from our employees through the re-implementation of employee engagement surveys, policy work, and consistent times to come together as a team. We were successful in our application to the Public Service Pension Plan, a long-standing request from previous, current, and potential employees, and have spent time preparing for the change ahead of us as three employees head off to welcome their babies into the world – all within the same week!

Over the course of FY2024/25, Island Métis Family & Community Services (IMFCSS) entered into a delegation agreement with the Director of Child Welfare and we saw the beautiful transition of Métis children and youth in care from SCCFS back to their Métis community. I raise my hands to IMFCSS and MNBC for the trust you instilled in SCCFS to care for your children as you navigated the complex delegation process. Our hearts are full knowing Métis children, youth and young adults will be served by your agency and your community.

SCCFS continues to work alongside the province to find solutions regarding the glaring funding inequities that exist within our Family Service and Youth Transition programs. We also continue to await a decision from the Ministry of Children & Family Development regarding how they will fund agencies to acquire adoption delegation – a decision that has been in front of MCFD for more than four years – as well as a decision on how urban ICFSAs will be supported to provide prevention services to urban Indigenous children, youth and families.

We have been fortunate to be able to expand our space at our Admirals Walk location, allowing for the creation of a youth drop in space, including access to a small laundry facility. Over the course of the next year, our Youth Services team will develop a life skills program, which will include teachings around money management, tenant rights and responsibilities, meal prep and budgeting, and a host of other pertinent skills identified by youth and young adults.

I am excited for all that is possible over the course of the next fiscal year and to have the opportunity to continue to work alongside an incredible group of human beings. In the following reports, you will have the good fortune of learning more about the brilliant successes of our program departments and the good work they were involved in this fiscal year.

Ekosi.

Jennifer Chuckry
Executive Director





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 2024 & 2025 fiscal year the focus was on:

- Supporting the hiring and onboarding of vacant and new positions
- Reporting and advocating in regard to service and budget gaps
- Highlighting program successes, and the increase in engagement within our programming/events/ceremonies
- Overseeing practice and policy, some of which continue to change within the Youth Transitions and Contracted Resources sector
- Providing internal oversight and reporting to the Province 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 children and families
- Consultation and support with practitioners navigating complex situations and planning for our children, youth and families
- Attending the quarterly Director's/Partnership Forum to continue to be at the forefront of practice and priorities of ICFSA's
- Participating in several policy/practice committees with MCFD/Provincial Office/ICFSAs.
- Presenting at the Representative of Children and Youth Conference with staff, highlighting the importance of Out of Care Agreements and other Out of Care options

- Presenting with members of the leadership team at MCFDs Advanced Practice Circle around SCCFS Youth Programming, and holistic approaches
- Having the honor of sitting on the Our Women Are Sacred planning committee, participating and coordinating another beautiful walk in memory of our MMIWG2S+ sisters

I am excited to see what next year will bring us! We have rooted this year with the intention of strengthening our Urban Indigenous families and have seen so many beautiful examples of strength, kindness and determination. 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 OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMIRALS ROAD – GUARDIANSHIP & PERMANENCY PLANNING, RESOURCES & SUPPORT SERVICES, AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

‘Uy skweyul (good day) SCCFS sister agencies, partners, and community members,

It is my privilege to share with you Surrounded by Cedar’s Guardianship Admirals Road Administrative Team Updates for the April 01, 2024- March 31, 2025 AGM reporting period!

2024-2025 continued to reflect change and growth on our team: Throughout the year, we saw new team members join us, and we witnessed as others embarked on internal and external employment opportunities. We were excited to welcome back 3 of our permanent team members from maternity leave in the fall of 2024 and it has been a joy to witness their transformation as sacred life-givers and as mothers to their wee ones! We also said “See you later” to our dear friend and colleague, Nicole Leggeat, as she left for maternity leave in January 2025. Welcome to our newest SCCFS tiny team members: Raelynn, Ember, Charlotte, and Adeline!

In the Summer of 2024, we saw the expansion of our Youth Transitions team which included acquiring additional office space at Admirals Road; this space was converted into staff offices, transformed into our primary boardroom complete with a kitchen, and created into a youth programming space! Our team played key roles in coordinating renovations, working with TecNet to enhance our IT capabilities (which will allow us to implement a new internet-based phone system later this year, stay tuned!), and supporting office furniture and supply procurement. The team continues to support this work, and we look forward to putting the finishing touches on the remaining projects in the coming months ahead!

Throughout the year, our team continued exploring new learning opportunities such as ICM and MIS training and First Aid training. We also enjoyed providing administrative support for and to attend internal agency events including our annual Nest to Wings Ceremony, annual “Our Women are Sacred” walk, BC Child and Youth in Care week, Caregiver Appreciation Luncheon, Annual General Meeting, and Winterfeast. When we weren’t attending events or training, you could find us working diligently at the office processing payments for our children, families, and caregivers, stocking up our community pantry, managing our electronic and physical records, and helping to support our Guardianship, Youth Transitions, and Cultural programs teams.

No matter where we may be or what we may be working on, it is our deep honour and privilege to support the daily work of our frontline staff who are walking beside our children and families.

As I bring my reflections to a close, I also wish to acknowledge and raise my hands in deep gratitude to all members who were a part of the Admirals Administrative team during 2024-2025:

Maren Levi, Maria Owen, Charlene Barney, Katie Jacobs, Brandi Coutts, Chelsea Young, Farhad Poordakan, Jocelyn Wilson, Janina Bahnsen, Audrey Deurdin-Hicks, Jin Mullen, and Janette Goodwin for their many gifts, skills, knowledge, and experience that they brought to our work throughout 2024-2025.

Our team looks forward to all the wonderful things that will continue to unfold at Surrounded by Cedar in the coming year ahead. Until next year, we wish our colleagues and community members well through all realms of your journeys!

Huy ch q'u | ʔeeko | gilakas'la | Thank-you
Alana Proia, Office Manager (Admirals)

FORT STREET – NON-PROTECTION FAMILY SERVICES

The Non-Protection Family Services Administrative Team is responsible for the smooth and efficient operation of our office at 915 Fort St as well as the supporting our wonderful team of social worker in all administrative tasks related to their important work of caring for the health, safety and well-being of urban Indigenous children, youth and families while ensuring Indigenous systems of caring for children are upheld.

In the past year, our small team of four admins went through a challenging period of staff shortage, which resulted in 75% staff turnover. It is my absolute pleasure to report that as of March 2025, the team is fully staffed again.

The team settled into their roles with organized minds, dedication, and continues to keep creating a warm and welcoming environment for our community members at heart and at the forefront of our work.

One of the highlights was the setup of a beautiful walk-in closet for our community, the "Cedar Boutique". It opened its doors officially during the successful Open House event, hosted in February 2025. We had the pleasure of hosting Surrounded By Cedar staff from both offices, friends from Sister organizations, and members of the community. We all gathered for an afternoon to share space, build relationships, and enjoy a tasty lunch together. Our special thanks were extended to 10 talented artists who brought their beautiful gifts and good spirits to our Indigenous Vendor's Market.

The team is also tirelessly working on restocking the community pantry with additional items that are in dire need throughout the community. The newest addition is a chest freezer that offers frozen vegetables and meats.

Our office space planning went into full swing in March 2025 to prepare for the transition of the Out Of Care Resource Team to join our office, as well as creating flexible workstations for visiting staff and a cultural & wellness room.

The team is continuously working on processing payments, updating electronic & physical files, ensuring confidential transfers to remote communities, booking travel to ensure family and cultural connections, data collection & management (aka updating a myriad of spreadsheets), looking after technological needs & supporting the team in times of IT challenges, and always prioritizing to provide a safe and calm environment to all our families, youth and children.

I raise my hands to all Surrounded by Cedar administrative staff members with tremendous gratitude for the beautiful collaborations and our ways to support each other! I am concluding this report specifically recognizing Jin Mullen, Audrey Duerden-Hicks and Samantha Leggeat for the wonderful gifts, abilities, and expertise they contribute to uphold our urban Indigenous families every day!

Thank you!

Jani Bahnsen, Office Manager - Non-Protection Family Services



REPORT OF CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Nest to Wings:

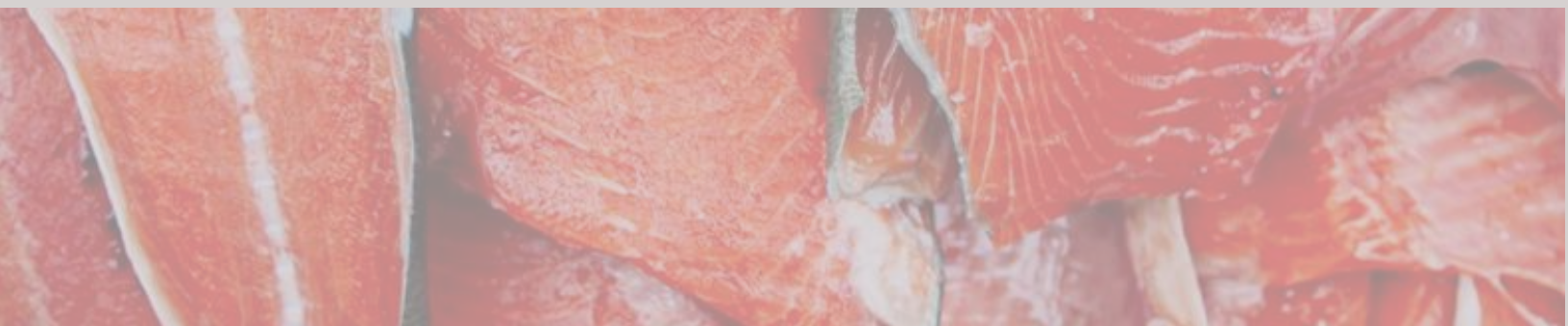
The 2024 Nest to Wings ceremony took place at the Wawadi'tla, Mungo Martin House. Urban Indigenous youth were acknowledged and uplifted during their transition from child to a young adult as they transition into community at the age of 19. These youth were held up and assurances were provided that while they may be turning 19, the agency's doors will always be open to them should they need any help along their journey. A total of 8 young people were honoured during the ceremony.

Building Our Bundles Highlights:

- Devil's Club teaching with Loreisa Lepine, which included Devil's Club tea and bracelet making
- Learning about plant-based medicines with Kristen Thomas
- Learning to play Lahal at Mungo Martin House
- Candle-making for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Beading poppies for Remembrance Day and learning about Indigenous veterans
- Making and decorating rattles, as well as receiving teachings around the rattle
- Making dentalium shell necklaces and learning about the value of these shells, trade routes, and modern day uses in jewelry
- Drumstick making with Terry Wilson from Tsartlip First Nation

Xe Xu tuluts'thut:

After a year off from the Xe Xu tuluts'thut Leadership program, this group started again in September 2024. The intent of the Xe Xu tuluts'thut program is to provide a space for young people between 12-16 years old to receive teachings around how to walk in the world as young Indigenous people and build skills to become leaders in the community. This year, some of the activities that were offered included spending time with the agency's Youth Advisory Council to build skills and open up a transition to the council; attending Regalia Nights regularly; drum making; volunteering at events to learn how to take care of Knowledge Keepers and participate in ceremony; participating in team building activities; learning how to sit in circle with each other; and learning how to create circle guidelines as well as following through with those guidelines.



Regalia Night:

This year, the cultural program expanded the Regalia program from working with the Youth Advisory Council and Leadership groups last year, to inviting any youth involved with Surrounded by Cedar to participate. In our most attended night, we welcomed 18 young people to Regalia programming. Throughout the year, young people created Ribbon Skirts, vests, shawls, moccasins, and a beaded jacket. We welcomed several Knowledge Keepers into our space to support with this important work.

Earthwalkers Summer Camp:

This year, the Earthwalkers summer camp welcomed children in care between the ages of 7-11 as well as children living with their relatives through Out of Care arrangements. A total of 14 children participated. Throughout the week, the group made Cedar Roses at Aunty Collective, participated in a plant medicine walk at Goldstream, attended the Malahat Skywalk, were brave and full of energy at the Wildplay park, went swimming, and visited the Butterfly Gardens.

Earthwalkers Spring Break Camp:

Earthwalkers Spring Break Camp focused on land-based learning with children between the ages of 7 to 11. Throughout the week, we welcomed 13 children into our programming. Some of the activities offered included a plant medicine walk at the Gorge waterway, which included calming medicine bags; a walk with a Knowledge Keeper at Pauquachin First Nation which included learning about spots where cleansing in the river happens; time playing at the park; and making shell rattles from the shells harvested at Esquimalt Lagoon.

Winter Feast:

The 2024 Winter Feast celebration was held at the Mary Winspear Center in Sidney. Due to our growing community, the larger space was needed as we welcomed 392 guests to our annual Winter Solstice celebration. Throughout the night, we hosted a photobooth, facepainting, ornament making, and cookie decorating. As well, the community enjoyed singing and dancing from Nuuchahnulth singers, W̱SÁNEĆ singers and dancers, and Kwakwaka'wakw singers. We held a raffle for door prizes with some generous donations from our community partners.



46

GROUP OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED



90

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY ATTENDANCE



234

DIRECT SERVICE HOURS PROVIDED

CULTURAL CONTINUITY

Our Cultural Continuity program supports urban Indigenous children and youth in care to build and maintain meaningful connection to their Indigenous cultures through connecting them to their ancestral territories, community knowledge keepers and Indigenous ways of being in order to strengthen their sense of connection and cultural identity. Our Cultural Continuity Worker also provides one to one support in the care home to ensure that meaningful cultural connection continues within the care home and that the care giver is connected to the child/youth's Nation.

Visits to Traditional Territories and Events

- Visited Ditidaht to help facilitate a visit with a youth and their family
- Supported two youth to visit Campbell River for a community meeting and feast. Supported one of those young adults to visit Campbell River a second time for another community meeting.
- Supported 2 young adults to visit Ehattesaht for a Naming Ceremony
- Visited Merritt to support 5 young adults in medicine picking with a local Knowledge Keeper.
- Visited Ahousaht for the annual school feast with 4 Children in Care

7

**YOUTH ATTENDED
GATHERING OUR VOICES
YOUTH CONFERENCE**

6

**YOUTH ATTENDED
KAMLOOPA
POW-WOW**

3

**YOUTH ATTENDED
HOBIYEE
IN VANCOUVER**

Dance Practice

The urban Nuu-chah-nulth community in Victoria gathers 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 and Children in Care.

Unity Drum Night

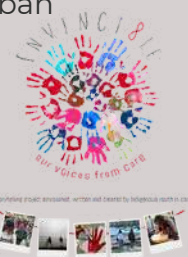
Cultural Continuity attends Unity Drum Night regularly as a support to the agency's children and youth who wish to attend.

Individual Caregiver and Child Support

- Drumstick making with 5 children in care within a care home.
- Sewing and baking with 1 child in a group home environment.
- Beading with one child in a group home environment.
- Leading cultural teachings in a child's school classroom.
- Supporting visits between siblings in different care homes.
- Sharing resources around language with non-Indigenous caregivers.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

From April 2024 – March 2025, the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) has consisted of 12 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 in the following activities:



- Building leadership skills within the youth council and the wider community
- Creating Regalia, which has included gathering materials, creating designs, and learning from Knowledge Keepers
- Being part of a BIPOC youth council in partnership with the Victoria Sexual Assault Center. The goal of this council is to create training for caregivers in the child welfare system in order to create safe spaces for BIPOC children and youth
- Being part of a research project with UVIC around creating safe use guidelines for youth Cannabis use
- Being part of a research project with UVIC around accessible sexual health information for Indigenous youth. Presenting this information at Gathering Our Voices youth conference
- 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
- Learning songs and being courageous in singing in the community
- Supporting our Winterfeast event, Spring Break Camp, Summer Camp, and Our Women are Sacred Walk
- 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.
- Creating and sharing meals with our younger Leadership group to mentor younger youth
- Continuing to work with Kinship Rising on the INVINCIBLE project, which is a presentation about their experiences as children and youth in care. Part of this project included presenting at Our Children Our Way conference in Vancouver.
- Continuing with their medicine garden project which is still in progress at our Fort Street office
- Engaging in planning for Tribal Journeys next year
- A current Youth Council member and previous Youth Council member created a mural for the Fort Street office space; a mural blessing ceremony was held.



**DENTALIUM NECKLACE
BUILDING OUR BUNDLES**



**NEST TO WINGS
CEREMONY
2024**

**ART MADE BY CHILDREN
PRESENTED AT
AHOUSHAHT FEAST**



**AHOUSHAHT BIG HOUSE
SCHOOL FEAST**

**OUR WOMEN
ARE SACRED
WALK**

**OUR WOMEN
ARE SACRED
WALK**



HOBIIYEE 2024



REPORT OF GUARDIANSHIP & PERMANENCY PLANNING

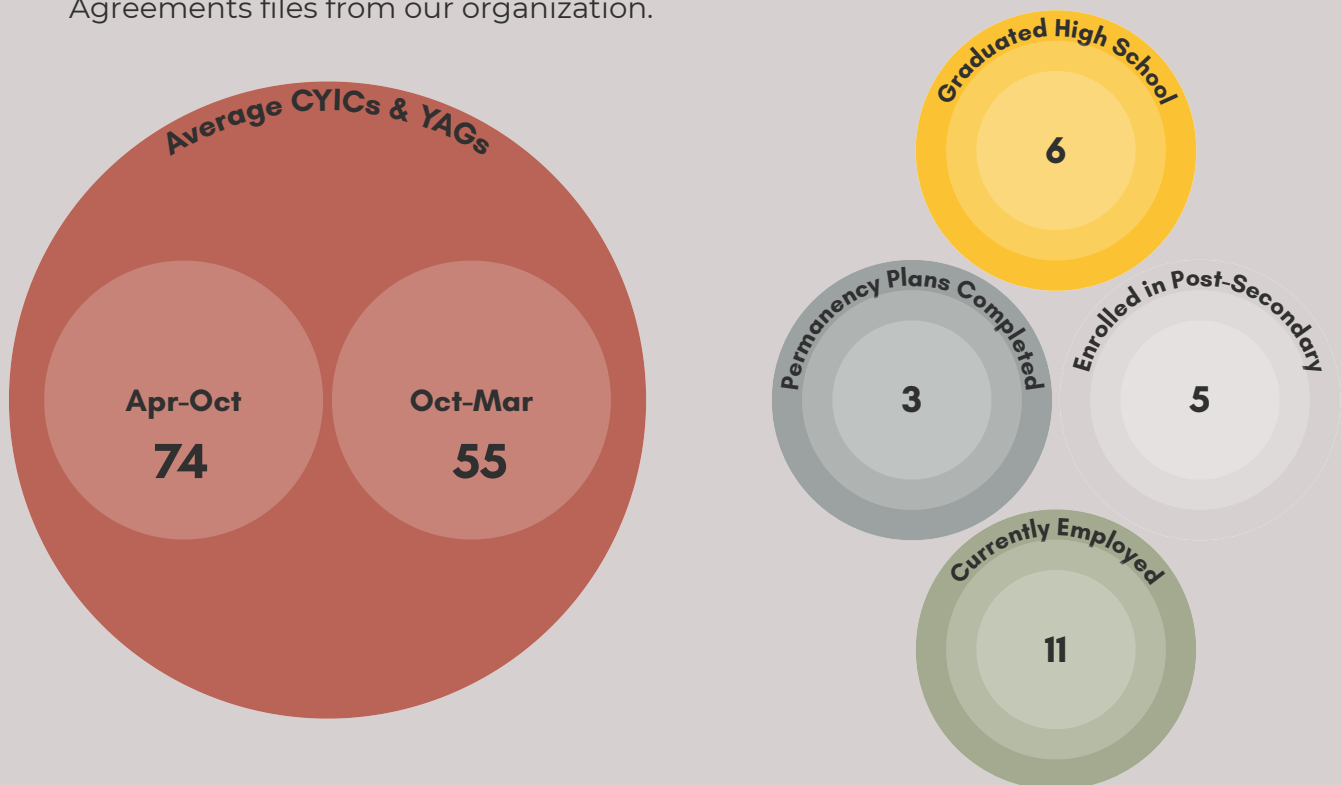
The team supported and witnessed children and youth participate in incredible opportunities and experience special moments throughout 2024-2025. Some highlights included:

- Many children and youth travelling to their home communities, 3 of whom visited for the first time! Children and youth spent time with their families and engaged with their culture.
- 7 children and youth in care and 2 youth accessing the Youth Agreements program attended Hobiye in Vancouver to celebrate the Nisga'a New Year.

In May 2024, the Guardianship team honoured youth that were turning 19 at our annual Nest to Wings ceremony hosted in the Wawaditł̓a (Mungo Martin House) located on ləkʷəŋən Territory.

We successfully transferred guardianship of 3 Children in Care to their families and forever homes! As part of our practice of transferring guardianship, there were ceremonies in the courtroom to decolonize the process. Afterwards, a meal was shared with the families, staff, community members, Nation representatives and friends.

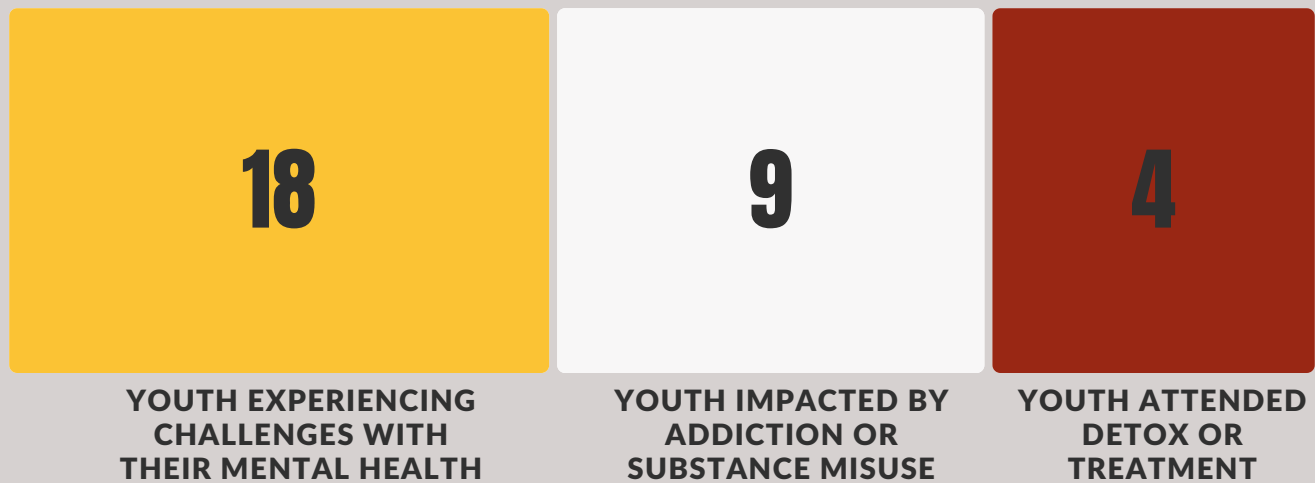
In November 2024 our sister agency, Island Métis Family and Community Services Society, became C4 delegated and accepted transfer of Métis Child Service and Youth Agreements files from our organization.



TL Norris-Jones attended the Our Children Our Way conference in Vancouver in November 2024. The conference offered great opportunities to learn promising approaches and practices that strengthen the well-being of children, youth, and families.

Some ongoing barriers that the Guardianship team navigated throughout the year included:

- Increased cost of living in Victoria
- Lack of youth recovery groups and minimal supportive recovery housing options for teens
- Lack of culturally-sensitive and appropriate mental health support
- Lack of Education Assistants within school districts and dedicated workers for children
- Youth being approved for Youth Agreements that are not ready for that level of independence
- Lack of employment opportunities for our youth.



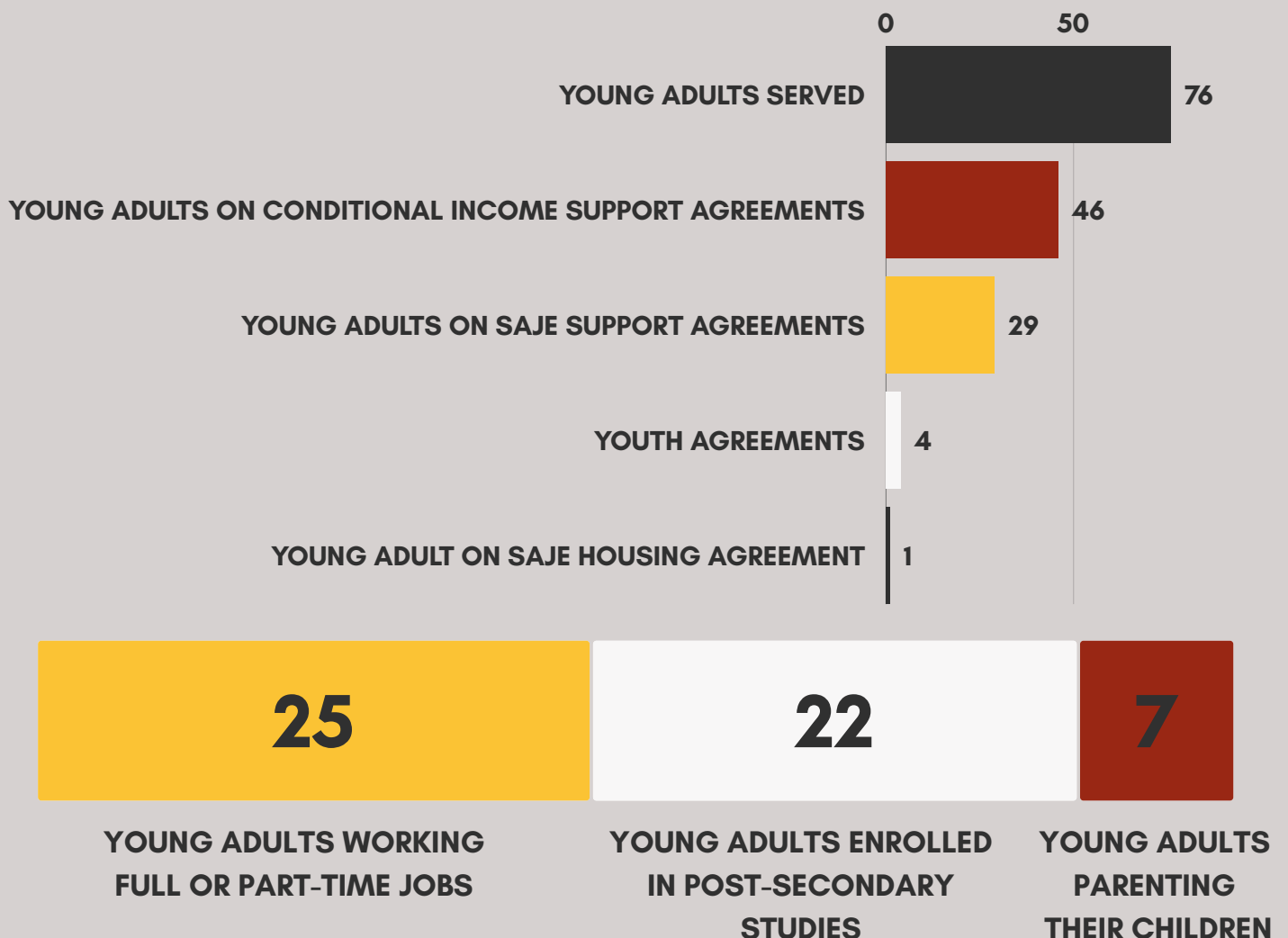
The Guardianship teams' focus for the next fiscal year will be developing and completing permanency plans for the children in care with the ultimate goal that children and youth are no longer in care and are living with family.

Courtney Norris-Jones, Team Leader
Guardianship & Permanency Planning

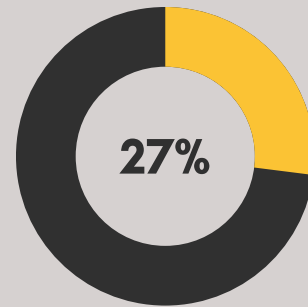


REPORT OF YOUTH TRANSITIONS

As the Team Leader of Youth Services, I am happy to present the report for the April 2024 – March 2025 year. I raise my hands to the ləkʷəŋən 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. Throughout the last year, our Youth Team has worked hard to implement the new SAJE agreements and funding framework created by the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Agreements have shifted from the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program to Conditional and Unconditional Income Support Agreements, along with the establishment of SAJE Housing Agreements and SAJE Support Agreements. As a team, we have supported young people to travel back to their home communities, attend conferences, attend treatment programs, obtain meaningful employment, and build upon their life skills. We continue to work on our new youth drop in space, with the hopes of hosting an event to open the space and welcome in the community later in 2025.



**YOUTH TRANSITIONS
PROGRAM GROWTH SINCE
LAST YEAR**

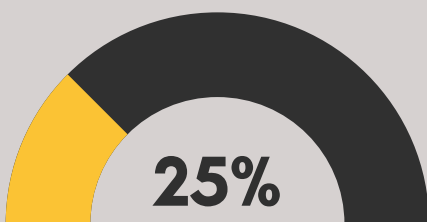


Travel to Home Communities and Cultural Events

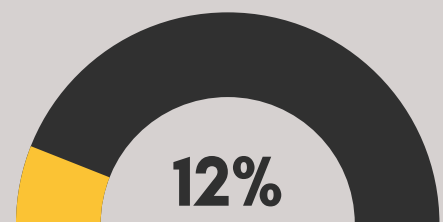
- 3 Young Adults travelled to Ehattesaht for a Naming Ceremony
- 2 Young Adults travelled to Campbell River twice for community meetings
- 6 Young Adults travelled to Hobiye in Vancouver
- 1 Young Adult travelled to Alberta to visit their grandparents and receive regalia
- 4 Young Adults travelled to Gathering Our Voices Youth conference as presenters
- 10 Young Adults travelled to the Our Children Our Way conference as presenters
- 1 Young Adult and her family, including her children, travelled to Ahousaht 3 times for ceremonies and events
- 1 Young Adult travelled to Chilliwack to see her siblings
- 1 Young Adult travelled to Chilliwack to see family and to attend a funeral
- 1 Young Adult travelled to Kelowna to visit family
- 1 Young Adult travelled to We Wai Kai to visit family
- 1 Young Adult travelled to Port Hardy to visit her grandmother
- 1 Young Adult travelled to Port Hardy for their grandfather's funeral
- 1 Young Adult travelled to Saskatoon to see family and apply for settlement funds
- 2 Young Adults travelled to Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan for a Powwow near their communities. They were also able to see family while there.

Mental Health and Substance Use

Throughout the 2024-2025 year, our team has seen young adults significantly struggling with their mental health and substance use. From April 2024-March 2025, we saw the following:



**OF YOUNG ADULTS
EXPERIENCING ACUTE
MENTAL HEALTH CRISES**



**OF YOUNG ADULTS
STRUGGLING WITH
SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

REPORT OF RESOURCES & SUPPORT SERVICES

Child & Youth Counselling Program

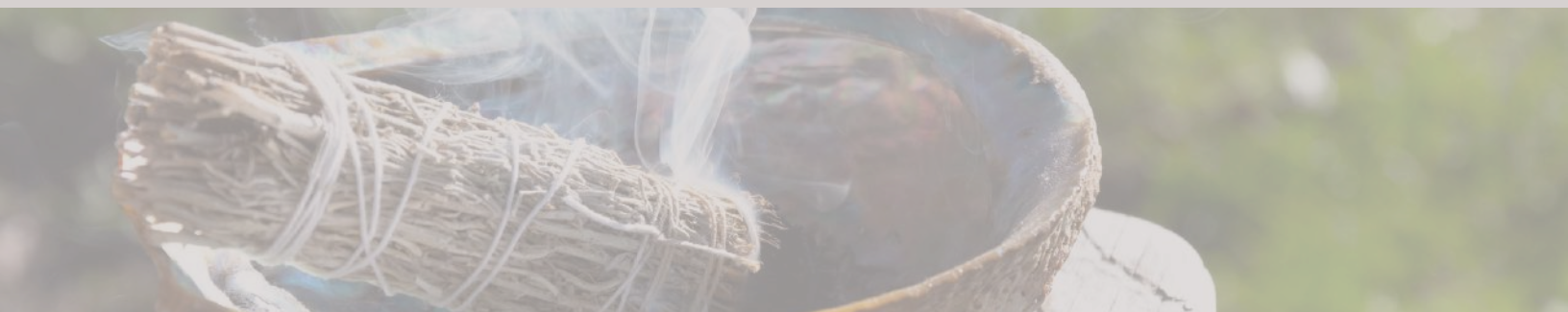
- Total number of referrals: 34 (carrying forward 20 from last year)
- Total number of individuals receiving services: 33
 - Total number of individuals ages 12 and under: 10
 - Total number of individuals ages 13 and over: 23
- Provided more accessible services - 33% of individuals received outreach services
- Individuals have been consistent in their attendance of scheduled counselling sessions while they work on their mental wellbeing
- Ongoing communication and relationship building with caregivers
- Future Plans: 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
- Applications completed for/received status card/SCIS/Metis citizenship: 4
- Connected to primary care provider: 2
- Attended detox/treatment: 4
- Total number of youth served in cultural programs: 21 (Youth Advisory Council, Regalia Night, Canoe Journey, Gathering Our Voices, 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





REPORT OF NON-PROTECTION FAMILY SERVICES

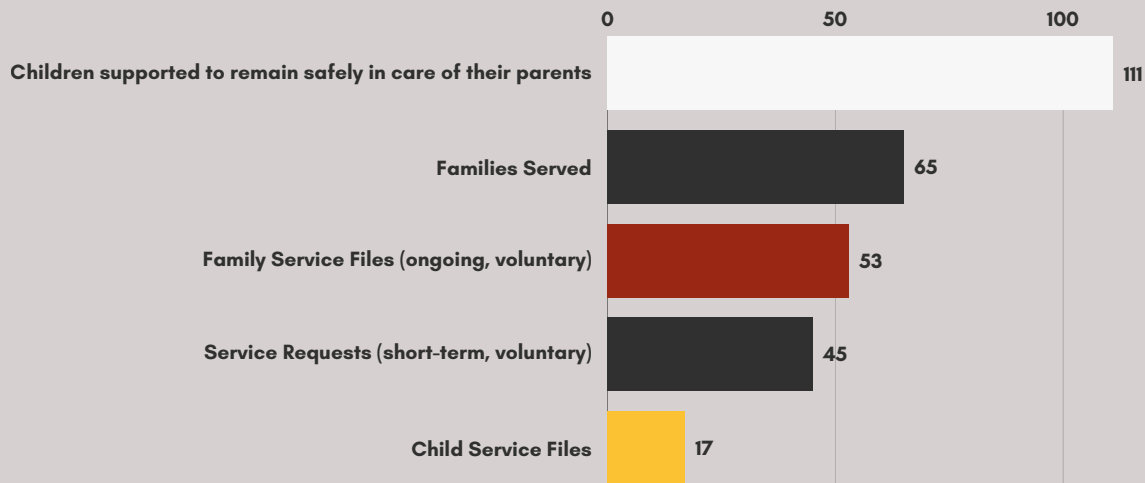
Throughout most of the 2024/2025 year, the Non-Protection Family Service Team stayed consistent and steady with 4 Workers: André Fontaine, Amy Whitney, Chantelle Douglas and Carrie Craghtten. We were so excited to add a 5th NPFSW to the team in November 2024 – Chelsea Smith. Chelsea completed delegation training in February 2025 and is now fully delegated!

We continue to support families through providing voluntary family services that are rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing and being, and that prioritize children being raised within their families. In January, we welcomed Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Workers into our office one day/week. This has been incredibly helpful to connect families to crisis grants, new beds, navigate new applications, etc. In March, we partnered with South Island Wellness Society to welcome Elder and Knowledge-Keeper Lyle Henry to our office one day/week. Lyle has been a wonderful addition to the team where staff, families and youth can share space (and snacks!) and get some much-needed support.

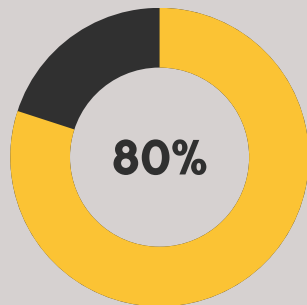
Our referrals continue to come from MCFD, community service providers, and parents themselves. Our work includes:

- Making referrals to culturally-appropriate counselling, treatment, and parenting programs
- Providing childcare resources and respite support
- Advocating for assessments and mental health/ behavioural supports for children and youth
- Providing food and clothing security strategies, including grocery support and the community pantry and closet
- Navigating housing, justice and education systems, to improve outcomes for families
- Working collaboratively with extended family, nations and other service providers to create wrap-around services for families
- Supporting new parents with child safety equipment, supplies, education and support
- Enacting alternative plans to care – Extended Family Plans and Voluntary Care Agreements

NON-PROTECTION FAMILY SERVICES STATISTICS



Despite having a limited budget to work within and having to navigate various complex systems, we have successfully been able to support lots of families in a wide range of areas:



FAMILIES WHO ACCESSED FOOD AND/OR CLOTHING SECURITY INITIATIVES ON A REGULAR BASIS THROUGH OUR PROGRAMING

- **9** Ceremonies were hosted or supported by our program
- **3** New parents were supported with wraparound pre and postnatal supports
- **3** Families were supported to attend drug & alcohol treatment programs
- **5** Families were housed (from either being unhoused or fleeing violence)
- **8** Families received cleaning and junk removal support, to maintain their housing
- **7** Families were supported to leave abusive or violent situations
- **2** Voluntary Care Agreements were enacted due to complex needs – mental health and addictions
- **15** Extended Family Plans were created (or received from MCFD) to ensure that children who cannot live in their family home are being raised by extended family.

We are incredibly honoured and privileged to be able to walk alongside urban Indigenous children and families. We look forward to the year ahead - we hope to continue expanding our programming to include some more hands-on learning and increased access to culture and ceremony for families.

Kinanâskomitin,
Alysha Brown

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services, in partnership with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, and with the help of a wonderful crew of volunteers, hosted the 2024 Back to School Picnic (BTSP) on August 24th, 2024, at Government House.

It was a beautiful 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 enjoyed the amazing activities which included multiple inflatable and interactive games, a popular virtual reality Roller Coaster and an even more popular, Euro Bungee! The Victoria Native Friendship Centre 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, 2055 school kits from Kindergarten to Grade 12 were distributed with 1128 in Victoria.

The Back to School Picnic Event would not be possible without the amazing support of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Hulitan Family and Community Social Services, M'akola Group of Societies, Rina M Biden Foundation, 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.”*



A bald eagle is perched on a weathered tree trunk in a forest. The eagle is facing left, with its head turned slightly towards the viewer. The background consists of various trees, including evergreens and deciduous trees with green leaves. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting an overcast day or a shaded forest.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family
Services Society
Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2025**

**Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family
Services Society
Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2025**

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Tel: (604) 688-5421
Fax: (604) 688-5132
www.bdo.ca

BDO Canada LLP
Unit 1100 Royal Centre
1055 West Georgia Street, P.O. Box 11101
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6E 3P3

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, 2025, 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, 2025, 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 17, 2025

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

| March 31 | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash (Note 2) | \$ 3,117,840 | \$ 2,353,755 |
| Investments (Note 3) | 614,630 | 572,354 |
| Accounts receivable | 86,041 | 383,855 |
| Prepaid expenses | 3,680 | 134,034 |
| | 3,822,191 | 3,443,998 |
| Capital assets (Note 4) | 310,754 | 174,012 |
| | \$ 4,132,945 | \$ 3,618,010 |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5) | \$ 206,591 | \$ 417,709 |
| Deferred revenue (Note 6) | 1,819,014 | 1,494,144 |
| | 2,025,605 | 1,911,853 |
| Net Assets | | |
| Operating fund | 1,542,228 | 1,532,145 |
| Invested in tangible capital assets | 310,754 | 174,012 |
| Internally restricted fund (Note 11) | 254,358 | - |
| | 2,107,340 | 1,706,157 |
| | \$ 4,132,945 | \$ 3,618,010 |

Approved on behalf of the Board



Director



Director

Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society
Statement of Operations

| For the year ended March 31 | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Grants | \$ 14,476,066 | \$ 13,043,658 |
| Donations | 416,434 | 506,831 |
| Fundraising | 342,323 | 182,303 |
| Other | 259,297 | 374,664 |
| Interest | 41,738 | 8,663 |
| | 15,535,858 | 14,116,119 |
| Expenses | | |
| Advertising | - | 473 |
| Amortization | 54,473 | 43,608 |
| Child in care expenses | 9,693,646 | 9,040,403 |
| Insurance | 20,738 | 18,594 |
| Professional fees | 173,152 | 171,689 |
| Program expenses | 396,949 | 425,478 |
| Rent and services | 690,685 | 571,718 |
| Salaries and benefits | 3,863,931 | 3,443,612 |
| Security | 406 | 5,414 |
| Technical support | 108,310 | 131,007 |
| Telephone | 37,210 | 30,686 |
| Training | 16,363 | 20,769 |
| Travel | 78,812 | 71,868 |
| | 15,134,675 | 13,975,319 |
| Excess of revenue over expenses | \$ 401,183 | \$ 140,800 |

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

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

| For the year ended March 31 | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Cash provided by (used in) | | |
| Operating activities | | |
| Excess of revenues over expenses for the year | \$ 401,183 | \$ 140,800 |
| Adjustments for non-cash items | | |
| Amortization | 54,473 | 43,608 |
| Unrealized gain from Investments | (42,276) | (72,354) |
| | 413,380 | 112,054 |
| Changes in non-cash working capital balances | | |
| Accounts receivable | 297,814 | (305,553) |
| Prepaid expenses | 130,354 | (5,867) |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (211,118) | 241,621 |
| Deferred revenue | 324,870 | 871,380 |
| Funds held for child care | - | (1,010,804) |
| | 955,300 | (97,169) |
| Investing activities | | |
| Capital asset purchases | (191,215) | (116,925) |
| Purchase of investments, net | - | (500,000) |
| Restricted cash | - | 1,010,804 |
| | (191,215) | 393,879 |
| Increase in cash during the year | 764,085 | 296,710 |
| Cash, beginning of year | 2,353,755 | 2,057,045 |
| Cash, end of year | \$ 3,117,840 | \$ 2,353,755 |

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

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

March 31, 2025

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 and registered charity, it is exempt from income taxes 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 received are initially deferred and subsequently 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, 2025

1. Significant Accounting Policies - Continued

(e) Financial Instruments

Financial instruments include cash, investments, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, equities traded in an active market and derivatives are reported at fair value, with any changes in fair value reported in income. All other 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

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

3. Investments

The investments consist of units in publicly available mutual funds and are carried at market value.

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

March 31, 2025

4. Capital Assets

| | | | 2025 | 2024 |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Cost | Accumulated Amortization | Net Book Value | Net Book Value |
| Art work | \$ 10,381 | \$ - | \$ 10,381 | \$ 10,381 |
| Computer equipment | 292,808 | 210,534 | 82,274 | 17,075 |
| Computer software | 7,202 | 7,202 | - | - |
| Office equipment | 287,539 | 227,412 | 60,127 | 49,432 |
| Leasehold improvements | 193,449 | 95,628 | 97,821 | 65,257 |
| Vehicles | 89,920 | 29,769 | 60,151 | 31,867 |
| | \$ 881,299 | \$ 570,545 | \$ 310,754 | \$ 174,012 |

5. Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities are government remittances payable of \$10,410 (2024 - \$84,335).

6. Deferred Revenue

| | 2024 | Received | Recognized | 2025 |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Deferred provincial grant | \$ 1,494,144 | 15,818,452 | (15,493,582) | \$1,819,014 |

7. Economic Dependence

The Society received 93% (2024 - 92%) of its revenue from Provincial Government Agencies and remains dependant upon funding from the Provincial Government.

March 31, 2025

8. Commitments

The minimum annual lease payments, excluding property taxes and operating costs, are as follows:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 2026 | \$ 619,250 |
| 2027 | 631,560 |
| 2028 | 517,554 |
| 2029 | <u>85,106</u> |
| | <u>\$1,853,470</u> |

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, 2025. There have not been any changes in these risks from the prior year.

(a) Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that the 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, 2025 and 2024. At March 31, 2025, 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.

(c) Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the value of investments in mutual funds will fluctuate due to changes in market prices, whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual investment or by factors affecting all securities in the market.

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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, 2025 there was \$712 of remuneration paid to the directors of the Society (2024 - \$Nil). A total of 19 (2024 - 14) employees/contractors received remuneration in excess of \$75,000 which resulted in an aggregate expenditure of \$1,834,200 (2024 - \$1,261,539).

11. Internally Restricted Funds

External funding received for specific uses is allocated across departments. Certain of these funds have been restricted by the board until spent by those departments and is presented as internally restricted net assets.



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CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 30, 2025

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.