

# Goozih Dust'lus

WINTER 2018



## Big Win for Children and Families!

The Government of Canada was issued a fourth non-compliance order on Feb 1, 2018 for not following through on remedies ordered from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT). In the landmark 2016 case, Canada was found to be discriminatory in funding provisions for indigenous children.

The Feb 1 ruling outlined that the remedies are not only legally binding, but vital because it deals with the mass removal of children; a

practice which must be stopped.

The CHRT ordered that the Government of Canada must pay for costs to provide support to families wherever possible to prevent children from going into government care at actual costs. "This ruling is a victory for children" said Mary Teegee. "Now we will have the resources to keep our children where they belong, in their communities with loved ones."

### Coming up soon....

#### Yekooche Day Treatment

10 day adult (18+) treatment, In Yekooche Feb 5 - 16

Pls contact: [christina@csfs.org](mailto:christina@csfs.org)

#### Takla Day Treatment

20 day adult (18+) treatment, in Takla March 5 - 23rd

Contact: [ARP@csfs.org](mailto:ARP@csfs.org) for info

#### BL Youth Forum

#OutSpoken and In-Care Youth Forum February 23rd

Call Charity: 250-692-1800

## Spirit Bear and Children Make History

Child advocate Cindy Blackstock has had spirit bear by her side all throughout the groundbreaking child welfare human rights tribunal. 'Spirit Bear' - a teddy bear gifted to her from Mary Teegee at CSFS. Spirit Bear now stars in a book telling the story of the court case to help raise awareness about inequities and change for children aged 7-11. Proceeds from the book will be donated to children reconciliation projects and can be purchased from



## Suicide Prevention First Aid



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### Resilience in Prevention and Response

Carrier Sekani Family Services has provided a Suicide Prevention "First Aid" workshops to our member nations in order to bolster resilience in the prevention, implementation, severity, and aftermath of suicides in their communities.

These workshops have been conducted in community through a coordinated effort between CSFS staff, band members, band health representatives, and educators. These

workshops have varied in length according to the needs of the communities.

"Suicide Prevention First Aid" Workshops have been provided in the following communities so far: Nadleh Whut'en, Burns Lake Band, and Takla Landing. Be sure to look out for upcoming workshops in Yekooche. For more information about these workshops, please contact [Christina@csfs.org](mailto:Christina@csfs.org).



## Health Research Grants

New Health Research Opportunities Coming to CSFS Communities

CSFS has been very successful with our applications to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. With an overall success rate of 15% of applications being funded, CSFS submitted and was approved for 4 projects! The four grants include studies on women's health, spirituality, exercise and lung health.

The women's health study will aim to increase access to cervical cancer screening through addressing barriers such as geographic location, personal fears, and mistrust of the health system. There are plans to develop an HPV test where women can collect and test themselves.

A number of community meetings with knowledge holders will be carried out to gather knowledge about the role of spirituality in holistic approaches to health. Interventions identified by the knowledge holders will be

tested to determine their impact on spiritual and physical health.

An education and exercise program will be developed for CSFS member Nation adults with chronic lung disease. In addition, the study will examine the physical activity of adult community members while developing and sharing educational materials on lung disease.

Finally, lung function testing will occur in our member communities to screen for Chronic Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Testing is currently only available in Prince George by physician referral. This study will indicate if COPD is underreported, while also examining COPD in regard to relationships between inhaled pollutants and symptoms among others.

## Child Welfare Governance Developing Community Based Prevention Services

Further to the update presented at the CSFS Annual General Assembly in early September 2017 hosted by the Nadleh Whut'en, the Child Welfare Community Engagement Team have visited and facilitated 11 of the 13 Communities this past Quarter (Fall & Winter 2017). The focus of the first round of community visits was to gather perspectives regarding child welfare matters; identify solutions to the existing system and to have an overall information exchange on designing a Child Welfare System that reflects the Indigenous ways of doing things, especially Carrier and Sekani ways.

As Round 1 is nearing completion, the Team is preparing summary reports of the sessions and will soon be coordinating the next round of meetings to meet with the communities to ensure the information received to date is what the community shared to the Engagement Team during 2017. In addition to community meetings, the Engagement Team also relied upon the Youth Forum that was held in Prince George in November 2017 where we heard from former children in care's experiences.

While the Engagement Team is meeting with the CSFS Member Communities, the Child & Family Services Executive Director is also working with the Institute of Fiscal Studies & Democracy who will be assisting in the further development of Models, Service Plans, and the costing of the jurisdiction, management and service delivery of child welfare framework plans.

The Team has already had a number of Think Tank Planning Sessions to further develop the

Framework, building the model based on past work, establishing short and long term plans, reviewing capacity building and training needs, enhancing or re-establishing the Community Wellness Teams and how to continue to report to the CSFS Member Communities. One of the long term communication goals is to have an overall Child Welfare Symposium to review the materials to date. This session is expected to be held sometime in the late spring or Early Summer 2018.

The Team will be reaching out to each of the communities shortly to set up the next round of meetings plus to meet with the remaining communities not yet met with (Nee Tahi Buhn and this week Lake Babine).

Feel free to contact the Child & Family Services Team if further information is required or if any additional reading material is required on the work to date.



Community Engagement Meeting held in  
Takla, Nov 29, 30, and Dec 1, 2017



## 60's Scoop Compensation

### What the settlement announcement means for BC residents

Class action suits to address the hardships faced by 60's scoop survivors have filed against the Government of Ontario, and the Government of British Columbia. The Government of Canada has responded by promising an investment of up to \$50 million to establish a Foundation to enable change and reconciliation, a minimum of \$500 million and maximum of \$750 million in individual compensation for Status Indians and Inuit, and \$74 million for legal fees.

In British Columbia, the National Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has shared information on the process. There are still several steps before the claim process to obtain compensation begins. First, the terms

of the settlement agreement must be finalized. Second, the proposed settlement must be approved by the federal and Ontario courts. It has been estimated that it will take till the summer or fall of 2018 for the settlement to be finalized and for the claim process to begin. When the claim process begins, the websites listed below will provide details on how to make claims for compensation. There will be a deadline to file claims. To make sure that potential claimants do not miss any deadlines, the AFN strongly recommends that individuals regularly monitor the web sites at [www.callkleinlawyers.com](http://www.callkleinlawyers.com) or the Ontario class action website [www.sixtiesscoopclaim.com](http://www.sixtiesscoopclaim.com).

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## #OutSpokenInCare Youth Forums

### Coming soon to Burns Lake and Vanderhoof

We want to know what youth in care need in order to have their holistic wellness and cultural needs met. This is why we are in the process of hosting forums in Prince George, Burns Lake and Vanderhoof. The Prince George event in Nov 2017 was a huge success and our Burns Lake event for youth in care will be held on February 23rd. Poet, activist and former child in care Bryant Doradea will be at the Burns Lake event. We can't wait! The forums offer youth a unique opportunity to have their voices heard through participation in interactive music, art, and cultural presentations. For more information about the Burns Lake Forum contact Charity at 250-692-1800. To find out how you can get involved in supporting our youth forums contact Kayla at 250-564-5643.



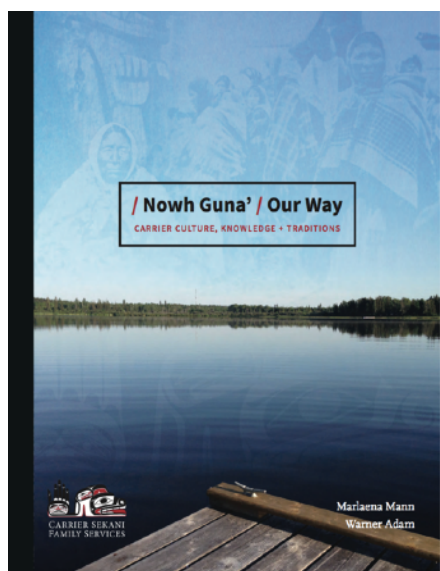
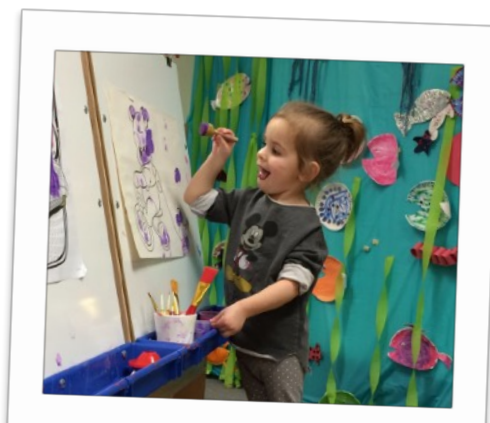
Lawyer and Advocate Sonya Pighin addressing youth at the Prince George event held in Nov, 2017

## Burns Lake Early Years Centre

### Fun and learning during the most important years

If you and your kids like to get crafty, have fun and connect with other families and service providers then the early years centre is for you! We are located at room 141 of the Muriel Mould Learning Centre on 3rd ave in Burns Lake where you can access our toy lending library, and join us for groups and services on Mondays Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuesday mornings we have our drop in arts and crafts group. On Thursdays we are open all day from 830-330 for anyone who wants to drop in.

We have had a steady number of families coming by for craft time and to access our toy library lately. We have also started bringing toys to different existing parenting groups to increase access to the toy library. If you have a group who would like access, or if you want to know more about our programming, please contact Nancy at [ndelury@csfs.org](mailto:ndelury@csfs.org) or call her at 250-251-0262



## Carrier Culture Training

### Competency Training for Service Providers

We are pleased to announce that we had our first Nowh Guna' culture competency training pilot for professionals working with our member Nations on January 16 + 17. Areas of the training include self awareness around stereotypes and biases, colonization history, Carrier world view, governance, and clan system. We gathered some great feedback from this initial session and are making final tweaks to the curriculum which will be available for all CSFS staff in the up and coming months! External service providers will also be able to take the training on a contracted basis, with funds raised going toward our internal staff training costs. For more information about the training, please contact [marlaena@csfs.org](mailto:marlaena@csfs.org).