

CARRIER SEKANI NATIONS

Carrier and Sekani people historically have resided in a vast territory of over 76,000 kilometers, primarily located in North Central British Columbia. Today there are approximately 22 Indian Bands or First Nations, as recognized by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada that identify as being Carrier or Sekani societies. The population represented by Carrier Sekani First Nation is comprised of over 10,000 individuals.

Among the Carrier and Sekani people there are distinct groupings which maintain geographic and linguistic characteristics different from other groups of Carrier people. Current research divides Carrier into the following groups within the Athabaska language family: a Stuart-Trembleur Lake group, Nat'oot'en (Babine) and a Southern group.

Carrier people maintain a governance system commonly referred to as the *bah'lats* or potlatch. Four primary clans make up Carrier society *Likh j bu* (Bear), *Gilhanten* (Caribou), *Jihl tse yu* (Frog), and *Likh sta Mis yu* (Beaver), each with several sub-clans.

Carrier Nations are not exempt from the impacts of colonization which have negatively impacted the lives of First Nations people in Canada. Impacts have manifest in a number of concerns including child apprehension, poverty, poor health outcomes and under-employment compared to other Canadians.

In addition to community processes such as the *bah'lats* that are a source of strength in maintaining culture and language, Carrier Sekani peoples have developed organizations such as Carrier Sekani Family Services to reassert control in areas that have been sources of attack on community values and teachings in order to assume responsibility for health, social, legal and research services for their nation.



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HISTORY OF CARRIER SEKANI FAMILY SERVICES



Creating wellness together.



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

ABOUT CSFS

More than 25 years ago, elders and leaders across Carrier and Sekani territory came together and established our non-profit society to provide health care, social supports, legal guidance, and research opportunities to aboriginal people living in remote and urban areas in BC's northern interior.

Our journey started with just a small office and a handful of employees, but under the wise guidance of our Board of Directors, we moved forward. The tribal council took their first step on this path by finding eight people to work with Carrier families. Of course, eight people weren't nearly enough for a nation of 10,000 but the step was in the right direction. Not long after, the elders and chiefs added more nurses and social workers to the ranks – and by 1990, they had started a non-profit society that eventually grew into Carrier Sekani Family Services. Today, CSFS is an effective organization with more than 170 skilled staff members, eight offices in three towns, and some of the most innovative and helpful services in the province.

Since then, we at Carrier Sekani Family Services have worked towards taking responsibility for all the health and social services BC currently provides for Carrier and Sekani people. We have created our very own health and social services programs, built on Carrier wisdom and culture. It is a slow process, but we see more and more results every year!



SERVICES CSFS OFFERS

HEALTH SERVICES

- ◆ Nursing & Home Care
- ◆ Primary Care
- ◆ Mobile Diabetes Tele-health Clinic
- ◆ First Nations Health Benefits
- ◆ Aboriginal Patient Liaison Worker- In-Hospital
- ◆ Addictions Recovery
 - Ormond Lake Cultural Healing Camp
 - Various Community Workshops
- ◆ Health & Wellness Program
 - Adult & Family Counseling
 - Child & Youth Counseling
- ◆ Aboriginal Supported Child Development
- ◆ Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program

CHILD WELFARE

Family Support Services

- ◆ Bridging to Employment
- ◆ Family Support Program
- ◆ Community Linkages
- ◆ Life Skills Groups
- ◆ Parenting Groups
- ◆ Child & Youth Groups

Child & Family Services

- ◆ Family Preservation
- ◆ Family Empowerment
- ◆ Guardianship & Resources
- ◆ Intensive Family Preservation

Family Justice

- ◆ Family Case Planning Conference
- ◆ Carrier Family Decision Making
- ◆ Prevention Meetings
- ◆ Youth Transition Conference
- ◆ Parent Teen Mediation



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Program Evaluations
- ◆ Accreditation
- ◆ Policies & Procedures

Today, Carrier Sekani Family Services offers a wide array of services across Carrier territory. We all work together to provide the best possible health programs, family support services, mental health & wellness services, family justice and child & family services to First Nations people in Carrier territory. All of our programs have strong Carrier values built in to them.



MANDATE & OBJECTIVES

Carrier Sekani Family Services has been given the mandate to establish a comprehensive infrastructure for social, health and legal programs, for the eventual take-over of these services, consistent with the First Nation's objective of working towards Indian Self-Government.

Under its Certificate of Incorporation, the objectives of the Society are:

1. To develop and deliver health, social, family corrections and legal services in accordance with the needs, socio-economic conditions, and values and beliefs of the Carrier Sekani Nations.
2. To deliver all services in accordance with our great law of sharing wealth as set in our Bah'lat's (potlatch) system.
3. To develop, implement and enhance Carrier and Sekani Human Services philosophies and standards of Native people residing in the Carrier Sekani traditional territory.
4. To encourage and initiate activities appropriate to the strengthening and unifying of human service personnel in the Carrier Sekani traditional territory.
5. To develop and deliver training programs for the advancement and accreditation of human service workers in Carrier Sekani territory in accordance with Carrier Sekani philosophy and standards.

