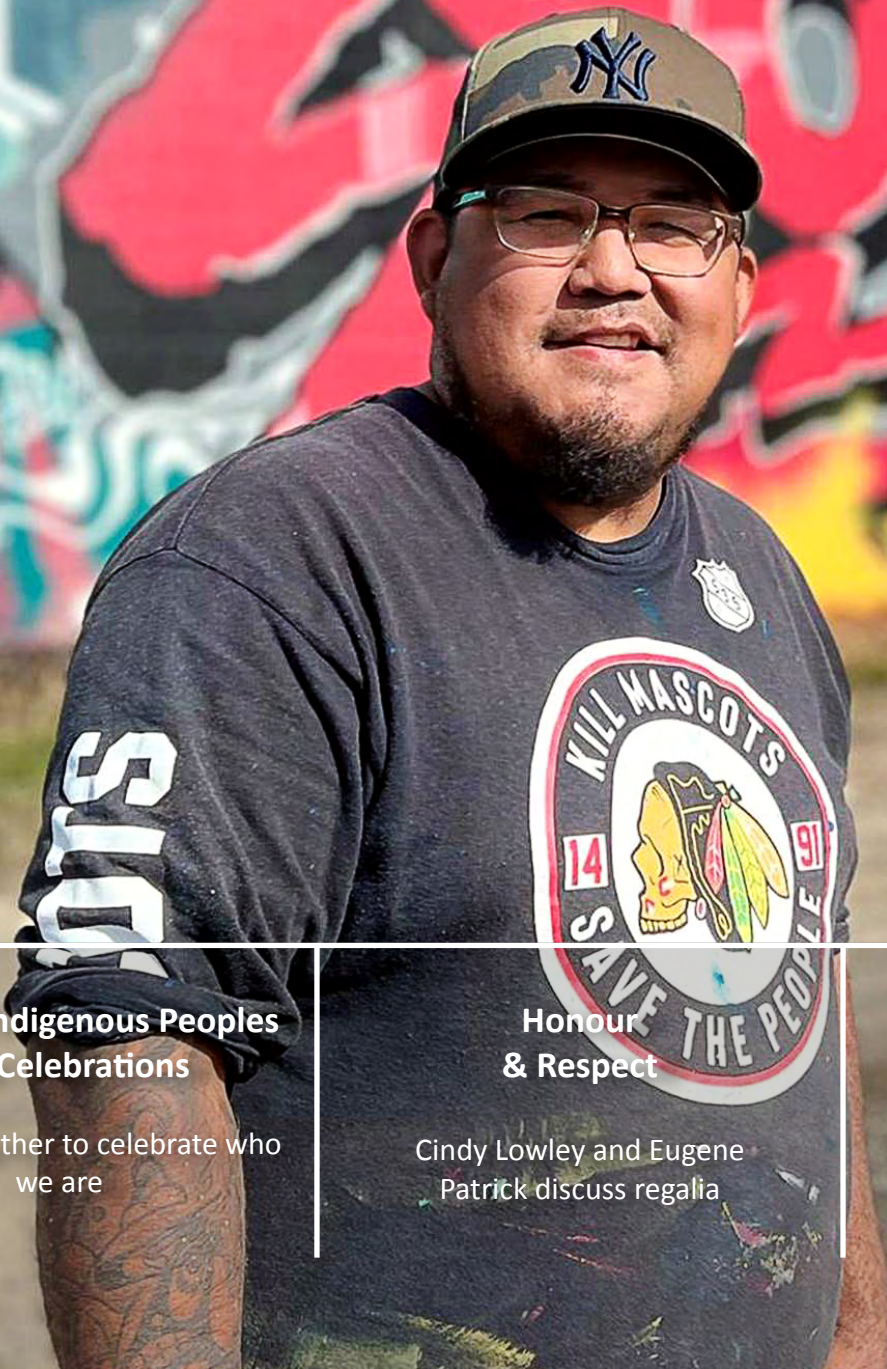


GOOZIH DUST'LUS



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

July / August 2022



National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebrations

Coming together to celebrate who
we are

Honour & Respect

Cindy Lowley and Eugene
Patrick discuss regalia

CSFS Jurisdiction Update

How we're reclaiming child
welfare jurisdiction



Babine Lake
Photo by: Kayla Brownscombe

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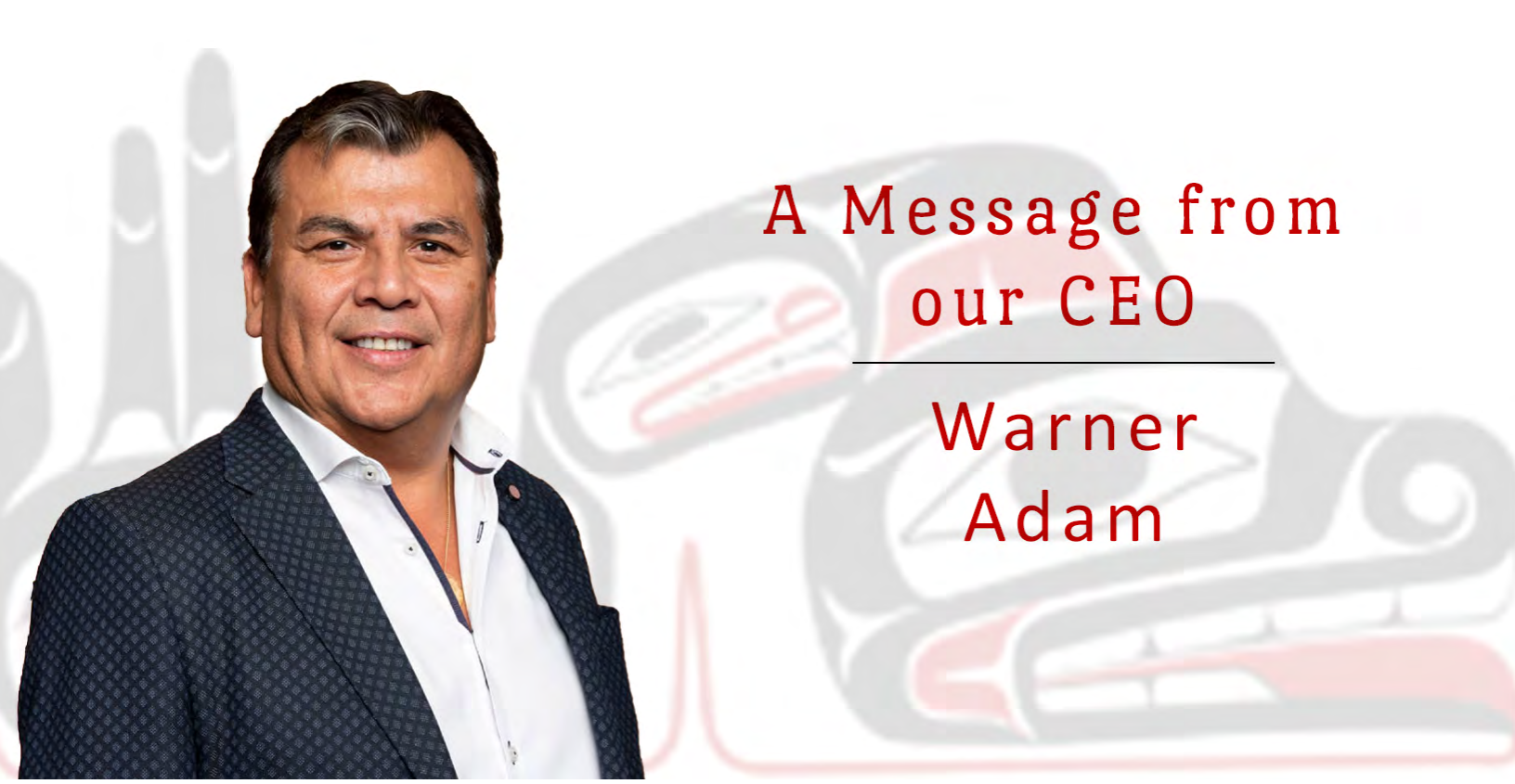
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A Message from our CEO

Warner Adam

Hadih everyone,

I hope that you are all enjoying your summer so far, and are able to get outside and spend some quality time with friends, family, and your community.

I am pleased to inform you that we have expanded our services at Carrier Sekani Family Services to include a legal department, which will be led by Julie Daum, our new Executive Director of Justice. Julie is a well known child welfare mediator with a vast legal background, and I have full confidence in her to lead our legal services department and develop culturally safe legal services in accordance with the values and beliefs of the Carrier and Sekani Nations.

CSFS has always worked hard on reasserting First Nations control over justice since our inception in 1990. Our mission statement reads: "With the guidance of our elders, Carrier Sekani Family Services is committed to the healing and empowerment of First Nations families by taking direct responsibility for: health, social, and legal services for First Nations people residing in Carrier and Sekani territory."

Now, by having a fully operational department focused on legal services, our goal for Indigenous self-government is closer than ever.

As we all know, July 1 is Canada Day. While this day may not resonate with many of us Indigenous people, I want to assure you that we at Carrier Sekani Family Services are determined to continuously move forward with truth and reconciliation with the Nations we serve, Indigenous communities, and our partners, for a better future together.

However, June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day, is a day for us to celebrate our culture, language, community, Nations, and everything else that makes us Indigenous. CSFS hosted events in Burns Lake, Fraser Lake,

and Vanderhoof for a chance for us to come together and celebrate who we are, eat some bannock, and enjoy some entertainment. If you weren't able to join us, I hope you were able to celebrate in your own way.

I must commend CSFS staff for organizing, leading, supporting and attending Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations throughout the communities we serve. I saw many smiling faces throughout and extend my thanks to everyone who helped make the celebrations vibrant and shared CSFS presence with outstretched hands.

Mussi cho,

Warner Adam



Maureen Thomas and Barbby Skaling, Indigenous Peoples Day

Why You Should Work at CSFS



Rhoda Hallgren, Director of Community Health, and Tyra Hallgren, Special Projects

Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) has some exciting employment opportunities coming down the pipe that you won't want to miss.

CSFS is committed to the healing and empowerment of Indigenous people by providing health, social, and legal services. We use a holistic model to develop programs that empower our community members and help improve their quality of life. We also provide training and skills that people can use for a lifetime. Bridging to Employment, for example, helps participants overcome barriers and provides valuable life skills and employment education.

Our work at CSFS is centred on empowering Indigenous people and rebuilding the Nations we serve, and so cultural awareness is a must. As part of our onboarding process, all new employees take our award-winning

cultural agility program, Nowh Guna' (Our Way), which teaches our staff members to walk with a foot in both worlds. Staff learn about the historical context and traditional Carrier worldviews, as well as information to develop the attitudes, knowledge and skills needed to provide culturally competent service.

Here are just a few of our many program areas:

- Addictions Recovery
- Mental Health Services
- Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator
- Primary Care
- Family Preservation
- Youth Care
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Communications

David Sikobe, a new hire in the

Communications department, says that he wanted to work at CSFS to find ways to build the vision and dream of the organization through his expertise and skill, but to also grow as an individual and learn about the culture.

If you would like to join our ever-growing team, CSFS currently has a number of job openings in Prince George, Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, and Burns Lake.

To see all of our current openings at CSFS, go to www.csfs.org/jobs.



National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebrations

June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day – a day for Indigenous people to celebrate their culture, language, and everything else that makes us who we are as a people.

It was great to see all of the events across Carrier and Sekani territory. We were delighted to see all of your smiling faces, and we hope you had a great time, whether you joined one of our events or celebrated in your own way.

In Vanderhoof, many of you joined us for our CSFS Indigenous Peoples Day celebration. Even though it rained all day, our special guests still put on an amazing show for everyone, including Kin Balam, DANi LiON, Heebz the Earthchild, Kym Gouchie, Rodney Teed, and Saik’uz drummers. We were also joined by Joe Buffalo, an Indigenous skateboarder and survivor of the residential school system. Joe shared a bit of his life story, and presented a skateboarding workshop for the youth. We overheard one of the youth shouting “Dude! This is awesome!” while Joe showed them some skateboarding skills. Many thanks to each of them for helping to create such a great event – mussi cho.

Over at the Syoh Vanderhoof Youth Centre, KC Hall, a renowned graffiti artist from the Heiltsuk First Nation, painted a beautiful mural on the outside of the building. The mural includes the Caribou, Grouse, Bear,

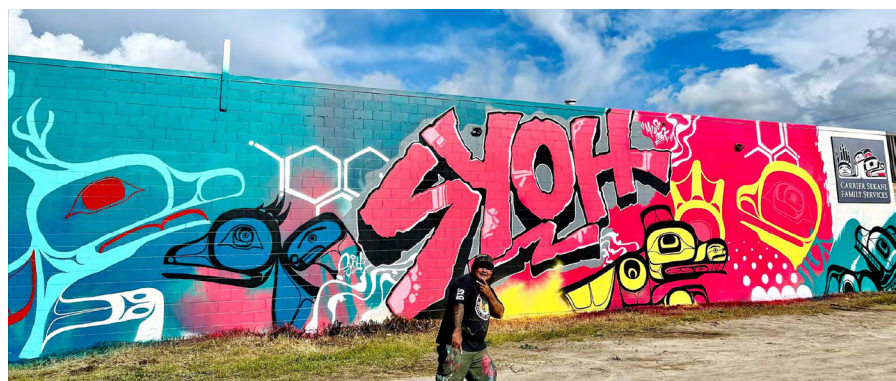
Frog, and Beaver clans with “Syoh” at the centre, meaning “my house”. The timing of this mural is perfect, as the Vanderhoof youth centre was recently renamed “Syoh”. The mural is a beautiful addition to the centre and adds a sense of style to Syoh.

Indigenous Peoples Day is also a time to form long-lasting relationships, and our celebration in Vanderhoof

was no exception. This event wouldn’t have been possible without the support and collaboration from Saik’uz First Nation and the District of Vanderhoof. The partnership between Saik’uz and Vanderhoof was further cemented in a flag raising ceremony that took place at the District office. From now on, the Saik’uz First Nation and Vanderhoof flags will fly together.



Chief Priscilla Mueller watching the Saik’uz flag raising



Artist KC Hall in front of the Syoh mural

Youth Services Celebrates 2SLGBTQ+ Pride

Carrier Sekani Family Services Youth Services and the N’kesiy (“I love you”) youth pride group, in partnership with the Nanki Nezulne (Our Two Spirits) Adult (18+) Health and Wellness Services, recently celebrated 2SLGBTQ+ pride at a number of events in Vanderhoof and Prince George.

The District of Vanderhoof hosted its first ever pride celebration event on June 25th, and because this marked such a monumental moment for honouring and acknowledging 2SLGBTQ+ people in the north, the N’kesiy group made the trip to attend.

At CSFS, the Sk’ai Zeh Yah Youth Centre hosted a pride event for its clients. The centre provided a BBQ lunch, and clients designed t-shirts to show what pride means to them. It was a safe space to be in the presence of peers who identify with the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Celebrations continued at the Niw’h Hiskak Habibeh (“for our children”) Youth Services building with bannock tacos, tie dye, and a photo booth. Youth and their parents or guardians were invited to join our special guest, Sekani Dekelth, a Tl’azt’én Nation member who identifies with the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Sekani helped to create a



space for open conversation around identity, and share what it means to be two-spirited or transgender.

“It was so wonderful for Sekani to join us,” says Kayla Brownscombe, CSFS Youth Services Manager. “In particular, it was great to have the parents join us. It was so special to not only see the parents honour their children, but for Sekani to also acknowledge those parents for showing such support for their children. The kids had lots to share and were appreciative of the support. It’s our diversity that makes us beautiful, and it’s important to celebrate that.”

Kayla says that it’s important for allies

to give space like this to support the 2SLGBTQ+ community, and create a place of belonging.

We were also pleased to welcome Brittany Clark Wakefield and Hunter Brazzoni from our Nanki Nezulne (Our Two Spirits) Adult (18+) Health and Wellness Services, who made the trip to Prince George all the way from the lower mainland to celebrate with the youth. For more on Nanki Nezulne, please visit lgbtq2.csfs.org

For more information on the N’kesiy (“I love you”) youth pride group, contact YSreception@csfs.org.

CSFS Visits Saik’uz Health Fair

CSFS staff had the pleasure to visit the Saik’uz Health Fair, meet community members, and share information about our programs and services.

We look forward to meeting you all and showing you what CSFS has to offer when we visit more community health fairs in the near future!



Cheryl Gagnon and Shannon Michell, CSFS Residential Care Aides

Introducing New Leaders at CSFS

Meet our new Executive Director of Justice and Chief Financial Officer

Carrier Sekani Family Services is thrilled to welcome our new Executive Director of Justice, Julie Daum, along with our new Chief Financial Officer, Cheryl Wallace.

Julie Daum will be overseeing the development and operation of our legal services department, and will help facilitate our vision for effective, efficient, and culturally safe legal services to the Nations we serve.

Julie Daum is a mediator, facilitator and conflict resolution coach. She is a member of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation, belongs to the Gil_seyhu clan and resides in her husband's community of Stellaquo Reserve in the central interior of BC. Julie is on the roster of BC Child Protection Mediators and BC Public Service Agency as well as the Canadian Human Rights Commission Mediator Roster and is a mentor in the Mediate BC Child Protection Mediation Practicum. Julie has also developed and delivered workshops on culturally appropriate practices for working with Indigenous families and communities. Currently, Julie is the Chair of Mediate BC Board of Directors.

A fun fact about Julie is that she is an avid collector and wearer of Fluevog shoes, as many who already know her will tell you!

Cheryl Wallace brings extensive financial and operational experience from a variety of industries to her new role of Chief Financial Officer at CSFS. Cheryl comes to CSFS from Junior Achievement BC, where she was the Director of Finance and Administration. Cheryl is a certified professional accountant (CMA) who also holds an MBA.

When asked what interested her in working at CSFS, Cheryl said, "I have

heard it is a great place to work with a supportive environment. It is important to me to work for an organization that does mission focused work that supports the community."

Cheryl has lived in Prince George for 18 years, and is grateful to live and work on the traditional territory of

the Lheidli T'enneh. She currently has two cats and a dog (for now – maybe more to come). Cheryl loves to travel and immerse herself in other cultures. She has visited New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, the USA, Bahamas, and parts of southeast Asia.



Julie Daum, Executive Director of Justice



Cheryl Wallace, Chief Financial Officer

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



JURISDICTION

The Carrier Sekani Family Services Jurisdiction team is focused on asserting the inherent authority for the Nations we serve to make decisions for and with their children, youth, and families. This work is led by the Nations and our matriarchs – alongside our jurisdiction team. We are committed to listening, respecting your concerns and opinions, and following the traditional teachings in an effort to see each and every Carrier and Sekani child reach their full potential as well as for families to heal.

Jurisdiction is about more than ‘law’ – it includes frameworks for meeting the needs of children, families and communities while also supporting enhanced child and family well-being.

When the Canadian federal government introduced the Indian

Act in 1876, a number of colonial laws were included that aimed to eliminate First Nations culture in favour of assimilation into Euro-Canadian society. By 1920, the Canadian government had implemented law mandating Indigenous children to attend residential schools with the goal of eliminating Indigenous ways of being and assimilating Indigenous peoples into Eurocentric society. From 1831 to 1996, over 130 residential schools operated in Canada which an estimated 150,000 Indigenous children attended. The residential school system and the forceful removal of children from their homes is cultural genocide. This was followed by the 60s Scoop, a period starting in the 1960s when residential schools began to shut down and colonial child welfare law, policies and practice – supported by ongoing racism and discrimination –

led to the mass removal of Indigenous children from their communities and homes. During this period Indigenous children were pre-dominantly placed with, and adopted out to, non-Indigenous families.

Colonialism is not just historical. To this day the federal government continues to use the Indian Act for exercising control over numerous aspects of Indigenous life such as Indian status, local First Nations governments, reserve land, and governmental obligations to Indigenous people.

Colonialism continues to prevail in current legislation and policies that negate Indigenous values, traditions, and practices for Indigenous child and family well-being. Furthermore, Indigenous children continue to be forcibly removed from their



homes and territory at a rate far disproportionate to any other group living in Canada.

While the CSFS Jurisdiction team is relatively new, we must recognize the work that has come before us.

When Carrier Sekani Family Services was created in 1990, our mandate was to provide and restore taking responsibility for member Nations' social and health holistic services.

In 2007, CSFS supported the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations in filing a complaint under section 5 of the Canadian Human Rights Act with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal on the discrimination of First Nations children by the federal government for underfunding

of child welfare services on reserves.

In 2011, CSFS started working on its own child welfare model, using focus groups to gather culturally relevant ways Carrier and Sekani Nations cared for their children.

A monumental moment in our goal for jurisdiction came in June of 2019 when an *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the Federal Act) was passed, coming into force on January 1, 2020. Under the Federal Act, Indigenous communities have the opportunity to develop their own legislation for exercising jurisdiction over child and family services based on their own history, culture, and law. This jurisdiction is recognized as federal law, and once developed and finalized, will be given authority over

provincial child and family services laws.

Today, CSFS continues to work on jurisdiction through centering the rights of Carrier and Sekani children, the responsibilities in the Bah'lats system, and partnering with the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy through the University of Ottawa on a pilot program to ensure an equitable funding formula is created.

As we make meaningful progress in the development of Carrier Sekani jurisdiction with the guidance of the Nations and our matriarchs, we will share regular updates when able. Be sure to follow CSFS on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, for all of our latest updates.

CULTURE CORNER



Honour and Respect - Traditional Regalia

By: **Cindy Lowley-Patrick and Eugene Patrick**

Traditional regalia is a symbol of who we are. It shows we are Carrier, what Nation we're from, and what clan we belong to.

Each regalia is different and has its own specifications that make it unique and show which clan you are from, such as emblems and crests. For my [Cindy's] regalia, I have a frog emblem to signify my clan, and I have a grizzly bear to signify my father clan. Colour plays a big part too. My regalia is green because I'm frog clan, and Eugene's colours are red, brown, black, and white to represent the Old Fort Frog clan, as well as his father clans of grouse and mountain house. Each clan is only able to use specific items to make the regalia as well, such as buttons and ribbons.

Regalia is about honour and respect, from when it is made to how you wear it. It's also about status. When you see someone wearing regalia, right away you know that those individuals must be high-ranking hereditary chiefs. Not every hereditary chief has regalia – it's a lot of work to get, and there's steps involved.

Before you get your regalia, you first

have to get your hereditary chief name. After that it is up to your clan to decide when you are ready for your regalia. They observe how you behave in the Bah'lats and in the community before they tell you that you're ready.

Once you're ready, you hire your father clan to make your regalia. For me [Cindy], the Grizzly Bear and Black Bear clans made my regalia. Mine took about a year, as it's all made by hand. The ts'ah ("head dress") especially can take a long time. Mary Williams and Cheyenne Crouse Dennis were the ladies who made my regalia. Once it's ready, you pay them for their hard work.

When the regalia is finished, your clan shows it around at a Bah'lats before you wear it. After you put it on for the first time, your Elders show you around. It was aunty Annette Casimir and my uncle Leon Taylor that walked me around to show it off, and Grizzly Bear leader Damien Pierre talked about me to the other clans so they knew who I was. They were showing us off and introducing me with my regalia. When Eugene got his regalia, it was Grouse Clan leader, Herbert William, who told the other clans.

The way you put on the regalia and fold it and put it away is important too. You have to do it with a lot of respect. They are powerful pieces. When we take off our regalia, we do it with a lot of respect and care.

Our Elders are with us throughout the entire process of getting our regalia. Late Connie Abraham, she talked to me about my nehldic ("blanket") and she said "you always be good to it. It's got lots of power, and you look after it." She gave me that woman to woman talk. For Eugene, it was late Willie Williams who talked him through the process.

It just goes to show that no matter how old you are, your Elders always have something to teach you, like what it means to be a hereditary chief or what your regalia means. You can never stop learning in life.

Regalia is a tradition that's still going strong today. I just got mine done a few years ago. We wear it in Bah'lats, in ceremonies, and at the raising of headstones. We wear the regalia and honour the other three clans by dancing for them. It's about honour and respect, our lineage, family, and our name.

When we see ourselves in our regalia in photos, we really come to appreciate where we are in life. When I was young, I didn't think I would become a hereditary chief. It's a huge role and undertaking. Now when I look back, I can't believe that we're both hereditary chiefs, but I'm so proud. Our work is not for nothing and who we are in community, family, and at work is all equally important.

I want our kids to see a photo of us and think good things about us. I think they're really going to appreciate us more as parents knowing that we're being recognized and acknowledged. It makes me think of how far we've come, and we are so honoured.

Cindy and Eugene are both Community Engagement Facilitators with the CSFS Jurisdiction team.



Prince George In-Person and Online Women's Group

Carrier Sekani Family Services is now hosting a Prince George Woman's Group in-person and online.

Come join us for our Tuesday meetings at 10:30am on the 3rd floor at 1777 3rd Ave. Drop-ins are welcome.

Stop by for a check-in, discussion, crafts, or just a cup of coffee or tea. The group is open to all women.

For more information, and for the online link, please contact:

Ronda Krafta: 778-675-0421

Hailey Zral: 778-349-6123

or hzral@csfs.org

In-Person & Online Women's Group

Hummingbirds are seen as healers and bringers of love, good luck and joy.

Tuesdays
10:30 am - 12 pm

In-person:
Prince George
1777 3rd Ave - 3rd floor

**Online link available by
request**

- Drop-in welcome
- Check-in with coffee & tea
- Weekly discussions & crafts
- Topics include self care, stress management, self esteem, and more

Contact:

Ronda Krafta 778-675-0421

Hailey Zral 778-349-6123; hzral@csfs.org



Photo Submissions

Photo By: Bobbi-Lynn George



Photo By: Sara Tibbetts-West

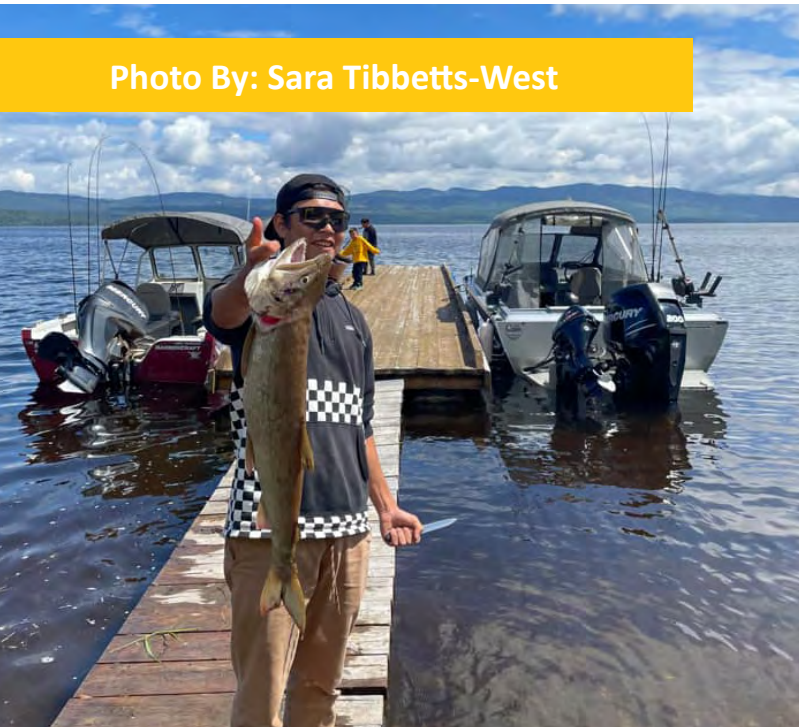


Photo By: Anty-b Samantha Antoinette



Want to show off your photos?

Send us your best photos, and we'll include a number of them right here in the next issue!
Submit your photos to Jordan Cryderman at jcryderman@csfs.org.

Mussi Cho to Our Recent Donors

Mussi cho to Family Dental Care River Point for your donation to our Yu Be-Yah primary care clinic.

One of our clinicians was asking them where to buy toothbrushes in bulk for young children. In response, Family Dental donated goodie bags, each with a toothbrush, toothpaste, crayons, balloon and an information sheet on how to brush your preschooler's teeth. It was a much appreciated and much needed donation.



Additionally, thank you Integris Credit Union for the generous donation of clothes and blankets.

Integris volunteers donated 3 truck loads of items, providing over 10 boxes of clothing, 50 pairs of shoes, and blankets to the Sk'ai Zeh Yah Youth Centre Prince George. These items will go a long way in helping our clientele.



SAVE THE DATE

Carrier Sekani Family Services will be hosting the **2022 Annual General Assembly** on **OCTOBER 20, 2022**

More information coming soon...

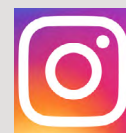
Have stories or news you would like to share with us?

Email your submission to our Digital Writer, Jordan Cryderman: jcryderman@csfs.org



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