

# Goozih Dust'us

SPRING 2019



CARRIER SEKANI  
FAMILY SERVICES



## Funding for Holistic Approaches to Child and Family Wellness

A landmark ruling has led toward an injection of prevention funding to help CSFS empower families and prevent children from going into care.

The 2016 Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling paved the way to ensure First Nations families have equal access to services that meet their needs in a holistic manner. That ruling led to Canada allocating prevention funding in 2017. After a series of engagement sessions and with the help of feedback from member nations, CSFS applied for that funding.

We are pleased to announce we have been approved to provide prevention services utilizing the funding, and programs and services are currently in development.

Some new job postings have been posted and more will be posted soon! These positions will allow us to provide services deemed important by our communities. The scope and breadth of services we provide will help children and families to live holistically healthy lives. Services will include Child and Family Services, Health Services and Mental Wellness Services.

### Coming up soon....

#### Save the Date - AGA

Our Annual General Assembly is on September 12th and 13th, ending with an all-clans feast. The location announcement coming soon!

#### Cheslatta Health Fair

At the Grassy Hall in Burns Lake from 10:00-2:00 PM, June 6th

Email: [cheslattachr@hotmail.com](mailto:cheslattachr@hotmail.com)

#### Sewing Class

Sign up at the Saik'uz Health Centre. June 17, 18 & 19.

Max. 5 people. Snacks provided.

## Traditional ice fishing in Saik'uz

As the spring thaw concludes, a recent Elder-Youth mentorship activity took advantage of the cooler weather to embark on traditional ice fishing! Saikuz elders provided traditional knowledge to youth in care led by Rodney Teed. It was a full day event where the youth ran a jig from one hole in the ice to another to set net. Stories were shared by the fire to warm up.

Lots of laughter and excitement were had. The catch was given to the elders.



## They are Fierce. They are Warriors

### Great turnout at youth conferences

Carrier Sekani Family Services welcomed hundreds of girls and boys to Prince George as part of two separate conferences focussed on empowering Indigenous youth.

More than 130 girls aged 8 to 14 years old turned out for the 2nd annual "We are Fierce" Girls Empowerment Conference on March 26th, 27th and 28th.

Similarly, more than 100 boys aged 8 to 14 came

to Prince George for the "We are Warriors" Boys Youth Conference April 3rd, 4th and 5th.

The conferences taught self-confidence, leadership and conflict resolution through a number of workshops and speakers. There were many cultural components as well!

Speakers included Michael Redhead Champagne, Shuswap actress Grace Dove, local elders and more!



## Dayee Yez Atom Team Connects Nations

Six nations combine to form a hockey team

This past winter a unique hockey team was formed. In a first of its kind, the Dayee Yez Atom hockey team, comprised of youth from six nations across the region was assembled. The team included members from Lake Babine Nation, Tl'azt'en Nation, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Binche Keyo, and Nak'azdli Whut'en. The Dayee Yez team allowed both male and female players to join, with one youth female now on the roster.

Coaches worked with the youth to improve hockey skills but also focus on sportsmanship, leadership, respect and community service. The team was chosen based on skill, commitment, attitude and school grades. The team practiced every Monday and Wednesday with some kids waking up at 5:00 AM for practice!

The team formally started last November in Burns Lake. Thanks to the dedication of the kids and local fundraising efforts, the group were able to participate in a number of tournaments. In February of this year, the Dayee Yez team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 8 teams in a tournament in Merritt. The team also placed 4<sup>th</sup> out of 12 teams at the All Native Hockey Tournament in Prince George and just returned home from the Indigenous hockey tournament in Edmonton which hosted 250 teams.

Dayee Yez Aboriginal Team parent Sara Jack thanks all those who have helped the team this year. "Mesiy cho from the bottom of our hearts for your contribution to Dayee Yez for the 2019 season." CSFS is a proud supporter of this great initiative

## Day School Settlement Update

### What it means for you, milestones and next steps

With the announcement of a multi-million dollar settlement for Indian Day School survivors, there are many questions about who is eligible and when the settlement will be approved.

It is estimated that close to 200,000 Indigenous children attended the more than 700 federally operated schools since the 1920's. For many of those who attended, it meant enduring culture loss, physical and sexual abuse. As a result, students of the federally run day schools, launched a class-action nation-wide lawsuit over abuse they faced while in the care of the state.

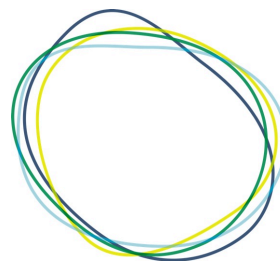
Last March, the Federal government announced a proposed settlement to compensate all survivors who attended the schools, including First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples. The settlement would include \$10,000 for students who suffered harm while attending the schools. Those students who experienced sexual and physical abuse would also be eligible for additional compensation from \$50,000 to a maximum of \$200,000. Canada is also including, if approved, a \$200 million dollar Legacy Fund to support commemoration projects, health and wellness programs, as well as language and culture initiatives for communities.

The settlement approval hearings wrapped up at the Federal Court in Winnipeg Manitoba on May 15th, 2019. The court will announce its decision regarding settlement approval sometime soon, if not already.

If the proposed settlement is approved, information on how to make a claim for compensation will become available. Class members will also have an opportunity to opt-out of the settlement if they so choose, but will receive no compensation if they choose to do so.

As survivors prepare, we understand the process can impact people differently. A reminder, the KUU-US Crisis Line is a culturally safe for First Nations, by First Nations service, with professionals trained in cultural safety. They bring an understanding of First Nations history and trauma from residential and day schools to their roles. The KUU-US toll-free number is 1-800-588-8717.

For more information about what the Indian Day School Settlement will mean for you in the weeks ahead, and any other outstanding questions, go to [indiandayschools.com](http://indiandayschools.com)



**FEDERAL  
INDIAN DAY  
SCHOOL  
CLASS ACTION**

## Three-year Accreditation! What does that mean for us?



We are pleased to announce that CSFS has successfully achieved a three-year Accreditation. This commendation ensures our programs have been measured against the highest standards. Ensuring a high level of program and service standards is important to the organization as a whole.

CARF International is an independent, non profit organization focused on advancing quality in service provision. In addition to our own internal and external quality control processes, we engaged with CARF International to check our programs and services against their benchmarks.

Achieving a three- year accreditation demonstrates that our organization is committed to reducing risk, addressing health and safety concerns, respecting cultural and individual preferences, and providing the best possible quality of care. This three-year accreditation is the mark of a gold seal for all the programs and services Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) provides for its members!

Our management and staff work diligently to meet the highest level of standards in order to ensure our community members get the best quality care and services.

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## Recognized for her excellence Cheryl Vandelaar 'comparable to a heartbeat.'

We would like to recognize Cheryl Vandelaar's contributions to the CSFS Integrated Care Team (ICT) in Saik'uz. Cheryl's passion for her community is beyond expectation. Her hard work and dedication is comparable to a heartbeat. She genuinely wants the best for everyone and truly makes a difference in people's lives. Her strength as an advocate for families has assisted many community members. CSFS is fortunate to have Cheryl on our team! She consistently brings her expertise and the voice of her community to the ICT. Even in her absence, Cheryl is always able to contribute, making sure to prepare others to be her voice in discussions. We are pleased to award Cheryl with the Integrated care team mug of excellence. Mussi Cho Cheryl!



## Welcome to the team!

### Carrier Sekani Family Services continues to grow

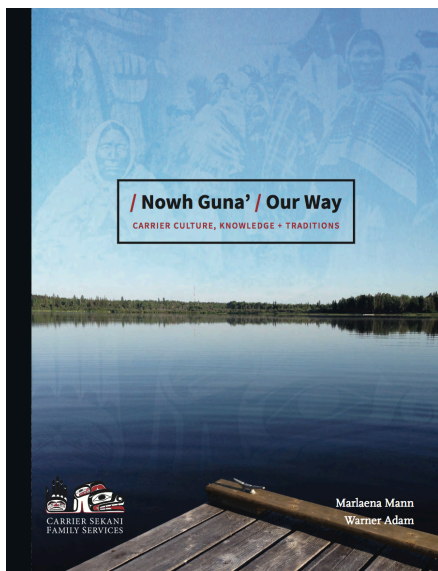
Welcome Dr. Todd Alec! Dr. Todd is member of the Nak'azdli Whut'en, and is with the Lhts'umusyoo (Beaver) Clan. Dr. Todd is the son of the late Lester Alec and Laura-Lee Dahaney. He is the grandson of June McMullen and Sam Moise and the Steven Prince and Emma Prince.

Dr. Todd started his vision towards medicine in his high school years while living in Prince George. After graduation at UNBC, he went onto the Northern Medical Program.

He enjoys working in a rural setting and wants to help people reduce their risks for disease and chronic illnesses, especially if these are due to a lack of access to health care! He is an advocate for change to reduce barriers to service. Dr. Todd travels to Yekooche and Takla and is available for Telehealth appointments.



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## Carrier Culture Training Competency Training for Service

We are pleased to announce our next round of Nowh Guna' culture competency training with our member Nations in May and June. Burns Lake is hosting a two day session May 14th and 15th. Sessions in Prince George are coming up in June on the 12th, 13th, 18th and 19th. More dates will be set for fall 2019 soon. Areas of the training include self awareness around stereotypes and biases, colonization history, Carrier world-view, governance, and the clan system. External service providers are invited to join our staff on a fee per seat basis, or the training can be provided to larger groups on a contracted basis. For more information, visit the news section of our website at [css.org](http://css.org), email [communications@csfs.org](mailto:communications@csfs.org) or call 250-562-3591.