



# SAIK'UZ

## What We Heard Report



CARRIER SEKANI  
FAMILY SERVICES

**JANUARY 2026**



## Hadih!

On behalf of Carrier Sekani Family Services, I want to thank you for sharing your thoughts and your stories with us. This jurisdiction journey we are on comes with unique obstacles to navigate, and we are grateful to all of you for your continued support and guidance.

'Jurisdiction' is not new to Saik'uz First Nation. I want to acknowledge the decades of advocacy and resiliency of the Child Wellness Committee, Matriarchs, Elders, elected leaders, and community members who have never stopped fighting for the rights of Yinka Dene children and families.

In this report you will find an overview of what Saik'uz community members have shared with us on the journey so far. This is only the beginning of an ongoing relationship-building process with communities.

CSFS is committed to improving how we communicate with Saik'uz and ensuring all community members have a voice in the future of child and family services. I look forward to more conversations and am excited to see this good work continue.

Awetza.

**Lincoln Hallgren**

Executive Director Jurisdiction

# Nezkeh ba For our Children

## Project background

CSFS is working with Saik'uz First Nation on the right to be the decision-maker for child and family services. 'Nezkeh ba (For our Children)' represents our collaborative journey to stand up a Carrier Sekani child and family well-being law based in traditional governance. This law will serve as a framework for Saik'uz to develop their own community-specific regulations through.

This law will not be new to our people; Yinka Dene had laws to protect and raise children in a good way long before colonial governments came to these lands.

What is new is the legal authority being recognized at a federal level through the passing of 'An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families'. The Act reaffirms our rights as Indigenous people to self-governance as outlined in Section 35 of the Constitution Act.

The right to decision-making for children and families is inherent and was never surrendered by communities. Together, we are reawakening laws that cared for Yinka Dene and saw children raised on their lands, with their families, and surrounded by their clans.

**Learn more about the jurisdiction journey at**

**[www.csfs.org/jurisdiction](http://www.csfs.org/jurisdiction)**





## What we've heard so far...

CSFS is gathering feedback from communities through in-person community meetings and drop-in sessions. Working together with Saik'uz First Nation, community input is being gathered through workbooks and short-form questions shared at event booths.

To date, completed workbooks have been received from community members at the Saik'uz Community Meeting on November 11, 2025 and the Saik'uz AGA on January 13 - 15, 2026.

31

community  
workbooks received

109

responses to  
short-form  
questions

## Hooghun yats'oolhtuk

Let's talk about it



**Enter our  
prize draw!**

In your community,  
what does a child  
need to thrive?

Share your thoughts on a  
paper below. Don't forget to  
include your name and contact  
information!





# Community Workbooks

Musi to the Child Wellness Committee for guiding the creation of the Saik'uz Community Workbook.

## Common themes at-a-glance

Is it important that Saik'uz First Nation is the decision-maker when it comes to our children and families? Why or why not?

### You said...



It is our right and responsibility as a community to look after own children and families

Saik'uz knows its children and families best

We can keep Saik'uz children in the community and with their families where they belong

Keeping Saik'uz children connected to their culture, land, and language is the most important thing



What do you think is the most important thing Saik'uz First Nation can do to keep children connected to the community?

## You said...

Create opportunities for cultural learning and participation in community events

Create more opportunities for children to participate in recreational activities such as sports

Promote family gatherings and teaching children their genealogy to strengthen family ties

Prevention, wellness, and sobriety supports for parents, including aftercare and support to maintain healthy lifestyles



What would you like to see CSFS do more of, or do differently, to help keep Saik'uz children safe?

## You said...

Host more parenting  
and life skills  
workshops

Improve  
communication and  
relationships with  
Saik'uz to work  
together better

Create more  
opportunities for  
recreational activities  
children and youth  
can participate in

More drug  
prevention and  
support for those  
living in addiction





What does your community need to be better prepared to respond to a situation where a child is not safe?

## You said...

Safe places and more homes for placements in the community

Community cohesion and working together to support families

Prevention supports to identify and address problems before escalation

Clear communication on child welfare processes and resources for families



How can CSFS and Saik'uz First Nation work together to better support parents and families?

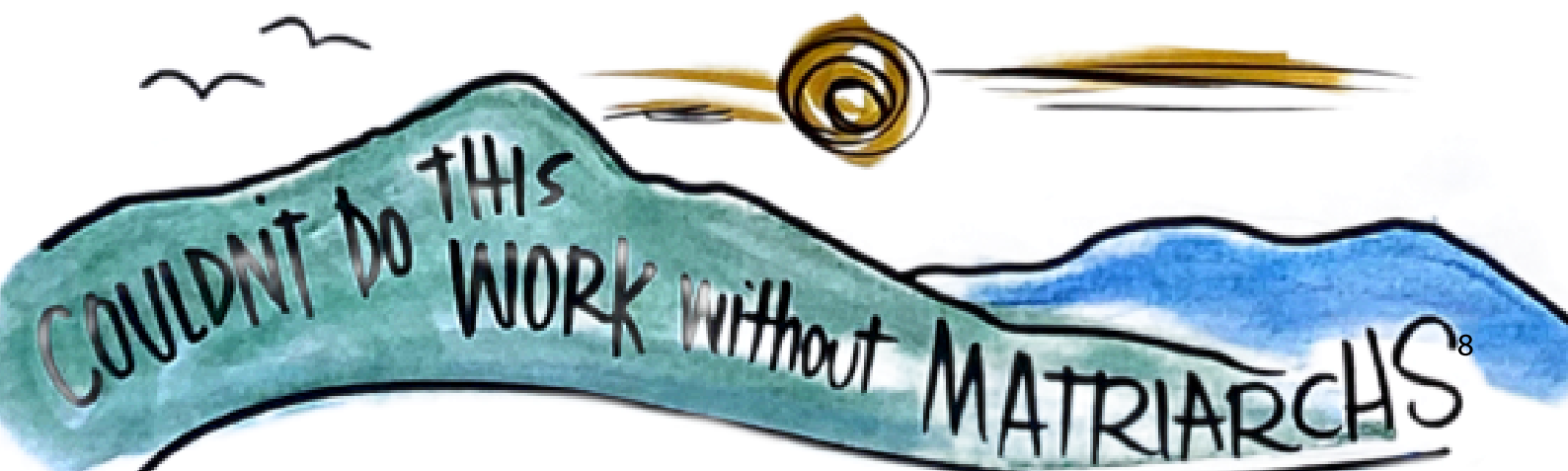
**You said...**

Be more present in community and build relationships with families

Improve communication about children in care and explain child welfare policies to help prepare and support parents

Host more workshops and community events for children, youth, and families

Improve collaboration and work together to keep families and communities informed



When it comes to raising children and keeping them safe, what is each community leader's role and responsibility?

## You said...

### CHIEF & COUNCIL

- Listen to and advocate for the community
- Understand policy and procedures
- Stay informed on community needs

### CLANS & HEREDITARY CHIEFS

- Share knowledge and pass on cultural teachings
- Teach the potlatch system
- Support children and families

### COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Prevention support for families
- Provide activities and stability for children
- Foster community belonging and cohesion

- Hands-on support for families
- Look out for all children
- Know child welfare policies to keep everyone safe

### CHILD WELLNESS COMMITTEE

- Help and support one another

### FAMILIES

- Provide guidance to children and families
- Advocate for families
- Pass on cultural knowledge and practices

### MATRIARCHS & ELDERS





# Short-form Questions

January 13 - 15, 2026

Total responses: 109

We asked you what you think is important for raising children in a good way and keeping them connected to their culture.

**You said...**

Number of times the theme appeared in responses



**Language**

**22**



**Hunting**

**10**



**Family**

**9**



**Activities**

**7**



**Community**

**7**

# Moving forward

We are continuously learning and listening to your feedback on how we can improve this relational process. We want to thank everyone who has shared their input and provided guidance on how we can build trust and a stronger relationship with Saik'uz.

## We commit to:

- Improving communication with Saik'uz First Nation and building stronger relationships with community members.
- Working closely with Saik'uz First Nation on the jurisdiction project to centre the work in community needs.
- Continue creating opportunities for community members to make their voices heard.

## How will my input be used?

The feedback you share will assist in developing Saik'uz's own regulations under the Carrier Sekani child and family well-being law.

Your voice is guiding the development of community programs, service delivery and capacity building as we look ahead to providing child and family services for the next generations of Yinka Dene children, youth, and families.

# Nenachalhuya!





CARRIER SEKANI  
FAMILY SERVICES