



April 2026 NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE

See updates from our Teams, enjoy some photos from our GOV trip, Feel The Beat, Men's Health & Wellness Conference and more. We have many activities upcoming for May, make sure you are following our social media where we will post first!



Mission

We are all somebody's seventh generation. We are committed to work with our communities to create the necessary change to ensure children currently in care have the advocates they deserve and seven generations from now, the need for a child welfare system will no longer exist as our families will be whole and healthy.



Vision

Work collectively to exercise nte?képmx and syilx inherent rights as we empower children, young people and families.

tekm míns | tá k'wúl'əm - Our Call to Action

We are at a critical moment in time. A great deal of change is taking place within the current political climate in which we exist. Bold steps are required to actualize the changes necessary for the communities we represent. For the first time since colonization, our action will fundamentally alter the foundation upon which outside governments have imposed political interests of assimilation through the systemic removal of our children.

For generations, our children have been the ones on the front line of federally and provincially legislated cultural genocidal regimes. Our families and communities were fractured but never broken. To achieve healing, justice and hope for each child ever removed from their parents, families and communities, it is up to us to provide a new reality for generations to come.

Through the wisdom of our ancestors, we have been taught the ways to care for one another. We must work toward a future markedly different from the current state wherein there are more Indigenous children in care now than at the height of the residential school era. While the current system is derived of legislation and policy, not of the Indigenous origin at a community level or otherwise, we undertake the process of decolonization to bring traditional knowledge, guidance and practices of the nte?képmx and syilx people forward in collaboration and guidance of our communities.

It is our responsibility to create the necessary change to ensure children currently in care have the advocates they deserve; and seven generations from now, the need for a child welfare system will no longer exist as our families will be whole and healthy. nte?képmx and syilx ancestors have anticipated this change and passed on their wisdom as we respond to this call to action. This very legacy is now ours to nurture and protect as we build a new platform where today's children, young people, families and communities will remain together and rekindle their cultural ways of being.

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SCFSS STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

CULTURE OF CARING

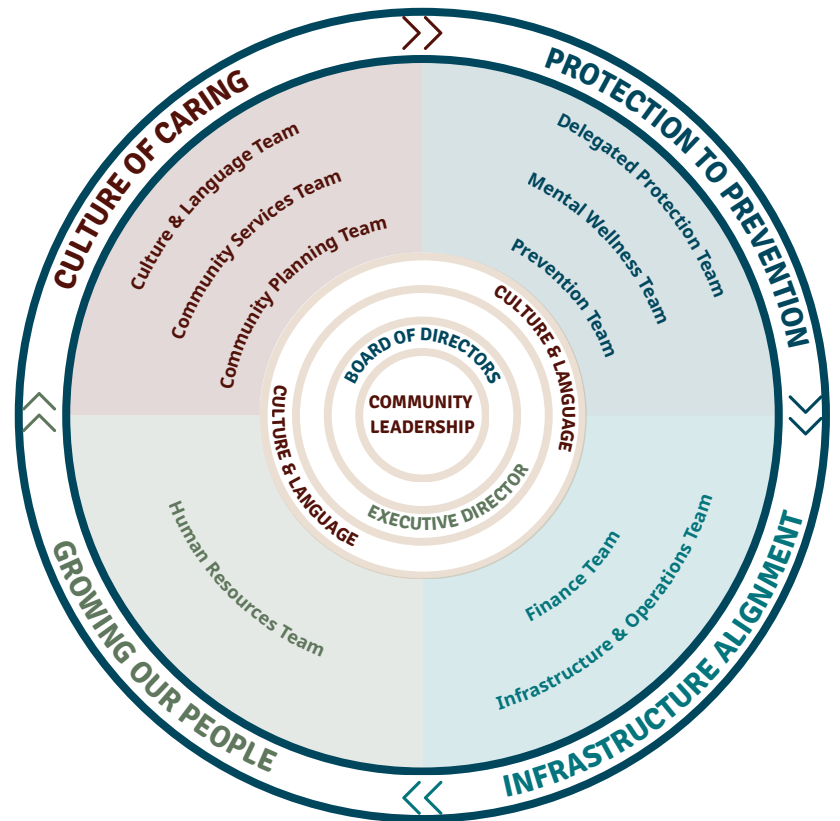
- Communicate with one voice
- Integrate language and traditional teachings into programs and services
- Grow caregiver networks in alignment with traditional and community values
- Incorporate learning from Elders and Knowledge Keepers
- Return rights and responsibilities to our people through the development and implementation of Governance and Laws

PROTECTION TO PREVENTION

- Bring and keep our children home
- Align programs and services with our vision
- Shift our focus from fear to love
- Build community engagement and capacity
- Build trusting relationships

GROWING OUR PEOPLE

- Engage community expertise to support our vision
- Retain those committed to our vision
- Adopt, embrace, and implement cultural practice frameworks
- Acknowledge Post-traumatic Growth (PTG)
- Build professional capacity



INFRASTRUCTURE ALIGNMENT

- Realign budgets to shift from protection to prevention
- Improve Information Technology support in current and post COVID-19 environment
- Structure change management to achieve our collaborative vision
- Improve prompt management reporting
- Integrate programs and services to build community capacity



April Showers

As we joyfully welcome the refreshing April showers, we gear up for a summer brimming with excitement and bounty. This season of growth brings with it a rich tapestry of language to explore. Reach out to your wise knowledge keepers for help with pronouncing these phrases. The phrases in **red** are in nłe?kėpmxcin, while those in **turquoise** are in nsylxcən.

Additionally, we've provided a QR code for you to dive into the enchanting audio experience that accompanies these phrases. Happy learning and joyful listening!



naŋ qʷuyi? he tmiʰw



Cloudy



ktʰmap



snéwʰt



Wind



sniwʰt



stékt



Rain



sqʰit



syəmyim



Rainbow



skʷmkʷimcxn



kəʔkeʔtes tk speʔec he spiləxms - Three Bears Story



Spoken by Amelia Washington



ksəwt us nke he tmixw ʔe nke ʔixweʔ us təʔe he tmixw ʔe ekwu kəʔkeʔtes ekwu xəʔe tk speʔec. ʔe ekwu xəʔe ks xwesitc tu ʔuʔe tuʔ sʔaxenx nke ʔe ekwu xəʔe ks ʔʔek wʔeye tk tmixw xwuuy nke xəʔe sʔəqus kicx wuʔuʔe tʔ nčəʔetkwuʔ. ʔes kəʔkeʔtes ekwu xe tk speʔec peyeʔ ekwu xe tk sqaczeʔ tk speʔec ʔeʔ peyeʔ tk skixzeʔ ʔeʔ peyeʔ tk kʔmiʔmiʔme ʔe ekwu xəʔe k sciʔ nke te nke tu xeʔe k sniʔipikns sʔəqus.

A LONG time ago when the world was different, there were three bears, the Mother, the Father bear, the Baby Bear. The three Bears were walking, from 'Sxəxenx and they were heading up toward Coldwater. It was getting close to lunchtime.

ʔe ekwu scuts ʔ kʔmiʔmeʔ, "Naʔm tk teyt kn nukw! Naʔm tk teyt kn nukw!" ʔe ekwu scuts ʔ skixzeʔ "ʔes kʔimxe təʔe kicx wuʔuʔe ʔəʔ skoz wuʔ nčəʔetkwuʔ." ʔe ekwu təʔe ks ciʔ nke təʔe tk xwənt. ʔəʔ ekwu xəʔe wuʔ Nwəyc. enke ks xeʔe ʔəʔs wuʔ e Nwəyc, ekwus ʔuʔqweʔs te qwuʔ. nem ekwu yé uci e qwuʔ temn. e ʔuqweʔ x te qwuʔ tu xweʔe te qwuʔ nem ekwu yé ekwu.

The Little Bear started complaining, "I'm hungry! I'm hungry!" Mother Bear said, "Just wait a little while longer, just a little bit longer over to 'Coldwater,' where your aunty lives" So they had a little bit of a stop, and probably drank some water at Nwəyc. The water there was really good.

ʔe ekwu ʔ kicx wuʔuʔe wuʔ he nčəʔetkwuʔ ʔe ekwu ks wikms nəʔe tk citxw. ʔ skoz ekwu xəʔe. ʔe ekwu ks nʔoʔwcinm nke. (nʔoʔwcinm!!!) ʔuʔ təʔe nke te ks wet k ʔex. teʔ nke təʔe ne ks ʔexs ʔ skoz təʔteʔe k swet ʔex ʔesʔuʔxw, ʔe ekwu ks wikms nəʔe nə tipl. kəʔtes ekwu xəʔe tk skpuxw. naʔm tk təyt nke xəʔe ʔ kʔmiʔmeʔ. ʔe ekwu k sməstenms nəʔe xzum tk kʔpuxw. ʔe ekwu ks nʔ xzum tk kʔpuxw, steʔ us nke nəʔe ciʔ nke teʔe nkəxw ʔeʔ he (steʔ) qʔəneʔ nke nəʔe ciʔ nke nəʔe xwʔuxw təʔteʔe k syemins kʔmiʔmeʔ tk speʔec. ʔeʔ naʔm tk ʔloxw ekwu. təʔteʔe k syemins xeʔ xzums ʔ kʔpuxw, ʔes kʔwenes wuciʔe tk peyeʔ tk cuʔ nke təʔ xzum. təʔe nke te ciʔ nke teʔe ʔe ekwu k sməstens xwuuy. nke k skwenes wuciʔe ʔ ciʔ təʔe tk kʔpuxw, ʔes nmstens wuciʔe he nkəxw ʔeʔ he scəqum nke nəʔe, ʔeʔ naʔm tk ʔəxt ekwu. ʔuʔ ciʔ te ʔloxw təʔteʔe k syemins ʔ kʔmiʔmeʔʔspeʔec. naʔm tk ʔloxw ekwu ʔeʔ ʔuʔ xəʔe nkəxw ʔeʔ scəqum nəʔe ʔe ekwu ks wuciʔe nke təʔe kʔmiʔmeʔ ekwu xeʔ tk kʔpuxw ciʔ nke təʔe. ʔe ekwu ks məstens ʔuʔ naʔm tk yé ekwu naʔm tk ʔəxt ʔeʔ teʔe nke ks ʔloxw ʔes yemins ʔuʔ ʔesčəkstes ʔem!

They get up to 'Coldwater' and they arrive at the Auntie's home and they knock on the door, there is no answer. Little Bear is very hungry and very impatient. On this LONG, table they see 3 bowls. Little Bear tries the big bowl, which is Indian pudding and had a mixture of fermented salmon eggs. It is very hot! Little Bear does not like it and he went on to the next medium sized bowl. Inside the bowl was 'nkəxw' and there were berries, like Saskatoon pudding and its still very hot! Little Bear didn't like it so he's going to try the other bowl now. He tries the other bowl of 'nkəxw,' this saskatoon pudding is JUST right and he finishes it all, so it is ALL GONE!

ʔe ekwu k swikms te kʔmiʔmeʔ tk nʔuytt. ʔe ekwu ks naʔm tk yé nke ʔuʔ naʔm tk ʔwəyt. ksəwt nke te k sʔwəyts ʔuʔ ciʔ te nke ʔuʔ xəʔe ks niʔpiikns te ʔixweʔ te siʔqt. ʔe ekwu k sqəʔnims ʔ skixzeʔ ʔeʔ ʔ sqaczeʔs ʔescuntm, "Qəyʔte!, Qəyʔte meʔ! ʔex ʔe ks xwəst kt ʔuʔ wəʔe ks kicx xəʔe ʔ skoz ʔuʔ xəʔe ʔuʔ xeʔe xwuuy ʔeks keʔ sʔəʔxans kt ʔes xwəst kt.

ʔe ekwu k swikms te kʔmiʔmeʔ tk nʔuytt. ʔe ekwu ks naʔm tk yé nke ʔuʔ naʔm tk ʔwəyt. ksəwt nke te k sʔwəyts ʔuʔ ciʔ te nke ʔuʔ xəʔe ks niʔpiikns te ʔixweʔ te siʔqt. ʔe ekwu k sqəʔnims ʔ skixzeʔ ʔeʔ ʔ sqaczeʔs ʔescuntm, "Qəyʔte!, Qəyʔte meʔ! ʔex ʔe ks xwəst kt ʔuʔ wəʔe ks kicx xəʔe ʔ skoz ʔuʔ xəʔe ʔuʔ xeʔe xwuuy ʔeks keʔ sʔəʔxans kt ʔes xwəst kt.

Little Bear is now tired as he just finished eating and wants to rest now. He's going to sit down. He sees this great big chair and he has to have his mother help him up onto this chair. It is really, really hard - hard like this (pounds the table). This chair is too hard, too tough too big for Little Bear to sit on. It was also very smelly so he gets some help to get down. He doesn't like that chair! Then he tries the middle chair. The middle chair is too soft, it has a hole in it and he falls down onto the floor. Then he tries the little chair and the little chair fell, and broke. He gets up from the floor and since he couldn't sit down, he says, "I'm going to go and lie down"

So now he's going to see some beds. Well he tries the big bed, it's too hard, and he comes down from there. He's trying the middle bed, that one's too soft with too many feathers and lots of grass in the mattress. He finds it too uncomfortable and he doesn't like that. Finally Little Bear falls asleep in the little bed and Mother Bear does not wake up till almost lunchtime the next day. Mother Bear tells him, "Get up! Your Auntie's going to be here, you have to eat and then we got to go back home to Sxəxenx." He gets up to eat, and that was the adventure of the three little bears.

This story is available on the First Voices website. View & listen by clicking the following link or scan the QR code to follow along:

<https://www.firstvoices.com/nlekepmxcin/stories/6b5fc8b9-92ea-4a05-80c1-e558094d1ebc>

- This story is a translation from the Three Bears and Goldilocks Story. The Storyteller changed to the familiar local placenames so that when the listener is able to recognize the area. The Storyteller tells about the Three Bears travelling from Shackan up to Coldwater and stopping along the way.
- Other Storytellers can change the placenames and add on to the story as they wish.



FEEL THE BEAT - EVENT PHOTOS!



CULTURE TEAM UPDATES - FEEL THE BEAT

March 10th 2026

Feel The Beat (FTB) was a success the night the event happened! Hosting the event was exactly what the Coldwater community needed and had asked for.

We shared a meal together and offered activities that helped everyone feel a little lighter. We had 86 people attend, with the majority being CIB members and their relations.

The Huckleberry Dancers were invited to bring in good medicine and support the community in healing from recent grief.

We also brought in three people to help brush off negative energy and sorrow, and many community members and relations chose to be brushed off.

We provided medicine bag kits, and most of the relations picked one up—they were really excited to make their own. It was also mentioned that, in our traditions, your first medicine bag should be given away.

We also brought materials for making ties, which are used for protection, and many relations made some to take home.

It was really nice to see community members come together, especially the little ones running around, yelling and laughing. Overall, the night was a big success and gave meaningful ways for the community to begin healing from our losses.



Elijah Kennedy, Cultural Coordinator



WISE WORDS FROM OUR ELDER RONALD NED

SPRING EQUINOX CYCLE

“All my life, I've heard, I've watched and listened. When I woke up this morning, my eyes told me it's a good morning. I'm alive. You have a day to live with your experiences. I went out the door, and I felt sunshine; it's speaking to me, the land

speaking to me already. I saw the light, and listened outside, outside is talking to me, the animals are speaking.

You often wonder what the animals are saying. They are making a new cycle, preparing to pair up, and have another generation of little ones. After a while, you will hear them, the little ones talking, and they are listening in a good manner.

I grew up and listened to the outdoors. I wouldn't trade it for nothing! It all happens out there. All my life, it has spoken to me. It makes me happy it's a new cycle and Some things are certain: the wind is blowing, and I have heard it over and over for years. Why the wind, what might the wind do? It melts the snow to make water and brings it to the land. We are in that cycle.”



COMMUNITY SERVICES TEAM UPDATES - FEBRUARY

The Nooatich Girls Group, offered twice a month for girls ages 8–14, continues to grow through collaboration between Nooaitch Indian Band, Citxw Nlaka’pamux Assembly, Scw'exmx Community Health Services Society, and Nlaka'pamux Health Services Society. There are 12 girls who attend the program from Nooaitch.

Each gathering begins with snacks, games, and a talking circle, helping the girls ground themselves, connect, and build relationships before moving into the day’s learning session.

Meet & Greet with Program Partners

In February, the girls had the opportunity to meet all collaborating staff. Together, they:

- Introduced themselves
- Created shared group guidelines
- Signed a group agreement

Creating Our Vision Tree

With support from Citxw Nlaka’pamux Assembly, the girls built a beautiful vision tree that reflects their goals and what they hope to learn throughout the program. Each girl wrote her ideas on a leaf and attached it to the tree, which is now displayed at every session as a reminder of their intentions.

Learning About Emotions

Scw'exmx Community Health Services Society facilitated an engaging session on:

- Identifying emotions
- Understanding emotional symptoms
- Developing healthy coping and regulation strategies

The girls practiced grounding techniques, including breathing exercises, to help them manage big feelings in healthy ways.



Willa Ermineskin, Community Prevention Worker



Lucynda Russell-Rabbit, Community Prevention Team Leader



MMIWG2S WALKS



Citxw Nlaka’pamux Assembly, alongside our partners, invites community members to join us for a Red Dress Walk on May 5 at 12:00 pm.

We will begin and end at Citxw (1840 Nicola Ave), walking a short 1.2 km loop through downtown Merritt. This gathering is held to raise awareness, create space for reflection, and honour those affected by the MMIWG2S+ crisis and the impacts it continues to have on our communities.

We are honoured to be hosting this walk in collaboration with Scw’emx Child and Family, Nlaka’pamux Health, Shackan, Interior Community Services, Conayt Friendship Society.

Light refreshments will be provided following the walk. All are welcome to attend.

Event Details:

- Date: May 5
- Time: 12:00 pm
- Location: Citxw, 1840 Nicola Ave
- Route: 1.2 km loop through downtown Merritt
- Food: Light refreshments following the walk

MMIWG2S WALKS



You are Invited to SD58
Merritt Secondary School's



AWARENESS WALK

MMIWG2S+

Tuesday, May 5th

11:27am - 12:44pm (C Block)



HAND DRUMMERS WELCOME. WEAR RED

Students will gather for a brief assembly in the gym followed by a walk through a designated route led by the RCMP. If you can, bring signs with photos of loved ones, posters, etc.

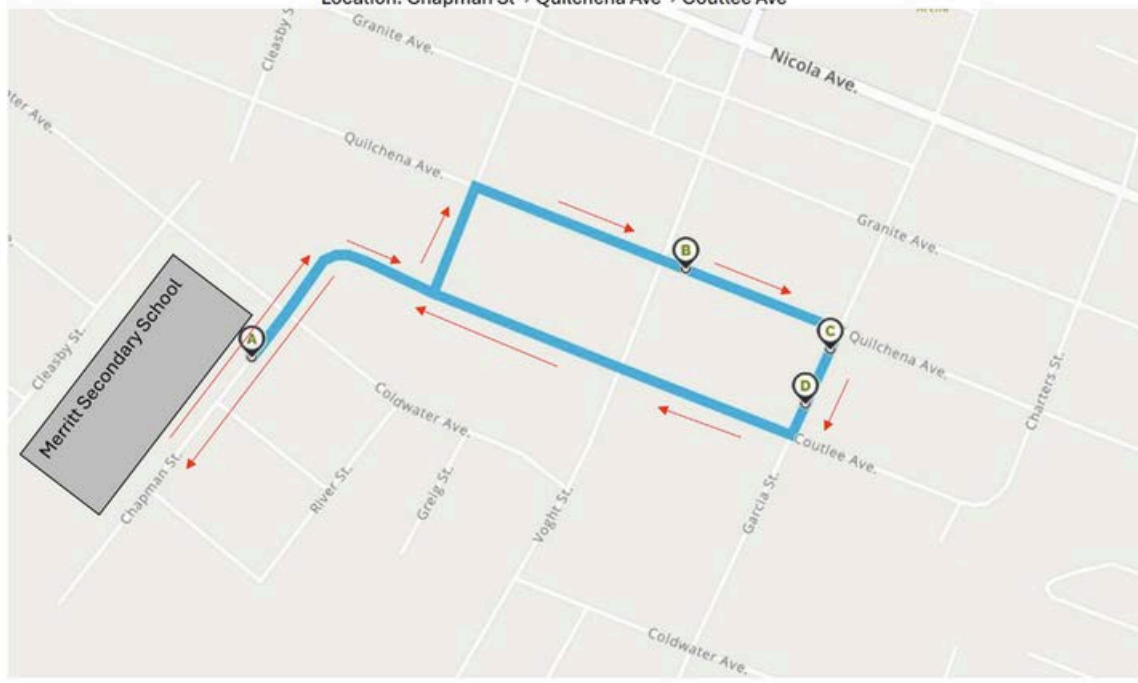
If you have any questions contact Steffanie Michel (250) 378-5131 or
Dawn Williams at dwilliams@365.sd58.bc.ca



Merritt Secondary School MMIWG2S+ Route

May 5, 2026

Location: Chapman St → Quilchena Ave → Coutlee Ave



MMIW AWARENESS WALK

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

10:30am - Johnny's on the Rez

11:30am - Shulus Arbour

Light lunch will be provided



We welcome you to join us

CALLING ALL
HAND
DRUMMERS

*For More Information
Contact.*

Carole Basil at (250) 378-5157

Please see the revised location of the start of the MMIW Walk is at Johnny's on the Rez. Due to the parking lot at the Shulus Hall is under construction.

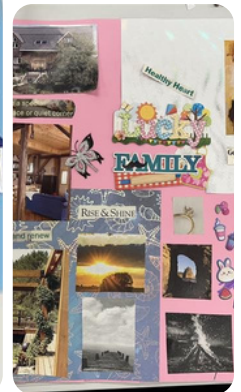


WOMEN'S GROUP VISION BOARDS 2026 FEBRUARY

Our Women's Group recently gathered for a beautiful evening of connection and creativity. Indigenous women from across the community came together to create vision boards, share a meal, and spend meaningful time with one another.

It was a space filled with laughter, stories, encouragement, and the strength that comes from women supporting women. Through creativity and conversation, the group honoured culture, shared hopes for the future, and lifted each other up in a good way.

Together, we continue to build a circle of support, belonging, and empowerment, one gathering at a time.



*Krystal Langer,
Family Wellness Navigator*



*Ali Antoine,
Family Wellness Navigator*

MEN'S GROUP LIFESKILLS AND WELLNESS CONFERENCE

February 28 to March 1, 2026

The Men's Group hosted their second annual Wellness Conference at the NVIT gym, bringing together 89 men from the surrounding Nicola Valley communities and as far away as Canim Lake. Participants attended life skills and wellness workshops led by more than 25 facilitators, and enjoyed a live performance by Conway "Smudgepan" Kootenay on the first day.

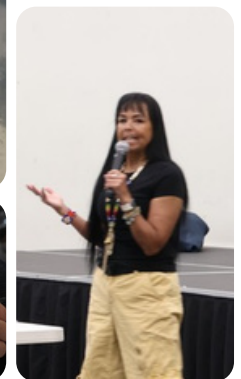
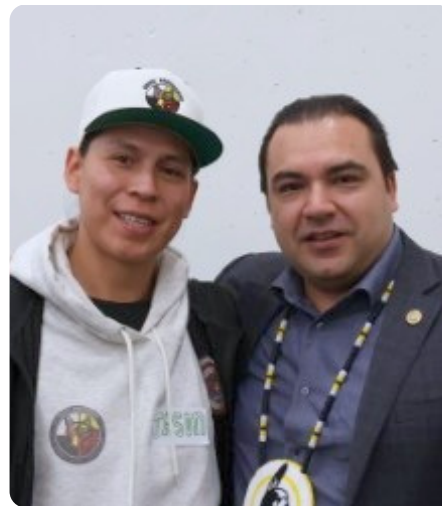
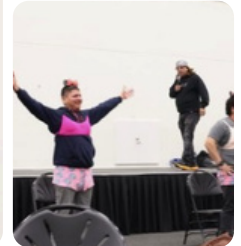
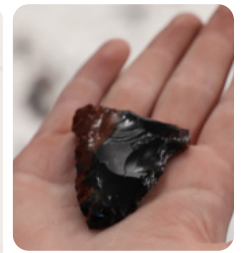
Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly (CNA) provided conference swag, and we received generous donations, including door prizes and swag bags from Journey Into Transitions House, NVIT, NHSS, Upper Nicola Indian Band, Shackan Indian Band, and Lower Nicola Indian Band. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to everyone who contributed to making this event such a success for our relations.

We also invited Elders from the Indian Residential School Survivors Society, who offered a wellness circle and brushing off with a smudge. NVIT was an incredible supporter, setting up the event and providing the facility free of charge. A huge thank-you to Dr. John Chenoweth, CEO & President of NVIT. We were welcomed through a cedar-filled arch with support from CNA, K'en T'em, and our amazing SCFSS Child and Family Wellness teams including security.

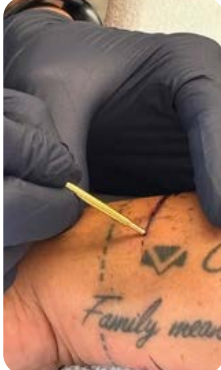
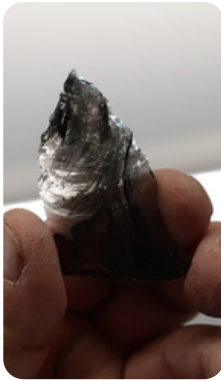
We'd also like to thank our caterer, Christine Chillihitzia, who generously donated her catering honorarium to support the Quilchena Youth Horse Riding Club, currently fundraising to help their youth compete in the Little Britches Rodeo. The meals she provided were delicious.



Jason Ermineskin, Men's Group Coordinator



MEN'S GROUP UPDATES: LIFESKILLS AND WELLNESS CONFERENCE



The Men's Group received congratulations from all levels of support, but our biggest thank-you goes to our relations for showing up for yourselves, and for the nations you represent. You are doing the good work we hoped for all year.

For our other events, the Men's Group recently completed our in-community sweats in Upper Nicola. Among all participating bands, we saw the highest turnout from Nooaitch relations, while our lowest turnout was just one relation from a supporting community.

Over the past six weekends, the Men's Group hosted one sweat per weekend, pausing only during our Life Skills and Wellness Conference.

With support from CNA and our in-community Men's Group delegates, we were able to find facilitators in each community to help organize the sweats, along with local caterers, supporting our call to action to Grow Our People.

The Men's Group wants to extend our gratitude to the community managers and delegates from each community for supporting the men's mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical wellness. Speaking from the bottom of our hearts here within the Men's Group.

humeł, way, All my relations.

Remember, together we are better.



Jason Ermineskin, Men's Group Coordinator

YOUTH TEAM UPDATES - YOUTH TRANSITION PROGRAM

Gathering our Voices - 21st Anniversary March 16th-20th, 2026

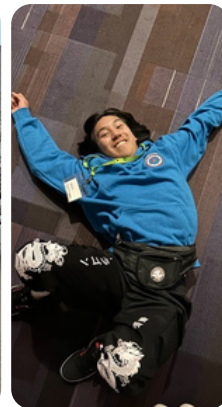
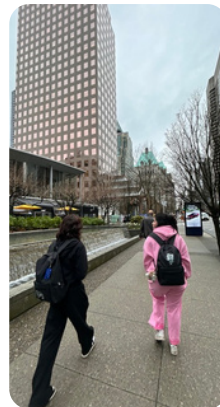
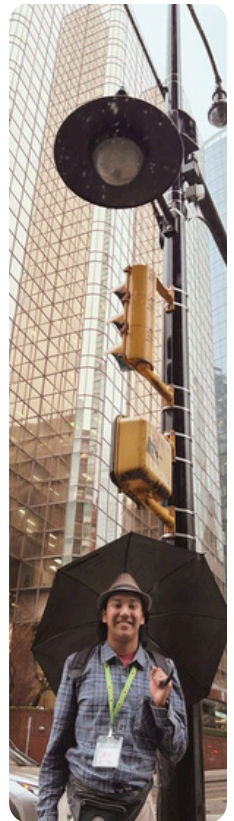
Over the course of four days, delegates from across Canada gathered to take part in cultural ceremonies and educational workshops. The event also included a movie night, dance party, artisan market, fashion show, exhibitor fair, and a talent show, creating a vibrant and welcoming environment for learning, expression, and connection.

The main goal of GOV is to add value to each delegate's personal journey and help them recognize how they can contribute to the growth and well-being of their local communities. While attending, our youth participated in a wide range of workshops that focused on cultural knowledge, wellness, creativity, and personal development, including powwow dancing, hoop dancing, Salish wool weaving, safe consent, yoga, strength and medicine teachings, an AI workshop, and more.

GOV also offered our youth the opportunity to travel, step outside of their comfort zones, meet new people, and try new experiences. Over the five days, they attended multiple ceremonies, workshops, and activities and participated in a giveaway, receiving items such as Polaroid cameras, sports equipment, and beaded hats. One particularly meaningful experience was an honouring ceremony for individuals who have experienced being in care.



Candice Dolman, Youth Transition Coordinator



YOUTH TEAM UPDATES - YOUTH TRANSITION PROGRAM

Gathering our Voices - 21st Anniversary March 16th-20th, 2026

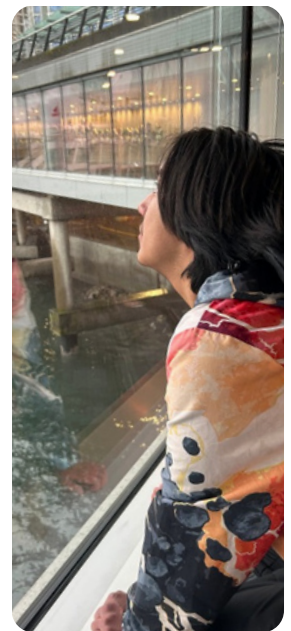
Several youth shared reflections on their experiences, expressing excitement about returning next year, interest in becoming youth workers or future chaperones, and appreciation for workshops such as powwow dancing. In total, seven youth attended, representing Coldwater, Upper Nicola, Lower Nicola, and urban communities.



The event also sparked ideas for future program development. One highlight was a sensory room that offered quiet space and hands-on crafts for youth who may feel overstimulated and need time to regulate. This could be beneficial to include in future gatherings or programming.

Cultural supports were woven throughout the event. A dedicated cultural support room and an Elders room were available, where chaperones and delegates could spend time with an Elder, receive a brushing-off, and participate in smudging. These spaces provided grounding, comfort, and cultural connection throughout the conference.

Scw'exmx Child and Family Services is proud to support our youth's growth, curiosity, and reconnection to culture. Prevention is truly protection.



 *Shay Lee Jack*
Youth Connections Team Leader

FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY CLAIMS INFO SESSIONS

On February 26, 2026 Scw'exmx Child and family held an information session in the KLC gym. We welcomed several community members to come learn from a settlement Claims Helper about who is eligible for compensation, how to apply, and where to get support.



After this session we were able to welcome a claims helper back for some one-on-one sessions, and plan to schedule additional dates where community members can come meet individually with the Claims Helper to get support with their application.



Cyndi Jager, Youth Wellness Manager



Stephanie Tourand, Community Manager

<p>THURS - FEBRUARY 26 5-7 PM KLC Gym (2475 Merritt Ave)</p> <p>First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement Info Session</p>	<p>DOOR PRIZES!</p> <p>DINNER SERVED AT 5!</p>  <p>This session is for anyone who wants a clearer understanding about the Settlement - including Class Members, family, caregivers, and organizations that provide support.</p>
<p>If you're wondering whether you, or a loved one may be <i>eligible for compensation</i>, a claims helper is coming to share <i>who may qualify</i>, what the Claims Process looks like and where to find support.</p> <p>IN THIS INFORMATION SESSION, YOU'LL LEARN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the First Nations Child and Family Services Settlement is • Who may be eligible in each of the two Classes • How to complete and submit a Claim Form • What free, confidential supports are available, including one-on-one help from Claims Helpers • How to safely and privately connect with someone who can guide you through the process 	 <p>Scw'exmx Child & Family</p> <p>Questions? Contact cyndi.jager@scwexmx.com or call 250-378-2771</p>



CHECK OUT OUR RESOURCE POSTCARD!

Scw'exmx Child & Family's Resource Guide on: First Nations Child and Family Services Settlement

You may be eligible if you are either:

1 Former child-in-care removed from your home on reserve between 1991-2022 (Removed Child Class)

Over 19? You have until **March 2028** to apply.

OR

2 The Caregiving Parent of a child that was placed into care (Family Class)

Under 19? You can apply between the **ages 17-22**.

Need Free Support?


call toll-free at **1-833-852-0755** (5am-5pm, Mon-Fri) or visit www.FNChildClaims.ca to connect with Claims Helpers for free one-on-one help with the application.
Scw'exmx Child & Family is scheduling dates to have the claims helper in-person to support

Free mental health and wellness support is available at HopeForWellness.ca

Reach out to Scw'exmx Child & Family **(250) 378-2771** and ask to speak to our community navigator, or your existing support person.

Have more Questions?
 Check out the FAQs at fnchildclaims.ca/help-resources/faq/ or Applications, guides, and how-to videos at fnchildclaims.ca/claims/forms/

SCAN FOR MORE INFO ON THE CLAIM & SUPPORTS





STOPPING THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AWARENESS WEEK MARCH 8-12

What is sexual exploitation?

Sexual exploitation of children and youth under the age of 18 years is any type of sexual activity with children and youth in exchange for money, drugs, food, shelter or any other considerations. This is the case whether or not children or youth consider themselves to be consenting. Sexual exploitation of children and youth is never considered prostitution or consensual. It is sexual exploitation when children and youth:

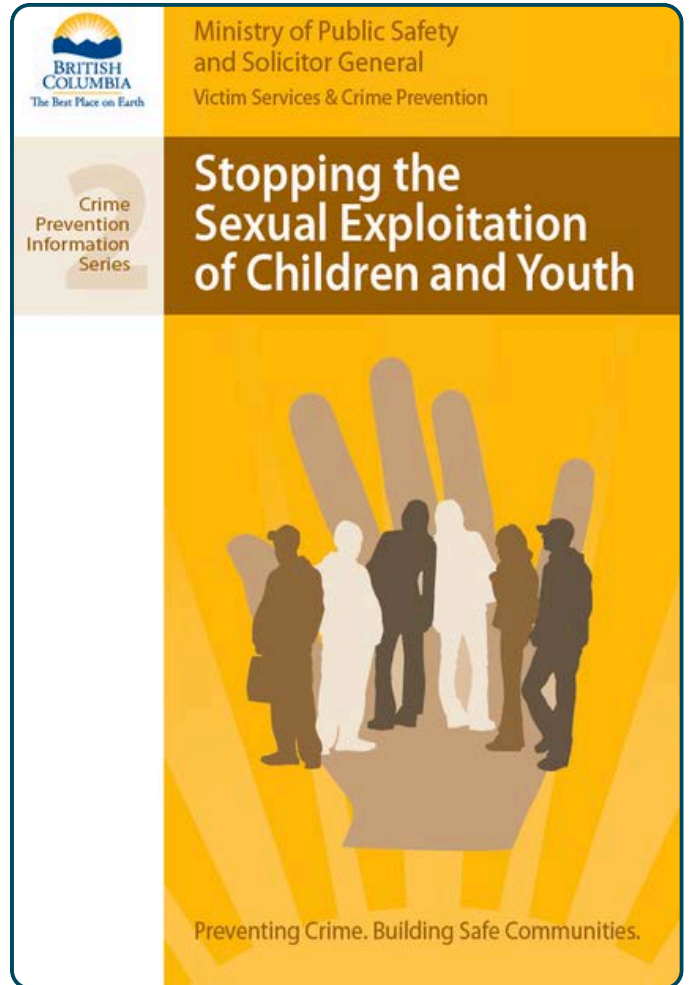
- Are sexually abused by adults
- Provide sex for a place to sleep, a meal or a ride
- Trade sexual activities in exchange for money, drugs, alcohol, gifts, services, or other items
- Are sexually trafficked
- Are seduced, manipulated or coerced to take sexual pictures/videos of themselves (i.e., child pornography) that can be sent over the internet.

Some youth feel they are not being exploited, and that they have chosen to exchange sexual acts for resources. But sexual exploitation is not employment or a chosen occupation; it is a form of sexual abuse.

Preventing Crime. Building Safe Communities.

Age of consent – In Canada, under the Criminal Code, it is a crime for an adult to engage in sexual activity with a person under the age of 16, whether or not the young person appears willing to participate.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/crime-prevention/community-crime-prevention/publications/crime-prev-series2-sexual-exploitation-children-youth.pdf>



LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE BY DOWNLOADING THIS INFORMATIVE RESOURCE



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Scw'exmx Child and Family Services Society (SCFSS) is family-centered and guided by n̓eʔk̓épmx and syil̓x traditional knowledge and principles. SCFSS utilizes prevention and protection strategies with the collective goal to keep children with their families and communities. SCFSS recognizes historical challenges and is guided by traditional strength and wisdom to build family and community capacity in a monumental shift from protection to prevention.

As an Indigenous organization serving the n̓eʔk̓épmx and syil̓x communities, SCFSS prioritizes the hiring of n̓eʔk̓épmx and syil̓x community members. Following community member priority and pursuant to Section 41 of the BC Human Rights Code, preference may be given to qualified applicants of Indigenous ancestry.



Current Postings

- Community Services Manager
- Director of Culture and Caring
- Executive Director

APPLY NOW

See our full postings and apply on our website at www.scwexmx.com



GROWING OUR PEOPLE - WELCOMING OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS!

We are so excited to announce all of the new hires that have started in 2026! Please help us in giving our new staff a warm welcome!



Ethan Sheena-Patrick
Community Prevention Worker



Mindy Garcia
Community Prevention Worker



Desiree Cosman
Mental Wellness Clinical Manager



Lenessa Seward
Agency Navigator



Suzie Cartlidge
Finance Clerk



Martina Garrido
Finance Clerk



Aly Ledene
Director of Secondary Prevention



Matthias MacLeod
Communications Coordinator



MorningStar Meldrum
Communications Coordinator

OPERATIONS TEAM UPDATE - RECENT OFFICE CHANGES

Between April 9–20, the Operations team has been actively supporting staff moves and workspace adjustments to prepare for upcoming onboarding, accommodate growing teams, and respond to internal changes across our offices. This period involved careful coordination to ensure minimal disruption while optimizing space and functionality.

At the KLC office, 27 staff members were relocated to better align teams and create space for new employees joining soon. As part of this refresh, 11 older wooden desks were removed and replaced with new standing desks, helping create a more flexible and ergonomic work environment tailored to staff needs.

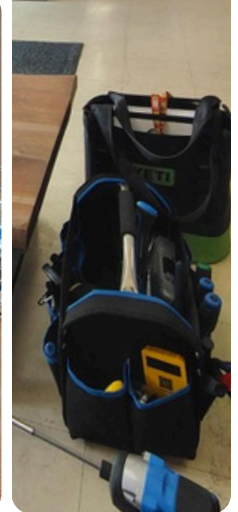
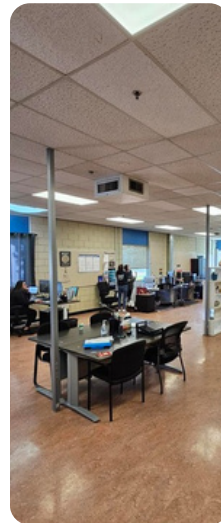
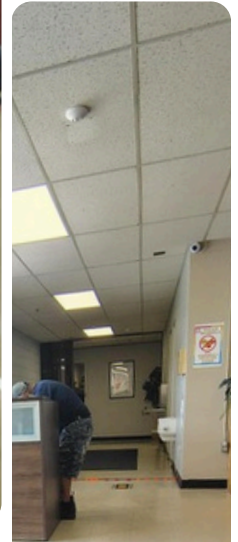
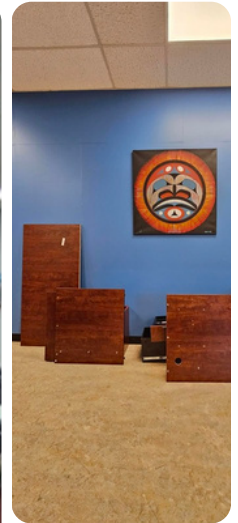
Across both the KLC and Downtown locations, a total of 21 desks were moved, and 20 new workstations were created. These updates included desk relocations as well as new stand-up desk installations. Each workspace was fully supported by IT, ensuring that all stations were properly set up, connected, and ready for immediate use.

To support these changes and prepare for future growth, 26 desks were ordered during this timeframe. Of these, 2 are currently in storage, and 8 are staged and ready for upcoming new hires, helping ensure a smooth onboarding process in the weeks ahead.

A big thank you to Operations, IT, and everyone involved for their flexibility and collaboration in making these transitions smooth, efficient, and well-coordinated.



Raleigh Issac, Operations Coordinator



SCW'EXMX CHILD & FAMILY NEWSLETTER SIGN UP!



Would you like to receive newsletters and updates from Scw'exmx Child & Family? Scan or click the QR code below to sign up for our newsletter today!



www.scwexmx.com • facebook.com/scwexmxchildandfamily • Instagram.com/scwexmxchildandfamily

Scw'exmx Child & Family

Child Wellness Concern After Hours? Please Call:

1-800-663-9122

Children's Help Line for Children and Youth

Do you need help?

If you don't feel safe or you have a concern, you can call this number 24-hours a day for free from any phone.

310-1234

Scw'exmx Child & Family Services Society

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Downtown Address: 1988 Quilchena Ave., Merritt, BC V1K 1B8

Culture & Language Address: 2099 Nicola Avenue, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8

Mailing Address: 1750 Lindley Creek Rd, Merritt, BC V1K 0A3

Prevention Hub Address: 2475 Merritt Ave, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8

Quilchena Address: Unit #2 - 3512 Highway 5A, Quilchena, BC V0E 2R0

Telephone: 250-378-2771

www.scwexmx.com

Facebook Page: facebook.com/scwexmxchildandfamily



Healthy Children



Healthy Communities



Healthy Families