



Haida Child and Family Services Newsletter



K'yuu Gawtlass (New Path)
Logo design by: Justin Seward

Haida Gwaii Families, Communities and Members

This newsletter is to report on activities and events that have taken place within the Haida Child and Family Service Agency since our last Annual General Meeting.

Current Programs – Family Outreach Program, Gawtlaa gwii.uu iisdaalasaang Research Project

Completed Project – K'yuu Gawtlass (New Path Symposium)

Completed Program –Family Group Conferencing

Staff

Susan Williams, Executive Director

Jennifer Russ, Executive Assistant

Alana Valentinsen , Executive Assistant

Tammy Luciow, Social Worker

Shelley Gladstone, Cultural Advisor

Jana McLeod, Family Outreach Wkr

Norman Moraes, Family Outreach Wkr

Lucille Bell, Research Coordinator

Camille Collinson, Researcher

Bernard Kerrigan, Researcher

Program Support and Partners

Governments, other funders or financial contributors, networking agencies, local and off-island trainers and facilitators, community and volunteers have contributed to ensure the continued success of providing holistic programs and services to support and strengthen families on Haida Gwaii.

Community suggestions and volunteers are always appreciated.

Board Members

Wayne Wilson, Chair

Sid Davidson, Co-Chair

Dorothy Russ, Community Member

Robert Williams, SBC

May Russ, Community Member

Lisa White, OMVC

Robert Davis , CHN Rep

Chief Thaasl, Hereditary Chiefs Council

Chief CheeXial, Hereditary Chiefs Council

Events Hosted, Activities and

Workshops, 2010

-Swan Bay, Rediscovery Camp

August, /10

-Sgaavy Yas. Canoe Trip, Aug11/10

-Various Child&Youth group field trips and activities year round

-PTSD Training, K'aay, Oct25/10

-K'yuu Gawtlass (New Path)

Child and Youth Gathering, Massett and Skidegate, Sept 30-Oct 1

-Child and Youth Symposium,

Massett and Skidegate, Oct31-Nov3

-Community is the Medicine Training, K'aay, Oct 4-8/10

-New Directions Research Team

B.C.Delegated Agencies Research

Projects: Traditional Ways of Being

Families Gathering, Harrison Hot

Springs

-Touchstones of Hope Gatherings in

Nov 2 -3, Haida Gwaii, Massett

-Reconciliation Planning Session,

Aug17

HCFSS Annual General Meeting, Nov6

OUR MISSION

To become self-determining in supporting the children and the families of the Haida Nation. We intend on facilitating and restoring the respect that guided HCFSS relationship and values.

VISION

To create healthy, safe environments for our children and families by developing and delivering holistic programs and services that model our traditional Haida Ways of life.

VALUE

We value what exemplifies our traditional way of life: love, respect,

Bill McKenzie joined this agency in the infancy years. Bill shared the Haida's vision of, and his knowledge and commitment to, developing an agency that would make a difference in decreasing the number of children in ministry care and ensuring the Haida families had input into decisions made for the children. Bill made several attempts to retire but returned to support the board and staff. With the appointment of the new Director we wish the best for Bill in his overdue retirement.

Did you know that?

In B.C. 50% of the children in care are aboriginal. In the North, 4 out of 5 children in care are aboriginal. 80% of these aboriginal children are placed in non-aboriginal homes (shared information at the Touchstone Gathering, Nov 3).

Active recruitment for aboriginal foster homes continues through delegated agencies and MCFD.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a foster parent, please call our office or the Ministry office at 250 559 4403.

Council of the Haida Nation Project-Kunst'aa guu/Kunst'aay,ah

HCFSS, local leaders, 2 levels of government (Province, Feds), networking agencies and community members joined our Haida government to rectify the social and economic disparities on Haida Gwaii through a Reconciliation Process.

CHN will continue to explore economic initiatives in conjunction with the social initiatives with HCFSS' commitment to putting 'the child at center.'

Information gathered from the Research Project and other Island resources will be utilized in the development of new policies to amend the Child and Community Service Act that the Ministry Social Work Teams currently follows. The information taken from the research project, service agencies and people who carry the knowledge will ensure that Haida traditions and values will be incorporated in the new policies. This will be presented to Parliament for consideration to legislate into an amended Child and Community Services Act, a new way of working with Children and Families, **our way** of ensuring our children are being cared for in a manner that respects and addresses the needs of our children and families.

A key component of this work was the work conducted at the Youth Symposium, K'yuu Gawtlax (New Path) where the youth spoke and said that they have "RIGHTS THAT ARE A CENTRAL PART OF THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LEGACY (see Youth Declaration handout)" and local leadership, service providers and communities witnessed the CHN President, Guujaaw, accept the Haida Nation Children And Youth Declaration and signed off on the Declaration to **"embrace a child-centered approach that holds our children and youth in high regard, recognizing that Haida children and youth are the future and the future is now."**

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Main Office

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Haida Child and Family Services Staff, Administration, Board and Volunteers would like to express their appreciation for your continued support, participation and interest in the work we are striving to do on behalf of our children and families on Haida Gwaii.

We would like to say how AA to all leaders and communities for their dedication and commitment to processes that will ensure the children on Haida Gwaii have a promising future for themselves and future generations.