



HAIDA CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

EDITION NUMBER 6:
WINTER 2018



Matriarchs Paving the Way

HCFSS met with our Matriarchs from across the island to discuss a cultural protocol initiative for our agency on January 15th, 2018. Indigenous Perspectives Society provided a three-day Family Outreach Training session to our Matriarchs that will help us with the work ahead.

Office Hours & Contact Information:

Open from:
Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 4:30pm

PLEASE SEND ALL MAIL TO:
MASSETT, P.O. BOX 86, VOT 1M0

Old Massett Office:

247 Eagle Ave.
Masset, BC, VOT 1M0
Phone: 250-626-5257
Toll Free: 1-888-626-5257
Fax: 250-626-5287

Skidegate Office:

191 "A", 3rd Ave.
Skidegate, BC, VOT 1S1
Phone: 250-559-8400
Toll Free: 1- 855-559-8400
Fax: 250-559-7746

<http://www.hcfss.bc.ca/>

Mission

The Haida Child and Family Services Society is to become self-determining in supporting the children and the families of the Haida Nation.

We will assume responsibility for child welfare services presently provided by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

We also provide services to families and children who are in need of information, support and direction.

Vision

To create healthy, safe environments for our children and families, by developing and delivering holistic programs and services that model our traditional Haida way of life; that of love, respect, nurturing, caring and sharing.

We have a new Facebook Page

@HaidaCFSS

Our Facebook page is the easiest way to keep up to date with all that is happening at HCFSS.

Staff

The Board of Directors are represented by:

William Russ, Chair	- CHN Representative
May Russ, Treasurer	- Hereditary Chief, Old Massett
Gitkinjuaas	- Hereditary Chief, Skidegate
Adeana Young & Freda Davis	- Old Massett Representatives
Pat Gellerman & Michelle (Missy) McDonald	- Skidegate Representatives

HCFSS Staff

Karen Wainwright	- Director of Practice
Lyndale George	- Director of Programs and Services
Shelley Gladstone	- Generalist Social Worker
Char Harasymchuk	- Generalist Social Worker
Lisa Bell	- Family Support Worker
Vacant	- Family Group Conference Coordinator
Shirley Jones	- Administrative Assistant
Ruby Bell	- Facilities: Old Massett
Cheryl Pearson	- Facilities: Skidegate



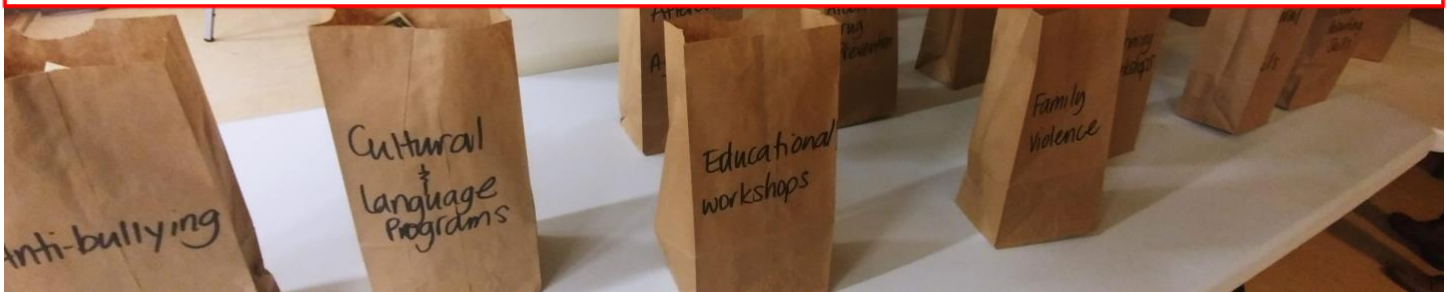
2017-2018 Highlights

Funding and Programs

- HCFSS received one time only funding of \$25,000 from the Indigenous Perspectives Society to work with the CHN Matriarchs to develop policies on working with Children in Care, and \$10,000 from the Victoria Foundation to train the Matriarchs for future work with families experiencing challenges.
 - We have met with our Matriarchs 5 times since receiving this funding to work on a cultural protocol initiative between HCFSS and MCFD.
 - We hosted the Indigenous Perspectives Society for a three-day training session with our Matriarchs on child welfare. The training was very well attended and helped us gain a better understanding of their roles in child welfare on Haida Gwaii.
- We received one-time only funding of \$25,000 from the Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC, formerly INAC) to meet with community members through Community Consultation Dinners to determine the needs of the two communities in relation to Programming and Family Services.
 - We hosted three Community Engagement dinners in both Old Massett and Skidegate. There will be at least one more dinner in each community and possibly more in the future to determine the family service needs of our communities. We had great attendance at both dinners, providing us with valuable information about how to move forward as a community.
 - We received one-time only funding of \$75,000 from DISC to implement programs and activities identified from the Community Consultation Dinners.
 - The agency has partnered with Haida Gwaii Restorative Justice Parenting Program and provided shared funding for the parenting program open to families from both communities, and has started to plan many more exciting programs based on the feedback received from the community dinners.
- We received one-time only funding of \$32,000 from MCFD to hire a writer to develop 10 modules for a Haida parenting program, including cultural activities such as drum making, weaving, food gathering, and preservation programs. We hired Dana Moraes, who is in the process of designing the workshops.
- On February 1st, 2018, the Federal Government's commitment to Action for Indigenous Child and Family Services Reform was released as a result of a tribunal that found them guilty of discriminating against Indigenous children and families.
 - Going forward, funds will be easier to access from BC and federal governments to provide services to children and families on Haida Gwaii.
- The DISC budget has increased by \$153,000 per year, allowing us to hire Char Harasymchuk, our new Generalist Social Worker in the Massett office, who has quickly become an asset to our team.
 - We will also consider a possible part time Parenting Program Coordinator in the near future.
 - We hosted Jason Rupke, our practicum student from the UVic Social Work program, for three months.

Activities

- We donated orange shirts to the Chief Matthews school for September 30, 2017 to support the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.
- We are now taking a larger role in the recruitment and retention of Family Care/Foster homes on Haida Gwaii.
- We were successful in getting "Signs of Safety" training to Haida Gwaii, in September 2017.
- We distributed Lifebooks to all Haida Children in Care, providing them with information on their family, clan and community.
- Family Support work has increased on island. We've received referrals for both Haida and non-Haida families from all across the island.
- Staff are now working with Youth transitioning out of care to independence teaching life skills, cooking, budgeting, etc.
- HCFSS has increased their support and interactions with Haida children living off-island.



If you know of a child or youth that may be at risk of harm or neglect, Please Report to the Ministry of Children and Family Development Centralized Screening: 1-800-663-9122

Page 2
HCFSS Newsletter No.6

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