

SUMMER 2022 EDITION

Family Ties (K'wseltkten)

A Stuxwtews child is all dressed up for Honouring our Elders Day.

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SECWÉPEMC
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES



WHO WE SERVE

Indigenous families and children living in the seven Secwépemc communities and Kamloops area. This includes: • Adams Lake • Bonaparte • Kamloops • Neskonlith • North Thompson • Skeetchestn • Whispering Pines/Clinton

Secwépemc Child and Family Services

MAIN OFFICE LOCATION

300 Chilcotin Road
Kamloops

URBAN OFFICE LOCATION

285 Seymour Street
Kamloops

WELLNESS OFFICE LOCATION

#3-275 Seymour Street
Kamloops

SCFSA acknowledges, with deep respect and gratitude, that our work takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Secwépemc speaking Peoples. We recognize the past, present, and future generations of the Secwépemc Peoples who help us as stewards of this land, as well as honour and celebrate this place. We honour our connection to this land and the teaching and healing that it offers.



QWEQWENTSÍN (GRATITUDE PRAYER)

*Tqeltkúkwpi7,
Creator,*

*Kukwstéc-kuc re pyin te sit'qt
Thank you for today*

*Kukwstéc-kuc ren k'wséltkten-kuc
Thank you for my family/relatives*

*Kukwstéc-kuc te xwexwéyt te stem
Thank you for giving us everything we need*

*Kukwstsétsemc
Thank you*

New Faces New Places

Meet some of the newbies who have recently joined the agency



TRISHA SHORSON
Community Mental Health Clinician
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? “I am Carrier, Haida, and Tsimshian.”
WHAT’S YOUR PASSION? “I like to bead, write, and paint. I love to spend time with family and friends.”



DEANNA WOLF EAR
Community Mental Health Clinician
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Siksika Nation
WHAT’S YOUR PASSION? “My professional background reflects my passion for justice and equity for all children and families of Indigenous descent.”



MADISON HARRIS
Family Preservation Caseworker
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Kamloops
WHAT’S YOUR PASSION? “I like to spend my time outside, going for walks and hikes. In the summers I like to spend my weekends camping or on a lake.”



ALYSSA TYLEE
Finance Associate
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? “My First Nation is McLeod Lake Indian Band and I was born and raised in Prince George.”
TELL US MORE “I am so honoured to become more connected to the First Nations in my surrounding area.”



NICHOLAS VAN SAPPEN
Mental Health Clinician
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Kamloops
TELL US MORE “I have a unique insight and deep compassion for individuals, families, and communities impacted by the pain and chaos of mental health issues.”



KRYSTAL WEEKS
Human Resources Coordinator
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? St’uxwtews (Bonaparte)
TELL US MORE “I am excited to work for an Indigenous organization and can participate in activities that have cultural teachings.”



GEORGIA VAN ROOYEN
Kinship Worker
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Salmon Arm
WHAT’S YOUR PASSION? “I’m passionate about supporting folks to create safety and to build healthy relationships.”



BRITNEY FOX
Family Preservation Caseworker
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Kamloops
WHAT’S YOUR PASSION? “I have a passion for anti-oppressive practice and empowering families to see the strengths.”

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS



Above, SCFSA staff deliver a new Bradley smoker to the Bonaparte Indian Band. The smoker was purchased thanks to a Local Food Infrastructure Grant (LFIG), which aims to prevent hunger through investments in infrastructure needs and increasing accessibility to healthy, nutritious, and ideally local foods within our community. At left, Agency staff meet up with our partners at Neskonalith at a Protocol Revision Agreement meeting.



We hosted a screening of the powerful documentary *For Love* in May. On hand were co-writer and co-producer Mary Teegee, and co-writer, co-producer and director Matt Smiley (seen at bottom right with Executive Director Yvonne Hare). Elder Colleen Seymour was also on hand to get us started in a positive way.

SCFSA AT THE MOVIES



MEET LYLE PAUL

Many of you have probably seen our Events Coordinator Lyle Paul at some of the many events he has helped organize since he started at the Agency. Maybe you caught him helping at

the Christmas party/parties, which brought us together, albeit in small groups, for the first time since COVID-19. Or maybe you saw him presiding over the “Kinship Connections” event that

celebrated our Out-of-Care Caregivers with the Agency’s first ever “hybrid” meeting — a mix of both in-person and online attendees and guests.

Then there was the screening of the documentary *For Love* in May, which featured both the filmmaker and producer answering questions after the screening at the Kamloops Paramount.

The subject matter of the film — Indigenous child welfare and the legacy of Residential Schools — made it a natural fit and Lyle and his team were able to get the word out so that the theatre was packed and the Agency was able to donate profits to the Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc — *Le Estcwicwéy* (*The Missing*) fund.

Let’s find out more about Lyle Paul:

Weytk-p
xwexwweyt-ep,

*Lyle Paul ren
skwekwst. I am
a proud member
from Tk’emlúps.*

*My partner is
Kathleen Ross
(Elkins) with
whom we have
two beautifully
awesome chil-
dren.*

*Ren qéq7etses
re Harry Paul Jr
re st’7ékwes re
Tk’emlúps.*

*Ren kík7eces
re Joan Paul
re st’7ékwes re
Tk’emlúps*

*Ren kye7e lu7 re
Martha Simpson
ell ren xpe7e lu7
re Harry Paul Sr*

*Ren kye7e lu7 re
Christine Tronson
ell ren xpe7e lu7
re Robert Tronson*

**Q: What brought
you to the
agency?**

I had been working in communications for Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc and I wanted to try something different. I felt that with my experience I would be a good fit. My background is in graphic design and audio, so a lot of those skills are used when it comes to planning and assisting with events.

**Q: Tell us about
your background**

I did two years of audio engineering at the Centre for Arts and Technology in Kelowna. I have always had a huge passion for music and that’s what drove me to take that program. That lead to many years of doing small setups, PA systems, small installations. At times there were there were also cool projects that would come along that needed some form of sound design.

**Q: What’s a highlight
of your time here?**

It would have be the Kamloops screening of the documentary *For Love* (The film, which is narrated by Shania Twain, exposes the link between residential schools and the 29,000 Indigenous children and youth in Canada’s child welfare system). We were able to take all the profits from ticket sales (\$2,800) and donate them to the Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc — *Le Estcwicwéy* (*The Missing*) fund. The attendance for that screening was awesome and the feedback was great.

**Q: How did that
come about?**

It started off with an email that I received from the director of the documentary, and then I investigated what we could do to make that event possible because it was such a great opportunity due to the subject matter.

It was a different experience of having to do everything from printing the movie poster for the theatre, to the advertising, to the communications with local media, etc. Just to see highway billboards advertising the event as I was driving by was pretty cool.

**Q: The grand opening
for our new building
is coming up. What
can we expect?**

There’s a lot of work we are putting into it, including an origin video about the Agency, which will be screened at the Grand Opening. It will feature drumming and singing from our Cultural Integration Team, whom we recorded in an actual studio and who sound amazing. Also included in the video will be a hyper-lapse film that I shot with a drone that will show the progress of the new building from start to finish.

**Q: What do you love to
do outside of work?**

Skateboarding with my kids, who are 9 and 13. I love music. Music is a huge passion. I still have a lot of my music production gear put away right now, which is super sad, but I’m hoping that it will come out of storage some time.

I also love graphic design, designing logos, designing mock ups, posters, everything that falls under the design tree.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & NOTICES

Secwépemc Child and Family Services



IS RECRUITING YOUTH TO JOIN THE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (YAC)

The Youth Advisory Council was formed in 2018 to ensure that youth not only have a voice in their own care, but also in the larger care system that is designed to support them. The YAC ensures that SCFSA holds a youth voice, and its policies and initiatives are informed by young people who have experienced care. YAC is also committed to improving social work practice, and to continually developing their leadership and advocacy skills.

Eligibility:

Be 16- 27 years old
Youth from or currently in care with SCFSA

INTERESTED IN MAKING AN DIFFERENCE IN CHILD WELFARE?

Seeking youth that are interested in making a difference in the care experiences of other youth and speaking about topics relevant to them. The YAC meets every last Tuesday of the month, with opportunity for further engagement. This is a volunteer position but an honorarium is provided.

Come SHARE, LEARN, and feel SUPPORTED in this space.

Please submit names

to Christina LeBlond, Youth Support Worker
christina.leblond@secwepemcfamilies.org



SCFSA & THE CULTURAL INTEGRATION TEAM

CULTURAL CAMP

LOON LAKE AUGUST 8-12

ROOM FOR 20 PARTICIPANTS AGES 12-19
Children in care with SCFSA will be prioritized
Leaving from Main Aug. 8 @ 9 a.m., returning Aug. 12 @ 3pm

TO REGISTER: ANGELA.PETERS@SECWPEMCFAMILIES.ORG



Prenatal Drop In

ARE YOU ABORIGINAL AND EXPECTING A BABY?

ADDRESS 285 SEYMOUR ST. KAMLOOPS, B.C. V2C 2E7

Come out and meet moms who are pregnant, seeking support, learn about baby and mother development in pregnancy, comfort measures for labor, find a Doula (Birth Support person)

Zoom is available if preferred register for a link

Refreshments and Healthy Snacks, older children welcome if you need to bring them

When First and third Friday of each month 1-2 o'clock

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION OR REGISTRATION

(250) 250-461-7237

Nicole.williams@secwepemcfamilies.org

Barb.fedora@secwepemcfamilies.org

POSTPARTUM SUPPORT

For Indigenous families/parent to new babies

When: online every first and third Tuesday of the month
By Zoom for the time being to stay safe during Covid-19

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month
1pm -2pm

RSVP TO: Crystal Bullock at

crystal.bullock@secwepemcfamilies.org

Phone: 250 320-4659

Group will be hosted by Crystal Bullock, Barb Fedora and Nicole Williams

Items covered are from the four parts of the medicine wheel including Breathing, diet and exercise, self-care, Sleep/taking a break, developing supports, resisting isolation, helping your body heal, mindfulness and so much more.