

## STAFF MEMBERS

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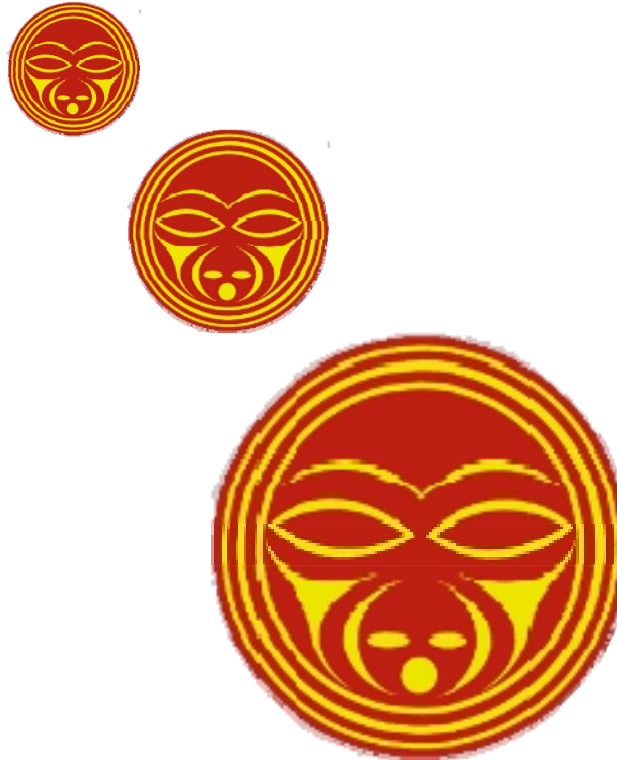
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## CONTACT

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## Vision

Our vision is of healthy children who will grow up connected to their families, communities and culture.

## Mandate

Our mandate is to provide child and family services rooted in cultural values and beliefs to restore and enhance the strength and resiliency in the Urban Aboriginal community.

## INTRODUCTION

Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services (SCCFS) is a dream come true for many Aboriginal people living in Victoria. For many years, Aboriginal people have worked together to build a better future for those who will come after us.

On September 17, 2002 our agency was born. Our name was given to us by John Aitken, a Coast Salish man who grew up in foster care.

John told us that because Cedar is sacred to all the Island First Nations, naming our agency "Surrounded by Cedar" is a good way to let children and families that come here know they are welcome in this place, and are welcome in our home.



## Services and Support

### Guardianship Workers

Presently, there are two Guardianship Workers who will develop and provide support services for children and their families. They will also work with children who are in the continuing custody of the Director to ensure that urban Aboriginal children in care receive services and support rooted in cultural values and beliefs.

### Resource Worker

Our resource social worker's role is to support, develop and provide training opportunities for caregivers of Urban Aboriginal children and youth in continuing care. This worker will also recruit new caregivers, guide them through the application process, conduct home studies, and coordinate retention events and family activities within the community.

### Aboriginal Child & Youth Counsellor

The Aboriginal Child and Youth Counselling Program offers 4 ten-week group sessions for urban Aboriginal children in care, their families, and caregivers.

The group sessions cover a range of topics, with a focus on the development of a positive Aboriginal identity, normalizing the experience of being in care, and creating appropriate support systems and resources for the children and youth.

### Cultural Programs Coordinator

The Cultural Programs Coordinator will:

- ◆ Coordinate a "Welcoming Ceremony" for Aboriginal children and youth to be transferred into care of SCCFS;
- ◆ Plan Pro-D and Spring Break workshops for Aboriginal children in care and their caregivers/parents;
- ◆ Coordinate a Winter Feast for Aboriginal children and youth;
- ◆ Liaise with regional Aboriginal community and partners;
- ◆ Assist with cultural planning for Aboriginal children and youth in care.

### ROOTS Worker

The ROOTS Worker will provide support to Urban Aboriginal children and youth in care. She will connect these children and youth to resources that will assist them in plans of care outcomes, and to participate in social, recreational & cultural events in their home communities and families.



## GETTING CONNECTED WITH OUR AGENCY

1. Society membership cost is \$1.00 per year
2. Subscribe to our newsletter "Dream Speaker" published 4 x per year
3. Become an Advisory Council member
4. Become a Volunteer
5. Become a Board Member

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