

Advisory Councils

There are five Advisory Councils built into the community governance structure for Surrounded By Cedar Child and Family Services.

- Elders Council
- Family Council
- Youth Council
- Professional Services Council
- Nong Sila: Urban Adoption Council

There is no specific term of appointment and membership is based on member availability. Advisory Council members are not employees of the Agency, however, policies in place regarding ethics, confidentiality, and good standing will apply to their participation in meetings, conferences and training sessions.

Compensation for expenses incurred according to Agency policy will be considered and Council members may receive honoraria for duly convened meetings of the Council.

Council Members will also serve as key advisory to the Chief Executive Officer and may be consulted on matters of conflict where resolution, reconciliation, or problem-solving needs to occur.



SURROUNDED BY CEDAR CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Surrounded By Cedar Child and Family Services (SCCFS) is located on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples of southern Vancouver Island.

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 Aboriginal community.

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

THE ADVISORY COUNCILS

Each of the Advisory Councils will meet approximately 4 times per year. From time to time, we bring all members of all Advisory Councils together for All Councils meetings on particular issues and for strategic planning purposes. Training will happen once the Council members are identified.

Contact our office for a list of scheduling for different Advisory Council meetings.

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ADVISORY COUNCIL

Member Information

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ADVISORY COUNCILS

ELDERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Since its earliest beginnings in the Pre-planning Phase, Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services has attempted to provide a forum for Elders to discuss the development and activities of the Agency. Elders are needed to provide direction and support to Agency staff to ensure that the traditions and culture of the communities are respected and considered in planning for the care of community children. Elders are a link to the past and assist the Agency in ensuring that the future of children includes background into cultural knowledge, teachings, and traditions that will ground them in their identity as Aboriginal peoples.

Membership: The Elders Council is made up of representative Elders appointed on recommendation from their urban Aboriginal community, through nomination from community organizations or individuals or through voluntary membership.

FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Family members are needed to provide consultative advice based on their experiences with family, education, employment, and life in general. The Family Advisory Council is the link with the future of urban Aboriginal and First Nations communities and it is hoped that this Council will work with the Agency, Elders and other Councils to bridge the generations.

Membership: Generally, the designation of “family ” for purposes of membership on the Family Council refers to immediate and extended family members, foster or adoptive family members.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Youth are needed to provide consultative advice based on their experiences with family, education, employment, and life in general. The Youth council is the link with the future of urban Aboriginal and First Nations communities and it is hoped that this Council will work with the Agency, Family and Elder’s Councils to bridge the generations.

Membership: The Youth Council is made up of Aboriginal youth representatives who share a passion and acknowledgement for Youth In Care and are willing to contribute to the support and assistance of Youth In Care.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

This Council provides opportunity for Indigenous professional, such as teachers, college and university instructors, social workers, youth workers, lawyers etc to discuss the development programs and services to support the needs of families in our community. Professional services community members are needed to provide consultative advice based on their professional experiences with family, education, employment, and life in general. The Professional Services Advisory Council is the link with the future of urban Aboriginal and First Nations communities and it is hoped that members of the Professional Services Council will work with the Agency, Elders, Family and Youth Councils to bridge the generations.



NONG SILA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Surrounded By Cedar Child and Family Services and the University of Victoria, School of Child and Youth Care came together with community based members to form an urban Aboriginal research team. The purpose was to come together to discuss key findings from a participatory community-based research study, which drew on Nong Sila Advisory Council members and community consultations to identify practice, systemic, structural and policy gaps, with the goal of building culturally-appropriate capacity for supporting urban Aboriginal children and caregivers. Although off-reserve urban Aboriginal children are drastically over-represented in the foster care and adoption system, there is a dearth of research addressing their specific needs and experiences with off-reserve urban social services. In phase one of the project, we developed an emerging model for understanding the ethical complexity of service provision in urban contexts, where delegated agencies must work within and across multiple and sometimes competing policy and institutional mandates; cultural traditions related to caregiving, fostering and adoptions; as well as Aboriginal territories and jurisdictions.

Membership: The Nong Sila Advisory Council is made up of representatives from our urban Aboriginal community that have personal, family and cultural involvement with adoption.