



# February Newsletter

Issue 10

## Connection & Community Care

Our focus for February (and beyond) is Connection & Community Care. We strive to bring connection to culture and heritage through Cultural Workshops, and the unity of families with our programs. Community care is showing gratitude to our local partners, our volunteers and community that help make NOFCS thrive.

## CULTURAL WORKSHOPS

In January we hosted a Ribbon Skirt Workshop for two Thursday evenings. A new way of registering for our workshops is done through **Eventbrite** and the links are shared on our website and social media accounts. You do not need any sewing experience to join our Ribbon Skirt Workshops, and they are open to all people. The workshops take 2 sessions to complete and there is only space for up to 5 people max. Keep your eye open for our next session!

**Mezzy's Crafts** made their debut as our Dream Catcher workshop facilitator on January 22. Eleven guests got to learn about the dream catcher and take home their custom dream catchers. Thanks, Mezmer! We look forward to offering **more Cultural Workshops** in the coming weeks, as well as introducing new crafts to the community such as **sweetgrass braiding!**



Dream Catcher Workshop



Ribbon Skirt Workshop

## COMMUNITY CARE

Last month, community care showed up in many ways! Our team shared the **Father's Support Program** to the **BC Family Justice Centre**, connected with students at **St. James School** who will be donating proceeds from their Candygram fundraiser, and we welcomed **MP Scott Anderson** for a tour of our buildings and programs. We also gratefully received a **\$1000 donation from Alpine Book Warehouse** in support of AIECD. These moments reflect the power of partnership and community care.



AIECD Staff & Alpine Book Warehouse Donation



Henry Ly at Family Justice Centre



Alyssa M Presenting at St. James School



MP Scott Anderson Staff & BOD Tour

**Respect | Trustworthy | Integrity | Kindness**

# FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES & JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE SETTLEMENT

## Mondays:

AIECD Lunch  
11:30-1:30

## Tuesdays:

Fathers Circle  
10:00-11:30  
Wellbriety  
5:30-7:30

## Wednesdays:

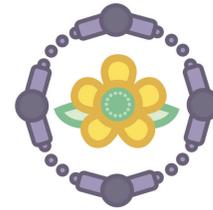
Elders Lunch  
11:30-1:30  
AIECD Lunch  
11:30-1:30  
Father's Group  
5:00-7:00

## Thursdays:

Prenatal Drop-In  
9:00-3:30  
POP Lunch  
11:30-1:00

## Fridays:

AIECD Cultural Craft  
once a month



First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement

Once a month, the NOFCS staff welcomes an organization or community member to join an All-Staff meeting. In January we welcomed Terri, a Claims Helper from the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement in the region. The information she shared about the settlement was valuable and too much to summarize into one post, but the word should be spread nonetheless. The settlement is open for all First Nations individuals who were impacted by the federal government's Child and Family Services Programs and their "narrow definition of Jordan's Principle". The settlement includes nine different classes of people who may be eligible to apply for compensation of up to \$40,000. On March 10, 2025, the first two classes opened for claims: **Removed Child Class** - First Nations individuals removed from their homes as children between April 1, 1991 and March 31, 2022. **Removed Child Family Class** - Their caregiving parents or grandparents from when the child was FIRST removed. Go to [www.fnchildclaims.ca](http://www.fnchildclaims.ca) to submit a claim, or check your eligibility. You can also call 1-833-852-0755 to connect with a Claims Helper. NOFCS remains available to assist with any barriers you may have in submitting a claim. These two classes will close in 2027.

## GATHERING OUR VOICES

Every year, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) hosts the province's largest Indigenous youth conferences called **Gathering Our Voices** (GOV). This year, NOFCS will be bringing 4 local indigenous youth ages 14-24 to GOV in Vancouver from March 17-20. NOFCS covers all travel expenses including, airfare, hotel stays, transportation and meals. This will remove barriers that many families face and provide opportunity for our Indigenous youth to partake in an event they may not have otherwise.



## RENOVATIONS AT NOFCS!

For the majority of February, kitchen renovations will be taking place at the Early Years building! **Starting February 3, all AIECD and Pregnancy Outreach Programs will be taking place at different locations.** Due to the nature of renovations, the facility could be out of service longer than the two-week closure as planned. **We will keep everyone updated through social media and our website!** We are so excited for an updated cooking space where we serve over 300 lunches a month and where families gather to build community and connections. We have big goals for this kitchen such as cooking workshops, so keep your eyes open for those in the future.

## FEBRUARY AT A GLANCE

February 12- First session Ribbon Skirt Workshop Group 1  
February 16- **Family Day NOFCS Closed**  
February 20- Dream Catcher Workshop  
February 25 - Second Session Ribbon Skirt Workshop Group 2

## DID YOU KNOW?

### The Number of Indigenous Languages in Canada

There are **over 70 distinct Indigenous languages** spoken in Canada today, belonging to 12 language families. Each language carries generations of knowledge, history and worldview. **Syilx** is the Indigenous language spoken in the Okanagan.

## Let's Keep in Touch!

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