



DENISIQI SERVICES SOCIETY

240 B NORTH MACKENZIE AVENUE • WILLIAMS LAKE, BC • V2G 1N6
PHONE: 250-392-6500 • TOLL FREE BC ONLY: 1-877-251-6566
PREVENTION & SUPPORT FAX: 250-392-6501 • DELEGATED SERVICES FAX: 250-392-6510
WEB: www.denisiqi.org



NEWSLETTER

March 2014

Delegated Services Program

Hey everybody! This is Nadine Adam, Voluntary Services Supervisor at Denisiqi. I am pleased to announce Denisiqi has passed the pre-audit for the Operational Readiness Review for Guardianship Services.

Aboriginal Child and Family Agencies must pass the pre-audit as its costly and time consuming for MCFD to book and pay for a formal audit. MCFD expectation is an agency must pass the pre-audit before MCFD will book for a formal audit. Denisiqi passed the pre-audit in the second week of February, 2014.

Denisiqi is now waiting for an appointment time for the "formal audit" for the Operational Readiness Review for Guardianship Services. Once Denisiqi has undergone the "formal audit" Denisiqi will have the ability to become legal guardians of Tsilhqot'in and Ulkatcho CCO children (children who are in foster care), who were originally removed on reserve. Denisiqi will become legal guardians of approximately 15 children.

As we are moving forward to take on the parenting responsibility for these children, we have hired a third social worker, Charlene Smythe. Charlene is away at training currently.

Denisiqi's plan is still to complete the Operational Readiness for Child Protection by the end of this December. The plan is to take on Child Protection responsibilities' next year in 2015.

Nadine Adam, Voluntary Services Supervisor

My name is Carmen Mutschele and I'm a Social Worker for Voluntary Services here at Denisiqi. We will be out in the communities doing our presentations in the near future, so watch for us and feel free to come and ask us questions. If you need any support services we are happy to help, or refer you to other agencies.

It's nice to see that the days are getting longer, and despite the many cold snaps we had here in Williams Lake this winter, the

snow is slowly disappearing, and I'm looking forward to getting some sun, in order to store up on much needed Vitamin D. Many people suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) – a seasonal depression brought on by a lack of light and sun exposure, which leads to depleted Vitamin D levels. Getting some sun on our skin especially after the long winter months will help brighten our moods and also help our immune system function better.

Carmen Mutschele, Voluntary Services Social Worker

Da Who Jaa (How are you?)

We started off this year being very busy. The delegated services had passed the informal audit, yayyyy! We are still looking for foster home on reserves so please, if there are any interests, please don't hesitate to give us a call. It will be time consuming but well worth it, once approved, to foster our own children.

The pictures I forwarded, is me making my first grandchild's baby basket. I was taught by a much cherished elder in my life, Vivian Cahoose and finished by my mother in law, Susan Cahoose. All of my children were raised in a baby basket as babies, as my late maternal grandmother, Jeannie West (Louie) instilled that value to us, her future generation.

My heart goes out to our people who face the traumas and the damage done to us, physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually, at residential and day schools. There are resources available to assist you through the healing process. We must stop the cycle of abusing ourselves, our children and others. One step and one day at a time, we can do this.

Both of my late grandmothers taught their generations about spirituality and how to pray. As a nation we need to pray for our children, families and communities. Spirituality is part of our medicine wheel and is needed to have balance in life. 'Aw'et zeh! (that's all for now) Teownt'e (Take care).

Brenda Cahoose, BSW



Brenda's finished baby basket

My name is Charlene Smythe. I was born in Hazelton and have lived most of my life in BC. One of my fondest memories while growing up was returning in the fall to the Hazelton area to fish for Steelhead. Our family had horses and most of my youth involved trail riding and living a rural lifestyle around animals.

After raising two children, I became a Practical Nurse and worked in various hospital settings. After a few years, I returned to school to achieve a BSW from University of Victoria in 1999. I was hired by



MCFD right after graduation and moved to a Guardianship worker position in Williams Lake in 2001. After 11 years, I returned to health care, after being hired by Northern Health in Prince George. For the last 2 years, I worked as Social Worker in Home and Community Care. In this position, I assisted families move through a variety of psychosocial issues brought on by

acute or chronic medical conditions which led to involvement with Northern Health.

When I heard about Denisiqi moving towards Guardianship delegation, I applied for the posted social work position and am very excited to have been hired! I have only been working since January, and already feel included as a part of the team.

I think that my life experience will be an asset to Denisiqi Services Society, and look forward to supporting Tsilhqot'in and Ulkatcho people through the process of becoming fully delegated.

Charlene Smythe, Voluntary Services Social Worker

On February 4, 2013 I started full time at Denisiqi Services Society as a File Clerk. In February 2014 I moved over to the Voluntary Services department and my title changed to Administrative Assistant.

My job now is to maintain the Child Services (CS), Family Services (FS), Resources (RE), and Resources – Out of Care Options (RE-OOCO) files. I still maintain the non-delegated child and family services files for the Family Care Manager.

Francy Elkins, Voluntary Services Administration Assistant

Aboriginal Child & Youth Health & Wellness Team

Greetings to all community members, We are pleased to report that we have had huge successes in our program delivery these last few months and we would like to thank all of the support from the service providers and schools in the communities that help to make programing successful and wellness needs met. We have delivered parenting workshops, gatherings, one on one clinical support, team child and youth mental health meetings and many training sessions.

Our initiative to have monthly mental health meetings (West Integrated Team meetings) and training sessions, facilitated by our clinician Debora Trampleasure, is still very active and we have had many service providers from the Ts'ilhqot'in communities, sometimes Ulkatcho and community partners come and participate on a regular basis in the valuable training and meetings. We are open to having more of our community service providers come to these meetings and provide their input or listen in.

In January, we partnered with the Alexis Creek Victim services branch and were able to deliver a Winter Family Gathering at the Anaham Band School. This was an amazing event enjoyed by many, uplifting spirits and bringing together service providers and communities with activities, prizes and incredible music. Many folks and the young members of the bands came to play fiddle, guitar, drum and sing at this community event. Wow, all the hard work and collaboration brought many smiles to many faces.



We continue to have a full case load and a waiting list for clients accessing our clinicians. Most clients have been able to make their appointments here at DSS with some supports, and since our clinician Kendra Rogers-Calabrese is connecting with

many of her youth at the high schools, they too have been able to maintain regular wellness sessions.

We look forward to seeing you all here or in your community again for a piece of wellness.

High Spirits,
Sechanalyagh,
Jessica Doerner

**Aboriginal Wellness Coordinator
on behalf of the aboriginal child and youth mental health
and wellness team**

Greetings from Ulkatcho

I am continuing to work with children at Nagwunt'oo and Anaham Lake School twice a week. We are working on emotions, self-esteem and anti-bullying programs. The kids are terrific and always happy to learn something new. I am hoping to get some new games and other aids to be able to work with junior high students and add to the programs for the younger students.

The Restoring the Balance Program with Marilyn Charleyboy started Feb. 17th and I am enjoying assisting Marilyn. It is wonderful to see the participants opening up and gaining a greater understanding of the dynamics in their lives and gaining confidence skills to deal with them effectively.

Terri Smith, ACYMH



Aboriginal Family Group Conferencing

It's been an exciting time for the Aboriginal Family Group Conferencing (AFGC) program. The AFGC program has been very busy, working with many different clients within the City of Williams Lake and its surrounding Aboriginal Communities. The AFGC program will soon be offering a "pre AFGC" traditional ceremonial Sweat lodge for AFGC clients who may want to approach the AFGC process with more traditional spiritual support.

The Denisiqi Services Society's AFGC program has recently expanded its services to include traditional healing circles. The healing circle is considered as a traditional



Aboriginal method for better decision making and strengthening of a family or a community. It is a method of collaborative learning, teaching and understanding built on wisdom and traditions of Aboriginal culture, teachings and Elders. The Healing Circle process encourages a positive family method for developing direct, honest, and effective communication within the family.

If you, or anyone you know could use these services please feel free to contact us at the Denisiqi Services Society.

Kerry Chelsea, AFGC Coordinator

Restoring Balance Program



The end of February has come upon us and as we move into March, things tend to get a little busier and more exciting.

Currently, Restoring Balance is in Ulkatcho for a four week program. A big thank you goes out to the community workers

of Ulkatcho for welcoming the program into their community and for doing all the groundwork to make the program a great success. Many people do not see the behind-the-scenes work that goes into making our programs successful in each community, so I would like to take this opportunity to recognize that and to give a big shout out to all of those that go out of their way to make things happen. This includes things like setting up the location,

providing meals, putting the word out and gathering the people who may be interested in the program.

Terri Smith has been involved with the program out in Ulkatcho and Dorothy Myers was involved with the one here in Williams Lake. I thank both of the ladies for stepping forward because it's always good to have that go-to person in each community in order to make things work smoothly.

This is the second program since the program resumed and so far it has been very successful. I am looking forward to working out in each community. If you have any questions or are interested in seeing the program out in your community, please call our office at (250) 392-6500.

Marilyn Charleyboy, Restoring Balance Youth Coordinator

Family Support Workers Program

It is a new year of 2014. Hope all is well with community members. Denisiqi Service is due for another quarterly newsletter. So far the New Year has been good for me. I don't know about our weather right now. We have had so much snow in around Deep Creek where I live. But all is good as mother earth needs the moisture for the ground.

Denisiqi Service Society has had a new addition to the administration team. We applied to CCATEC to fund a Secretary/Receptionist position from January 2014 to June 2014. Thank you CCATEC for funding the Secretary/Receptionist position to help out Elaine who is busy helping out in the Finance department. Our fast growing organization needs extra help and space to accommodate the employees. Terris Billyboy is the Secretary/Receptionist who was hired in the New Year. **Welcome Terris Billyboy.**



Since January 2014 Family Support programs has had two meetings that were held at Denisiqi Service Society and one at MCFD office. There are seven Family Support Workers who work out in their communities. The meetings for FSW's are for updates on upcoming trainings and the changes in the Community Service Act. The FSW workers attended a meeting at MCFD with the Team Leader and Tsilhqot'in Social Workers. Thank you to Kelly Culbert who hosted the meeting. It is great to host meetings to keep in contact with the workers in the communities.

The next Family Support Meeting is in Stone on March 18, 2014.

Joan Charleyboy, Family Care Manager

If you have Child Protection concerns they must be reported to all MCFD at 250-398-4220 or after hours call 310-1234

Are you interested in becoming a Care Home Provider for Aboriginal Children in Care?

Denisiqi Services Society Voluntary Services team is seeking Caregivers to care for our children in care and to keep them within their own Aboriginal communities. If you are interested and would like more information please call Nadine Adam, Voluntary Services Supervisor at 250-392-6500 ext. 225.

Nun Yaz Daycare

Hi my name is Chanel Wynja. I am the worker for Nun Yaz Daycare. I started working on February 3rd 2014. The children are enjoying the elders that are coming in on a weekly base. They are learning basic Chilcotin language such as colors, numbers, calendar, and drumming. We are looking forward to more outside play in the month of March.

Nun Yaz is subsidized by the Childcare Operative funding program. To put your child on the waitlist or if you have any questions please call Stella Stump at 250- 392-6500 ext. 241.

Chanel Wynja, Nun Yaz Early Childhood Educator

Aboriginal Infant Development Program & Aboriginal Supported Child Development

Hello community members,

My name is Trudy Stump and I am the Aboriginal Supported Child Development Worker for Denisiqi Services Society. I work with ages from 0 to 19 years of age with children who may need support services in development and learning. Recently in December the ECD Support Team completed series of preschool circus that was organised in most communities for children ages from 0 to 5 yrs. We did activities such as ASQ Questionnaire, Ready Set Learn, hearing check, dental check, vision check, and speech and language pathologist to find out where children were with development. Currently we are doing our regular community monthly visits in Head Starts and Daycares at each community to provide support services with the Early Childhood Educators and children in their learning environment.

Trudy Stump, Aboriginal Supported Child Development

Administration Team

Greetings from the Executive Director. I thought I would start off with a quote from an American Author, Henry James:

Going out and doing our regular community visits out in the Chilcotin. I also attended the Early Years conference which had some information around child development and also some strategies on behavior management in a daycare/head start classroom setting that I have shared with some of the professionals in the community. I found that those strategies are also working here at Nun Yaz Daycare. AIDP and ASCD are also supporting families in our communities by referrals made to the professionals in Williams Lake to support children who may or may not need supports.

I am now looking forward to Benen Eughutelog (The month of the melting snow – March)

Sechanalyagh.

Stella Stump, ECE Aboriginal Infant Development Program



“Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. The third is to be kind.”

This might seem like an odd beginning of an update from the Executive Director, but at the end of the day it really is a guiding principal of how Denisiqi continues to evolve as an agency.

The task often faced by many of the Denisqi staff is to “help” children and families. While there are limits on what type of services and programs we can offer, I often catch wind of staff going “outside” the box to try and help individuals help themselves. Denisqi staff consistently offer a kind, non-judgmental approach to their work. Being “kind” does not get the job done, but it sure helps!

Denisqi is starting the new calendar year off with nothing but good news. Our biggest accomplishment has been

the recent Case Practise Audit of our Voluntary Services program, which we were found to be in “compliance”; and Denisqi passing the Operational Readiness Review for Guardianship Services pre-audit. MCFD Aboriginal Services Branches policy is that an Agency must pass the pre-audit before they may be booked for the formal Operational Readiness Review, as they are time consuming and costly. While passing the Operational Readiness Review for Guardianship Services may not mean much to most people, it does put Denisqi one step further towards the achievement of full delegation.

In addition to our Prevention and Support programs, the Child and Youth Mental Health program has managed to access additional resources to continue supporting the Fiddling program taking place out West. Through a proposal process, the Early Childhood Education program has also managed to access funds to assist with travel and accommodation expenses for families who may have children requiring specialized services not available in their home communities. The ECE program was also successful in acquiring a grant to assist with a language and culture program with the support of Elders in our recently re-opened Nun Yaz Daycare.

Denisqi programs continue to assist and support numerous families and countless ways. While we would like to promote what we do more rigourously, our approach to date has been reasonably quiet. Respect for program participants and maintaining client confidentiality is parameter that often keeps Denisqi out of the limelight.

On the other hand, one of the challenges that face Denisqi on a daily basis is to balance the confidentiality of much of what we do with public and open displays of the important work that the Denisqi staffs delivers on a daily basis. On this note, our door is always open and the coffee is always on.

Dwayne Emerson, Executive Director

I am pleased to report that the majority of the programs are operating within budget, and that we still monitor the budget, cash flow, and overall financial management. I completed the GST/HST reports, and am currently working on reports due to funding agencies.

In December, 2013, I attended Microsoft Outlook Training at Thompson Rivers University. In January, 2014, I participated in the Tl’etinqox Winter Family Gathering, and also attended Caring

for First Nations Children Society – Executive Director Training at Vancouver, BC.

I was also very fortunate to participate in the 15th Annual Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada’s National Conference which was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia at the end of February. The themes for the sessions were on financial management, leadership, community administration, healthy workplace, and business development. Included in the conference registration fees were two

luncheons with guest speakers, one free night accommodation, banquet with aboriginal entertainment, trade show exhibits, and plenary speakers at opening and closing session of each day. I also listened to three grade 11/12 students present their award winning essays. I was excited, as two of the students were from

BC! Their essays were to address what citizen engagement means, how they would like to see it implemented in their community, their involvement, issues they have, and suggestions for change. I would recommend this conference to leaders, managers, and accounting staff. There is so much to learn, opportunity for exchange of information, and listening to

other First Nations’ success stories.

Faye Chelsea, Finance Manager

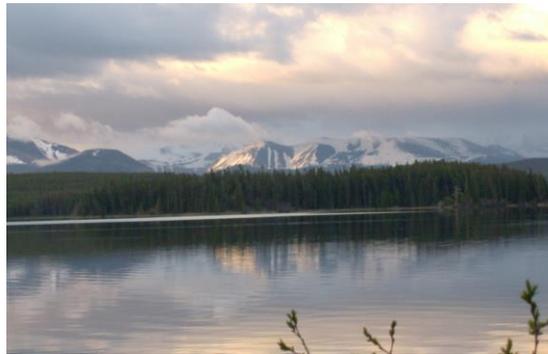
A lot has happened since the last newsletter and as we move further along in our delegation process it is getting busier than ever. There have been a few changes to my position which include more duties. I will be taking over the administration ORCS/ARCS filing system and assisting our Finance Manager Faye Chelsea within the finance department. I am being provided with training in both areas.

As my additional duties demand more of my time we accessed funding through CCATEC and have hired a Secretary/Receptionist, Terris Billyboy, under the Training-on-the-Job program. I must say she is a very welcome addition to our team.

Elaine Yablonski, Administration Assistant

My name is Terris Billyboy and I was born and raised most of my life here in Williams Lake and I am from ?Esdilagh (Alexandria) Indian Band. I just started here at Denisqi in January as the new Receptionist and I love it here so far. Everyone is so very friendly and I look forward to my time working here.

Terris Billyboy, Receptionist



“Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. The third is to be kind.”

Family Support Workers Contact Information

Joyce Quilt,

FSW/Social Development Worker

Xeni Gwet'in First Nations

Phone: 250-394-7023

Dorothy Myers,

Family Support Worker

Yunesit'in Government (Stone)

Phone: 250-394-4295

Shirley Johnny,

Family Support Worker

Tl'esqox (Toosey Indian Band)

Phone: 250-659-5655

Alice Johnny,

Family Support Worker

Alexis Creek First (Tsi Deldel)

Phone: 250-481-3335

Graylin Johnny-Jobin,

FSW/Social Development Worker & Dorothy Alphonse,

FSW/Social Development Worker

Tl'etinqox-t'in Government Office (Anaham)

Phone: 250-394-4212

Rhonda Cahoose,

Family Support Worker

Ulkatcho First Nation

Phone: 250-742-3260

Activities

March 20, 2014 – Western Integrated Team meeting – Denisiqi

April 17, 2014 – Western Integrated Team meeting – Denisiqi

April 18, 2014 – Cowboy Carnival at the Williams Lake Indoor Rodeo

May 15, 2014 – Western Integrated Team meeting – Denisiqi

June 21, 2014 – Aboriginal Day

Denisiqi Services Society

Staff Telephone Extensions & Email Contact Info

Dwayne Emerson, Executive Director

Ext. 226

Email: dwayne@denisiqi.org

Faye Chelsea, Finance Manager

Ext 243

Email: faye@denisiqi.org

Joan Charleyboy, Family Care Manager

Ext 234

Email: joan@denisiqi.org

Nadine Adam, Voluntary Services Supervisor

Ext 225

Email: nadine@denisiqi.org

Brenda Cahoose, Voluntary Services Social Worker

Ext 259

Email: brenda@denisiqi.org

Carmen Mutschele, Voluntary Services Social Worker

Ext 228

Email: carmen@denisiqi.org

Charlene Smythe, Voluntary Services Social Worker

Ext 224

Email: charlene@denisiqi.org

Kerry Chelsea, AFGC Coordinator

Ext 223

Email: kerry@denisiqi.org

Stella Stump, Aboriginal Infant Development Program

Ext 241

Email: stella@denisiqi.org

Trudy Stump, Aboriginal Supported Child Development

Ext 240

Email: trudy@denisiqi.org

Grace Cahoose, Early Child Development Outreach

Email: grace@denisiqi.org

Chanel Wynja, Nun Yaz Early Childhood Educator

Ext 232

Email: chanel@denisiqi.org

Kendra Rogers-Calabrese, Aboriginal Development Clinician

Ext 236

Email: kendra@denisiqi.org

Debora Trampleasure, Aboriginal Development Clinician

Ext 245

Email: deb@denisiqi.org

Terri Smith, Aboriginal Child & Youth Mental Health

Email: terri@denisiqi.org

Jessica Doerner, Aboriginal Rural Wellness Coordinator

Ext 246

Email: jessica@denisiqi.org

Marilyn Charleyboy, Restoring Balance Program Coordinator

Ext 239

Email: marilyn@denisiqi.org

Elaine Yablonski, Administrative Assistant

Ext 230

Email: elaine@denisiqi.org

Francy Elkins, Voluntary Services Administrative Assistant

Ext 227

Email: francy@denisiqi.org

Terris Billyboy, Secretary/Receptionist

Ext 221

Email: terris@denisiqi.org