



YOUTH  
AND FAMILY  
SERVICES  
SOCIETY

# Leo Street

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Annual General Meeting 2026  
Monday, June 22

# Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Watuth, Squamish, Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Oayqayt, Sto:lo and Tsawwassen First Nations on which we are learning, working, and living today. We take this opportunity to commit ourselves to the work of realizing the recommendations set out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that highlight the struggle that Indigenous peoples have faced and continue to face against systems of oppression that have dispossessed Indigenous people of their lands and denied them their rights to self-determination.

## Message from the Board President

Another year of many successes at Leo Street! We continue to grow with new homes, new staff and exceptional care for our clients. In the context of this growth and success, issues in the broader community, local and provincial governments present challenges for our leadership to navigate. I am continually astounded at the skill with which Renata as our CEO is able to keep all the balls in the air while also looking forward and making critical decisions in the best interest of our agency. Our leadership strength at every level of Leo Street continues to develop and support our vulnerable clients.

As a Board, we are delighted to celebrate all of the staff contributions to Leo Street as a successful organization. Indeed, I believe we have become a learning organization, continually enhancing staff skills and knowledge through orientation of new staff members, leadership development, and professional development at every level. The new training centre in Surrey offers the possibility of learning opportunities to open up beyond our agency.

More broadly, global events including wars, and chaotic political and economic climates affect us all, creating anxiety and uncertainty. What I am certain of is that Leo Street is both durable and flexible enough to pivot as needed while staying on course with our agency mission and vision. On behalf of the Board, we look forward to the continuing success of Leo Street in the coming year!



– **Marion Clauson, Board President**

# Message from the CEO

**Today I paused outside the front door of our Arcola office to listen.**

Above the entrance, small birds have returned and begun nesting again. Their light, insistent chirps mark the start of another season. Each year they come back to this place—to gather bits and pieces and build small nests that will hold new life. Soon, their calls will change, joined by the sounds of hungry chicks. This is their way: a faithful pattern of return.

Life offers us a similar invitation. It asks us to begin again, gently, in relationship with the world and with one another. If we can quiet the noise that so often fills our day, the hum of technology, the rush of schedules, the constant pull of more, we may find space to listen more deeply. We might notice our own heartbeat. We might take a slow walk beneath trees and hear the leaves turning themselves into the wind. We might become fully present to the breath of our children, to the people or animals beside us.

**Listening is an act of care.**

This practice matters deeply in our work together. As colleagues and as professionals entrusted with the stories, needs, and vulnerabilities of our clients, listening is foundational to how we serve. When we listen well to what is spoken and what is held, to what is named and what remains unspoken, we create conditions for trust, dignity, and meaningful support. Our work is not only about expertise in action; it is about attention, presence, and relationship.

This year, the birds have built their nests inside what once served as a water-drainage pipe, now dry beneath the glass awnings over our doors. Hearing them there feels both familiar and comforting. In the middle of these busy days, listening calls us back: back to the world around us, and back to one another.

This is not always easy. We are surrounded by technologies that compete endlessly for our attention. And still, listening remains one of the most meaningful ways we show care—both in our personal lives and in our professional practice. It shapes how we collaborate, how we respond to complexity, and how we remain grounded in the purpose of our work.

When we practice listening, we make room for connection. We allow ourselves to be shaped by what we hear. Perhaps, like the birds, we begin again, gathering what is needed, strengthening our shared work, and preparing spaces of care where those we serve can feel supported, heard, and held.

Across many cultures and traditions, listening is understood as a form of wisdom and humility. There is teaching that reminds us that we have two ears and only one mouth for a reason. To listen well is to slow down, to be open, and to receive what is being offered—whether it comes from a colleague, a client, a child, the natural world, or a small bird returning faithfully to build her nest.

**– Renata Aebi, Chief Executive Officer**



A blue-tinted photograph of children playing with bubbles in a park. The children are in the foreground, reaching up towards the bubbles. The background is a grassy area with more bubbles floating in the air. The overall mood is joyful and playful.

## Our programs & departments

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- In-Community Child, Youth and Family Services
- Specialized Home and Support Services (SHSS)
- Administration

# In-Community Child, Youth and Family Services

## **Counselling**

Child and Youth Access and Family Development counselling, referred by MCFD, CYMH, and SD41.

Short term sessions for families and individuals experiencing emotional, family, relationship and trauma stress. We provide individualized care by masters level practitioners, on-site and virtual.

## **Supervised Access**

Provides safe space and supervision of visits for families with children in care of MCFD.

## **SMILE**

Support to young parents under 26 in Burnaby, New West. A variety of support provided through educational parenting groups, prenatal classes, self-care, and community meals and connections. A warm and friendly on-site location for young parents to connect and be with others.

## **Independent Living (Transitions)**

Youth workers provide support for older adolescent youth in care of MCFD who are preparing to live independently. These youth may still reside in foster homes or group homes or be in semi-independent or independent living situations.

## **Youth, Child & Family Development**

In this service, we connect with families experiencing conflict and stress. Youth and family workers provide short-term outreach services to children, youth, and their families which:

- Identifies strengths;
- offers strategies to improve parenting skills;
- facilitates connections to the community at large to foster long term connectedness and awareness of community based resources;
- links parents to other parenting programs and specialized training;
- develops conflict resolution and crisis management strategies;
- increases the possibility of maintaining families together in their homes;
- engages street involved youth to return home.

## **Self Care Supports: Outreach to Sexually Exploited Youth (SEY)**

A youth worker connects on an outreach basis with high-risk youth and provides community-based interventions in partnership with other community agencies to address youth's individual needs (drug and alcohol treatment, counselling, educational/vocational programs). The program participates in community awareness and education events as well.



## **Alison Grauer, Director of Child, Youth and Family Services**

Alison Grauer has been working at Leo Street for over 25 years, starting with Esau House and currently privileged to be the director of In-Community Programs: SMILE, Outlook Community Youth Services, Counselling and Family Development. She received her BA in Psychology at SFU back in the 1980s and launched into youth care with a summer job at a wilderness camp. Having been through many periods of change within social service work, her belief that relationship is key and community connections are vital has not wavered. Completing Leadership 2020 was a highlight in her ongoing learning. Outside of work, she is happiest walking her dog, being on the ocean, traveling and reading.

# In-Community Child, Youth and Family Services

## Youth Agreements (YAGS)

Youth workers support older high-risk youth who are currently not living at home to find stable housing and adhere to the terms of their youth agreement as required by their MCFD social worker. The youth worker supports the youth in becoming successful and independent in all areas of life.

For youth involved in either service stream, our youth workers:

- help prepare youth for independence by providing information and connection to resources;
- role model and teach independent living skills;
- respond to crises;
- promote pro-social activities;
- assist youth in exploring and accessing community resources;
- assist youth in developing support within the community or with family members;
- make referrals to community organizations.

## Outlook Learning Pathways Day Program

In partnership with the Burnaby School District and MCFD, we provide the Outlook Day Program for high-risk youth between 13 and 18 years who have struggled in mainstream or alternative school programs due to social, behavioural, or cognitive difficulties. The Burnaby School District provides a teacher an EA, and Leo Street provides the other support staff: a youth worker to support each youth's education and recreation activities and a manager to provide case management, planning and support. Outlook provides all youth a breakfast/lunch program and bus passes to those requiring them. Outlook will serve up to 18 youth at once and has a continuous intake system. Participants at Outlook stay for an average duration of 9 months with the possibility of extension as per individual needs.

## Community Work Service

Community Work Service provides youth on probation or alternate measures with placements to carry out their community work service hours. Youth workers coordinate opportunities to match youth with non-profit work service projects that interest the youth and are beneficial to the community. Youth workers are responsible for monitoring and reporting the status of community service hours completed to probation officers.

## North Fraser Youth Outreach Services (NFYOS)

The vision for this collaborative program is for youth faced with significant challenges to move toward a safer and healthier lifestyle and be more connected to their community and natural supports. The NFYOS program is designed to meet the needs of high-risk youth across the North Fraser SDA. It is a collaborative effort between PLEA, Purpose Society and Leo Street to provide a coordinated response, utilizing Youth Outreach Workers (YOW) to reach these youth in their communities.

## Intensive Support and Supervision Program (ISSP)

A B.C. provincial judge gives an ISSP order on a youth's probation order. ISSP workers provide support to youth, focusing on decreasing their criminal behaviour in the community and increasing their pro-social behaviour.

## Bail Curfew Checks

Bail curfew checks consist of youth workers alternately calling and visiting youth at their homes to ensure they abide by the curfew stipulated by the courts on their bail order.

Grants from the B.C. Civil Forfeiture, Vancouver Foundation, a private donor, and Home Depot Canada provide unique opportunities for our clients. We thank our funders for their continuous support and partnership.



# In-Community Child, Youth and Family Services Staff



**Cole Bennett**

Manager, Outlook School, Gang Prevention and Special Projects



**Erin McDade**

Manager, Family Development, SMILE, Counselling



**Abby McClelland**

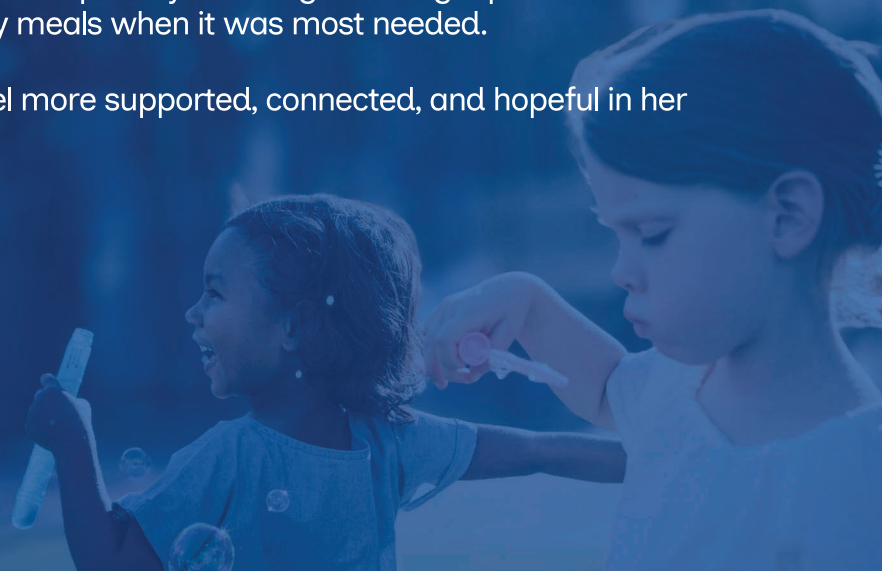
Clinical Lead/Case Manager/Youth & Family Development Worker

## The SMILE program – a young mother’s story

Feeling isolated and overwhelmed as a first-time parent, a young mother of a six-month-old began attending the program. At first, she struggled with the challenges of early parenthood and a sense of disconnection. Over time, both she and her baby found comfort and joy in story time, singing, and group discussions on parenting and healthy relationships. Connecting with other young mothers—sharing both challenges and moments of joy—helped ease her isolation and build confidence in her new role.

The monthly food program also became an important source of support. With a healthy recipe, opportunities to cook alongside others, and ingredients to take home, it provided both nourishment and connection. This support was especially meaningful during a period of financial uncertainty, helping ensure access to healthy meals when it was most needed.

Through these experiences, she began to feel more supported, connected, and hopeful in her journey as a parent.



# Specialized Homes & Support Services (SHSS)

Specialized Homes & Support Services (SHSS) continues to expand across the Lower Mainland, expanding its reach to provide safe, supportive housing for children and youth. By the end of this summer, Leo Street will operate 19 specialized homes, each uniquely tailored to meet the needs of young people requiring care in a staffed residential setting.

Leo Street offers a broad spectrum of housing and support models that include:

- **Emergency Receiving Homes:** Short-term placements (up to 30 days) designed for immediate safety and comprehensive assessment.
- **Long-Term Homes:** Structured support for up to one year, providing consistency, nurturing care, and developmental stability.
- **Specialized Homes for Children Under 13:** No time-limit placements offering intensive, individualized care for younger children.
- **Youth Emergency Shelter:** Self-referred, short-term stays (up to two weeks) focused on safety, meeting basic needs, and stabilizing crises. This Pilot Program includes Outreach Workers as well as a Day Program for youth. Currently Day Program is running their second (12 week) Girl's Group, the first and second one being so successful that the participants asked to continue thus the decision to offer a third group.

This year, Leo Street launched Oak House, a 2-bed, co-ed short-term Stabilization Home in Maple Ridge. Designed for stays of 3 to 9 months, this new home provides intensive, wraparound services in a supportive, home-like environment. This program has an internal therapist attached to ensure staff are responding to the clients unique and complex needs. The staff and therapist will work closely with the youth to deliver focused interventions aimed at emotional and behavioural stabilization, helping to prepare them for reunification with family or transition to long-term care.



**Patrick Rogers**  
Director, SHSS



**Christina Cabrera**  
Director, SHSS

This new program enhances the continuum of care in Maple Ridge and complements the area's existing Youth Shelter and Emergency Receiving Home.

Additionally, Leo Street opened their first Emergency Receiving Home in the North Shore this summer. We continue to serve the community of the North Shore, and we are excited to see what the future holds.

We also saw significant growth within our leadership team this year. Watching our SHSS team expand and seeing new opportunities for growth emerge has been both exciting and rewarding. Increased leadership also created more opportunities for personal and professional development, as our leaders explored and discovered the kind of leaders they aspire to be. It became a time of self-reflection, embracing our strengths, and recognizing areas for continued growth.

Thank you again to our incredible SHSS team. Our staff, who make all this possible with all the heart and care you give every day. To our amazing youth, it is truly a privilege to walk alongside you and support you on your journey.

# Specialized Homes & Support Services (SHSS)

## Burnaby specialized long-term homes

Southside House: co-ed, 2-bed  
Rowan House: male, 2-bed  
Esau Jr. House: 1-bed

## Burnaby/Coquitlam emergency care homes

Esau House: co-ed, 2-bed  
Juniper House: male, 2-bed

## Maple Ridge homes

Oak House: short term stabilization home, 2-beds  
YES: Youth Emergency Shelter, Outreach, and Day

## North Vancouver homes

Fir House: emergency care, 2-bed

## Surrey specialized long-term beds

Aspen House: co-ed, 2-bed  
Maple House: male, 2-bed  
Willow House: male, 2-bed

## Surrey emergency care homes

Beach House: co-ed, 2-bed  
Newton House: co-ed, 2-bed  
Delta House: co-ed, 2-bed  
Cedar House: co-ed, 2-bed

## Surrey short-term stabilization homes

Lilac House: longer-term, 1-bed  
Huckleberry House: longer-term, 1-bed  
Sunflower House: emergency care, 2-bed

## SHSS Staff

### Burnaby



**Lesley Lloyd**  
SHSS Manager



**Michele Leong**  
SHSS Manager



**Julie Berces**  
Residence  
Coordinator



**Ray Mason**  
Residence  
Coordinator



**Miriam Dubla**  
Residence  
Coordinator



**Lorie Antunes**  
Residence  
Coordinator

### Maple Ridge



**Heather Mallard**  
SHSS Manager



**Tanner Nickel**  
SHSS Manager



**Yashvin Puchooa**  
SHSS Manager



**Melissa Bigsnake**  
Residence  
Coordinator



**Dana Hamad**  
Residence  
Coordinator



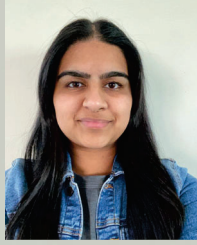
**Kristin Weidema**  
Residence  
Coordinator

# SHSS Staff

## Surrey



**Fatima Gulamhusein**  
Senior Case Manager



**Jasjit Billing**  
SHSS Manager



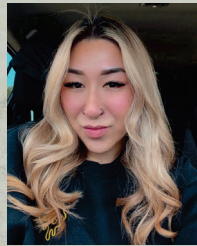
**Tamikah Otanga**  
SHSS Manager



**Sarah Warner**  
SHSS Manager



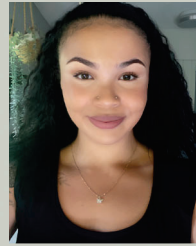
**Hailey Tyers**  
SHSS Manager



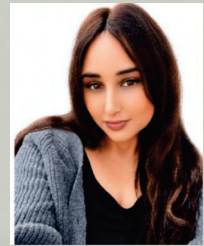
**Maiya Shular**  
SHSS Manager



**Sukhraj Dial**  
Residence  
Coordinator



**Alyssa Gray**  
Residence  
Coordinator



**Amandeep Dhaliwal**  
Residence  
Coordinator



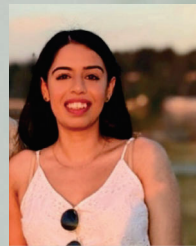
**Sandeep Sall**  
Residence  
Coordinator



**Paleen Her**  
Residence  
Coordinator



**Jordan Jungquist**  
Residence  
Coordinator



**Harmandeep Ranghi**  
Residence  
Coordinator

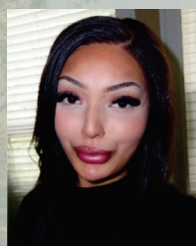


**Angleen Payanch**  
Residence  
Coordinator

## Port Coquitlam



**Kiranjot Khakh**  
SHSS Manager



**Sam Saqib**  
Residence  
Coordinator

## North Vancouver



**Amira Bains**  
SHSS Manager



**Niks Flores**  
Residence  
Coordinator

# Administration



## **Jennifer Hanrahan, Senior Director of Operations, Practice & Standards**

Jennifer studied Women's Studies and Sociology at Memorial University of Newfoundland. She came to B.C. in 2003 to study social work at the University of British Columbia, earning a BSW. After a number of positions in the non-profit sector, Jennifer joined Leo Street in 2014 as the Director of Operations and Practice Standards. A strong advocate and educator, Jennifer has presented at conferences on best practice models for staffed residential care and implemented complex care homes for children and youth. Born and raised in Newfoundland, Jennifer now resides in Surrey, B.C. with her husband and three children.



## **Diane Robitaille, Executive Assistant**

Over the 34 years that Diane has worked at Leo Street, her roles have expanded and changed including her current position of Executive Assistant. Diane's career path in administration started at the age of eighteen in the Woodward's Department Store, accounts payable department. Diane has also worked in business and at Revenue Canada before realizing her passion for the non-profit sector. Other than work accomplishments, Diane states that she is happiest as a mother and grandmother.



## **Sijing Xu, Director of Finance**

Sijing Xu joined Leo Street in March 2020 and currently serves as a Director of Finance. Sijing is a Certified Professional Accountant with over 15 years senior experience in financial reporting, cash management, corporate finance, and government funding. Before joining Leo Street, she has worked in multi-industry such as mining, real estate, renewable energy, and non-profit organizations. Sijing earned a Bachelor of Accounting at British Columbia Institute of Technology and Bachelor of Education from PRC. Outside of working, Sijing enjoys travelling with family, walking & jogging, yoga and music.



**Khaled Araghi**  
CQI Navigator



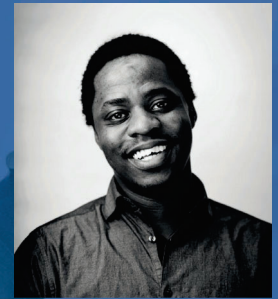
**Devon Chubey**  
Health & Safety  
Officer



**Uzoma Okeke**  
Manager of Practice  
Development &  
Training



**Harleen Sidhu**  
People & Culture  
Manager



**Tom Wangari**  
Manager of Admin

A blue-tinted photograph of two young women standing outdoors. The woman on the left has dark curly hair and is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and shorts. The woman on the right has long blonde hair and is wearing a denim dress over a t-shirt. Both are smiling. The background consists of out-of-focus trees and foliage.

## Staff Recognition | 2025

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### **Al Cote Award**

The Al Cote Award is presented annually to an employee who best exemplifies the qualities that Al Cote has shared with our society. A founding member of the society, Al was kind, compassionate, and ethical. He contributed his time over two decades, serving as a volunteer member and holding the positions of Chair and Director on the board.

**Last year's recipient of the Al Cote Award was Abby McClelland.**

# Data on Service Delivery

**754**

individuals & families  
served this fiscal year

**25,035**

hours of service provided  
(non-residential)

**20,805**

days of service  
(specialized homes)

## Clients by Program

### SHSS

Total clients: 84

- Surrey long-term homes (Aspen, Maple & Willow): 11
- Surrey emergency homes (Beach/Delta & Newton): 19
- Cedar (Metis Family Services): 9
- Surrey 13 and under homes (Lilac, Huckleberry & Sunflower): 6
- Burnaby long-term care homes (Rowan, Southside & Esau Jr.): 9
- Burnaby emergency home (Esau): 10
- Coquitlam emergency home (Juniper): 6
- Maple Ridge emergency home (Birch): 7
- Maple Ridge crisis stabilization home (Oak): 2
- North Vancouver emergency home (Fir): 5

### YES Emergency Shelter

- YES Shelter: 56 individual stays
- YES Outreach: 233 individuals worked with regularly (1,788 youth contacts)
- YES Day Program: 344

### In-Community Programs

Total clients: 336

- Child and Youth Access: 86
- Family Development: 61
- SMILE: 39
- Outlook: 150

*“The parenting strategies and emotional regulation tools were incredibly helpful. I gained patience, new skills, and a better understanding of how my actions affect my children. I also really appreciated how respectful and flexible the support was with my time.”*

– Outlook client

# Data on Service Delivery – Demographics

## Language

| 17% of clients served have a primary language other than English.

## Gender

| 26% male - down 8%  
63% female - up 13%  
8% transgender - up 7%  
3% non-binary (they/them)

Grouped ethnicity	Count % of Total
Caucasian / European	36.60%
Indigenous / Aboriginal	26.98%
South Asian	7.77%
East Asian	5.52%
Middle Eastern / Arab / Persian	5.52%
Latin American / Hispanic	4.91%
African / African Descent	2.86%
Southeast Asian	2.25%
Other / Unspecified	7.59%

## Top 15 reasons for referral in order of prevalence:

1. Mental health
  - Has remained in the top 2 reasons for referral since 2021
2. Emotional supports
  - Has remained in the top 3 reasons for referral since 2021
3. Family conflict
  - Remains number 3
4. Educational needs and supports
5. Behavioural concerns
6. Substance misuse/addiction
7. Aggression/violence
8. Youth justice supports
  - Returned to top 15
9. Parenting supports
10. Homelessness
11. Domestic violence
12. Cultural conflict
13. Sexual exploitation concerns
14. Sexual abuse/assault
15. Pregnancy supports
  - Returned to top 15

# Statement of Financial Position

03-31-2026

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>Current year</b>	<b>Previous year</b>
Total current assets	\$ 7,978,548	\$ 8,691,433
Investments	2,300,000	1,600,000
Capital assets	4,845,559	3,605,994
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>15,124,107</b>	<b>13,897,427</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Total current liabilities	\$ 3,539,247	\$ 2,939,904
Net assets (equity)	11,584,860	10,957,523
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>15,124,107</b>	<b>13,897,427</b>

# Statement of Operations

Twelve months ending 2026-03-31

	<b>Current year</b>	<b>Previous year</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
MCFD	\$ 19,314,013	\$ 17,046,239
Donations	30,043	30,615
Interest	193,841	214,090
Grants/Other	96,195	229,475
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>19,634,092</b>	<b>17,520,419</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Programs	\$ 17,449,073	\$ 14,518,427
Administration	1,557,682	1,462,151
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>19,006,755</b>	<b>15,980,578</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REV OVER EXP</b>	<b>627,337</b>	<b>1,539,841</b>

# Our Board of Directors



**Marion Clauson**  
President



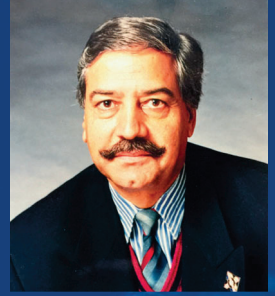
**Deborah Hutchings**  
Vice-President



**Glenn Gardner**  
Recording Secretary



**Cathy Ebbehoj**  
Director



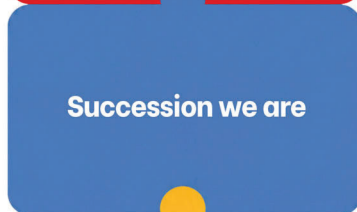
**KP Aujlay**  
Treasurer

## Strategic Plan At-A-Glance



**Leadership in practice**

- Relational
- Collaboration and collective impact
- Dialogue continuous learning
- Resilient and creative



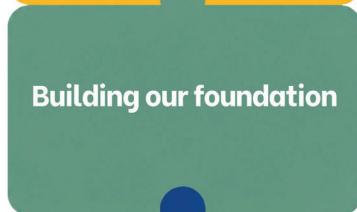
**Succession we are**

- Staff engaged in agency leadership
- Strong cross agency communications
- Continuous learning
- Mentorship



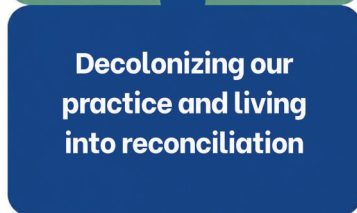
**Cultivating kindness is more than being nice**

- Everyone in our agency is connected and participating in our mission
- Communication honours relationships
- Value based leadership



**Building our foundation**

- Business continuity (risk management, emergency preparedness)
- Growth strategy
- Communication plan implemented
- Strategic community partnerships



**Decolonizing our practice and living into reconciliation**

- Examining our practice standards
- Listening to the experience of others
- Educating ourselves
- Standing on our shared values
- Working together to realize the TRC recommendations



## Client stories

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To protect our clients' privacy, all names within our stories are pseudonyms.

# Outlook Programs

## Maya's Story

After aging out in March, Maya participated in a follow-up check-in session. During the conversation, Maya reflected on the significant progress she has made over the past two months.

Maya shared that prior to this period, she was experiencing substantial challenges, including substance use and mental health concerns, negative peer influences, involvement in an unhealthy relationship, and a lack of stability, structure, and family connection. Over the past two months, meaningful and positive changes have taken place.

Maya has secured stable housing in a basement suite, reconnected with family, and focused on self-care and mental well-being, including taking daily walks. Most notably, she has maintained over two months of sobriety.

During the session, Maya expressed deep gratitude for the consistent encouragement and support she has received, acknowledging that this support played a key role in her progress. For one of the first times, she shared that she feels hopeful and excited about the future and is currently working toward her goal of starting a nail salon.

## Transitions to Independence

The Transitions program continues to support youth in achieving important milestones as they move toward independence. This year, three youth are preparing to begin post-secondary education in September. Two successfully obtained their Class 7 (N) driver's licences, and three moved into their own homes, where they are doing well in their new living arrangements. Several youths have also maintained steady employment for multiple years.

Across the program, youth are actively working toward and achieving both short- and long-term goals. As many prepare to age out, they are doing so with increased confidence, stability, and a strong sense of direction as they approach their nineteenth birthdays.

# In Community Programs

## The Wilson Family

When the family first began working with the Family Worker, daily life at home felt tense and overwhelming. Ongoing struggles with their children had left them discouraged and unsure of how to move forward. Through steady support, practical strategies, and a focus on strengthening communication and relationships, small shifts began to take place. Over time, the family noticed fewer conflicts and more moments of understanding. They shared that the work gave them a renewed sense of hope and described their home as calmer and more peaceful—something that once felt out of reach.

## The Khan Family

Through the sessions, a father began to develop greater confidence in supporting his children without immediately stepping in to resolve conflicts. As he practiced these approaches, he demonstrated a growing understanding of co-regulation and how his responses could help create emotional safety. With support, the children were increasingly able to identify, express, and talk about their emotions.

# Specialized Homes and Support Services

## Jamie's Story

Our first young person to enter this new resource arrived during a period of significant transition and initially experienced considerable difficulty adjusting. The early weeks were marked by frequent escalations and instability. Over time, however, Jamie began to settle, and small but meaningful changes emerged that signaled growing safety and trust.

Gradually, Jamie began engaging in activities that had previously been refused. Simple moments of shared time—such as walking, playing games, and participating in everyday routines—became important steps toward connection. These experiences supported the development of healthier relationships and increased emotional regulation.

Several milestones highlighted his progress. A medical professional noted that this was the first home setting in which the youth's strengths were consistently recognized and spoken about positively. School engagement improved, with increased attendance and participation. Jamie also invited program staff to attend a school concert—an important indication of trust and inclusion.

Throughout the placement, Jamie's intelligence and creativity were evident. Musical ability, strong interests in science and technology, and complex thinking became more visible as stability increased.

A significant outcome for Jamie was a successful transition into a longer-term placement. Rather than starting again from the beginning, he was able to carry forward the progress he made, demonstrating improved relationships and a shift from constant escalation to more regulated and positive interactions.

## Tyler's Story

Tyler entered care in April 2025. He was energetic, intelligent, and eager for connection, but experienced significant challenges with peer relationships and had previously been excluded from group programs. An early transition involving a second intake proved difficult, and Tyler struggled to adjust to sharing space and expectations.

With time and consistent support, meaningful changes began to emerge. Tyler started following house routines, attending school more regularly, and engaging with peers in the neighbourhood. A key milestone occurred in July when he successfully completed a basketball camp—an important achievement given his past experiences with group settings.

Another turning point came in October 2025, when a new co-resident arrived. Although initially resistant, Tyler gradually began building a positive connection, shifting from avoidance and conflict to shared play and engagement.

By April 2026, Tyler had completed one year in care and demonstrated significant growth. He gained independence in his daily routines, attended school consistently, participated in extracurricular activities, and contributed to household responsibilities. He continues to work toward strengthening peer relationships while maintaining meaningful connections with those supporting him.

Tyler's journey highlights the power of time, trust, and consistent care in creating lasting change.





## **Belonging.**

A place that goes with you  
wherever you go.