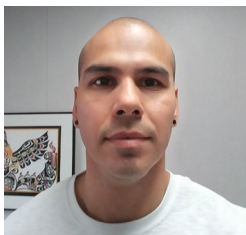




Sasamans Society News

March, 2018

Sasamans Society welcomes new staff members!



**Jeff Badger -
Aboriginal Youth
Navigator, Port Hardy**

Jeff is a Plains Cree from Kehewin, Alberta, who was born and raised in the territory. Both of his parents are residential school survivors.

"I believe in holding our traditional values while being professional in our work settings," Jeff said. "To live bi-culturally is a challenge, however I strive to help youth personally develop to succeed in mainstream society."

Jeff is the father of four children and his partner is from the North Island. He has a diploma in First Nations Community Studies and a Bachelor of Arts from UVic. He has worked with Health Canada's National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy in his territory, then Recreation Director and then as Brighter Futures coordinator. He focuses on collaboration with community while empowering youth to pursue short term goals as motivation to long term goals.

Marisa Anthony - Aboriginal Parenting Support Worker, C.R.

Marisa was born and raised in Ontario and earned her Bachelors in Psychology from the University of Toronto in 2007. As a first generation Canadian of Caribbean and East African descent, Marisa grew up

observing the impacts of colonialism on her own family's culture and developed an interest in the healing of Indigenous people around the world. Her desire to work with First Nation communities was sparked after spending several months



with a Cree family in northern Manitoba and witnessing first-hand the legacy of colonialism in Canada.

Since then, she has spent years supporting clients in Youth Care and as a Family Support Worker in Alberta before

relocating to Campbell River.

Marisa is the proud mother of an inquisitive daughter, who is of Nakoda Sioux ancestry through her father. Committed to nurturing both sides of her daughter's cultural identity, Marisa spent time exploring programs for First Nations kids in Alberta and she is now excited to learn more about the cultures of Vancouver Island.

Taylor Gee - Aboriginal Youth Navigator, Campbell River

Taylor has grown up in the Campbell River region for most of her life. Her cheerful attitude and sense of adventure are two aspects that make up a great deal of her personality. She recently graduated from the Social Service Diploma at North Island College in June, 2017.

While working towards her diploma, Taylor took her practicums at Laitchwiltach Family Life Society and here at the Sasamans Society. Her



family is married into the Wei Wai Kum First Nation and throughout her life she was brought to many cultural events. She has worked with the indigenous population and continues to take

cultural training workshops to further educate herself on the culture of the North Island. Taylor's upbringing influenced her decision to enter the social work field. Her primary focus is to meet clients where they are at while incorporating family reunification.

Taylor is very eager and excited to begin her Indigenous Social Work journey with the Sasamans Society.

**Sasamans Society: Strengthening "Our Children" and families,
in a community-driven and culturally appropriate manner.**



Monica White

- **Aboriginal Youth Navigator, C.R.**

Monica White was born and raised in Campbell River. After taking some time off after high school, she is honoured to be the parent of her remarkably keen daughter. Her desire for supporting troubled youth came during college. Monica graduated from Discovery Community College with her Community Support Worker course in 2016.

Gaining connections at John Howard Society and the creation of Foundry, Monica has had the opportunity to go to various trainings to expand her knowledge to move further into her career of choice. Monica's passion partly comes from the lessons she has learned growing up in care and aging out. Monica welcomes this opportunity to work with aboriginal people and continue making connections in C.R.

Elders expand their work with youth at The Foundry

Elders in Residence from the Sasamans Society have expanded their hours working with youth at The Foundry.

Elders are now meeting with youth four days a week, Monday to Wednesday 1—4 pm and Thursday from 2:30 until 5:30 p.m., at The Foundry. The work began in November and has grown to include four elders, who are providing guidance to local youth.

"It's nice that they're there and they're available and they're making these great connections," said Nicole Kitts, Aboriginal Outreach Elder Navigator at the Sasamans Society. "The work they are doing is culturally appropriate and we are very excited about it.

Funding for this work comes from the First Nation Health Authority and the program runs in partnership with the Foundry. Orientation and planning began in September and the program began in November, 2017.

What is the Aboriginal Parenting Support Worker Program?

The Aboriginal Parenting Support Worker program provides an essential preventive support to families identified as being in need of interventions and who are at high risk of removal due to issues impacting the safety and well-being of their children. The Aboriginal Parenting Support Worker provides intensive service through visits to the family's home and works collaboratively with the family to develop goals and activities to assist in reducing risks identified by MCFD. The worker walks alongside the parents in their efforts to accomplish the goals set out by MCFD providing parenting knowledge, encouragement, navigation to resources and support to build strong and healthy families.

Sasamans is derived from the Kwak'waka language. It translates to 'our children' - which reflects the society's intention to honour and listen to our children's voices and the voices of our communities.

The Sasamans Society's vision statement is "Strengthening our children and families in a community-driven and culturally appropriate manner."

Sasamans Society is located at
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March, 2018

We're on the web!

www.sasamans.ca



SASAMANS SOCIETY
VOICES OF OUR CHILDREN