



# Sasamans Society

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## *2019/20 AGM Report*

Lori Bull, Executive Director

## **Our History**

Our name was derived from community engagement discussions in 2009/10 with leaders and frontline workers. Our logo was created by the late Mulidzas *Curtis Wilson*, of the Wei Wai Kum Nation. The services Sasamans provides came from our community engagement sessions along with the Voices of Our Elders I & II. These were facilitated over a period of two years.

## **Vision Statement**

Sasamans Society's **Vision** is *Strengthening “our children” and families in a community-driven and culturally appropriate manner.* In the Kwak'wala language, Sasamans means "our children"; the society's name reflects our intention to listen, acknowledge and honour the voices of the communities that we serve. Sasamans Society is supported and guided by our Board of Directors (BOD), comprised of community representatives from our partnering First Nation Bands and Aboriginal Urban agencies.

## **Our Mission**

For the well-being of our children & families, we are committed to providing support, and work collectively based on a holistic model from a community-driven process.

In pursuit of our Vision, Sasamans Society will respectfully:

- Appreciate and nurture the strengths and capacities of our people;
- Communicate and engage, openly and on an ongoing basis;
- **Honour** our traditions, customs and beliefs;
- Involve the voices of our children and wisdom of our Elders;
- Learn from one another;
- Dedicate ourselves to achieving our short and long-term goals.

## **Beliefs and Values**

- Every child needs someone to believe in them;
- Children and families have the right to be heard;
- All families do the best with what they have;
- Every child and their families have gifts and strengths;
- Every child deserves to be loved;
- Parents must start taking responsibility;
- Families must start taking responsibility;
- Children and their families need someone to trust.
- Children are our reason for living;
- Children are sacred;
- Children need a safe loving environment;
- Children have to be safe;
- Children belong with their family;
- Children have the right to be children;
- Children have the right to be respected;
- We are here to hold a sacred space for our children and families.



### Message from Board Chair

As we move through this year we have been forced to make changes to service delivery, these changes are necessary to allow us to continue doing our important work. Sasamans Society has a dedicated team that works hard to provide advocacy and support services for our youth, families and Elders. With that I would like to encourage our staff to hold strong and know that we are all hoping for this pandemic to pass so we can get back to some normalcy in our lives. I am proud of our staff and the work they do to support our community, especially during this time when they have had to learn to adjust to a new way of providing services in our communities. Working from home isn't easy

and requires ongoing communication with each other and with the community they are serving. Communication is important in all of our relationships and as each day presents new challenges in our work we are reminded to maintain clear communication with each other so we don't become overwhelmed and discouraged during these extraordinary times. Lean on each other and support each other, it is this time more than ever that we need to come together and support one another. On behalf of the Sasamans Society Board of Directors I would like to convey that we are committed to supporting all of you in your work and together we will get through this. Thank you for your dedication and care you put into your work for our children and families.

For all our community members I would like to assure you that Sasamans Society is doing our best to deliver services under these extraordinary times. We recognize that times are different and services are going to be delivered differently than they were before the pandemic, however, our supports and services are available so please call on us if you need anything and we will do our best to support you under the safety protocols and restrictions that guide our practice during these times. It is important to remind everyone that our goal is to make sure everyone remains safe and healthy during these times; our staff are required to limit any personal contact and to use all safety guidelines and protocols necessary to keep themselves and our community safe.

To our staff, our families and our community, please stay safe and stay healthy as we journey through these months ahead, we look forward to the time when we can come together again in person.

Gilakas'la,  
'Walas'gwa yum gee  
Richard Dawson, Board Chair

### Message from the Executive Director

It is my great pleasure to welcome everyone to our Annual General Meeting. I would like to acknowledge that we are hosting our meeting on the unceded traditional territory of the Laichwiltach people. I am grateful to be a guest in this beautiful territory where I currently live, work and play.



While we are here to share the events of the 2019/2020 year it is hard not to notice that as of the date of this year's AGM we are all living in different times than before. The **Covid-19** pandemic has completely altered our everyday life and has changed how we communicate and how we gather. Since we are unable to meet in person this year, we are

obligated to make every necessary adjustment to how we deliver our AGM to the community this year. I would like to say thank you to everyone for taking time out of your very busy schedule to attend our virtual AGM. Additionally, I would like to thank you for your kindness and patience as we navigate our way through this technological gathering.

Since our last AGM in September 2019, Sasamans Society has seen some changes in our programming. In the spring of 2019 we rolled out the *Aboriginal Outreach Housing Navigator* program in Campbell River along with the *Aboriginal Caregiver Support Worker* program, this was an exciting time for us to add these new programs for our families and community. Unfortunately, due to funding limitations we were unable to continue delivering the *Aboriginal Caregiver Support Worker* program which we ended on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. We recognize the continued need for this program and we look forward to getting this program up and running again at some point in the future. However, it is important to report that the *Aboriginal Outreach Housing Navigator* program continues to serve our community and has proven to be a much needed program considering the current housing situation in our community. This program has seen many people in need of housing, families, youth, Elders and individuals accessing much needed support and services in the short time this program has been operating.

I would like to acknowledge our Board of Directors as they continue to support me and guide me as we journeyed through another year together. There has been a lot of growth and learning on my part and that did not come without its many challenges but it is through these challenges that I continue to learn and grow. We cannot be a strong organization without strong leadership and I am grateful and humbled for this continued opportunity of growth and development as we move into another year together.

I am honoured to be of service to Sasamans Society, our Indigenous Nations, our community and the children & families we work for. As Sasamans Society moves forward in our work I am so grateful to have such an amazing and hardworking team that is dedicated to the vision of Sasamans Society. I am indebted to our Sasamans Society staff that are on the ground everyday doing the hard work for our children/youth, families and Elders. I am truly humbled by all of you who bring your knowledge and expertise to your work, your support for one another as a team and your support for me. Each of you put your heart and spirit into your work each and every day and Sasamans Society would not be what it is today without all your dedication and hard work. I thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement during this past year and most of all for your patience during my continued learning and growth; each and every one of you have contributed so much to the success of Sasamans Society and I will continue to learn and grow from all of you. **Thank you!!!**

As we move into 2021 I look forward to a brighter year that brings us all hope as we strive for good health and shared happiness in a world where possibly we begin to move again in shared circles, exchanging hugs & handshakes and enjoying visits with family and friends. Until then please stay safe and healthy.

‘Gilakas’la,  
Lori Bull, M.S.W., R.S.W.  
Executive Director

## **2019/2020 Sasamans Society Programs and Services:**

- Aboriginal Outreach Family Navigator
  - Aboriginal Outreach Youth Navigator
  - Cultural Connections (MCFD Roots Program)
  - Aboriginal Parenting Support Worker
  - Aboriginal Housing Navigator
  - Aboriginal Caregiver Support Worker
  - Designated Band Representative – Mamalilikulla First Nation
  - Aboriginal Elders Outreach Navigator/Aboriginal Harmony Circle of Elders
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### **Aboriginal Outreach Family Navigator**

*Sasamans Society has 3 AOFN programs each one respectively located in Campbell River, Courtenay and Port Hardy.*

The purpose of the **Aboriginal Outreach Family Navigator** (AOFN) program is to enhance service provision, provide advocacy, decrease children in care through preventative support services, and improve accountability through a family-centered approach that focuses on meeting the needs of Indigenous children and families.

The AOFN provides support and guidance to Indigenous families who are at risk of becoming involved with the *Ministry of Children and Family Development* (MCFD) or a *Delegated Aboriginal Agency* (DAA) as well as providing assistance to families whose children or grandchildren are in the care of MCFD or a DAA. The AOFN acts as a *navigator* for families to assist them in understanding the child welfare system as well as accessing various resources and support services (i.e. legal services, counselling services, parenting support services, drug and alcohol treatment services and supports etc.).

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### **Aboriginal Outreach Youth Navigator**

*Sasamans Society has 3 AOYN programs each one respectively located in Campbell River, Courtenay and Port Hardy.*

The purpose of the **Aboriginal Outreach Youth Navigator** (AOYN) program is to enhance service provision, provide advocacy, and to ensure that youth in care are made aware of the services available to them while in care and when they age out of care. Additionally, this program aims to decrease the numbers of Indigenous youth in care through preventative support services and improve accountability through a youth centred approach that focuses on meeting the needs of the youth. This program works with Indigenous youth aged 13 – 26 years.

The AOYN assists Indigenous youth in understanding and accessing various youth support services and resources that may be available to them as well as participating in planning

processes with youth and their social workers on Youth Agreements while also providing support and guidance to youth who are:

- In government care;
- On probation;
- Transitioning out of government care or;
- Aging out of government care.

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## **Cultural Connections Program**

The purpose of the *Cultural Connections* program is to create Cultural Plans for children in care and to assist MCFD social workers in developing and implementing appropriate re-unification plans and identifying children for whom a return to family or community may be appropriate. Sasamans Society has one FT Cultural Connections Worker (CCW); this position is based out of Campbell River and works in partnership with various First Nations (provincially and nationwide), MCFD and community agencies including Laichwiltach Family Life Society. This program has at times required the CCW to travel to communities such as Kyuquot, Ahousaht and Cortes Island.

**CCW 2019/20** The Cultural Connections Program has benefitted from increased collaboration with local agencies here in Campbell River. As a result, we have been able to utilize community and interagency feedback to better serve the families we work with. An example, hosting in-person Cultural Safety Agreement meetings to streamline the cultural planning process versus negotiating with each party individually.

**CCW 2020/21** Flexibility and adaptability have been key to the successes of the Cultural Connections Program since the beginning of this year. Since COVID, we have been able to employ new formats (i.e. Zoom, Skype, Microsoft Teams) and implement more inclusive reviews with MCFD to continue our work despite the uncertainties of this year. We have seen an increase in referrals at earlier points in the child welfare process leading to more preventative outcomes for our families.

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## **Aboriginal Parenting Support Worker**

*Sasamans currently has two FT APSW's, one is based out of Campbell River and the other is based out of the Wachiay Friendship Centre in Courtenay.*

The *Aboriginal Parenting Support Worker* (APSW) program was initiated in January of 2018. The purpose of the APSW is to provide essential and preventative support services to families identified as being in need of interventions and whose children are in government care or at high risk of removal. The APSW provides intensive support through visits to the family's home while working collaboratively with the family to develop goals and reducing risks identified by MCFD.

The worker walks alongside parents in their efforts to accomplish the goals set out by MCFD, they provide encouragement, parenting knowledge and resources with the objective of building strong and healthy families.

The APSW works very closely with our *Aboriginal Outreach Family Navigators*. While these positions work closely together they hold very different roles. Parents appreciate one on one time with the APSW as the support can be tailored to meet the family's specific needs in a way that parenting groups cannot. Families have a say in what they want out of the program, the APSW has found this works well for the participants to maintain continuity within the program as it helps to build relationships with families in a good way and from a place of empowering parents.

Through a BCAA grant, the Campbell River Aboriginal Parenting Support program was able to obtain car seats that were donated to local families, as well as several for use in Sasamans programs. The CR APSW received training as a Circle of Security Parenting facilitator and started delivering the course to families during the past year. An introductory meeting with the MCFD Intake team in January 2020 led to an increase in support referrals for families during the early stages of MCFD involvement.

**APSW 2020/21** As a result of COVID19 restrictions, the APSW has primarily provided support to families remotely since April 2020. This has included teleconferences with clients and their social workers, remote Circle of Security sessions, providing support to parents via phone/Facebook/ Zoom, and sharing educational resources through print and online videos. While remote support has been difficult for some families to adapt to, others have found it easier to attend meetings because they don't have to worry about transportation or location constraints.

**\*NEW\*** The *Aboriginal Outreach Housing Navigator* (AOHN) program launched in the spring of 2019 and has proven to be an essential service in our community. The purpose of the AOHN program is to assist Indigenous people in finding suitable, safe and affordable housing. Persons supported by this service may include but is not limited to Indigenous elders, families and individuals involved with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) and/or the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) including single parents leaving violent relationships; youth aging out of government care and individuals who may be couch surfing, residing in shelters/hotels or living on the street.

**AOHN 2020/21** The AOHN program works to challenge housing barriers for all and to improve accountability through a community-centered approach focusing on meeting the housing needs of the Indigenous community. Most recently the AOHN worked diligently for many months to house residents after a building fire in April 2020 completely destroyed the largest low-income apartment complex in Campbell River. This building fire resulted in the unexpected homelessness of 90 residents (75% of whom were Indigenous) and necessitated the AOHN to work tirelessly alongside other community supports and housing and homelessness networks to advocate for the increase of low-income housing units in Campbell River.

Our program has had some great successes housing individuals and families, with an increasing need for affordable family housing. Our relationships with the Coalition to End Homelessness and the Urban Indigenous Housing & Wellness Committee (UIHWC) has grown our presence in community, giving folks another alternative for assistance in their housing search. It is very exciting that UIHWC is exploring options, working with local nations and provincial agencies to increase affordable housing options in Campbell River.

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**\*NEW\*** *Aboriginal Caregiver Support Worker* (ACSW) program operated out of Campbell River ½ time until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The ACSW provided essential support services to caregivers (grandparents/aunties/uncles etc.) caring for Indigenous children that are placed in an MCFD out-of-care placement option or who are caring for Indigenous children under a family plan. The purpose of the ACSW program was to support Indigenous families and community to care for our own children in place of stranger foster care. The role of the ACSW included connecting caregivers to knowledgeable resources and provide ongoing services to assist caregivers navigate MCFD out-of-care placement options and placement requirements. This program also offered supports in accessing family law supports and services, guardianship rights and information with the goal of keeping Indigenous children connected to their family, cultural community and traditional languages, while preserving the child's Indigenous identity.

This program was highly supportive of family caregivers in helping them to navigate the processes involved with MCFD in all aspects of their involvement. This included support with assessments, understanding the ministry social workers role in the child's life and how MCFD is responsible for certain aspects of the child's care. Support with understanding the limitations and restrictions often placed on parents regarding access and visitation with their children, and the responsibilities that family caregiver's have to communicate with MCFD. This program was and is very needed in this community, as more Indigenous children are being placed with family members who need the resources of Sasamans Society and to have the support worker walk beside them throughout MCFD involvement, to ensure that the families rights and the best interests of the Indigenous child is being upheld.

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**\*NEW\*** In the fall of 2019 Mamalilikulla First Nation (MFN) approached Sasamans Society with a request to provide *Designated Band Representative* (DBR) services for MFN children in care; this being a new initiative for Sasamans Society we agreed to provide part-time support for this role. The purpose of the *Designated Band Representative* is to work with MFN families living on and off reserve to ensure their children in care remain connected to family, community and culture through planning, advocacy and mediation support. The goal to achieve successful outcomes through a collaborative approach between MFN and provincial child welfare agencies is paramount, while strengthening MFN's capacity building in exercising their inherent rights to be involved in all matters involving their children in care.

The success of this position within Sasamans society has been an increase in consistent communication between local and provincial Ministry of Children and Family Development service providers in involving the Designated Band Representative in decisions affecting members of the Mamalilikulla First Nation. The Nation is informed more often before significant measures, such as investigations, interviews, home visits and removals, are taken. This improves the outcomes of families significantly, as the Band Designate is able to ensure that appropriate culturally safe assessment and recognition of historical trauma is considered when ensuring safety for children in the homes of their parents. Children are also being placed with family members more often, rather than in foster homes. Also, more collaborative circle work with families is being referred to the coordinators and this contributes to more involvement of family in decisions affecting their children. The Designate utilizes all the programs that Sasamans Society offers the community, which increases the likelihood of positive outcomes for families and children.



The **Aboriginal Outreach Elders Navigator (AOEN)** works with elders from both on and off reserve; the AOEN services includes assisting elders in navigating the health care system and supporting them when attending medical appointments, assisting in finding housing, tax preparation and budgeting and supporting elders in whatever capacity they require. The Elders Navigator also meets with elders in Courtenay once a week. The AOEN spends a lot of time with the elders including attending Elders conferences that takes place in various communities each year.

The Elders Navigator program has been a valuable asset to many agencies, committees, schools and long term care facilities in the community as they access the Elders support, love and guidance. Last year we had some amazing opportunities to bring staff and Elders together to learn and grow from our knowledge keepers. Although the end of this year was unexpected with

COVID-19 we made sure our Elders group felt loved and cared for by delivering them each a special gift as the isolation proves to be a challenge.

### **Aboriginal Elders Outreach Navigator/Aboriginal Harmony Circle of Elders**

The *Aboriginal Harmony Circle of Elders* (AHCE) was established in 2013/14 to provide support and guidance to Sasamans Society staff, local First Nations organizations, youth, families at risk, and other agencies including MCFD, John Howard Society, Foundry and Campbell River Family Services. The AHCE plays an active role in the community as they assist in facilitating workshops, giving opening and closing prayers and welcoming guests to the territory when attending meetings and workshops. The AHCE has participated in various training sessions and healing workshops throughout the years organized by Sasamans Society Elders Navigator, this training has provided them with the skills and confidence to work in community.

# *Aboriginal Harmony Circle of Elders*



*Below: Elder in Residence at CR Family Services*



*Above: 2019 Elders Retreat in Campbell River*



Some of our group enjoying laughs and tears together on Orange Shirt Day in Campbell River, September 30, 2019



**Below:** Elders' Peer support group that meets to discuss issues including mental health & wellness and self-care



**Above:** Blessing of the Parents Legal Centre



Cedar weaving with Avis O'Brien



*PAINT "NIGHT" FUN AT THE CROWS NEST IN CAMPBELL RIVER*





The group had an absolute blast learning how to paint. It was a lovely way to spend an afternoon together with lots of laughter and smiles to go around!



**Below:** Author Eden Robinson with Sasamans Elders and Sasamans Staff



## Partnerships

Our work at Sasamans is enhanced through our many partnerships; we have nurtured many collaborative working relationships in each of the communities we work in (Campbell River, Courtenay and Port Hardy). These partnerships include but are not limited to our community agency partners:

- Laichwiltach Family Life Society;
- John Howard Society;
- Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre;
- Gwa'sala-'Naxwada'xw Health Centre;
- KDC Health;
- Wachiay Friendship Centre;
- Ministry of Children and Family Development and;
- The Federation of BC Youth in Care Network.

### **We also have partnerships with various First Nations including:**

- Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala;
- Mamalilikulla; Dzawada'enuxw;
- We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum;
- Gwa'sala-Naxwada'xw Nations;
- K'omoks;
- Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis Tribe;
- Quatsino and;
- Tlatlasikwala.

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## Funding

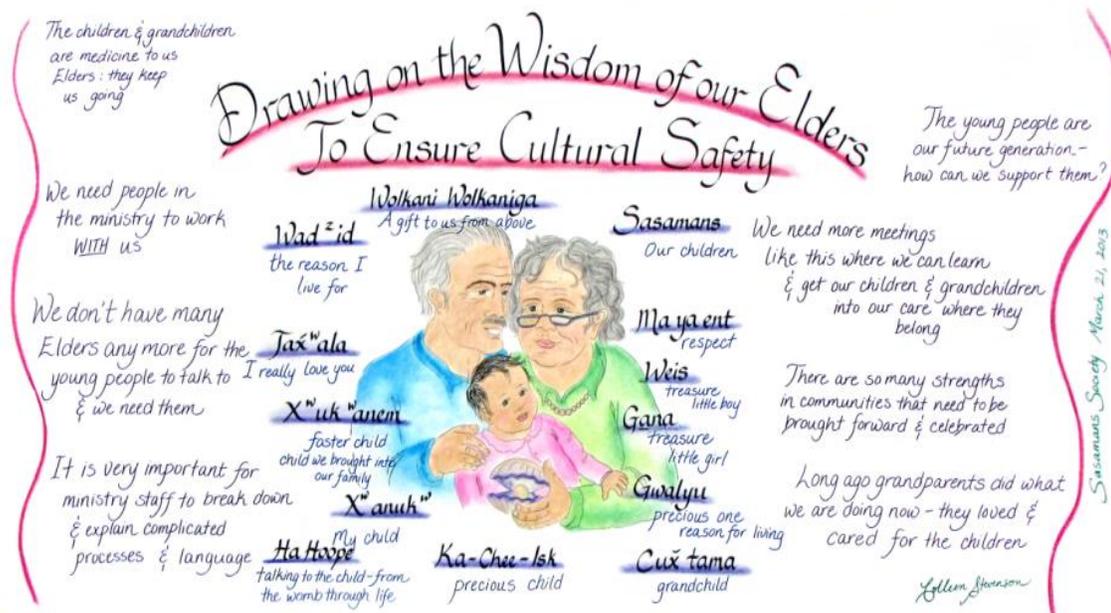
The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) provides funding through 3 funding programs:

- Aboriginal Service Innovation (ASI) - MCFD Provincial Office
- Prevention and Family Support - MCFD Provincial Office
- Roots Program (Cultural Connections) - MCFD Campbell River Regional Office
- **Additionally we received funding from:**
- *Community Well-Being Jurisdiction Initiatives (CWJI)* administered by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) through the Da'naxda'xw First Nation;
- *First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)* for our Elders program;
- Mamalilikulla First Nation for the Designated Band Representative position.

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## Cultural Safety

Sasamans is committed to providing culturally safe services to Indigenous children, youth and families in Campbell River, Port Hardy and Courtenay. We are aware that the urban communities are comprised of many different Nations; therefore we respect and value the traditional teachings of all Indigenous people.



## Program Services Catchment Regions

Sasamans Society services Courtenay, Port Hardy and Campbell River for both on and off reserve youth, families and Elders:

- **Courtenay** has a combined *Aboriginal Outreach Family Navigator/Aboriginal Youth Navigator* and an *Aboriginal Parenting Support Worker* both workers operate out of the Wachiya Friendship Center.
- **Port Hardy** has a combined *Aboriginal Outreach Family Navigator/Aboriginal Youth Navigator* that operates out of Rendezvous Place.
- **Campbell River** has one *Receptionist*; an *Aboriginal Outreach Family Navigator*; two *Aboriginal Youth Navigators*; an *Aboriginal Parenting Support Worker*; a *Cultural Connections Worker*; an *Aboriginal Outreach Elders Navigator* and the *Executive Assistant/Bookkeeper and Executive Director* that operates out of our head office. The new programs for 2019/20 based out of our head office include: *Aboriginal Housing Navigator* and *Aboriginal Caregiver Support Worker* and *Designated Band Representative* for Mamalilikulla First Nation.

## Sasamans Society Programming and Partnerships 2019/20

**CWJI Funding** – in February of 2019 Sasamans Society received \$92,028 from Da'naxda'xw First Nation in response to the federal *Community Wellbeing and Jurisdiction Initiative* (CWJI) funding from Indigenous Services Canada (ICS) to conduct prevention and wellness activities/programs. We proposed to use this funding towards developing an urban *Aboriginal Housing Navigator* program to help urban Indigenous families seek out safe and

affordable housing; it has proven to be an essential service for many Indigenous families in the community.

We did not utilize any of this funding during the fiscal year 2018/2019 as it came quite late in the fiscal year. We received another payment from the CWJI funding initiative from Da'naxda'xw also in the amount of \$92,028 for the funding year 2019/20. With this funding we were able to introduce not just one but two new programs for our community:

In late spring of 2019 Sasamans Society launched the ***Aboriginal Housing Navigator*** (AOHN) program and is situated out of the Sasamans Society main office in Campbell River. The purpose of the Aboriginal AOHN program is to enhance service provision and assist Indigenous peoples (families, couples, individuals, youth and Elders) find suitable, safe and affordable housing. The AOHN will assist those in understanding their tenancy rights & responsibilities when seeking rental accommodations and throughout tenancy. Persons aided by this service may include but is not limited to Indigenous families and individuals involved with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) and/or the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD); single parents with children leaving violent relationships; youth aging out of government care and individuals who may be couch surfing, residing in shelters/hotels or on the street.

Additionally, we launched the ***Aboriginal Caregiver Support Worker*** (ACSW) program which we had operating out of Campbell River until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The ACSW provided essential support services to Indigenous caregivers (grandparents/aunties/uncles etc.) who are caring for Indigenous children that are placed in an MCFD out-of-care placement option or who are caring for Indigenous children under a family plan. The purpose of the ACSW program was to support Indigenous families and community to care for our own children in place of stranger foster care. The role of the ACSW included connecting caregivers to knowledgeable resources and provide ongoing services to assist caregivers navigate MCFD out-of-care placement options and placement requirements. This program also offered supports in accessing family law supports and services, guardianship rights and information with the goal of keeping Indigenous children connected to their family, cultural community and traditional languages, while preserving the child's Indigenous identity.

In the fall of 2019 Mamalilikulla First Nation (MFN) approached Sasamans Society with a request to provide ***Designated Band Representative*** (DBR) services for MFN children in care; this being a new initiative for Sasamans Society we agreed to provide part-time support for this role. The purpose of the ***Designated Band Representative*** is to work with MFN families living on and off reserve to ensure their children in care remain connected to family, community and culture through planning, advocacy and mediation support. The goal to achieve successful outcomes through a collaborative approach between MFN and provincial child welfare agencies is paramount, while strengthening MFN's capacity building in exercising their inherent rights to be involved in all matters involving their children in care.

# What's New for Sasamans Society in 2020/21

## COVID-19

At the time of putting this report together, as collective, society has endured many months of a global pandemic which has profoundly changed our lives and how we walk together in this world. It has been a difficult adjustment for everyone. Today we can't do our work without considering the health and safety of everyone we come into contact with. We work with many folks in the community who are vulnerable to COVID-19 and no one can take any chances of becoming sick and infecting others. Unfortunately, on March 17, 2020 like many services and businesses we had to lock our doors to the community and move into working remotely. We were able to support our entire Sasamans team to work from home with a rotating schedule to work in the office to manage the phones. Most of the first few months we spent learning how to adapt while continuing to provide services to those who required our supports and services. There were many challenges, learning to adapt while keeping ourselves and our clients safe was not easy and took many months for all of us to adjust to a new way being together while maintaining our distance. Sasamans Society programs continue to run and we continue to provide support and services as best we can with safety protocols in place.

## Designated Band Representative – Mamalilikulla First Nation

In the fall of 2019 Mamalilikulla First Nation (MFN) approached Sasamans Society with a request to provide *Designated Band Representative* (DBR) services for MFN children in care; this being a new initiative for Sasamans Society we agreed to provide part-time support for this role. In April of 2020 we expanded this program to full-time as the work involved proved to be extensive and required a dedicated full-time position. Much of the work to date has included building relationships with MCFD/DAA's, community partners and Indigenous serving partners locally and province wide; Mamalilikulla DBR also participates in Family Group Conferences and Integrated Case Management meetings while actively working on MFN child placements with family and community.

## Supporting Youth Access to Technology

In the fall of 2020 the Campbell River Aboriginal Youth Outreach Navigator partnered with YLSBC, BC Tech and Rising Youth to ensure that 25 youth and young adults receive a computer that is video chat compatible. This computer will come with a Technology set-up video to help ensure everyone knows how to best utilize this technology and its supporting programs. This is an amazing opportunity to provide our Indigenous youth and young adults with technology security!

## **\*\*New Program coming to Sasamans Society\*\***

### **Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator – Campbell River**

In October 2020 Sasamans Society successfully applied to become a host agency for a *Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator* (JPSC) position in Campbell River. This position will provide services to Indigenous children living in our service delivery area, both on and off reserve. The JPSC will assist families/caregivers/guardians to navigate the full range of existing federal and provincial health, social, and educational programs and services and act as a point of contact for Indigenous Services Canada, BC Region Jordan's Principle Team.

The *Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator* job posting for Sasamans Society went out in early December and we hope to be interviewing in early January 2021 with the hopes of getting this program up and running by the end of January 2021.

## 2020/21 Sasamans Society Team

Jane Watts-Ellens	Aboriginal Family & Youth Navigator	Port Hardy
Melony Larre	Aboriginal Outreach Family Navigator	Campbell River
Taylor Shuttleworth	Aboriginal Youth Navigator	Campbell River
Monica Glendale	Aboriginal Youth Navigator	Campbell River
Rachel Cain	Cultural Connections worker	Campbell River
Marisa Anthony	Aboriginal Parenting Support Worker	Campbell River
Kia Everson	Aboriginal Family & Youth Navigator	Courtenay
Shana Reeder	Aboriginal Parenting Support Worker	Courtenay
Nicole Kitts	Aboriginal Elders Outreach Navigator	Campbell River/Courtenay
Tasleem Mall	Aboriginal Caregiver Support Worker	Campbell River
Alynn Neault	Aboriginal Housing Navigator	Campbell River
Crystal Assu	Executive Assistant/Bookkeeper	Campbell River
Skye Bourget	Reception	Campbell River
Lori Bull	Executive Director	Campbell River

## 2020/21 Sasamans Society Board of Directors

Richard Dawson	Chair	Maggie Puglas	Director
Nick Chowdhury	Vice-Chair	Barb Mitchell	Director
Marian Atkinson	Treasurer	Rita Pimlott	Director
Vera Peacey	Secretary	Willie Moon	Director
Keith Wilson	Director	Patricia Hall	Director



*Sasamans Society Board of Directors in honour of Orange Shirt Day 2019* **Back Row L-R:** Nick Chowdhury, Keith Wilson, Richard Dawson, Willie Moon, Bert Boucher, Lori Bull (ED)  
**Front Row L-R:** Vera Peacey, Marian Atkinson, Rita Pimlott, Barb Mitchell **Missing:** Patricia Hall and Maggie Puglas

# SASAMANS SOCIETY IN THE COMMUNITY!

**Sasamans Team Build Day with Habitat for Humanity NI August 29, 2019**



**Sasamans Society Build Team at Habitat for Humanity build site on Hilchey St. in Campbell River**

*L-R: Thomas Wamiss Jr., Tasleem Mall, Marisa Anthony, Rachel Cain, Monica Glendale, Ryan (Habitat carpenter), Alynne Neault, Taylor Shuttleworth.*



**On the left:**  
*Monica & Tasleem comfortable with the tools.*



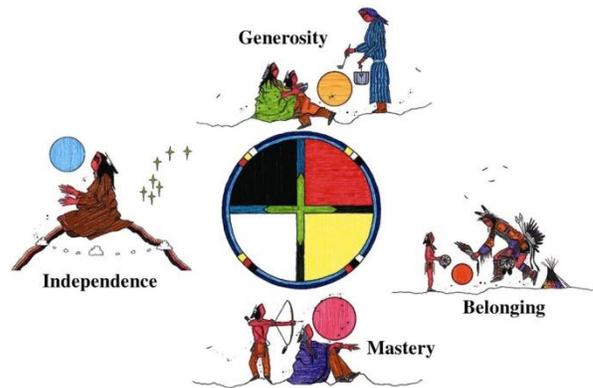
**On the right:**  
*Taylor & Thomas hard at work.*



**Dr. Martin Brokenleg ~ NIC  
September 28, 2019**

Dr. Martin Brokenleg at North Island College  
Building Strength in the Early Years  
Co-Author of Reclaiming Youth at Risk: our Hope  
for the Future and co-developer of the Circle of  
Courage model (pictured below)

*L-R: Monica Glendale, Rachel Cain, Dr. Brokenleg, Marisa Anthony, Melony Larre*



**Eden Robinson – Campbell River  
Museum January 18, 2020**

Eden Robinson Haisla/Heiltsuk writer and author of several books including the TRICKSTER trilogy and MONKEY BEACH was *Writer in Residence* at the Haig-Brown House in Campbell River during the winter months of 2019/20. A few of our staff took the opportunity to hear her speak at the Campbell River Museum, at this time we shamelessly approached her and asked if she would be available to meet with our team and our Elders, she was happy to accommodate our request. She is absolutely DELIGHTFUL!

*In the photo with Eden Robinson is Aboriginal Youth Navigator Taylor Shuttleworth*





*Thank you for  
attending Sasamans  
Society AGM for  
2019/20*