



Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations

People's Assembly Report

Interim Director of Community Services, January 2023

by Steinar Våge

Over the past 5 years we have grown from being a department of 3 full time employees and 2 contracted workers to a department of 8 full time employees and 5 contracted workers. We currently have 3 full time positions posted that needs to be filled within the Community Services department and a few more coming.

1. Overview

Health:

- Health Plan
 - o We are currently making a 5-year health plan for KCFN that will include both people living at home and away from home. We have a table here that are doing a survey to learn what you see as most important. Please stop by there and do the survey. The more people that answer the better we will know what your priorities are and what you would like to see happen. You also enter a draw for an iPad by doing the survey.
- Primary Care Network Steering Committee – Campbell River
 - o I was invited to sit on the Primary Care Network Steering committee. On this committee we make decisions on how funding to provide primary care in Campbell River is prioritized. The budget that this committee is overseeing is over \$6,000,000. This is a great opportunity to influence how Campbell River approaches providing primary care and make sure the perspective of our members living here is taken into consideration.
- Mental Health Programs (at home and away from home)
 - o Alcohol Withdrawal Support Program
 - o Men's Group
 - o Women's Group
 - o Consistent Counselling Services in Kyuquot and away from home

Social Development and Family Services:

- Carol and Teresa are diligently processing Income Assistance and hardship applications. This year the hardship was increased with an extra \$300 per year per member 19 years

and over. We continue to encourage the use of this when there is a hardship so that it is available when a crisis hits.

- Over the past few years, we have had more children returned to family than children that have ended up in care. Over the last five years I have seen the list of children in care consistently get shorter. As far as I am aware our statistic is not the normal. We have an incredible team that work together to make this work possible. Currently it is Caroline MacDonald, Susan Guthrie-Dick and Daniel Blackstone that make out the family services team. It is still expanding because the work they do only show that there is more support needed and it is our goal to continue to serve more and more families. This program is not only concerned with MCFD and Usma, but also with other agencies such as NTC, RCMP, Hospitals, care facilities and Strathcona Regional District to name a few.

Community Services:

This department is a bit of a catch all department. If it doesn't fit anywhere else, it gets put here. That makes it difficult to navigate. This is the department where you'll find elders and youth, disability hardship and Emergency Preparedness.

- **Elders Worker:** We are currently looking for an Elders Worker. If you are interested, please look at the posting that is available down at the table in the back. We are looking for someone to have as a specific focus to support our elders
- **Youth Workers:** We are also currently looking for a Youth Worker in town and at home. With Youth Workers we will develop new programs and continue programs we have already started. The first thing coming up already in March is taking several of our youth to Gathering our Voices in Vancouver.
- **Warrior Program:** Over the past few years we have done various projects and training with our Warrior Program. The most recent big project finished was the building of a beautiful cabin on Spring Island that you can see pictures of at the Warrior Table down there. Please have a chat with the Warriors there and Monique Comeau. Monique is supporting this project and has done an amazing job coordinating it. We are hoping to bridge the gap between our youth in town and at home to be able to have a Warrior Program for all our youth. Please ask Monique if you are interested in it, or if you have youth, you think she should be in touch with.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Over the past few years a lot have happened in the department of Emergency Preparedness.
 - o There are now sea-cans full of emergency equipment up the hill in Kyuquot and one being established in Fair Harbour.
 - o A fully functioning, radio operated, tsunami siren.

- We have had several training sessions in how to operate an Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) in response to an emergency. We are continuing with more training coming soon.
- We have several trained First Responders in our community, and we are looking at more training taking place shortly
- Coastal Nations Coast Guard Auxiliary has started with training. There is a vessel specified for Search and Rescue being built for KCFN as we speak. There is a sea-can in Kyuquot with equipment and support for responding to various kinds of need. This program will train people to be better prepared for Search and Rescue situations in Kyuquot.
- We are looking at various options for firefighting in Kyuquot.

2. Financial Overview

These are a few highlights of grants we have received over the past few years:

- \$500,000 in various grants earmarked for Mental Health.
- Warrior Program is fully funded through various grants reaching over \$100,000 annually.
- Our emergency preparedness program is funded primarily by various grants. This includes our coming new Search and Rescue Vessel and the Coastal Nations Coast Guard Auxiliary (CN CGA), Oil Spill Response, Communications Project with the Coast Guard, training in Emergency Operations Centre, Tsunami Siren and Emergency Equipment, totaling over \$1,000,000.
- The Family Services program is funded by prevention funding received through the province. Over the past few years, we have gone from receiving \$70,000 to receiving \$310,000 annually for this work.

3. Staffing

Community Services Staff and Responsibilities:

TBD: Director of Community Services

Health:

Shirley Hansen – Community Health Representative/Travel Clerk

Carla Short – Community Liaison Worker/Clinic Clerk

TBD - KCFN Nurse

Allan Campbell – Mental Health Counsellor (Contract)

Upper Island Counselling – (Contract)

- Kelsi Baine - Counsellor
- Graham Walker - Counsellor

- Holly Kleban - Counsellor

Social Development:

Carol Smith – Social Development Worker

Teresa Short – Social Development Worker

Daniel Blackstone – Family Support Network Coordinator

Susan Guthrie-Dick - Urban Family Support Network Coordinator

TBD - Family support worker

Caroline MacDonald – Family Support Worker (Contract)

Community Services:

Elizabeth Jack – Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Carla Short – Senior First Responder

TBD - Youth Worker

TBD - Youth Worker

TBD – Elders Worker

TBD - Community Services Manager

Monique Comeau – Warrior Program (Contract)

4. The Future

The direction coming with the new Director of Community Services will impact the future of the department but here are a few projections of what is to come.

Health:

The health department have gone through many changes over the past years and is still changing. NTC has been struggling with delivering the services we were paying for, so we have gradually discontinued service delivery from NTC. First by taking over delivering Mental Health Services and most recently also taking over nursing services delivery. It is challenging to find the right staff and contractors but recently we signed a contract with Upper Island Counselling (UIC) which deliver counselling services by-weekly in Kyuquot. UIC also delivers counselling services for our members that live away from home. We are collaborating with Island Health to hire a nurse that will be working in Kyuquot which should come into place soon. We will continue to look for opportunities to expand our services and support to our members living at home and away from home.

Social Development and Family Services:

This department will grow in the coming years. We continue to look for opportunities to help those on Income Assistance to either find work or pursue educational programs. Our Family Services team will continue to expand in size and its ways to support our families at home and away from home. Having our services available at home and away from home is a high priority and will continue to be in the future. Our challenge is to adapt to the context and know what the needs are and learn how to support those needs.

Community Services:

There are several programs that are going to grow under community services. We are currently looking for two youth workers and an elders worker to expand and create programs for these groups. We already have our Warrior Program which will continue to grow and be part of our youth work. Our Emergency Preparedness program will continue to grow and expand.

It has been a privilege to serve KCFN as the director of Community Services and I look forward to seeing the department continue to prosper under new leadership. I will continue to serve KCFN within Program & Project Development. My email will remain the same so please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions (steinarv@kcfirstnations.com).