**Parent Support Services** striv. Society of BC

PSS

#### **ARPIL 2023 NEWSLETTER**



#### Highlights from the Provincial Training Workshop 2023



## **#PTW2023**

After a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 lockdown, PSS finally brought back its in-person Provincial Facilitators' Training Workshop. The PTW2023 took place on March 3-5, 2023, at Stillwood Camp & Conference Centre and was a major success. Volunteer Facilitators from across the Province gathered together to share a memorable weekend, filled with lots of learning, sharing, networking and fun!

See highlights here ...

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#### **QUICK LINKS**







#### FEATURE STORY

#### **MY PROVINCIAL TRAINING WORKSHOP 2023 EXPERIENCE**

By Reginald Acquaah-Harrison, Practicum Student

"The workshop provided me with a lot of insight into the PSS purpose and the great work the organization has accomplished in advocating for families.

I started my practicum with very little knowledge about PSS apart from what I had read on the PSS website. I interacted with the staff for a sense of what PSS is about and it was clear that the mission is "to support the well-being of all families and children by empowering those in a parenting role through community connections, research, education, and advocacy".

I started to unravel the mission statement by reading testimonials and joining drop-in sessions and Circles and concluded that PSS is vital to the success of effective parenting in the community. In my quest for knowledge, I decided to register for webinars, various drop-in sessions and engage in informal discussions with staff. When Jane asked if I wanted to attend the Provincial Facilitators' Training Workshop from March 3-5, 2023, I accepted the opportunity and registered as soon as I could. However, due to family and other work commitments I could only attend the Saturday of the weekend program.

The Stillwood Conference Centre near Cultus Lake, BC, is tucked away in the woods surrounded by views of the mountains, which makes the environment very serene. I arrived in time for breakfast with a warm reception from the staff, facilitators from across the BC and guest speakers. I immediately felt at home even though I had only met the majority of them for the first time.

The first workshop began just after 9am with an icebreaker which, in my opinion set the tone for the day. We were all asked to introduce ourselves by explaining the origin of our names. The speaker explained that names are tied to identity and it was important to understand and appreciate our respective names and their relation to our culture. I had the opportunity of meeting and chatting with most of the facilitators and was impressed with their collective purpose of supporting families by providing a safe place to share and build skills around parenting.

One facilitator who had been a volunteer for about two years shared their experience of how the Sharing Circles have empowered parents to advocate for the needs of their family by effectively connecting them to resources. They underestimated the impact of the Circles on the community and encouraged me to volunteer as a facilitator and share in the experience.



Don't miss the next Provincial Training Workshop!

Learn more about becoming a Volunteer Facilitator!

Learn more

The workshop provided me with a lot of insight into the PSS's purpose and the great work the organization has accomplished in advocating for families. For example, in the afternoon session, Brenda Dragt, one of the guest speakers, talked extensively about Trauma-Informed Practice and its relevance to supporting children and families. Brenda talked about awareness of the negative impacts of historical and intergenerational trauma on children and their caregivers.

Brenda provided the team with tools and strategies for self-care, self-regulation, emotional coaching and to be awareness of our own triggers when advocating for families. Overall, it was an enlightening experience packed with resources to help us be effective and relevant to our respective communities. My only regret is not staying for the socials on Saturday evening. The reviews and feedback suggest a great time of bonding with karaoke, games and general fun time!







#### **Highlights from the Provincial Training Workshop 2023**

MARCH 3-5, 2023







#### Successful Weekend!

"I felt I didn't express well enough my gratitude to all of you for the hard work and dedication in not only planning the Workshop but also for the day-today work that you take on in the support of families and children. The recognition of volunteers, the many opportunities to make us feel recognized and special was wonderful.

I was also reflecting upon the workshop itself and see the process of the weekend as reflecting the work of the Circles in the community. We came together Friday night as strangers to one another, and through both serious work, such as the Workshops, and meals together and time for fun, we arrived at Sunday knowing one another more intimately and sharing of ourselves more deeply. I would say that is a very successful weekend!"

-- Shirley Piedt

#### Don't miss the next Provincial Training Workshop!

Subscribe to our newsletter to never miss an update.

And visit our website to learn more about becoming a Volunteer Facilitator.



#### **Thank You!**

"A big thank you to those who attended the Provincial Training Workshop on March 3,4, and 5, 2023 at Stillwood Camp and Conference Centre. It was a great opportunity to welcome all of you in person, recognize all the work that you do, and celebrate the anniversary of some longterm volunteers!"

-- Violeta Munoz-Berruecos









#### Refreshed with Knowledge

"It was an amazing experience, and I came home refreshed with the knowledge that PSS is filled with amazing people who go above and beyond for families and for each other."

-- Susan Ogilvy



#### Thank You to the Speakers

Thank you to our wonderful speakers, Shirley Piedt, Eroca Russell, Brenda Dragt and Laure Sabini for taking time to share their informative presentations with us that weekend!







## PSS SERVICES SPOTLIGHT SUPPORT CIRCLES

Shining a spotlight on our Parenting Support Circles currently seeking new members! Join to be part of a supportive community!



GENERAL PARENTING SUPPORT CIRCLE Date: Thursdays (Weekly) Time: 7:00 PM Location: In-Person JOIN NOW



GENERAL PARENTING SUPPORT CIRCLE Date: Thursdays (Weekly) Time: 10:00 AM Location: Online via Zoom JOIN NOW



MANADARIN PARENTING CIRCLE Date: Thursdays (Bi-Weekly) Time: 10:00 AM Location: Online via Zoom JOIN NOW

#### HADIH HOUSE FAMILY UNITY PARENT SUPPORT CIRCLE

250-563-7976 (must call to register) hadihhouse@carneyhill.ca carneyhill.ca

Date: Every third Tuesday of the month Time: 2 - 4 PM Where: In-person 2105 Pine St., Prince George, BC



KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT CIRCLE Date: Tuesdays (Weekly) Time: 7:30 PM Location: Online via Zoom JOIN NOW

#### HADIH HOUSE WOMEN'S WELLNESS PARENT SUPPORT CIRCLE

250-563-7976 (must call to register) hadihhouse@carneyhill.ca carneyhill.ca

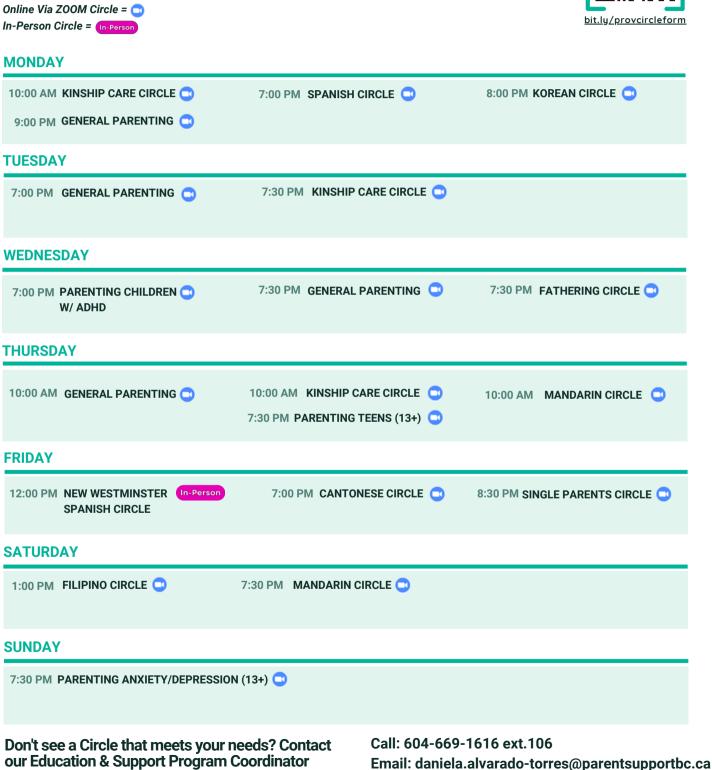
Date: Bi-Weekly on Thursdays Time: 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Where: In-person 2105 Pine St., Prince George, BC



## PARENTING SUPPORT CIRCLES SCHEDULE ~

Parenting Support Circles are **FREE**, **confidential** and **anonymous** circles that support parents and kinship caregivers throughout their parenting journey.

Parenting Support Circles can take place either online or in-person. They provide the space to share the challenges, concerns, questions, skills, and information, that come with parenting.





Scan or click to



#### PSS PARENTING WORKSHOPS

## Parenting Workshops

Parenting workshops are free, educational and informative sessions that offer parents and caregivers presentations on a variety of parenting topics.





#### Helping Your Baby and Young Child Eat Well April 4, 2023 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Join us for an informative workshop led by Island Health Dietitian, Janet Krenz, who will discuss how to help your baby and young child eat well. Topics will include introducing solids, introducing allergenic foods, picky eating and much more!



https://bit.ly/pssparentingworkshop



#### Tuning Into Temperament (0-12y) 2-Part Series

April 17, 2023 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM



April 24, 2023 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Join for us this informative 2-part workshop series where we learn how our personality interplays with that of our child's, and explore strategies in supporting their unique way of being.



https://bit.ly/pssparentingworkshop



**Online workshop** 

**APRIL 2023** 

#### Supporting Communication Development In The Early Years

April 27, 2023

7:30 PM

Join for us this informative workshop for parents and kinship caregivers who are interested in providing a language-rich environment and supporting the communication development of their little ones. Best suited for parents/caregivers raising children under 6.



https://bit.ly/pssparentingworkshop



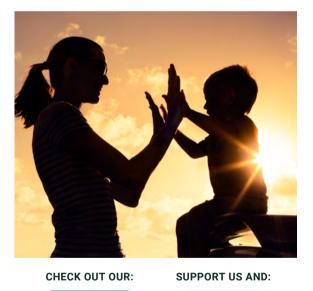


## PSS NEWS & UPDATES PSS IN THE COMMUNITY



#### INSPIRED 55+ LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE SHOW MARCH 21, 2023

Recently, PSS attended the Inspired 55+ Lifestyle Magazine Show, held in Victoria, BC at the G.R Pearkes Arts & Recreation Centre. The PSS booth was run by staff member, Sandi Halverson, the Community Connections Coordinator, and long-time volunteer, Mary Morgan-Pick. The two spent the afternoon sharing information about PSS services and programs...and the **new** and **upcoming volunteer opportunities available for older adults!** 



NEW PARENTING SUPPORT CIRLCES COMING SOON...

We're happy to announce that NEW Parenting Support Circles are on the way! Thanks to the continued support from the community, we are about to launch two new Parenting Circles. Stay tuned for updates on the upcoming **New West Portuguese Parenting Circle**, and the **Burnaby Spanish Parenting Circle**.

Provincial Online Book Clubs at PSS are also making a comeback and will be open for registration soon! Thank you to our generous donors and community partners for contributing to the expansion of the Parenting Support Circles and Book clubs.

Subscribe to our newsletter and follow our social media to be the first to receive further information.

Don't see a Circle that meets your needs? Contact Daniela, Education & Support Program Coordinator

Call: 604-669-1616 ext.106 Email: daniela.alvarado-torres@parentsupportbc.ca

#### SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTER

You never have to worry about missing events like this when you sign up for our monthly newsletter!





DONATE



#### VOLUNTEERING AT PSS FEATURE STORY

## THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING

National Volunteer Week takes place from April 16-22, 2023, and is a time to celebrate the incredible contributions of volunteers in our communities. Volunteers donate their time, skills, and resources to support causes they believe in.

It's an act of selflessness and generosity benefitting not only the recipients of the volunteer's work but also the volunteer themselves. The importance of volunteering cannot be overstated.

## 1. Volunteering is an opportunity to make a difference in the world.

Volunteers have the power to positively impact their communities and create real change. In addition to the benefits to the community, volunteering has numerous benefits for the volunteers themselves. For starters, volunteering can be a great way to learn new skills and gain valuable experience.

By volunteering, individuals can gain practical experience in these areas and develop skills that can be applied to future jobs or even their personal lives.

## 2. Volunteering is an excellent way to meet new people and make connections in the community.

Volunteering is also an excellent way to meet new people and make connections in the community; often working alongside like-minded individuals who share similar interests and passions. These relationships can lead to new friendships, networking opportunities, and a sense of belonging in the community.



## 3. Volunteering can also have a positive impact on mental health.

Studies have shown that volunteering can reduce stress and anxiety, boost self-confidence, and increase overall happiness. When we give our time and energy to others, we feel a sense of purpose and fulfillment that can be hard to find in other areas of our lives.

Volunteering is an essential part of healthy communities and a fulfilling life. So, whether you're a seasoned volunteer or just starting out, consider giving your time and talents to a cause you believe in.





## VOLUNEER

#### YOU'RE INVITED!

In celebration of National Volunteer Week, and to say thank you to our incredible volunteers, PSS is hosting a Volunteer Recognition Social.

Date: April 18th, 2023 Time: 6:00PM - 8:00 PM Location: 204-5623 Imperial St., Burnaby, BC (PSS Main Office)

Join us for a relaxing evening featuring food & refreshments, socializing and special Volunteer Recognitions.

Please RSVP by April 11th, 2023, using the button below or email us at volunteer@parentsupportbc.ca

We look forward to seeing you!

#### **RSVP HERE**

QUESTIONS? REACH US HERE: parentsupportbc.ca 1-877-345-9777 (Toll-Free) office@parentsupportbc.ca FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES:





#### VOLUNTEERING AT PSS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES



#### **Fundraising Committee Member**

Parent Support Services is currently seeking candidates from diverse backgrounds with various perspectives, to fill two (2) community member openings on our Fundraising Committee.

from both the board and staff.

#### **Candidates must:**

- Be available for at least a 1-year term
- Be able to participate in monthly virtual meetings
- · Support fundraising efforts (e.g., event planning, ticket sales, sponsorship sales, etc.)
- Commit to providing leadership support in order to meet the desired outcomes of our strategic plan, and move toward our vision



#### **Event Planning Committee Member**

Parent Support Services is currently seeking candidates from diverse backgrounds with various perspectives, to join our Event Planning Committee.

The committee is made up of a well-rounded and dynamic group Committee members will provide leadership in planning, coordinating, and executing PSS community events and celebrations.

#### Candidates must:

- Be available for at least a 1-year term
- Be able to participate in monthly virtual meetings .
- Support event planning efforts (e.g., securing sponsors and partners, ticket sales, event promotion, etc.)
- Commit to providing leadership support in order to meet the desired • outcomes of our strategic plan, and move toward our vision





#### Find us on **Facebook**



We've created a new Volunteer Facebook group where you can learn and share information about province-wide volunteer opportunities at PSS.



#### Are you in the training process of becoming a Support Circle Facilitator?

Remember that the upcoming Live Zoom Sessions are happening this month on the following dates:



\*\* The Self-paced learning portion of the training must be completed prior to attending these Live Zoom Sessions.



CLICK TO JOIN

PSS of BC recognizes and respects all the Indigenous Nations, Traditional

#### **PAGE 10**

## KINSHIP CARE UPDATES

Supporting Kinship Caregivers and Families in B.C

Kinship Care Help Line: 1-855-474-9777 (Toll free) 604-558-4740 (Greater Vancouver)

#### Advocacy wins more support for some kinship caregivers

After years of advocacy by kinship caregivers and organizations such as Parent Support Services, some children being raised by their grandparents and other kin will be receiving more support from the Provincial Government.

If the child you are raising is in an out-of-care agreement (Extended Family Program Agreement, interim or temporary custody order to a person other than a parent, or a permanent transfer of custody) and you receive a monthly maintenance payment from MCFD – Effective April 1st you will be receiving an increase in your maintenance payments. Unfortunately, this does not apply to kinship families who have orders through the Family Law Act...

Visit our website for more details about these improved supports for some Kinship Care families.

#### LEARN MORE

#### Access to post-secondary education expanded for former youth in care

The government has removed age restrictions for the Tuition Waiver Program. This is a major step for youth who have been in foster care, and many who were raised in kinship care, including those in Child in the Home of a Relative.

To find out more about accessing this program, call our Kinship Care Help Line at 1-855-474-9777.

LEARN MORE

#### MUSIC FOR LIFE: A fun music program for young ones and their kinship caregivers

The Victoria Conservatory of Music is offering a FREE weekly in-person music program for you and the child you are raising. Classes will take place in Victoria, BC. These are fun and energetic music classes that help engage children in a lifelong love of music. Explore instruments, sing songs, have fun with movement and begin early literacy and numeracy learning!

To find out more about accessing this program, call Sandi, our Community Connections Coordinator at 604-669-1616 ex. 114

LEARN MORE

QUESTIONS? REACH US HERE: parentsupportbc.ca 1-877-345-9777 (Toll-Free) office@parentsupportbc.ca

**PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER** 

You never have to worry about missing a thing when you sign up for our monthly provincial newsletter!















Scan or click code to register! Or follow the link below!



https://bit.ly/PSSMusic4Life

**MUSIC** FOR 💊 for children m Kinship care ages 1 to 5 years old

A fun music program for young ones and their kinship caregivers.

## APRIL TO JUNE 2023 12:00 - 12:30 PM



The Victoria Conservatory of Music is offering a **FREE weekly** music program for you and the child you are raising. These are fun and energetic music classes that help engage children in a lifelong love of music.

Explore instruments, sing songs, have fun with movement and begin early literacy and numeracy learning!

**Mondays** @ VCM DOWNTOWN April 3rd - June 26th

**Tuesdays** @ VCM WESTHILLS April 4th - June 27th

(except stat holidays)

Space is limited so please register early for this free program!

> Westhills, Langford 210-1314 Lakepoint Way 🕲 778-265-5355



**APRIL 2023** 



## WE'RE HIRING!

#### We're looking for a full-time Administrative Coordinator.

PSS is looking to hire a full-time Administrative Coordinator! If you are passionate, organized and believe in our mission, then join our team and make a difference!



#### **Qualifications, Skills and Experience:**

- Relevant diploma and minimum 2 years' experience at executive assistance level;
- Thorough understanding of office procedures, equipment and protocols;
- Strong computer abilities in data base design and management, desktop publishing, word processing, scheduling, spreadsheet and web maintenance.
- And more...

#### Closing Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 8 PM

Click "Apply Now" or visit our website for more details and instructions on How To Apply.

We look forward to hearing from you!

#### Job Summary:

The administrative coordinator will provide general office management and administration support, including volunteer coordination, data and physical space management and reception.

Location: Main office in Burnaby, BC

#### JOIN THE TEAM!



GOT QUESTIONS? REACH US AT: 1-877-345-9777 (Toll-Free) office@parentsupportbc.ca

CHECK OUT OUR:









#### NEWS & UPDATES COMMUNITY NEWS & RESOURCES



#### **MORE SUPPORT FOR SOME KINSHIP CAREGIVERS**

#### EFFECTIVE APRIL 1ST

If the child you are raising is in an out-of-care agreement (Extended Family Program Agreement, interim or temporary custody order to a person other than a parent, or a permanent transfer of custody) and you receive a monthly maintenance payment from MCFD, – Effective April 1st you will be receiving an increase in your maintenance payments...

Learn more here...



#### **CAREGIVER TRAINING SKILLS FOR FAMILIES**

#### WHO NOW OFFERING THE CST PROGRAM IN A VIRTUAL, INTERACTIVE, SELF-PACED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Are you a parent or caregiver of a child diagnosed with a developmental disorder, including autism, between the ages of 2 and 9? At no cost to families, the World Health Organization (WHO) Caregiver Skills Training (CST) for Families of Children with Developmental Delays or Disabilities can help caregivers build day-to-day skills to better understand and engage with their children. Learn more here...



#### 14 WAYS TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AS A FAMILY

EARTH DAY IS SAT. APRIL 22, 2023

Earth Day is a time to celebrate nature and the environment. Everyone-babies and toddlers included-can learn about taking care of the earth and its resources and appreciate the beauty of nature. Here's how to get babies, toddlers, 2-year-olds and pre-schoolers involved in celebrating Earth Day.

Learn more here...



#### HOW PARENTING MY SIBLING AS A CHILD CHANGED MY LIFE

#### EFFECTS OF PARENTIFICATION

"For a big part of my life, I was complimented on my maturity and my ability to handle responsibility. Something that, as of today, still feels like a compliment. But looking back on it, I've come to realize that being so mature at a young age wasn't always a good thing..."

Read more here...

QUESTIONS? REACH US HERE: parentsupportbc.ca 1-877-345-9777 (Toll-Free) office@parentsupportbc.ca

#### **PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER**

You never have to worry about missing a thing when you sign up for our monthly provincial newsletter!







# Support our mission & GIVE BACK

MAKE A DIFFERENCE Donate today and help ensure that our services continue to support the well-being of all families and children in BC.

### DONATE

For more information visit parentsupportbc.ca



**APRIL 2023** 

#### GET INVOLVED! VOLUNTEER WITH PSS!

LEARN MORE! PSS VOLUNTEERING



#### BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE

We are seeking candidates from diverse backgrounds who would like to volunteer their time to support children and families across BC!

Members at Large are volunteer Board members who commit to providing leadership support in order to meet the desired outcomes of our strategic plan and move toward our vision. Candidates must be available for a 3-year term, at minimum, and be able to participate in regular virtual board meetings, as well as one Committee and Annual General Meeting.

To apply fill out the Board of Directors Application

#### SUPPORT CIRCLE FACILITATOR

Become a Volunteer Circle Facilitator and work with our Support Circles to connect with and support caregivers in building healthier families!

Facilitators provide safe spaces for caregivers to get together and discuss their strengths, challenges or concerns about their parenting role; build a supportive network and skills; receive emotional support; develop self-advocacy skills; and boost self-esteem. Volunteers receive **Free Initial Facilitator Training**, which takes place virtually using a combination of self-paced learning models and Live Sessions.

To apply fill out the Volunteer Facilitator Application



Would you like to connect and positively impact others? Are you a part of the following communities in the Lower Mainland: Hispanic/Spanish, Chinese or Filipino? Volunteer as a Steering Committee Member at PSS!

Volunteer Steering Committee members support our Circle Programs by providing invaluable knowledge and ideas and connecting with the local communities we serve.

To apply fill out the Volunteer Steering Committee Application









#### **CONTACT US**

#### **PROVINCIAL OFFICE**



**APRIL 2023** 

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**PSS Toll-Free** 1-877-345-9777



**PSS Office** 604-669-1616





**Kinship Care Help Line Toll-Free** 1-855-474-9PPP



**Kinship Care Help Line Greater** Vancouver 604-558-4740



**Kinship Care Help Line Email** kinshipcare@parentsupportbc.ca





