

JULY 2021

# PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER



## WELCOME TO SUMMER!

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we slowly move out of the craziness of COVID, PSS staff wishes everyone a safe and happy summer with your children and families.

So many tragic things have happened this year (pandemic, forest fires, loss of lives and the ongoing discoveries at the various residential schools across the country and the continuing unaccounted for number of missing and murdered Indigenous women).

How heartbreaking! How shameful! No words to describe my feelings. We have heard from PSS's Indigenous staff and the Indigenous families we work with—the loss of elders in their communities and the trauma of the discoveries.

Let us not forget the importance of finding the truth in reconciliation and let us continue to educate ourselves and advocate to ensure that we stop these ongoing injustices.

In all this devastating news it is hard to be joyful. I keep shaking my head as I think about what our children have inherited from us? How can we create an environment where the children are not blind or silent to blatant racism and climate change? What can we do to create a happy, healthy, equitable and sustainable society for all? What can we do to ensure that the world our children and grandchildren inherit is one that we are all proud of?

As parents and caregivers, it is important to be optimistic and ask the tough questions for and with our children, so that we can attain true social and environmental change for our kids and the generations that follow. I challenge everyone to reflect on all these tragedies and to come up with ways in which we can work towards true reconciliation and climate justice. Let us ponder what led us to this situation and come up with solutions that will benefit us all. It is action that is going to change things. Let us start this summer in the direction of positive and real change. I am going home now to hug my kids and to ask them what they think we can do?

PSS stands for "creating a world that where all children and their families are nurtured valued and safe."

- Carol Madsen, Executive Director



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OUR 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW OUT! VISIT

[PARENTSUPPORTBC.CA/](https://parentsupportbc.ca/)

[AGM-REPORTS](#)

TO READ OR DOWNLOAD.



2020 - 2021



## STANDING WITH INDIGENOUS FAMILIES

We stand in solidarity with Indigenous families, and mourn the children and countless more lost to the residential school system. Listen to Indigenous voices and their lives and stories.

**Every Child Matters.**

## GRANDPARENTS DAY 2021: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH



Every year, Parent Support Services celebrates Grandparents Day, which occurs annually on the 2nd Sunday of September. This is a day to celebrate grandparents, and to raise awareness for kinship caregivers and grandparents raising grandchildren across the province.

We are happy to announce that we will be hosting both on-site (Lower Mainland) and online festivities to celebrate Grandparents Day on Sunday, September 12th, 2021!

There will be activities for families and children in the outdoors of Central Park, Burnaby, in the Lower Mainland, as well as online festivities on our social media province-wide. **Event details and times will be shared as they are finalized - stay tuned on [parentsupportbc.ca/gpd2021](https://parentsupportbc.ca/gpd2021)**

## PSS CELEBRATES PRIDE 2021

Parent Support Services celebrates Pride, and the diversity of different people and all families. We support LGBTQ+ kids, caregivers, and families, and believe that everyone should get the love and acceptance they deserve.

Throughout July, we are sharing educational posts and resources.

**#PSSCelebratesPride**



## VANCOUVER ISLAND

FOR MORE ON VANCOUVER ISLAND, VISIT [PARENTSUPPORTBC.CA/REGIONS/VANCOUVER-ISLAND](https://parentsupportbc.ca/regions/vancouver-island)

### Parent Support Circle

Wednesday evenings on Zoom, Weekly  
at 8:30 pm

### Parent Support Circle: Parenting Teens

Thursday evenings on Zoom, Weekly at  
7:30 pm

To register, please visit  
[bit.ly/provcircleform](https://bit.ly/provcircleform) or call Sandi  
Halvorson at **250-468-9658** or email  
[sandi.halvorson@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:sandi.halvorson@parentsupportbc.ca)

### Multicultural Parenting Circle

Wednesday evenings on Zoom, Weekly  
at 7:30 pm

To register, please visit [bit.ly/pssvimc](https://bit.ly/pssvimc)  
or call Sandi Halvorson at  
**250-468-9658** or email  
[sandi.halvorson@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:sandi.halvorson@parentsupportbc.ca)

## LOWER MAINLAND

NEW ONLINE PARENTING CIRCLES FOR THOSE IN A FATHERING ROLE, AND SINGLE PARENTS

### FATHERING

### SUPPORT CIRCLE

*Open to parents & caregivers  
in a fathering role*

Wednesday's @ 8:30pm to 9:30  
- Every 2 weeks, via Zoom

### SINGLE PARENTS

### SUPPORT CIRCLE

*Open to single parents &  
caregivers in BC.*

Friday's @ 8:30pm to 9:30  
via Zoom

Register at [bit.ly/provcircleform](https://bit.ly/provcircleform) or email [office@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:office@parentsupportbc.ca)

**OPEN TO ALL PARENTS & CAREGIVERS IN BC**

WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR UPCOMING NEW PROGRAMS, PARENTING  
BOOK CLUBS, AND WORKSHOPS? JOIN OUR PROVINCE WIDE EMAIL LIST AT

[BIT.LY/PROVCIRCLEFORM](https://bit.ly/provcircleform)

## INTERIOR BC

VOLUNTEER FACILITATORS NEEDED FOR PARENTING SUPPORT CIRCLES IN INTERIOR BC

For information, contact Cassandra Strain at  
[cassandra.strain@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:cassandra.strain@parentsupportbc.ca) or (250) 384-8042

### “ ARE YOU IN: ”

KAMLOOPS  
VERNON  
KELOWNA  
PENTICTON  
TRAIL  
NELSON  
CRANBOOK  
GOLDEN

### NEXT ONLINE

### TRAINING

### SESSIONS:

SEPTEMBER

14, 16, 21, 23, 28

6:30-8:30 PM

### Are you someone who:

- Has good listening skills
- Is interested in supporting parents/caregivers and child relationships
- Has a basic understanding of child development & parenting issues
- Is willing to do some community outreach & development
- Is comfortable with using Zoom
- Has good organizational & communication skills
- Can commit to a minimum 1 year, 3-5 hours a week.
- Can participate in interview process

### Join Our Team

Our Parenting Support Circles are for Parents, Grandparents, and other Kinship Caregivers in different communities throughout BC. Our Circles are based on a self-help, peer support model which provides a safe space for Circle members to get together and discuss their strengths, challenges or concerns about their parenting role; builds a supportive network & skills; receives emotional support; develops self-advocacy skills; empowers and boosts self-esteem; and helps create a healthier living environment for all families.

**FOR MORE TERMS & CONDITIONS AND TO APPLY, VISIT:**

**[PARENTSUPPORTBC.CA/VOLUNTEER](https://parentsupportbc.ca/volunteer)**

## NORTHERN BC/PRINCE GEORGE

Visit [parentsupportbc.ca/regions/pgnorth](https://parentsupportbc.ca/regions/pgnorth)

or contact Regional Coordinator Kim Brown:

250-962-0600 or [kim.brown@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:kim.brown@parentsupportbc.ca)

## INDIGENOUS CIRCLES

For more information on Indigenous Circles, please contact our Indigenous Circles

Program Coordinator Danella Angus:

604-669-1616 ext. 104 or [danella.angus@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:danella.angus@parentsupportbc.ca)



Parent Support Services  
Society of BC

Free &  
Confidential!

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren & Kinship Care Online Support Circles



**Open to all grandparents raising grandchildren and others raising the child of a relative!**

Circles provide a safe, supportive place to connect with others like you. Each self-help Circle is led by trained volunteer facilitators. Sometimes it just takes a bit of space to hear yourself and the voices of others to find your way through.

## **Summer Schedule for Virtual GRG/Kinship Support Circles:**

Mondays at 10 am (Monthly - next meeting August 16th)

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm (Bi-Weekly - next meetings August 3rd, 17th, & 31st)

Thursdays at 10 am (Weekly)

To join or for more info please contact us

**1-855-474-9777**

**[grgline@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:grgline@parentsupportbc.ca)**



*PSS of BC recognizes and respects all the Indigenous Nations, Traditional Lands and Territories upon which we Gather, Live, Work and Play*

## KINSHIP FAMILIES

### MOBILIZE FOR CHANGE

Connecting, learning with, and empowering kinship care families.

Sign up and info:

604-669-1616 Ext. 110 or email  
[jane.bouey@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:jane.bouey@parentsupportbc.ca)



## ALL OUR RELATIONS

### Equality for Relatives Raising Relatives

Are you an Indigenous grandparent raising your grandkids? Are you raising an Indigenous niece or nephew?

Do you face?

- racism,
- not enough support,
- children's special needs,
- not knowing where to go

Together we can make change.

To join us or to find out more:  
[AllOurRelationsBC@gmail.com](mailto:AllOurRelationsBC@gmail.com)  
or look for us on Facebook.  
[www.facebook.com/groups/allourrelations/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/allourrelations/)

## ALL OUR RELATIONS

### EQUALITY FOR RELATIVES RAISING RELATIVES

Are you an Indigenous grandparent raising your grandkids? Are you raising an Indigenous niece or nephew?

Do you face:

Racism

Not enough support

Children's special needs

Not knowing where to go?

Together we can make change.

To join us or to find out more, contact:

[AllOurRelationsBC@gmail.com](mailto:AllOurRelationsBC@gmail.com)

or look for us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/groups/allourrelations](https://facebook.com/groups/allourrelations)

**Need support?**



## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) & Kinship

### Caregiver Support Line

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Toll-free (Province wide).

**1-855-474-9777**

Or by email [grgline@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:grgline@parentsupportbc.ca)



Parent Support Services  
Society of BC

# WE WANT YOU!

VOLUNTEER FACILITATORS NEEDED FOR  
PARENTING SUPPORT CIRCLES



FOR MORE TERMS & CONDITIONS AND TO APPLY, VISIT:

**[PARENTSUPPORTBC.CA/VOLUNTEER](https://parentsupportbc.ca/volunteer)**

OUR CIRCLES:

ARE FOR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, & KINSHIP CAREGIVERS  
FOCUS ON SELF HELP & PEER SUPPORT  
PROVIDE A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL CAREGIVERS

For information, contact us at [office@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:office@parentsupportbc.ca) or 604-669-1616

**NEXT ONLINE TRAINING SESSIONS AVAILABLE IN:**

**SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER**

**ALL AVAILABLE DATES: VISIT [PARENTSUPPORTBC.CA/VOLUNTEER](https://parentsupportbc.ca/volunteer)**

**PSS RECOGNIZES and RESPECTS all the INDIGENOUS NATIONS, TRADITIONAL LANDS & TERRITORIES that we GATHER, LIVE, WORK & PLAY ON across BC.**

We acknowledge the financial contribution of the Government of British Columbia

