



2015/2016 Annual Report

Celebrating 20 Years



Kw'umut Lelum
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Please note that this annual report reflects activities from
April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

Kw'umut Lelum Child and Family Services

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www.kwumut.org

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Member Nations



Halalt First Nation

Chief James (Bert) Thomas
7973 Chemainus Road, Chemainus, BC
Phone: (250) 246-4736



Lake Cowichan First Nation

Late Chief Sha e' lum -Cyril Livingstone
313B Deer Road, PO Box 159, Lake Cowichan, BC
Phone: (250) 749-3301



Lyackson First Nation

Chief Rick Thomas
7973A Chemainus Road, Chemainus, BC
Phone: (250) 246-5019



Málexeł Nation (Malahat)

Chief Caroline Harry
110 Thunder Rd, Mill Bay, BC V0R 2P0
Phone: (250) 743-3231



Penelakut Tribe

Chief Joan (Ozzy) Brown
PO Box 360 Chemainus, BC
Phone (250) 246-2321



Qualicum First Nation

Chief Michael Recalma
5850 River Road, Qualicum Beach, BC
Phone: (250) 757-9337



Snaw-Naw-As First Nation (Nanoose)

Chief Brent Edwards
209 Mallard Way, Lantzville, BC
Phone: (250) 390-3661



Snuneymuxw First Nation

Chief James Wesley
668 Centre St, Nanaimo, B.C.
Phone: (250) 740-2300



Stz' uminus First Nation (Chemainus)

Chief John Elliot
12611A Trans Canada Highway, Ladysmith, BC
(250) 245-7155

Governance



Children.Culture.Community.

Purpose

It is the purpose of Kw'umut Lelum Child and Family Services' Board of Directors to strive for excellence in the governance of the agency, with deep respect for our Snuw'yulh and the sacredness of our Nations. There is a commitment to the values of accountability, transparency, fairness, timeliness, and integrity.

Objectives

- Seek, obtain and manage funding in order to meet the needs of children and families.
- Recognize the diversity of our member nations and adhere to the culturally appropriate approaches pertinent to each of the respective communities
- Strive to ensure that the children of our communities are safe and protected
- Strive to ensure that all our children are returned to the care of their Nation

Principles

- The mandate for our work comes from our Member Nations
- Our children's best interest will be the most important consideration in all our decisions
- Family and community are essential to our children
- We will strive to maintain the best practice in keeping with our respect for our Member Nations in the care of our children
- Striving for the safety and well being of our children through the provision of services using least intrusive measures
- Comply with all applicable legislation, but recognize these are the minimum standards of diligence

Message from the President



My name is Qwul'sih'yah'maht (Robina Thomas) and I am a member of Lyackson First Nation, but also have Snuneymuxw roots through my late grandmother Lavina Wyse and Sto:lo roots through my late grandfather Charles Prest.

I am honoured to represent the Board of Directors for Kw'umut Lelum Child and Family Services. As we celebrate our 20th Anniversary, it gives us cause to stop and reflect on the past, but more importantly to consider the future for the children of our nine member nations.

We have grown exponentially over the years, from a small room in the Snaw-Naw-As Community Hall to our current facilities in Snuneymuxw territory. We have a model long house where we offer Kw'umut Lelum's Four Seasons Cultural programming. And, through much coordination and leadership, the KL Canoe Family continues to participate in Tribal Journeys.

In 2014, Kw'umut Lelum was given full delegation to provide the full scope of child protective services. Undoubtedly, we have reached many milestones over the years. But an agency does not run without the dedication and commitment of many, or as the saying goes, 'It takes a community to raise a child.'

I would like to take this time to raise my hands and acknowledge everyone who has contributed to the success of Kw'umut lelum.

- First, to the nine member nations for the support you have given Kw'umut Lelum, because your devoted support has allowed our organization to flourish – Huy tseep'qa.
- To all of the caretakers who have been there to support the children – Huy tseep'qa.
- To all the board members, past and present, for their passion and commitment to our children in care – your guidance, direction and leadership has been invaluable – Huy tseep'qa.
- And lastly, to all of the staff for your dedication to children, youth and families – you make this organization what it is – Strong Roots, Strong Families – Huy tseep'qa.

In closing, we wish to reiterate our commitment to the youth. It is our responsibility to remember that our children are our future.

We know we must rely heavily on our Elders and traditional knowledge keepers to guide and direct our work so that our children are rooted in their Snuw'eyulh and grown up as strong Xwulmuxw mustimuxw.

Huy tseep'qa Siem

Board of Directors



Dr Robina Thomas
President
Lyackson



Kevin Frenchy
Vice-President
Stz'uminus



Brent Edwards
Secretary
Snaw-naw-as



August Sylvester
Penelakut



Melanie Livingston
Lake Cowichan



Mike Wyse
Snuneymuxw



Arnold Recalma
Qualicum



Dan Norris Sr
Halalt



Vince Harry
Malahat

Message from the Executive Director



Hello, my name is Sqwulutsutun, I come from the Wyse family of Snuneymuxw First Nation. My English name is William Yoachim. As the Executive Director of Kw'umut Lelum, I am honoured to have worked for children and families in our nine member Nations since 2008, and to present the 2015-16 annual report on our 20th anniversary.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their support and confidence as their Executive Director. Their strong leadership and guidance has shaped Kw'umut Lelum and its services to match the expectations of the Nations we serve.

We raise our hands to our Elders, traditional knowledge keepers, and leaders for their wisdom that keeps us rooted in Snuw'e'yulh; and to the caregivers and extended families for opening their hearts and homes; and to our partners, friends and supporters who have made outstanding contributions to the well-being of our children and youth.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Kw'umut Lelum Child and Family Services. Since 1996 when nine member Nations came together with one vision to create Kw'umut Lelum Child and Family Services, it has undergone many changes and seen many successes. Some highlights from our history appear in this report.

In 2014, Kw'umut Lelum achieved full delegation status to provide Child Protection, Guardianship and Voluntary Services. As a federally-recognized First Nations agency, we are proud to demonstrate our inherent right to govern and manage the child welfare needs of our communities and to provide for the health and well-being of vulnerable children and youth.

The past year has been a busy and productive year for Kw'umut Lelum. It has been a year of accomplishments, challenges, progressive development and cultural growth. We have made strides in prevention, returning children to the care of family and securing out-of-care placements. We have supported youth in care to continue developing themselves in higher education. We have provided opportunities for our children and youth to connect with their identity as Aboriginal People.

One of the most significant accomplishments this year is the work on a Permanency Project to improve rates of permanency planning for our children and youth in care. We focused on strengthening culturally-based practices to reduce the number of children in care and reconnect them with their family and extended family to bring them home.

As we move forward, it is important to remember the founders who initiated the dialogue for the development of a Coast Salish child welfare agency over 20 years ago. We acknowledge the former staff and honoured board members for their contributions to the development of Kw'umut Lelum. We also thank the Elders and community members who volunteer and support our children and families.

I raise my hands and give special recognition to our dedicated employees who care so passionately about our children, and make it possible for families to become stronger.

I believe the vision and passion of our founders – to restore our connections with our children and to build on our traditional teachings to foster healing and growth – are becoming a reality. I would like to encourage everyone to continue to work together for the common purpose of creating a better life for our children and our Nations' future.

Huy ch' qa

William Yoachim Sqwulutsutun



Living Our Mission

Programs and Services

Kw'umut Lelum, rooted in *Snw'uy'ulh*, is directly mandated by member nations to safeguard the inherent right of our children to be protected from neglect and abuse, to thrive in a safe and healthy environment and strengthen cultural identities and family unity.

We operate as a *nutsamaat shqaluwun* (people working together with one mind) guided by the teachings of our ancestors.

While respecting Coast Salish practices and traditions, Kw'umut Lelum offers services and programs that provide support and training to our nine member Nations.

Child Safety & Collaborative Family Planning

Collaborative Planning can include both Family Group Conferencing or Traditional Decision Making Process for children and/or youth who have come to the attention of Child Protection.

The process is inclusive of the child's immediate family, extended family and members of the child's community. The parties come together to develop a plan for the child (ren).

The process promotes cooperative planning and decision making, and assists in building a family's support network.

Guardianship

Guardianship of our children and youth involves their physical care and decision-making responsibility around residential care placement, education, health, and emotional and behavioral development.

Family Service Social Workers and supervisors follow KL's Four Seasons Care.

Working closely with caregivers and their support system, a cultural plan for our children and youth is central to their care and informs ALL decision making.



Kw'umut Lelum head office in Snuneymuxw

Intake & Assessment

Intake provides broad assessment and planning services for children and families. They determine appropriate services under the Child and Family Service Act and assess whether children are in need of protection.

Le'Lumilh/Caregiving

The purpose of Le'lumilh is to assist in a smooth transition for children or youth and caregivers to provide continuity, consistency and permanency in a family setting. The Le'lumilh Program provides training and support to persons interested in becoming caregivers to children or youth who are, for various reasons, unable to remain at home.



Family Support

Kw'umut Lelum endeavors to enhance the well-being and resiliency of the communities by providing information, education and preventative services. The Support Services Program provides services that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- services for children and youth
- counselling
- in-home family support
- respite care
- parenting programs, and
- services to support children who witness family violence

Four Seasons Cultural Program (4S)

Four Seasons Cultural Program was created to meet an identified need for our youth in care to feel a sense of belonging and ownership of their inherent birth rights. Cultural programming at Kw'umut Lelum has included events such as participation in Tribal Journey, language classes, Family Camps, carving classes and visits to community events. However, 4S creates programming in a more sustainable, fluid way that is tied to each child's plan of care, and immersed in all determinants of life.

Four Seasons Early Years

4 Season Early Years (4SEY) is an innovative new program bringing together key partners with the communities they serve to focus on enhancing early childhood development, school readiness and overall family health and wellness for First Nation's preschool children (birth to six years old) on reserve. 4SEY provides proven early intervention strategies so that First Nations children develop a positive sense of themselves, a desire for learning, and successes to build upon and carry them into adulthood. This program also gives parents opportunities for learning early literacy, parenting skills and healthy foods teachings, as well as socializing with other parents and families in play groups.

Pediatric Outreach Clinic

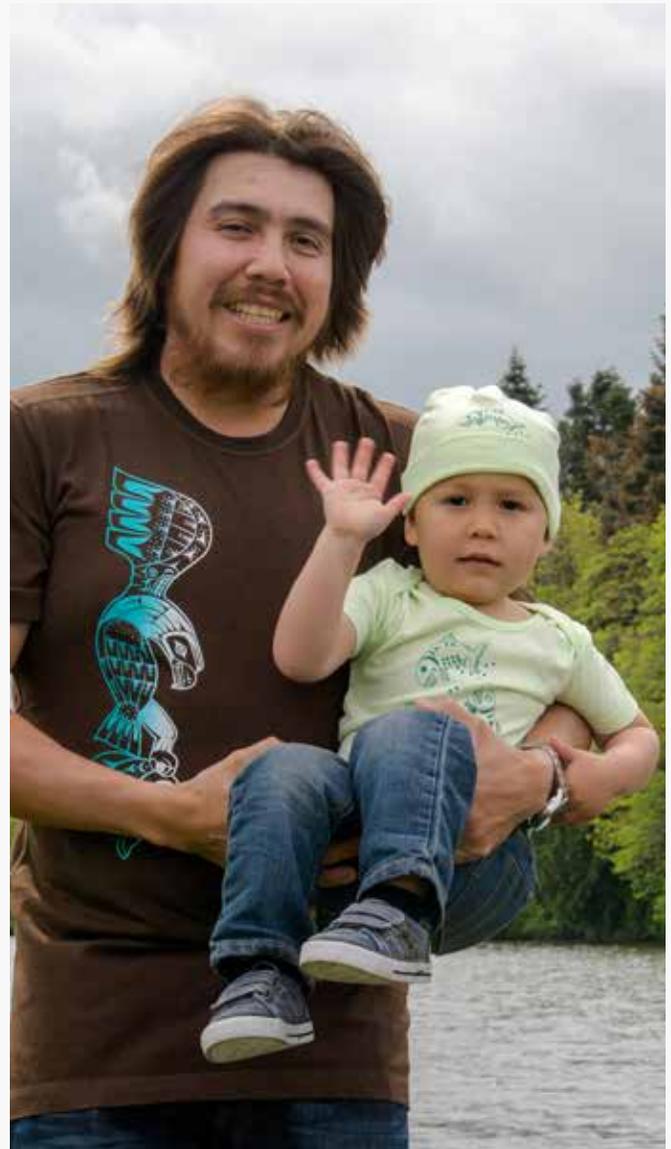
Dr. Keith Menard is a local pediatrician who places extra attention in outreach services that make accessibility and patient comfort a priority for First Nations families. Kw'umut Lelum and Dr. Menard developed an innovative partnership co-locating a medical clinic with Kw'umut Lelum's other family services and programs. Patients from our Member Nations book their appointment to see Dr. Menard right here at Kw'umut Lelum. We are looking at further opportunities to expand pediatric outreach to include community-based services.

Recreation Therapy

Kw'umut Lelum Recreation Therapy aims to support improved holistic health, quality of life and well-being through recreation and leisure-like participation. Therapeutic Recreation services work with youth and their support networks to integrate specific interests, community resources and individual needs (physical, cognitive, emotional, spiritual, cultural and social) into activities which aim to improve functioning and keep youth as active, balanced and independent as possible.

Cultural Permanency Program

The Cultural Permanency Program (CPP) facilitates the transition of Aboriginal children currently in care, or those at risk of coming into care, to placements with their relatives, community members or those with whom they have a cultural connection. CPP will identify, recruit and enhance Cultural Caregivers to support a safe, caring and appropriate family environment for children and youth placed in their home. CPP will plan collaboratively with children, families, community members and our agency's guardianship and resource social workers to create a seamless and integrated transition from "in care" placements into placements with Cultural Caregivers.

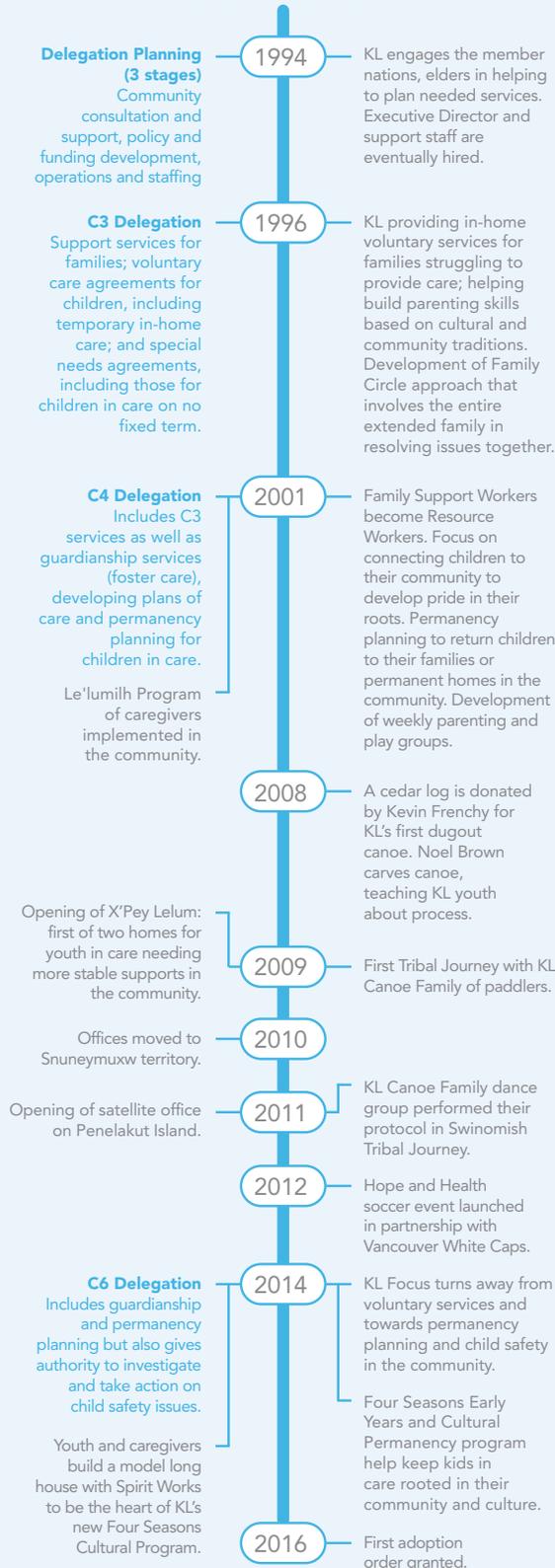


The Process of Delegation

To date, 148 of the approximately 198 First Nation bands in B.C. are represented by agencies that either have, or are actively planning toward, delegation agreements to manage our own child and family services.

All stages of Delegation need to be approved by the Ministry of Child and Family Development

Kw'umut Lelum Timeline



Milestones Over 20 Years of Achievements

In 1994, Daisy Edwards, a Social Development worker at Stz'uminus First Nation, was the contact person for the Ministry of Child and Family Development. Seeing the lack of culturally-appropriate care for Aboriginal children, she took the first steps on developing a plan to start a locally-managed child welfare agency.

"I knew personally the trials and tribulations of children who were in care – I lived it! The motivation came from my own story of abuse...we need to protect our kids. It became my passion, to get a child welfare agency for our people." - Daisy Edwards.

With the support of her boss, George Harris, and encouragement from Snaw-Naw-As Chief Wayne Edwards, she was successful in getting the chiefs of nine Coast Salish Nations to form a partnership which became Kw'umut Lelum (KL). Following the advice of DIA agent Judge Shauer, they gained the support of three MCFD offices and approached the federal government for certification as a Delegated Aboriginal Agency.

In the first year, KL set up an office in the Snaw-naw-as Community hall, and engaged the member nations and Elders in helping to plan needed services. Executive Director and support staff were hired. By 1996, the group was providing in-home voluntary services for families struggling to provide care; helping build parenting skills based on cultural and community traditions.

They developed the Family Circle approach that involves the entire extended family in resolving issues together. That same year, C3 Delegation was achieved, providing support services for families; voluntary care agreements for children, including temporary in-home care; and special needs agreements, including those for children in care on no fixed term.

Into the 21st Century

In 2001, KL was granted C4 Delegation which included C3 services as well as guardianship services (foster care), and permanency planning for children in care. Le'lumilh Program of caregivers was implemented in the community, along with weekly parenting and play groups. Family Support Workers became Resource Workers, and the focus was on connecting children to their community to develop pride in their roots.



Youth painting Kw'umut Lelum's carved canoe

In 2009, the doors opened at XPey' Lelum, first of two homes for youth in care needing more stable supports in the community. The First Tribal Journey with KL Canoe Family of paddlers took place, in a dugout canoe created by KL youth the year before. Kevin Frenchy donated the cedar log and Noel Brown carved the canoe, teaching KL youth about the process.



Grand opening of the satellite office on Penelakut Island

In 2010, KL offices were moved to Snuneymuxw territory and in 2011, a satellite office was opened on Penelakut Island. That summer, the KL Canoe Family and dance group performed their protocol in the Swinomish Tribal Journey.

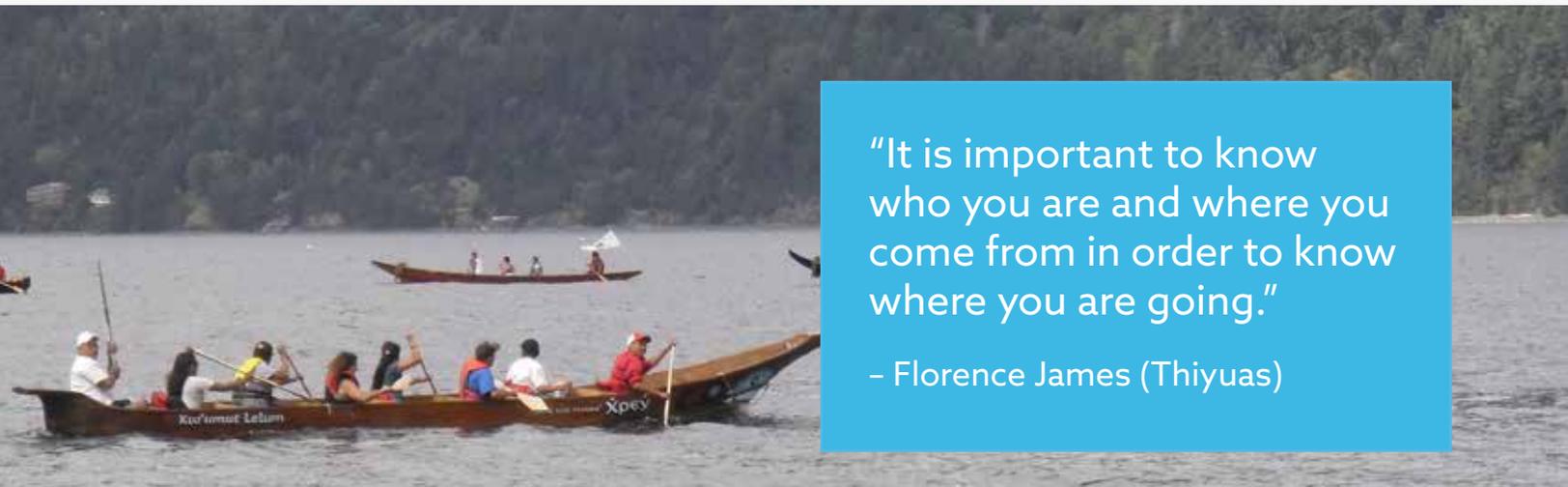
Elders play a very important role in providing cultural knowledge and experiences to the children and youth in care. Traditional teachings from Penelakut Elder Thiyuas (Florence James) were part of the 2010 Tribal Journey. Through traditional storytelling, she taught the youth about respecting the water and how it was used as a highway by our ancestors. She believes that our children need solid roots to launch from on their journey so that they can thrive in both worlds in a healthy way.

In the 2011 Tribal Journey, Stz'uminus Elder Kwul'h'itstun (Willie Seymour) spoke to the youth about preparing to paddle to Swinomish.

He stated that the goal is to encourage and recover one of the oldest forms of education through

"It is important to know who you are and where you come from in order to know where you are going."

- Florence James (Thiyuas)





endurance, skills and intuition, and boosting physical, emotional, spiritual and mental strength along the way. Along with George Seymour, Willie ensured that safety and strict cultural practices were followed in the training disciplines. As accompanying Elders on the Paddle, he and Snuneymuxw Elder Gary Manson, (Xulsimalt) shared stories, values, beliefs and spoke on behalf of the youth at each protocol.

range of services that included cultural programming for children in care, permanency planning and child safety in the community.

That year, a model longhouse was built with the help of Spirit Works to be the heart of KL's new Four Seasons Cultural Program. This program and Early Years help keep children in care rooted in their community and culture.

"Tribal journeys have become a major contributing factor to healing, personal growth, positive self-esteem and creating a community atmosphere between Nations within Canada and the United States." - Willie Seymour (Kwul'lh'itstun)

In 2015, a new partnership with VIU ensured that children in care had access to the Canada Learning Bond. Under KL guardianship, 20 children born in 2007 or later were signed up to be eligible for government grants and Registered Education Savings Plans to support their future post-secondary learning. VIU also offers a tuition waiver program for children in care to ensure their opportunities for higher education.

In 2012, KL rekindled a partnership with the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents to host a 3-day Pre-Service training session for foster parents and caregivers.

Several other le'lumilh events held that year included 'It Takes a Village' training session, FASD and parenting workshops, Safe Babies Certification and a feast to honour Foster Parent Appreciation Month.

Also that year the Hope & Health soccer event was launched.

In 2014, KL marked a milestone by achieving C6 Delegated Authority to provide full C6 services to Member First Nations.

A ceremony was held to celebrate the success of becoming a fully-delegated organization providing a



Elder Gary Manson with youth at the 2014 Cultural Camp

20th Anniversary

Strong Roots. Strong Families.

After 20 years, Kw'umut Lelum is more than a protection and placement service – it's also about prevention, and connecting children and families to their community and culture. Children in care who are taking part in cultural programming – like the Tribal Journey canoe paddle, Four Seasons programs, Hope and Health soccer event, drum circles, and dance programs, do better in school and show greater resiliency dealing with stress and adversity.

Parents who participate in weekly parenting groups and playgroups, or who use other resources provided by Kw'umut Lelum, can find support and build skills that can help keep their children safely in the family home and out of care.



Kw'umut Lelum's strength and endurance is a reflection of the dedicated people who created and maintained the vision with patience and optimism in face of adversity and challenges. We honour the hard-working staff members, especially our longest serving employees, for their steadfast commitment to the children. Our thanks and congratulations go to the following employees:



20 years
Debbie Good



19 years
Patricia Thomas



17 years
Theresa Seymour



16 years
Jennifer Jenkins



13 years
Ronda Gummow

Dedications/In Memorium

Sii'em' nu s'ul-hween, sii'em' nu sii'ye'yu, My Respected Elders, my respected relatives

Over the past few years, we have lost several valued Elders and Leaders in our communities. This 20th Anniversary Report is dedicated to the memory of those who played an important role in the development of Kw'umut Lelum.

Cyril Livingstone, Lake Cowichan

Chief Sha e'lum (Cyril Livingstone), Hereditary Chief of the Lake Cowichan First Nation, passed away on May 17, 2016.

Cyril served on the Kw'umut Lelum Board of Directors for many years, making a significant contribution to the success of the program. He was a strong supporter of our local First Nations' culture and believed that children had a right to be raised in their own culture and communities.

Along with his involvement in Kw'umut Lelum Child and Family Services, Chief Cyril served his mustimuxw as a dedicated member of many organizations, including Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, Inter Tribal Health Authority, Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation, and in the First Nation's Summit.

Chief Sha e'lum worked tirelessly to put Lake Cowichan First Nation on the map and bring his people home. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Willie Seymour, Stz'uminus

Kwul'lh'uts'tun (Willie Seymour), Stz'uminus Elder passed away on August 31, 2015. He was a cultural leader and highly valued in all Hul'qumi'num communities.

Willie was raised by his grandparents who passed on to him their teachings and traditions, and he openly shared his knowledge, history and language with others. There are many online recordings of his stories, some told in both English and Hul'qumi'num.

The Kw'umut Lelum youth were privileged to learn the traditional songs for the Tribal Journeys from Elder Willie. His passing is a great loss for all Coast Salish communities.

Josephine August, Halalt

Josephine August, passed away in April 2, 2011. Raised in Tsartlip, she attended Kuper Island Residential School for 11 years. After getting married, Josephine moved to Halalt and lived there for the rest of her life. She had 11 children and was a foster parent for numerous other children.

In the 1970s, Josephine became Chief of Halalt for 18 years and served as the Band Social Worker.

She sat on the Board at Kw'umut Lelum for about 13 years.

The Josephine August Bursary for \$1000 was created in her honour and is given away each year to a Halalt member pursuing higher education.

Viola Wyse, Snuneymuxw

Viola Wyse, Chief of the Snuneymuxw Nation, passed away on August 17, 2009. A beloved leader and visionary for her mustimuxw, she left a remarkable legacy of achievements, one of which was playing an instrumental role in the development of Kw'umut Lelum.

Viola was known for taking care of others, in her personal life and in politics. As well, she led the way for women to take an active role in Snuneymuxw government by being the first female chief. Viola was able to walk in both worlds and bridge understandings between cultural groups, garnering recognition and respect for herself and for the Snuneymuxw people from the Nanaimo community and beyond.

Kw'umut Lelum was very fortunate to have had Viola advocate on behalf of our cause. We join with others in honouring her legacy.

Our Vision For the Future

Kw'umut Lelum is holding onto the dream for our children.

We will lift them up so they know how much we value and cherish them.

We will strive to ensure all our children have opportunities to know who they are, and are PROUD to be Xwulmuxw Mustimuxw!

We will continue our work with youth, rooted in the traditional teachings and following the Coast Salish Way.

We will be a rock of support for all our families in need and walk beside them on their journey.

We will persevere in creating a Cultural Permanency Planning team to bring our kids home for good.

And when we have done our work and reached our goals,

We can envision a world where there is no need for child welfare in our Nations.

"All of us – whether from First Nations, business, industry or government – are being required to make critical decisions that will affect not only the generation of today, but also the children of our children. We will have to take the long view as we make resolutions, judgments and settlements in the days ahead... we must be led by the conviction that better understanding and partnerships will only come about if we realize that we are all in this together." – Chief Viola Wyse



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