



Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services Society

Mental Wellness | Guardianship | Child and Family
Care | Traditional Foundations and Support |
Aboriginal Early Years

Cultural Connections | Aboriginal Support
Family Support | Kinship Care | Child
Protection



ktaʃuʔkəʃpqa
November

kʷsmukusaʃəxamaʃiʃ
December

naktaʃsuk
January

kiʃsuʔk kyukyit

The Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services Society is committed to working collaboratively with Aboriginal families and communities of the Ktunaxa Traditional Territory to increase their ability to fulfill their responsibilities for caring for their children in a culturally relevant and holistic manner.

Inside

Christmas Hampers | New Board Members
Tobacco Plains summer activities | Jiu Jitsu at ʔaʄamnik school
Trunk or Treat Halloween | Ktunaxa child welfare legislation

Contact Us

Chief Joseph Centre



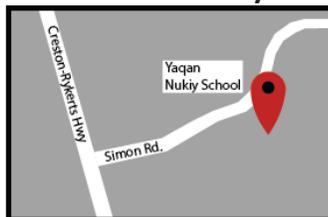
1007 Baker Street
Cranbrook, BC
250-489-4563

ʔaʄam Child & Family



7472 Mission Road
Cranbrook, BC
250-489-4563

Lower Kootenay Child & Family



1007a Simon Road
Creston, BC
250-428-7414

ʔakisq̄nuk Child & Family



3048 Hwy 93/95
Windermere, BC
250-342-6379

After Hours: 1-800-663-9122
or 250-310-1234

Kids Help Line: 1-800-668-6868

Christmas Hampers for families, building off last year's success

COVID-19 has posed so many challenges for our Organization over the last while, one of which being Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family was not able to host our usual annual Children's Christmas Party, which in past years has seen anywhere between 150-300 people in attendance.

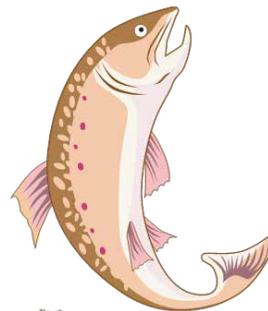
Last year, as an alternative to our usual annual Christmas Party, staff from KKFSS came together and created 200 Christmas Hampers for Indigenous families that were distributed throughout the Ktunaxa Nation.



This year, we are doing the same, hopefully at a higher volume, and are currently preparing and distributing the hampers.

To give you an idea of what you can expect in a Christmas hamper, the following items are typically included: children's craft items, Christmas craft items, candy canes, children's toy and activities, family activities, games, ginger bread house/men/ sugar cookie building kit, as well as non-perishable Christmas dinner items like stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and gravy mix, as well as a grocery store gift card to support the purchase of perishable Christmas dinner items.

qustit'
trout



?a·kinmituk
river

Two new members joining KKFSS Board of Directors

Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services Society has two new members joining its board of directors. Jason Louie will be joining the board to represent Lower Kootenay Indian Band (yaqan nu?kiy), where he also serves as Chief (nasu?kin). Debra Fisher, who currently serves as the Minister of Children and Families, Minister of Education, and regional director of Region 4 of the Métis Nation British Columbia, also joins the board representing the nation. KKFSS would like to express our gratitude to Anne Jimmie and Marilyn Taylor for their many years of service on the board of directors.

Halloween Trunk or Treat at ʔakisq̓nuk

ʔakisq̓nuk Child & Family got creative to celebrate Halloween with their community this year. Building off the success of last year's event, the ʔakisq̓nuk team hosted a trunk or treat event outside their offices for families to come collect treats while remaining COVID safe. The team took precautions to keep attendees sanitized and socially distanced while still enjoying the classic Halloween tradition.

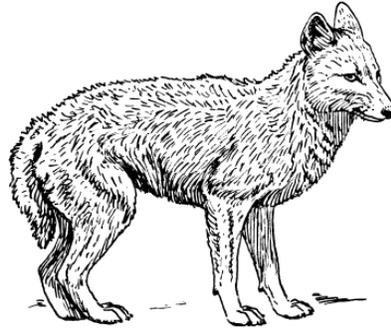
Many attendees, staff and volunteers wore costumes to celebrate the spooky season and keep warm in the late October weather. Thank you to everyone who decorated their trunks for the event and the families who made it out to the event.





ꞡupqa
deer

skinkuꞡ
coyote



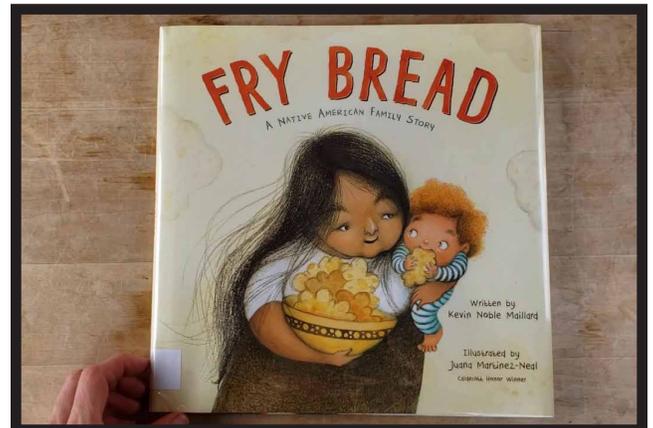
ꞡa·kwukꞡiꞡit
mountain

Early Years Storywalk and play group

Families from Tobacco Plains or Grasmere are now able to participate in a StoryWalk® event that began mid-November.

StoryWalk® is a self-guided experience where families follow the pages of a storybook spread out along a path, inviting them to explore the environment and hear a great story.

Sarah Clark, Early Years Worker based out of Fernie, is developing a StoryWalk® program in partnership with Yaꞡit ꞡa·knuꞡiꞡit (Tobacco Plains Indian Band) and Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy.



The first session will feature the story “Fry Bread” by Indigenous author Noble Maillard and take place in the village of Tobacco Plains, inside the fence at the playground. “Fry Bread” will be featured for one month allowing families to visit during a time that works for them. A new story will be featured each month, with five new stories in the first five months. Afterwards, the stories will be available to be shared in other communities.

This StoryWalk® is intended for early years children, but families of all ages living on-reserve at Tobacco Plains or in the village of Grasmere are invited to attend, with Sarah suggesting older siblings may be able to read the stories aloud for younger children.

The StoryWalk® Project was originally created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

Sarah is also currently hosting a play group at the Pioneer Hall for Tobacco Plains families on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30. Attendees can expect story time, a play-based group and take home snack. The play group is intended for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

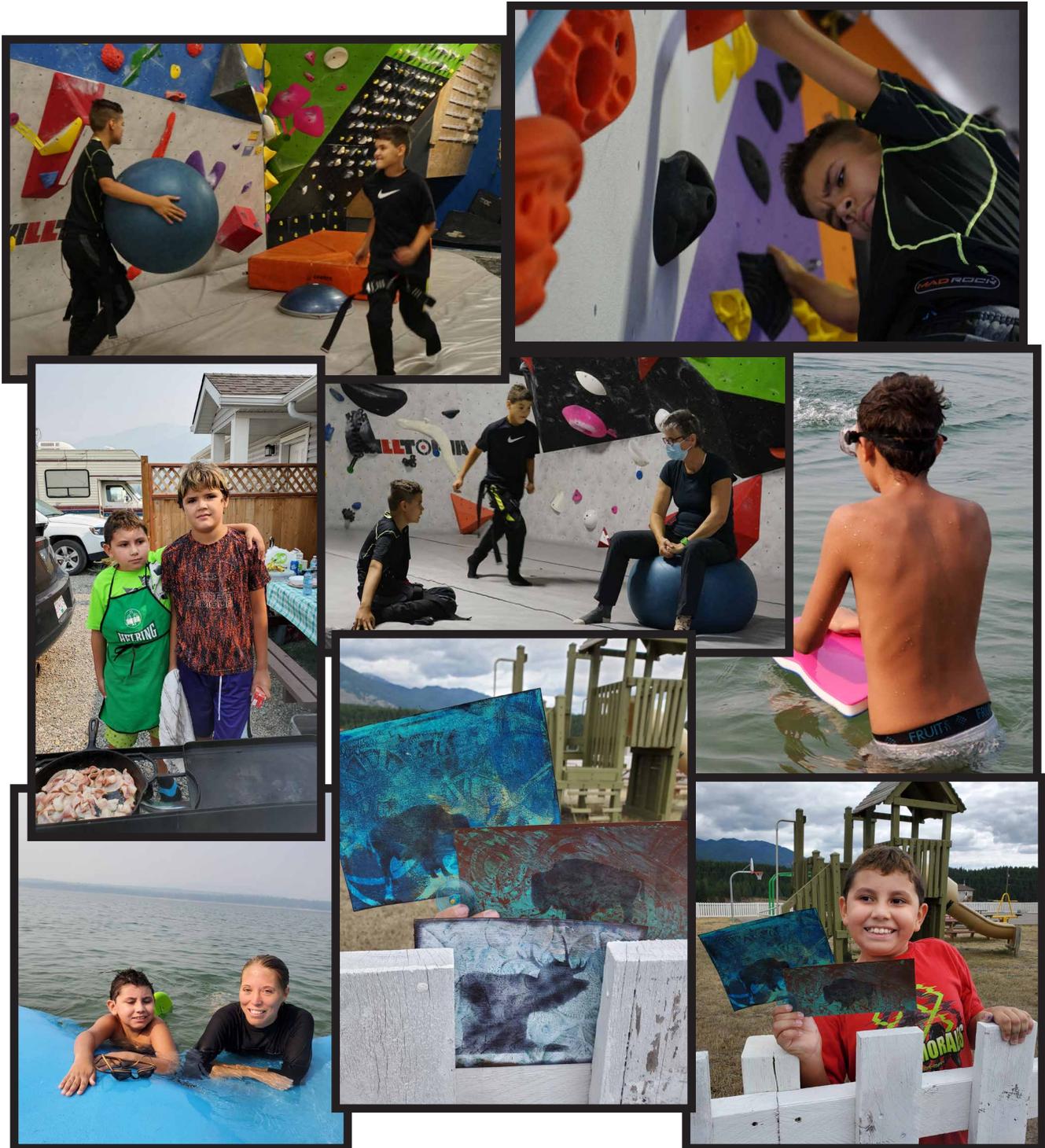
Space is limited and registration is required. Registration opens Mondays at 8 AM for that coming Wednesday’s group. Please contact Sarah at sclark@ktunaxa.org or 250-946-7522 to register or for more information.

Hot Summer in the South Country - Tobacco Plains

It was a very hot summer in the South Country. The kids spent every Monday in the water at Big Springs staying cool. This was a joint venture with Tobacco Plains Indian Band and was a blast for the kids.

Mountain Kids Swim Lessons came to Tobacco Plains to teach semi private swimming to a small group of boys. The lesson took place in Edwards Lake on the Reserve. Instructor Sarah Laverick provided individualized lessons that were so much fun the boys did not realize they were gaining skills. The final lesson took place at Big Springs Beach followed by a breakfast celebration cooked by budding Chefs Remi and Zander.

There were also bi-weekly art sessions led by the talented Caroline Basil and Lillian Rose. The youth left with jewelry, macramé and gel prints made during the sessions.



Jiu Jitsu martial arts lessons available to youth at ʔaᓄamniᓄ school this fall

Every other Wednesday at Dan Joe Memorial Gym in ʔaᓄamniᓄ Elementary School Jiu Jitsu lessons will be held for youth 12 years and older.

Jiu Jitsu - translated from Japanese as the Gentle Art - encompasses values of team work, respect, hard work, honor and perseverance. Jiu Jitsu was created to allow a smaller opponent to overcome a larger opponent using a variety of techniques, including all the limbs.



Training can range from standing, throwing an opponent on the ground and subduing them with control, striking techniques for attack or defense, and using available objects around you to defend yourself.

For new students lessons incorporate basic training through functional movements, partner drilling, team work exercises and controlled sparring. Over time, students learn the value of hard work and focus that can lead to competitive training, overall skill development and building their self-esteem.

Space is limited, to sign up for a spot send an email to inikolov@aqam.net.

Foundry East Kootenay is looking for Indigenous youth and families to join Youth and Family advisory committees

With more than \$1 million in donations raised and land in downtown Cranbrook purchased, Foundry East Kootenay is quickly becoming a reality. One of the most important aspects of opening and operating a Foundry in a community are the advisory councils made up of local youth and family members that provide input and guidance in the construction and programming offered at the facility.

With Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Service Society as the lead agency behind Foundry East Kootenay it is a priority for our agency to have as much Indigenous youth and family representation on these councils as possible. This will ensure Ktunaxa and Indigenous perspectives guide all planning of the Foundry and Indigenous youth do not encounter the same barriers accessing services present in conventional colonial health care facilities.



This is an invitation for Ktunaxa or Indigenous youth (aged 12 to 24) and families of youth in the East Kootenay region to join either the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) or Family Advisory Council (FAC). If you, or anyone you know, is interested or has any questions please contact:

- foundryyac@ktunaxa.org (for youth) or
- foundryfamily@ktunaxa.org (for family members)



ʔaknuqʔuʔam'
bald eagle



ʔaki ctaʔin
tree

kʔawʔa
grizzly bear



KKCFSS Working Toward Child Welfare Legislation

by Julie Birdstone

In June 2019, the Government of Canada passed Bill C-92, known as *An Act Representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families*, which came into effect in January 2020. The Act has opened the door for Nations across Canada to pursue jurisdiction over their children through writing their own laws pertaining to child welfare. The Ktunaxa Nation has decided to begin working toward full jurisdiction for the children of the nation. Once the Ktunaxa Nation has written these laws they will no longer be under the jurisdiction of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (Indian Affairs) Canada or the Government of British Columbia.

In September of this year, I moved into the role of Governance Transition Manager/Cultural Advisor. In this role, I will be working with the Nation on our Ktunaxa Child Welfare Laws. I have worked with KKFSS since 1998, starting as a Family Support Worker, then in almost all aspects of delegation from Social Worker to Team Lead in the different areas of delegation. I have also experienced the different stages of our existence as an organization. We have gone from only providing family support services to our children and families working with the Ministry of Children and Families to being fully delegated to providing services to our nation's children and families and eventually to all Indigenous families within our service area both on and off reserve. Over these years I have always tried to ensure that Culture is embedded in the Delegated Services and throughout the organization. With this experience and knowledge, I have a good understanding of what needs to be changed within the current Legislation.

Working on our own jurisdiction and developing our own Child Protection Laws is the last step in realizing our Grandmother's dream of having full authority over our children. This is a big task and will need input from so many people. As part of this work I will be reaching out to our Elders, Knowledge Holders and any interested Nation Members that would like to have input on what our Legislation looks like.

In the next few months I will be setting up both in person and virtual Community Engagement to get your views on what needs to be in our Legislation, what cultural knowledge should be in our Legislation and what shouldn't be in our Legislation. We know that how we are currently doing things within the realm of Child Protection does not always match with our Cultural Values and as an Indigenous and a Ktunaxa Organization we want to make sure that our Cultural ways of working with Children and Families reflect in our Legislation.

If you would like to be included in these Focus Groups and Community Engagement in the new year, feel free to reach out to me at jbirdstone@ktunaxa.org