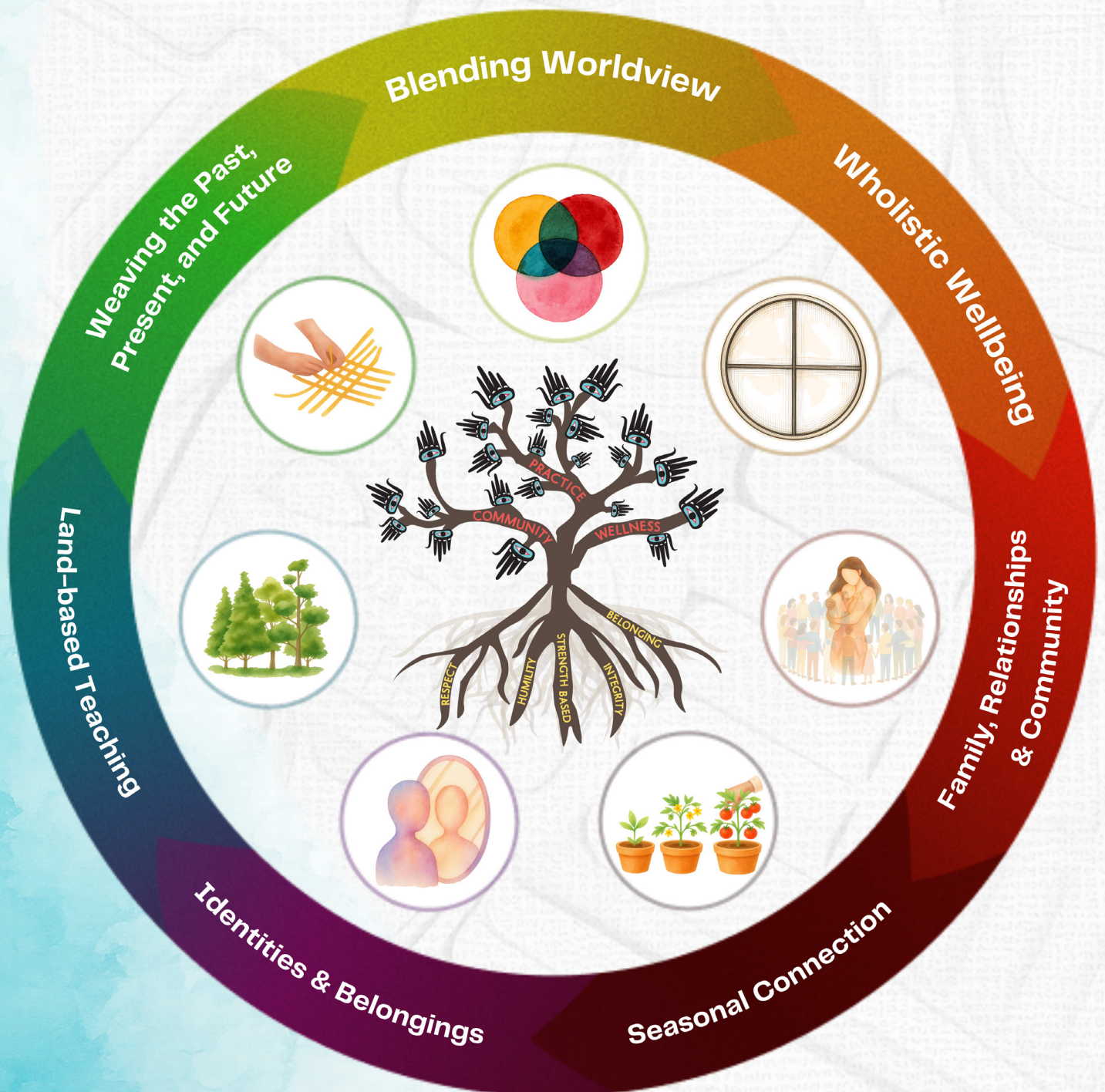




VACFSS

2026 ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT THE COVER PAGE ILLUSTRATION

This year's theme, Honouring Our Teachings, was developed in collaboration with Bernadette Spence, Virge Silveira, Kim Bayer, the Youth Advisory Committee, and the Communications team. It displays VACFSS's holistic, interconnected framework for working with children, youth, families, and communities.

Wholistic Well-being recognizes the interconnectedness of mind, heart, body, and spirit. Through an Indigenous lens, well-being is deeply rooted in relationships with family, community, and culture. Our understanding of Family, Relationships, and Community honours the wisdom, resilience, and resourcefulness within families and communities, recognizing that meaningful support is built through relationships, collaboration, and responsive practice.

The Seasonal Connections of growth, learning, and healing are understood as cyclical and non-linear, reflecting the natural rhythms of seasonal change, and the balance between personal well-being, family, and community. This perspective acknowledges a sense of Identities and Belonging, that multiple lived experiences exist together. Identity is recognized as layered and fluid, shaped by culture, family, lived experiences, gender, sexuality, abilities, place, and access to healing. A sense of belonging is created through programs and services that support connection, growth, healing, and success.

Land-based Teachings honour the Coast Salish territories where we live, learn, and work, recognizing the deep relationships between land, culture, intergenerational knowledge, and well-being. Weaving Past, Present, and Future recognizes that we support families and communities in the present, as this carries responsibility to both ancestors and future generations. Blending Worldviews is a *Two-Eyed Seeing lens that draws from Western views and an Indigenous lens. This includes wholistic approaches, and cultural, collaborative, and response-based practices.

Overall, the teachings emphasize interconnectedness, balance, and the importance of caring for self, community, and future generations.

VACFSS acknowledges that our work takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷə́y̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́lilwataʔ/sélílwtulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

We are entrusted to work in restorative ways that care for the Lands, the diversity of the families we serve, and the communities that connect us, in the spirit of all our relations.

We honour the resilience of the peoples of these Nations and recognize the strength, wisdom, and generosity they have carried through generations. VACFSS holds in deep respect the stewards of these lands for their Knowledge, culture, and reciprocity, and upholds Protocols in our work with children, youth, and families today and in days to come.

VACFSS ANNUAL REPORT 2026



VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Our Children, Our Future, Our Responsibility

August 2026





OUR LOGO

Laurence Wilson, from the Nisga'a Nation, designed the Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society logo in 1993. The translation for the logo is "Human and Wolf Child." As the wolf represents family, this is a perfect symbol for our Agency, which has been established to strengthen Indigenous families. Laurence Wilson was born in 1954 in Nass River, an area located near the North Coast of British Columbia. Laurence has apprenticed under Norman Tait, a highly regarded West Coast artist, for three years and attended the prestigious Native art school, 'Ksan, from the beginning of 1978 to the end of 1979. He prefers to use such mediums as wood, canvas and hide in order to produce original paintings, drums and two-dimensional carvings. With his extensive background in design and form informed by his culture, Laurence Wilson has become one of the many prominent Native artists in British Columbia.

OUR MISSION, OUR VISION

Our Mission Statement

Provide holistic service delivery that culturally and spiritually strengthens Aboriginal children and families.

Our Vision Statement

A balanced and harmonious Aboriginal community.

Our Policy Statement

An Aboriginal perspective will be acknowledged, respected and legitimized through policy. An Aboriginal presence of knowledge and thinking will be reflected throughout VACFSS programs, policies, and practice.

Our Philosophy of Service Delivery

We ensure that the rights, safety, well-being and spirit of Aboriginal children and families are upheld, honoured and protected. We strive to eliminate oppression, discrimination and marginalization within our community. We acknowledge and honour the inherent wisdom, capacity and resourcefulness of our community in designing programs and services to care for our own children and families. Accordingly, we are dedicated to planning, developing, and implementing creative and innovative Aboriginal programs and services in collaboration with members of our community and other agencies.

OUR VALUES

Respect

Respect flows freely from the Creator to and through everyone and everything without judgment, from the tiniest child to the oldest Elder. It is the basic law of life that allows feeling and showing honour for all the creator's creations; all cultures, all ways and all paths to the creator which keeps the circle flowing in a good way.

Belonging

Belonging is creating authentic connections that encourages healthy and caring relationships with our children, families and community.

Integrity

Integrity is doing the right thing even when nobody's watching.

Humility

Humility is putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve; Mother Earth for she provides our every need and loves us even when we do not listen to her; a newborn baby coming into this world with nothing but their small presence asking only to be loved and cared for; recognizing what we give in our lives and being thankful for each new day.

Strength-Based Practice

VACFSS incorporates a strength-based approach to service delivery. We believe in empowering people to trust that they have both the capacity and mastery to take responsibility for their own healing. By carrying the teachings of our ancestors and incorporating Aboriginal cultural customs within our social work practice, we can facilitate healing opportunities and share in the successes of Aboriginal children, families and the community that are involved with VACFSS.

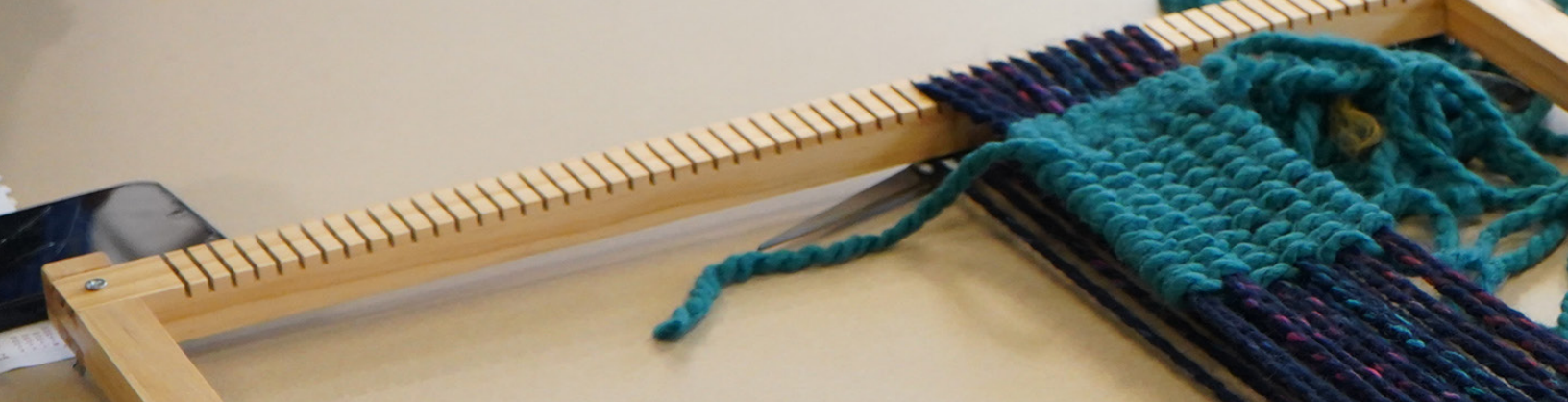


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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Stiller

Madeleine MacIvor

Richard George

Bernice Albert

Aaron Christoff

Andrés (Lix) López

Chair

Co-Chair

Treasurer/Secretary

Director

Director

Director





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Linda Stiller

Dear Members,

How fitting that this year's theme, "Honouring Our Teachings" coincides with the retirement of our CEO, Bernadette Spence, after a 40-year career as a social worker!

Bernadette's commitment to VACFSS first began in 1997 as a volunteer board member, then consultant, manager, and finally as our CEO since 2005. Moreover, I express my deep appreciation to her commitment to the well-being of children, youth, and families, and the implementation of our restorative practice which represents the path for healing for families and the integrated safety for our children.

Following a comprehensive and competitive executive search conducted in partnership with Harbour West Consulting, we were delighted to announce the appointment of Virge Silveira as the new CEO. Along with her degrees in Child and Youth Care, and Marriage and Family Therapy, Virge brings more than two decades of leadership experience in Indigenous child welfare, provincial policy development, and culturally grounded practice. Over the past twenty years she has held several senior leadership positions within the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) where she supported Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies (ICFSAs) across BC, led delegated service agreement renewals and indemnification strategies, advanced jurisdictional readiness for Nations, strengthened partnerships with stakeholders, and contributed to provincial transformation initiatives. Her connection to VACFSS also spans over two decades through her volunteer service as Board Director and Board Chair. We are lucky for her continued commitment to VACFSS, not only due to her Nlha7kapmx ancestry, but also because of her lived experience, and professional expertise.

Also, in Honouring Our Teachings, I wish to acknowledge the contribution and leadership of the late Shane Pointe. As a respected Elder and Knowledge Keeper, he attended and hosted a number of VACFSS events. He also contributed to cultural program planning to benefit families including our CRUW program where his teachings have continued to follow the program and participants for over a decade at the xwǵícəsəm Garden at UBC Farm.

I am grateful for our staff, partners, and contractors who remain committed to the well-being of Indigenous children, and to our continued restorative practice to uphold their rights under the Child, Family and Community Services Act, and the Federal Act. Our shared belief in the strength of community, and culturally grounded approaches have provided a solid foundation to guide us forward.

All My Relations,

Linda Stiller

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Virge Silveira

I acknowledge that VACFSS is located in the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔt/Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and their ancestors guide us through the work.

I am thankful I was selected as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS) in January 2026, and for the warm welcome I have received. Our theme this year Honouring our Teachings has shone through these first few months on the job. Bernadette and I have met regularly since I started so I could learn from her tremendous knowledge. Her ability to pull out information and data over the past twenty plus years is amazing and her love to be of service to the people shines through.

I would also like to acknowledge the role of the Board of Directors in their continued leadership and governance that they provide to VACFSS.

In May 2026, the management teams presented their program highlights and the complexity of the work they do to the Board of Directors. This snapshot provides Board members with an opportunity to be curious and gain a better understanding of the services VACFSS provides. The management team should give themselves a high-five for the great work presented. All the staff in the agency continue to demonstrate their commitment to working with children and families, and the support and collaboration they offer to each other day in and day out to maintain a healthy workplace. Some days are hard, making them wonder why they do this work. The witnessing of the pride and sound of hope is what I have heard since I have arrived, and the ability to openly self-reflect on their personal responsibility of the sacred work with children and families.

My desire is to lead the agency to maintain and work by the values of Belonging, Respect, Integrity, Humility, and Strength-Based Practice, and to continue to build on our partnerships with all our partners, communities, and friends of VACFSS. We continue to strengthen the relationship with our key partner, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and we acknowledge our differences and strengths that we each have.

Lastly, we hold space for culture to be the foundation of VACFSS as we serve the diverse Urban Indigenous children and families living in the Vancouver area.

I raise my hands up to all the caregivers and families who step forward to care for children and give of themselves to keep children safe and I acknowledge their sacredness.

I acknowledge the important work that the Youth Advisory Committee former youth in care in keeping us real as the agency as we continue to move forward in good ways.

All my relations,

Virge Silveira

HUMAN RESOURCES

Jeremy Bara – Director of Human Resources, IT & Communication

MANDATE

The Human Resources Department develops and administers programs in Recruitment and Staffing, Employee Training and Development, Performance and Labour Relations, Compensation and Benefits, Records and Information Management, Occupational Safety and Wellness, and Indigenous Core Cultural Competencies. These programs support a culturally grounded, safe, and inclusive workplace that reflects the values and vision of VACFSS.

A. Staffing

In 2025/26, VACFSS employed 163 regular staff, 12 casual employees, and one seconded member, for a total of 176 employees.

The organization continued to prioritize recruitment across all programs, receiving 1,631 applications and making 32 new hires. Internal career development remained strong, with 38 internal selections. Partnerships with post-secondary institutions continued to support workforce development. Social work practicum and summer student programs remain strong pathways into employment, with several students transitioning into permanent roles.

Indigenous representation across leadership roles remains a key strength, with nearly half of Team Leaders/Supervisors and over two-thirds of Managers identifying as Indigenous, supporting alignment with the communities served.

The turnover rate was 14.7%, a slight increase from 13.0% in 2024/25, though still consistent with long-term trends. Staffing levels remained stable overall, with one of the lowest vacancy rates in recent years and the highest number of filled positions in the past five years.

B. Education and Training

Training and development continued to be a cornerstone of HR initiatives. Delegation training remained a priority, with 15 social workers participating through the Indigenous Perspectives Society. Two New Employee Orientation sessions welcomed 35 new staff and students, followed by Indigenous Core Cultural Competency training led by senior leadership.

The Collaborative Leadership Training Program, delivered in partnership with the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC), continued with one cohort of 20 staff completing the program. The training emphasized restorative supervision, communication in conflict, and trauma-informed leadership grounded in Indigenous perspectives.

Leadership development was further supported through continued access to MyLeadershipHub, offering self-paced learning focused on performance management, progressive discipline, and duty to accommodate.

Cultural and professional development opportunities included workshops on cultural humility, Two-Eyed Seeing, and Longhouse teachings. Staff also participated in culturally



grounded and wellness-based activities such as the Moose Hide Campaign, Sage Picking, and Musqueam-led Burning Ceremonies.

Several internal policies were introduced or strengthened this year to support staff and operational consistency, including Administrative Task Days, Working in Community, and the Master's Tuition Assistance program.

C. Labour Relations

VACFSS continued to work collaboratively with the BC General Employees' Union (BCGEU) throughout the year. Collective bargaining took place during the fiscal period, with a tentative agreement reached in late May based upon government's "Balanced Measures Mandate".

The organization looks forward to implementing the updates over the term of the new four-year agreement, which will support continued stability, fairness and strengthen critical services.

While regular Labour Management Committee meetings were paused during negotiations, ongoing communication ensured that

workplace matters continued to be addressed in a respectful and collaborative manner. VACFSS remains committed to maintaining a positive labour relations environment that supports staff well-being and organizational stability.

D. Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)

The Occupational Health and Safety Program continued to promote safe working environments across all VACFSS locations. Core training included Workplace Violence Prevention and De-escalation, WHMIS, Fire Warden training, and emergency preparedness. Joint safety committees, ergonomic assessments, and risk management practices remain in place to support staff safety.

During the year, eight workplace incidents were reported. The organization continues to review trends and strengthen prevention strategies, including increased attention to psychological health and safety in the workplace.

The Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) program remains an important support, with plans to train a new cohort of peer responders.

E. Wellness: Living a Healthy Aboriginal Lifestyle (LAHAL)

VACFSS remains committed to holistic wellness through the Living a Healthy Aboriginal Lifestyle (LAHAL) program. Supports available to staff include massage therapy, Amethyst BioMats, and peer-based critical incident support.

Staff Support Counsellor services continued to expand, with over 300 hours of individual counselling offered across sites. Staff accessed culturally grounded supports including smudging, prayer circles, and teachings rooted in Indigenous knowledge systems.

Wellness activities also included strong participation in community events such as the Sun Run, where VACFSS saw its highest level of staff participation to date.

F. Community Engagement and Agency Events

VACFSS continued to foster cultural connection and community engagement through a variety of events and initiatives. Highlights included the annual Sage Picking event, Staff Barbecue, and Staff Update Meeting held at the Musqueam Cultural Centre.

The agency participated in the Moose Hide Campaign and hosted a Red Dress Day gathering to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. The annual Burning Ceremony provided space for reflection and healing. VACFSS also observed National Indigenous Peoples Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, reinforcing its commitment to cultural awareness, accountability, and reconciliation.

This year also marked a leadership transition, with the retirement of CEO Bernadette Spence and the welcoming of new CEO Virge Silveira. The agency recognized this transition through internal and community gatherings that honoured leadership and ongoing partnerships.

LOOKING AHEAD

VACFSS will continue to prioritize leadership development, cultural safety, restorative practices, and trauma-informed care. Investments in staff wellness, professional development, and Indigenous cultural competencies remain central to strengthening service delivery. The organization remains committed to fostering a resilient, inclusive, and culturally grounded workplace that supports employees and the Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities it serves.



CHILD SAFETY

Alison Grundle – Manager

Claudia Liddle – Manager

Shaylene Charleson – Administrative Associate

Heart Work

The complexity is not the file—the complexity is the life circumstances families are navigating. The social worker's role is to walk alongside families, helping them address those challenges while ensuring children's safety, well-being, and connection to culture and community.

Families involved with Child Safety are often navigating multiple challenges at the same time, including family violence, mental health concerns, substance use, housing instability, poverty, grief, and the ongoing impacts of intergenerational trauma. Yet behind these challenges are children who need safety and belonging, parents who care deeply about their children, extended family members stepping forward to help, and families working toward stability and healing. Every situation is unique and requires an understanding of family strengths, cultural identity, community connections, and the broader realities that influence a family's ability to care for their children.

PROGRAM

The VACFSS Intake team is the first point of contact for a family that does not have a file open.

Upon VACFSS receiving a child safety concern or a request for support, a social worker is assigned. Depending on the urgency, the worker attends the home immediately or has 5 days to make contact with the family and arrange a time to meet. The Team is trained and skilled in recognizing the intergenerational impact of colonization on families and approaches families in a collaborative, trauma informed manner taking all steps possible to be supportive, while also having to respectfully assess child safety concerns.

The child safety assessment, also known as an Incident, should be completed within 30 days. If there are initial serious concerns evident, a Safety Plan Agreement is developed collaboratively with the family while the assessment is completed. This is where VACFSS' Collaborative Practice team becomes connected, and the circle is gathered to help

support the family with whatever planning is needed; For example, the adult of concern is agreeable to temporarily leave the home and stay with family, or a family member agrees to assist in caring for the children. Once the assessment or Incident is complete, the social worker meets with the family and if ongoing services are needed, develops a Family Plan which clearly outlines the services which will assist the family to move forward in addressing child safety concerns (ie referrals to VACFSS Programs or other community partners). A least disruptive approach is always used and VACFSS works to keep families together and in collaboration (ie through programs like Family Preservation, Strengthening Families). The family's Nation is also contacted and involved throughout the process, along with the family's circle of support.

Once referrals have been made, the family is transferred to the Family Services Team to support families in continuing with the plan.

Depending on the level of family engagement, family service support may vary on length of time and involvement.



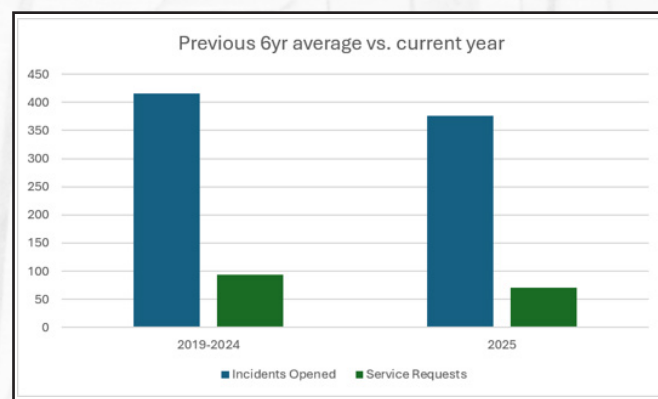
OVERVIEW

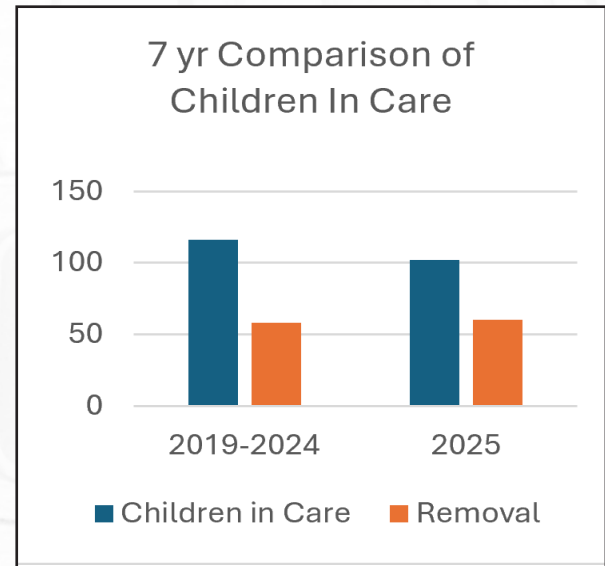
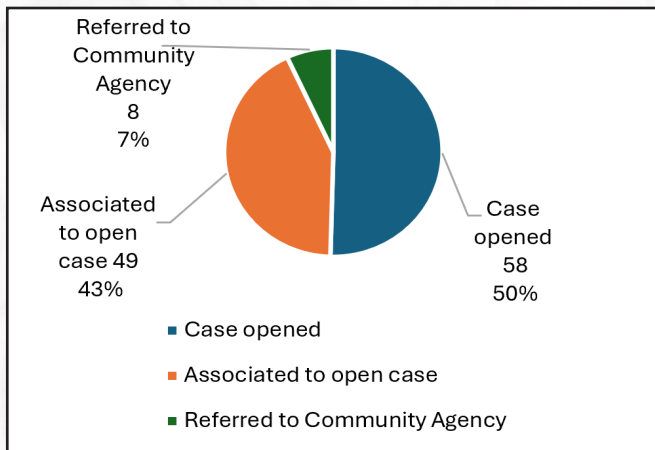
Over this reporting period, Child Safety continued to implement Restorative Child Welfare policy and practice by utilizing the least disruptive measures, prioritizing placements with out of care options to keep children safe, utilizing collaborative practice to facilitate family planning meetings, and ensuring ongoing access for parents to keep children connected to family in cases where removal was necessary.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Overall, there was a 9% increase in 2025 regarding the number of incidents and a 4% decrease in Service Requests. Of the total number of incidents, 90% were assessed as Family Development Responses (FDR) and 10% were coded as Investigation (INV). An FDR allows for the intake team to provide

services over a longer period of time, as well as through a restorative practice approach in which social workers are working in relationship with families. As of March 31, 2026, 179 incidents were assessed and closed. 93% of those incidents determined a need for ongoing protection services: 50% resulting in a new case opened and 43% associated to a case that was already open. Only 7% of these incidents resulted in no further service being needed and were referred to a community service.





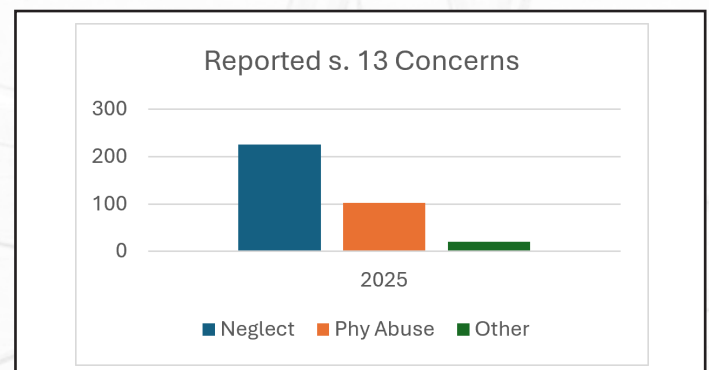
LEAST DISRUPTIVE MEASURES

A least disruptive measure is defined as a measure taken to secure the safety and well-being of a child prior to a removal under section 30 of the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA).

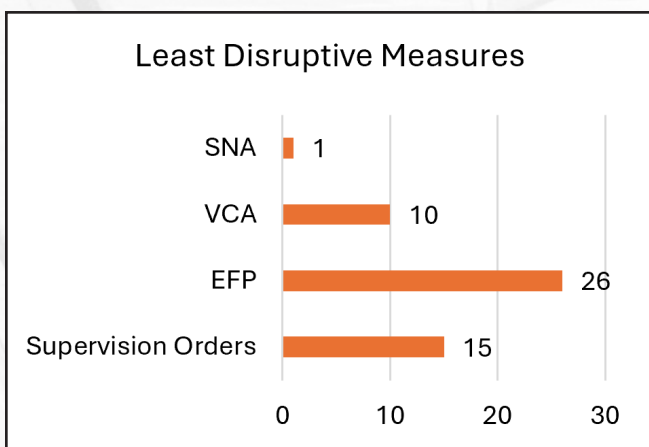
Least disruptive measures can include, but are not limited to: safety plan agreements; supervision orders; protective intervention orders; an agreement for the child to live with extended family and/or someone the child has a significant relationship with (extended family program); an agreement with the parent that the child be placed in care under a voluntary agreement (VCA); or a special needs agreement (SNA).

Highlighting the use of restorative child welfare practices, Child Safety, as of March 31, 2026, had a total of 52 least disruptive measures in place to protect the safety and well-being of children. Of open child service files, 24% were in a least disruptive measure (SNA, VCA, EFP) and there were a total of 15 supervision orders without removal.

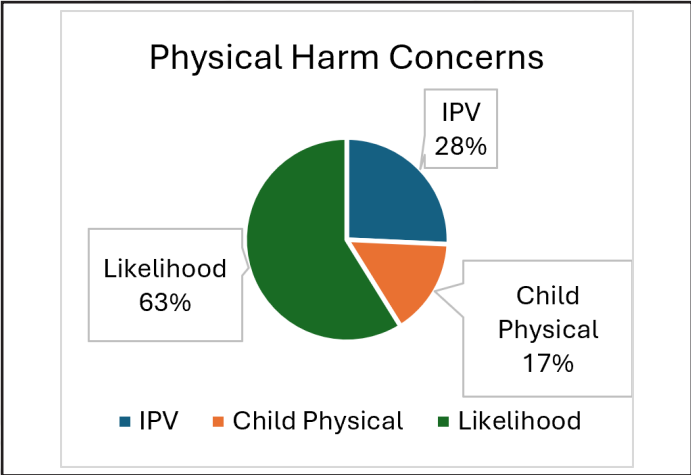
CHILDREN IN CARE



This fiscal year, 60 children were legally removed from their guardians. Of these 60 children, 33% were removed from a least disruptive measure. 73% of the removals were due to parental substance use with a parent being unable/unwilling to care leading to chronic neglect, or a child being subject to the likelihood of physical abuse due to neglect. 23% of removals were due to parental mental health no substance use, deceased parent, or exposure to ongoing intimate partner violence (IPV). Six infants were removed from their parents' care at the time of birth or shortly after and all were due to parental substance use.



CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS:
YEARLY COMPARISON



Research has shown that physical abuse is not a predominant risk factor in the Indigenous community, concerns regarding Neglect (226 concerns) are almost double (122 concerns) that of Physical Abuse, Emotional Harm, Sexual Abuse and other.

At the Child Safety program, we strive to mitigate neglect that occurs for children due to poverty related issues. This past fiscal year we budgeted \$710,000 for concrete needs intended to support the well-being of the families we serve which includes but is not limited to food security, housing security, daily living support cost, and supporting health care needs.

The category of physical abuse within child safety includes physical harm reported on a child as well as the likelihood of physical harm from IPV or the likelihood of physical harm due to neglect. The data was delineated to reveal that of the 168 incidents coded as physical harm reported, 17% were due to reports of children being physically harmed, 28% were due to concerns of IPV and 63% were due to reports of a child’s likelihood of physical harm due to neglect. Concerns arising from IPV are supported through a range of services, including prevention, safety planning, and specialized treatment. At VACFSS, we are supported by our Family Preservation Program and the Strengthening Families and Fathers initiatives.

We also collaborate closely with the IPV Co-ordination Table, which includes community partners, the Vancouver Police Department (VPD), Victim Services, Income Assistance, BC Housing, VACFSS, and MCFD consultants.

CASELOAD PROFILE TREND

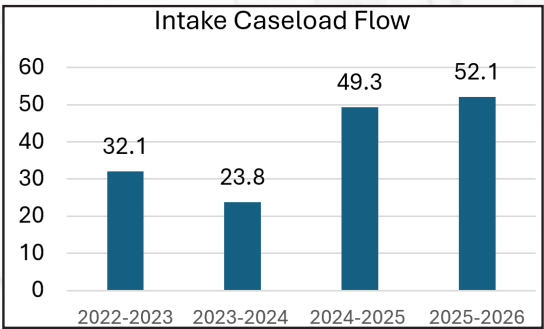
Over the past fiscal year, the average number of files opened were:

- 233 Family Service Files
- 106 Children in Care Files
- 57 Out of Care children Files (1/3 of children outside of parental home are placed with kith and kin)

(The Data warehouse does not include files for children in Section 54.01 Agreements)

Additionally, Child Safety obtained 19 Continuing Custody Orders in the fiscal year, however, these were subsequently transferred to the Guardianship team. 12 of these orders were obtained due to ongoing parental substance use.

Since Covid there has been a substantial increase in family service (FS) and child services (CS) cases held by the Intake social workers. Due to the increasing level of complexity, family service files are staying open for longer periods of time. This, coupled with the ongoing staff vacancy rate, is creating a bottleneck of cases being held by the Intake team. The challenge with this lies in the Intake social worker’s ability to balance the need to respond to urgent child protection reports while meeting the competing needs of family services support and guardianship responsibilities.



OUT OF CARE OPTIONS

(Extended Family Program, OOCO court order place with other, 54.01 orders and Enhanced Out of Care)

The Out of Care Options (OOCO) program supports children who temporarily cannot be cared for by their parents and are placed with extended family, or significant person known to the family, to prevent children from coming into care. The program supports the needs of children and their caregivers.

The monthly average for this fiscal year of children placed in OOCO was 59, 1/3 of the total number of children in care. There were 32 new assessments completed and contracts signed and 4 assessments currently in progress.

A Section 54.01 order is a permanent legal transfer of custody from a parent to a family member or significant person known to the family who has been previously assessed as an Out of Care caregiver. This fiscal year the monthly average of Section 54.01 orders was 73. There were 13 Section 54.01 assessments completed, and six assessments are in progress.

ENHANCED OUT OF CARE

Currently, we have one Enhanced Out of Care agreement and three Enhanced Out of Care agreements that did not require an extension, and another six agreements are currently being assessed. Enhanced Out of Care agreements provide extra support for children with special needs and who require services that are not funded within the OOC program or services in the community. This program provides the support needed to keep children from coming into care and to remain with family.

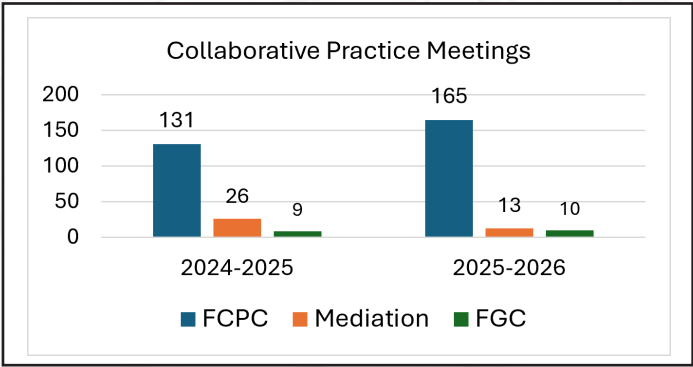
	# of Children		# of Homes	
	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	2025/26
Court Order				
54.01	72	75	55	58
EFP	35	31	27	24
35.2.D and 41.1.B	28	28	22	24
TOTAL	135	134	104	104

ANALYSIS

The Kinship Assessment Tool (KAT) is the process used which has been specifically created to assess each child’s needs, including cultural safety, and assess support to caregivers to ensure successful placements. Although the number of children placed in Out of Care homes this year has decreased due to reunification with parents or children aging out of care, the number of new assessments is significant. There is a considerable amount of work and care that goes into assessing the needs of each child and the support required for the caregiver. A total of 32 assessments were completed this year, a 45% increase over last year.

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

Family Case Planning Conferences (FCPC) and Family Group Conferences (FGC)
As a cornerstone to restorative practice, FCPCs and FGCs are a collaborative approach of including everyone in the child’s circle when planning. This fiscal year, the number of collaborative processes increased by 25% while court mediations have reduced by 50%. We believe this increase in gathering the circle and a willingness to move forward in a positive direction has been responsible for reducing the need for court proceedings. As jurisdiction is evolving and growing, we have seen an increase in Nations’ participation in meetings to collaboratively plan.



STAFFING

As we neared the end of the fiscal year, staff vacancies significantly increased. By the end of the fiscal year, we had seven social worker vacancies as compared to four last year, one social worker assistant vacancy, and are anticipating an additional three social worker vacancies due to pending education leaves. This year the Child Safety program continued hiring summer students. As part of VACFSS's commitment to enabling and implementing the Access directive, these workers, along with the current social worker assistants, provide direct transportation and supervised visits.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Child Safety continues to navigate the everchanging landscape of Indigenous Law and Jurisdiction. There have been an increasing number of Community Agreements (92.1) with Nations in British Columbia which enhance our collaborative relationships. This past year, Child Safety hosted the Denisiqi Service Society and members from the seven communities they work with, to share and exchange information on our respective restorative practices. We also were fortunate to host the Council of Yukon First Nation who are hoping to move towards enacting their laws. Care plan meetings were organized regularly throughout the year by our lifelong connections worker and included Samson Cree Nation, Lake Babine Nation, Dakota Sioux First Nation, and Zagime First Nation.



FAMILY PRESERVATION & REUNIFICATION

Brenda Lavallee – Family Preservation Program Manager

**Doris Peters – Director of Operations & Community Partnership Engagement
for Child Safety & Family Preservation**

Family Preservation and Reunification staff walk alongside Indigenous families facing complex and often interconnected challenges, including intergenerational trauma, family violence, mental health concerns, substance use, poverty, housing instability, and barriers to accessing services. Through trauma-informed, culturally grounded practice, our dedicated team works in partnership with parents, children, extended family, Elders, and community supports to strengthen family well-being and safety.

In an urban Indigenous context, where families often navigate multiple systems and limited resources, our employees are committed to preserving family connections, promoting healing, and supporting children to remain safely connected to their families, culture, and community whenever possible. The work we do connecting families to other community resources and assuring engagement is a protective factor that provides safeguards in the world of toxic drug crisis..

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Family Preservation and Reunification focuses on finding the right supports and working together so families feel strong and connected – to each other, to culture, to community, and to a support system.

Referrals are received from Child Safety for a number of reasons, this can include families in need of additional support around resources, parenting, child development, and traditional Knowledge (Elders). Families may or may not have children in care.

Family Preservation Counsellors work in relationship with families to build on strengths and goals, while identifying available services and supports to help them achieve their goals – including connections to culturally relevant resources and community services.

Family Preservation Counsellors work with a trauma informed, restorative approach and recognize the intergenerational impact of colonization on families, roles, and dynamics.

This report presents a strategic overview of the Family Preservation and Reunification

(FPR) program, emphasizing our commitment to supporting families. The intersecting challenges of trauma, poverty, food insecurity, and underrepresentation in preventative services are critical to our approach. Below we outline our current practices, identifies areas for improvement, and propose strategic goals and recommendations for the upcoming years.

This report will focus on high level strategic goals, visioning, and outcomes. There are several important factors across the two programs Family Preservation and Reunification (FPR) and Child Safety (CS). We work with families with similar levels of complexity, as our referrals originate from Child Safety. The strategic focus allows us to share resources and address areas that arise from the data. This is not new information, but it is important to highlight as this emphasizes the importance of a collaborative approach to working with the same demographic. We have opportunities related to training, hiring, collaborative approaches, practice approaches and contractor/service provider engagement to strengthen our practice and to intentionally focus on areas that will provide the greatest benefit to our families.



The opportunities when working with families includes the ability to address trauma, poverty, food insecurity, concrete needs, addiction, mental health, housing that will allow families to focus on the intensive work needed to increase the safety of children. We will identify what we are doing now and where we can strengthen our practice across our programs to assure that the approach is streamlined and allows each program to experience program stability which comes when we have high retention across programs.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Goal 1: Maintain and support the family unit where safe and possible while also prioritizing the needs of the children.

Goal 2: Foster collaborative practices to enhance service delivery.

GUIDING PRACTICES

1. Trauma-informed care that addresses historical and multi-generational trauma through specialized training and comprehensive support services.
2. Collaborative approaches that engage multiple systems (health, justice, education) to create a unified responsive support network for families.
3. Cultural competency that looks to systematically incorporate Indigenous perspectives/approaches/practices in service delivery.

FAMILY PRESERVATION AND REUNIFICATION

A strategic goal of the FPR program was to engage in a way that is meaningful while prioritizing developing relationship and trust through events that are culturally relevant and where families have autonomy to



participate. As a program we intentionally chose engagement, culture and collaboration as priorities to increase the opportunities for our families to engage in ways that allow for empowerment and autonomy.

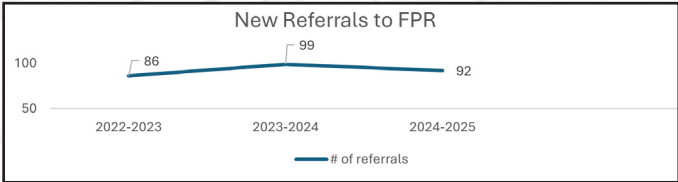
Another strategic focus was to increase the cultural competence of our staff and bring to life the Indigenous Cultural Core Competencies through event planning and collaboration. Engaging the Indigenous Core Cultural Competencies through a committee while planning for an important event allows staff to develop their competence which are skills that can generalize to other settings, events and meetings. In addition, we see these events assisting with retention as the Family Preservation Counsellors and social workers who attend witness the families in a safe, supported environment and VACFSS employees and families feel energized after the event. This is also an opportunity to engage with our families in a way that they are not accustomed to and they get to associate VACFSS with these preventative and trust building activities which can shift the energy and relationship. Events we have had this past year that build on our practice includes MMIWG event that we have had

for 3 years for our site staff, and the Winter Solstice event for families. For MMIWG we have recommended that our next event will be organized by a committee for all 3 sites and the Winter Solstice is a shared event between Child Safety and Family Preservation. Having the committee plan the event for the 3 sites will allow the Indigenous Core Cultural Competencies to be demonstrated and practiced and it brings the 3 sites together to acknowledge the day and increases the connection across programs which can be very energizing!

We planned our Spring into Wellness event for the 2nd year, and the families reported many benefits. For one, the services we arranged are not services that our families normally have access to. They included chair massage, table massage, hair braiding, rock painting, powwow dance teaching, lunch, gifts, and multiple resource tables (FNHA, Kettle Society, Reach, ACCESS).

Family Preservation Counsellors are encouraged and supported to bring their ideas to monthly meetings and often their ideas are enacted in the programming. An example of this is bringing families sage picking in Merritt.

After attending the sage picking event one of our FPCs identified that this event would be beneficial for our families to attend. We rented a bus for the families to travel to Merritt, we organized the event around the concrete needs of the families. There were in-depth discussions that occurred to anticipate what would be needed for the trip to be successful. In addition, families were brought back to debrief what went well and what could be strengthened for next year. Several comments that stood out included: “more time with the Elders”, “the food, hats, water, sunscreen were needed!!”, “we make the gifts for the Elders”. Families were celebrated for their attendance at the debrief. The committee is planning this year’s event and have made several changes because of the suggestions by the families which includes families having teaching from Elders before going sage picking.



FPCs attend the family home, meet in the community, go for coffee, attend community events or make home visits as ways to ensure that families can engage in environments that they choose. Further we offer flexible service delivery to accommodate the unique circumstances of each family. This might include varying meeting times, remote support options, and culturally relevant activities that allow families to engage at their own pace. In addition, there is an extensive engagement plan where opportunities are identified, and all opportunities are utilized prior to closing a referral due to no contact.

We are aware of the risks for families, and we take engagement of families very seriously and will provide extensive support to engage families and/or to keep families engaged. This includes looking at a phased approach to readiness for services and supports. We have utilized this approach with families that identify a continuum of readiness that allows us to take incremental steps toward

engagement or service utilization. The nuanced work and the amount of time that we spend trying to innovatively engage families is not captured in these hours. Further concrete needs have been a valuable resource allocated to our program to allow us to be responsive to the needs of our families which has included mobilizing resources to address gaps for the families (food security, clothing, household and services). We have utilized concrete needs to mitigate issues in the family that have resulted in increased stress and this access has allowed us to develop trust and relationship with families more quickly.

Our integrating these elements into our programming and policies, allows us to create a more supportive environment that fosters trust, engagement, and ultimately, contributes to positive outcomes for families.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND STRENGTHENING FATHERS

These groups have been successfully running for over a decade and this coming year we will be focusing on the following:

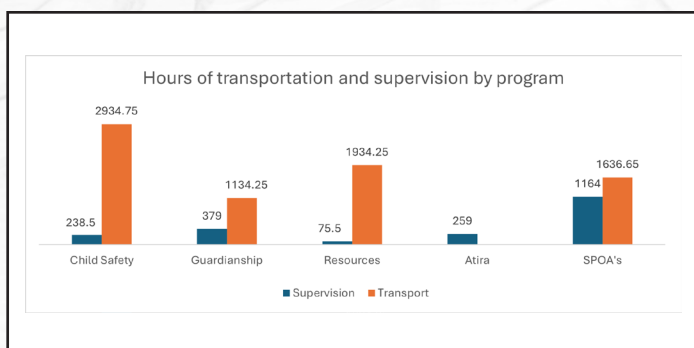
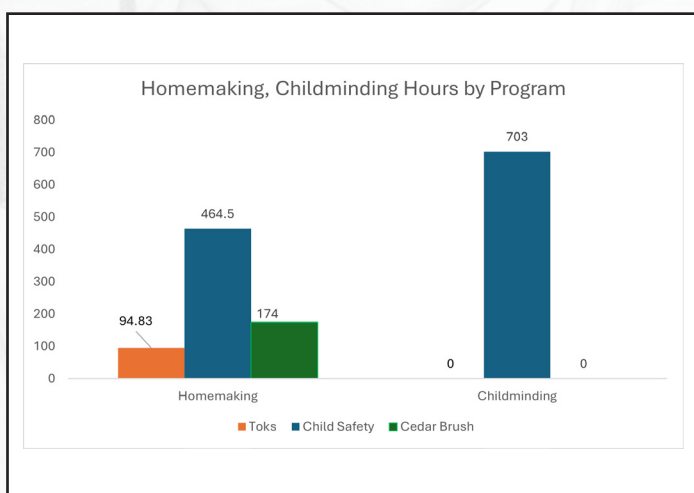
- Meeting and planning with facilitators beginning in August for the year
- Developing a framework for the program to increase communication, collaboration and feedback processes

CULTURAL

In response to staff feedback we have engaged in developing a list of Elders. For the list of Elders, we have had an orientation for the Elders which identifies the support, training and work that we may engage them in. We have ensured that we have had Elder support at our events and are looking to increase our cultural supports and services across the two programs. One of our main goals is to assure that we increase access to cultural programming for families and that some of the events occur onsite for both offices.

IN HOME SUPPORTS:

In Home Supports had a very busy year with an increase in 2 contractors and tracking of the services provided to the programs. We are tracking the supervision and transportation that are provided by the Social Work Assistants and all the supervised access that could be transitioned to the SWAs have been transferred. The increase in contractors allow for increased and intensive services to our families.



Areas of focus over the coming year:

1. While identifying and addressing families' immediate concrete needs we tell the story of how many services families are accessing and determine if this is an indicator of positive outcomes for families.
2. Expand training for staff around working with complex family dynamics and needs. This will result in increased retention as social workers feel competent in their roles.
3. Foster increased communication across programs to ensure seamless service delivery.
4. Increase access to contractors and support services to develop a responsive list of service providers that also work with the families we serve.
5. Establish feedback mechanisms for families to express their needs and experiences with the system. This can inform ongoing adjustments to programming and policies.
6. Continuously assess the effectiveness of our programming and policies. Model a willingness to adapt based on what is learned from families and the community, ensuring that services remain relevant and effective.

CONCLUSION

This report highlights the vital intersection of child safety, family support, and cultural competency in our programs. By focusing on collaborative practices, a unified vision, and the integration of data-driven strategies, we can create a more effective framework for supporting families in our community. As we move forward, it is crucial we remain adaptive, responsive, and committed to the best interests of the children and families we serve, ensuring their needs are met holistically and equitably.



RESOURCES

Donald Robertshaw – Resources Program Manager

- ▶ Supports caregivers to develop skills in the areas of intergenerational and complex trauma, supporting children with complex needs, and building bridging relationships with families and Circles that surround children
- ▶ Strengthens Circles of care for children in care by partnering with caregivers, families, Nations and community to promote safety, belonging, cultural identity and lifelong connections
- ▶ Builds and sustains a network of Indigenous caregivers and culturally connected caregivers that provide Indigenous children and youth with safety, belonging and opportunities to thrive
- ▶ Engages in restorative practice that reflects Indigenous values, self-determination and the Society's commitment to keeping children connected to their families, communities and cultures

PROGRAM PURPOSE AND PRACTICE CONTEXT

The VACFSS Resources Program remains deeply committed to ensuring that children in care maintain meaningful relationships with their parents, extended family, community, and culture. The program operates from a holistic, Indigenous-informed perspective, grounded in inclusive family care, collaborative planning, and cultural continuity. Resources works in close partnership with Child Safety, Guardianship, and Family Preservation programs to support children and youth to remain, wherever safely possible, within their families and communities.

Through coordinated planning and shared responsibility, the Resources Program supports children to remain at home with additional respite and family supports. For children who cannot remain safely at home, Resources prioritizes family care placements that allow children and youth to stay connected to their kinship systems, cultural teachings, and community networks.

In fiscal year 2025–26, the Resources Program supported an average of 362 children in care, with 158 family care homes in place as of March 2025. Notably, 89% of children in care were living in community-based family care homes, underscoring the program's sustained commitment to family-based care models. Reducing the number of children in care remains a priority across all VACFSS programs and aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action related to child welfare.

CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNITY PRESENCE, AND CAREGIVER RECOGNITION

The 2025–2026 period was marked by ceremonies, cultural events, and community gatherings, significantly strengthening caregiver, child, and staff engagement. Key highlights included the VACFSS caregiver, child, and family cultural camp held in July 2025 at Blue Mountain Park on kʷikwə́ləm (Kwkwetlem First Nation) territory, attended by more than 175 children, youth, caregivers, and community members. The camp focused

on Indigenous cultural teachings, land-based learning, and relationship building, reinforcing children’s sense of identity and belonging.

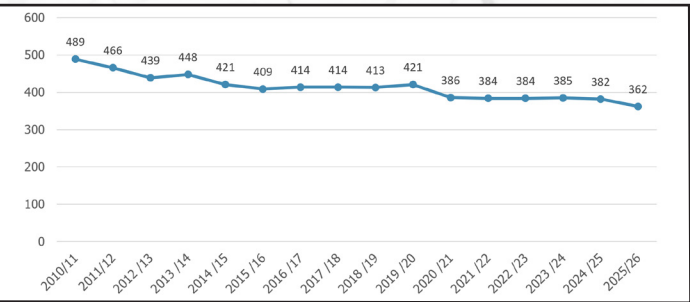
Similarly, the Caregiver Appreciation Event in October 2025, which welcomed more than 200 caregivers, partners, and staff, provided an opportunity to honour caregivers through cultural ceremonies, blanketing of new caregivers, and performances. These gatherings play a critical role in caregiver retention, mutual support, and cultural accountability.

Inclusive caregiving practices were further strengthened through the “Gathering Our Medicine” circle, a culturally grounded initiative that supports healing, strengthens relationships among children, caregivers, and kinship circles, and reinforces Indigenous ways of caring.

CHILDREN IN CARE: TRENDS, COMPLEXITY, AND PLACEMENT PRESSURES

Over the past thirteen years, VACFSS has seen a steady decline in the average number of children in care, decreasing from 489 children in 2010–2011 to 362 children in 2025–2026. While this trend reflects positive system level change, it coincides with increasing complexity among the children and youth who do require care.

Table 1: Children in care 2010 to 2026



Age group analysis shows relatively modest year-to-year changes, with key longer-term shifts. The number of adolescents aged 15–18 has remained relatively stable in recent years (111 this year compared to 113 last year),

though this group has declined significantly from earlier years. Children aged 10–14 have increased over time, while younger age groups (particularly 0–4) have declined substantially, reflecting improvements in early family preservation, OOCO pathways, and transfers of custody.

Table 2: Children in care by age group – 2010 to 2026

Age Group	2010–2011	2025–2026	Key Observations
Infants (0–12 months)	19	10	Marked decrease, slight recent increase
Children (0–4 years)	116	38	Significant reduction
Children (5–9 years)	78	79	Stable
Youth (10–14 years)	78	112	Notable increase
Youth (15–18 years)	144	111	Gradual decline

Family care homes continue to be the foundational placement model, with nearly nine in ten children residing in community-based family settings. However, the increase in child specific staffed specialized contracts—from eight children historically to approximately 30 in 2025–26—signals growing system pressure driven by:

- Medical and behavioral complexity
- Children under 12 requiring specialized staffing
- Larger sibling groups
- Health fragile infants
- Children and youth with significant trauma, behavioural, mental health, medical, or developmental needs
- Limited vacancies within the VACFSS and MCFD family care networks

The Resources Program has responded through intensified review, planning, and monitoring practices to ensure these placements remain appropriate and transitional wherever possible

CAREGIVER NETWORK, CAPACITY, AND WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

The program currently supports on average 129 VACFSS family caregivers, supplemented by 35 agency family care homes, for an average total of 164 family care homes. The caregiver skills profile continues to strengthen, with most caregivers now operating at Levels 2 and 3 within the Levels of Care system, indicating increased experience and capacity to care for children with complex needs.



Nonetheless, aging caregivers, housing affordability, caregiver retention, and recruitment—including Indigenous caregivers—remain challenging. This trend occurs in the context of broader system changes that have enabled more families to care for children through Out of Care Options and Transfers of Custody, particularly within the Child Safety Program.

Despite these challenges, Resources continues to value the contribution of kith and kin caregivers and acknowledges their critical role in maintaining family continuity. Ongoing initiatives aim to transfer legal custody to relatives where appropriate, contributing to the stability and permanence of care arrangements.

PLACEMENT ACTIVITY, STABILITY, AND RESPITE SERVICES

In 2025–26, the program facilitated 124 child placements, a significant decline from 192 placements in 2017–18, indicating fewer placement disruptions and improved planning. While placements for younger children declined over time, placements for adolescents increased, reflecting shifting demographic and complexity patterns.

Table 3: Child Placement Activity 2010 to 2026

Indicator	Historical Trend
Total Placements Facilitated	Decreased (192 → 124)
Unplanned Placement Moves	Reduced
Sibling Co-Placements	Increased
Child-Specific Placement	Increased
Respite Utilization •	Sustained demand

Unplanned child moves often linked to infant medical needs, caregiver capacity, or care home closures have shown improvement over the longer term, although they remain an area of close monitoring. Collaborative placement planning has supported sibling co-placements, which continue to be prioritized wherever possible.

Respite services remain a vital support to families. While the number of children accessing family-based respite declined, the Children’s Corner Respite Home maintained high utilization, serving 246 children in 2025–26, reflecting sustained demand for flexible respite support.



QUALITY OF CARE, OVERSIGHT, AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The number of Quality-of-Care Reviews has declined over the longer term, indicating improvements in caregiver screening, monitoring, and support. Resources and Guardianship/ Child Safety leadership continue to use structured tracking tools to ensure compliance with contract, safety, and review requirements, while providing targeted additional supports to higher risk placements.

TRAINING, SUPPORTS, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Indigenous Perspective Society continue to be provided “pre-service” and “in-service” caregiver training. Hollyburn Family Services continues to play a central role in providing specialized training, counselling, and caregiver support. Hollyburn support caregiver workers provided over 1246 hours of direct support with caregivers. Registered clinical counselors engaged 26 caregivers focused on providing care for children experiencing traumatic situations, strengthening family relationships, grief and loss issues. Cultural training remains integral, with caregivers participating in Indigenous-led teachings, cultural camps, and community-based learning.

Partnerships with organizations such as Lu'ma Native Housing, Urban Native Youth Association, Kiwassa Neighbourhood House, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Housing, and others remain essential in addressing housing, mental health, youth transition, and specialized care needs.

KEY PRIORITIES MOVING FORWARD INCLUDE:

- Enhancing Indigenous and non-Indigenous caregiver recruitment
- Strengthening Inclusive Family Care planning and accountability
- Expanding caregiver cultural learning opportunities
- Ongoing review of child specific specialized placements
- Improving caregiver retention and capacity
- Supporting staff recruitment, retention, and training
- Increasing inter-program, child-focused planning

GUARDIANSHIP

Holly Anderson – Director of Integrated Practice and Operations

Marcia Cummings – Guardianship Program Manager

- ▶ Social workers provide ongoing care, advocacy and decision making for Indigenous children and youth in continuing care
- ▶ Develop holistic plans that promote safety, cultural identity, lifelong connections and permanency
- ▶ Partners with families, Nations, caregivers and community to support children's well-being and belonging
- ▶ Champions children's rights while ensuring culturally grounded, trauma-informed, and legislated practice
- ▶ Supports and empowers youth leadership through strong transition planning and Child and Youth engagement programs - including the Youth Advisory Committee - that creates opportunities for youth in and from care to share their voices, influence services, build leadership skills and advocate for meaningful systems change

PROGRAM

The Guardianship Program supports children and youth who are unable to live with their biological or extended family. While in care, VACFSS continually seeks kinship connections and collaborates with Nations to ensure children and youth remain connected to their families, communities and cultures.

OVERVIEW

The Guardianship Program currently provides delegated services to 267 urban Indigenous children and youth in care. Our work is grounded in the Calls to Action for Child Welfare from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the recommendations from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and the principles of An Act Respecting First Nations, Métis and Inuit Children, Youth and Families.

Our program is rooted in restorative, trauma-informed practice that prioritizes relationship-based social work. We focus on developing holistic care plans centered on connection to family, community, and culture, with a strong

emphasis on permanency. Children and youth are supported within a circle of care that includes family, community, and child-centered services.

Our team includes 15 social workers, 3 team leaders, a guardianship consultant, two Lifelong Connection Workers, and a Child and Youth Engagement Coordinator. We also have two part-time Indigenous wellness counsellors who provide support to children and youth navigating trauma, grief, and loss.

We are committed to reducing the number of Indigenous children in care. We aim to do this by promoting specific lifelong plans rooted in family and cultural connection, and by supporting youth who leave care with a strong sense of Indigenous identity and a vision for their future.

PRACTICE-BASED DATA COLLECTION

To support best practices and accountability, our program uses a longstanding database that tracks the journey and outcomes of children and youth in care. For over 15 years,





this tool has supported evidence-based planning and service delivery. It reflects the diversity of experiences and unique needs of Indigenous youth while providing a framework for evaluating outcomes and understanding real-time impacts of our practice.

In recent years, we've expanded this data collection to include permanency planning outcomes such as legal transfers of custody, adoptions, placements with extended family, or returns to parents. This helps us track the full trajectory of care and guide planning with youth and families.

OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH LEAVING CARE

Our practice has always emphasized supporting youth beyond age 19, recognizing the unique challenges Indigenous young adults face after aging out of care. Prior to any formal provincial mandate, our program provided informal post-19 support rooted in relationship, identity, and connection.

As the provincial framework to support youth post-19 evolved, our team worked alongside the Youth Advisory Committee to formalize our commitment through written policy. This policy reflects our continued dedication to

supporting Indigenous youth as they navigate early adulthood, grounded in cultural safety and the importance of lifelong connection.

YOUTH TRANSITIONS & SAJE SUPPORTS

In 2022, the Ministry announced the creation of SAJE (Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment), a new Youth Transitions Program to support youth and young adults between the ages of 14 and 27 with expanded services and benefits as they transition in and out of care. The program includes funding to enhance support for youth transitioning from care, expanded eligibility, and the introduction of post-19 SAJE Guides who work alongside young adults to help them access services and achieve their goals through to their 27th birthday.

VACFSS has been developing its own approach to SAJE, which is reflective of our restorative practice, culturally grounded policies, and youth voice. We created and implemented two new positions to support youth transitioning out of care: one focused on young adults aged 19–27, and another supporting youth aged 14–19.

Currently, Guardianship is supporting 30 youth over the age of 19 who have SAJE housing agreements or SAJE support agreements. These agreements allow youth to remain in their homes and receive support past the age of majority. We continue to work with these young people to support their transition into adulthood, including accessing post-secondary education, building life skills, and connecting with adult services that align with their long-term goals.

VACFSS also continued to support youth transitioning into the community through either CLBC or extended post-19 supports. Many of these youth's caregivers chose to transition to caregivers under CLBC resulting in no further moves for these youth. This outcome reflects the strength of the relationships developed between youth and their caregivers, and the value of belonging that was fostered through consistent, culturally safe placements.

This year also saw a strong rate of academic achievement among youth leaving care. 22 youth (66%) of the 2024 cohort graduated with high school diplomas or leaving certificates. This success reflects the program's emphasis on strong partnerships with culturally responsive and flexible educational programs. Guardianship continues to collaborate with Indigenous-focused schools such as Cedar Walk, as well as with Indigenous education support workers across the Lower Mainland. These partnerships ensure youth receive tailored educational supports and develop key life skills as they journey out of care.

PERMANENCY WITHIN A CHILD'S CIRCLE

Indigenous children have the right to maintain strong, meaningful relationships with their families, communities, and mentors. We make concerted efforts to protect these connections and to support each child's journey back to family whenever possible. Currently, approximately one in five children in our care (53 children) are living with relatives in formal kith-and-kin placements. This achievement demonstrates our commitment to restorative practice and our belief that Indigenous children have an inherent right to be raised within their own family and community.

In alignment with the board's strategic priorities, the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and the principles of federal legislation affirming Indigenous child welfare jurisdiction (An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families), the Guardianship program has developed a strong, concerted approach to return children to their circles and seek permanency. This approach effectively moves children beyond Continuing Custody Orders and into permanent family arrangements. Permanency planning always begins by exploring a return to the child's family, extended family, or broader Indigenous community. A plan is reached by consensus, involving everyone in the child's circle and centering the voices of the family, the Nation, and the youth themselves.

Our Lifelong Connections workers actively track each child's permanency progress through regular monthly meetings with social workers. We also emphasize partnering with First Nations bands and communities at every stage of planning. These collaborative efforts ensure that permanency plans are developed and advanced with the full involvement of each child's family and community.

CULTURAL JOURNEYS

The Guardianship program is committed to upholding the principles of An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families (which affirms Indigenous jurisdiction in child and family services) and to working in true partnership with each Nation in planning for their children. For Nations that have a cohort of children in our care, we have established formal annual planning reviews in partnership with those Nations to review and refine each child's plan.

This year, our Nation partnerships and cultural planning meetings included:

- Wet'suwet'en Nation – In-person planning session
- Lake Babine Nation – In-person planning session
- Heiltsuk Nation – In-person planning session
- Lil'wat Nation – Virtual planning session
- Gitksan Nation – Virtual planning session
- Siksika Nation – Virtual planning session

Children and youth in our care are supported to develop strong Indigenous identities grounded in the teachings of their home communities, while also fostering a positive urban Indigenous identity when they are away from home. This culturally connected work is supported by all of our social workers and is coordinated by our Lifelong Connections Coordinators.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Ensuring our youth are developing a strong Indigenous identity, leadership skills, and a vision for their future is an essential part of the work that guardianship does. We continue to engage youth in a variety of creative and cultural ways to ensure they experience opportunities to heal from trauma, to have voices heard, and prepare them for adulthood.

Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) continues to serve as a vital leadership body within VACFSS, ensuring the voices of

Indigenous youth in and from care are central to agency policy development, programming, and advocacy. Made up of 12 dedicated young leaders, YAC remains embedded within VACFSS and plays a pivotal role in shaping best practices and driving systemic change both locally and nationally.

Over the past year, YAC expanded its advocacy efforts, contributed to multiple initiatives, and broadened its presence in critical conversations impacting youth in care. Members shared their experiences and recommendations through presentations at Douglas College and the

University of British Columbia. In the fall, they were invited to present at the Our Children, Our Way Conference, where they highlighted the significance of relationship-based social work, cultural healing, and youth-led change. YAC was also honored with the Spirit Bear Award from the First Nations Caring Society—an affirmation of their impact across community and macro systems.

In alignment with their strategic plan, YAC prioritized housing as a critical advocacy issue, identifying it as a major barrier for youth aging out of care. They continue to amplify youth voices in policy discussions, with a strong stance that safe, affordable, and sustainable housing is a fundamental right. YAC is actively cultivating relationships with housing stakeholders to support solutions that reduce barriers for Indigenous youth.

In addition to advocacy, YAC played a central role in all VACFSS annual events, reinforcing their leadership within the agency. Looking ahead, they are preparing to host their annual Summer BBQ in June, a signature event celebrating connection and community among youth in care.

YAC remains a cornerstone of youth advocacy at VACFSS—offering critical insight, challenging systemic inequities, and inspiring change.

Culturally Relevant Urban Wellness (CRUW)

The Culturally Relevant Urban Wellness (CRUW) program continues to affirm the right of Indigenous youth in urban settings to remain connected to their culture through land-based practices. Now in its 14th year, CRUW provides a vital space for cultural connection, wellness, and community building.

CRUW operates at the xʷćičəsəm Garden on the unceded territory of the Musqueam people at the UBC Farm. The garden's name, from the hənqəmiñəŋ language, means "the place where we grow." Established in 2007 by Dr. Eduardo Jovel, this space is now stewarded by UBC's Indigenous Research Partnerships, ensuring respect for its cultural and ecological significance.

Throughout the year, participants engaged in traditional plant cultivation, medicine harvesting, ceremonies, and land-based teachings passed down through generations. These experiences promote respect, stewardship, and identity—strengthening youth connection to land and culture. CRUW also supports holistic wellness by integrating mental, emotional, and physical health through mentorship, teamwork, and cultural learning. The relationships built through CRUW foster belonging and healing.

CHILDREN'S INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, CULTURE, AND LANGUAGES EDUCATION (CIRCLE)

Vancouver

The Children's Indigenous Rights, Culture, and Languages Education (CIRCLE) program continues to offer meaningful cultural engagement for Indigenous children, emphasizing the lifelong journey of cultural identity. By connecting children with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Cultural Educators, CIRCLE creates a vibrant community rooted in diverse traditions from across Turtle Island. Now in its 8th cycle, CIRCLE operates as an after-school program at Lu'ma Housing, where children engage in traditional practices facilitated by knowledge keepers and Elders, alongside mentors and peers. This year, children participated in land-based learning, traditional harvesting, language revitalization, Indigenous food preparation, and expressive cultural arts such as drumming, singing, and storytelling. These activities help build cultural pride, knowledge, and identity.

Surrey

In 2024, VACFSS expanded the CIRCLE program to Surrey in response to the growing need for culturally grounded programs in the region. Launched in October, CIRCLE Surrey provides monthly sessions for Indigenous children aged 6–12, offering land-based



FINANCE

Kevin Tang – Director of Finance

A typical day in Finance is varied and people-focused. Whether assisting with a caregiver payment, helping an employee with a payroll concern, reviewing a travel claim, or supporting leadership with financial planning, the team's goal remains the same: supporting VACFSS programs through strong stewardship, practical guidance, and timely service so that staff can focus on serving Indigenous children, youth, and families.

SOCIETY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue for the year ended March 31, 2026 increased to \$82,385,212 (2025 - \$73,019,951) representing an increase of approximately \$9.4 million compared to the 2025 fiscal year total of \$73,019,951. Expenses increased by \$11.7 million to \$84,462,090 (2025 - \$72,770,200).

The revenue and expense increase corresponds to an \$11,133,374 increase in Direct Program Costs, largely driven by Child in Care costs. Child Specific Placement costs increased by \$9,285,614 (2026 - \$35,347,331; 2025 - \$26,061,717) and the remaining \$1.8 million is distributed across other Direct Program Costs.

As a result, Net Assets decreased by \$2,076,878, reflecting a deficit position at year-end. Despite this, the Agency remains in a strong financial position to manage both anticipated and unforeseen costs pressures in the short and medium term.

OVERVIEW

For the year ended March 31, 2026, the Society's Net Assets decreased by \$2,076,878 (2025 – an increase of \$249,750), along with a decrease in cash and accounts receivable of \$3,498,343.

Cost pressures in Children in Care and Residential Resources continue to drive increased funding requirements under the Standardized Funding Agreement. These funding adjustments have been incorporated, and VACFSS is well positioned to absorb the associated costs increases.

Inflationary pressures on key expense categories, including food, transportation, travel, and staff-related costs, have moderated compared to prior years.

GUARDIANSHIP/RESOURCES

Total funding increased by \$981,448 (2026 – \$9,747,450; 2025 – \$8,766,002) Child-in-care costs increased by \$804,379, primarily due to the Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) program.

Guardianship/Resources operated in line with the approved budget in 2026.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure funding is based on a percentage calculation of program wage funding and operational costs as identified in the Standardized Funding Agreement (SFA). Funding remained relatively stable year over year at \$2,965,856 in 2026 (2025 - \$2,977,309). Expenditures increased by \$558,517, primarily driven by higher professional fees, salaries, labour, and benefits.

RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES

Funding for Residential Resources increased by approximately \$8.3 million, from \$48,401,094 in 2025 to \$56,718,469 in 2026.

The program operated in line with the approved budget for 2026.

FAMILY PRESERVATION AND REUNIFICATION

Funding decreased to \$3,596,517 in 2026 (2025 \$3,712,757), with the prior year amount reflecting a one-time retroactive payment of \$116,241 to service providers.

The program operated in line with the approved budget for 2026.

CHILD SAFETY (FORMERLY CHILD PROTECTION)

Funding increased by \$175,703 to \$9,060,092 (2025 - \$8,884,389). Overall expenditures remained relatively stable, with Child-in-care costs decreasing by \$216,419 (2026 - \$641,708; 2025 \$858,127).

Expenditures increased by \$406,801, primarily driven by higher salaries, labour, and benefits.

CONCLUSION

VACFSS operated largely as expected for the year ended March 31, 2026, and anticipates continuing to operate within its approved budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

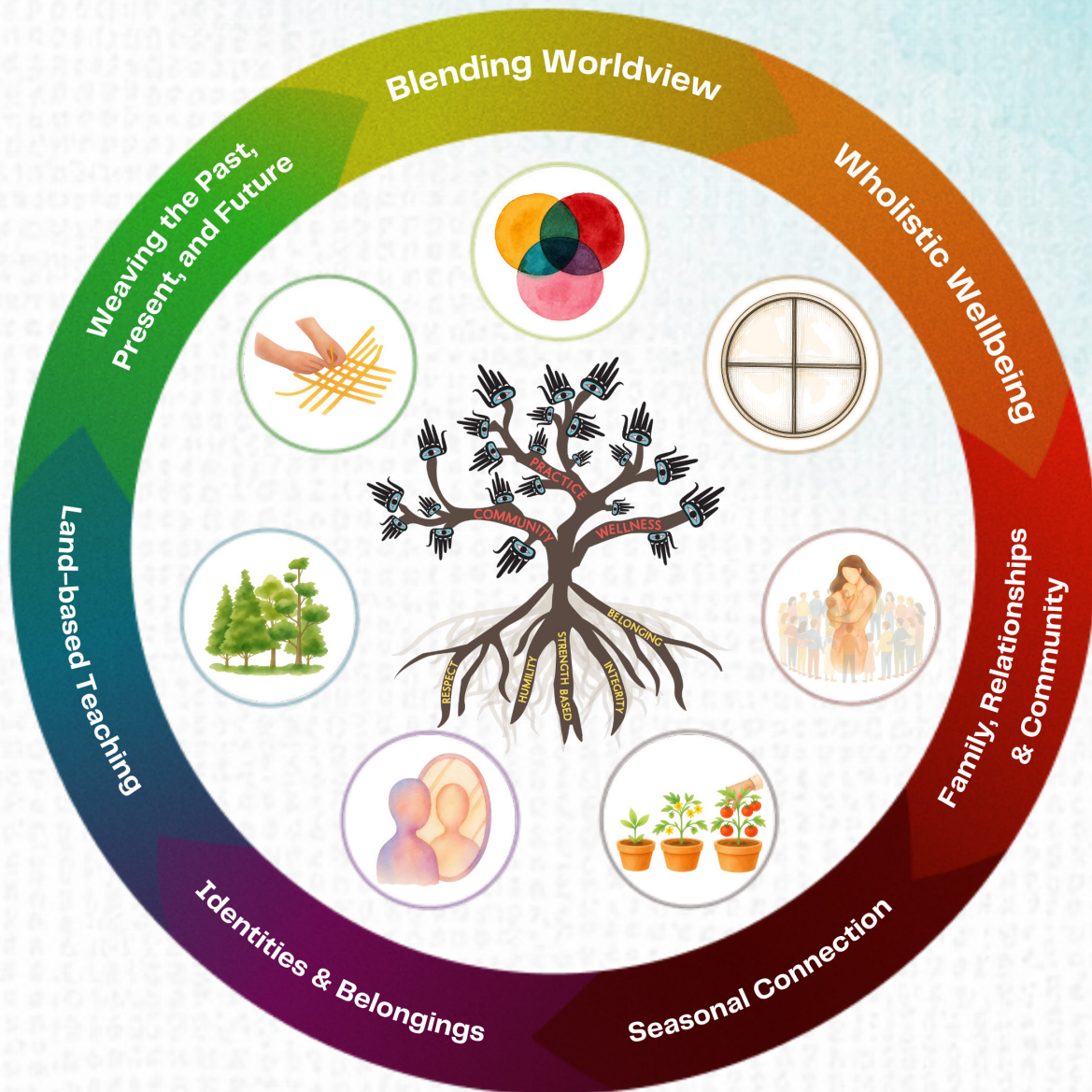


Quality Assurance

- Creates meaningful opportunities for client voice to shape organizational learning, ensuring the experiences of children, youth, families, and caregivers directly inform policy, practice, and continuous quality improvement.



AUDITOR'S REPORT



Financial Statements of
**VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD
AND FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY**
And Independent Auditors' Report thereon
Year ended March 31st, 2026

Financial Statements of

**VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD &
FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY**

And Independent Auditor's report thereon

Year ended March 31, 2026



KPMG LLP
777 Dunsmuir Street, 11th floor
Vancouver, BC V7Y 1K3
Canada
Tel 604 691 3000
Fax 604 691 3031

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society (the "Entity"), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2026
- the statement of operations for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at March 31, 2026, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the ***"Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements"*** section of our auditor's report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.



- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Reporting on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Societies Act (British Columbia) we report that, in our opinion, the accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding period.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP'. The signature is written in a cursive, stylized font and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Vancouver, Canada

June 23, 2026

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

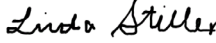
	Note	2026	2025
Assets			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents		\$ 6,112,665	\$ 6,006,203
Accounts receivable		84,500	3,677,911
Prepaid expenses		526,511	381,384
		6,723,676	10,065,498
Security deposits paid		74,951	74,951
Capital assets	2	873,389	889,367
		\$ 7,672,016	\$ 11,029,816

Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Net Assets

Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3	\$ 2,271,565	\$ 3,968,595
Payroll liabilities		1,499,528	1,066,423
		3,771,093	5,035,018
Deferred contributions	4	-	17,000
		3,771,093	5,052,018
Net assets:			
Invested in capital assets	5	873,389	889,367
Internally restricted capital acquisition		2,289,940	2,289,940
Unrestricted		737,594	2,798,491
		3,900,923	5,977,798
Operating lease commitments	6		
Contingencies	7		
Economic dependence	12		
		\$ 7,672,016	\$ 11,029,816

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Board:

DocuSigned by:

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Director

Signed by:

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Director

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	Note	2026	2025
Funding revenues:			
Provincial government contributions			
- Principal funding		\$ 82,026,420	\$ 72,551,982
Expenses:			
Direct program costs:			
Automobile expenses		234,711	252,569
Caregiver expenses		501,769	525,928
Child in care costs		4,160,883	3,205,688
Client assistance		62,501	73,288
Collaborative practice costs		16,676	28,940
Contract services		368,830	493,657
Cultural support costs		539,211	539,107
Family support expenses		617,477	821,380
Out of care caregivers		37,373	23,737
Out of care children		36,515	40,235
Out of care maintenance		2,981,481	3,080,994
Program supplies and miscellaneous		196,177	171,823
Residential resources cost		53,407,171	44,615,763
Salaries and benefits		13,007,945	11,403,855
Telephone and cellular		79,515	72,263
		76,248,235	65,349,227
Service costs:			
Amortization		142,084	174,918
Bank charges and interest		435	225
Equipment leasing		15,119	18,927
Office and general		269,600	247,884
Rent and repairs		1,794,560	1,636,894
Salaries, labour and benefits		1,753,163	1,651,925
Special events		2,988	2,163
Staff related costs		52,102	68,786
Telephone, fax and cellular		134,260	128,227
		4,164,311	3,929,949

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Statement of Operations (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	Note	2026	2025
Expenses:			
General and administration expenses:			
Amortization		24,731	32,042
Annual general meeting		590	1,480
Bank charges and interest		12,098	11,357
Board expenses		63,000	49,901
Computer supplies		87,342	101,224
Contract services		46,776	59,718
Equipment leasing		2,502	2,380
Insurance		60,208	65,747
Office and general		86,950	72,222
Professional dues and membership		3,937	31,355
Professional fees		384,072	143,031
Public relations and community services		12,330	22,683
Rent and repairs		201,824	201,343
Salaries, labour and benefits		2,781,955	2,336,400
Special events		19,433	13,218
Staff related costs		232,619	314,605
Telephone, fax and cellular		29,174	32,320
		4,049,541	3,491,026
Deficiency of revenue over expenses before undernoted		(2,435,667)	(218,220)
Other revenues:			
Other income	9	358,792	467,970
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses		\$ (2,076,875)	\$ 249,750

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 5,977,798	\$ 5,728,048
Excess of revenue (deficiency) over expenses:		
Guardianship of resources (schedule 1)	32,828	287,993
Infrastructure (schedule 2)	(714,927)	(161,061)
Residential resources (schedule 3)	(403,752)	(311,762)
Family preservation (schedule 4)	(550,047)	(105,239)
Child safety (schedule 5)	(440,977)	539,819
	(2,076,875)	\$249,750
Net assets, end of year	\$ 3,900,923	\$ 5,977,798

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Cash provided by:		
Operations:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (2,076,875)	\$ 249,750
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization	209,380	225,779
	(1,867,495)	475,529
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	3,593,411	(2,057,044)
Prepaid expenses	(145,127)	37,104
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(1,697,030)	2,435,528
Deferred contributions	(17,000)	(163,267)
Payroll liabilities	433,105	68,015
	299,864	795,865
Investing:		
Acquisitions of capital assets	(193,402)	(31,761)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	106,462	764,104
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	6,006,203	5,242,099
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 6,112,665	\$ 6,006,203

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2026

Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society (the "Society" or "VACFSS") was incorporated on May 28, 1992 under the laws of British Columbia. On May 3, 2017, the Society transitioned to the new Societies Act (British Columbia). The Society is a registered charitable organization under the Income Tax Act and accordingly is exempt from income taxes, provided certain requirements of the Income Tax Act are met.

The purposes of the Society are to:

- (a) supply essential social services to aboriginal children and families who are at risk, and their communities, by:
 - (i) providing delegated child welfare and related services on behalf of government agencies.
 - (ii) acting as a liaison between government agencies and aboriginal children, families and communities.
 - (iii) assisting aboriginal children and families to reconnect with their communities, culture and heritage.
- (b) promote the wellbeing of aboriginal children and families, and encourage their full participation in Canadian society;
- (c) enter into contracts which may be conducive to the Society's aims with any person, corporation or government agency;
- (d) solicit, collect, receive, acquire, hold and invest money and property, both real and personal, received by gift, contribution, bequest devised, or otherwise, sell and convert property, both real and personal, into cash, and use the funds of the Society and proceeds, income, rent, and profits derived from any property of the Society in furtherance of the purposes set out above,
- (e) purchase, lease, sell or hold such property, equipment and materials as are deemed necessary to accomplish the Society's purposes; and
- (f) do all such things as may be necessary or conducive to the attainment of these purposes. The Society must primarily but not exclusively service aboriginal children, families and communities in the lower mainland of British Columbia.

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2026

1. Significant accounting policies:

These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations in Part III of the Chartered Professional Accountants Canada Handbook and include the following significant accounting policies:

(a) Cash and cash equivalents:

Cash equivalents includes of high interest savings accounts held within investment portfolio. Cash and cash equivalents include \$2,289,940 held in a high interest bearing savings account which is related to the internally restricted capital acquisition included in net assets as established by the board of directors.

(b) Capital assets:

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost of acquisition plus any directly attributable cost of preparing the asset for its intended use. Amortization is provided using the declining balance method and the following annual rates:

Asset	Rate
Office equipment	30%
Vehicles	30%
Computer	30%
Telephone equipment	30%
Computer software	100%

Leasehold improvements are amortized on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

The Society reviews the carrying amount of capital assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset no longer contributes to the Society's ability to provide services, or that the value of future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset is less than its carrying amount. If such conditions exist, an impairment loss is measured and recorded in the statement of operations at the amount by which the carrying amount of the net asset exceeds its fair value or replacement cost.

(c) Revenue recognition:

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the appropriate fund for the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Contributed capital assets or contributions restricted for the construction or purchase of capital assets are deferred and amortized into revenue on a declining balance basis, at a rate corresponding with the amortization rate for the related capital assets.

Revenue received for maintenance funding shortfalls of prior periods is recognized as revenue in the period received as the amount is not reasonably determinable at year end.

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2026

1. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(c) Revenue recognition (continued):

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Interest income from cash and investments is recognized over the terms of the respective investments using the effective interest method.

(d) Employee future benefits:

The Society offers a pension plan with a defined benefit provision which covers all employees of the Society. The plan is administered by the Government of British Columbia and annual contributions to the pension plan, as advised by the plan administrators, are expensed when paid (note 8).

(e) Financial instruments:

All financial assets including the Society's short- and long-term investments, except for investments that are quoted in an active market are measured at amortized cost. Amortized cost is the amount at which a financial asset is measured at initial fair value plus financing fees and transaction costs that are directly attributable to their acquisition. These financial assets are thereafter carried at cost plus the cumulative amortization of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount using the straight-line amortization method.

Equity instruments, if any, that are quoted in an active market are stated at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in income in the period the changes occur. Transaction costs to acquire or dispose of these securities are recognized in net income in the period during which they are incurred.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, the Society determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the recoverable amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount that the Society expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future period, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial carrying value.

Financial liabilities, including accounts payable and accrued liabilities and payroll liabilities are measured at amortized cost.

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2026

1. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(f) Measurement uncertainty:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Management reviews all significant estimates affecting its financial statements on a recurring basis and records the effect of any necessary adjustments in the year in which the estimates are revised. Actual results could differ from the estimates.

(g) Donated materials and services:

The Society and its members benefit from donated services in the form of volunteer time for various programs. Because of the difficulty in determining their fair value, these contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

Donated goods and other donated services are recorded in these financial statements only when used in the normal course of the Society's operations and would otherwise have been purchased and a fair value can be reasonably estimated.

2. Capital assets

		2026		2025	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value		Net book value
Office equipment	\$ 302,338	\$ 291,382	\$ 10,956	\$	14,846
Vehicles	325,714	169,141	156,573		65,245
Computer	1,044,246	874,650	169,596		152,550
Telephone equipment	57,434	52,670	4,764		6,455
Leasehold improvements	1,326,772	795,272	531,500		650,271
Total	\$ 3,056,504	\$ 2,183,115	\$ 873,389	\$	889,367

Amortization for the year amounted to \$209,380 (2025 - \$225,779) which consist of amortization expense of \$42,565 (2025 - \$18,819) recognized in Child in care expense under Direct program costs, \$142,084 (2025 - \$174,918) in Service costs and \$24,731 (2025 - \$32,042) in General and administration expenses.

3. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities are government remittances payable of \$64,500 (2025 - \$58,200), which includes amounts payable for payroll related taxes.

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2026

4. Deferred contributions:

Deferred contributions represent unspent resources externally restricted and unrestricted operating funding received in the current period that is related to the subsequent period.

Pursuant to a board resolution passed on March 25, 2014, it was resolved that effective April 1, 2013, future surpluses arising from restricted programs be transferred to the unrestricted fund to be used for any programs that require additional funding. Any deficits in restricted programs will be funded by the unrestricted fund. All the surpluses remaining after interfund transfers have been transferred to the unrestricted fund which is consistently followed on an annual basis.

5. Invested in capital assets:

(a) Invested in capital assets is calculated as follows:

	2026	2025
Capital assets (note 2)	\$ 873,389	\$ 889,367

(b) Change in net assets invested in capital assets is calculated as follows:

	2026	2025
Deficiency of revenue over expenses:		
Amortization of capital assets	(209,380)	(225,779)
Net change in investment in capital assets:		
Purchase of capital assets with unrestricted funds	193,402	31,761
	\$ (15,978)	\$ (194,018)

6. Operating lease commitments:

The Society occupies leased premises in various buildings under operating leases. The annual charges consist of the basic rent and the proportion share of operating expenses. The Society also leases various office equipment and automobiles which are held under operating leases.

The future minimum operating lease payments in respect of office premises, automobiles and equipment for each of the next four years, are as follows:

2027	\$ 1,097,208
2028	1,150,487
2029	799,098
2030	281,489
	\$ 3,328,282

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2026

7. Contingencies:

During the year, the Society resolved the human rights tribunal ("HRT") matter originating in 2023, including payment of the related \$150,000 award. Subsequent to this matter, additional legal claims have been filed against the Society, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and other parties that are related to the original HRT complaint. The Society continues to defend these claims. As the outcome of these matters cannot be reasonably determined at this time, no provision has been recognized in the financial statements.

The Society is also involved in an ongoing civil litigation matter brought by a parent whose child is currently in the Society's care. The claim includes allegations of physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and discrimination. Management believes the claim to be without merit and is vigorously defending the matter. As the outcome cannot be reasonably determined, no provision has been recorded.

In addition, the Society may, from time to time, be subject to claims arising in the ordinary course of operations. Where the outcome of such claims is indeterminable, no provision has been recognized. Any settlements in excess of amounts provided or insurance coverage will be recognized in the period in which they are determinable and/or resolved.

8. Pension plan:

VACFSS and its employees contribute to the Public Service Pension Plan (a jointly trustee pension plan). The Public Service Pension Board of Trustees, representing plan members and employers, is responsible for administering the plan, including investment of assets and administration of benefits. The plan is a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan. Basic pension benefits are based on a formula. As at March 31, 2026, the plan has about 80,000 (2025 - 76,000) active members and approximately 58,000 (2025 - 57,000) retired members.

The latest actuarial valuation as at March 31, 2023, indicated a funding surplus of \$4,491 million for basic pension benefits. The next valuation was in March 2026 with the result to be included in the March 2027 financial statements.

Employers participating in the plan record their pension expense as the amount of employer contributions made during the fiscal year (defined contribution pension plan accounting). This is because the plan records accrued liabilities and accrued assets for the plan in aggregate, resulting in no consistent and reliable basis for allocating the obligation, assets and cost to individual employers participating in the plan.

VACFSS paid approximately \$1,189,763 (2025 - \$1,071,099) for employer contributions to the plan during the year ended March 31, 2026.

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2026

9. Other income:

	2026	2025
Culturally Relevant Urban Wellness ("CRUW") grants	\$ 47,661	\$ 177,142
Developing The Gifts of Children Fund	14,304	12,428
HRT reimbursement	150,000	-
Interest income	130,459	266,202
Miscellaneous income	16,338	12,133
Memberships	30	65
	\$ 358,792	\$ 467,970

10. Healthcare benefit plan:

Healthcare Benefit Trust ("HBT") is a not-for-profit health and welfare trust that provides group health and welfare benefits on behalf of participating employers for nearly 100,000 eligible employees, their eligible dependents, and beneficiaries employed in health care and social services in British Columbia and the Yukon. The Trust was established in 1979 by the Health Labour Relations Association ("HLRA"), now part of the Health Employers Association of BC ("HEABC").

VACFSS is a member of the Community Social Services Employers' Association that entered into a contractual agreement with the trustees of the HBT as a participating employer to participate in the Community Social Services Group Benefits plan.

Under the agreement, if the Society was to leave the plan for any reason, it will be subject to an exit levy representing its share of any unfunded actuarial liabilities in respect of all the benefit programs that the Society participated in, as of the termination date.

As at March 31, 2026, there was no exit levy payable that was associated with VACFSS as the Society doesn't expect to leave the HBT.

11. Financial risks and concentration of credit risk:

(a) Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Society will be unable to fulfill its obligations on a timely basis or at a reasonable cost. The Society manages its liquidity risk by monitoring its operational requirements. The Society prepares budget and cash forecasts to ensure it has sufficient funds to fulfill its obligations. There has been no change to the risk from the prior year.

(b) Credit risk:

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty may default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss. The Society is exposed to credit risk with respect to its cash and cash equivalents, and accounts receivable. The Society assesses, on a continuous basis, accounts receivable and provides for any amounts that are not collectible in the allowance for doubtful accounts. Cash and cash equivalents are held with a large Canadian bank and credit risk is considered low. There has been no change to the risk from prior year.

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2026

11. Financial risks and concentration of credit risk (continued):

(c) Market risk:

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. It is management's opinion that the Society is not exposed to significant currency risk or other price risk. There has been no change to the risk from prior year.

(d) Interest rate risk:

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The fair values of fixed rate financial instruments are subject to change, since fair values fluctuate inversely with changes in market interest rates. The cash flows related to floating rate financial instruments change as market interest rates change.

12. Economic dependence:

The Society is dependent on the Ministry of Children and Family Development to provide sufficient funds to continue operations, replace essential equipment and complete its capital projects.

13. Disclosure of remuneration:

The information requirements, under section 36(1) of the Societies Act (British Columbia) with regards to the disclosure obligations of the society's directors, employees and contractors, remuneration are as follows:

Directors and officers:

No director or officer received remuneration in current year.

Employees and contractors:

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2026, the Society paid total remuneration of \$62,832,628 (2025 - \$51,746,884) to 174 (2025 -182) employees and contractors for services, each of whom received total annual remuneration of \$75,000 or greater.

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Guardianship and Resources (R00139809)

Schedule of Revenues and Expenses

Schedule 1

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Revenues:		
Provincial government contributions - Principal funding	\$ 9,685,485	\$ 8,576,432
Other income	61,965	189,570
	9,747,450	8,766,002
Direct program costs:		
Automobile expenses	79,994	78,187
Client assistance	29,182	39,708
Collaborative practice costs	651	-
Contract services	78,525	120,627
Cultural support costs	360,561	409,578
Salaries and benefits	4,898,751	4,483,674
Telephone and cellular	32,221	28,750
	5,479,885	5,160,524
Child-in-care costs:		
Allowances/dental	88,243	84,902
Client minding costs	8,870	31,426
Client travel	341,218	388,674
Clothing grant	20,265	18,358
Equipment	36,206	36,866
Education/school events	163,727	200,956
Foods and household	68,321	66,107
Living with family and friends	26,563	65,915
Medical expenditures	115,517	135,425
Medical/Dental expenses	929	14,177
Others	145,748	143,775
Professional support and services	416,163	415,648
Recognizing milestones	20,191	22,938
Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE)	1,493,591	516,006
	2,945,552	2,141,173
Developing the Gifts of our Children	22,795	20,280
Integrated services	-	75,335
	2,968,347	2,236,788
Net funding excess contribution	\$ 1,299,218	\$ 1,368,690

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Guardianship and Resources (R00139809) (continued)

Schedule of Revenues and Expenses

Schedule 1

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Services costs:		
Amortization	\$ 28,625	\$ 34,685
Equipment leasing	4,587	8,545
Office and general	121,584	113,250
Rent	649,619	597,174
Salaries, labour and benefits	609,274	628,413
Special events	2,770	24
Staff related costs	28,335	25,125
Telephone fax and cellular	53,396	52,881
	1,498,190	1,460,097
Deficiency of revenues over expenses before transfers	(198,972)	(91,407)
Interfund transfers	231,800	379,400
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ 32,828	\$ 287,993

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Infrastructure (R000139810)

Schedule of Revenues and Expenses

Schedule 2

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Revenues:		
Provincial government contributions - Principal funding	\$ 2,965,857	\$ 2,977,309
Other income	296,827	278,400
	3,262,684	3,255,709
General and administrative expenses:		
Annual general meeting	\$ 590	\$ 1,480
Amortization	24,731	32,042
Bank charges and interest	12,098	11,358
Board expenses	63,000	49,901
Computer support	87,342	101,224
Contract services	46,776	59,718
Equipment leasing	2,502	2,380
Insurance	60,208	65,747
Office and general	86,950	72,222
Professional dues and memberships	3,937	31,355
Professional fees	384,072	143,031
Public relations and community services	12,330	22,683
Rent and repairs	201,824	201,343
Salaries, labour and benefits	2,781,955	2,336,400
Special events	19,433	13,218
Staff related costs	232,619	314,605
Telephone fax and cellular	29,174	32,319
	4,049,541	3,491,026
Deficiency of revenues over expenses before transfers	(786,857)	(235,317)
Interfund transfers	71,930	74,256
Deficiency of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ (714,927)	\$ (161,061)

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Residential Resources (R000139808)

Schedule of Revenues and Expenses

Schedule 3

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Revenues:		
Provincial government contributions - Principal funding	\$ 56,718,469	\$ 48,401,094
Direct program costs:		
Out of care maintenance	2,981,481	3,080,994
Residential resources costs	53,407,171	44,615,763
	56,388,652	47,696,757
Child-in-care cost:		
Integrated services	-	110,771
Caregiver costs:		
Caregivers expenses	344,197	345,820
Caregivers training	5,823	-
Foster parent appreciation night	49,586	47,568
Foster parent recruitment	25,740	45,185
Kiwassa Housing	76,423	87,355
	501,769	525,928
Excess of revenues over expenses before transfers	(171,952)	67,638
Interfund transfers	(231,800)	(379,400)
Deficiency of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ (403,752)	\$ (311,762)

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Family Preservation (R000139806)

Schedule of Revenues and Expenses

Schedule 4

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Revenues:		
Provincial government contributions - Principal funding	\$ 3,596,517	\$ 3,712,757
Direct program costs:		
Automobile expenses	37,307	37,567
Client assistance and travel	33,319	33,580
Contract services	251,932	362,853
Cultural intervention costs	119,448	31,122
Program supplies	196,177	171,823
Salaries and benefits	2,218,925	1,893,806
Telephone and cellular	11,370	10,752
	2,868,478	2,541,503
Child-in-care cost:		
Integrated services	550,826	-
Net funding contributions	\$ 177,213	\$ 1,171,254
Service costs:		
Amortization	\$ 3,608	\$ 4,889
Bank charges and interest	74	75
Equipment leasing	2,502	2,248
Office and general	48,291	36,468
Rent and repairs	278,611	278,598
Salaries, labour and benefits	285,487	272,333
Special events	218	250
Staff related costs	10,648	18,440
Telephone fax and cellular	25,891	26,936
	655,330	640,237
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses before transfers	(478,117)	531,017
Interfund transfers	(71,930)	(636,256)
Deficiency of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ (550,047)	\$ (105,239)

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Child safety (R000139811)

Schedule of Revenues and Expenses

Schedule 5

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Revenues:		
Provincial government contributions - Principal funding	\$ 9,060,092	\$ 8,884,389
Direct program costs:		
Automobile expenses	117,410	136,816
Contract services	38,374	10,177
Salaries and benefits	5,890,270	5,026,375
Telephone and cellular	35,924	32,760
	6,081,978	5,206,128
Child-in-care costs:		
Camp costs	23,124	22,875
Client minding costs	16,116	24,555
Client travel	249,016	239,941
Clothing grant	17,285	26,497
Education/school events	23,533	17,879
Equipment	44,549	40,537
Foods and household	77,480	43,660
Good and services	81,923	66,844
Integrated services	-	250,892
Medical/dental expenses	73,331	91,924
Others	-	5,210
Recognizing milestones	7,990	12,881
Professional support and services	27,361	14,432
	641,708	858,127
	6,723,686	6,064,255
Carried forward	\$ 2,336,406	\$ 2,820,134

VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

Child safety (R000139811) (continued)

Schedule of Revenues and Expenses

Schedule 5

Year ended March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Brought forward	\$ 2,336,406	\$ 2,820,134
Other program costs:		
Collaborative practices costs	16,025	28,940
Cultural support costs	59,202	98,407
Family support expenses	617,477	821,380
Out of care caregivers	37,373	23,737
Out of care children	36,515	40,235
	766,592	1,012,699
Net funding contributions	1,569,814	1,807,435
Services costs:		
Amortization	109,851	135,344
Bank charges and interest	360	150
Equipment leasing	8,030	8,134
Office and general	99,725	98,166
Rent	866,330	761,123
Salaries, labour and benefits	858,403	751,179
Special events	-	1,889
Staff related costs	13,119	25,220
Telephone fax and cellular	54,973	48,411
	2,010,791	1,829,616
Deficiency of revenues over expenses before transfers	(440,977)	(22,181)
Interfund transfers	-	562,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ (440,977)	\$ 539,819



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

VACFSS is grateful to walk alongside many community partners and Indigenous organizations who share a commitment to strengthening families and communities.

We recognize our work is deeply interconnected and strengthened through relationships, shared knowledge and the reciprocal ways we support and learn from one another.

Thank you for sharing your knowledge and strengths, and for helping us create stronger pathways of support for children, youth and families.

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