



# May 2017 Update

## Happy Mothers' Day!



Mothers' Day is a day of joy and loving. A day to celebrate our mothers and for mothers to celebrate our children. It is a day to celebrate the very act of mothering.

As the writer George Eliot wrote, "Life began with waking up and loving my mother's face."

For those grieving because of death or estrangement, Mothers' Day may be difficult. Many of us also may struggle with the social expectations and commercial hoopla associated with the day.

However, no matter what we can still mark the day. Mothering can take many forms. Pause, and take a moment to think of all the women who have played a positive role in your life. Think of the children your life has touched. There is so much we can celebrate!

At Parent Support Services Society of BC, we look at Mothers' Day as a moment to reflect upon the value of our work. We know that being a mother seem overwhelming – but we also know that with support mothering can be incredibly rewarding.

As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child." Our Support Circles provide a safe space for those in a parenting role to share challenges and strategies for successful parenting. Children raised in healthy loving homes become resilient adults.

On Mothers' Day we renew our pledge to create a world where all children and their families are nurtured, valued, and safe.

*From all of us at PSS, Happy Mothers' Day*

**Support Circles** are free, confidential, anonymous, meetings of parents and other caregivers who wish to learn new ways to nurture and protect their children.

Call 604-669-1616 or email [office@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:office@parentsupportbc.ca) for more information



## Message from Bernard Richard, Representative for Children and Youth

May 5, 2017



Hello everyone,  
I hope spring weather has sprung wherever you are after a long and busy winter. Thank you for this opportunity to update you on what has been happening at my Office since I last wrote in January.

First, as you may be aware, my initial appointment to the position of Representative for Children and Youth on Nov. 27, 2016 was in an acting capacity. On Feb. 16 of this year, my appointment to the position was formally confirmed by the Legislative Assembly.

My appointment followed on the heels of the release of my first report on Feb. 6,

Broken Promises: Alex's Story. This troubling report is about the suicide of a Métis youth who was soon to age out of care. In it, I made four recommendations, including: that the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) provide the level of support necessary to support successful foster placements for youth with extended family or another adult with a positive connection to the child or youth; that MCFD significantly increase oversight and financial accountability for contracted residential services; and, that it ensure Indigenous children in care are connected with their cultural background.

Cont'd at [http://parentsupportbc.ca/news/reps\\_office](http://parentsupportbc.ca/news/reps_office)

### PSS Events Nanaimo

For more info:

[http://parentsupportbc.ca/vancouver\\_island/events](http://parentsupportbc.ca/vancouver_island/events)

Parent Support Services Society of BC presents:

### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Telling Our Stories

When: Thursday, May 25th, 2017  
1 pm to 2:30 pm and again at 6:30 pm to 8 pm.

Where: Dunson United Church, 246 Ingram St., Duncan, B.C.

Who: Grandparents raising grandchildren and other kinship care providers. School or agency staff who work with families and any other interested community members.

**Don't miss this inspiring movie!**

This ground breaking documentary was produced by Parent Support Services Society of BC. The documentary **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Telling Our Stories** provides a glimpse into the realities faced by several grandparent led families from across BC. These grandparent didn't plan to be full time caregivers at this late stage in their lives. Their stories are varied, but many of the threads are the same: loss, isolation, grief, hardship, love and determination. The grandchildren care their priority and they need and deserve, love, stability and all the support possible to ensure they can succeed in life. This documentary will make you laugh, make you cry, and we hope, make you think.

For information about the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Circles in Duncan contact us at [parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:parentsupportbc.ca) or call the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information and Support Line 1-855-474-9777.

NANAIMO CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
"Strong. Smart."

### THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF PARENTING!

When: May 17, 2017  
Where: Nanaimo CDC, 1135 Nelson Street  
Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
DINNER - 5:30 to 6:00pm & then discussion till 7:30 pm.

PRE-REGISTER REQUIRED  
For Dinner and Childminding

JOIN US FOR:

- Free Pizza Dinner, Childminding and Fun
- Network & Brainstorming on the Joys and Challenges we face as parents in raising our children in today's world

We hope you will join us for this facilitated conversation. Our aim is to support families where they are today, with future facilitated discussions that come from the needs that are identified through this evening session.

To Reserve your spot today -  
Call 250-753-0253, 548 250 or email [kimberlee@nanaimocdc.com](mailto:kimberlee@nanaimocdc.com)

CO-SPONSORED BY:  
AUTISM BC  
PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY OF BC  
[www.NanaimoCDC.com](http://www.NanaimoCDC.com)

\*This session is proudly hosted by BC's Grandchildren, Children's Health Foundation and Environment Foundation.

**Galiano Nature Camps for GRG & Kinship families.** Stay tuned [here](#) for info about dates and registration.

Call 1-877-9777

### Advocacy—

The Kelowna Grandparents Raising Grandchildren/Kinship Care Circle invited Steven Thomson—their incumbent MLA—to visit their circle and hear their stories and concerns. He had agreed to come for 20 min and stayed for nearly an hour.

If your Parent or GRG Circle would like support in inviting an elected official or other guest to your meeting, please feel free to contact the PSS office.

604-669-1616

[office@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:office@parentsupportbc.ca)



**Our 3rd Annual Grandparents Day Events are taking place Sun. Sept 10! Save the Date.**



PSS Executive Director Carol Madsen & Volunteer Ambassador Rick Downie have been busy speaking at events, raising awareness of the work of PSS. Here they are at a social held at Rick and Allison Downies home. They were also invited by the Sisters of the Temple Shalom AGM to show our documentary: [Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Telling Our Stories](#).

Questions, comments or to be removed from email list:

[office@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:office@parentsupportbc.ca) or call 604-669-1616