



**HAISLA
NATION**

Community
Services
Division

Quarterly Newsletter

April - June 2026

Message from your Executive Director

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As we wrap up another busy quarter, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible work of our Community Services team. Between April and June, our staff continued to show up every day with compassion, professionalism, and a deep commitment to supporting Haisla members and their families.

This quarter has been one of both celebration and challenge. Across our departments, we have continued to deliver essential programs and services while also focusing on strengthening our systems, reviewing policies, and finding ways to improve the experience members have when accessing supports. Our team remains dedicated to ensuring services are responsive, equitable, and grounded in the needs of our members.

One of the things I am most proud of is the collaboration that continues to grow across our departments. Supporting members is rarely the responsibility of one person or one program. It takes teams working together, sharing ideas, and stepping in to help one another when challenges arise.

I also want to acknowledge that many of the conversations taking place in our community reflect how much people care about the programs and services we provide. While we may not always have all the answers immediately, please know that we are listening. We continue to review our policies and practices, gather information, and look for opportunities to strengthen how we serve both local and non-local members. Our goal is always to balance fairness, sustainability, and compassion in the decisions we make.

Finally, I want to thank our members for their patience, feedback, and engagement. Your voices help shape the work that we do. Community Services exists to support Haisla people throughout all stages of life, and it is a privilege to be part of that journey.

On behalf of our entire division, I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to continuing this work together in the months ahead.

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Kailee Gardiner, Executive Director
Community Services Division

Education & Training

The Education & Training Department is committed to fostering the lifelong learning and professional growth of Haisla members. By providing comprehensive educational services and training opportunities, the department aims to empower individuals to achieve their full potential, preserve and promote Haisla culture, and contribute to the prosperity and well-being of the community.

Haisla Job Fair

Employment & Training was proud to host a community job fair this quarter, bringing together job seekers and employers from across the region.

The event saw an incredible turnout, with more than 100 members and community participants attending to explore employment opportunities, connect with employers, and learn more about potential career pathways. Over 20 employers and organizations participated, representing a wide range of industries and sectors.

The job fair provided an opportunity for attendees to submit resumes, ask questions, gain insight into hiring processes, and build valuable connections with prospective employers. Events like these play an important role in supporting Haisla members on their employment journeys by increasing access to opportunities and helping individuals take the next step toward meaningful and sustainable careers.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the employers, partners, and staff who helped make this event such a success. We look forward to continuing to create opportunities that support workforce development and economic participation within our community.



Haisla Job Fair

Strengthening Student Success Through New Supports

Haisla Community School is pleased to welcome its new Family Involvement and Support Worker, Sheila Duncan. This role is dedicated to helping students and families overcome barriers to success in the classroom.

The Family Involvement and Support Worker works closely with students, caregivers, school staff, and community partners to provide early intervention and individualized support related to attendance, punctuality, behaviour, and overall student well-being. By building positive relationships with families and identifying challenges early, the goal is to ensure students have the support they need to remain engaged, connected, and successful at school.

This position reflects Haisla Community School's commitment to supporting the whole child and recognizing that strong partnerships between home, school, and community are essential to positive educational outcomes. We are already seeing the positive impact this role is having and look forward to continuing to strengthen the supports available to our students and families.



Sheila Duncan, Family Involvement & Support Worker

Looking Ahead

As we move into the next quarter, the Education & Training Department remains focused on creating meaningful opportunities for learners of all ages and strengthening the supports available to Haisla members both locally and away from home.

Upcoming initiatives, events, and programs for the Education & Training Department include:

Haisla Community School

- **Family Nights & Parenting Workshops:** Creating an incentive program to encourage family engagement and provide tools for parenting success.
- **Library Enhancement:** Expanding and enhancing the school library to better support classroom learning, literacy development, and student access to engaging educational resources.
- **Elders in Residence:** Expanding the Elders in Residence program to further incorporate Haisla knowledge, language, culture, and teachings into the school environment.

Education K-12

- **Local Education Agreement:** Continuing implementation of the Local Education Agreement and working collaboratively with school district partners to support positive educational outcomes for Haisla students.

- **Indigenous Education Council:** Providing support to the Indigenous Education Council to ensure Haisla perspectives and priorities continue to inform educational decision-making.

Employment & Training

- **Individual Development Plans:** Rolling out personalized plans for members to map out steps toward achieving their career and education goals.
- **Summer Student Program:** Coordinating the Summer Student Program, with 20 positions available across multiple Haisla Nation departments to provide meaningful work experience for students.
- **Local Training Partnerships:** Advancing local training partnerships to deliver community-based learning opportunities, including Simon Fraser University's Community Capacity Building Certificate and an in-community Early Childhood Educator Certificate program to support members pursuing careers in early learning and childcare.

Department Feature



Our Programs

- K-7 Programming at Haisla Community School
- Off-Reserve K-12 Education Support
- Adult Education Support
 - Post-secondary
 - Trades
 - Certificates
 - Adult upgrading
- Employment Services
 - Resume development
 - Job search and referrals
- Career Counselling
- Academic Advising
 - High school students
 - Adult learners

Health & Wellness

The Health & Wellness Department is committed to enhancing the overall health and well-being of the Haisla Nation community by providing integrated, culturally respectful healthcare, wellness, and recreational services that address the physical, mental, emotional, and social needs of all members.

Supporting Healthy Beginnings

This quarter, the Clinical Health Program introduced a new Healthy Baby Program Policy designed to strengthen and expand the supports available to expecting families. The updated program increases access for both local and non-local Haisla members, helping to ensure that families can receive equitable support regardless of where they live. Through a wraparound approach to care, the program provides enhanced prenatal and postnatal services that promote the health and well-being of both parents and infants.

To address a long-standing vacancy in an essential role, Katie McDermott transitioned from the Home & Community Care Coordinator position to serve as the Community Health Nurse. This has strengthened the team's capacity to provide comprehensive care and education to families. Through the Healthy Baby Program, families have access to prenatal and postnatal support, infant immunizations, health education, and early childhood wellness services, helping to create a strong foundation for healthy beginnings.



Katie McDermott, Community Health Nurse

Building Wellness Through Connection

Community Wellness continued to offer a variety of programs and services aimed at supporting the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being of Haisla members. Regular programming included women's wellness groups, men's wellness groups, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings, and art therapy sessions, creating safe and supportive spaces for connection, healing, and personal growth.

Access to mental health supports was also enhanced through a partnership with Latitude Counselling, which brought counselling services directly into the community and reduced barriers for members seeking support.

To encourage accessible and inclusive approaches to wellness, yoga and meditation programming continued to be offered at multiple locations throughout the community, including the Health Centre, Recreation Centre, Daycare/Preschool, Haisla Community School, Youth Centre, and Elders Centre. By bringing these activities into spaces already familiar to members of all ages, the program helped make mind-body wellness practices more accessible and integrated into everyday community life.



Elders Chair Yoga Session

Health & Wellness

Walking Together Through Grief and Healing

Recognizing the significant number of losses experienced within the Haisla community in recent years, the Health & Wellness team hosted a Week of Grief and Healing Supports in June to provide opportunities for reflection, connection, and healing.

The week included a variety of culturally grounded activities and wellness supports, such as grief and loss education, Reiki and healing sessions, healing through art, sound bowl healing, cedar brushing, and individual appointments with facilitator Tom Smith. Throughout the week, community members participated in the workshops and healing activities, engaging in opportunities to learn, reflect, and support one another. The week concluded with the unveiling of a new gazebo and totem pole at the waterfront in honour of Residential School Survivors, followed by a community dinner focused on grief, healing, and hope. The dinner brought together over 200 community members, creating a space for shared connection and remembrance, and the evening concluded with entertainment attended by approximately 50 community members.

Through these gatherings, Health & Wellness aimed to create safe spaces for community members to process loss, honour loved ones, strengthen cultural connections, and access meaningful supports on their healing journeys.



wásemgenc (my heart) Community Dinner

Strengthening the Path to Recovery

Health & Wellness continues to enhance addiction and recovery services available to Haisla members. This quarter, the team strengthened its referral pathways through the work of the Outreach Support Workers, helping ensure members can access appropriate treatment and support services in a timely and coordinated manner.

The addition of a Recovery Skills Facilitator has further expanded the continuum of care available within the community by providing members with practical tools, encouragement, and ongoing support throughout their recovery journeys.

Haisla Nation is also a member of the Northern First Nations Alliance (NFNA), which spearheaded the Red Road North project. The opening of the Red Road Recovery Centre in Terrace, developed in partnership with NFNA, marks an important milestone in British Columbia's history as the first detox centre in northwestern BC. The product of more than a decade of advocacy, planning, and dedication, Red Road North represents an important step toward addressing the disproportionate impact of the toxic drug crisis on First Nations communities and improving access to culturally informed care closer to home.

During this quarter, 7 members were supported in accessing treatment programs, while 45 members received drug and alcohol counselling services. These efforts reflect Haisla Nation's commitment to meeting members where they are, reducing barriers to care, and supporting individuals and families in achieving long-term wellness and recovery. In addition, approximately 211 members have been attending our weekly peer support groups, demonstrating the value of ongoing peer support and community connection in sustaining recovery and promoting wellness.

Looking Ahead

The Health & Wellness Department continues to grow its capacity to meet the physical, emotional, and cultural needs of our members. Looking ahead, members can expect new and enhanced supports across both Community Wellness and Clinical Health.

Upcoming initiatives, events, and programs for the Health & Wellness Department include:



Community Wellness

- **Canoe Carving for Healing:** Beginning a canoe carving project that will blend traditional teachings, cultural connection, and wellness by creating opportunities for healing, and mentorship through the carving process.
- **Traditional Medicine Garden:** Developing a traditional medicine garden to support the revitalization of Indigenous knowledge, provide educational opportunities, and increase access to culturally significant plants used for wellness and healing.
- **Basketball BC Partnership:** Welcoming Basketball BC to Haisla for a two-week athlete and coach development initiative. The program will focus on skill development, game understanding, physical and mental performance, and long-term athlete development principles.



Clinical Health

- **Caregiver Support Groups:** Launching caregiver support groups to provide education, resources, and peer connection for those caring for loved ones, recognizing the important role caregivers play in supporting community wellness.
- **Primary Care Network Participation:** Continuing to participate in the Primary Care Network to strengthen partnerships and improve access to coordinated, team-based healthcare services for Haisla members.
- **Patient Travel & Health Supports:** Reviewing and updating policies to ensure OSR-funded supports continue to meet the evolving needs of Haisla members while promoting fairness, accessibility, and sustainability.

Department Feature



July 24, 2026

Please call the Health Centre at 250-632-3600 to register by July 10. More details will be provided on registration.



Our Programs:

- Home & Community Care
 - Nurses, care aides, home makers
- Primary Care
 - Visiting physicians, nurses, dentists, and optometrists
- Patient Travel Support
- Community Health Education, Awareness, and Prevention
- Wellness Services and Programs
 - Addictions and recovery support
 - Healthy living support
- Mental Health Services
 - Visiting counsellors and mental health professionals
- Recreation Services
 - Recreation Centre and Soccer Field bookings and events
 - Fitness classes/groups and sports camps

Child & Family Services

The Child & Family Services Department is dedicated to providing holistic and culturally responsive support to children, youth, and families. By offering a comprehensive range of services, the department promotes the well-being, safety, and development of community members, ensuring that they have the tools and resources needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world while staying rooted in Haisla culture and values.

Expanding Horizons Through Youth Leadership

This spring, Youth Services supported 12 Haisla youth in attending the Indspire National Gathering for Indigenous Education in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The conference provided an opportunity for youth to connect with Indigenous students and leaders from across the country, explore post-secondary and career pathways, and participate in workshops designed to inspire confidence, leadership, and future planning.

This memorable experience was made possible through a combination of funding support from LNG Canada and the dedication of the youth and families who participated in various fundraising efforts leading up to the trip.



Halifax Trip Picture

Creating Opportunities for Family Connection

Recognizing the importance of creating opportunities for families to connect, the Early Years team hosted a Family Movie Day on June 21, bringing Haisla children and their families together to enjoy Toy Story 5 on the big screen. The event welcomed 165 Haisla members and their family members.

Strengthening Food Security

Social Services continued to support community members through its regular food share initiatives, helping improve access to nutritious foods for families in Kitamaat Village. Approximately 88 households participate in the local food share program, and 60 Vancouver households took part in the Vancouver distribution.

This quarter, Social Services coordinated two potato distributions and launched its first Vancouver food distribution, increasing access to food supports for members both locally and away from home. These initiatives reflect the department's ongoing commitment to addressing food security and ensuring members have access to practical supports that contribute to overall well-being.



Vancouver Food Distribution



Potato Distribution

Child & Family Services

Celebrating Our Preschool Graduates

C'imo'ca Head Start Childcare Centre proudly celebrated the graduation of 10 preschool students as they completed an important milestone and prepare to begin Kindergarten this September. We congratulate our graduates and wish them all the best as they begin this exciting new chapter in their educational journey.



Preschool Graduation

Bringing Community Together Over Breakfast

On May 1, Child & Family Services hosted a Community Pancake Breakfast, welcoming more than 200 participants to enjoy a meal together and celebrate community connection. The event included students from Haisla Community School and children attending C'imo'ca Head Start Childcare Centre, creating an opportunity for families, children, and staff to gather in a fun and welcoming environment.

Events such as these strengthen relationships across generations and reinforce the importance of creating spaces where members can connect and build community.



Pancake Breakfast

Celebrating the End of the School Year

To mark the beginning of summer break, Child & Family Services hosted a Schools Out BBQ Bash at the community soccer field on June 26. The event brought together children, youth, and families to celebrate another successful school year and kick off the summer season with games, food, and activities.

With over 150 participants in attendance, the BBQ Bash provided an opportunity for families to connect, recognize the accomplishments of students, and create lasting memories as the community transitioned into the summer months.

The fire hall even brought the truck, and we had some water fun!



Schools Out BBQ Bash

Supporting Families Through Life's Important Decisions

Social Services has expanded its offerings to include Wills and Estate Planning Services, helping members prepare for the future and ensure their wishes are clearly documented. Through this service, members can access information and support related to wills, enduring powers of attorney, and estate planning.

By encouraging proactive planning, this initiative helps individuals protect their loved ones, provide clarity during difficult times, and ensure that financial and personal decisions are carried out according to their wishes. Information sessions and appointments are available to support members in navigating these important conversations and planning processes with confidence.

Looking Ahead

The Child & Family Services Department remains focused on supporting children, youth, and families through culturally rooted and holistic programs. Upcoming initiatives, events, and programs for the Child & Family Services Department include:



Youth Services

- **Youth Summer Program:** In partnership with Culture & Language, Youth Services will be delivering a summer program for up to 42 youth, providing opportunities for cultural learning, recreation, leadership development, and meaningful community connection.
- **Youth Leadership Council:** Establishing a Youth Leadership Council to empower young people to develop leadership skills, share their perspectives, and contribute to conversations that shape programs and services impacting Haisla youth.



Early Years

- **Expanded Stay & Play Program:** Growing the Stay & Play program to provide additional opportunities for children 0-3 years of age and their caregivers to participate in play-based learning, early childhood development activities, and family connection.



Social Services

- **Bill C-92 Community Engagement:** Continuing community engagement related to Bill C-92, ensuring Haisla members have opportunities to learn about and provide input into the development of Haisla-led approaches to child and family well-being.
- **Parenting Workshops & Supports:** Expanding parenting supports through workshops, educational resources, and opportunities for caregivers to connect, share experiences, and strengthen their confidence in navigating the joys and challenges of raising children.
- **Family Mediation Services:** Introducing support for families navigating conflict, with the goal of strengthening relationships and preserving family unity.

Department Feature



Our Programs

- Infant Toddler Daycare, Daycare, Nursery, Preschool
- Stay & Play
- Before & After School Care
- Youth Program
- Youth Funding Supports
- Jordan's Principle Program
- Social Assistance Supports
- Food Security
 - Food Share Program
- Haisla Emergency Resources Supports
- Family Supports
 - Life Skills Development
 - Mediation Support
 - Parenting Workshops and Supports



Stay in touch



Haisla Member Portal:
www.haisla.ca/membershipportal

Facebook:

facebook.com/HaislaNation/



Web: www.haisla.ca

Your Community Services Division Team:

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Manager, Youth Services - Tara Grant
Manager, Early Years - Natasha Paul
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Manager, Clinical Health - Eric Bottah
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