



**SIIA**

**SPRING  
2023**



**VISION FOR OUR FUTURE  
REPORT**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	Intro
<b>2</b>	Our Logo
<b>3</b>	Our Purpose
<b>4</b>	An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families (C-92)
<b>5</b>	Our Governance
<b>6</b>	Who SIIA Serves
<b>7</b>	How SIIA is Organized
<b>8</b>	Our Timeline
<b>9</b>	What SIIA Needs to Achieve
<b>10</b>	Who SIIA is Consulting
<b>11</b>	More Information



# SIIA

**OUR PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH  
ISLAND FIRST NATIONS  
HAVE NEVER RELINQUISHED  
OUR INHERENT  
JURISDICTION AND  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.**

**WE HAVE OUR OWN LAWS  
AND TRADITIONAL WAYS  
OF CARING FOR OUR  
CHILDREN**



# OUR LOGO



**Our logo tells the story of who we are and what we do.**

## MOTHER BEAR

The main symbol is a mother bear. The mother bear is a fierce protector of her children. Our mothers fight hard every day to provide for their children. Many of our traditions and especially the teachings for raising children are passed down through our matriarchal lines. Within families that need support, grandmas and aunties are the ones most likely to step forward to care for their nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

## BEAR CUBS

The image can also be viewed as two bear cubs, following traditional design elements of a spindle whorl of one side mirroring the other. The two bears coming together at the centre also symbolizes family connections and the unity within the South Island. The colour blue was gifted by XA'LS to the blue jay and represents hard work.

## THE PADDLE

Another symbol is the paddle. The paddle was necessary to travel by canoe, the main way coastal peoples travelled to obtain food, to stay connected to relations and stay connected to the land. In times of conflict, it could also be used for protection and for dances in ceremony. The symbol of the paddle also represents moving forward and working together.



# OUR PURPOSE

- The South Island Indigenous Authority is a planning body, authorised by Band and Council Resolutions from our 8 participating First Nations, and by the Boards of Directors of our 3 urban Indigenous Agencies.
- We are creating an Indigenous organization serving all Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities in our geographic area.
- Our goal, in partnership with our Nations and communities, is to promote healthy children, living in healthy families, living in healthy communities.

Do you have any questions/comments related to **SIIA's purpose**?

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# AN ACT RESPECTING FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND METIS CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (C-92)

- In early 2019 the federal government passed Bill C-92, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families.
- This legislation recognised the right for Section 35 rights holders to assert jurisdiction over the laws and services for their children and family.
- The legislation recognises traditional Indigenous laws existed long before colonization.
- Bill C-92 allows Nations to write and enact their own legislation and design and operate their own service delivery, which would take the place of current provincial child and family legislation and services

Do you have any questions/comments related to ***An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families?***

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# OUR GOVERNANCE

- SIIA is a society registered under the Societies Act of B.C.
- We are currently governed by a Board of Directors, with one director for each of the 8 Nations, and one for each of the 3 agencies.



- The directors are specified to be Chiefs or designates, and agency Board Chairs or designates.
- We intend to move governance to a more community based model as we move toward operations.
- The Board and the communities will decide on the long term governance model.

Do you have any questions/comments related to **SIIA's Governance**?

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# WHO SIIA SERVES

- The First Nations we serve are Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay), T'SOU-KE (Sooke), páačiid?aa?tx (Pacheedaht), BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), WJOLELP (Tsartlip), WSI,KEM (Tseycum), lək'ənən (Songhees), and x<sup>w</sup>sepsəm (Esquimalt).
- The Indigenous agencies that we work with are Victoria Native Friendship Centre; Surrounded by Cedar; Hulitan; NIL TU,O; and South Island Wellness.



Do you have any questions/comments related to who SIIA serves?

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# HOW SIIA IS ORGANIZED

- Currently, all SIIA workers are contractors. This is required for our Indigenous Services Canada funding.
- We have three 'streams' of service:



**Finance and Administration**



**Community Engagement**



**Policy and Legislation**

Each of these groups meet as a team, and as well we all meet weekly to coordinate our services.

- We are in the process of hiring a project manager on a three month contract. The project manager will set out our interacting goals and timelines for the next year.

Do you have any questions/comments related to **how SIIA is organized?**

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# OUR TIMELINE

- SIIA exists for the sole reason of creating our own child and family services in our communities, working under our own Indigenous legislation.
- Bill C-92 is the federal legislation that recognises our jurisdiction to both create legislation and to take control of our services for children and families, in a way consistent with our cultures.
- To fully assert our jurisdiction under Bill C-92 we need to create our legislation, our service delivery model, our service quality model, and our business model. These will need to be confirmed by our Section 35 rights holders (our eight Nations), as well as our broader Indigenous community, before we can enter into negotiations with the governments of Canada and British Columbia for the resources to run our system.
- We plan to have our four plans ready for community ratification by March, 2024.
- Ratification by our Section 35 rights holders will need to be by Band Council Resolution or by referendum, depending on the wishes of each Nation. We are hoping that ratification can occur between April and June, 2024.



# OUR TIMELINE CON'T

- After ratification, we will continue for the remainder of our fiscal year (until March 2025) to work on how we will implement our plans, and to prepare for taking charge of our services.
- We will enter into a Coordination Agreement, a step in the Bill C-92 process, with the two other governments ideally in March 2025. The Coordination Agreement is the negotiations on what resources and funding will be transferred to our new organization by the other two levels of government.
- Once those negotiations are complete, our own child and family services, working under our own legislation, and managed by our people, can be born.



Do you have any questions/comments related to **SIIA's Timeline**?

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# WHAT SIIA NEEDS TO ACHIEVE

- We are working with Woodward and Company to draft an Indigenous child and family law for our territories
- We have an early draft of a service delivery system that would be significantly different from what exists now, built on local Indigenous values, and with core services situated in each Nation or community.
- We are working on a Service Quality model that will keep SIIA accountable and transparent for our communities.
- We are developing an Administrative structure that can oversee services in our region.



Do you have any questions/comments related to **what SIIA needs to achieve?**

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# WHO SIIA IS CONSULTING



- What we are building needs to be understood, accepted, and owned by our communities.
- Our community engagement staff are continuing to hold community sessions in all of our communities.
- We have an active “Aunties Group” that has representation from all Nations that provides us expert advice.
- We have consulted with current service providers and will continue to do so.
- The Board Speaker and the Interim E.D. are always available for Chief and Councils.

Do you have any questions/comments related to who **SIIA** is consulting?

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# MORE INFORMATION

- We are continually trying to improve our communications with our communities and are always open to more suggestions.
- For more information and updates about SIIA's work please visit



[www.sii.ca](http://www.sii.ca)



South Island Indigenous Authority



South Island Indigenous Authority

- The general public can pose questions of SIIA through [info@sii.ca](mailto:info@sii.ca).
- The Interim Executive Director can be reached at [chuckeamer@sii.ca](mailto:chuckeamer@sii.ca).

Do you have any final questions/comments about SIIA?

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**Huy ch q'u/HÍSKWE/ʕeeko for your time and we look forward to continuing on in this journey together**

