

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024 - MAY 2025

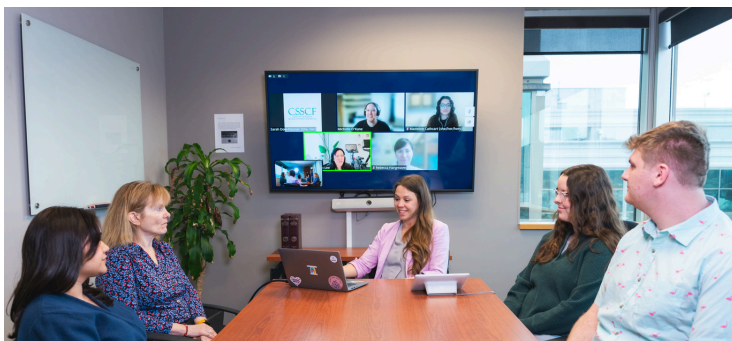


DR. BARBARA LEE AWARDED *THE DEAN OF ARTS FACULTY MENTORSHIP AWARD*

In 2025, Dr. Barbara Lee was awarded **The Dean of Arts Faculty Mentorship Award** for her ongoing exceptional generativity, including mentorship of early career students and faculty. The awarding committee noted that for all those who have had the pleasure of being her mentee, this is a "well-deserved recognition" for Dr. Lee's "tremendous contributions to mentoring the next generation of scholars". Dr. Lee's time and dedication to her mentees are invaluable and essential in the student experience and success. Not only does she invest in mentees' success, but she also actively observes and celebrates their growth at every stage. By highlighting even small milestones and significant achievements, Dr. Lee ensures their mentees feel recognized, valued, and motivated. Dr. Lee is invested in creating opportunities for researchers and students to share their knowledge, ensuring that these exchanges lead to meaningful growth. Her passion for research, social work practice and her field of expertise in child welfare is contagious. She cultivates a culture of creativity, curiosity, and excellence, empowering risk-taking and exploring new possibilities. Congratulations Dr. Lee!

"HEALTHY CHILDREN HAVE HEALTHY, THRIVING PARENTS"

Dr. Sarah Dow-Fleisner, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health and Social Development and Director of the CSSCF, was interviewed in March 2025 and contributed to a [Vancouver Sun](#) article sharing the importance of social connections for children to thrive.



CSSCF CO-DIRECTORS AWARDED THE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH MOBILITY AWARD

Dr. Sarah Dow-Fleisner (UBC-O) and Dr. Barbara Lee (UBC-V) received two **UBC Collaborative Research Mobility Award** designed to support research collaboration across UBC's campuses. The award strengthens the ongoing partnership across multiple research projects, collaborative initiatives and events. Congratulations, Dr. Dow-Fleisner and Dr. Lee!

CO-DIRECTORS, STAFF AND CSSCF VOLUNTEERS: THE POWER OF TEAMWORK!

Even though we are not all in the same physical location, our team meets regularly to collaborate on research, planning events and knowledge mobilization. The CSSCF's Okanagan Research Coordinator, Dr. Michelle Anderson-Draper (pictured on the left), shared, "I feel connected to the mission of the CSSCF because everyone is working towards the shared goal of supporting the development of evidence-informed policies, programs, and services for children and families, through research and knowledge mobilization. We are all committed to making a positive impact, which creates a sense of unity and shared purpose between the Directors, staff, practicum students and volunteers." The Centre for the Study of Services to Children and Families is a hub for connection and collaboration.

CELEBRATING CSSCF STUDENTS!

Many of our affiliated students have been recognized for their hard work, passion and dedication:



Choi Shan Ng Summer 2024 MSW Practicum Student, received a Poster Award at the Pathway to Prosperity 2024 National Conference that presented the research paper “Children Facilitate Social Integration: Lessons Learned from a Survey of Hongkongers Recently Arrived in Canada” which was a key part of her practicum with the Center, supported by Dr. Barbara Lee, Miu Yan & Mooly Wong.



Rebecca Hargreaves (UBC-V MSW Candidate; Dr. Lee Supervisor) received the Splane Global Learning Fund (2025) for her MSW Thesis “Exploration of Cultural Humility in Social Work Practice Among Vancouver's Downtown Eastside Primary Health Care Teams”.



Kristi Pinderi's (UBC-V MSW Candidate; Dr. Lee Supervisor) MSW Research Paper from 2023-2024 SOWK 554c 002, “Unveiling Intersectionality: Healing Opportunities and Challenges in Democratizing Child Welfare Policy Development Process,” was published in Social Work and Policy Studies. Kristi is expanding upon this work in his MSW Thesis “Navigating Care: Lessons from Queer Children and Youth in the Child Welfare System”.

HIGHLIGHT: PRACTICUM STUDENTS AT THE CSSCF

OKANAGAN PRACTICUM STUDENT: JACK

My practicum has been focused on supporting the **Perinatal Health Care project**. This has looked like producing a literature review on Community Advisory Boards, a network map of researchers and community partners, and working on an environmental scan to assess the gaps in service for Perinatal Health Care in BC. I have also been involved in supporting the delivery of social work education in the form of the human development class. This has looked like delivering a lecture, providing mentorship to students, and learning about teaching and grading.

VANCOUVER PRACTICUM STUDENT: MADDIE

My practicum has focused on learning the research process and supporting community partner projects. With CSSCF's support, I have gained valuable skills in qualitative data analysis and insight into research project management, including the collaborative work required throughout the research process. Barbara and Michelle supported my participation in many CSSCF projects, including as an editor of **The Knowledge Exchange Podcast**, supporting the **Kinship Stories: A Time to be Heard** screening in partnership with Fairness, and other events.

A COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP FOR TEACHING GRADUATE RESEARCH METHODS

At the **Canadian Association of Social Work Education (CASWE)** conference in Montreal (June 2024), three MSW research teams from the SOWK 554c 002 Qualitative Methods in Social Work Research: Research and Evaluation in Child, Youth and Family Services presented their collaborative research projects:

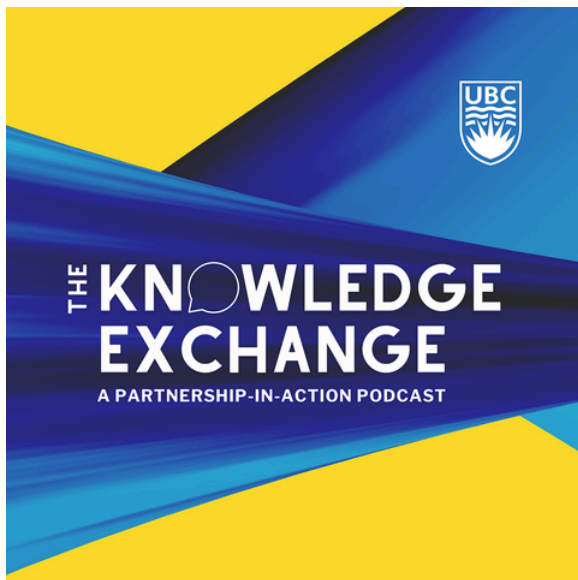


- Beyond Compliance: Exploring Quality In-Person Private Visits with Children and Youth in Care by Eva Barker, Shay Bernier O’Kane, and Abbie Campbell.
- Clinicians’ Experience, Successes, and Barriers in Applying Culturally Safe Practices at Intake and Initial Assessment in MCFD CYMH Services in British Columbia: A Mixed Methods Design by Catherine Byler, Rebecca Hargreaves, and Kemorie Drysdale (unable to attend CASWE).
- Implementation of Intersectionality in Child, Youth, and Family Policy Development Processes by Kristi Pinderi.

This student-led panel presentation highlighted the success of the community-university partnership model in teaching graduate research methods, showcasing the impactful contributions of MSW students to social work research and practice.

THE FIRST SEASON OF THE KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE: A PARTNERSHIP-IN-ACTION PODCAST

Exploring the diversity of social work research, *The Knowledge Exchange: A Partnership-in-Action Podcast* highlights community-university partnerships and action-oriented research projects. Listen to our first season with social work scholars at the University of British Columbia and community partners exploring what it means to practice community engagement, knowledge exchange, and mobilization. This season showcases the inspiring work within and outside the University of British Columbia's School of Social Work. With an incredible line-up of faculty members and their community partners, such as MCFD's strategic policy and research team, Inclusion BC and more, the podcast will highlight projects and the impacts of collaborative work. **Stay tuned for Season Two!**



OUR UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP TAKES "KINSHIP STORIES: A TIME TO BE HEARD" ON THE ROAD!

Join us for a meaningful event on May 21st, 2025, hosted by the UBCO School of Social Work, the Centre for the Study of Services to Children and Families, and Fairness for Children Raised by Relatives. The event will take place at the UBCO UNC Theatre, which is on the unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation and feature a screening of powerful digital stories created by kin caregivers. Caregivers share their personal experiences, challenges, and rewards through these stories. Following the screening, a panel discussion will bring together perspectives from researchers, practitioners, and kinship caregivers. Together, we'll explore how we can better support and strengthen services for kinship families.

We invite families, community members, service providers, policymakers, and those interested in child and family well-being to attend this engaging and impactful event. Our first screening and panel discussion, held in Vancouver on February 19th, 2025, was a great success.

RSVP for our May 21st screening by clicking here!



LEADING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BC CHILD WELFARE RESEARCH NETWORK

Throughout 2024, the CSSCF collaborated with interest-holders to engage in a series of virtual dialogue circles culminating with an in-person colloquium in 2025 to bring together academics, researchers, and policymakers to foster critical reflection on the state of child welfare in the province and engage in conversation about how to mobilize research to facilitate positive transformative change. A primary outcome of this initiative is the establishment of a provincial child welfare research network that is essential in developing and sustaining transformative connections and initiatives.

To date, much of the child welfare research stems from scholars in Ontario and Quebec. However, child welfare policy and practice vary significantly by province, thus necessitating a provincially grounded research network with localized context and knowledge. With the leadership of Indigenous communities and recent federal and provincial legislation changes, child welfare in BC is facing a pivotal opportunity for change. The BC Child Welfare Research Network will present opportunities for stakeholders to establish intentional relationships and be part of knowledge exchange, implementation, mobilization, and build collaboration. **Please join us in this effort to transform child welfare praxis in BC!**

