

WE ARE ALL  
CONNECTED

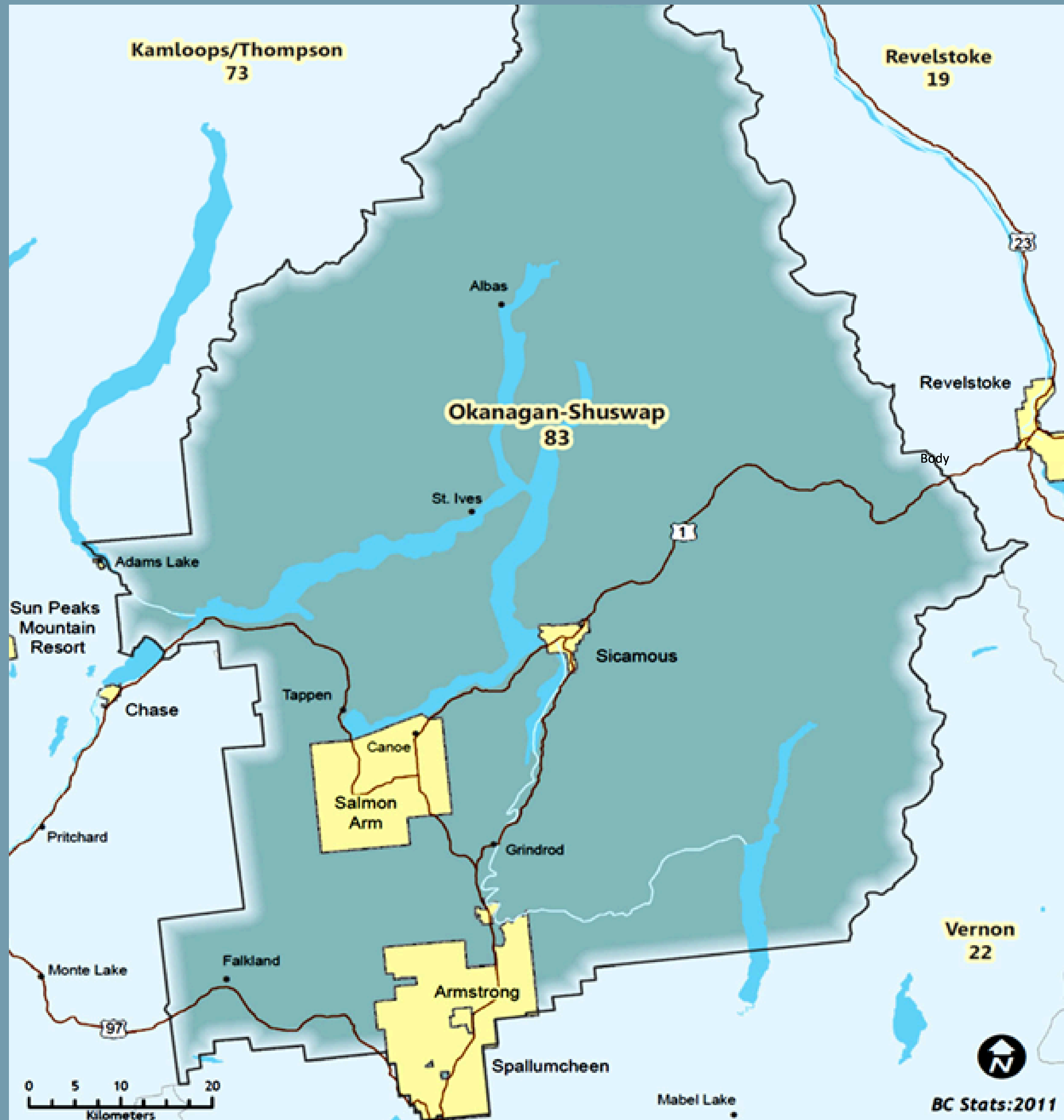


Allison de Boer

SD83  
K'wsaltktnéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw

This is a story about connection  
in a vast and beautiful land...

# WHERE WE ARE



SD83 is located on the traditional territory of the Secwépemc people, the Rightsholder and stewards of this land since time immemorial. It encompasses the geographic area around Shuswap Lake and the northern Okanagan. Our 25 schools, located in the 12 communities of Falkland, Armstrong, Enderby, Grindrod, Silver Creek, Ranchero, Salmon Arm, Canoe, Tappen, Sicamous, Sorrento, and Celistá, are surrounded by lakes, rivers, mountains, and agricultural areas where all manner of wildlife thrive.

# WHO WE ARE

In 2024, our district was gifted an Indigenous name, *ǻwsaltktnéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw*, which means we are all connected (people, animals, sky, land, and water) on Secwépemc land.

In our logo, you can see the story of this connection



Circular Shape: Represents the importance of the “healing circle” in Indigenous culture. It demonstrates unity and equality as we all journey toward Truth and Reconciliation.

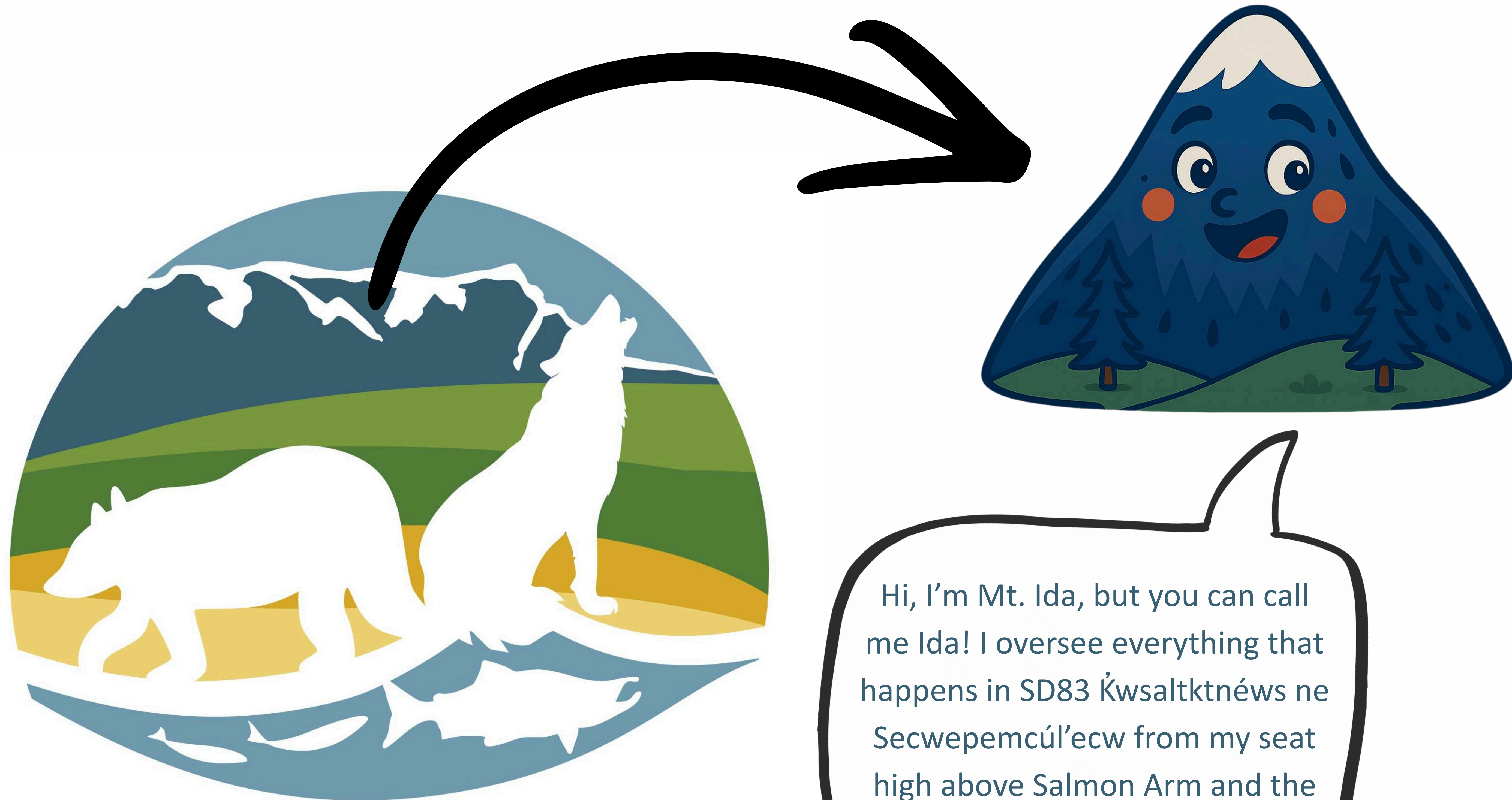
Three Animals (Bear, Coyote, Salmon): These animals have significance in the geographic area of our District. The Bear is often considered to represent strength and courage. The Coyote is often referenced in Secwépemc stories that have ties to societal values and traditional knowledge. The Salmon, aside from providing subsistence, represents enduring and persevering through hardship.

Mountain: Depicts Mt. Ida which is a geographic landmark where the District Education Support Centre is located.

Colours represent the importance of the forests, water, mountains, air, and agricultural communities within our District.

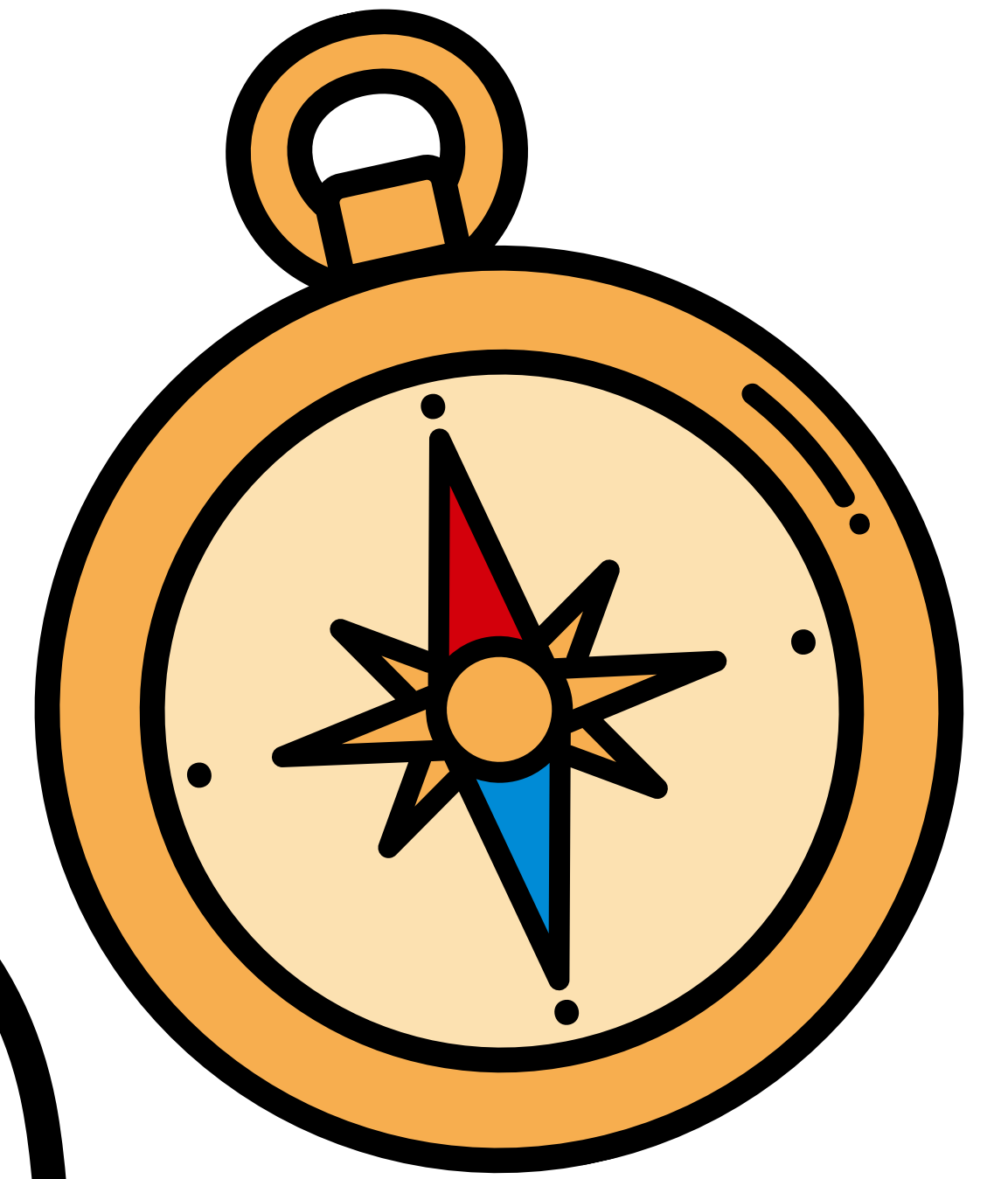
Land, Water, and Sky: The logo distinguishes these elements, acknowledging the Rightsholders of this place and recognizing their ancestral territory since time immemorial.

# AND THIS IS ME...



Hi, I'm Mt. Ida, but you can call me Ida! I oversee everything that happens in SD83 K̓wsaltktnéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw from my seat high above Salmon Arm and the District Education Support Centre

# WHERE? HOW?



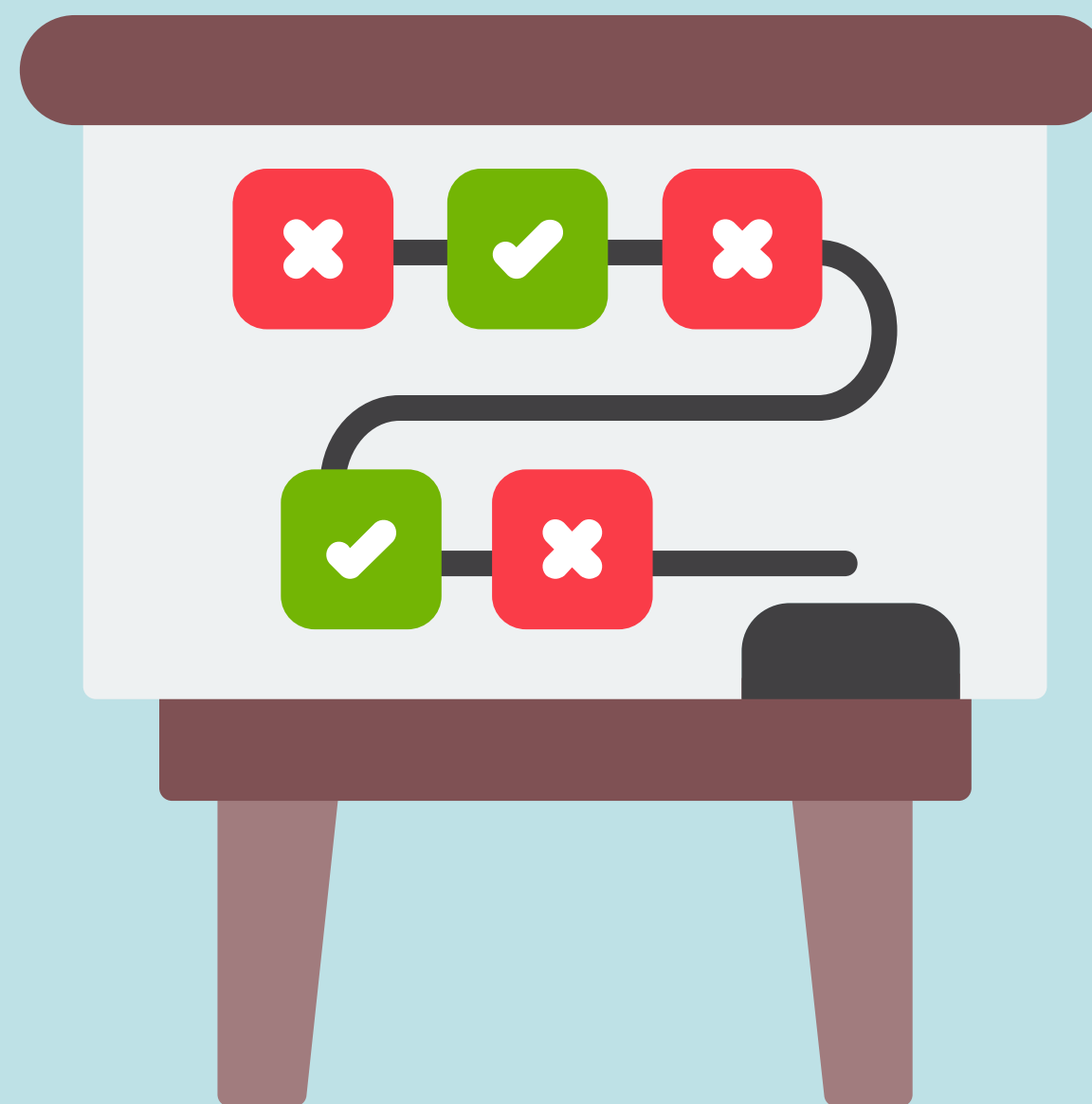
So, you may be wondering, in a place that reaches so far and has so many diverse communities, how do we work together to strengthen connections? This is the inquiry question that has guided our work in the early years.



# IT'S A JOURNEY...



There's a lot of trial and error. There's a lot of flips and flops. But there's also a lot of glimmers and glows. Here are some key connection points that are making a difference...



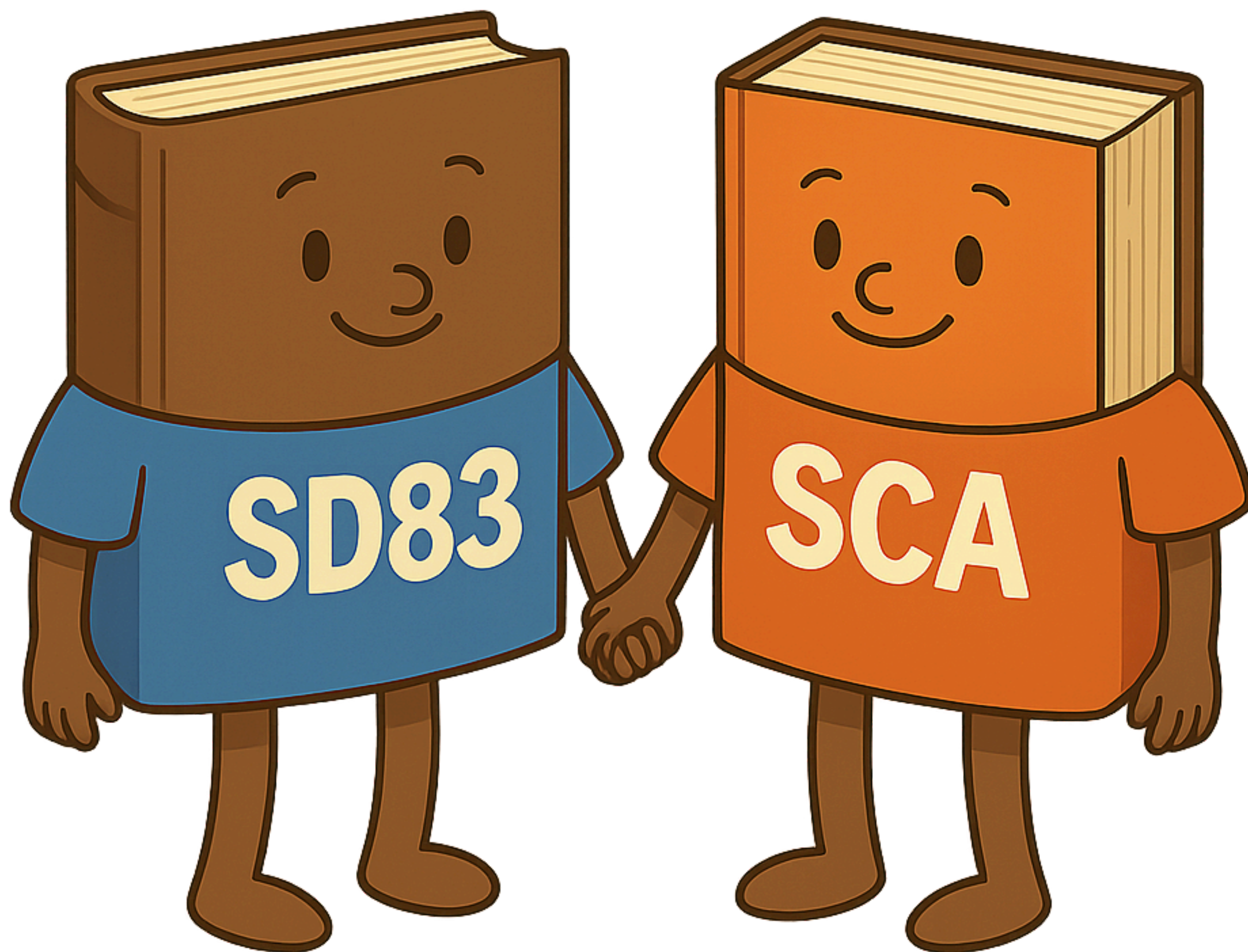




# SHARING IS CARING

## Creating Continuity - Shared Professional Learning

We work closely with Shuswap Children's Association, who provide CCRR and early years supports in the Shuswap. Considering the needs of community and school, each year we develop and co-facilitate a learning series that is open to both. We have had the pleasure of working with a wide range of educators including ECEs, K-3 teachers, family navigators, librarians, music teachers, literacy teachers, SLPs and more!



*Save the Date*  
**WALKING OUR WHY**  
*Exploring the Early Learning Framework  
From Theory to Communities of Practice*  
OCTOBER 20, 2023 & FEBRUARY 16, 2024  
SALMON ARM  
OPEN TO ALL EDUCATORS WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN AG  
REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER 2023  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
ALLISON DE BOER ADEBOER@SD83.BC.CA  
TRISH OLIN, TOLIN@SHUSWAPCHILDRENS.CA

*Environments for Well-Being & Learning*  
Friday, Oct. 24, 8:30-2:30  
Friday, Feb. 13, 8:30-2:30  
Salmon Arm (location tba)

- A professional learning series for educators who work with children 0-8 years old
- Participants will consider the impact of environmental elements on relationships, sense of belonging, and the development of foundational skills
- Engage in playful pedagogies
- Explore links to the BC Early Learning Framework, Learning in the Primary Years, Play Today Handbook, First Peoples Principles of Learning, Core Competencies, and the CASEL SEL framework
- Free resources and certificates available!

For more information and to register, contact Allison de Boer, adeboer@sd83.bc.ca

Logos: early LEARNING, Shuswap Children's Association, CCRR, bcc, ChildCareBC, bcc

Registration Open!  
**PLAYING ON PURPOSE**  
*a professional learning series for educators who work with children 0-8 yrs old*

Part 1- Friday, Oct 25, 8:30-2:30  
Part 2- Friday, Feb 14, 8:30-2:30  
Hillcrest Elementary School,  
1180 20 St SE, Salmon Arm

**Explore the power of play!**  
& the pedagogy of play, with links to the BC ELF,  
**Part 2:** Delve deeper into playful learning & curriculum, on Story Workshop.

**Lunch, free resources & certificates!**

For more information or to register, email adeboer@sd83.bc.ca

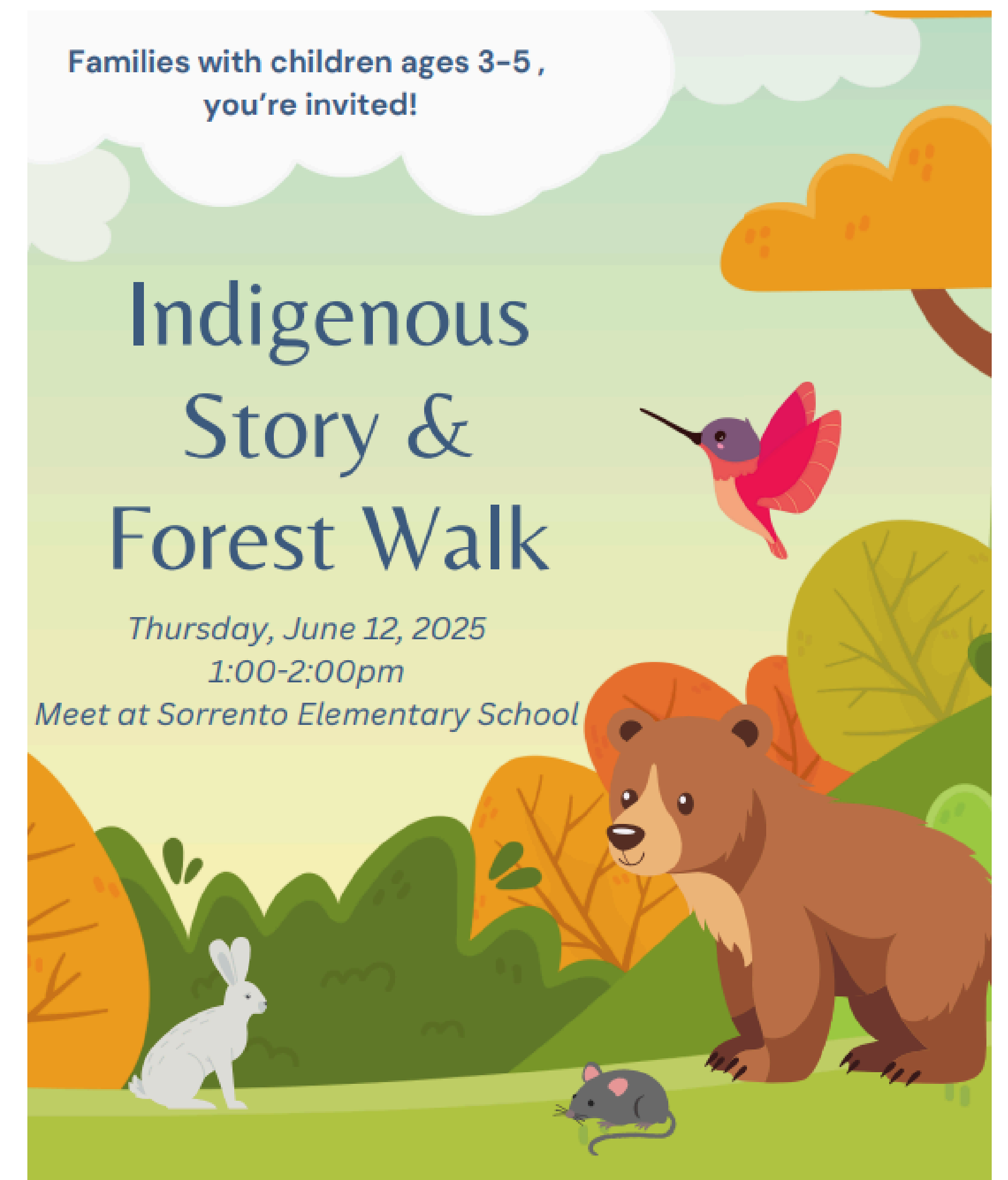
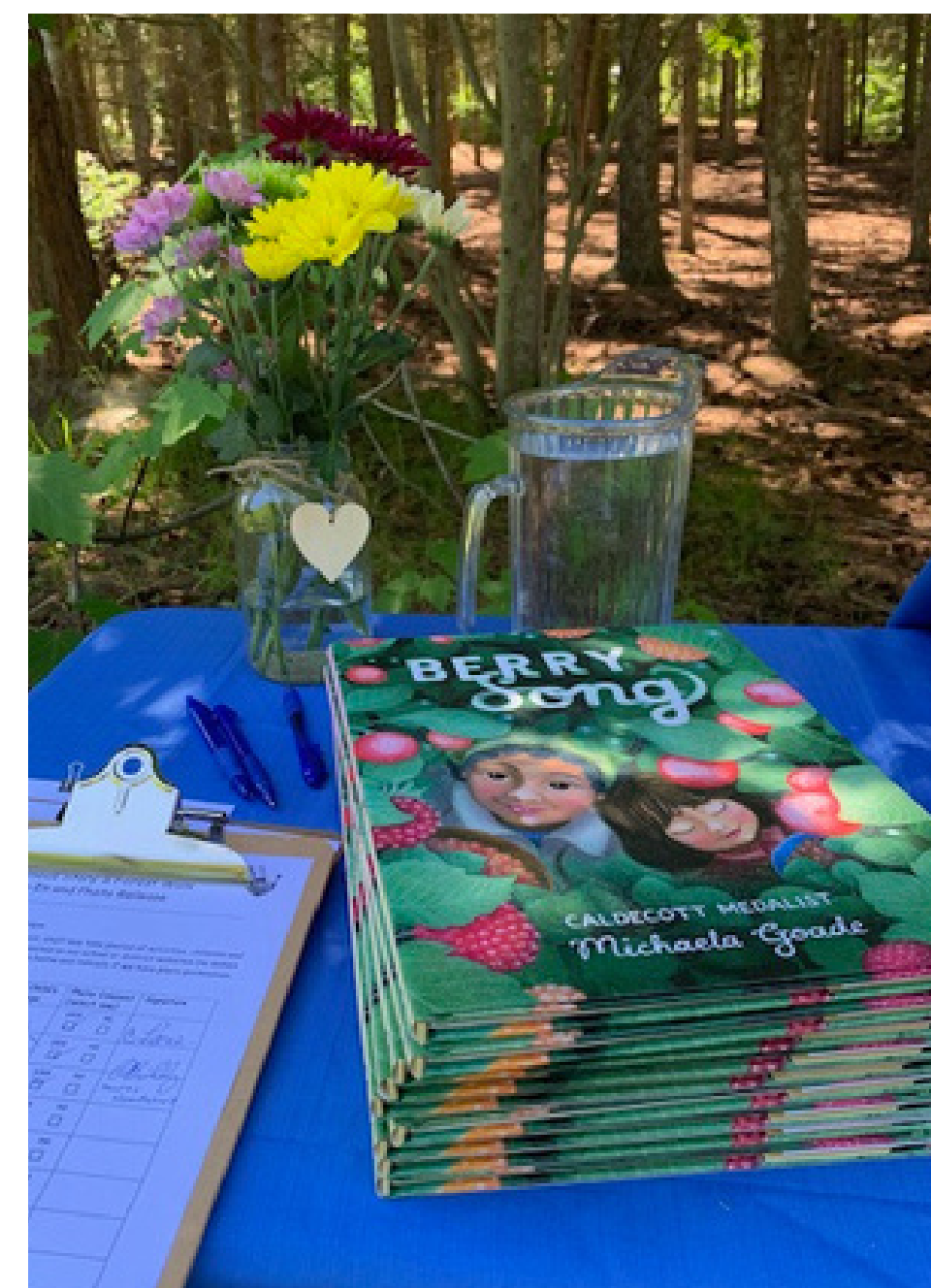
Logos: Shuswap Children's Association, early LEARNING



# FOREST FRIENDSHIPS

## Story - Connectedness - Sense of Place

We have worked with our Indigenous Education Department, Sorrento Elementary School and Skw'lax Head Start program to create an annual Indigenous Forest and Story Walk. Each spring, we select a touchstone book by an Indigenous author and invite children and families to walk through the school forest, searching for hidden wildlife puppets and plants while hearing stories about them. At the end, we all enjoy a snack and each child gets a book to take home. This event has created a ripple effect, inspiring new events and partnerships.





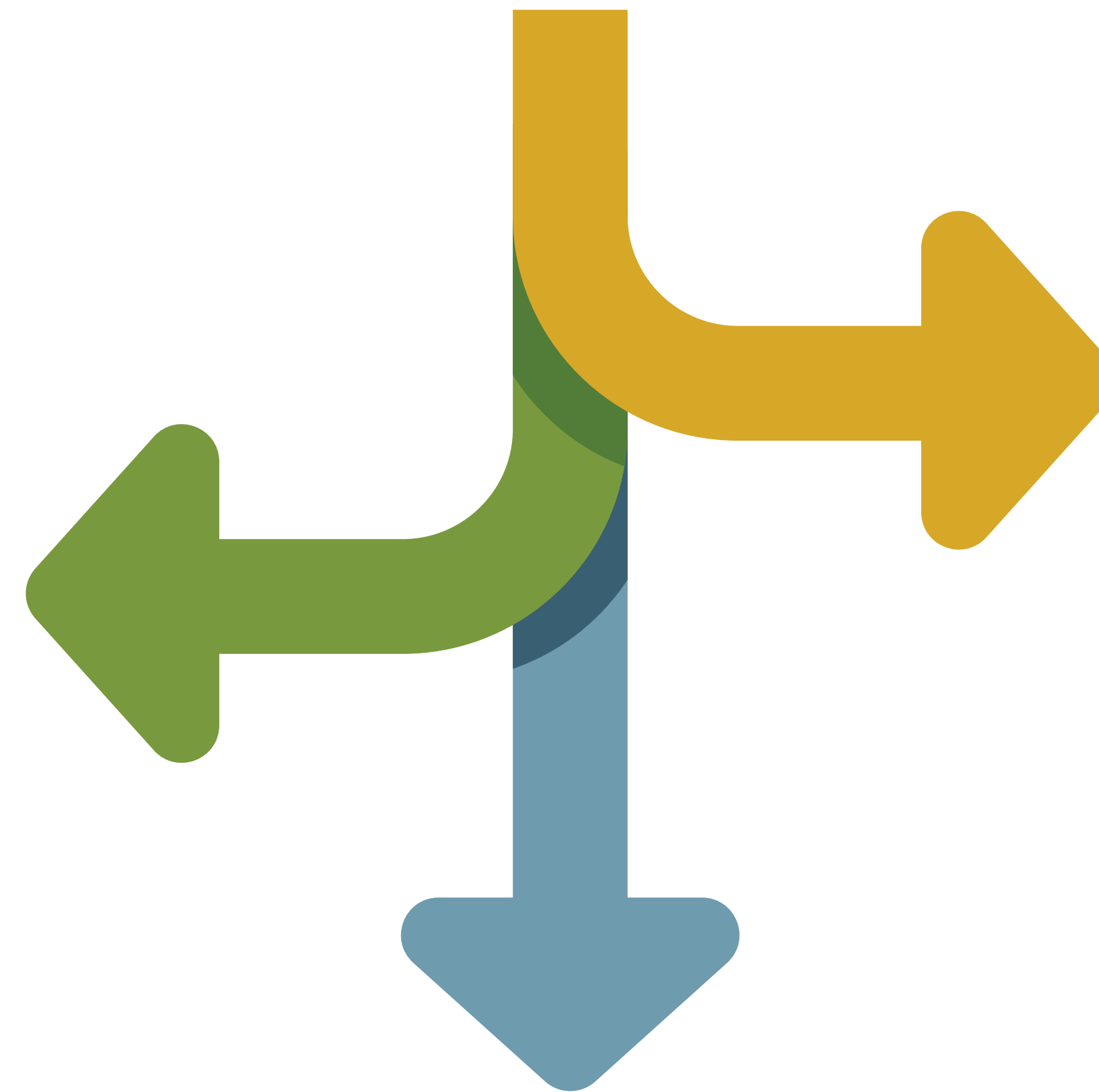
# CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

## Connect Early, Connect Often - Continuity of Care and Learning

We have strong connections with StrongStart families and those attending Ready, Set, Learn and community playgroups, but there was a gap in connecting with children in child care and engaging child care providers as partners. We decide to try out a “choose your own adventure” approach to build connections with children in child care settings and child care providers. There are a variety of options...

### We come to you:

For a relaxed play-based visit, a May child care appreciation celebration, or to host a Ready, Set, Learn event at your program.



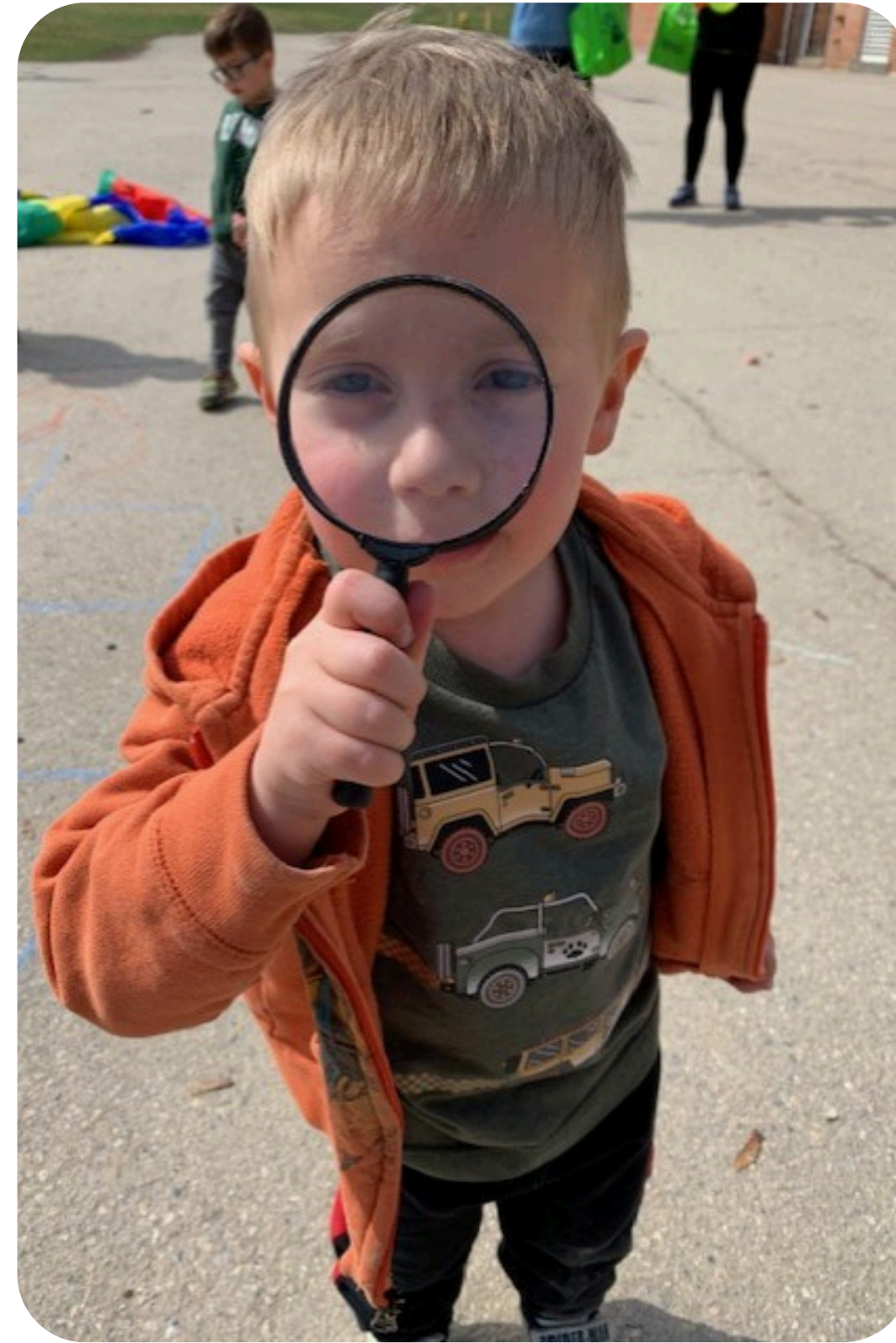
### You come to us:

For a Ready, Set, Learn event at the school, a Play with the K, or a Party on the Playground.

### We meet in community:

For a Party in the Park, Community Picnic, or other fun!

# CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE



It's a lot of fun!



# WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



Now, as one gets on in years (we're talking millions here), we often find ourselves becoming more reflective, asking "What have we learned from these experiences? What can we carry forward?"

# WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



I am reminded of the animals that thrive in our lakes, rivers, mountains, and agricultural areas. Those reflected in our logo...



Bear- Strength and courage. Making meaningful connections takes courage and vulnerability.

Coyote- Values and knowledge, a teacher. Our values drive us. This is work of the heart.

Salmon- Perseverance. We do not all connect in the same way. Context is key. Building bridges requires time and a variety of approaches. Keep reaching out.

# THE END?

I told you from the start, this is a story about connection. What a beautiful way to begin. For that's what this really is, just the beginning...





IN K'WSALTKTNE'WS NE SECWEPENCÚ'ECW  
WE ARE ALL CONNECTED