

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Beacon Community Services Recognized as Nominee for 2025 Distinguished Service to Families Award, by the BC Council for Families.**

**Victoria, BC – July 17, 2025** – Beacon Community Services is proud to be recognized as a nominee for the *2025 Carol Matusicky Distinguished Service to Families Award* by the BC Council for Families, in recognition of its strong ongoing partnership with the School District 63 (SD63) and the Individual Learning Centre (ILC). This collaboration helps students and families by providing inclusive programming and wraparound support.

The award celebrates individuals and organizations across British Columbia who have made a measurable and lasting impact on family well-being. Beacon's nomination highlights its collaborative work with SD63 and the ILC to support students and families who experience barriers to education and access to community resources.

“Our work with the SD63 and ILC reflects the heart of what Beacon stands for, meeting families where they’re at and helping them access the support they need to thrive,” said Elaine Venables, Director Child Youth Family Services at Beacon Community Services. “Being nominated for this award is a meaningful recognition of the collaborative, compassionate work being done by our Family Services team and partners.”

Kelly de Klerk, Principal of the SD63 ILC adds "Our partnership with Beacon provides support to students and families that extends beyond the walls of our school."

Beacon's Family Services is grounded in a philosophy of relationship building, community care, and timely, response-based support. Serving families from Sooke to Sidney to Salt Spring Island, Beacon offers a wide range of programs for children, youth, and parents, including outreach, parenting groups, early years programs, and key worker services for families navigating challenges such as complex behaviours, special needs, or suspected FASD.

Whether families are seeking emotional wellness support, parenting resources, or help navigating complex systems, Beacon, through its like-minded community partners, like SD63 and ILC ensures that support is readily available, through local programming or by linking families to the most appropriate services for their specific needs and experiences.

Beacon Community Services congratulates the winners and fellow nominees and extends sincere thanks to SD63 for their continued partnership in creating lasting, positive impact for local families.

### **About Beacon Community Services**

Beacon Community Services was formed in 1974 when a small group of volunteers established the Citizens' Advisory Committee to help address social issues in Saanich Peninsula communities. Today, Beacon serves Southern Vancouver Island and the outer Gulf Islands - and the Beacon team numbers around 300 staff and 600 volunteers. Through a wide range of community programs and services, Beacon continues to support people of all ages, strengthening communities and transforming lives. Learn more at [www.beaconcs.ca](http://www.beaconcs.ca)

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