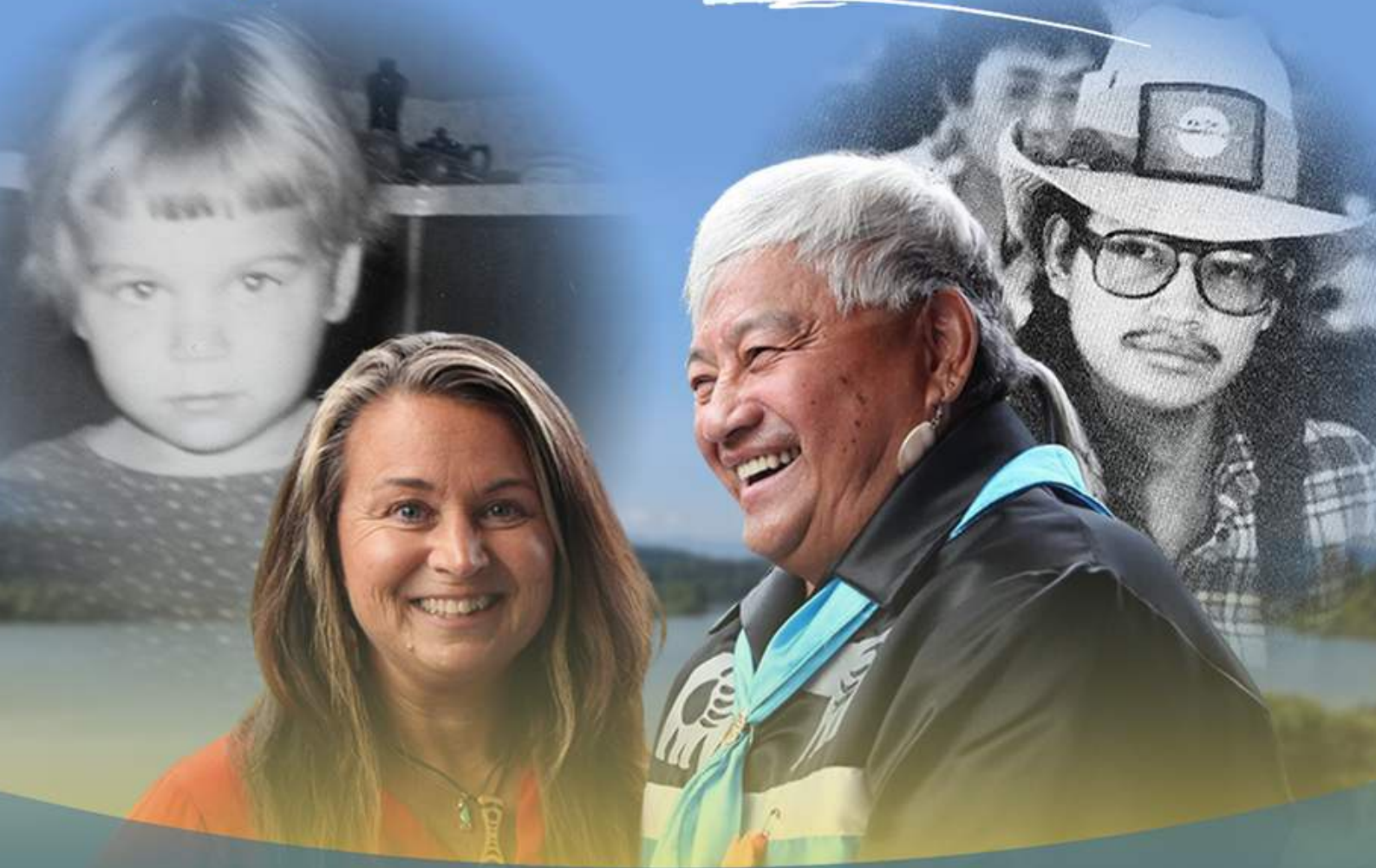


a  reGEN media original film

# COMING HOME

*For the Children*



We can heal ourselves and our families in three generations,  
if we keep it a sacred priority.

## PREMIERING FALL 2023:

SECHELT ARTS FESTIVAL | **OCT 13**  
SPLATSIN COMMUNITY SCREENING | **OCT 21**

VERNON TOWNE THEATRE | **OCT 24**  
VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCREENING | **OCT 30**



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"We can heal ourselves and our families in three generations if we keep it a sacred priority."

— Wenecwtsin, Wayne Christian

"With what happened in the sixties, when a lot of our children were removed, a lot of the people in our communities died.

Many of them died from heartbreak. The whole art of storytelling now falls to the younger generation [to] do what the ancestors did but in a modern medium."

— Rosalind Williams, *Tsm7aksaltn: To Teach and To Learn* (2017)



## LOGLINE

An Indigenous adult-adoptee returns to her rural home community after building an unlikely friendship with a seven-term Chief, brought together by fate to explore a forty-year journey of hope, healing, forgiveness, and coming home to our whole selves.

## SYNOPSIS (short)

In 1980, newly elected Chief and 60s Scoop survivor Wayne Christian led the Indian Child Caravan in a fight for Indigenous Peoples' rights over the jurisdiction of their children. At the same time, Charlene SanJenko was 11 years old, being raised in a non-Indigenous home. She didn't know it then, but Chief Wayne was fighting for the rights she lost as a young child in foster care.

More than 40 years later, Chief Wayne and Charlene meet for the first time and begin an unlikely friendship, exploring sacred spaces in both the Słatsin Nation and the Skwxwú7mesh Nation, and discover the importance of intergenerational healing, touching the pain, and what it truly means to come home to our whole selves.

## SYNOPSIS (long)

Coming Home For the Children is a short documentary profiling a seven-term former First Nations Chief, Wayne Christian, and hosted by adult-adoptee and foster care survivor, Charlene SanJenko.

Filmed in the scenic Shuswap Valley of rural British Columbia, the film travels back and forth between two parallels: the reclaiming of the meaning of "home" for both Charlene and Chief Wayne as they meet for the first time in the Słatsin Nation; and the Indian Child Caravan led by Chief Wayne himself in 1980 that marched across British Columbia in a fight for Indigenous peoples' rights over the jurisdiction of their children, at which time Charlene was 11 years old and unaware of Chief Wayne's advocacy for the very same rights she had lost as a child in foster care.

As Charlene completes the journey of reclaiming her Indigenous identity, and as Chief Wayne recounts the significant moments in his lifetime of leadership for the children, the two meet for the first time and begin an unlikely friendship. We are invited to join them as they explore sacred spaces in both the Słatsin Nation and the Skwxwú7mesh Nation, and discover the importance of intergenerational healing, touching the pain, and what it truly means to come home to our whole selves.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“As an Indigenous woman raised in a non-Indigenous environment, I walk in two worlds. I crave to experience each day in an expanded state of my existence, fully awake to my whole life as a spiritual being in a physical body and connecting at a deeper level with my own pain as well as the pain of my ancestors and the healing possible through all my relations.

At our very core, as humans, we can feel how far we are currently from our center. If we're honest with ourselves and turn down the distractions, I think we can agree that we're obviously off-kilter. And if we can tune into our heart, our soul, our breath, or whatever your word is, at our center, there is something that we've forgotten. I'm not going to say lost. I'm purposely saying that we've forgotten. We've gone off-track.

What pulls me to impact media and this film so powerfully is that ultimately, I'm an optimist. Ultimately, I'm a visionary, and I know it's in there for most people. I see it. With enough little clues, enough little hits, enough little reminders, enough little insights, I believe, as a society, we can get back on track. We can come home. Remembering precedes reconciliation.”

- Charlene SanJenko



## CAST & CREW BIOS

### CHARLENE SANJENKO

*Director, Impact Producer, Film Participant*

In 1969, Charlene was born in the Splatsin Band of the Secwépemc Nation, but was raised as an adopted child in a non-Indigenous home. Now 50 years later, she is on a journey to learn and reclaim her heritage, her lost childhood, and bring truth to the young Indigenous girl she never got the chance to be.

Intertwined with Chief Wayne Christian as one of the main protagonists of the film itself, Charlene brings experience in regenerative media as an impact producer to her first feature film. She hopes to bring the momentum of this documentary to other communities as part of an intentional media franchise, including a digital arts community engagement exhibition, a healing workshop series (in-person or online), and a future book written jointly by Chief Wayne and herself.



### WENECWTSIN

*Film Participant, Former seven-term Kúkpi7*

Wayne M. Christian is of Secwepemc ancestry. His Indian name, Wenecwtsin, from his great grandfather, means Big Voice that Speaks the Truth. Chief Wayne was elected to Council at the age of 23 and elected as Chief at 25, where he served for over 40 years in leadership. As a child, Chief Wayne was taken from his home as a child by provincial government representatives and placed into foster care - what is now known as the “Sixties Scoop” in Canadian history.



As an adult, he led two major initiatives in fighting for Indigenous rights: the Indian Child Caravan 1980 and the Constitution Express 1980 and 1981 – fighting for recognition of Indigenous laws and jurisdictions for lands, resources, and people. This is a fight he has dedicated himself to for decades - a fight that we are experiencing a full-circle moment of impact at this time.

## CAST & CREW BIOS

### MADELINE ARCHIBALD

*Co-Director, Cinematographer, Editor*

Madeline is a Gen-Z digital designer, artist & filmmaker who has mastered her 10,000 hours of skills in video production - including editing, photography, composition, sound design, and publication - before the age of 25. She grew up in Golden, BC (traditional land of the Ktunaxa and Secwepemc Nations, as well as the home of the Columbia River Métis Nation) in a mountaintown community full of arts and adventures, and brings a passion to tell stories the way they deserve to be told to the creation of this film.

Madeline has brought an aptitude with a camera and a passionate editing experience to translate the story of Charlene and Chief Wayne into film format.



### WILLOW SMITH

*Co-Producer, Assistant Cinematographer, Audio Lead*

Willow is a mixed-race Millennial whose experience in audio and video began as a hobby. She grew up in BC and now lives on the Sunshine Coast, home of the Skwxwú7mesh Nation. Now a voice actor, the co-host of her own podcast - "Loving Goliath" - and audio lead for reGEN media, she's taken her hobby to a whole new level under the umbrella of reGEN and The Goliath Foundation.



She brings audio expertise, an eye for detail, and a producer's hat in the production of Coming Home For the Children, including producing an accompanying podcast to the film, "Coming Home: In Conversation with Kukpi7 Wayne Christian", which features additional audio footage from both Charlene and Chief Wayne to add to the depth of this film.

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

**Title:** Coming Home For the Children

**Genre:** Short documentary

**Production Year:** 2023

**Country of Origin:** Canada

**Language:** English

**Shooting Format:** Digital

**Run Time:** TBC

**Aspect Ratio:** 16:9

**Sound Format:** Stereo

**First-time filmmaker:** Yes

## FULL CREDITS

<b>Featuring:</b>	Charlene SanJenko & Wenecwtsin (Wayne Christian)
<b>Director &amp; Impact Producer:</b>	Charlene SanJenko
<b>Co-directors &amp; Co-producers:</b>	Willow Smith Madeline Archibald
<b>Cinematographer &amp; Editor:</b>	Madeline Archibald
<b>Assistant Cinematographer:</b>	Willow Smith
<b>Additional cinematography:</b>	Terran Tasci Kelly Veltri Anika Syskakis ( <i>Wandering Docs, RavenSpeak</i> ) Kaylyn McLachlan
<b>Original music composed by:</b>	Ecko Aleck Brenda MacIntyre, Medicine Song Woman Aerial Sunday-Cardinal

## PRESS CLIPPINGS

### **“Our Nation Heals: soon to be launched pilot program will help Indigenous people return home”**

Global News, June 19, 2022 - watch [here](#)

### **“Indigenous adoptees reconnected with roots through community program”**

Global News, September 30, 2022 - watch [here](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA



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