

Chapa Pinnaduwa

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Counselling Therapist with 15 years of experience supporting marginalized and equity-seeking populations across justice, education, and child welfare systems. After beginning my career in the non-profit sector, I have spent the past decade working within provincial government systems in British Columbia, the Yukon Territory, and Nova Scotia. My work spans frontline support, case management, program coordination, and training and development, with significant experience in alternative and therapeutic justice initiatives.

EDUCATION

- **Master of Arts, Counselling Psychology, Yorkville University, 2025**
- **Bachelor of Arts, Criminology Major, Simon Fraser University, 2016**

WORK HISTORY

Counselling Therapist, The Peoples Counselling Clinic **Feb. 2026 – Present**

- Provide individual counselling to adults and youth experiencing a range of concerns, including anxiety, depression, trauma, relationship challenges, and life transitions, within a low-barrier, community-based clinical setting.

Project Coordinator, Province of Nova Scotia - Workplace Mental Health **Jan. 2024 – Jan. 2026**

- Supported province-wide mental health and wellness initiatives for public service employees through the design, coordination, and facilitation of workshops and events focused on psychologically safe workplaces.

SNAP Program Facilitator (contract), Halifax Regional Municipality **Jun. 2025 – Dec. 2025**

- Facilitated a developmentally responsive early-intervention workshop for children aged 6–11, by focusing on somatic awareness, emotional regulation, and problem-solving to reduce police involvement and improve school engagement.

Counselling Therapist (Intern), The Peoples Counselling Clinic **May 2025 – Dec. 2025**

- Provide individual counselling to adults experiencing a range of concerns, including anxiety, depression, trauma, relationship challenges, and life transitions, within a low-barrier, community-based clinical setting.

Youth Worker, Province of Nova Scotia - Community Services **Aug. 2023-Jan. 2024**

- Delivered direct care and therapeutic support to youth in provincial care within court-mandated secure residential and long-term treatment environments.

Social Emotional Learning/ Wellness Worker, School District 60, BC **Aug. 2021-Jun. 2023**

- Provided developmentally responsive therapeutic support to students aged 5–15 presenting with a range of challenges, including trauma, substance use, emotion regulation difficulties, and school disengagement.

- Assessed social-emotional learning (SEL) needs using a tiered intervention model and delivered evidence-based SEL programming through classroom facilitation, targeted small-group interventions, and individualized support.
- Led the development and implementation of a prevention-oriented recreational and life-skills program for middle school boys identified as at risk of gang involvement.
- Worked collaboratively within multidisciplinary school-based teams to design and implement holistic, wraparound support plans addressing neurodevelopmental, behavioral, mental health, and addiction-related needs.

Youth Probation Officer, Ministry of Children and Family Development, BC **Aug. 2018-Aug. 2021**

- Provided case management and support to complex, justice-involved youth, including a specialized caseload of youth who had committed sexual offences, using a developmentally informed approach to risk management and intervention planning.
- Prepared and delivered culturally informed bail and pre-sentencing recommendations to the Court through comprehensive written reports and oral submissions.
- Collaborated across multiple systems, including Courts, schools, mental health services, child welfare, and community-based agencies, to coordinate care, advocate for youth needs, and develop sustainable reintegration plans.
- Advocated for and coordinated alternative justice approaches grounded in restorative justice and Indigenous healing-centered practices.

Probation Officer, Government of Yukon - Department of Justice **Jan. 2017-Aug. 2018**

- Managed a caseload of individuals under Court-ordered supervision by balancing public safety priorities with accountability, and successful reintegration into the community.
- Worked within a Domestic Violence Treatment Court to manage a specialized caseload by completing spousal assault risk and suitability assessments to inform Court decision-making in intimate partner violence cases.
- Worked within a Therapeutic Wellness Court to manage a specialized caseload, supporting individuals with complex, intersecting needs related to addiction, mental health, and neurodevelopmental differences.
- Facilitated evidence-based interventions targeting criminogenic risk factors by using accessible and responsive approaches with adult learners of varying cognitive and literacy levels.
- Partnered with five self-governing First Nations to support residents while strengthening respectful intergovernmental collaboration.

Corrections Officer, Government of Yukon - Department of Justice **May 2016-Jan 2017**

- Provided supervision and support to adult men and women within a secure correctional facility.
- Recognized with the Rookie of the Year award.

Outreach Worker, Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver **Mar. 2015-May 2016**

- Supported a pilot outreach initiative addressing the overrepresentation of chronically unhoused individuals in provincial corrections by assisting female identifying individuals transitioning from custody through a Housing First, reintegration-focused approach.

Coordinator of Volunteers, Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver **Oct. 2013-May 2016**

- Managed recruitment, training, and supervision of approximately 130 volunteers and practicum students, supporting youth and adult offenders across five provincial and federal correctional facilities.

- Fostered ongoing relationships with correctional staff, community groups, and post-secondary institutions to support the coordination and staffing of volunteer-led programming.

Community Re-integration Worker, Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver Oct. 2013-Jun. 2014

- Supported female-identifying individuals transitioning from a provincial correctional facility by assisting with housing stability and connection to community supports.

Residential Support Worker, Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver Apr. 2011-Oct. 2013

- Supported female-identifying individuals, and their children, fleeing intimate partner violence to navigate systemic barriers and secure safe housing.

CERTIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Play Therapy Certification Training, Maritime Play Therapy Centre, Ongoing**
- **Fundamental Skills for Evaluation, Canadian Evaluation Society, 2024**
- **Facilitator - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), Living Works, Sept 2024**
- **Facilitator - The Working Mind, Mental Health Commission of Canada, 2024**
- **Trauma Focused- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Medical University of South Caroline, 2024**
- **Critical Incident Stress Management Training, International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, 2024**
- **Advanced Topics in Restorative Justice, RCMP, 2019**
- **Restorative Justice Facilitator, RCMP, 2019**
- **Supervision and Service Planning for Youth Who Have Committed Sexual Offences, Justice Institute of British Columbia, 2018**
- **Restorative Justice Conferencing Program, Government of Yukon, 2018**
- **Kairos Blanket Exercise, Trondek Hwech'in First Nation, 2018**
- **Essential Skills for Training and Facilitation, Justice Institute of British Columbia, 2017**

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- **KidStart Mentor, Plea Community Services Society of BC, Aug. 2013 – May 2016**
- **Recreational Volunteer (boys and girls clubs), Ray-cam Community Cooperative, Sept. 2014 – Apr. 2015**
- **Lounge Volunteer, Simon Fraser University Women's Centre, Jan. 2014 – Dec. 2014**
- **Drop-in Centre Volunteer, Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver, Apr. 2010 – Apr. 2011**