

# KILILA BIRTH KEEPER COLLECTIVE

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Yesenia Giron

INDIGENOUS BIRTH KEEPER  
CHILDBIRTH EDUCATOR

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“ Birth is ceremony, whichever way your body releases, is a ceremony. It is when you become pregnant, that you find your place in community and it is in that community, where you find your strength. I provide un-biased, compassionate support for your decisions. Birth is much more than having a baby, it is the re-birth of life, of change, of newness, in all its senses. As a full spectrum birth keeper, I support all forms of birth, release. Whether it is birth of your baby, miscarriage, still birth or abortion, I am here to walk this path with you.”



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Hi, I'm Yesenia, an Ojibwe, Cree & Salvadoran mother to four! I am a full spectrum birth keeper (doula) and childbirth educator. I believe birth is an instinctive and physiological transformation from life giver, to riding the waves of labor and navigating your postpartum rite of passage.

My passage into motherhood began over a decade ago when I birthed my first child at the age of 21. I was a young, single mother in the most transformative years of my early adulthood. That first step into birth and postpartum has left a lasting impression in my heart of how organic and innate our journeys can be. Over the years, I have welcomed 3 more babies into my womb and world. After the birth of each of my children, I began to focus on healing, both spiritually and emotionally on what it means to carry these little beings within us. I found solace in knowing that I could make an important change in the cycles of life, by beginning the healing at the roots: the womb.

Birth became the steppingstone and foundational background to my journey of reclaiming my Indigenous roots, culture, and sense of self as woman and as mother. I support all births, for all births are ceremony, but I hold a special love for home birth. I home birthed my 3rd baby on my bedroom floor with the assistance of midwives and for my fourth baby, I had an unassisted birth, swaying back and forth in my candle lit bathroom with my husband and mom holding space, while my children waited eagerly just outside the door.

Birth is ceremony, whichever way your body releases, is a ceremony. It is when you become pregnant, that you find your place in community and it is in that community, where you find your strength. I provide un-biased, compassionate support for your decisions. Birth is much more than having a baby, it is the re-birth of life, of change, of newness, in all its senses. As a full spectrum birth keeper, I support all forms of birth, release. Whether it is birth of your baby, miscarriage, still birth or abortion, I am here to walk this path with you.

I have trained and learned from an array of doula organizations throughout Vancouver, but my heart has always pulled me in the direction of Indigenous based teachings and I hold up my hands up to Ekwi7tl doula collective for bringing their Indigenous Doula training locally to Vancouver and to Postpartum Healing Lodge for sharing deep Anishinaabe teachings for postpartum. These trainings, teachings and sharing of knowledge have been the foundation of my vision for decolonizing birth and returning birth back to the roots of the communities I serve.

My primary work prioritizes low-income families, teen parents and single parent households.

Looking forward to seeing where this community goes and grows.

All my relations,

Yesenia Giron

**Available for limited homebirth support & prenatal/childbirth education**  
**Serves Burnaby, Vancouver & New West.**  
**Travel outside of these areas can be arranged (Surrey, Richmond, Coquitlam)**

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# KILILA BIRTH KEEPER COLLECTIVE

Corina Bye

BIRTH KEEPER  
CHILDBIRTH EDUCATOR



"I have been walking with families a long time now. 25 years in practice, the last 12 in birth work. Birth is ceremony and has the potential to be a great portal of healing power not just for Life Givers, but across generations. I love watching mothers and fathers be born, but I swoon when I see a Kookum step into her new place in the circle".

I am a mother of three wonderful beings. The oldest is eighteen, and every year on each birthday, I still find myself all these years later, recounting the events of their arrival. Each of their entries into the world so unique. Each birth growing me into motherhood more and more; finding myself and my bearings in this new life of love and sacrifice. I was too shy and protected within myself to let anyone help me my first birth. The birth took from my Spirit. It was controlled by the system and over medicalized. The postpartum mood disorder that followed was ruthless.

Today I thank that darkness, as it led me to begin healing and into my mothering heart. I learned to protect myself, and therefore let the right people into my world to walk beside me and share the load. My following births I took my power back as I learned who I am and the love I am worthy of. By the time I birthed my third baby, I was surrounded by sisters and in my own space that I infused with nothing but love and good energy.

My life was forever changed, and I have since been walking the path of birth work in honor of, and service to the sacredness of this journey. Each family, each birth, and each birth worker that I have supported has been a cherished gift.

I have been walking with families a long time now. 25 years in practice, the last 12 in birth work. Birth is ceremony and has the potential to be a great portal of healing power not just for Life Givers, but across generations. I love watching mothers and fathers be born, but I swoon when I see a Kookum step into her new place in the circle. My role as birth support, to help hold space for the safest, most meaningful birth experience and postpartum honeymoon period for falling in love. This is sacred work.

I want to express deep gratitude to the Ancestors and Peoples of the traditional unceded territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo and Tsawwassen for allowing me to be a guest on these beautiful lands. I take my role as ally working with Indigenous families with utmost sincerity. Decolonizing has been a heartbreaking process as I have come to understand the true history of colonization. I consider humility to be my most important practice. I strive to use my privilege in service to the families I support, and to call out the systems of white supremacy whenever I can lend my voice to do so, which unfortunately has been many times over the years. When I enter a birth space, I am not only a hand to the birth, but am an astute observer of the human rights of my families as they navigate systems that are unfortunately still racist.

I am so proud to be working with and learning from my incredible sisters of the Kilila Birth Keeper collective. To be in partnership with such powerful Indigenous Women means so much to me. I couldn't have more respect for all they bring to their work, the families, and the community. I am so excited to see the growth of this essential movement for peace in birth practices, and these changes will bring the reclamation and honouring of Traditional Birth Practices. And lastly, I hold so much love and gratitude to my beloved beautiful Kwakwaka'wakw partner, Tlakwa'dzi Dawson of the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk. With him by my side, I know we can move mountains. Looking forward to hearing all about your birth dreams, and working with your family.

Blessings,  
Corina

**Available for birth and postpartum support**  
**Serves Fraser Valley and Metro Vancouver, Lower Mainland**

\*connect via contact page: <https://www.kililabirthkeepercollective.com/contact-us>  
\*doula match profile: <https://doulamatch.net/profile/14103/carina-bye>

**Postpartum support: day, evenings and over nights**



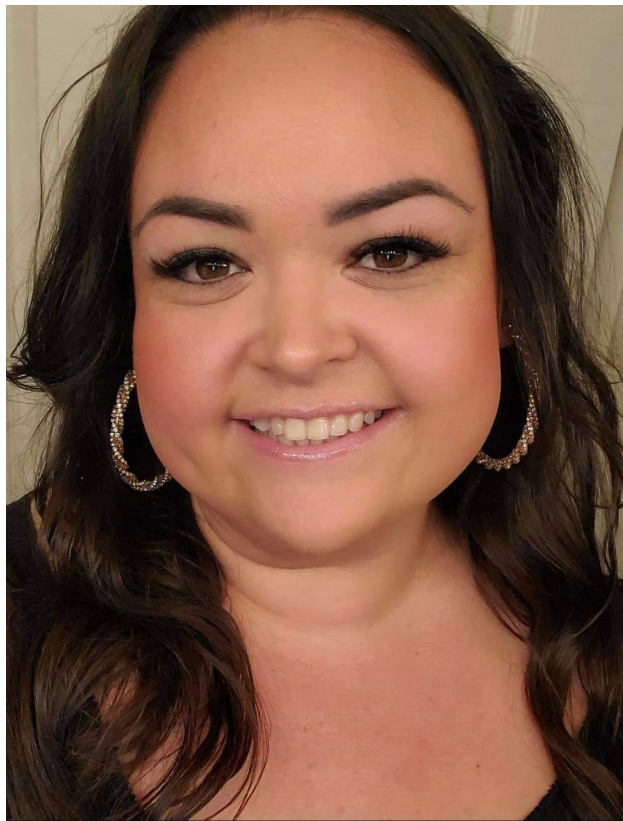
# KILILA BIRTH KEEPER COLLECTIVE

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Stacey Williams

INDIGENOUS BIRTH KEEPER

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"My dream for the future is to support the opening of a birthing center for Indigenous, Metis and Inuit families. My passion is to create a safe and welcoming place for these families to seek support in their birthing plans and to birth their babies in a less colonized/more holistic way, a safe way, a cultural way, and a way where you feel most comfortable, supported, and relaxed. Your wants and needs are important throughout your entire birthing process. I am here to ensure your voices are heard and respected. I would like to make your powerful and sacred experience one that you will cherish forever."

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Ha7lh skwayel ta newyap. Good day everyone. Yewan ha7lh skawalwen kwins kw'achnumiyap. It brings me good feelings to see you all. Snitelwet kwi en kweshamin. My Skwxwu7mesh name is Snitelwet. Stacey Williams kwi en sna. Stacey Williams is my name. I am from the Skwxw7mesh (Squamish) and Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo) Nations on my fathers' side and Kwakwaka'wakw (Campbell River, Fort Rupert, Alert Bay, Port Hardy) Wuikinuxv (Rivers Inlet) and Haisla (kitimaat) Nations on my mothers' side. I am a mother to 3 beautiful children: 2 girls and 1 boy.

My household also includes 2 grandchildren, my grandmother that I care for, and many nieces and nephews that have been a part my home for the last 15 years. Finally, I must acknowledge my amazing husband, who has been the most amazing and unconditional support to me and our whole family. I would like to acknowledge our ancestors that have fought for us to retain and reclaim our culture and language. Because of them, my grandparents and parents were able to raise me with cultural teachings from all the beautiful nations we come from. Whether it was teachings from the northern nations I belong to, or the southern, I am grateful for the beautiful ways they informed my upbringing. Our ceremonies are extremely powerful, sacred and it provides good medicine, uplifts our inner spirit and comforts our souls. I will always respect our cultures and traditions that have been passed down to us to carry it to our children, grandchildren, and community members. Our roots are strong just like the womb.

I am proud to say that I have been a birth keeper (doula) for the last 4.5 years by certification. However, I have been supporting my family and friends long before that. I did not even realize I was a natural birth keeper and that I was already doing this work until I got the opportunity from one of my sister birth keepers to take the doula training. I accepted her offer, even though I was not fully aware of what a doula really was, as I never had one myself for my children, but when I read half of the definition of doula, I was already saying yes. I have already encountered so many beautiful experiences pursuing my passion for birth work and I look forward to being part of many more.

Tell me how I can best support you? You are my priority. It is my career and passion to support you in the ways that work best for you and your birth plan. I can support with full spectrum services such as: prenatal support, post natal support, post partum support, still births and terminations. If there are any other related services that you need further support with, and are not mentioned here, please bring this forward in our meetings. We will discuss and agree how I am able to support you in the best way possible all around.

Currently, I am a high-risk birth keeper support worker for an Indigenous, non-profit organization. My dream for the future is to support the opening of a birthing centre for Indigenous, Metis and Inuit families. My passion is to create a safe and welcoming place for these families to seek support in their birthing plans and to birth their babies in a less colonized/more holistic way, a safe way, a cultural way, and a way where you feel most comfortable, supported, and relaxed.

Your wants and needs are important throughout your entire birthing process. I am here to ensure your voices are heard and respected. I would like to make your powerful and sacred experience one that you will cherish forever.

Huy chexw (thank you)  
Snitelwet Stacey Williams

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# KILILA BIRTH KEEPER COLLECTIVE

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Marnie Turner

LACTATION COUNSELLOR  
INDIGENOUS BIRTH KEEPER

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"I have supported North Americas First Peoples with all things postnatal for the past ten years, and I love it. However, a few years ago I was gifted the opportunity to learn and work with Metis and Indigenous families prenatally and birthing. Since then, I have been providing full-spectrum services, prenatal support and preparation, leading into birth and concluding with postnatal care.



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Way! ishqlx<sup>w</sup>sk<sup>w</sup>íst, Xáy q<sup>w</sup>ət q<sup>w</sup> ut nwyápixčń. Marnie Turner.

I am Okanagan, French Canadian and European.

A little bit about myself, I have five boys who are my joy, and being their mom is the greatest gift I have been given.

I have supported North Americas First Peoples with all things postnatal for the past ten years, and I love it. However, a few years ago I was gifted the opportunity to learn and work with Metis and Indigenous families prenatally and birthing.

Since then, I have been providing full-spectrum services, prenatal support and preparation, leading into birth and concluding with postnatal care.

To further my knowledge in a good way, I am very often enrolled in different courses (within the North American post-secondary educational system), while continuing to learn traditional Indigenous practices pertaining to the prenatal, birthing and postnatal experience.

Outside of birth work, I enjoy doing so many different things; I love going to the mountains, sitting by the ocean. I love quiet country roads, rolling hills and tall grass, but I also love going into the city for coffee with my friends. I love antiques and abstract art, I enjoy the convenience of modern life, but I also love making things by hand and taking my time.

Lastly, I love it when someone else cooks dinner, but I do love baking.

I will end this narrative with this; many beautiful dreams and wishes for you and your journey, and may you clearly see the path you need to travel.

All my relations, Marnie

**Available for birth and postpartum support**  
**Serves Fraser Valley: Abbotsford, Maple Ridge. Surrey & North Delta. Burnaby, New West, Vancouver. Tri**  
**Cities: Poco, Pit Meadows, Port Moody**

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# KILILA BIRTH KEEPER COLLECTIVE

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*Rayann Harris*

INDIGENOUS BIRTH KEEPER  
CHILDBIRTH EDUCATOR  
STUDENT MIDWIFE

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"Rayann continues to help encourage families to view Birth as an experience that can be shaped to be positive and rewarding. Birth is a time for women to honor and celebrate the power they hold as life givers. We need to as Katsie Cook Mohawk midwife says, "we need to honor the very first environments – the mother's womb."



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Rayann is Indigenous (Tsuut'ina Nation) and European. She has been helping birthing families as a Doula and a prenatal teacher for the past 15 years.

Having supported women in various birthing environments, and learning various birthing tools to enhance a woman's experiences in labor and delivery, Rayann's most valuable asset is her experience. Supporting birthing women to find the power that resides inside them is the most humbling and inspiring job, and she has been privileged to help many women and their partners navigate through the journey of birth into parenthood.

Rayann completed her Doula Certification through the Douglas College Perinatal program, and additional certifications for teaching prenatal classes, supplemental Doula trainings, and Doula Mentorship through the Birth Place. She also attended the Midwifery conference in Eugene Oregon in 2015, where she took many courses, of mention, was the training for Spinning Babies Techniques with Gail Tully. In addition, she took the cultural safety course through the Surrey Friendship Center.

Rayann continues to help encourage families to view Birth as an experience that can be shaped to be positive and rewarding.

Birth is a time for women to honor and celebrate the power they hold as life givers. We need to as Katsie Cook Mohawk midwife says, "we need to honor the very first environments – the mother's womb."

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