



BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres

The 25 Friendship Centres across BC have over 1000 employees.

Many Friendship Centre staff are long serving employees dedicated to serving our Indigenous communities.

The goal for our Friendship Centres is to support the urban Indigenous community in their towns and cities and be a welcoming place to whomever walks through their door.



UPIP

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

The Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples

(UPIP) implemented by the Department of Indigenous

Services Canada (DISC) is funding to support activities
that will allow Indigenous organizations to serve clients,
and to deliver effective culturally appropriate
programs/services to urban Indigenous peoples.

UPIP was rolled out in the 2018 fiscal to replace the
previous funding from INAC called the Urban Aboriginal
Strategy that ended at the start of the 2017/18 fiscal.

The funding for UPIP runs from the 2018 fiscal through
to 2022 and provides stable, dedicated funding to
support the Friendship Centre movement through core
and project based funding dollars.





BC's 25 Centres Hits Milestone

Friendship Centres have been active in BC for over 60 years with the first Friendship Centre opening in Vancouver in the early 1950's.

1,000,000+ Points of Service

BC Friendship Centres hit milestone service delivery across BC with over one million points of service in the past year.

The 25 Friendship Centres that make up the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres saw over 4,500 clients a week walk through their doors seeking services in a year.

"Our Friendship Centres provide much needed resources and support for indigenous people across BC, providing over 400 programs annually through our 25 centres. Increasing service is telling us two things: service needs are increasing with more people moving into urban settings, and Friendship Centres are doing it right: providing a safe place to those seeking culturally supportive and inclusive services." – Leslie Varley ED of BCAAFC





VOLUNTEERING

Quesnel Tillicum Society has been hosting a Pow Wow for the last 44 years.

It started out at their center in 1974 with a small group of dedicated Volunteers!

Currently, over 900 people attend annually.

Over 76,286 Hours Volunteered In BC

IF YOU WANT TO TOUCH THE FUTURE, TOUCH A LIFE

The Hii'ye' yu Lelum (House of Friendship) Society hosted an event known as 'Women's Wellness.' They sought to encourage more activities that focused on creating overall health and wellness in their community. All of the clients were given the opportunity to sign up for a treatment. This resulted in 37 clients and 9 partners coming to the Women's Wellness event. They average client attendance was around 18-22 clients. Many clients who had never attended group before came for the first time. Treatments offered included the following: acupuncture, manicures, craniosacral therapy, massage, hair, and reflexology. Activities included wire-wrap jewelry making, create your own Shake n Bake, make your own nail polish, bath salts, and photos.

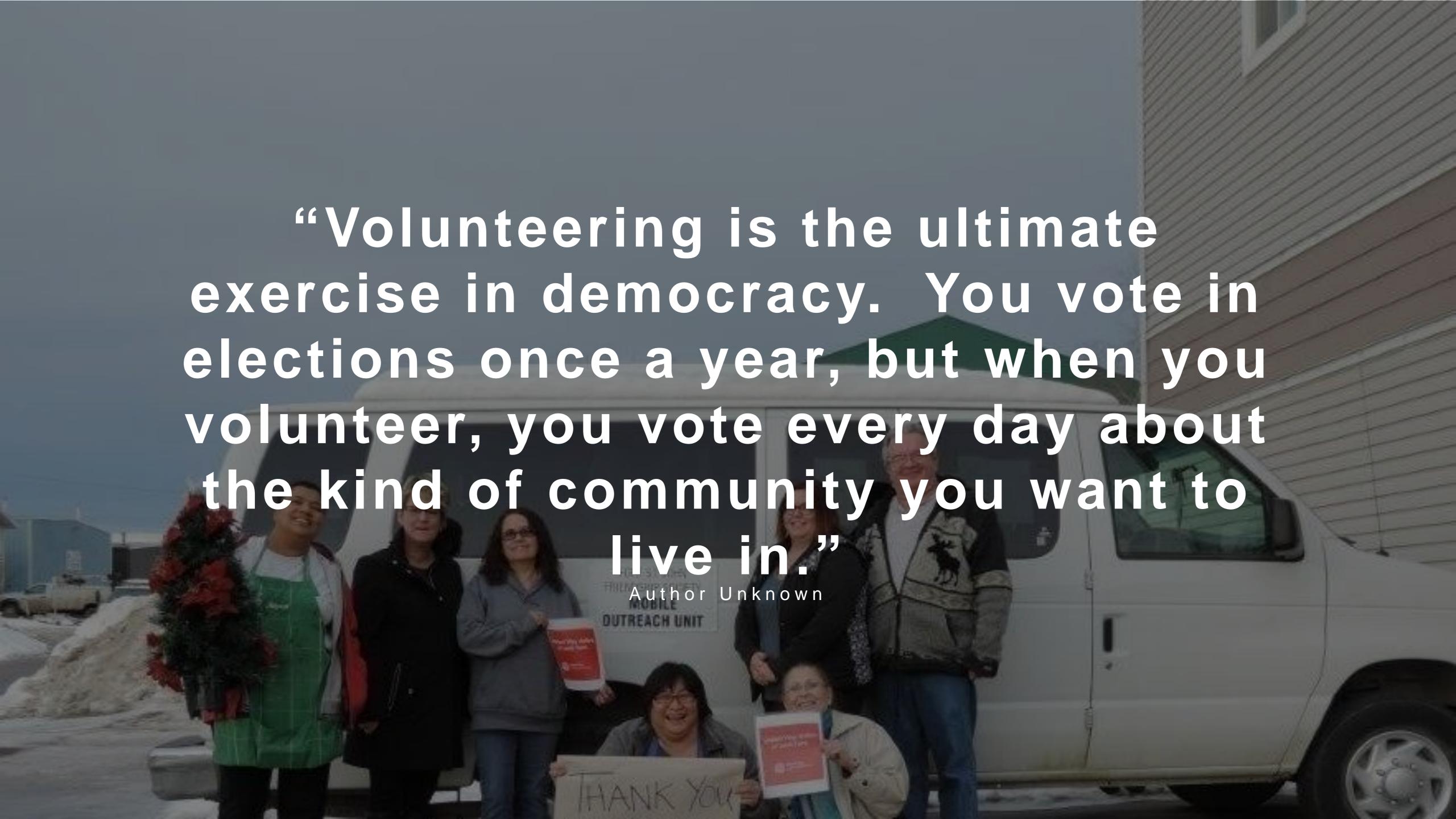
In total, they had nine (9) volunteer practitioners who provided 3 hours of treatment time each. They had another regular volunteer who came over on her lunch break to help in the kitchen with food preparation.

This regular volunteer epitomizes the giving spirit that's in all of us to help even with the smallest of things when possible. This, intertwined with the success that the event brought, even inspired a few of the partners to give away their services free of charge.

The acupuncturist provided this feedback:

"Overall I would say that acupuncture with the ladies was a great success. I felt like the opportunity you created for these ladies to have time to self-care was a great gift to them."

This year alone the movement had 2,500+ people volunteer for our programs



BOARD MEMBERS



Board members play a very important role in our movement. They are volunteers who believe strongly in the movement.

The purpose of our Friendship Centre Board of Directors is to be stewards for the organization and community. Setting out the goals and intended director of a Centre, and supporting the strategic development, staff and community.

Boards are made up of community members of all ages from youth to Elders, who work to support the mission of the local Friendship Centre, or the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres. The guidance, direction and commitment of time each of these valuable volunteers offer helps ensure a strong and growing Friendship Centre Movement and we are thankful for each and every one of our board volunteers.



150+ BOARD MEMBERS

Serving 25 communities across BC



UPIP

Programming That Matters

The 25 Friendship Centres that make up the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres run over 430 programs annually across a spectrum of areas from Doula programming supporting expectant mothers, child & youth programming, education, career development, literacy, justice, language, Elder supports and more.

These programs provide a valuable link of resources, community and culture to the thousands of Indigenous people in BC who live off reserve.

Friendship Centres are where people come for support, fun and family.





ANTI-VIOLENCE

Violence against Indigenous people in Canada is at epidemic levels with the majority of violence directed and women and children. Indigenous women experience violence at a level of three times the non-Indigenous population.

In 2014 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) released a report that said there have been nearly 1,200 missing and murdered Indigenous women between 1980 and 2012. Indigenous women's groups, however, document the number of missing and murdered to be over 4,000. Friendship Centres across the country are working to address violence against Indigenous peoples, in BC numerous programs are running to tackle this complex issue.

> 90 ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

These 90 programs targeted 8 different categories. Bullying, Domestic Violence, Family Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Violence, Trafficking/Exploitation, Women's Transition Centres, and Emergency Centres.

(>) 40 PROGRAMS PROTECTING WOMEN

Women's safety was an important issue that many of our centres sought to address and focus support on.

() 18 FAMILY/DOMESTIC/DATING PROGRAMS

8 centres offered help for familial abuse.



UPIP

CULTURE

There are over 300 reserves and 198 First Nations in BC, with 30 different languages and 60 different dialects. The unique, vibrant cultures are as varied as they are beautiful. BC Indigenous people make up over five per cent of the provincial population with close to a quarter of a million people identified in the 2011 census.

With almost 50% of those people under the age of 25, the link to culture, and community is crucial to maintain links to our history. From language training. Regalia making, cultural nights and community events; Friendship Centres provide space and events in which all people can participate.

() 168 CULTURE & ARTS PROJECTS

17 centres held arts & craft programs

(>) 58 CULTURAL EVENTS HOSTED

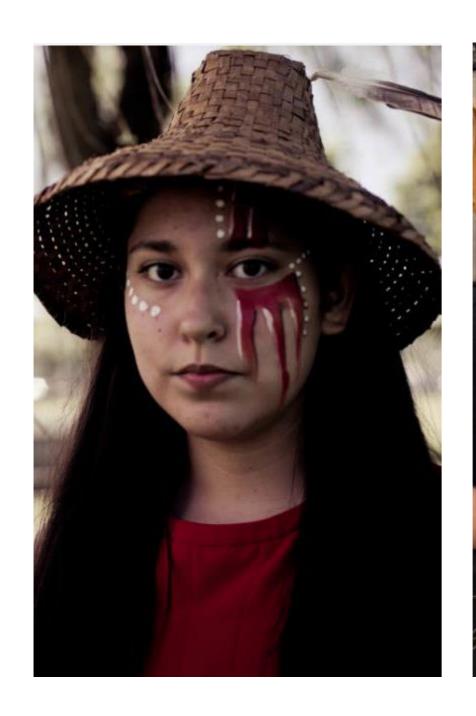
16 centres hosted cultural events

() 19 ELDER EVENTS

11 centres put on elder specific events



CULTURE PROJECTS







LILOOET FRIENDSHIP CENTRE



PORT ALBERNI FRIENDSHIP CENTRE



CONAYT FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY



SACRED WOLF FRIENDSHIP CENTRE





EDUCATION & TRAINING

() 128 PROGRAMS DEDICATED TO EDUCATION & TRAINING

Parenting became a focus with 14 Centres collectively putting on 42 programs

() 37 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Apprenticeships, business development, financial literacy, professional computer skills, and Social Enterprise training are a few examples of the programs hosted in our BC Friendship Centres

() 24 PROGRAMS AIMED AT EMPLOYMENT READINESS

Half the Friendship Centres in BC have programs focused on getting people ready to enter the workforce

SUCCESS STORY – QUESNEL TILLICUM FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

WOMEN OBTAINING LIFELONG FOUNDATIONS (WOLF):

The objective of the W.O.L.F. program was to empower Aboriginal women with basic knowledge and skills to overcome barriers such as addictions, addressing cycles of abuse (mental, physical, and emotional) and increasing opportunities for obtaining employment for marginalized women. This project also incorporated resume writing, interview skills, and participants gained several tickets. Including: First Aid, Infant First Aid, Food Safe, World Host, Super Host, and Cashier Training.

EDUCATION & TRAINING PROJECTS







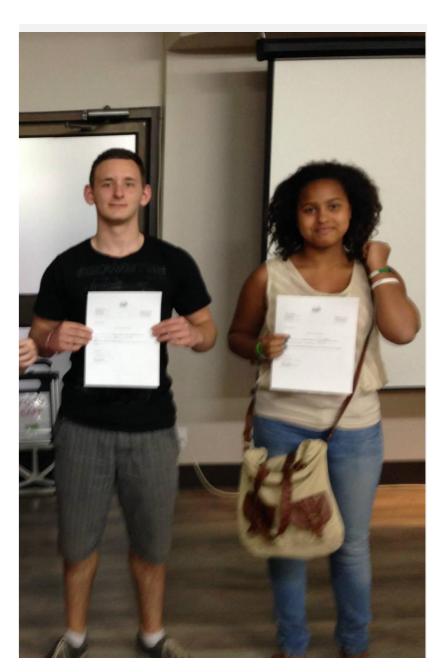
TILLICUM LELUM
ABORIGINAL
SOCIETY



HIIYE'YU LELUM (HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP) SOCIETY



NAWICAN FRIENDSHIP CENTRE



NORTH OKANAGAN FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

OUR STORIES

In BC, access to affordable childcare is a barrier to employment. Increasing the number of culturally safe, affordable and accessible child care spots in BC has been a focus over the last several years. With new day cares opening in our Port Alberni Friendship Centre, Kermode Friendship Centre (Terrace), Tillicum Lelum Friendship Centre (Nanaimo) and more we are making inroads to increase the success of Indigenous families.

"Thi Lelum Smuneem" (Big House for Future Generations) Childcare Centre

Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre (TLAFC) completed their new Childcare Centre in March 2018. The new facility will provide 24 daycare spots for 3-5 year olds and 20 afterschool care spots.

The programs are designed with Indigenous values, principles and a traditional knowledge base integral to holistic development and a healthy, balanced identity. By providing and supporting children 0-6 years old we increase their ability to have successful outcomes in the future. Research shows that children supported at an early age are better equipped to succeed in education and employment. They are also more likely to become contributing members of society and develop stronger parental connection.

TLAFC intends to lower the child poverty rate in BC by supporting children early for successful outcomes later in life. Further, BC has the highest child poverty rates in Canada. Having safe, healthy, much needed childcare for the South End will support those who live there, including those moving into the area, with subdivisions going up all around, limited increases in infrastructure to support all the new development, like childcare, schools, doctors, dentists and other essential family needs.





HEALTH & WELLNESS

() 255 HEALTH PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Health and Wellness Programs run the spectrum of programming in our Centres. From supporting someone through their cancer fighting journey, to aiding to stop smoking, and providing mental health supports

() 11 HEALTH INITIATIVES

The Friendship Centres focused on 11 main health initiatives. This includes: Addictions, AIDS/HIV, Cancer, Clinical (Including Nurse Practitioner, Patient Liaison), Disability Supports, FASD, Maternal Child Health, Mental Health, Nutrition, Smoking Cessation, Sports & Recreation

(>) ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH

Most of our centres had a strong focus on mental health and addiction. 18 Centres hosted 62 mental health programs. 16 centres hosted 42 addiction programs

SUCCESS STORY – OVERCOMING ADDICTION

"A client has faced a lifetime of alcoholism within her family of origin. Growing up with alcoholic parents, alcohol was the only way that she knew how to deal with issues that life threw her way. In fall of last year, her mother passed away and despite the less-than-ideal upbringing, she was close to her mother so this loss was felt deeply. She never had the chance to have the discussions with her mother that she felt she should have had. There were never any apologies, forgiveness, or a chance to finish the business of healing. She made the decision to attend treatment, not so much because she felt she had alcohol issues because by the time she made this decision, she had been sober for a year. She needed to heal – it was affecting her ability to parent, to be a partner in her relationship, she was withdrawn, would shut down, almost never able to communicate her wishes or to use her voice to stand up for herself. She reports that through couple's counseling, parenting groups, life skills coaching, mom (and dad's group for her partner), life has never been better and she feels so much lighter and happier.

HEALTH & WELLNESS



QUESNEL TILICUM FRIENDSHIP CENTRE



FRIENDSHIP HOUSE OF PRINCE RUPERT



PRINCE GEORGE
NATIVE
FRIENDSHIP
CENTRE



KERMODE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY



DZE L K'ANT FRIENDSHIP CENTRE SOCIETY





ELDER SUPPORT



TANSI FRIENDSHIP CENTRE SOCIETY



KAMLOOPS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE



FORT NELSON ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY



MISSION FRIENDSHIP CENTRE SOCIETY



CARIBOO FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

OUR BC ELDERS

Elders are a vital part of our Friendship Centres across BC and Canada. Whether they are delivering programs to the community, attending events or participating in Elder programming, we always work to ensure that we respect their words and the role of Elders in all we do. In BC we have a variety of programs to support Elders. Including the Elders Transportation, Elders Socials, Honouring our Elders, Elder Abuse Awareness Day, attending the BC Elders Gathering, and hosting the ever popular "Elders Don't Bite" each year at Gathering Our Voices.

24,192 ELDERS SERVED

Across all of our centres 24,192 elders were able to access and benefit from an array of projects.

27 ELDER SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

27 specified elder support programs were hosted at 14 of our centres.

① 19 ELDER EVENTS

11 of our centres put on 19 elder specific events. Elders also had access to out 400+ programs.

OUR STORIES

Marjorie 'Marge' White and Basil 'Buzz' Morissette sit on the BCAAFC Elders Council and are founding members of the Friendship Centre Movement in BC.

Marjorie White is a pioneering community builder who changed the framework of supports for Aboriginal peoples leaving reserves. Marge is the founder of the Pacific Association Communication in Friendship Indian Centres, the first official Provincial association and precursor to today's British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres.

Basil 'Buzz' Morissette is one of the founding members of the Friendship Centre Movement in BC as well as a founding member of the Native Courtworker Program, the first and vital bridge over the gulf between the justice system and Indigenous people. Buzz is also a dedicated Board member of the Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society as well as a lifetime member of the National Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (NAFC).



Buzz's Passion for the Friendship Movement was captured at a 2011 BCAAFC board meeting in which Buzz spoke to the issue of urban Indigenous needs...

"Many people are lost when they come to urban areas. We need to help them and provide them with a safe place. There are so many diverse Aboriginal people in urban areas now and we need to maintain Aboriginal communities within the Friendship Centres, which will welcome and help our people to be themselves. We can only do that if we build a community no matter where we came from..."





YOUTH PROJECTS

Aboriginal people under the age of 25 make up almost half of the Aboriginal population in Canada. Young Aboriginal people are one of the fastest growing demographics in Canada today. This means that over the next several years, Canada will have high numbers of Aboriginal Youth seeking employment and education.

More Aboriginal Youth than ever before are completing high school, achieving post-secondary schooling, gaining employment, and participating in conferences and training. This demonstrates the hard work and dedication of the Aboriginal Youth and their families, communities, and friends to build a strong future for youth and for all Aboriginal people in Canada.

(2) 39,064 YOUTH SERVED

Across all of our centres 39,064 youth were able to access and benefit from an array of projects

(2) 46 YOUTH/TEEN SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

46 specified youth/teen programs were hosted at 16 of our centres

The youth involved with our 25 Friendship Centres were able to attend and benefit from the majority of other programs, projects, and events that were in the 2017/18 fiscal

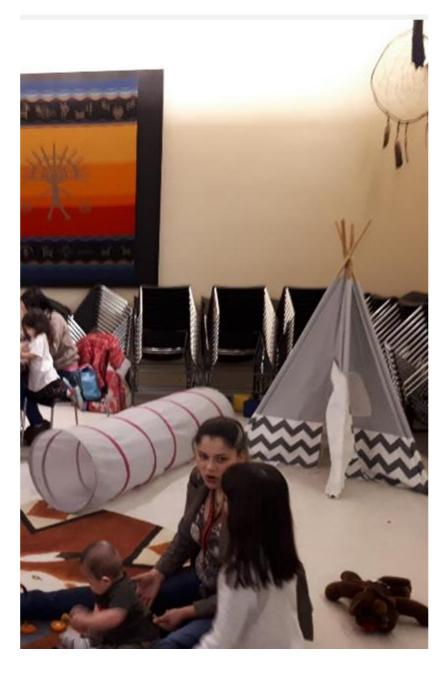
YOUTH PROJECTS



OOKNAKANE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE



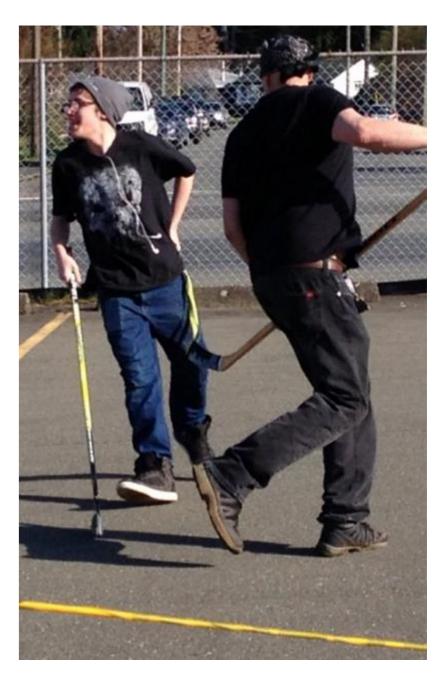
VICTORIA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE



KI-LOW-NA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY



FORT ST. JOHN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY



WACHIAY FRIENDSHIP CENTRE SOCIETY

YOUTH

OUR STORIES

The **Quesnel Tillicum Society** hosted culture camps as the fires swept through the province last summer. This is their story:

"When forest fires were raging through our communities – two remote reserves were evacuated. We had large families living in small hotel rooms and it was a very stressful time for everyone. With the help of our community, the Friendship Centre was able to put together a cultural day camp for the evacuated children. This gave the parents some free time to do laundry, shop, sleep and take care of themselves. Children were dropped off or picked up and spent the day at the Friendship Centre (QTS) doing cultural activities, playing, spending time with elders and were allowed to just be kids! This program was put together in a very short time by of two of our Friendship Centre Staff."



YOUTH



TILLICUM LELUM FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

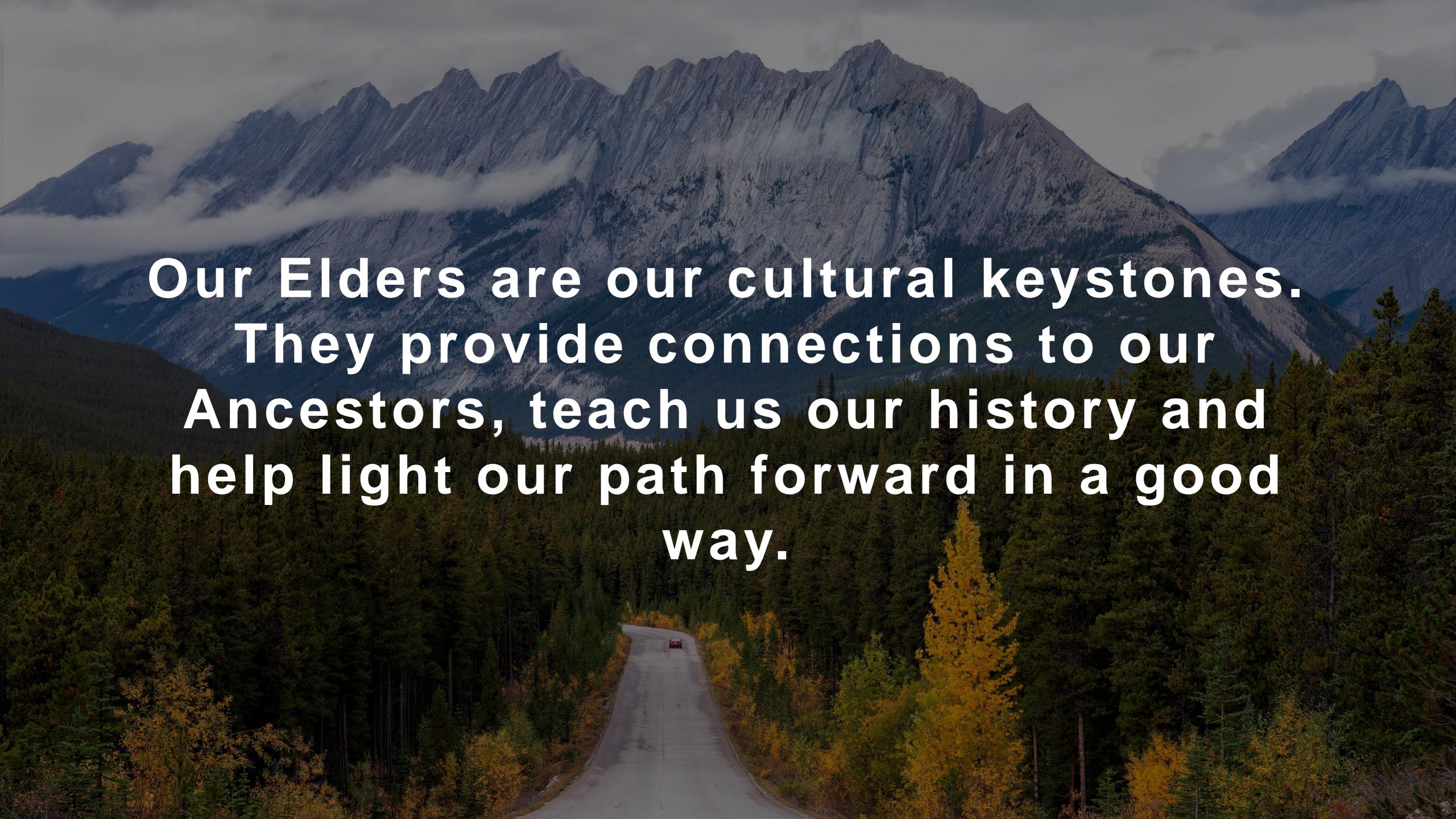
Tillicum Lelum Youth Conference was held at Camp Qwanoes on March 26-29 was attended by 23 youth. The youth were between grades 8-11 and from John Barsby, NDSS, Wellington and Dover Bay Secondary Schools.

During the conference four main topics were focused on, Reactions, Trauma, Family Violence and Goal Setting. These workshops were very interactive for the youth with large group work and also small groups. The youth watched videos and also created skits to display various reactions that people display. The youth also created vision boards to show the goals that they would like to achieve and then talked about them with the larger group. During the four days we also had the pleasure of having Florence James, a local Elder from Penelakut, talk with the Youth and share a lot of traditional teachings.

WACHIAY FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

Tim Tran has been a part of the Wachiay Friendship Centre since he was a child. As a young man, he continues to make a valuable contribution as Youth Mentor for Wachiay's Out of the Shadows Youth Legacy Program.

Currently, Tim is completing his Early Childhood Education Certification in Vancouver. On his return, he will resume his responsibilities as Youth Mentor. As he gains hands-on experience working with Program Coordinator Daryle Mills, Tim will assume more responsibilities and ultimately lead his own program here at the Centre.





CLOSING THOUGHTS

In British Columbia over the course of the last year we saw 427 programs. Within these programs we had 214,350 participants with 1,118,723 points of service!

With 1,000 employees the BC Friendship Centre Movement through the 25 Centres and BCAAFC work every day to support the Indigenous community that walks through our doors. With the transition of Indigenous peoples moving to urban centres in search of housing, education, employment, and other supports, service need has been steadily increasing. BC has seen the urban Indigenous population increase substantially in recent years to an estimated 80% of Indigenous people in BC living in urban areas. Those moving into the urban centres can access culturally safe advocacy, supports and programming through any Friendship Centre, becoming a place of community and gathering. Through programming, drop-in spaces, child care, and community events each and every staff member works to reduce barriers and increase the success of each and every community member.

2018 is the 46th year of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, and the 64th year of the first Friendship Centre opening in this province. We have come a long way in increasing accessing to programs, and supporting people on their journeys. Young leaders that started the movement are now respected Elders who still help direct us as we continue to thrive. Generations have grown up within the doors of our Friendship Centres are we are looking forward to many more years doing what we do best.

The purposes of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres are:

- To promote the betterment of Aboriginal Friendship Centres in the Province of British Columbia.
- To establish and maintain communications between Aboriginal Friendship Centres and other Provincial Associations and the National Association of Friendship Centres.
- To act as a unifying body for Aboriginal Friendship Centres. To provide an Association for Government Agencies to communicate through and obtain information from.

 This, in no way takes away a centre's right to negotiate directly with any agency.
- To advise the Government, when requested by the collective centres, on how and what programs may assist Aboriginal Friendship Centres, in the development programs to better the lives of Aboriginal Native people in British Columbia.



Get in Touch

The BCAAFC is the umbrella association for 25 Friendship
Centre throughout the Province of British Columbia. Friendship
Centres provide services to Indigenous people living in urban
settings.

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BCAAFC



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