

# BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres Annual General Report 2018-2019





We are the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres. We service 25 Member Friendship Centres across the province.

We acknowledge and honour the territories and people whose land our member centres call home, and the Lekwungen-speaking people on whose traditional territory the BCAAFC stands; the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ people.



# Table of Contents

Understanding Our History	2
The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres	3
Programs Summary	5
Messages	6
Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council	10
Elders Council	12
Member Services	16
Education	22
3C Challenge: Culture, Community and Cash	24
Northern Corridor Employment Services	26
Gathering Our Voices	28
Learning Academy	32
Peer Resource, Response, Review and Restore Committee	33
Our Spirits Are Not For Sale	34
Reconciliation	35
Doulas for Aboriginal Families	38
AIDP/ASCD/CCP	40
Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council	42
Board and Councils	45
Closing Remarks	47



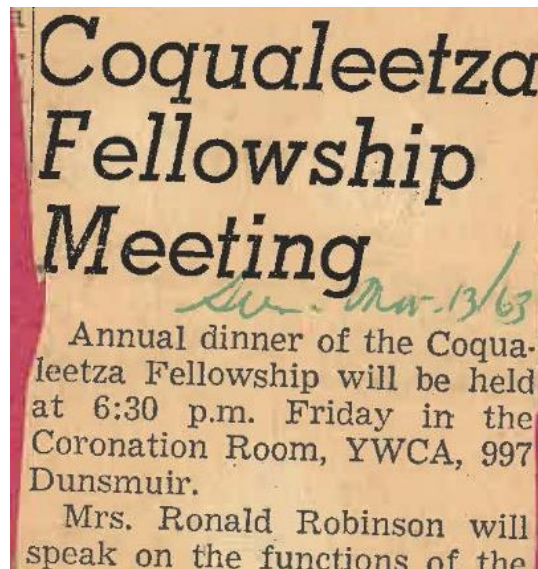
# The Friendship Centre Movement

## Understanding Our History

In 1954 a group of Indigenous people living in Vancouver recognized that Indigenous students moving to the city could benefit from culturally relevant support services. They formed the Coqualeetza Fellowship Club, a safe space for students to ask questions, meet new people, and connect with their cultures and traditions. The requests for services from individuals transitioning into Vancouver's urban setting continued to rise. Over the next few years, the Coqualeetza Fellowship Club became a place of friendship for not only Indigenous students, but all Indigenous people relocating to Vancouver. In 1963, the Coqualeetza Fellowship Club changed its title to the Vancouver Indian Centre Society—marking the beginning of the *Friendship Centre Movement* in British Columbia.

Friendship Centres across the province demonstrated their ability to influence positive change and became recognized social enterprises. By the mid 1970's, government service agencies were referring Indigenous clients to their local Friendship Centre. The collaboration between government service agencies and

Friendship Centres led to the development of client based services in areas of employment, substance abuse, family support, legal support and cultural retention. In these early years, Friendship Centres initiated programs and services that educated non-Indigenous people on Indigenous cultures and the aspirations of Indigenous residents in the community. Education is foundational to the Friendship Centre Movement and continues to advance understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures.



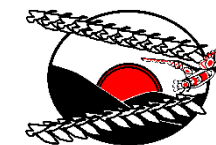
## The Importance of Friendship Centres

Today, Friendship Centres work against high unemployment rates, cutbacks in government spending, and general economic uncertainty. Together, they are the largest infrastructure serving the urban Indigenous population. Friendship Centres provide more than social, cultural, and recreational services—they are leaders in social and economic development, actively involved in changes at all levels of government. They are committed to providing guidance, developing new frameworks and best practises, and operating programs that are critical to the health and wellness of the populations they serve. Each Friendship Centre positively contributes to the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of their clients and their community as a whole.

In BC, the provincial government estimates close to eighty percent of Indigenous people live off-reserve. Demographically, Indigenous people in Canada experience high rates of suicide, addiction, unemployment, poverty, victimization, incarceration, and children and youth in care. Friendship Centres help to alleviate the disproportionate risks that Indigenous people face with programs



# BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres



and services that promote a holistic approach to health and wellness to empower individuals and communities. It is particularly important that these programs and services reach Indigenous youth, one of the fastest growing population in Canada today. Providing support to Indigenous youth so that they are well-equipped to overcome societal and cross-generational challenges will be a critical part of breaking the negative trends seen statistically in Indigenous populations across Canada.



## BCAAFC

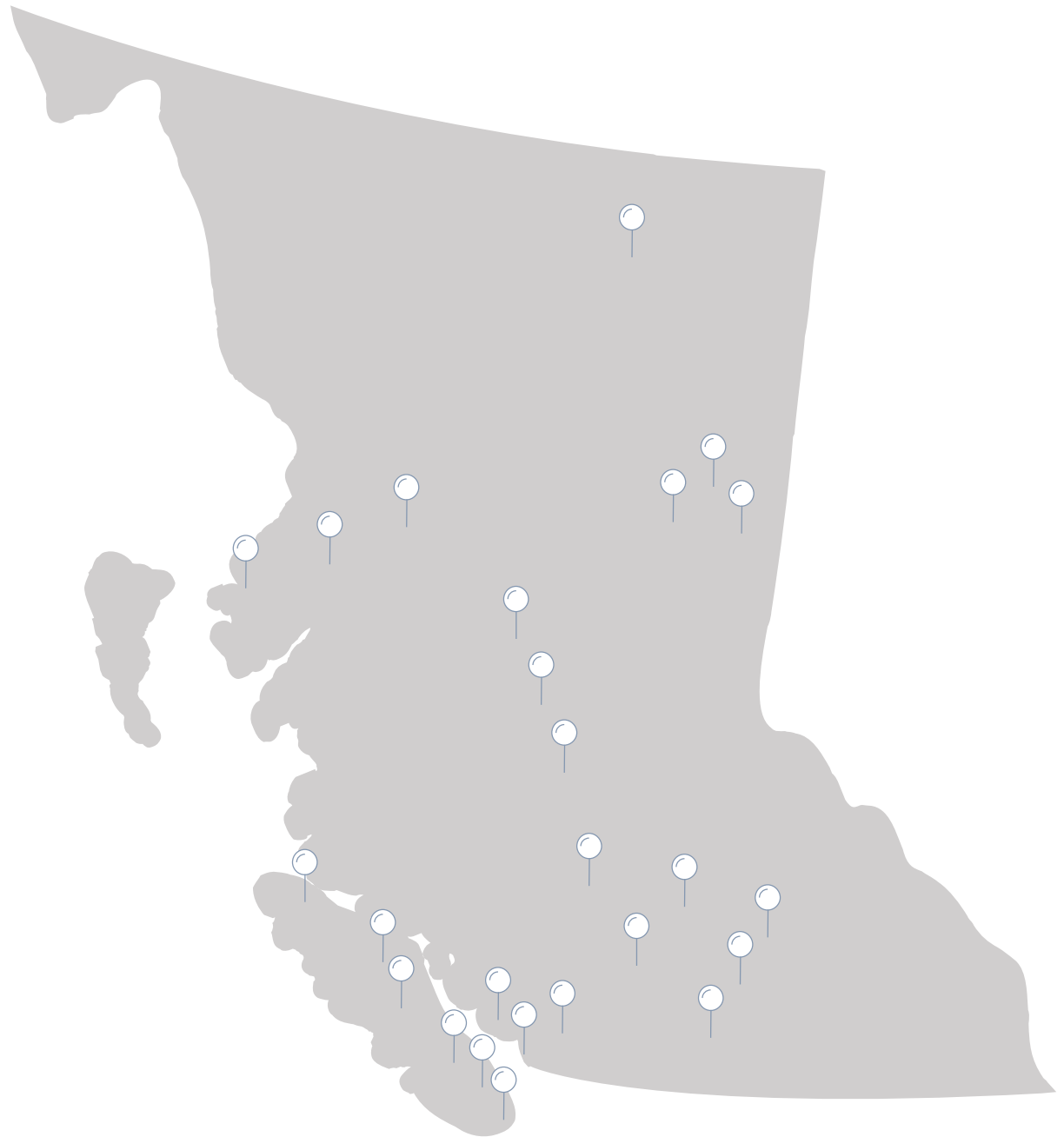
The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) is the umbrella association for the 25 Friendship Centres located throughout the province of BC. The BCAAFC is honoured to support and celebrate the achievements of each Friendship Centre, united under the association's mandate to improve the quality of life for Indigenous people.

The BCAAFC acts as the collective voice of the Friendship Centres and works with government agencies to develop programs and services that support a healthy and vibrant population. The work and progress documented in Friendship Centres across the province is used to promote and improve these services. Over the past year, the Friendship Centres of BC delivered approximately 580 unique programs and services with the help of 1,203 employees and 4,300 volunteers. Each year, the BCAAFC is inspired by stories of strength, personal growth, and improvements in community health. These stories do not signify the elimination of challenges and obstacles, but they provide motivation on the journey towards shaping a brighter future in Canada.



# BC Friendship Centres

Cariboo Friendship Society [Williams Lake](#)  
Conayt Friendship Society [Merritt](#)  
Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society [Smithers](#)  
Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Society [Fort Nelson](#)  
Fort St. John Friendship Society [Fort St. John](#)  
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association [Surrey](#)  
Friendship House Association of Prince Rupert [Prince Rupert](#)  
Hiiye'yu Lelum (House of Friendship) Society [Duncan](#)  
Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society [Kamloops](#)  
Kermode Friendship Society [Terrace](#)  
Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society [Kelowna](#)  
Lillooet Friendship Centre Society [Lillooet](#)  
Mission Friendship Centre Society [Mission](#)  
Nawican Friendship Centre [Dawson Creek](#)  
North Okanagan Friendship Centre Society [Vernon](#)  
Ooknakane Friendship Centre [Penticton](#)  
Port Alberni Friendship Center [Port Alberni](#)  
Prince George Native Friendship Centre Society [Prince George](#)  
Quesnel Tillicum Society [Quesnel](#)  
Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre Society [Port Hardy](#)  
Tansi Friendship Centre Society [Chetwynd](#)  
Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Society [Nanaimo](#)  
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Center Society [Vancouver](#)  
Victoria Native Friendship Centre [Victoria](#)  
Wachiay Friendship Centre Society [Courtenay](#)





# 2018-19 Programs\*

## Health



222 Programs

## Youth



233 Programs

## Employment Services



57 Programs

## Family



101 Programs

## Preventing Violence



89 Programs

## Economic Development



23 Programs

## Culture & Arts



156 Programs

## Education



92 Programs

## Sports & Recreation



31 Programs

## Language



24 Programs

## Capacity



93 Facilities  
1,203 Employees

## Points of Service



1,124,703  
(Client Interactions)

\*Numbers are approximate, based off annual reporting from the 25 Friendship Centres in BC.



# Message from the President



On behalf of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) Board of Directors, it has been an honour to serve on the provincial board. I would like to extend my gratitude to the member centres for giving me this opportunity. I have been privileged to work with an amazing board of directors who have demonstrated their commitment and dedication to the Friendship Centre Movement. We have been working hard on various fronts to fulfil the BCAAFC's mandate "to advance the Friendship Centre Movement through the promotion and delivery of programs and services designed to assist Aboriginal people prosper in urban settings." I also would like to thank the management and staff at the BCAAFC for the endless support and assistance. Most importantly, I would like to thank our Elders Council who play a critical role in the BCAAFC. They keep us grounded in our cultural teachings, provide unconditional guidance and support, and remind us what the Friendship Centre Movement is all about. Thank you to the youth who bring a wealth of knowledge and energy to the Friendship Centre Movement in British Columbia. The youth constantly come to the table with new, innovative ideas and help challenge us as we move forward.

Over the past few months, the BCAAFC and the board of directors have been faced with significant changes, which has required us to adapt and evolve. Overall, it has been another successful year. The BCAAFC and the board of directors have been working tirelessly to continue to improve the programs and services available to our member centres. We have been advocating and lobbying for programs, services, and initiatives, building partnerships and collaborations, engaging in research, and working to build the capacity of our member centres. We have been working on some new, exciting initiatives such as the launching the 3C Challenge program to get youth excited about business and conducting research on early learning and childcare to better understand the challenges our member centres face. As we move forward, the BCAAFC Board of Directors and member centres need to continue to unite and work together and continually support and learn from one another.

I would like to thank and acknowledge all of the board members, management, staff, volunteers, elders, and youth throughout the Friendship Centres in British Columbia for all your hard work and dedication. We definitely could not have achieved so much without each one of you. I look forward to serving on the board and working with you all over the next year.

In Friendship,

Dr. Sharon McIvor

# Message from the Executive Director



On behalf of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC), I want to begin by thanking all the staff and management at the BCAAFC, the board, Elders and youth, and all of the member centres for their great work this past year. I would also like to thank all of our partners and funders for their ongoing support and contribution to make the work we do possible. I hold my hands up to all of you for your commitment and dedication to the Friendship Centre Movement.

Throughout this past year, the BCAAFC has gone through some significant changes, including the structure of our board and funding model. Change can be hard, which is why the BCAAFC is committed to being transparent and accountable to our member centres throughout the process. I would like to acknowledge and thank all the member centres for being flexible and supportive during this time.

Despite the changes, the BCAAFC has remained committed to continuing to implement our strategic plan. Our team has worked tirelessly throughout the year to improve our services and programs, advocate and lobby for funding, build partnerships, conduct research, and build the capacity of our member centres, to ensure the growth and success of all the Friendship Centres across BC.

It has been an exciting year with lots of new programs and projects. One of the partnerships I would like to highlight is with the University of Victoria, Gustavson School of Business, and National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development (NCIED) to launch our BC Indigenous 3C Challenge. The BC Indigenous 3C Challenge is for Indigenous youth with a drive to learn, grow, and explore entrepreneurial opportunities within a team. Each team receives a \$1,000 micro-loan to start a business in 30 days.

We also have many new and exciting things on the horizon for the upcoming year. As part of our efforts to offer a Non-Profit Management Mini-MBA program, I am happy to announce the pilot launch of the BCAAFC Training Academy in partnership with the Gustavson School of Business and the Ministry of Advanced Education. Up to 20 candidates from our member centers will be selected to participate in training, covering topics in project management, communications, leadership, proposal writing, contract management and personal development. I look forward to another successful year for the BCAAFC and member centers as we continue to build our capacity to better serve Indigenous people living in urban settings.

Always in Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leslie Varley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Leslie Varley



# Message from the Elders Council



On behalf of the Elders Council, we are excited to say that we have had a great year. It is an honour and privilege to serve on the Elders Council for the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC). We are grateful for the association's ongoing commitment to include and welcome the Elders Council in many areas such as governance and decision-making as advisors to the BCAAFC Board of Directors, the Gathering Our Voices (GOV) Steering Committee, and so much more.

One of our main goals this past year was to renew our relationship with the board of directors. With changes to the structure of the board, we felt this was imperative. We feel that the Elders Council and the board of directors have been successfully working towards building a healthy relationship. We are happy to announce that in November, after months of strategically planning, the Elders Council officially become advisors to the board and have been actively involved in the board meetings and decision-making.

More importantly, the Elders Council was so pleased to play a key role on the GOV Steering Committee. We hosted two Elders Don't Bite workshops at GOV, both went very well. We are excited to begin delivering the Elders Don't Bite workshop in each one of our Friendship Centres communities.

Lastly, we are looking forward to increasing the capacity of the Elders Council by bringing on new Elders. At full capacity, the Elders Council has nine elders. We are looking forward to welcoming new Elders to join us as we move forward in the upcoming year.

Thank you again for all your support and commitment to the Elders Council.

In friendship,

Senator Marjorie (Marge) White  
& Basil (Buzz) Morissette

# Message from the Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council



On behalf of the BCAAFC Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council (PAYC), it is an honour to represent Indigenous youth, both, provincially and nationally. I would like to thank the BCAAFC staff, the board of directors, Elders Council, and Friendship Centres. Your continued support uplifts youth. Our peers, mentors, and, the power of our communities inspire us. Through these partnerships, we can, and we do, accomplish great things. Over the past year, we have been seeking opportunities to strengthen our mandate. We continually work on strengthening our communications plan and strategic priorities.

The annual Gathering Our Voices (GOV) Indigenous Youth Leadership Training is always a highlight of the year. As co-hosts, expanding our role in the decision-making process was important to us. We would like to thank the GOV team for providing us with the opportunity to sit on the GOV Steering Committee. Cultural protocols, workshop selection, presentations, and entertainment for the 2019 event was a priority. By creating space for young Indigenous leaders to connect and access resources, we are steps closer to achieving our vision of a vibrant and sustainable future. Moreover, we are hitting milestones. For example, the 2019 GOV event sold out in under 13 minutes following opening registration!

Additionally, the 3C Challenge has completed its first year. The challenge provided us with more opportunities to bring young Indigenous leaders together. It has been inspiring to support the challenge in the following areas: recruitment, mentorship, and participation. We have witnessed the creativity and ideas brought to life by the pure determination and collaboration of young Indigenous leaders across the province.

I would like to close by acknowledging and extending my appreciation to our council members.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication!

In Friendship,

Elijah Mack-Stirling



# Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council



The Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council (PAYC) is made up of youth ages 14 to 24 who are involved with Friendship Centres across BC. PAYC represents youth voices at a provincial level and implements province-wide initiatives to benefit Indigenous youth. Together, PAYC members provide a network of communication, connecting youth across the country to the Friendship Centre Movement.

## Re-visioning the Role of PAYC

In June of 2018, PAYC had a planning session for the 2018-2019 year. They worked with a facilitator in Richmond, BC, during this session.

Topics addressed included:

- The PAYC Communications Plan.
- Recruitment packages (PAYC and the BCAAFC Elders Council)
- A 'State of the Friendship Movement' project.
- The PAYC *Terms of Reference*.
- Updating the PAYC Strategic Plan.

Recruitment packages were created for both PAYC and the BCAAFC Elders Council. Recruitment is a priority for PAYC and they are looking forward to the insight that new members will bring to the strategic planning



process. The 'State of the Friendship Movement' project was taken on by a BCAAFC staff member, in collaboration with a PAYC member.

## Gathering Our Voices

PAYC co-hosts the annual Gathering Our Voices (GOV) — Indigenous Youth Leadership Training event. For the 2019 event, PAYC expanded their role in the GOV planning process, serving on the GOV Steering Committee—comprised of members from the host nation, a Friendship Centre representative, cultural ambassadors and local Elders. The GOV Steering Committee held three in-person meetings, as well as monthly conference calls, to make decisions on presenters, workshops, and cultural pieces. Working with local Elders was an important part of this process. PAYC gained traditional, cultural, and ecological knowledge, as well as board experience.

## The BC Indigenous Youth 3C Challenge

The 3C Challenge is a unique opportunity for youth to expand their business skills through hands-on training and team collaboration. The PAYC Special Projects Representative worked with the 3C Project Manager to develop a recruitment process for each

# Representing Indigenous youth

challenge. PAYC members participated in 3C challenges that were hosted in their home communities, either through recruitment or mentoring participants. In addition to this, PAYC members participated in 3C workshops at the GOV 2019 event and promoted the challenge at the GOV Career & Education Fair.

## Strengthening Partnerships

There are two Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective (UAYC) representatives on PAYC. These members participate in UAYC meetings, both in person and via teleconference. This participation helps develop PAYC members' understanding of the goals and visions of partner organizations. It also provides opportunities for PAYC to inform partner organizations on the work of the Friendship Centres. This sharing of information improves the quality of collaboration between PAYC, the BCAAFC, and partner organizations.

## What's Ahead

PAYC is looking forward to welcoming new council members and strengthening their relations. Developing a three-year strategic plan that will guide the re-visioning of their

role will be a priority for the 2019-2020 year. Continuing their work with GOV and 3C will provide more opportunities for PAYC members to connect with, inform and inspire other youth.

**Thank you** to our partners who recognize the vast potential of our youth and the power they have to create positive change.



## 2018-19 Overview



Ongoing creation of the PAYC Communications Plan, including an updated recruitment process, new webpage and special projects



Co-hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Gathering Our Voices: Indigenous Youth Leadership Training



Support for the 3C Challenge: Business Skills for Indigenous Youth



# Elders Council

The BCAAFC Elders Council advises the BCAAFC Board of Directors and provides guidance and support within the Friendship Centre communities. The Elders Council also plays a key role in engaging youth at social and cultural events.

## Revitalized Processes

This past year, the BCAAFC Elders Council strengthened their relationship with the BCAAFC Board of Directors. Changes to the board resulted in the development of new relationships and the revitalization of processes. The Elders Council invested a lot of time and energy into building a new strategic plan to support this restructure. In November of 2018, the Elders Council presented a change to their Terms of Reference to the board, stating that the Elders Council would act as advisors on the board and sit on committees. The board approved these changes, committed to continual improvement.

Marge has played a key role in reviving the BCAAFC Peer Review Committee, retitled to the 'Peer Resource, Response, Review and Restore Committee' and now known as PR4C.

Senator Marjorie (Marge) White | Huu-ay-aht



## Recruitment

A priority for the Elders Council is recruitment. The council is not full at the moment but can sit up to nine members, including the founding members. The recruitment package was updated within the 2018-2019 year and Marge and Buzz are looking forward to receiving recommendations from each of BC's regions. Recommended Elders are engaged within

Basil (Buzz) Morissette | Cree



their communities, can travel independently, and have a desire to help youth, Elders, and the Friendship Centre Movement. The Elders Council has also been actively looking for funding opportunities to support a full Elders council.

## *Bridging our past and future*

### **Connecting with Youth**

An important role of the Elders Council is facilitating opportunities to connect with youth. Marge and Buzz served on the Gathering Our Voices (GOV) Steering Committee for the GOV 2019 event. Both of them emphasized the importance of providing youth with spaces to explore cultures and traditions and honour their Indigenous identity. They also supported local Elders who gave their time to help make GOV a success. Buzz continues to participate as an advisor on the Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective.

*Elders Don't Bite* is a workshop designed to promote dialogue between youth and Elders. Elders have open and honest discussions on defining healthy leadership, their experiences as survivors of the residential school system, and other topics that youth need to know about, but may be too intimidated to ask about otherwise.

### **Special Moments**

- **June 29, 2018**, Marge was appointed into the Order of Canada for her outstanding dedication to the community and service to others.

- **March 15, 2019**, the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society (COELS) renamed their residential facility to Marge's traditional name. The new name being, "Naa-na-himyis Brothers Healing Lodge." Marge was founding president of the society and spent her last fifteen years of employment as the executive director.

**Thank you** to the BCAAFC Elders Council for the outstanding work that they do; as well as to our funders who recognize the importance of honouring our Elders and supporting opportunities for their teachings and wisdom to be shared with others.



## *Elders Don't Bite*

Elders share knowledge, traditions, cultures and values from our **past**. The connections between Elders and Indigenous youth **today** play an important role in shaping the **future**.



*Elders Don't Bite* is warmly-received at Gathering Our Voices, commonly listed on feedback forms as youths' favorite workshop session.



The Elders Council is coordinating the delivery of *Elders Don't Bite* workshops at every BC Friendship Centre.

*"It was heartwarming to see how interested and involved they were in our circle."*

—Marge White











## 2018-19 Overview

### Program & Services



29,868  
clients per week\*



580  
programs



1,124,703  
points of service

\*on average

## Member Services

There are currently 25 Friendship Centres in BC, each one unique to the community it serves. The BCAAFC is honoured to celebrate the achievements of the BC Friendship Centres and support them in their success.

Member services include the distribution of funding provided through Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) and provincial funding: Provincial Capacity (PROCAP) and First Citizens Fund—Friendship Centre Program (FCF-FCP).

The goal of funding is to strengthen the programs, services, and resources available at each centre so they may best serve their community.



### Urban Programming for Indigenous People

The BCAAFC administers UPIP funding to the 25 Friendship Centres through two streams: Programs & Services and Organizational Capacity.

**Organizational Capacity** funding provides support for key positions within each Friendship Centre and helps to cover core expenses, such as rent and utilities. Friendship Centres must be members of both the BCAAFC and the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) to be eligible for funding. Each year, Friendship Centres submit an annual action plan and quarterly reports reflecting Organizational Capacity expenditures in their Friendship Centre.

**Program & Services** (P&S) funding is project based funding. All BC Friendship Centres are eligible to submit a project proposal under six individual themes: Women; Vulnerable Populations; Youth; Transition Services; Outreach; and Community Wellness. P&S funding supports Indigenous organizations ability to deliver effective, culturally-appropriate programs and services, as well as invest in local stakeholder coalitions across Canada.

# Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples

## Organizations Worth Partnering With

Each Friendship Centres' network is shaped by shared histories, experiences and knowledge. This contributes to members' deep understanding of the issues most relevant in their communities.

The P&S project proposals embody this understanding and fill gaps in community services. Filling these gaps requires consistent time, energy, and resources. Providing support to the people behind this heavy work is key to building strong communities.



## Program & Services



Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Society youth programs.



Conayt Friendship Society's Elders and youth harvest sage together annually.



Mission Friendship Centre Bear Hide Campaign – standing up against violence.



Ooknakane Friendship Centre monthly community dinners.



Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society cultural community mural.



Friendship House Association of Prince Rupert paddle blessing ceremony.

## 2018-19 Overview



25  
Friendship Centres



93  
service facilities



597  
partnerships



1,203  
employees

## Member Services

The Provincial Capacity (PROCAP) and First Citizens Fund—Friendship Centre Program (FCF-FCP) funding budgets are used to improve the quality of resources at each Friendship Centre. Improvements may include upgrading infrastructure and information technology systems; human resource development; and increasing opportunities for cultural activities, programming, and economic development.

This funding ensures Friendship Centres can keep their doors open. Having this assurance allows executive directors and staff to focus on building relationships within the surrounding community to positively affect more people each year.

Many Friendship Centres are expanding their facilities and capabilities to meet the growing demands of the people they serve. New daycares, affordable housing units, and counselling services are just some of the many areas that Friendship Centres fill.



Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society Elders and youth lunch gatherings.

### *Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship House Association - Wellness & Recovery Programs*

A single father, who was at risk of losing his children, was supported through his early recovery. He was able to meet and do better than the expected behavior shifts and is now working towards a Red Seal Trade.



# Provincial Funding

## What's Ahead

The stability that core funding provides is critical to the performance of each Friendship Centre and the health and wellbeing of the Indigenous populations that they serve. Core funding ensures these centres can continue their important work and provides space for them to expand to their full potential and make an even greater difference going forward.

**Thank you** to Indigenous Services Canada for funding BCAAFC Member Services. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to provide services to Indigenous people in BC for the past 60 years. We look forward to another 60+ years of dedicated work towards improving the health, wellness, and prosperity of Indigenous people.

### *Lillooet Friendship Centre Society – Chillaxin Youth Centre*

*"I have a chance to socialize with youth close to my age and I am also making some new friends. Chillaxin is a safe place for me to talk to someone if I need support or need to get somethings off my chest."*

**1,124,703**

'Points of Service' reported by our Friendship Centres across BC. Every one of these interactions has a positive ripple effect.

**78%**

Of Indigenous people living off-reserve in BC (Province of British Columbia, 2014).

**37**

Professional development courses offered in our centres – from apprenticeships to social enterprise training.

**24**

Employment readiness programs offered. Helping to bridge the gap between employers looking for great employees and community members looking for great employers.



# Strengthening our Friendship Centres





## *Building healthy and vibrant communities*





## 2018-19 Overview



87  
continuing students



16  
students completed their  
program in the 2018-  
2019 fiscal year



870+  
points of service

# Education

Education is an integral part of shaping one's values and decision-making skills. Setting and achieving post-secondary goals contribute to overall personal development. The BCAAFC is honoured to connect with students through the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) and First Citizens Fund (FCF).

### Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP):

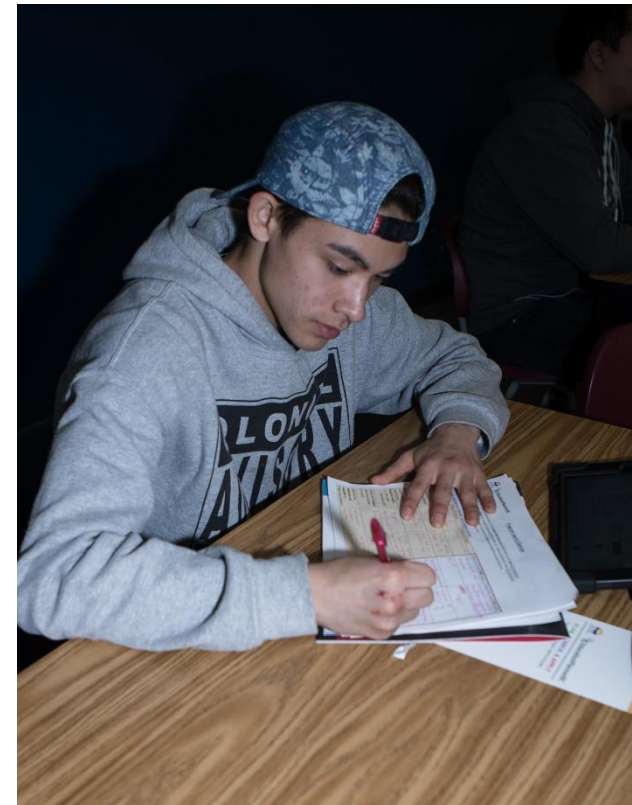
Financial support for Northwest Territory or Nunavut Inuit students and BC First Nation students enrolled in post-secondary education with a recognized BC academic institution.

### First Citizens Fund (FCF):

A bursary distributed to Indigenous students after the successful completion of their study term.

The goal of PSSSP and FCF funding is to assist students with the financial costs of post-secondary education to reduce the added financial stress that many experience while pursuing their education. Often students are not only moving away from their family home, they are also leaving their community. Receiving funding towards their

education helps students feel supported and confident in their post-secondary decisions. This support allows students to focus on completing their chosen program of study in a timely manner.



## *Supporting students on their post-secondary journey*



### *Words from a graduating student*

"By awarding me the First Citizens Fund Bursary, you have lightened my financial burdens. As a mother of three, I was able to pay a full month's daycare with it."

### **What's Ahead**

A priority for the 2018-2019 year was streamlining the application approval process so that qualifying students could access funding in the simplest, most efficient way possible. Successful applicants are deeply appreciative of the support they receive on their post-secondary journey. It is rewarding to witness the enthusiasm and ambition that students approach their studies with. We look forward to increasing the number of students we connect with each year.

**Thank you** to the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for making the financial support provided through PSSSP and FCF possible.

### *Words from a graduating student*

"It is with generosity from organizations like yours that I was able to successfully complete my program. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. **I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.**"

# The BC Indigenous Youth 3C Challenge



The 3C Challenge is an opportunity for Indigenous youth, ages 15 to 29, to develop their business skills and explore their entrepreneurial spirit. Each 3C participant gains a deeper understanding of how they can connect culture, community, and commerce to support their business success.

For many Indigenous youth, participation in the 3C Challenge is a reminder of their strength and value. Especially those who may be experiencing homelessness, abuse, addiction, and other challenges. In this way,

3C acts as a stepping stone on their journey to empowerment.

## Indigenous Youth Leading the Way

Indigenous youth are one of the fastest growing populations in Canada today (Statistics Canada, 2017). This means the number of Indigenous youth seeking employment and education opportunities is on the rise.

Practicing skills in a learning environment with their peers helps youth feel prepared to



## > What's Ahead

In 2019-20, we hope to expand the reach of the 3C program. In its first seven months, this program has been successfully completed in 10 different communities across BC. Going forward, our goal is to collaborate with all 25 Friendship Centres. By bringing this program to more communities, we can begin to empower the next generation and provide them with tools to become leaders in their communities.



# *Business skills for Indigenous youth*

navigate a business setting and increases their confidence when pursuing employment opportunities.

## **A Unique Employment Program**

The 3C Challenge emphasizes self-employment, setting it apart from traditional job skills training programs. It provides Indigenous youth with an opportunity to create their own jobs and be the change they'd like to see in different areas of business. This helps to support not only youth, but whole communities who are positively impacted by the innovation and influence of Indigenous youth in business.

**Thank you** to Service Canada for funding the 3C Challenge; and to our partners, the University of Victoria, Gustavson School of Business, and National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development. Your support helps make this program a success and makes a positive difference in the lives of many.

**Service  
Canada**



## 2018-19 Overview



**116**  
challenge participants



**10 challenges**  
in 10 different communities



**33 days**  
of training included in each  
challenge



**\$1,000**  
interest free micro loan for  
each team

# Northern Corridor

The Northern Corridor program is part of the BCAAFC's strategy to increase employment and training among Indigenous people. Northern Corridor Centres support clients with: resume and cover letter building; education and training certificates; career planning through self-assessments; interview skills; computer skills; and accessing job boards.

There are seven Friendship Centres in Northern BC that are **Northern Corridor Centres**:

- Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Centre
- Friendship House Association of Prince Rupert
- Kermode Friendship Society (Terrace)
- Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre (Smithers)
- Prince George Native Friendship Centre
- Fort St. John Friendship Society
- Nawican Friendship Centre (Dawson Creek)





# *A pathway to meaningful employment*

## Identifying Optimal Pathways to Employment

The Northern Corridor program works in alignment with government commitments made through the 'Urban Off Reserve Corridor Skills Development Complement Initiative'. Friendship Centres have built relationships within their communities, making them a trusted space to access resources and support.

The Friendship Centres staff understand that a holistic approach to personal development provides the greatest opportunity for success. This means that the team at each Northern Corridor Centre works together to meet the unique needs of each client. Services that help to address barriers to employment include drug and alcohol counselling, daycare, Elder care, legal aid, and mental health counselling, among many others.

This holistic approach to employment service has proven vital in supporting Indigenous people overcoming barriers to enter the workforce. Northern Corridor Centres provide a pathway for Indigenous and underrepresented local community members to obtain meaningful employment.

## What's Ahead

Northern Corridor program information is being tracked for the provincial government with the hopes of expanding holistic employment services to reach Indigenous people across the province. This would be an advancement towards breaking the cyclical barriers to employment that Indigenous people face.

**Thank you** to the Ministry of Advanced Education Skills and Training for funding to support the Northern Corridor program; as well as our Northern Corridor team for the passion they bring to their work.



## 2018-19 Overview



**Seven**

Northern Corridor Centres



**1,348**

clients served



**704**

clients reported retaining employment



**16,297**

points of service

## 2018-19 Overview



891  
attendees



110+  
unique workshops



60+  
Career & Education Fair  
exhibitor booths



Nine  
Honour a Indigenous  
Youth (HIY) nominees

# Gathering Our Voices

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Gathering Our Voices (GOV) Indigenous Youth Leadership Training event was held March 19-22, 2019 on the Traditional Territories of the Hupačasath and Tseshaht First Nations in Port Alberni, BC.

GOV 2019 was co-hosted by the BCAAFC, the Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council (PAYC), and the Port Alberni Friendship Centre (PAFC).

Online registration for the 2019 event was initially capped at 800 persons and sold out in less than 13 minutes. The demand for GOV supports the need for collaborative spaces for Indigenous youth and the value that these spaces provide.

The location of Port Alberni added unique characteristics to the planning and implementation of GOV 2019. The need to utilize many venue spaces and all available accommodations within the city created more opportunities to involve members of the community. Many local residents and business owners embraced GOV 2019 and joined the celebration of Indigenous youth leaders as part of this year's event.

### *"Planting the Seed"*

The main goal of GOV has always been to provide a supportive space for Indigenous youth to learn new skills, build relationships, and make cultural connections among their peers. The theme for GOV 2019 was *"Planting the Seed"*.

### *Planting the Seed for...*

- Ideas and curiosities around Indigenous resurgence, decolonization and cultural and language revitalization.
- Career paths, education opportunities and general hobbies or interests.
- Traditional knowledge and relationships to the land that are integral parts of Indigenous cultures.





# Indigenous Youth Leadership Training

This year also saw the addition of 'wellness drop-ins', offered to support the health and wellness of everyone involved in the event.

Wellness drop-ins included: carving, weaving, language, wellness assessments Elder's support, cultural and emotional supports, open gym time, and 'FitNation Flashmob' movement breaks. The wellness drop-ins represented BCAAFC's commitment to promoting holistic health and wellness. Everyone who is involved with GOV transmits the knowledge and experience they gained at

the event through their interactions following. In this way, the energy of GOV is carried onward long after the event is over.

## What's Ahead

GOV is the collaborative effort of many, however, it is the GOV core team each year that keeps planning and implementation on track. Core team members are on contract positions or hold a permanent position with the BCAAFC and take on their GOV role cyclically. Due to the temporary nature of the work roles, there is high staff turnover for

GOV each year. Recognizing that the demand for the event is steadily increasing, refining systems and frameworks for the planning process was a priority for this year. We unveiled the new GOV logo and launched the new website and registration database for the 2019 event. The GOV Policy Manual was revamped to ensure the quality of the event is upheld as it grows.

The 2020 GOV event will be held March 16-19 on the traditional territory of the Secwépemc in Kamloops, BC. We can't wait to see the positive impact this year's event will have and look forward to working with Secwépemc, Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society, and members of the community.

**Thank you** to our partners and sponsors who believe in GOV and give their support to help the event reach more Indigenous youth each year.

## New Logo

The GOV logo is a symbol of the culture, opportunity, and inspiration that is celebrated at each event.

The artist was inspired by the idea of a hand being lifted to an ear to signify listening to one another in the dialogue that takes place at GOV. The hand represented in the new GOV logo also serves as a connection to the old logo. It is important to reflect on the value of past events and remember where we've come from.

Finally, the different colors in this design are representative of the diversity of Indigenous youth across British Columbia.



# Indigenous Youth





## *Leading the way for a brighter future*



## BC Friendship Centres Five-Year Strategy

*“What areas within your centres need the most attention to serve your clients in a better way?”*

### Nine themes emerged:

- Staff Training & Professional Development
- Financial Capacity Training
- Proposal Writing Support
- Implementation of Provincial Strategies
- Youth Support
- Health Initiatives
- Increased Program Support (Funding)
- Staff Retention Incentives
- Permanent Funding Solutions

## Learning Academy

The Learning Academy initiative was a two-day training opportunity that took place at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre on February 28 and March 1, 2019. Training opportunities addressed areas for improvement identified by Friendship Centres during the creation of a five-year strategic plan in February of 2018. There were 47 participants, including executive directors and staff from the Friendship Centres, board members, the Elders Council, PAYC and the Northern Corridor team. Each Friendship Centre had the opportunity to send two staff members.

### Training and Collaboration

The BCAAFC brought in facilitators and educators from various organizations and backgrounds to ensure that the information delivered included a diverse range of knowledge and experiences. Working with external organizations also promoted collaboration and helped identify potential partnerships.

Workshops and presentations included:

- Peer Resource, Response Review and Restore Committee workshop
- Community Services Benefit Trust (CSBT) presentation

- BC Center for Social Enterprise workshop
- Harris and Company Law and Advocacy Group Human Resources Training workshop
- Community Gaming Grants presentation

### What's Ahead

The Learning Academy provided insight on the demand for more training opportunities and the relevancy of certain training topics. The next step of the Learning Academy will be the pilot launch of the BCAAFC Training Academy. The Training Academy is the result of a partnership with the University of Victoria and Ministry of Advanced Education to support succession planning within BC Friendship Centres. The BCAAFC has also been working towards the launch of a Non-Profit Management Mini-MBA program. This process has involved communicating with different universities across BC as potential partners to offer the program. Feedback from the Learning Academy and Training Academy will help guide the development of the Non-Profit Management Mini-MBA program.

**Thank you** to the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation and the Community Gaming Grants Branch for funding to support the Learning Academy.



# Peer Resource, Response, Review and Restore Committee

The new Peer Review Committee, retitled to the 'Peer Resource, Response, Review and Restore Committee' (PR4C), was introduced at the Learning Academy.

Each Friendship Centre is a part of a provincial and national network of caring individuals dedicated to helping our Indigenous communities that live off-reserve. The PR4C committee is a representation of the strength and faith of this network. It is a volunteer-led committee made up of current and former Friendship Centre staff who offer their knowledge and expertise to support Friendship Centres in overcoming challenges.

The 2018-2019 year was a period of growth for the PR4C committee. The committee

realigned its processes to reflect a proactive model for providing support. This progression will mitigate risk and increase the number of centres that utilize the PR4C committee annually.

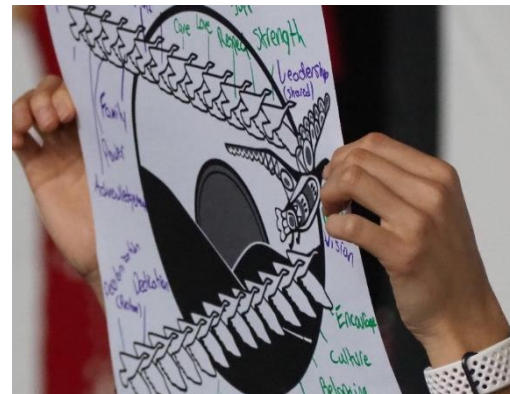
## What's Ahead

The PR4C is working on expanding its support services with the development of the *PR4C Toolkit*—a set of standard resources for all Friendship Centres; including templates for contracts, hiring, engagements and a peer approved list of preferred consultants. The *PR4C Toolkit* will be released at the 2019 AGM.

Recruitment for PR4C ensures a well-rounded wealth of experience among

committee members. Speciality areas for future recruitment include governance and finance. The PR4C works to be an invaluable collection of knowledge available to all centres to support their success.

**Thank you** to the PR4C team members for their dedication to the Friendship Centre Movement; as well as the Community Gaming Grants Branch and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for funding to support the development and maintenance of the PR4C.



# Our Spirits Are Not For Sale

## Education to Prevent Violence

The BCAAFC continues to work within the strategies outlined in *The BC Friendship Centres Action Plan to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls (2014)* to prevent violence against Indigenous people. The strategic directions within Friendship Centres include: raise awareness; expand programs and services; and change policy.

The resulting prevention workshop, *Our Spirits Are Not For Sale*, received funding as a three-year project, beginning in March of 2018.

**(2018-19) Phase I** – The first phase of this project involved community engagement sessions and awareness building activities in high-risk communities.

**(2019-20) Phase II** – Building off the insight gained in phase I, the goal of phase II is to articulate the objectives that community consultation and awareness building activities aim to achieve. Clearly defining these objectives will result in improved strategic methods, including partnerships with police, parents, agencies and youth to understand the specific areas of interest and expectations in future pilot projects.

**(2021) Pilot Projects** – Phase I and Phase II will support the development of two pilot projects to be delivered in year three of the program. The pilots will provide guidelines for prevention strategies that communities can implement to increase the effectiveness of interventions to prevent human trafficking and exploitation.

## What's Ahead

Phase II of the project will include eight community consultations sessions in Fall 2019. The final outcome of this project will include a summary report that outlines key learnings and best practices for preventing the human trafficking and sexual exploitation of Indigenous people.

**Thank you** to survivors and the family members of victims and survivors, whose resiliency and knowledge guides our work. Thank you to our members who continue to identify gaps, emerging issues and trends in these areas. Thank you to the Government of Canada Department for Women and Gender Equality for providing funding for the development and delivery of the *Our Spirit Are Not For Sale* prevention workshop.





# Reconciliation

Friendship Centres have served Indigenous people for over 60 years. Members of these centres were some of the first to engage with the non-Indigenous population and help them understand Indigenous peoples, histories, cultures and ways of doing and knowing. This work continues today and is a critical part of addressing racism, discrimination, stereotyping and the overall negative perception many non-Indigenous Canadians have of Indigenous peoples.

The BCAAFC received funding from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) to organize and host reconciliation consultations with the goal of building a plan to inform the Province of BC's reconciliation transformation strategies. The BCAAFC and its member centres completed local, provincial and youth sessions to gather feedback around a vision and action plan for reconciliation.

## Session Outcomes

Sessions brought forward MIRR's priorities in context with the *United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People* (UNDRIP) and the 2015 *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* report. These sessions determined that a

great amount of work still needs to be done. Reconciliation sessions were held within Indigenous communities to provide a safe space for participation. Sessions were modelled on an Indigenous circle process that helped to create a supportive environment for meaningful dialogue, knowledge sharing and relationship building. Together, participants explored pathways to reconciliation and identified a need to develop community-based and community-driven reconciliation action plans.

## What's Ahead

More sessions will be facilitated with a focus on the common themes identified in the preliminary consultations. Exploring each theme in greater depth will aid in the development of a plan that embodies Indigenous viewpoints on reconciliation. The knowledge gained through consultation with Indigenous peoples will be vital to the actualization of meaningful reconciliation in Canada.

**Thank you** to MIRR for funding this important work that will be foundational to the province's reconciliation strategies going forward.

## 2018-19 Overview



Two provincial Indigenous reconciliation consultations



Ten local Indigenous reconciliation consultations



210+ Indigenous youth participated in reconciliation-focused workshops at the 2019 Gathering Our Voices event





SONG  
LANGUAGE  
CEREMONY  
NATURAL LAW

STRONG  
RESILIENT  
INDIGENOUS

CIVIL  
DISOBEDIENCE







# Doulas for Aboriginal Families Grant Program

Positive birth experiences are linked to the health and happiness of each family. The Doulas for Aboriginal Families Grant Program is offered by the BCAAFC in partnership with FNHA. The goal of the program is to increase healthy birth outcomes for Indigenous families by removing the cost barrier to accessing doula services.

## Why a Doula?

The assistance of a doula can help women find their strength and place of power in giving birth. A doula is a non-medical professional who provides supportive care to women and their families through pregnancy, labour, and afterbirth experiences. Doulas help women and their families communicate their expectations, hopes, and concerns about childbirth so that they feel supported and comfortable with their decisions. Doulas may connect women and their families to additional supports when and if possible. This support helps ensure positive birth and bonding experiences.

Indigenous families continue to be negatively impacted by the affects of colonization and the residential school system. Traditional knowledge and birth practices have been buried in the clinical pressures of modern

medicine and a westernized health care model. The intergenerational practices of family birth models have been replaced by hospitals and isolation. Pregnancy and birth are can be challenging experiences for women and families. In addition to this, Indigenous women and families often receive inequitable care in the health care system due to racism and lack of empathy.

This is why for Indigenous women the role of a doula can have an even deeper impact, as the doula takes on the traditional role of "Auntie". Doula support has the potential to make positive contributions to situations where women are birthing away from their home communities, are cited as high-risk, or for women with no family supports.





### *Words from a doula*

I met Avery\* by chance or by some greater force. As soon as we met, we both felt it was meant to be; me – a Doula, and her – in the city and temporarily away from her reserve to give birth to her twins. As Avery shared her story with me, it became clear why she was a pregnant woman hiding out in a hotel. Due to past trauma and apprehensions of her children at birth, Avery was anxious. We discussed how to have a natural birth without surgery. We built trust in her body. I was able, with Avery's permission, to find her First Nations advocates who also facilitated visitation with her older children. Avery has seven children, all of whom (except the twins) live within the ministries care or with ex-spouses. Avery has worked very hard to turn her life around. It was a deep wish that she would be able to see her children. Due to her past, it wasn't easy for her to negotiate on her own, but a Friendship Centre staff member, who is also from [community], was able to bridge that gap for Avery. **It was so amazing to see Avery surrounded by all of her children as a proud mother who has overcome a lot to be where she is today.** It was truly an honour to serve Avery and her family. It made me feel so good and appreciated.

Thank you!

*\*Name has been changed*

### **What's Ahead**

Survey feedback helps us learn from the experiences of women, families and doulas. This feedback helps to: evaluate the success of the grant program; support the need for Indigenous-focused pregnancy and childbirth services; and identify areas for improvement within the program. A common program inquiry over the past year was access to funding for training as an Indigenous doula. Grants to support doula training initiatives would be beneficial to families and communities. Supporting Indigenous women to become trained as doulas is an integral part of bringing birth back into the hands of Indigenous women.

**Thank you** to the Ministry of Health for funding the Doulas for Aboriginal Families Grant Program; as well as to our partner, FNHA, for helping us collect feedback to improve birth resources for Indigenous families. Thank you also to our doulas, whose care, knowledge and experience supports Indigenous families on their birth journey and helps reconnect to traditional birth practices.

## 2018-19 Overview



280

families funded



81 Fraser  
30 Vancouver Coastal  
60 Vancouver Island  
46 Northern  
63 Interior



163

doulas employed

# AIDP/ASCD/CCP



**The Aboriginal Infant Development (AIDP)** program supports early identification and intervention for infants at risk of developmental delay and their families.

**The Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD)** program promotes inclusive childcare for children with special needs. Together, they support children and families living in BC by connecting them with the resources they need for positive childhood development.

AIDP and ASCD are culturally safe programs that were developed with Indigenous cultural values, beliefs, and traditions in mind. Having culturally oriented programs is critical to the health and safety of Indigenous families requiring infant and child development support.

Serving BC children and families within the five Ministry of Children and Family Development and Health Regions:

- 13 Service Delivery Areas
- 48 AIDP programs
- 55 ASCD programs

## AIDP/ASCD Provincial Office & Front Line Professionals

The AIDP/ASCD Provincial Office is located in the BCAAFC. The provincial office collaborates with over 20 Indigenous and mainstream programs and agencies throughout the province. The provincial office also acts as a support body for AIDP/ASCD frontline professionals.

### Frontline professionals provide important services, including:

- Home visits
- Family centered practices
- Developmental screening and assessments



## Professional Development Funds

The AIDP/ASCD Provincial Office received \$40,000 in annual funding to strengthen the frontline professionals serving BC children and families. Funding was distributed to Infant Development Program (IDP); Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP); Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) professionals to support their academic education and other professional development opportunities. This helps ensure that frontline professionals are knowledgeable on new and current information related to child development. It also helps to broaden their skills working in a culturally oriented way and provides opportunities to specialize in specific areas of child development.

## The Partnerships Project

The Partnerships Project is a community based training model for practitioners and parents serving children with special needs from birth to six years of age.

Training modules provide project participants with knowledge and skills in various topics to strengthen their ability to support the children and families in their



community. Training is for any early childhood service provider and includes people working in a variety of capacities within their community.

Agreements for any of the training modules can be arranged with the AIDP/ASCD Provincial Office. Each module is tailored to the needs and services of the community and is implemented in collaboration with an agency in the local community.

#### Other Initiatives

- Creation of a policy guidelines manual for ASCD (2017)
- Development of an online training module for 'Assessments of Young Children' (pilot program anticipated to launch in fall of 2019)
- Funding was received to support the Provincial Child Care Planner (CCP) position. The CCP is available to support early learning and child care programs in each of the 25 Friendship Centres.

#### Together for Families

The AIDP/ASCD program teams are grateful for the support that is provided to Indigenous children and families with access to AIDP and ASCD professionals. They see firsthand the

positive impact that culturally oriented child development services have on the health and wellbeing of Indigenous families.

We raise our hands to the wonderful people who work in the ECD field. It is a challenging field to work in and financial recognition is not yet adequate. However, the professionals in this field are dedicated to the children and families that they serve. And they are rewarded by the health and happiness of each family that is positively impacted through these programs.

**Thank you** to the Ministry of Children and Family Development for funding the AIDP/ASCD Provincial Office in the BCAAFC.



AIDP Provincial Advisor: [advisor@aidp.bc.ca](mailto:advisor@aidp.bc.ca)  
ASCD Provincial Advisor: [advisor.ascdp@bcaafc.com](mailto:advisor.ascdp@bcaafc.com)  
Administration: [aidp.ascdp.admin@bcaafc.com](mailto:aidp.ascdp.admin@bcaafc.com)  
AIDP Website: [www.aidp.bc.ca](http://www.aidp.bc.ca)  
ASCD Website: [www.ascdp.bc.ca](http://www.ascdp.bc.ca)

## 2017-18\* Overview

### AIDP

1,089 children served\*\*  
84 children on the waitlist

### ASCD

1,168 children served\*\*  
81 children on the waitlist

## Professional Development

91 applicants received funding

- 38 for academic education
- 53 for professional development

*\*Annual data is collected in the spring; 2018-2019 statistics were not available for this report.*

*\*\*Statistics are based on survey data collection with AIDP/ASCD staff. With 100% staff participation in the survey, the approximate number of children served would be 1,800 for each program.*

## 2018-19 Overview



14  
programs



816  
events



24,121  
participants



10 years  
of I-SPARC and the  
Aboriginal Sport,  
Recreation and  
Physical Activity  
Strategy



# I-SPARC

The Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (I-SPARC) is a consortium of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, the First Nations Health Authority, and Métis Nation BC. As the stewards of BC's Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Strategy, I-SPARC works with First Nations, Métis Chartered Communities, Friendship Centres, schools and other sport and physical activity stakeholders to deliver community-based programs designed to promote active lifestyles and support the desire for transformative change in the health and well-being of Indigenous communities, families and individuals across BC.

### Healthy Living Activities

Healthy Living programs are designed to train volunteer community champions

passionate about healthy living to deliver their own holistic community-based projects that promote increased physical activity, healthy eating, respect for tobacco, and healthy pregnancies. They have become the cornerstone of community-based health promotion. I-SPARC has continued to expand the range of the following programs: Regional Leader Training Sessions; Aboriginal RunWalk (ARW); HealthBeat; Honour Youth Health Challenge (HYHC); FitNation; and Community Project Grants.

### Grants & Recognition

I-SPARC provides access to a wide range of grants for delivering provincial sport championships and athlete development camps, purchasing physical activity equipment, and coaching and leadership training. I-SPARC also administers the





# Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council

Premier's Awards for Indigenous Youth Excellence in Sport, an award that celebrates the outstanding athletic achievements of Indigenous youth in BC.

In order to increase the profile and awareness of Indigenous athletes from BC, I-SPARC partnered with the BC Sports Hall of Fame to create a permanent display for the Premier's Awards recipients. I-SPARC also support the Hall of Fame's Indigenous Sport Gallery – a 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> interactive space that showcases the stories of some of BC's most prominent athletes, past and present.

## **Sport for Life Programs, Indigenous Communities: Active for Life**

I-SPARC works with Provincial Sport Organizations, the Aboriginal Sport Circle, Sport for Life Society, and communities to lead the development, delivery, and growth of Indigenous Sport for Life programs. This includes responsibility for the provincial implementation of the Indigenous Long-Term Participant Development Pathway initiatives, and Active for Life Communities workshops.

The *Indigenous Communities: Active for Life* resource and accompanying full-day workshop were created with guidance from

Indigenous leaders throughout the country, with the purpose of inspiring community leaders looking for culturally tailored resources that act as a vehicle toward individual and community holistic development. The resource and workshop support these individual champions as they embark on a journey to develop sustainable quality sport and physical activity programs, build collaborative relationships and re-engage their community members into active and healthy lifestyles.

## **Community Sport Development**

I-SPARC's regional structure brings community sport leaders and stakeholders together to establish consensus on their sport priorities ensuring that the sport development camps, clinics and courses delivered within each region support the specific needs of the respective communities. I-SPARC has been building the foundation for Indigenous sport by increasing access to culturally relevant, community-based sport development programs.

## **Performance Sport**

I-SPARC's Community Sport Development Programs, Provincial Championships/Athlete Camps, and Team BC programs provide an

important competitive pathway for Indigenous athletes. Performance Sport programs include Team BC for NAIG, Team BC for NAHC, BC Indigenous Provincial Championships & Athlete Development Camps and Coaching Certification & Leadership Training.

**Thank you** to our dedicated team of staff, volunteers, and partners; as well as to our funders for believing in the value of I-SPARC and helping to support its success.









# 2018-19 BCAAFC Board and Councils

## Board of Directors

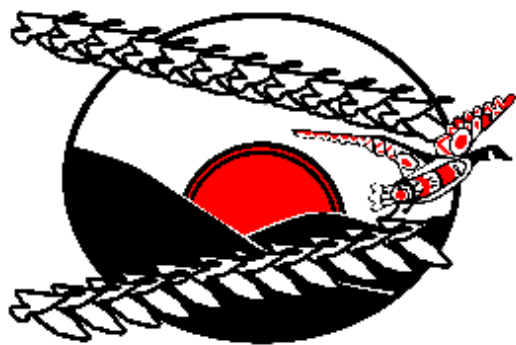
Dr. Sharon McIvor, President  
Joanne Mills, Vice President  
Victor Tom, Treasurer  
Calvin Albright, Secretary  
Shyla Elgie, Youth Representative  
Matthew Baran, Director  
Kari Hutchison, Director  
Fabian Alexis, Director  
Debbie Williams, Director  
Elijah Mack-Stirling, Director  
Richard Samuel, Director

## Elders Council

Marjorie White  
Basil Morissette

## Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council

Shyla Elgie, Board of Directors Youth Representative  
Elijah Mack-Stirling, Special Projects  
Renee Wilson, BC Representative on National Aboriginal Youth Council  
Ryan Pielle, Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective Representative  
Diana Charlie-Iraheta, Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective Representative  
Christian Wesley Green, Alternate Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective Representative

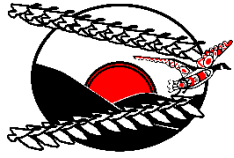


Visit our website: [bcaafc.com](http://bcaafc.com)

BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres  
551 Chatham Street  
Victoria, BC V8T 1E1  
[frontdesk@bcaafc.com](mailto:frontdesk@bcaafc.com)  
1-250-388-5522







## Closing Remarks

Over the past 60 years, Friendship Centres have been there for Indigenous people, as a place to be heard, a place for innovation and enterprise, and a place to preserve cultures and histories. They will continue to be there, as a dynamic network that evolves to best serve Indigenous populations in a landscape that is constantly unfolding triumphs and setbacks. The Friendship Centre Movement has inspired the initiation of many organizations, councils, programs, and other institutions that share the vision of a vibrant society that supports Indigenous health, wellness, and prosperity.

The BCAAFC is grateful for the gifts of past team members who have influenced and supported programs and services that continue to make a positive difference. It is rewarding to see those involved with the Friendship Centre Movement pursue new accomplishments and we wish them all the best on their journeys.

We look forward to witnessing new team members grow into their roles and contribute to the diverse network of knowledge and experiences that help to guide the work of the BCAAFC. Each year brings new opportunities, both unsettling and exciting. Change is inevitable and often uncomfortable. Knowing how to adapt to change and when to evoke it is a vital part of progress.

Our team continues to approach governance with a strong connection to the following goals: increased advocacy, reach and opportunities for collaboration; the development and advancement of social enterprise; capacity development; revitalization and preservation of language and culture; and established and maintained financial stability and policies. These goals align with our commitment to advance the work of the BC Friendship Centres and connect Indigenous people living in urban settings with resources and services that support their prosperity.

Thank you to all of those who have supported the Friendship Centre Movement. We are humbled by your hard work, dedication, and faith. The 2018-2019 year involved the repositioning of certain programs and departments and we are looking forward to what the next year will bring.

# Thank You

The BCAAFC acknowledges with appreciation the support of our many funders and partners, some of whose logos are pictured. Your financial contributions, collective knowledge and experiences, and shared dedication to our cause helps us in the journey towards building a vibrant future that supports the health, wellness and prosperity of Indigenous people.

Service  
Canada



National Association  
of Friendship Centres

We are proud members of the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC). Thank you to NAFC for providing guidance and support on this journey.

We also want to thank each and every one of our Friendship Centres – we would not exist without you and we are so grateful for your passion and commitment to our growing urban Indigenous family.









Thank you for your support of the Friendship Centre Movement,  
making a difference from coast to coast to coast