

BC Friendship Centres

The **Friendship Centre Movement** is built on community support, trust, strong leadership, tradition and faith. Mandated to improve the quality of life for Indigenous people across Canada—the Friendship Centre Movement serves all people working towards a brighter future. Each Friendship Centre is unique to its landscape and plays an important role in its community.

November is Indigenous Disability Awareness Month



Did you know?

The Indigenous population of Canada experiences a disability rate twice that of the general population, at approximately 30%.

BC became the first province in Canada to dedicate November to Indigenous people with disabilities in 2015, acting on a recommendation from the [BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society](#) (BCANDS).

Raising awareness helps enforce the need for changes that create a **better future** for all by **reducing the barriers** that affect people living with a disability.

Show your support by hosting a community or organizational event that recognizes the **importance of building inclusive environments** and the **valuable contributions that Indigenous persons living with disabilities bring to our communities**.

Visit <http://www.bcands.bc.ca/> to learn more about BCANDS services and keep an eye on the BCAAFC social media for informative posts in honour of Indigenous Disability Awareness Month!

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Thank you for reading the November newsletter!
 Email communications@bcaafc.com if you have information to share in our next newsletter.

Mark your calendars |

Friendship Centres

- Nov. 22, FRAFCA's Guiding Youth Home Fundraising Gala, Aria Banquet Hall, Surrey [Learn More](#)

Mental Health & Wellness Engagement Sessions*: [Learn More](#)

- Nov. 13, OoKnakane Friendship Centre (Penticton)
- Nov. 14, Ki-Low-Na Friendship Centre (Kelowna)
- Nov. 15, North Okanagan Friendship Centre Society (Vernon)
- Nov. 26, Conayt Friendship Centre (Merritt)
- Nov. 27, Lillooet Friendship Centre
- Nov. 28, Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society
- Dec. 4, Mission Friendship Centre

*Please connect with your Friendship Centre for more details regarding the time and location of each session.

Gathering Our Voices: [Learn More](#)

- Nov. 4, [Exhibitor](#) applications open

Indigenous Youth 3C Challenges: [Learn More](#)

- Nov. 2-4, Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Centre
- Nov. 15-19, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (Surrey)

I-SPARC Regional Engagement Sessions: [Learn More](#)

- Nov. 4, Merritt Civic Centre, Merritt
- Nov. 14, Beecher Place, Surrey
- Nov. 19, Musqueam Community Centre, Vancouver
- Nov. 27, Quw'utun' Cultural & Conference Centre, Duncan



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Community Gaming Grants Program: Every BC Friendship Centre is eligible, have you applied?

Eligible organizations can submit one application to the Community Gaming Grants Program per year. Applications may include multiple programs depending on the eligibility of each program.

Friendship Centres can receive up to \$100,000 as a local organization, or \$225,000 as a regional organization.

Eligible programming:

- An ongoing service, activity, or series of activities
- Provides a community benefit, or respond to a community's needs
- Has been delivered for at least 12 months prior to application

Program themes:

- Arts and Culture
- Sport
- Parent Advisory Councils
- Public Safety
- Environment
- Human and Social Services

Eligible expenses:

(essential to the direct delivery of the approved program(s))

- Wages of existing paid positions
- Rent, utilities, insurance
- Program supplies, office supplies, internet/phone, advertising
- Rental or purchase of equipment
- Travel essential to delivery of the program in BC

[Click here for more information & to apply.](#)

If you need assistance with your application, please contact adminassist@bcaafc.com.



Official Launch of the 2019-2020 Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program

The 2019-2020 Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program is now accepting applications.

Application deadline: Nov. 18, 2019

Funding streams:

- Crime Prevention
- Indigenous Healing and Rebuilding
- Restorative Justice
- Addressing Violence Against Women: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Domestic Violence Prevention / Intervention Programming
- Human Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Vulnerable Women in the Sex Trade
- Child and Youth Advocacy Centres

Application forms and the application guide can be found at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/crime-prevention/community-crime-prevention/grants>



Community Action Initiative

Alcohol & Girls: Making Prevention a Priority

The purpose of this one-time \$25,000 funding is to support the community sector to create youth programming specifically tailored to young girls (grade 7-12) with the goal of increasing resilience and reducing risky drinking behaviours.

Application deadline: Nov. 12, 2019

Eligible applicants:

- Non-government, not-for-profit, community-based organizations
- First nations, Métis or Urban Aboriginal organizations in BC

Apply here: <https://communityactioninitiative.ca/grants-training/activating-communities-on-alcohol/>



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Gathering Our Voices 2020



Thank you for your support!

Registration for GOV 2020 sold out in just over 3 minutes and there is currently over 1,400 youth on the waitlist.

The GOV team is working hard to secure additional funding for the event and is hoping to open additional tickets for youth on the waitlist in the coming weeks. **For more information on event sponsorship please visit our website [here](#).**

Career & Education Fair

Exhibitor applications for the GOV Career & Education Fair will open on **Nov. 4, 2019**. Organizations, educational institutions, industry, public agencies and government departments are encouraged to apply! **For more information and to apply, please visit our website [here](#).**

Criminal Record Checks

All GOV attendees ages 18+ (including delegates, chaperones, volunteers, exhibitors, facilitators, speakers and staff) are required to have a current, clear criminal record check (CRC) prior to attendance at GOV. **For more information and to complete a CRC, please visit the website [here](#).**

Accommodations

Hotel room blocks have been arranged with several hotels in the Kamloops, BC area with varying rates. **For more information on reserving your accommodations, please visit the website [here](#).**

GOV Newsletter

The GOV newsletter is the best way to receive up-to-date information as the plans for GOV 2020 take shape.



[Sign up here!](#)

Path Forward Indigenous Women & Girls Safety

The Path Forward Final Report, released online October 21, provides a toolkit for families, organizations, and communities to develop and implement an action plan to address violence against Indigenous women and girls in BC.

The strategies and initiatives outlined in the report were informed by 300 participants that took part in 12 community engagement sessions hosted across the province of BC.

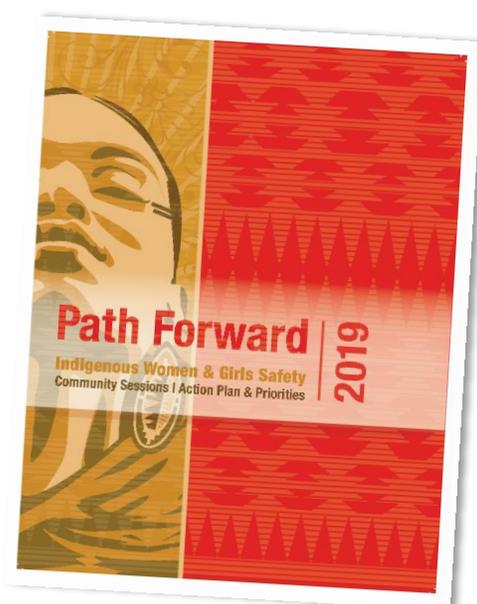
The report is a collaborative effort of Alderhill Planning Inc. and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, in response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Calls for Justice. The work belongs to the individuals, the communities, the nations, and the organizations that participated.

The toolkit is designed to be a flexible resource that can be used as a guide to support work already being done, a foundation to build upon, or as a self-reflective exercise.

Access the report and toolkit here:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:1c64d108-959b-454c-ad08-31ce616f177a>

Thank you Alderhill Inc., the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and all the individuals, communities, and organizations who had a part in the design and development of this work. Our deepest gratitude to the participants who shared their knowledge and experiences to guide the creation of this toolkit and help others.



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Call for Committee Members: Mental Health & Substance Use – Peer Supports

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions is mandated to lead the transformation of BC's mental health and addictions system to better serve people and communities.

The strategies guiding this transformation are informed by people with lived experience, researchers, policy makers, peer agencies, and advocates.

A three-phase project to improve **peer support initiatives** in the mental health and addictions system is underway (April 2019 – March 2020). The project's overall goal is to develop a peer support training curriculum.

A **project steering committee** will guide and review the deliverables of the project, including:

- Conducting an environmental scan on existing best practices and relevant literature
- Development of BC Provincial Standards of Practice and Curriculum Guide
- Development of tools/resources for peer support worker training
- Evaluation and revisions to the tools/resources through program delivery

We are looking for Friendship Centre staff familiar with peer support programs/projects to participate on the steering committee for the Mental Health & Substance Use – Peer Supports project. If you are interested in participating, please contact:

Kassandra Woods, Director of Health, BCAAFC
kwoods@bcaafc.com

Ombudsperson BCs Independent Voice For Fairness

The Office of the Ombudsperson can determine whether BC provincial and local public authorities have acted fairly and reasonably and help to resolve individual problems in cases where they have not.

The office provides unbiased investigations of individual complaints regarding unfair administrative action. Investigative services are free of charge. In addition to early resolutions, the investigation of a complaint can lead to systematic improvements that benefit many people.

Learn more: <https://www.bcombudsperson.ca/>

I-SPARC

Regional Engagement Sessions

Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council Regional Engagement Sessions are underway!

I-SPARC will be introducing a new Provincial Strategy for Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation that recognizes the knowledge and experiences shared by participants at the 2018 Regional Engagement Sessions.

Register for an upcoming session to discuss the new strategic plan and be a part of its design and implementation in your community! Register now: www.isparc.ca/2019engagement

BC Winter Games 2020: Archery Zone Trials

Indigenous athletes interested in competing in archery at the 2020 BC Winter Games can pre-register for Zone Trials taking place in November and December.

The 2020 BC Winter Games are taking place in Fort St. John from Feb. 20-23.

To learn more about eligibility requirements and view the Zone Trial dates, visit: <https://isparc.ca/archery-zone-trials-scheduled-for-2020-bc-winter-games/>



North American Indigenous Games: Team BC Volleyball

The 2019 BC Indigenous Provincial Volleyball Camps are scheduled for December 2019 – January 2020.

These one-day camps serve as identification camps for youth Indigenous athletes to form Team BC development squads for the 2020 NAIG.

Registration opens Nov. 1, 2019, learn more here:

<https://isparc.ca/performance-sport/teambcnaig2020/volleyball/>



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What's New in Friendship Centres |

Kermode Friendship Society Waaps Sagayt K'uulm Goot Daycare



Kermode's Waaps Sagayt K'uulm Goot Daycare opened its doors in 2018 with space for 30 children. The daycare's services are subsidized to help families who may not otherwise have access to daycare services.

One of Kermode's staff members, Mikaela, shares her story of how the daycare helped her and her son, Hunter.

Mikaela began as a receptionist at Kermode and has since moved into a finance assistant role with training to support her professional development.

Hunter started at the Kermode Daycare in January 2019. Prior to getting a spot at the daycare, Mikaela's mother was watching Hunter, however, she had a brain injury as a result of an accident that left her unable to care for Hunter for several days at a time.

Mikaela had looked everywhere for a daycare in Terrace accepting one year olds and quickly realized that options were limited and many were waitlisted. This put Mikaela in an extremely difficult position. She was questioning the best way to move forward when she got the call about a spot for Hunter at the Kermode Daycare.

Kermode's Waaps Sagayt K'uulm Goot Daycare influenced many positive changes for Mikaela and her son. She was able to continue her fulltime work, purchase a new vehicle for her and her son after theirs was involved in an accident, and open savings accounts to support Hunter's future, including a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) – something that was extremely important to her.

The daycare provides a supportive learning environment to help children practice their communication skills, explore in a team setting, and experience culture. Also included in the daycare services are a nutritional breakfast, lunch and snack, another aspect greatly appreciated by families.

Thank you to Mikaela for sharing her story that demonstrates the importance of community programs like the Waaps Sagayt K'uulm Goot Daycare and the positive effects they have on families!

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association Guiding Youth Home



The Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA)'s **Guiding Youth Home** is an annual fundraiser for the development of supportive housing with wraparound services for youth during their transitional years into adulthood.

The gala also serves as an opportunity to bring awareness to the growing number of Indigenous youth experiencing homelessness in BC and the need for transitional housing initiatives.

This will be the 4th annual Guiding Youth Home charity event, taking place **November 22, 2019, at the Aria Banquet & Convention Centre in Surrey.**

FRAFCA supports the attendance of youth in and out of care and provides opportunities for them to share their art at the event.

There will be entertainment, silent auctions, prize raffles, and more! Event is 19+.

Tickets are available through Eventbrite: [Buy now](#).

The completion of this transitional housing project will have a profound impact on youth and whole communities, thank you for your support!

Legacy Project Celebrating BC Friendship Centres



The BCAAFC is collecting video footage to create a short film that **celebrates the work of the BC Friendship Centre Movement.**

What are some of your favorite programs or events that take place at your Friendship Centre?

[Click here for more sample shots & script.](#)

Record your answers and send video submissions to communications@bcaafc.com to help us highlight the work making a positive difference in your communities.



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