BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
BCAAFC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BCAAFC Welcomes Budget 2026 Investments and Opportunities to Strengthen Support for Urban Indigenous Peoples

VICTORIA, B.C. — The B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) welcomes the Government of Canada's investments outlined in Budget 2026 and the opportunities they present to advance shared priorities and strengthen support for Indigenous Peoples living in urban communities throughout British Columbia.

The investments outlined in Budget 2026 align with many of the priorities identified by BCAAFC in its pre-budget submission and present an opportunity to strengthen support for Indigenous-led, community-based organizations. BCAAFC is encouraged by the potential to build on the established capacity of Friendship Centres through investments in housing and community infrastructure, employment and skills development, gender-based violence prevention, emergency preparedness and response, and Indigenous-led digital and data capacity.

“Budget 2026 acknowledges that supporting urban Indigenous Peoples is a shared responsibility. Meaningful, strategic, and evidence-based investments in Indigenous-led organizations and community infrastructure are essential to ensuring culturally grounded services and supports are available where they are needed," said Nox Stikine (Annette Morgan), President of BCAAFC. "Stable, multi-year federal funding will strengthen capacity, sustain effective programs, and help Friendship Centres respond to growing and evolving community needs."

Across British Columbia, Friendship Centres are essential community hubs, providing culturally grounded programs, services, and supports to urban Indigenous Peoples. They support individuals and families through a wide range of services, including housing, homelessness prevention, food security, employment, culture and language revitalization, childcare, youth programming, health and wellness, and mental health supports. As

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trusted, Indigenous-led organizations, Friendship Centres play a critical role in building healthier, safer, and more connected communities.

“Investing in Friendship Centres means investing in the people, programs, and relationships that make our communities stronger,” said Celeste Hayward, Executive Director of BCAAFC. “While targeted investments are important, meeting the needs of a growing urban Indigenous population requires more than short-term funding. Stable, predictable, multi-year operational and capital investments are essential to sustaining services, maintaining and renewing community infrastructure, supporting our workforce, and ensuring Friendship Centres can plan for the future.”

BCAAFC looks forward to continuing its work with the Government of Canada, the National Association of Friendship Centres, and other partners to ensure the opportunities presented in Budget 2026 translate into meaningful and lasting benefits for Indigenous Peoples throughout British Columbia. Sustained investment in the Friendship Centre Network is a practical and effective way to advance reconciliation, strengthen Indigenous-led service delivery, and support healthier, safer, and more prosperous communities.

Learn More

To read Budget 2026, visit https://budget.canada.ca/2026/home-accueil-en.html

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