



2020/2021 TRANSITIONS

December 2020 - March 2021

Developed by: Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi & Julia O'Quinn



With love and gratitude,
we acknowledge that our
work takes place on the
ancestral homelands of
the Xwsepsum,
Lekwungen, Sc'ianew,
and T'Sou-ke Nations.

WHO WE ARE



The Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to "lovingly provide culturally supportive housing and services to end Indigenous homelessness on Vancouver Island." Toward the fulfillment of its mission, the ACEH operates 2 culturally supportive houses and supports transitions to independent living in the Westshore.

2020/2021 HIGHLIGHTS

45

FAMILY MEMBERS
WELCOMED HOME

11

INDEPENDENT LIVING
TRANSITIONS



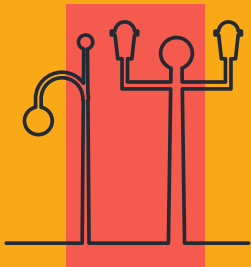
Settling in to his
new apartment

OUR APPROACH

In addition to providing culturally supportive housing, the ACEH offers low-barrier access to decolonized harm reduction services including land-based healing for those it serves.

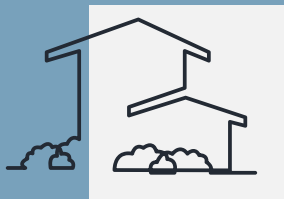
Together, these services have provided a pathway to housing and healing for those with lived experience of homelessness and substance use. Strengthening connection to culture, community and peers in this way has been critical.

POSITIVE TRANSFER FLOW



INTAKE

To begin an individual's pathway to housing, an intake form is completed. From there, a determination is made about their eligibility for independent living. This depends on their active BCH Supportive Housing Registry file, along with other factors. This information is then submitted to the *Coordinated Access and Assessment (CAA) Committee where housing placement decisions are made.



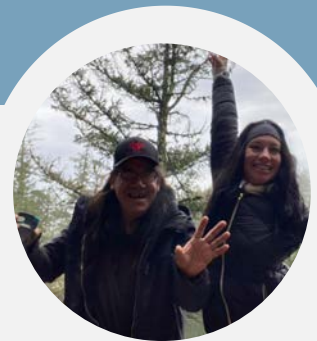
CULTURALLY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Elder support, cultural activities, healing circles, the native medicine garden, and cultural foods are all part of the ACEH's Culturally Supportive Housing model. In addition, residents have access to decolonized harm reduction services to support healing and recovery.



INDEPENDENT LIVING

When family members are ready, the ACEH facilitates their positive transfer to independent living in the Westshore. The ACEH continues to support the 'Westshore Cohort' by providing individualized support, community-building land-based outings, and resources that support the continuation of their healing journeys.



*The ACEH is represented on the CAA Advisory Committee, alongside other local organizations. We come together to streamline application forms and point of access to supportive housing. This ensures people receive supports and housing that best supports their care needs in a timely and transparent manner.

TOWARD INDEPENDENT LIVING

CULTURALLY SUPPORTIVE HOUSE

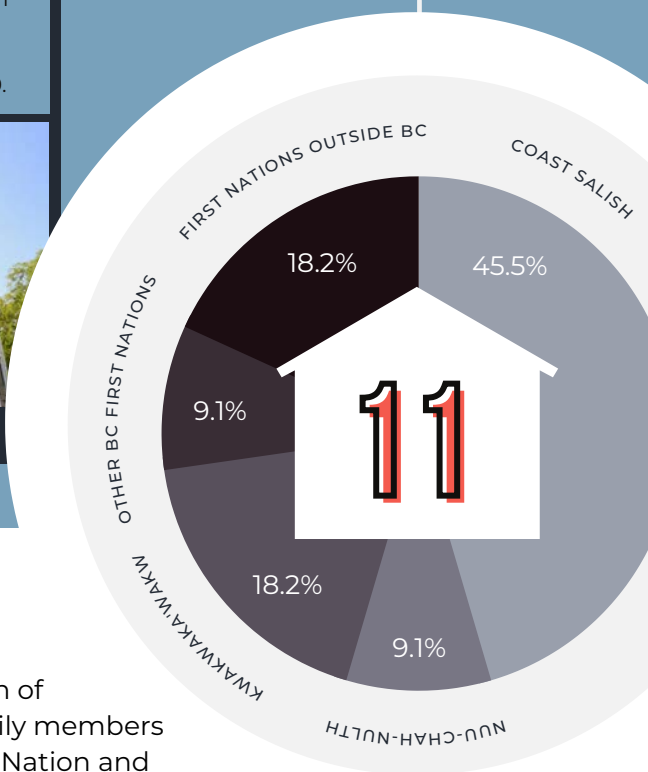
Offers culturally supportive housing and the Indigenous Alcohol Harm Reduction program to 10 Indigenous Street Community members. Opened in March 2020.



Our Family Townhouse is also available to support reunification.

SPEQəŋÉUTXW HOUSE

Provides culturally supportive housing to 22 Indigenous women experiencing homelessness with priority given to those fleeing violence. Opened in August 2020.



INDEPENDENT LIVING - THE WESTSHORE COHORT

Since opening its homes, the ACEH has supported the transition of 11 family members into independent living. The majority of family members in independent living self-identify as coming from an local First Nation and have been satisfied overall with their transition and the support provided.

QUALITY ASSURANCE SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

SUPPORT FROM ELDER
SAFETY, COMFORT
FOOD BOX PROGRAM
ACEH MOVE SUPPORT
SUPPORT FROM HOUSING
TRANSITION ADVOCATE



DUAL MODEL OF HOUSING CARE

The ACEH's Dual Model of Housing Care recognizes that while cultural supports are deeply valuable for Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness, supports must also provide a pathway to healing and recovery from trauma rooted in colonialism and substance use. For this reason, culturally supportive housing is provided alongside decolonized harm reduction services.



Artistry by Doug LaFortune

INDEPENDENT LIVING TRANSITIONS

DECEMBER 31st 2020 - MARCH 31st 2021

To support independent living transitions, the ACEH provided:

12 START UP KITS

\$80 value each

Includes: Staple foods, cleaning supplies, pet food



DRY COMMUNITY-BUILDING EVENTS

- Nature Walks & Spirit Baths
- Land-Based Cookouts
- Cooking Classes
- Cedar Headband Weaving & Cultural Crafts
- Life Skills (i.e., cooking, budgeting, sewing)
- Westshore Walking Program



"I'm in early recovery myself... I go for spiritual baths. I'm connecting with my biological family since I have a home now!"

GIFT CARDS

Up to \$75 value

For groceries, clothing, and household items



67 FOOD BOXES

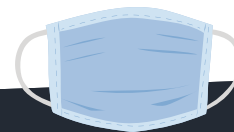
\$60-\$100 value each

DECEMBER	PROTEIN BOX
JANUARY	CHRISTMAS BOX
FEBRUARY	DRY FOOD BOX
MARCH	CAN FOOD BOX
	SELECTION BOX



15+ PPE BUNDLES

Includes: Medical masks, gloves, and sanitizer



COORDINATED DONATIONS

Furniture & houseware donations include couches, tables, beds, stools, cutlery, pans, pots and towels.



ACEH LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS



Isolation is the leading challenge identified by the Westshore Cohort that jeopardizes their progress.



Pandemic restrictions and distance from peer and family networks has impacted self-reported anxiety and depression.

On several occasions, these challenges have led to relapse and detox requests. With the immediate and ongoing support of the Housing Transition Advocate people have been able to return to their healing journeys and remain living independently.



HOUSING TRANSITION ADVOCATE (HTA)

Alongside community-building and life-skills events, the HTA provides the following individualized supports to the Westshore Cohort:



TRANSPORTATION

The HTA provides family members with rides to appointments, service providers, and to do errands.



WELLNESS CHECKS

When the mental health or well-being of a family member presents a concern, the HTA provides wellness checks.



SERVICES NAVIGATION

The HTA helps get family members acquainted with the area and local services.



WHOLISTIC SUPPORT

2-3 times a week, the HTA takes each family member on an outing (i.e., nature walk or to get a coffee).



"GETTING A-TO-B TRANSPORTATION REALLY HELPS."
"SHANNON'S WONDERFUL FOR ALL THAT SHE DOES FOR EVERYONE."



WE ARE ALL ONE.

Our way is to care for all our people.
From the youngest to the oldest.
We are all one. Some of our people
living away from home are
suffering, isolated, and homeless.

WE STAND TOGETHER TO END HOMELESSNESS.



NOTE TO OUR FUNDERS

The ACEH and the Westshore Cohort are deeply grateful for your generosity this past year. This progress has been made possible with your support.



Making a difference...together



VICTORIA
FOUNDATION

Canada