



SPRING NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022



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 Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness

Spring has come and gone!

Over the last few months the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) Society engaged in a blend of events with the First Nations, Inuit and Métis (FNIM) Street Family. While the Outreach Team brought back monthly Building Community events, the Projects team organized the first Peer Support Training Pilot Program attended by 10 Family Members - many who have transitioned into staff roles with the Outreach, Administration and Housing Support departments. Additionally, the Research Team led a dialogue with a cross-section of Victoria's governing and service class on stigma as experienced by the FNIM Street Family. It has been very encouraging to see our community grow and strengthen with each passing season.

Blessings to you all as we celebrate National Indigenous History and Pride month!



FRAN HUNT-JINNOUCHI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Join us for Building Community lunches at the First Met (932 Balmoral Rd) on the 2nd Tuesday of every month, starting at noon!



HIGHLIGHTS



1034

nutrition bags distributed by the Outreach team between March and May 2022.



2 BUILDING COMMUNITY

events hosted for the FNIM Street Family to gather, share culture, and enjoy a meal.



1ST WELLNESS SERVICES

event held for the FNIM Street Family to raise awareness about services provided by the ACEH's Elder, Clinical Counsellor and Nurse.



YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATE

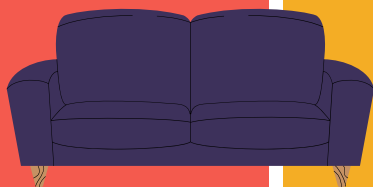
Graham Kelly is excited to be the ACEH's new Youth Projects Coordinator. He has worked with youth for many years - mainly in youth housing and the youth justice system. He has facilitated arts and leadership workshops in schools, as well as Restorative Justice and talk circles. He is also a writer and spoken-word poet. You can reach him to connect and sign up for events at gkelly@acehsociety.com.

JUNE 17



*Bowling @
Langford Lanes*

JUNE 24



Biweekly Drop-In

JULY 8



Biweekly Drop-In

JULY 15



*Land-Based
Event @ Sooke
Potholes*

UPCOMING EVENTS

KNOWLEDGE GATHERING

Between December 2021 and February 2022 the ACEH connected with 69 First Nations and Métis youth who experienced homelessness since November 2021. Through a relational approach we learned about who they are, where they come from, and how the ACEH can best support them. The following priorities emerged:

1

Strong interest in Life Skills Programming

2

Strong interest in connecting with the Elder

3

Strong interest in independent housing with supports as needed



The Aboriginal Coalition will soon release its 5-Year Housing Strategy, which identifies youth housing and cultural support as a top priority.



RESEARCH UPDATES

KNOWLEDGE GATHERING

The ACEH completed Knowledge Gathering with 69 Adult and 69 Youth. The data from these surveys were helpful in establishing priorities of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Street Community. We learned that there is a high demand for nursing, counselling, and elder services—all of which the ACEH now provides at its Broughton Street office.



SHAREBACK EVENT



40+ members of the FNIM Street Family gathered at the Downtown Community Centre for a Shareback event where hot lunch was shared. During this time the ACEH received valuable feedback about its Stigma and Indigenous Systems Improvement Map research projects. It was a wonderful chance for everyone to see their voice in action, leading to improvements in our community.

UPCOMING



CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR
SUBSTANCE USE RESEARCH

In the months ahead the ACEH have signed on to partner with the University of Victoria to implement a Cannabis Substitution Managed Alcohol Program, with support from the Canadian Institute of Substance Research. Peer liaisons will be involved with this project, among others, bringing their invaluable perspectives.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

we are all one



RELATIONSHIP BUILDING



The Victoria Police Department and the ACEH have partnered to do a 3-year project supporting the safety needs of Indigenous women and 2S people. As part of this initiative, we will be holding a series of relationship building days for the FNIM Street Family members and VicPD to participate in. The first event was a mini golf tournament at the Haunted Manor in downtown Victoria. This was a fun filled way to begin what will hopefully be a step toward building more safety and security for Indigenous women and 2S people.



What is something that you learned?



A lot about culture, about myself and more about what I can do for support for others

PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Recognizing the strength in peer support, the ACEH piloted its first 3-week Training and 3-month Work Program for members of the Indigenous Street Family interested in working with the ACEH in a peer support capacity. The training included a combination of certified training such as Mental Health First Aid alongside cultural teachings and practical skills. The program was a great success with 8 of the 10 family members who registered completing the program and moving into their part time work positions. These positions range from office administration to street outreach.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



UNSETTLING STIGMA



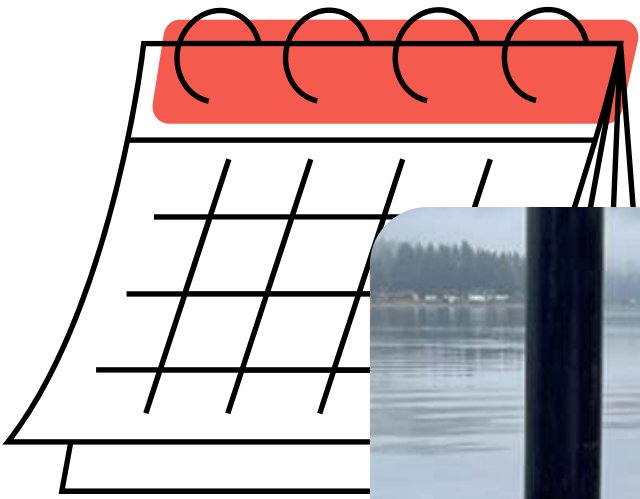
Grace Lore, B.C.'s Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity and the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General, sharing reflections

As a follow up to the Stigma Dialogue Forum held in December 2021, the Aboriginal Coalition organized a Community Action Event attended by local service providers, government representatives and academics that impact the lives of the Indigenous Street Family (ISF). We learned about stigma as experienced by the ISF and generated ideas for cross-sectoral initiatives able to bring about a shift in our language. A focus of 2022 will be implementing these actions together, including a town hall presentation and development of educational materials.



ADDRESSING CORE SYSTEMS GAPS

The Aboriginal Coalition is committed to addressing the Core Systems Gaps identified by 127 Indigenous Street Family members as part of the Indigenous Systems Improvement Map project. In response to their direction to "provide staff cultural training & education," the Aboriginal Coalition will be providing quarterly in-service cultural training to its staff. We have also followed their voices to begin "rebuilding services lost during the pandemic," by bringing back monthly Building Community events and land-based healing camps. Many more developments are underway.



IMPORTANT DATES



LAND-BASED HEALING

JUNE
27-29

AUGUST
15-16

AUG/SEPT
29-2



PRIDE PARADE

The ACEH is excited to participate in the Victoria Pride Parade for the first time to celebrate our 2SLGBTQQA+ friends, staff, Family and community members. Come check it out downtown on June 26th and join in on the celebration!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be on August 19 2022, between 1030am-1200pm @ the Delta Hotel (Tentative). Information about becoming an ACEH member can be found on the ACEH website. Inquiries can be sent to members@acehsociety.com



WELLNESS SERVICES



NURSING

Monday – Friday
930am-430pm
Broughton Office

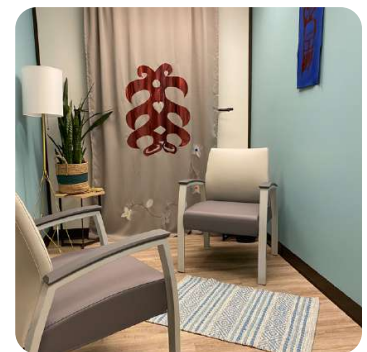
BY APPOINTMENT



ELDER

Thursday Talk & Tea
9am-3pm
*exception June 30
Broughton Office

**DROP-IN
UPON AVAILABILITY**



COUNSELLING

Monday – Friday
930am-430pm
Broughton Office

BY APPOINTMENT



**MAKE AN
APPOINTMENT**



778 432 2234



reception@acehsociety.com



104-736 Broughton Street

■ STAFF FEATURE



KATIE DEKKER
EQUITY PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

What is something that you are looking forward to at the ACEH over the summer?

I am excited about the upcoming land-based events that will be part of the Gender-Based Violence Project in collaboration with VicPD! We will be whale-watching, a canoe trip and salmon cookout, and a calm dig and seafood harvest!

What was your favourite part of peer support training?

The relationships that formed between the group, and seeing everyone grow their confidence.

What can you not go a day without?

Coffee!

What have you learned on the job?

So much—hard to narrow it down, it's been such a huge growing experience for me on so many levels. I'd say that I am struck by the level of community and love between the Family Members. I've learned so much from them.

■ STAFF FEATURE



MARYLIN OLSEN PAGE
ELDER MENTOR

What is something that you are looking forward to at the ACEH over the summer?

I am really looking forward to the land-based healing events—at the local parks, and beaches! Staff wellness is also really important to me.

What is your favourite way to spend a day off?

Reading a good book.

What can you not go a day without?

Coffee!

Do you have a message you'd like to share with new staff members?

“Welcome to the team and enjoy the ride! Every day is an adventure!”



Land-Based healing with support from the outreach and land-based teams!



STAFF FAMILY

With the support of Canada Summer Jobs, the ACEH will welcome 8 new Staff Family for the upcoming season. The strengths of this team builds our capacity to provide unconditional love and support to the FNIM Street Family.

ADMIN

ABBEY KACHAN



HR Assistant

RHYS WILLIAMS



Administrative Assistant

MOLLY PIERCE



Office Receptionist

FINANCE

AIDAN MCCARTY



Accounts Payable Clerk

JEAN CARLOS TORRES MUJICA



Fundraising Organizer

