



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

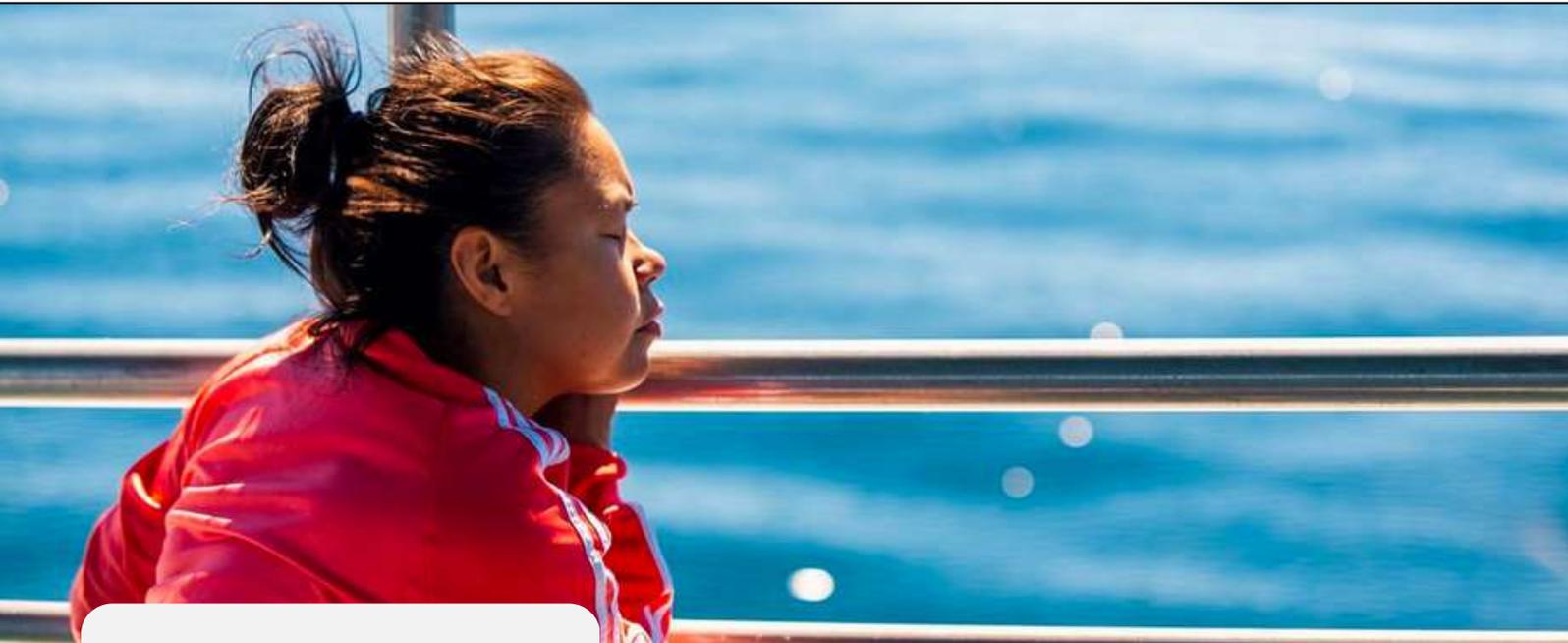


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Outreach Highlights • P. 2

Youth Program • P. 3

Housing Update • P. 4

Feature Events • P. 5

Upcoming Events • P. 10

Wellness Services • P. 11

Staff Features • P. 12



Aboriginal Coalition to
End Homelessness

This issue of the ACEH newsletter provides a snapshot of the organization's 2022 summer — a season filled with many events for the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Street Family and milestones for our organization!

From a seafood feast, to land-based learning, to the Indigenized Peer Work program, to monthly Building Community events, ACEH staff continue to deliver Culturally Supportive Housing and Decolonized Harm Reduction as part of the Dual Model of Housing Care. In doing so we set out to strengthen self-identity among the First Nations, Inuit and Métis (FNIM) Street Family and build a sense of family, toward meaningful housing and health outcomes.

We remain grateful to our extensive support network as we create pathways toward ending Indigenous homelessness on Vancouver Island. Thanks to all for a memorable summer!



FRAN HUNT-JINNOUCHI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

All summer long the ACEH Outreach team has continued to lovingly provide culturally supportive services to the Indigenous Street Family. Their focuses have included preparing and distributing meals regularly; providing supplies to meet basic needs, and making connections to community cultural, health, and housing supports.

 (778) 432-2234



471

meals were distributed by the team between June and August 2022 with loving support from Elder Mentor Aunty Glo.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

For the ACEH's monthly event in August, we were grateful to be joined by Pacheedaht dancers and drummers.



WELLNESS SERVICES

A second event was held for the FNIM Street Family to raise awareness about ACEH Elder, Nurse, and Counsellor services.

YOUTH PROGRAM

A defining initiative of the ACEH is its Youth programming. This summer the team organized land-based events, pride activities, and cultural drop-in sessions to provide First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth with opportunities for cultural and community connection, in a safe and inclusive environment.

ACEH youth programming aims to prevent intergenerational homelessness, through lovingly providing care, support, cultural connection, skills building and a sense of family. With support from the ACEH's youth peer worker, 135 nutrition / hygiene boxes were prepared and distributed to unhoused youth to meet immediate needs.



In July, our friends at Pizzability invited youth to make personal pizzas for lunch. With full bellies, we then headed out for a land-based outing at PKOLS with Knowledge Holder John Bradley Williams where we learned about cedar bark teachings and harvesting practices.



In August, we were welcomed by Esquimalt Nation to launch a canoe on their territory with Knowledge Holder Hwiem'tun. Youth and staff shared delicious bannock sandwiches from the Songhees Food Truck for lunch, then paddled through the harbour, enjoying the summer sunshine together.



The ACEH acknowledges the financial support of Island Health who helped make these land-based events possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT 2



Salmon BBQ & Orange T-Shirt Day Crafts

SEPT 9



Native Plant Walk with Elder Marylin-Olsen Page

SEPT 16



Soap Making with native medicines (Metchosin Soapworks)

SEPT 30



Pow Wow at Royal Athletic Park for Truth & Reconciliation Day

Follow the ACEH YOUTH Facebook page for info on upcoming land-based, drop-ins and cultural events!



HOUSING UPDATE



CULTURALLY SUPPORTIVE HOUSE

The ACEH is pleased to announce that the Culturally Supportive House located in downtown Victoria will continue to operate as an emergency shelter from November 2022–March 2023 after current Family Members are transitioned into the 43-unit House of Courage this fall. This expansion will open space for 14 First Nations, Inuit and Métis Street Family Members to move in and receive support through the ACEH's Dual Model of Housing approach.



VICTORIA WEST FEST

At this year's Vic West Fest the Aboriginal Coalition hosted a booth alongside other vendors to get to the know the community where its 43-unit House of Courage will soon open. In connecting with the community the team met several people who wanted to volunteer and received positive feedback about the opening of the House of Courage on Catherine Street.

PRIDE FESTIVITIES!



PARADE



2SLGBTQIA+ CELEBRATION



Throughout June the ACEH celebrated the 2SLGBTQIA+ community by participating in the 2022 Victoria Pride Parade and hosting a 2SLGBTQIA+ Staff and Family Member Celebration. On the latter occasion we were joined by Elder Marilyn Olsen Paige & Thomas/Thomasina Wamiss to share teachings on Two-Spirit identity, sobriety, and self acceptance as a pathway to healing and recovery. We engaged in team building activities including a community bench project, button making and pride themed bingo. In the future, we will continue to honour our 2SLGBTQIA+ loved ones by creating spaces of community, inclusion, and unconditional love.



RAINBOW WARRIORS TASKFORCE

In late August, the ACEH held the first 'Rainbow Warriors Task Force' meeting with local community organizations and service providers that support the 2SLGBTQIA+ community on Lekwungen territory. Here, we joined together to share resources and learnings around ways that we as a collective group can create inclusive and accessible spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ identifying people. If you are interested in joining the Rainbow Warriors Task Force, contact kdekker@acehsociety.com to register.

FEATURE EVENTS

we are all one



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROJECT



Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada



The ACEH continues its 3-Year project with the Victoria Police Department (VicPD), focused on improving safety for Indigenous women and 2S people through relationship building. Baseline ACEH data indicates that 29% of Indigenous women and 2S people feel safe contacting VicPD for personal reasons, relative to 69% for the ACEH — demonstrating the need for, and opportunity of this project. Recently we came together on WSÁNEĆ territory, with additional guests from the Saanich Police Department, for a seafood feast and afternoon of lahal. Our thanks to Aaron Sam for preparing the incredible meal to share and to Guy Louie Jr. for leading lahal.



I trust police more. I feel safe reporting to police. No matter what the street has to say to me about it.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Earlier this summer Indigenous women and 2S peoples, ACEH staff and VicPD staff went on a guided tour to visit and learn about our ocean relatives. On this day we were grateful to be joined by Elder Belinda Claxton who shared teachings, as well as our dear friends Hwiem'tun and SI,COL,TENOT. Fish and chips prepared by TÁSTENOT for lunch was a real treat! This event fostered connection and trust through creating memories and opportunities to get to know one another.

FEATURE EVENTS



VISIT TO CALGARY

A group of ACEH Elders, staff, and Board Members visited research partners in Calgary, including the University of Victoria, the University of Calgary, Calgary's Aboriginal Standing Committee on Homelessness, and Calgary's Alpha House. They were welcomed to attend a traditional Blackfoot ceremony at the Women's Buffalo Jump and later met with partners to review updates on the ACEH's 3-year Indigenous Alcohol Harm Reduction Residence Program—funded through the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR).



ELDERS & KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS ADVISORY

In June the ACEH hosted a 3-Day Elders and Knowledge Keepers Advisory Gathering. Day 1 and 2 focused on harm reduction topics as part of the CIHR research project. Day 3 centered on the development of a Seasonal Land-Based Healing program, funded by BC NEIHR. Sixteen Elders attended, including representation from the three tribal groups on the Island—Coast Salish, Nuu-Chah-Nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw—and Métis Nation BC. This was a powerful, collaborative event that brought us together to develop healing modalities for the Indigenous Street Family informed by our diverse cultures and knowledge.

FEATURE EVENTS



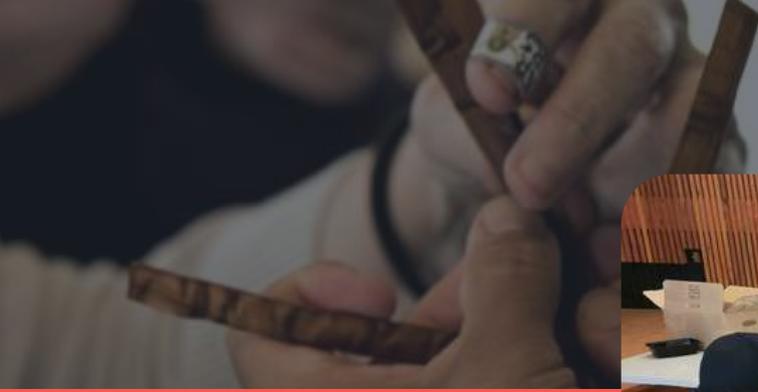
IN-SERVICE TRAINING

The Indigenous Street Family identified the need for organization's across Victoria to increase their cultural knowledge through training and storytelling, as part of the ACEH's Stigma and Labelling research project. The ACEH has responded by providing frontline Culturally Supportive Housing staff with quarterly in-service cultural training. Pictured here, staff spent 2 days with ACEH leadership and Elders to engage in sharing and learning, toward better serving the Indigenous Street Family.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On August 19 the ACEH hosted its Annual General Meeting at the Songhees Wellness Centre. Marilyn Olsen-Page opened the event with a prayer. John Powell, the Chair of the ACEH's Board, delivered his report, which was accepted by membership. Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi's Executive Director's report was also approved. The cross-section of members, which included VicPD, the University of Victoria, and the City of Victoria, were keen to acknowledge the work of the ACEH, and continue their support. Special recognition was given to Charalyne Thornton-Joe and Gordon Gunn for their services to the Board. Julia O'Quinn was also recognized for her tremendous work for the ACEH. The ACEH has gratitude for the membership for their dedication and commitment to our work.



SUMMER STUDENTS

The ACEH bids adieu to the Canada Summer Jobs students who have been a great asset to the ACEH's operations all season. With them they will take learnings from Family Members and staff. The students gained valuable experience in HR, project coordination, teamwork, and reporting. We are grateful for their work and contributions in supporting the Indigenous Street Family. Nearing the end of their work term, the ACEH team organized a cultural outing to thank them for their work. The students enjoyed a fun day of cultural activities including a game of lahal, cedar rose weaving, and a traditional regalia fashion show with local Elders and Knowledge Keepers. The students' mentors also presented awards to recognize the contributions of the student team over the course of their time at the ACEH. The day was an unforgettable way to wrap up the summer!



VICTORIA HONORARY CITIZEN

Finally, the ACEH acknowledges Aunty Glo, who received a Victoria Honorary Citizen Award for 2021! She is a constant presence at the ACEH, and provides much-needed home-cooked food for the Indigenous Street Family. She is and will always be our lighthouse!



UPCOMING EVENTS

This fall the ACEH will host and co-host multiple events attended by leaders and organizations from across the country, focused on topics related to Indigenous-led housing solutions and decolonized harm reduction practice.

OCTOBER 19 & 20



KNOWLEDGE GATHERING

Indigenous Knowledge Holders, thought leaders, researchers and health practitioners will gather to share information, experiences, research, and practice from their work to support the development of Indigenized harm reduction practice related to cannabis use.

NOVEMBER 19 & 20



ARTIST CREDIT: SATSI NAZIEL

LEADING THE WAY CONFERENCE

In partnership with the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) the ACEH will host a 2-day conference for cross-sectoral housing providers, service providers, and Indigenous leaders, to network, share knowledge, research and leading practice.



WELLNESS SERVICES



NURSING

Monday – Friday
930AM-430PM
Broughton Office

BY APPOINTMENT



ELDER

Thursday Talk & Tea
9AM-3PM
Broughton Office

DROP-IN



MAKE AN APPOINTMENT



(778) 432-2234



reception@acehsociety.com



The ACEH welcomes nurse Andrea Common and returning nurse Selina Child to the team!



COUNSELLING UPDATE

Jessica built the foundation for Indigenous Clinical Counselling at the ACEH through her kind and culturally informed approach. With her departure from Victoria to be near family on the Sunshine Coast, the ACEH is working hard to find another counsellor. Appointments for counselling will be available as soon as a new counsellor is hired.



AMALIA PATERSON-ANDINO

ASSISTANT HOUSE MANAGER, SPEQƏŋÉUTXW HOUSE

How did you become involved in Culturally Supportive work?

I have a degree in Social Work, and I've always been interested in working for my community. I have a background in detox, and I have worked with a lot of different organizations in Victoria. Working with Indigenous women is an interest of mine, too, and this ended up being a great fit for me.

What part of the summer with the ACEH did you like most?

Working in the garden at SPAKEN House and watching it grow. It gets bigger each year, and that is amazing.

What is your favourite book?

The House of Spirits by Isabel Allende.

What is one thing you cannot live without in the morning?

My coffee hands down! It's a must!

What are you looking forward to in the upcoming year?

The opening of the Catherine Street House of Courage!



STAFF FAMILY

This summer the ACEH concluded its 3-month pilot Peer Work Program, made possible by financial support from the Victoria Foundation. The ACEH recognizes the many contributions of all participants — several who have now accepted contracts for longer term project positions!

OUTREACH

FRANK PRUDEN



Outreach Worker

HOWEY BAKER



Outreach Worker

MIKE FOX



Outreach Worker

HOUSING

LINDA BOUCHIER



Peer Support Worker

BRIAN MADAM



Peer Support Worker