



WINTER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022



BEAU DICK ART MURAL



INTRODUCTION

FRAN HUNT-JINNOUCHI

Greetings one and all!

It is nice to be able to share some highlights with you. Although we are often challenged with core funding issues and the pandemic in all of its forms, our dedicated and passionate team have somehow managed to still build our capacity, services, and open two houses with a third set to open late summer or early fall. Thanks to the Rapid Housing Initiative fund and BC Housing's support we will be opening a 45-unit house in Vic West next year and will pilot an Indigenous detox program at the new site.

Blessings to each and every one of you.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Major Updates • P. 2

Housing Update • P. 3

Research • P. 4

Outreach • P. 4

Event Highlight • P. 5

Staff Feature • P. 6



Aboriginal Coalition to
End Homelessness

HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE NUMEROUS
FUNDERS OF OUR ONGOING PROJECTS



Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada Women and Gender
Equality Canada





MAJOR UPDATES

With a team committed to lovingly supporting the Indigenous Street Family, there are always new and exciting things on the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness' horizon!



BROUGHTON STREET OFFICE IS NOW OPEN!

As of 2022, the Indigenous Street Family has by-appointment access to the on-site Nurse, Indigenous Clinical Counsellor and Elder Mentor. This team has worked hard on setting up shop, and are now taking appointments. Together, they support the physical, cultural, emotional and mental wellness of the Indigenous Street Family.



KNOWLEDGE GATHERING

This winter knowledge gathering is underway with our Youth and Outreach Teams. Through a relational approach, we are learning about how we can support those that are unhoused. Learnings will help guide the development of the ACEH's cultural programming. Along the way, the Youth and Outreach Teams are building the ACEH's presence in the community, through providing food and cultural events on an ongoing basis.



HOUSING UPDATES

Despite being challenged by the pandemic, ACEH Staff continue to deliver the organization's Dual Model of Housing Care, by providing land-based healing and decolonized harm reduction programs along with culturally supportive housing. Highlighted below are cultural events in which Family Members from the Culturally Supportive House and Spaken House participated.



DEER PROCESSING

at the Culturally Supportive House



BLANKET MAKING

for Indigenous Youth Research Participants



WHIFFIN SPIT TRIP

outing with Culturally Supportive House



SOOKE POTHLES

outing with Spaken House

ANNOUNCEMENT

In 2022 the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness will be opening a new Culturally Supportive House with the support of BC Housing. This residence will have 45 units, 2 of which will be reserved for the on-site pilot Decolonized Harm Reduction Program. To learn more about this exciting development, check out [this webpage](#).



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

1

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROJECT

In partnership with the Victoria Police Department and a growing island-wide Network, the ACEH has begun a 3-Year project focused on increasing the safety of Indigenous women, 2S and gender diverse people.

2

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE FORUM

The ACEH hosted a Community Dialogue Forum to share the learnings from its Stigma & Labelling research. Community leaders including Mayor Lisa Helps, BC Transit and the BC Fire Department attended.

3

COLLABERATIVE RESPONSE NETWORK

As part of the Indigenous Systems Improvement Map project, the Indigenous Street Family identified the services they access most often to support their wellness. This year, the ACEH come together with the named organizations, to pilot projects with the potential to address Core Service Gaps identified.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Team has been visible and active in our community throughout the winter. While the city sleeps, **Alfred** is out early connecting with the Indigenous Street Family. **Monique** is gearing up for our next round of nourishment boxes for distribution, with support from **Dorothy**. We recently welcomed Graham, Mike and Bri to the outreach team!





CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Westshore Cohort had a wonderful holiday event in December. Family members were joined by Doug and Kathy Lafortune as well as the ACEH outreach team. Everyone exchanged gifts and enjoyed a home cooked turkey dinner with all the fixings as well as pumpkin pie from scratch!

THE FAMILY



THE FESTIVITIES



THE FOOD



Moving into the spring season, we are hoping to host more events like this – with what Covid protocols will allow. We are planning to host a monthly brunch with different speakers to update the Westshore Cohort on upcoming events such as the training courses that will be held, land-based events, and one brunch with Fran to chat with the Family Members. This is a great way to keep us together with a strong feeling of community.

- HOUSING TRANSITION ADVOCATE

■ STAFF FEATURE



AUNTY GLO

OUR LIGHTHOUSE



I have been with ACEH for 5 1/2 years as an Elder Mentor. I have so enjoyed being accepted as Auntie Glo. I have hugged, cooked, sewn, cleaned, occasionally a designated driver - in which I was introduced to some funky music on high volume. Lots of great moments.

1

If you had to pick one, what is your favourite meal?

My favourite meal is cooking something that is shared and enjoyed by family and friends.

2

What is something you are looking forward to?

Looking forward to a family get together- we are all vaccinated and have had a booster.

3

What can you not go a day without?

My morning ritual to start the day - a hot shower then I turn the water cold and give thanks to the four directions.

4

What's your favourite way to spend a day off?

An early morning walk with my husband. Creating a new piece of regalia.

5

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

Gilakas'la (welcome) everyday is a new day. Some challenging, but rewarding. We are in this together to make a difference.