



ANNUAL HOUSING REPORT

2023
2024

With gratitude, the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homeless Society acknowledges the Lekwungen (Esquimalt and Songhees), Malahat, Pacheedaht, Scia'new, T'Sou-ke and W̱SÁNEĆ (Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum) peoples on whose ancestral homelands and unceded territories we gather, live, and work.

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The Wellness House will provide treatment and recovery, and will welcome individuals who are on a pathway to healing, to stay for up to three years so that they can be holistically prepared to embark on new pathways, equipped with life skills, education, traditional/cultural skills, job skills training and wraparound supports including: the Indigenous Justice Program, Family Reunification Program, and Land-Based Healing, as well as the CAIS Program with rental supplements up to \$600 for independent market housing.

In closing, I want to thank our team who work so incredibly hard on the front line in our housing and street outreach, in the Place of Hope Justice program, the rental supplement and wraparound supports program (CAIS), land-based healing, administration, youth programming, family reunification and culturally supportive housing, including the Indigenous Alcohol Harm Reduction Residence program. Special thanks to Shannon Hope for leading the development of this year's annual report, as well as the desktop publishing.

Acknowledgements as well to Director of Housing Operations, Wade Hunt who provided tremendous support and data.

You are all amazing and play integral roles to help move the vision forward, the vision brought to life by our Board members, Elders & Knowledge Keepers Advisory Council, and of course, the expressed needs, hopes and dreams of our Indigenous Street Community and Street Family.

With Respect,



Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi
Executive Director



ELDERS AND KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Maryanne Thomas
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Linda Modeste
Aunty Glo (Gloria Roze)
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MEET OUR HOUSE MANAGERS



Tracey Draper, Sophia Harper, Wade Hunt (not pictured: Judy Peterson)

WADE HUNT

Director of Housing Operations

"2023 was a highly anticipated year for all at the ACEH. Most importantly, it marked the opening of Kwum Kwum Lelum (House of Courage). It's been a privilege to support our canoe's travel alongside dedicated staff as we settle our community over in Victoria West in the Lekwungen territories. This milestone is soon to be followed by the official opening of the Youth House and XEXE PAHLATSIS LELUM (Sacred Cradle House). A moment I will always remember from this year is sharing a meal with Heredity Chief Edward Thomas, Elder Elmer George Senior, Elder Maryann Thomas, Knowledge Keeper Denise Sam and ACEH Associate Executive Director Julia O'Quinn, to explore Lekwungen language and beginning the process of naming the Youth House."

JUDY PETERSON

Youth House Manager

Mama Jude returned to the Coalition in January 2024, this time to manage our new six-bed Therapeutic Youth Care House, where we are looking forward to welcoming our young ones home in the first quarter of 2024.

SOPHIA HARPER *Kwum Kwum Lelum House Manager*

"As we approach the 1.5-year mark since Kwum Kwum Lelum opened, I've been reflecting on what has changed, what we did right, where we fell short, and what we need to do moving forward. Most importantly, I've seen and heard from Family Members that they feel at home at House of Courage. They have built genuine connections with the staff and each other, and for the first time in a long time, or occasionally ever, many of them feel loved, valued, heard, and cared for. They know they are part of a family at House of Courage."

TRACEY DRAPER

Speqəŋéutxw House Manager

Tracey joined the Coalition family in January 2024, after working in the Downtown Eastside community in Vancouver for the past decade. In her personal life, Tracey is a talented DJ. The ACEH is grateful to have Tracey leading our women's house!

SPEQƏŋÉUTXW HOUSE

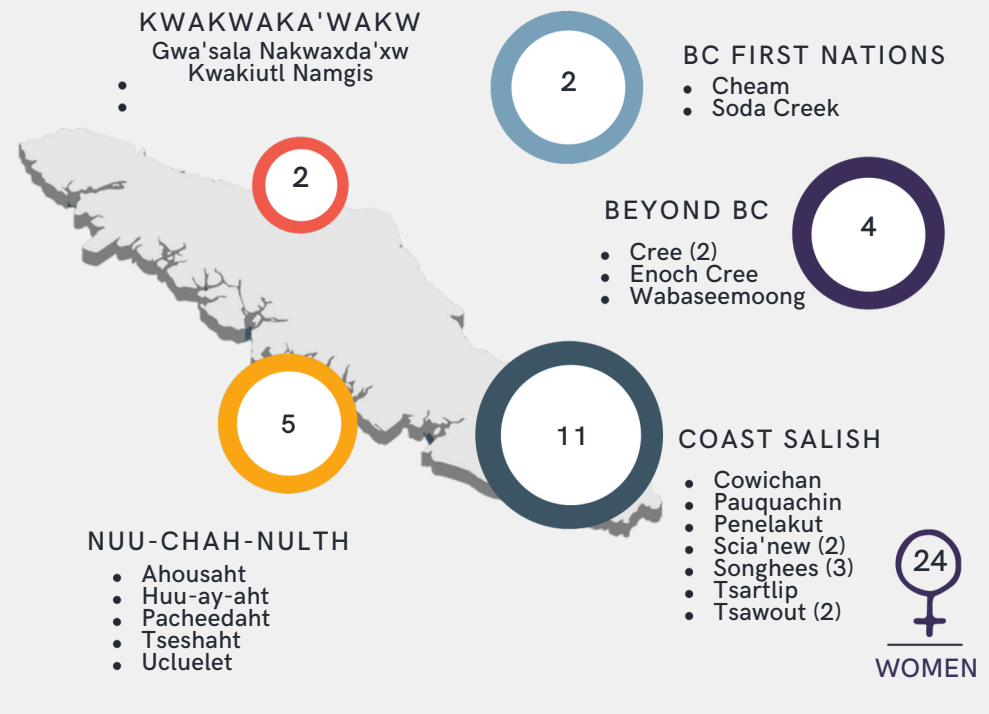
House of Flowers



OVERVIEW

SpeqƏŋÉutxw House, or the House of Flowers, is a modular two-storey home with 21 self-contained units, each with a private washroom and mini kitchen. It opened in August 2020 as the first Culturally Supportive Housing site dedicated to Indigenous women, with priority for those experiencing gender-based violence. In the yard, native plant beds are home to therapeutic gardening, part of our Land-Based Healing program, where Family Members tend medicines, berry plants, and vegetables that are harvested seasonally.

FAMILY MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS



We recognize that Family Members may have multiple ancestral connections. The data reflects how Family Members self-identify and reported.



Addiction is all my body has ever known. When I first came to SpeqƏŋÉutxw I was doing straight heroin but now I'm on Dilaudid + Kadian, I can do this now.

KWUM KWUM LELUM

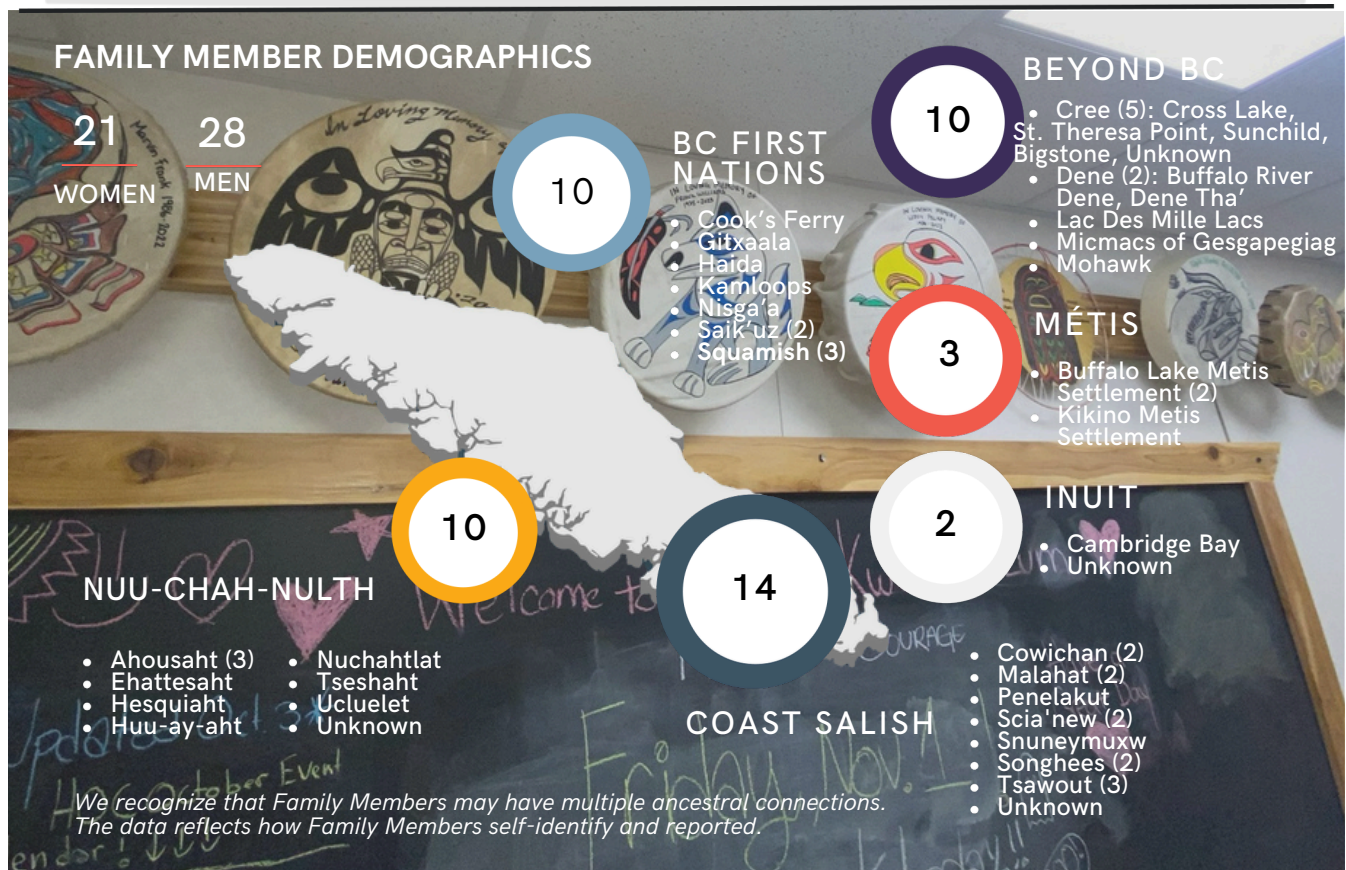
House of Courage



A House favourite: Smoothie Bar!

Smoothies quickly became popular among Family Members after a Vitamix was purchased to support the Cannabis Substitution program - proving to be a delicious way to increase nutritional intake! Shout out to Troy Courville, our Registered Nurse and Smoothie Barista, and Marc Jinnouchi for building the bar!

The highly anticipated transition from the Culturally Supportive House on Mason Street in the downtown core, housing 12 Family Members, to opening Kwum Kwum Lelum (House of Courage) in the Vic West neighbourhood for 43 Family Members in March 2023 came with triumphs and challenges. Overall, the opening of Kwum Kwum Lelum was a success, given that there are no other supportive transitional housing sites in Greater Victoria offering co-ed, decolonized, Culturally Supportive Housing for Indigenous peoples. The ACEH strives to be a good neighbour, and as such, has been responsive and working collaboratively with Vic West Community Association to address issues such as noise and escalated behaviour.



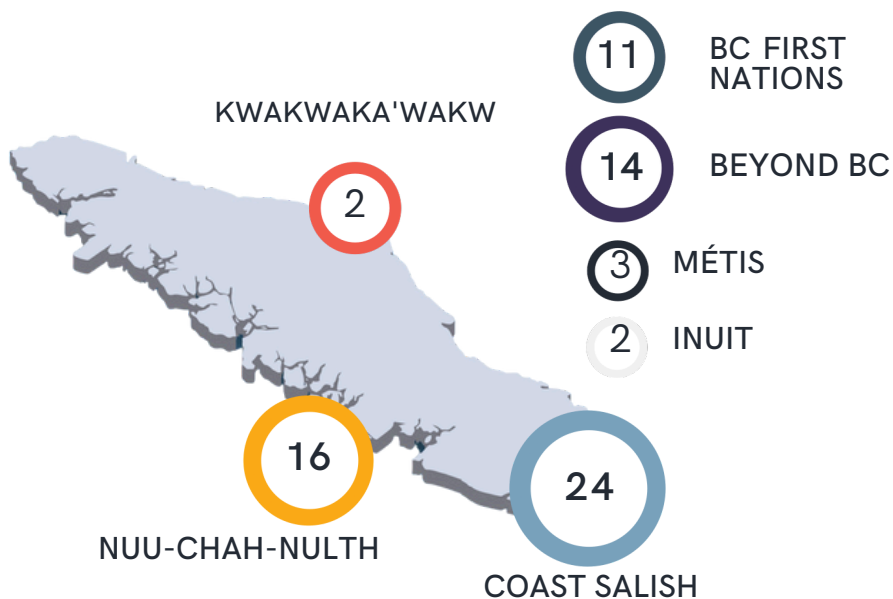
CULTURALLY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SNAPSHOT

28

MEN

45

WOMEN



"I was excited because I had whole amenities that I needed to take a shower and you know my own washroom and a bed. Yeah, like a comfortable bed. Your own space. I could close the door, you know. And I felt a little independence, you know, even though I had bunch rules to abide by."



Culturally Supportive Housing 2023-24

Program Description

of Beds

Speqəŋéutxw House



Speqəŋéutxw (SPAKEN) House opened in August 2020 and offers Culturally Supportive Housing and services to 22 Indigenous women experiencing homelessness, with priority given to those fleeing violence. Family Members living at SPAKEN have access to all ACEH programming, some of which takes place at SPAKEN, such as Land-Based Healing, Justice.

21

*22 Family Members

Kwum Kwum Lelum



House of Courage opened in Vic West in March 2023 to transition Family Members from Culturally Supportive House which was located in the downtown core. HOC is a co-ed home to 44 family members, our Indigenous Alcohol Harm Reduction Residence program, Cannabis Substitution Program, and other ACEH programming.

44

CULTURALLY SUPPORTIVE PROGRAMMING SNAPSHOT



13
SUPPORTED BY
JUSTICE

In 2023-2024, 13 Family Members at SPAKEN and House of Courage were actively participating in the Indigenous Justice Program.



18
LAND-BASED
PARTICIPANTS

Of 49 Family Members currently or formerly housed at House of Courage, 18 were actively participating in Land-Based Healing programming and 3 were actively working towards participating.



46%
LAND-BASED
PARTICIPANTS

Of 24 Family Members currently or previously housed at SPAKEN House 2023-2024, 11 were actively participating in Land-Based Healing programming.

CULTURALLY ALIGNED INTEGRATED SUPPORT



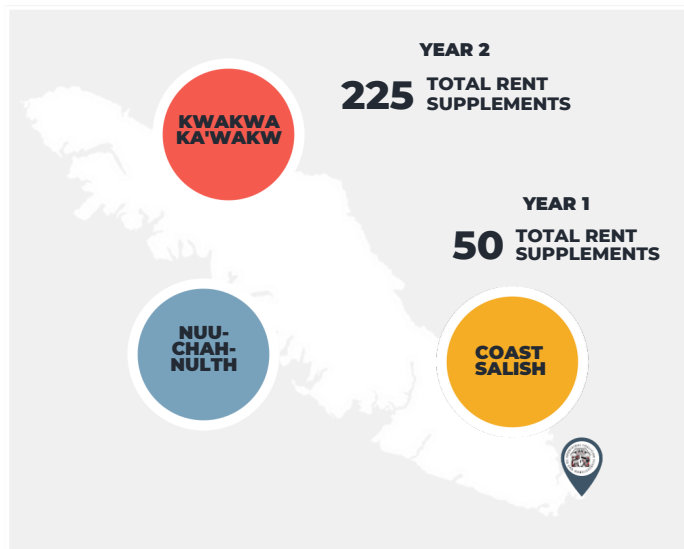
The Culturally Aligned Integrated Support (CAIS) Program focuses on prevention and transition into independent market housing with rental supplements and offers seven streams of wraparound services.

The seven areas of support part of this pilot program include:

- Housing Cultural Restorative
- Justice Food Security Wellness
- and Substance Use Social,
- Emotional, and Community
- Personal Care and Living
-
-

The ACEH was selected as BC's pilot site for the CAIS program — an Indigenous-led initiative offering wraparound health, social, and housing supports. Rent supplements available as part of this program are dedicated to support transitions into the private market, to reduce and prevent homelessness, and build independence. This program is part of the provincial Supported Rent Supplement Program and Budget 2022 actions on homelessness. As part of CAIS, approximately 90 rent supplements with wraparound care were provided in Year One to eligible Indigenous peoples living in independent, off-reserve housing in Victoria.

CAIS is a special opportunity for the ACEH to continue supporting Family Members along the housing continuum, to become an active participant in breaking down stigma in the private market, and taking a step toward its mission to end homelessness across Vancouver Island.



WRAPAROUND CARE TEAM

 <p>BC HOUSING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Mentor • Housing Navigators • Manager • Program Specialist
 <p>island health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Mentor • Nurse Practitioner • Clinical Counsellor • Intensive Case Manager • Resident Care Aide
 <p>BRITISH COLUMBIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Integrated Specialist



Additional funds for 50 move in kits were provided by Social Planning & Research Council of British Columbia in 2023

Indigenous people living off reserve in independent rental housing may be eligible to join the CAIS Program to receive a monthly rental supplement and wraparound supports. For information and referrals, contact cais@acehsociety.com

INDIGENOUS ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION RESIDENCE PROGRAM

PARTICIPANTS

15

The Indigenous Alcohol Harm Reduction Residence Program (IAHRRP) is available to 13 Family Members residing at Kwum Kwum Lelum. The Elders and Knowledge Keepers Advisory Council continue to share their wisdom and guidance toward development of this culturally informed program. The IAHRRP Program was a 3-year CIHR partnership with University of Victoria researchers, University of Calgary, Alpha House, Aboriginal Standing Committee on Homelessness in Calgary, which completed March 31, 2024. We also completed a second year of the co-occurring community-based research collaboration Cannabis Substitution program in partnership with CISUR and funded by Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP). We are also pleased to announce an additional multi-year research partnership with CISUR via SUAP for peer-based training within a residence-based Alcohol Harm Reduction program with emphasis on Land-Based Healing.



WOMEN

7

MEN

8

AVERAGE

42

AGE

ACEH asked IAHRRP Family Members:

"How is this Program helpful in supporting you and meeting your goals?"

Working close with the in-house nurse that ensured my health needs met and understood that stopping drinking suddenly was not acceptable as endangerment to my life. Knowing I had support going to detox and that it was only a phone call away. Knowing that my apartment was secure going to treatment helped. Many activities helped keep me busy on my return from stabilization house including the Land-based healing trips. The biggest help in my journey was the trust from management and support workers before, during and after getting through a relapse tremendously made a difference and treating me with compassion and understanding to uphold my dignity as a proud First Nations individual. There are many things I could suggest that would have made my transition easier; however, the frequent checking in with me the weeks after in the beginning, 'contemplation' phase of alcoholism was extremely important and in the sustaining sobriety as well. - One Family Member's reflection

LAND-BASED HEALING

The cornerstone of ACEH programming is Land-Based Healing. Led by Nikki Wilkinson and Lara Jensen, Land-Based Healing has been one of the most loved and impactful programs. In 2023-2024 we had 4 well attended camps. In May 2023 we travelled to Cluxewe, Kwakiutl territory with 9 House of Courage Family Members and in July we spent time on the Koksilah reserve in Cowichan with 13 Family Members from SPAKEN House and House of Courage. February 2024 we gathered in Tseshaht and Hupačasath in Port Alberni with 8 Family Members from the SPAKEN Cohort, and March was an unforgettable adventure to Ucluelet and Tofino with a cohort of 8 Family Members from House of Courage.

"Getting to be here, feel my spirit open up, be family with everyone, it doesn't leave when we leave camp. It only makes me stronger and that's the best feeling that I could ever have. It makes me want to hold and hug that feeling so tight and never let go. It's the best feeling in the world."



Thank you for this trip. It really lifted all the darkness. Sometimes the city can be hard, but I really feel the darkness has lifted. It feels good.





COMMUNITY BUILDING

Various community relationship-building events are held throughout the year to invite our neighbours and community to participate, experience, and witness our programming. In 2023-2024, we held two cultural events, drumming and deer processing, at each of our houses.

Family Members and community members learned and shared knowledge about traditional methods of hunting, processing, and protecting the black-tailed deer in the context of urban sprawl across the Kwetlal food system. From skinning the deer, processing the meat, to keeping the hooves for future knowledge sharing - a lot was shared experientially and learned communally. Deer processing always proves to be a memorable experience for everyone!





WHAT'S NEXT?

Upcoming Culturally Supportive Housing and Programming

1

YOUTH HOUSE

In partnership with Surrounded by Cedar, the Therapeutic Youth House will be home to six of our young ones in Victoria.

2

CAIS EXPANSION

Island-wide expansion of our Culturally Aligned Integrated Support Program, providing rental supplements and cultural wraparound services for in independent market housing.

3

XEXE PAHLATSIS LELUM

Culturally Supportive Housing for 15 Indigenous moms and their babies in downtown Victoria. Sacred Cradle House will exist to unify family to reduce child apprehensions.

4

WELLNESS HOUSE

32 unit Culturally Supportive Housing development for pre and post treatment services in the downtown Victoria core.

SUCCESSSES & CELEBRATIONS



1100

Days Housed



1038

Land-Based Hours



1230

Cultural Hours

Average # of days housed for the 24 Spaken Family Members

A BC Housing measure of success is 80% of Family Members being continuously housed for 2 years (730 days)

of Land-Based hours experienced annually by House of Courage & SPAKEN House Family Members

of cultural support hours experienced annually

Includes cultural activities, teaching, traditional food prep, Elder & Aunty time

HIGHLIGHT

With ongoing support from the ACEH, a Family Member who had been in supported living at Speqəŋéutxw House for 2.25 years, transitioned to independent living in September 2023, and they remain living independently today!



"You have lit the little kid energy and fire inside me. I felt a joy that I haven't felt in a long time."



FINDING STRENGTH IN EACH OTHER



Addiction is the absence of connection, so it feels really good to be connected.



IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES WHO PASSED



The ACEH Houses are home to Family Members experiencing concurrent medical, mental health, and substance-related challenges. Our mission is to ensure a quality of life surrounded by love, culture, community, and dignity, while based with us at ACEH. Sadly, we acknowledge the losses we have experienced.

To do this, we came together to celebrate the lives of Family Members with love and gratitude. Collectively, we shared stories and songs that honour their journey. Our hearts were filled as we remembered the laughter and lessons that each person brought into our lives. It is good medicine to process our loss in community, and we are so thankful for every person who came to wish our dear Family Members well on their journey. Hych'ka Siem, Kleco Kleco, Gilakas'la, All My Relations - Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to those beautiful days.

We will always love and treasure the memories shared with our precious loved ones. Together, we have healed in a cultural way, allowing families to join together in a respectful way.





We stand together to end First Nations, Métis and Inuit homelessness.



Special thanks to the ACEH's community partners for their part in supporting Indigenous housing & healing.

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