

Inventory of Aboriginal Services, Issues and Initiatives in Vancouver



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The information in this manual is for information purposes only, and is not meant to be exhaustive. Interested individuals should consult other resource lists and written materials to find out more about the Vancouver Aboriginal community

Opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Social Planning Department or City.



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> PART 1 – BACKGROUND <

Introduction

The City of Vancouver is committed to working with Vancouver's Aboriginal communities and helping the communities to achieve its goals. There are a number of ways that the City can do this, including:

- Information sharing (keeping community apprised of initiatives and opportunities)
- Support (letters, resources, meetings, networking)
- Partnerships (e.g.: Native Youth Centre development)
- Funding (community service grants, other grants, land)
- Advocacy
- Employment
- Capacity building

The information presented in this manual is meant to provide City staff with a broad overview of the activities and stakeholders within the Aboriginal communities living in Vancouver so that we can make informed decisions about how we might be able to support their priorities.

The manual is comprised of three sections that were developed in a way that allows for easy access and understanding. The three sections include:

1. **Background Information and Ways that COV Can Contribute** - provides context for the Coast Salish First Nations connected directly to Vancouver, including historical and political overviews and sources for community engagement. This section also identifies meaningful ways in which the city can immediately develop and strengthen ties to Vancouver Aboriginal communities in order to help them achieve their goals. Readers should keep these items in mind when reading the Context Documents section of this manual in order to help them identify how they might provide support in each area.
2. **Context Documents** - covers twenty-one broad areas such as Employment, Coast Salish First Nations, Housing & Homelessness, and Youth. The information is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather to provide City staff with a good overview of the current issues, initiatives, and stakeholders in the various communities regarding these broad issues. Each document provides an overview of the category including stats and commentary, a listing of key stakeholders, partnerships, committees, trends, and gaps. 'Who's Involved?' includes both Aboriginal organizations and those non-Aboriginal organizations that are known to actively work with and/or provide services to Aboriginal communities.
3. **Contact Information** - all organizations listed, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, are listed with address, phone numbers, fax, email, and website.

Ways that COV May Be Able To Contribute

The City of Vancouver has demonstrated its commitment to community in a number of tangible ways, through many initiatives in the Downtown Eastside, the CityPlan vision process, the City's grants to community service agencies and through such initiatives as the Social Development Plan. As the City develops and implements plans that are meant to benefit its citizens, it is important to keep in mind the fact that Aboriginal people are often over-represented in most negative statistics and suffer high rates of poverty and homelessness in Vancouver. Although Aboriginal people are not generally involved in civic or other politics, this should not limit their access to and benefits from city policies that are meant to help improve the living conditions of Vancouver residents.

The City could help to positively address many of the issues faced by Aboriginal Vancouver residents by partnering with Aboriginal communities to identify and actively address community priority areas. The City could help to engage these communities by disseminating information in a timely manner, and in accessible forms (e.g. in-person reports, culturally appropriate literature, or information that focuses on benefits to the Aboriginal communities).

The following six initiatives or potential areas of partnership represent ways in which the City could begin to support Aboriginal communities. Some of these obviously over-lap with others, but their individual categorization is important to ensure that they are highlighted, and to help the City to divide any potential work into workable 'chunks' that may be addressed by different parties either on their own or in partnership.

Vancouver Aboriginal Accord

An Aboriginal Accord could help to build a framework for ongoing respectful and meaningful relationships that would benefit both parties. The development of an Aboriginal Accord would provide a means to identify priorities, and collectively work towards concrete plans to address them. Such an agreement would be most effective if it included specific goals and timelines that both parties could work towards, and be representative of the communities (youth, Elders, women, disabled). The COV could follow the examples of Winnipeg and Edmonton and begin work with local Aboriginal leaders and individual community members to develop a community development focused Aboriginal Accord. More information about similar initiatives can be found online at:

- ~ Edmonton's Urban Aboriginal Accord: www.edmonton.ca or http://www.edmonton.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_265_210_0_43/http%3B/CMSServer/COEWeb/city+government/plans+and+initiatives/edmontonurbanaboriginalaccordinitiative.htm
- ~ Winnipeg's First Steps: Municipal Aboriginal Pathways can be found online on the bottom of the following page: www.winnipeg.ca/interhom/guide/map/Memo.stm
- ~ (Australia) Albany Aboriginal Accord: <http://www.atns.net.au/biogs/A001826b.htm>

While an Aboriginal Accord would help to lay a good foundation for ongoing and respectful ways of working together, its development need not delay other work that can be started now.

Advocacy

The City of Vancouver is in a unique position to help Aboriginal organizations and initiatives to move forward by exercising their right to bring forward ideas, comments, and suggestions to the many committees and boards in which City staff participates. The City could reach out to the Aboriginal communities to identify what their individual and community priorities are. If the City is aware of Aboriginal priorities and initiatives, staff may be able to assist through advocacy. Staff could include members of the Aboriginal communities at various tables, so that their ideas can be presented and they can network with others.

The monthly Vancouver Aboriginal Council meetings are a good way to hear updates on community initiatives and to network with community members to identify their needs. There are many bodies that the City is connected to, but the following are the primary groups that would be most relevant to Aboriginal communities:

- ~ Urban Aboriginal Strategy
- ~ Vancouver Agreement
- ~ 2010 Olympic Committee
- ~ GVRD / SCPI Homelessness Initiative
- ~ Ministry for Children & Family Development
- ~ Youth Funders Table
- ~ Provincial government committees and initiatives
- ~ Federal government committees and initiatives

Advocacy by City staff is linked to all activities identified in this report. A good example of advocacy, and partnership, is the development of the Native Youth Centre. The City has been very instrumental in helping to keep provincial and federal focus on this project, and has formally committed to the project by purchasing a piece of land to develop the Centre on.

2010 Olympics

The Vancouver Olympic Committee has identified and committed to Aboriginal involvement in the development and hosting of the 2010 Winter Olympics. The City could support this commitment to have local First Nations involved at all levels of planning and development, as well as participation during the event itself by advocating for their meaningful representation at all levels that the City has influence in.

- ~ Helping to ensure meaningful involvement would help to build trusting and ongoing relationships with the local First Nations who the City must work with even after the Olympics are over (Musqueam First Nation, in particular as they are located within Vancouver).
- ~ Helping to ensure the meaningful participation of urban Aboriginal communities will also help to develop and strengthen relationships with this diverse, non-land based population.
- ~ Given the high rate of unemployment within Aboriginal communities, the build up to the Olympics is a great opportunity to help ensure that Aboriginal people are able to access some of the emerging opportunities such as construction work, consulting, planning, or through arts and cultural initiatives. More info about employment activities in Aboriginal communities can be found in the 'Employment' section of this manual.

Facilities

Most Aboriginal organizations or ad hoc groups are under-housed in inadequate facilities that limit their ability to provide the numbers, types, and quality of programs that they would like to offer. Access to the following would greatly contribute towards progress in this area:

- City buildings with low lease rates
- Land - City purchase of land for the organization's use
- Public facilities - Access to space in community centres, neighbourhood houses, or other venues that can help to alleviate needs and allow organizations to provide programs and services that they might not otherwise be able to

Partnerships between the City and Aboriginal organizations or groups that focus on advocacy and meaningful partnering opportunities could greatly help organizations to realize their goals.

Capacity Building

Many Aboriginal organizations have the will and expertise to become more proactive in their work, but often funding inhibits this. Many organizations are struggling to participate in community and organizational development activities because most of their staff's time is spent ensuring that their programs and services are being well developed and implemented. Many organizations recognize the benefits of organizational and community development, but need additional supports to allow them to pursue any related activities. Resources usually needed include dedicated staff, funding, mentorship, and access to best practice resources such as templates, sample policies and procedures, and development and evaluation tools. Ways that City staff could initiate partnerships or respond to requests include:

- Mentorship
- Introductions to other community organizations, private business, or government representatives (resources and/or funding)
- Fostering partnerships between community organizations, private business, or government representatives (resources and/or funding)

Within the City of Vancouver

- **Funding** - ensuring that Aboriginal organizations and community members are aware of funding opportunities both within and outside of the City of Vancouver. Effective partnerships for dissemination of information could include the Vancouver Aboriginal Council, Urban Native Youth Association, Aboriginal Front Door, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, Luma Native Housing, Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association, Aboriginal Mothers Centre, Vancouver Native Housing, and other broad reaching organizations.
- **Aboriginal Staff** - Aboriginal staff in various policy, planning and direct service positions would be especially helpful as a liaison between the City and Aboriginal communities, and could help in fulfilling and expanding upon many of the suggestions noted in this report. Consultation with Aboriginal communities to identify priority areas to focus on prior to hiring such a staff person would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the work, but this work could also be completed in a collaborative process with the community.

- **City Learn** could incorporate the information within this manual into their learning materials so that all City staff have the opportunity to learn more about the unique contributions, history, needs, and aspirations of Vancouver's Aboriginal communities.
- **The CoV Equal Employment Office** could develop and implement processes that help to identify, recruit, train, and retain Aboriginal employees. Effective partnerships could include local colleges, universities, Aboriginal organizations, and Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement Holders (ACCESS and the First Nations Employment Society).

Historical Overview

Throughout this manual, there are references to the residential school experience as a factor that has led to issues such as low educational achievement, family violence, sexual exploitation, and homophobia. In order to provide context to the many of the challenges that Aboriginal individuals and communities currently face, it is important to acknowledge the many issues that can be directly attributed to the experiences of colonization and residential school enrolment. The Government of Canada has acknowledged that many abuses took place in these schools that have had long-lasting and devastating effects on individuals, families, and communities. This is not an excuse, but rather some historical context so that City staff may better be able to understand and work with Aboriginal communities to work towards positive change.

Residential schools operated across the country until the mid 1990's, so most Aboriginal people have either gone to residential school, or are the child or relative of someone who has. "It is estimated that approximately 100,000 children attended these schools over the years in which they were in operation ... most residential schools ceased to operate by the mid-1970s, with only seven remaining open through the 1980s. The last federally run residential school in Canada closed in Saskatchewan in 1996." (Indian & Northern Affairs Canada)

"Department of Indian Affairs' policy that aboriginal children must not be educated "above the possibilities of their station", were upheld. As such, the schools' curriculum included moral training (through physical labour), academic training (although many teachers were insufficiently educated) and industrial training (for farming and menial jobs). Engaged in the classroom for only half a day, the children were responsible for the complete maintenance (cooking, cleaning, laundry, grounds keeping, farming, etc.) of the school for the remainder of their day. Grade three was the acceptable standard of education."

- *Indian Residential School Survivors Society*

Excerpts from the Government of Canada's Statement of Reconciliation

As Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians seek to move forward together in a process of renewal, it is essential that we deal with the legacies of the past affecting the Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including the First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Our purpose is not to rewrite history but, rather, to learn from our past and to find ways to deal with the negative impacts that certain historical decisions continue to have in our society today.. We must recognize the impact of these actions on the once self-sustaining nations that were disaggregated, disrupted, limited or even destroyed by the dispossession of traditional territory, by the relocation of Aboriginal people, and by some provisions of the Indian Act. We must acknowledge that the result of these actions was the erosion of the political, economic and social systems of Aboriginal people and nations. One aspect of our relationship with Aboriginal people over this period that requires particular attention is the Residential School system. This system separated many children from their families and communities and prevented them from speaking their own languages and from learning about their heritage and cultures. In the worst cases, it left legacies of personal pain and distress that continue to reverberate in Aboriginal communities to this day. Tragically, some children were the victims of physical and sexual abuse.

More information can be found online:

Indian Residential School Survivors Society www.irsss.ca
Indian Residential School Resolution Canada www.irsr-rqpi.gc.ca

Coast Salish First Nations

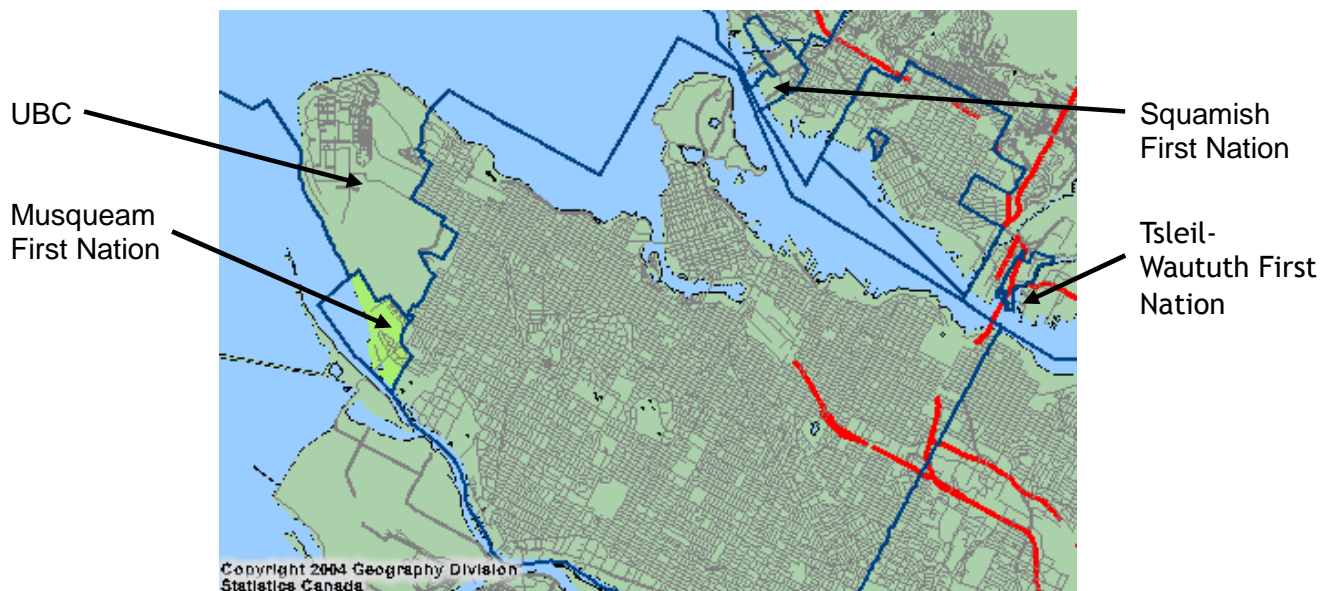
Traditional Territories

Vancouver is bounded by three local First Nations who have lived in this area for thousands of years. All three are members of the Coast Salish Nation. They are the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh. While their traditional territories are overlapping, today they are each based on their own reserve lands in Vancouver, North Vancouver, and partly into West Vancouver. The only one located in Vancouver proper is the Musqueam First Nation which is located south of Marine Drive near the UBC Endowment Lands (as shown in the map below).

Each of the three local First Nations has a rich history and culture that is tied to the land that is their traditional territories. None of these First Nations has signed a treaty ceding their traditional territories. All three are at some point in the six-step BC Treaty Process. More specific information can be found at www.bctreaty.net/files_3/first_nations_lower-mainland-fraser-valley.html.

Reserves locations, size, population

- **Musqueam** First Nation is located just south of Marine Drive near the UBC Endowment Lands, has an on-reserve Aboriginal population of 530 people living on a 1.91 square kilometre reserve (Social Indicators Report, COV)
- **Squamish** First Nation's largest community is in North Vancouver at the end of the Lions Gate Bridge and in mid-North Vancouver, has 28 villages on 28.28 sq. km, 1,941 of their 3,292 members live on-reserve. (www.squamishnation.net)
- **Tsleil-Waututh** First Nation's largest community is in North Vancouver just east of the Iron Workers Memorial Bridge, has 1,203 on-reserve members (2001 Aboriginal Population Distribution in the GVRD by Census Tracts)



Schooling

None of the three First Nations operate on-reserve schools, so their members attend school in the adjoining municipality or city. All three have some form of adult learning opportunities, especially in relation to upgrading to grade twelve levels.

Employment & Economic Development

All three of the First Nations have some level of employment-based programming and social services that are staffed mostly by Band members, while some members work off-reserve.

Both Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations are in a more advantageous location and situation than Musqueam First Nation, primarily due to their locations at the foot of Lions Gate and Iron Workers Memorial Bridges and the larger size of their reserves. This has enabled both First Nations to create partnerships with large private business to build and operate businesses on their reserves. This has led to increased revenues from leasing and increased employment for their members. While Musqueam First Nation also has some leaseholds, shipyards, and a hotel, their opportunities are much more limited than the other two local First Nations.

Issues

The three local First Nations have all of the same issues that other on or off-reserve Aboriginal communities have. The main difference in comparison to the off-reserve urban communities is that their on-reserve population is in one or two small, centralized areas that can exacerbate issues unless there are strong cultural traditions and good social services to help prevent and/or positively address the issues.

Musqueam First Nation, which is the only reserve in Vancouver proper, has an added dimension in relation to the old leaseholds that continue to be an ongoing issue. More info can be found at www.musqueam.bc.ca/Leaseholders.html. Each First Nation has a newsletter that can be found and/or subscribed to online at the websites listed below.

Relationship with Municipal Governments

There continue to be many challenges when building relationships between local municipalities and the three local First Nations. The following are issues that to various degrees are present in all relationships:

- The on-reserve status of First Nations often leads municipalities to treat them as a federal responsibility rather than fully engaging them as neighbours who can contribute to the municipality in many ways
- A reluctance to acknowledge the local First Nations as having a unique position as the first inhabitants of the area, even though their traditional lands have never been ceded and they are all in the BC Treaty Process
- First Nations want to be formally consulted in many areas, but municipalities are not always open to seeking or including input
- Often when non-First Nations want to consult with the local First Nations or invite them to speak at or open an event, the uncertainty about whose territory the event is happening on can sometimes be a deterrent to inclusion. The local First Nations acknowledge that their traditional territories are over-lapping, but the perception in non-Aboriginal communities is that there is ambiguity and tensions surrounding this issue between the three First Nations. The City of Vancouver would do well to work with the

local First Nations to identify a process that can ensure the inclusion of the three local First Nations in City processes, initiatives, and events.

Inclusion

A local First Nations representative can usually be found to participate in private, government, or cultural activities, but it is very important for municipalities to ensure that they are working with the appropriate people in relation to the First Nation in order to develop and maintain good working and neighbouring relationships. Protocols should include working with each of the three Band Councils to:

1. Identify who their official representatives should be in specific circumstances. This may not always be Band Council representatives, and could be a number of different individuals who have expertise in specific areas.
2. Under what circumstances they would want someone involved, and what that would entail (i.e. opening of an event may include an opening song and/or prayer, inclusion on committees or with delegations)
3. When the specific representatives are available, including lead time for request
4. Appropriate way to make the request
5. How to contact the representatives
6. How to acknowledge their participation (i.e.: publicly at event, traditional gift such as a blanket, honoraria, inclusion in overall event)

★ *It is important to remember that Band Chiefs should be acknowledged and treated as respectfully as any other dignitary. It is also important to know the great importance that is placed on Elders who are held in high esteem as the culture bearers and teachers within the Aboriginal communities. This is true for all First Nation communities.*

Additional Information

More detailed information about the local First Nation's history, traditional territories, culture, community initiatives, current news, Leasehold Agreements, their place in the BC Treaty Process, Band Chief and Councillors names, and contact information can be found online at:

Musqueam First Nation
Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Squamish First Nation

www.musqueam.bc.ca
www.burrardband.com
www.squamish.net

Political Landscape

Relevant Details

- Urban Aboriginal populations are growing at a very fast rate, but the Federal and Provincial governments are not adapting to this reality fast enough to ensure that off-reserve Aboriginal people have access to programs and services that on-reserve Aboriginal people have.
- Federally, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and the National Association of Friendship Centres have a mandate to advocate for urban Aboriginal people. The Assembly of First Nations' main focus is on-reserve status people. They state that they represent all Aboriginal people, although this is not apparent to most off-reserve Aboriginal people.
- In Vancouver, the United Native Nations is the only politically-mandated organization.
- There continues to be resistance from both municipal and provincial governments to the federal devolution of responsibility for urban Aboriginal people. Until there is some form of agreement, urban Aboriginal people will continue to suffer the socio/economic burdens associated with being a marginalized group of people caught between bureaucracies.
- The vast majority of Aboriginal people in Vancouver live off-reserve, with less than 1% living on the Musqueam Reserve.

Who's Involved?

Vancouver Aboriginal Council

- A non-political organization that serves a political purpose by striving to improve communication between Aboriginal organizations, government representatives, and funding agencies in order to work towards collaborative solutions to local issues and concerns.
- Purpose is to build trust, collaboration, partnership, openness, transparency and cooperation, inclusiveness, and accessibility among its members.

Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre (1607 East Hastings Street)

- A member of the BC and National Associations of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, both of which advocate politically for urban Aboriginal people regarding what programs may assist Friendship Centres, in the development of programs to better the lives of Aboriginal people.

Indian Residential School Survivors Society (100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver)

- Many of the survivors of the Indian Residential Schools are now Elders.
- Support includes crisis counselling, court support, info and referrals, workshops, media, conferences, supports & conducts research, advocates for justice and healing.

United Native Nations (425 Carrall Street)

- Has individual chapters throughout BC, including Vancouver. Was formed in order to address the political and socio-economic concerns of Non-status Aboriginal people in BC.
- Advocates on issues concerning self government, housing, employment, child welfare, education, and economic development.

Aboriginal Women's Collective (3965 Dumfries Street)

- Helping Spirit Lodge hosted a full-time Coordinator whose mandate was to seek, encourage, and document Aboriginal women's input on various issues that they identify as important to them. Much of this information is meant to inform the Vancouver Aboriginal Council's work. This position is no longer funded, but HSL is trying to continue with this important work.

Vancouver Métis Community Association (744 West Hastings Street)

- Works towards developing stronger Métis communities and families through advocacy, education, and partnerships.

Local First Nations

- The three local First Nations that are directly connected to Vancouver are Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh. None of these First Nations has signed a treaty ceding their traditional territories which creates uncertainty for all concerned, and sometimes creates tensions with local residents.
- All three are at some point in the six-step BC Treaty Process. More specific information can be found at www.bctreaty.net/files_3/first_nations_lower-mainland-fraser-valley.html.

Union of BC Indian Chiefs (342 Water Street)

- Goal is to support the work of Aboriginal people, whether at the local, national or international level, in their common fight for the recognition of their Aboriginal rights and respect for their cultures and societies.
- Are dedicated to information-sharing as well as to the fostering of fundamental and necessary research skills for Aboriginal people in the province.

Assembly of First Nations (Ottawa)

- A national organization whose mandate is to represent First Nations citizens in Canada. The AFN represents all citizens regardless of age, gender or place of residence.
- The AFN is moving more towards advocating for off-reserve urban Aboriginal people, rather than solely for on-reserve First Nations status individuals.
- Has Regional Vice-Chiefs across Canada.

Other Initiatives

Government-led initiatives such as the Urban Aboriginal Strategy, BC Ministry of Children & Family Development, and the Vancouver Agreement all seek to include, consult, and work with Aboriginal communities to work on specific issues.

Partnerships

While there are no official partnerships, some of these organizations have signed agreements or memorandums of understanding on specific issues such as the restructure of the Ministry of Children & Family Development or the BC Aboriginal Workforce Strategy.

Committees

Organizations that have signed agreements or memorandums of understanding on specific issues are members of committees that lead the initiatives. For the Ministry of Children & Family Development process it is the Joint Aboriginal Management Committee (JAMC).

Trends

- Urban Aboriginal populations are growing at a very fast rate with at least 50% of Aboriginal people living in urban settings. However, their needs are not being addressed or met by the Federal or Provincial governments. The Federal government is talking more about urban issues, but very little funding has been included. The Provincial government recently made a large funding commitment, but that is for on-reserve populations only.

Gaps

- The Congress of Aboriginal People and the National Association of Friendship Centres have a primary mandate of advocating for urban Aboriginal people, but they are often not included at the provincial or national tables so the voice of urban Aboriginal people is being ignored.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Outreach & Engagement

The City of Vancouver is home to a very diverse Aboriginal population that includes individuals from across B.C. and Canada, as well as the three local reserve-based First Nations that are directly connected to Vancouver. This unique population base sometimes leads to challenges in outreaching to a good representation of the community as a whole. This is also sometimes an issue within the Aboriginal communities themselves, so no one should let this issue inhibit them from doing as much outreach as they can through the ways listed below and using the contact information at the end of this manual. The following are ways that City staff may be able to reach a larger number of Aboriginal community members:

Outreach Activities

Of the numerous ways that the City conducts outreach, consultation, and information sharing, the best ways to carry these out are through the following ways:

- Partnering with established not-for-profit Aboriginal organizations to host City events, set up information tables at the organization's events (National Aboriginal Day, Family Nights, pow-wows, etc) outreach to community members, develop written materials, access their communications networks, or adhere to cultural protocols.
- Utilizing existing communication avenues and resources within the Aboriginal community.
- Developing culturally appropriate materials.
- Written surveys may not be effective due to disinterest, not reaching many community members, not being culturally appropriate, or literacy issues. Therefore, in-person presentations would work best, especially if they are not in a lecture style. Interactive sessions that allow for questions, have reading materials, posters, or models would increase participation and feedback.

Outreach through community organizations:

In general, members of Aboriginal communities are much more likely to attend public forums, workshops, or consultations if it is being hosted at and by a local Aboriginal community organization. It is important to gather the organization's input on the best way to develop print materials that will be sent out as they usually have experience in this area and know what kind of culturally appropriate materials would work best. Organizations would also be in the best position to offer advice on what communication channels information should be distributed. Flyers, brochures, or emails will likely work best if they include Aboriginal images, non-bureaucratic language, and the organization's logo and name.

The organization will likely want the City to provide snacks or food for the meeting, and may also need to adhere to cultural protocols. Cultural protocols may include a welcome by the local First Nation, an opening and closing prayer, traditional song, food, Elder inclusion, or gifts for those fulfilling cultural protocols such as the prayer or song. Possible gifts for presenters, cultural resource people, or Elders may include things such as a blanket, tobacco, or an honorarium.

In particular the following organizations have access to a broad base of community members:

- **Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre** - This not-for-profit organization is the hub of the Aboriginal communities, hosts many community events, has an electronic information kiosk in their main foyer, produces a monthly newsletter, has a bulletin board and website,

hosts a bi-weekly Elders luncheon and drop-in centre, and hosts Family Nights every Tuesday and Wednesday where up to 800 people attend over the course of the evening.

- **Vancouver Aboriginal Council** - This not-for-profit community-based group hosts a community meeting every third Thursday of the month from 9:30-12:00 at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre. There are usually 20 - 60 individuals in attendance. Attendees include Aboriginal organizations from throughout Greater Vancouver (primarily Vancouver), government representatives working on Aboriginal issues, potential funders who want to consult with the community or announce funding opportunities, and individual community members. Anyone can call the Vancouver Aboriginal Council to request an opportunity to present to this group.
- **Vancouver Native Housing Society, Luma Native Housing Society, Synala Housing Co-op, United Native Nations Society** - These four not-for-profit housing providers have housing complexes throughout East Vancouver, primarily in the Grandview-Woodlands and Mount Pleasant neighbourhoods. Synala Housing Co-op and one Luma Native Housing complex are in Renfrew-Collingwood, and Vancouver Native Housing has one complex Downtown. Some also have newsletters that go out to their tenants or websites with up to date information that tenants who have internet access can view.
- **Urban Native Youth Association, Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association, Redway BC, Redwire Magazine Native Youth Media Society** - All of these not-for-profit groups have access to many Aboriginal youth up to the age of 29. Since up to 60% of the Aboriginal community is under the age of 25, it is very important to reach out to this demographic. Amongst these organizations there are websites, a youth magazine, an e-zine, newsletters, and forums that could be utilized to outreach to youth.
- **Aboriginal Community Policing Centre, Circle of Eagles Lodge, Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services, Native Courtworkers, First Nations Legal Clinic** - These not-for-profit organizations work with community members on safety and justice issues. They may be able to reach individuals who do not ordinarily come into contact with other organizations.
- **Aboriginal Front Door Society, Vancouver Native Health Society, United Native Nations** - These not-for-profit organizations work with community members in the Downtown Eastside. Their locations, near Main & Hastings, put them in a unique position to reach Aboriginal people living or congregating in the Downtown Eastside.
- **Aboriginal Mothers Centre Society, Pacific Association of First Nations Women, Helping Spirit Lodge** - All of these not-for-profit organizations work with Aboriginal women and families. It is important to outreach to these community members as they are often isolated and could most benefit from community development activities.
- **Local First Nations** - The only local First Nation within Vancouver's boundaries is Musqueam, but all three have an interest in City activities as many of their members live in Vancouver, they have historically used the land that is now known as Vancouver, and there are still in the Treaty Process which may have them gaining access to City land. See the 'Coast Salish First Nations' section of this manual for more information.
- **Native Education Centre, First Nation House of Learning, Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education** - These three organization have access to Aboriginal post-secondary students who live throughout the city, but often do not have much time to become

involved in community activities and events. Therefore, it is important to partner with these organizations to reach post-secondary students.

- **Vancouver Métis Community Association** - This not-for-profit organization is the only Métis organization in Vancouver. They have a large membership base.

Communication Resources in the Aboriginal Community

- The contact list found at the end of this manual has also been input into the City's Quickfind Directory by neighbourhood and Aboriginal specific organization, and will be on Social Planning's Aboriginal Community Web-pages (www.vancouver.ca/aboriginal), and in the City's Community Services Database.
- The Vancouver Aboriginal Council has an Aboriginal Community fax and email distribution list that City staff may be able to tap into.
- The Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre has newsletter, bulletin board, and an electronic kiosk in its main foyer that includes a database of services and can also be utilized for advertising.
- Kahtou Newspaper is a local Aboriginal newspaper that is widely distributed.
- There are many Aboriginal-specific radio programs through Co-op Radio.
- RedwayBC is a web-based Aboriginal youth organization that produces a monthly e-zine that is distributed to over 3,000 individuals throughout BC. They also have a website that may provide advertising opportunities.
- Most Aboriginal organizations have their own mail, email, or fax distribution lists that City staff may be able to gain access to when partnering with community organizations.
- There are increasing numbers of web, flyers, posters, and other written communications designers in the Aboriginal communities who can help to develop culturally appropriate materials. Often this information can be found on individual organization's websites to see who their designers are. Or, simply ask in the various communities who is doing this type of work.
- See the 'Communications & Information Sharing' section of this manual for more information.

> PART 2 – CONTEXT
DOCUMENTS <

Arts, Culture & Multi-Media

Relevant Details

Arts - There are only a few Aboriginal arts organizations in Vancouver, but there are several smaller groups and initiatives that are encouraging Aboriginal people, especially youth, to embrace the arts primarily through theatre-based activities. Occasionally, non-Aboriginal theatre companies host an Aboriginal-led and/or focused activity.

Culture - The resurgence of cultural teachings and practices is very strong within First Nations communities in general, and Vancouver as a large urban centre is enjoying the same upsurge. Many more individuals are embracing their heritage and cultural practices through both individual and group learning opportunities. There is a large push to change pan-Aboriginal thinking so that everyone will recognize how diverse the Aboriginal population really is. For instance, there are approximately 52 distinct Aboriginal nations within Canada. Vancouver is home to a very diverse mix of Aboriginal people from across Canada. A conservative estimate would have at least 25 distinct nations represented.

Most of the arts-based groups are also culturally based in their vision and expression, so these two categories will be presented together, and then followed by the multi-media category.

Multi-Media - There are very few Aboriginal media-focused organizations or initiatives based out of Vancouver. While there is access to approximately five western Canada based Aboriginal newspapers, only one is produced in the Vancouver area (Sechelt).

Arts & Culture - Who's Involved?

Indigenous Media Arts Group (1965 Main Street)

- Activities include an annual film and video festival, training and other media related events.
- Mandate is to encourage and facilitate the promotion, development and dissemination of First Peoples media arts, arts and culture, to facilitate training programs in media and arts administration and to operate a resource centre for First Nations people to access information regarding film and video making, media arts, cultural theory and media literacy.

Full Circle: First Nations Performance (555 Great Northern Way)

- Mandate is to create opportunities for Aboriginal artists, writers and performers to express the reality of First Nations experiences and to work in harmony with First Nations traditions while engaging modern, interdisciplinary theatrical techniques. The ensemble members are dancers, singers, actors, clowns, writers, and musicians.
- Best known for the Talking Stick Festival which is a week-long art and culture showcase.

National Aboriginal Day Community Event (at Trout Lake)

- What started as a partnership of 4 Aboriginal organizations to host a community-based event, has grown to include 14 local organizations (see partnerships below for more info).
- The impetus for the creation of this event was to offer a free event that is in a location that is accessible to all Aboriginal families regardless of their economic status.

Aboriginal Art & Culture Celebration Society (438 Seymour Street)

- Mandate is to bring together people to learn, experience and share North American Aboriginal art, culture, values and spirituality and improve the professionalism, visibility and economic circumstances of Aboriginal artists, performers and cultural support workers.
- Best known for the yearly National Aboriginal Day celebrations at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House - Mothers Day Pow-Wow

- Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House hosts this well attended annual event at Trout Lake Community Centre.
- A committee of Aboriginal community members leads the planning in partnership with Cedar Cottage staff.

Musqueam First Nation

- The Musqueam First Nation offers a few specific programs or activities in relation to their traditional language and culture.
- Partners with UBC to develop a language program which includes multi-year courses.

Smaller Ongoing Initiatives

- Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre partners with local Aboriginal cultural groups to host weekly Family Nights where Aboriginal cultural groups share their songs and dances with the communities.
- Some organizations work with youth in their programs on plays and other theatre-based activities as a means to engage them while teaching theatre and lifeskills.
- Many First Nation (ie: Tsimshian, Nisga'a, Haida) and Métis groups have weekly or monthly drumming, singing, and dancing practice with their urban community members in various locations throughout Vancouver.
- Most Aboriginal organizations incorporate both overt and subtle cultural practices, images, and teachings within their programming to encourage participants to learn about and embrace their own culture.
- The Firehall Arts Club periodically hosts Aboriginal plays.
- Roundhouse Community Centre periodically hosts Aboriginal community-based plays.

Multi-Media - Who's Involved?

Redwire Native Youth Media Society (Vancouver)

- Not-for-profit organization since 1997.
- A media and arts organization dedicated to providing Native youth with an uncensored forum for discussion, in order to help youth find their own voice and to be by, for and about Native youth; all content, editorial decisions and associated media projects are initiated and led by youth, inspiring creativity, motivation and action.
- Redwire is the first Native youth run quarterly magazine. It is distributed nationally.

RedwayBC (440 Cambie Street)

- A website completely driven, designed, created and maintained by urban Aboriginal youth in the Lower Mainland. Over 45 youth researched over 340 pages of content and helped publish 30 e-zines since November, 2003.
- A broad, but critical mission of: Harnessing Technology to Inform, Honour and Connect Urban Aboriginal Youth to Services, Opportunities, the Community and Each Other.

Co-op Radio (360 Columbia Street)

- Non-commercial, co-operatively-owned, listener-supported, community radio station.
- Airs numerous Aboriginal-focused and hosted programs.

Turtle Island Native Network - www.turtleisland.org

- Comprehensive website on Vancouver, BC, national, and international Aboriginal issues.
- Not Vancouver-based, but has lots of useful information.

Partnerships

- Local groups partner to host a community based National Aboriginal Day event at Trout Lake. 2006 partners included Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society, Trout Lake Community Centre, Aboriginal Friendship Centre, Warriors Against Violence, Urban Native Youth Association, Aboriginal Front Door, Healthy Aboriginal Network, Broadway Youth Resource Centre, Redwire, RedwayBC, Canadian Armed Forces, KAYA, Aboriginal Expressions, and Spiritlink Communications. In the three years of its existence, partners have increased from 4 to 14 in 2006.

Committees

- None

Trends

- Youth are currently the most active in the Vancouver media field with both Redwire Magazine and RedwayBC website having great success within the broader community.
- Many youth are becoming more involved in the Vancouver music scene, especially through the Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association who has hosted many public events.
- Many youth are becoming more involved in digital video training.

Gaps

- Although there are a number of groups who practice their culture in Vancouver, there are very few, if any, opportunities for individuals to learn about their culture unless they are affiliated with one of the groups.
- There is great interest in theatre within the Aboriginal communities, particularly among youth, but there are no venues that are available to be used consistently and/or they are cost prohibitive.
- There is no Vancouver based Aboriginal newspaper. Such a paper could be very useful to both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities to present issues, concerns, ideas, positive initiatives, events, etc.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Child Welfare

Relevant Details

- “The primary reason why Aboriginal children come into care is neglect. When researchers looked at the definition of neglect - poverty, inadequate housing and substance misuse are the key drivers. It is important to note that two of the three factors are largely outside of parental control”. (Policy Statement on Aboriginal Children, National Children’s Alliance)
- Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services is an Aboriginal delegated agency which is being transferred authority from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to deliver Aboriginal services and programs that have been historically delivered by MCFD welfare authority under the Child, Family and Community Services Act.

2004-05 Ministry of Children & Family Development Annual Service Plan Report

- Only 14.8% of Aboriginal children in care were being cared for by Aboriginal people. MCFD’s goal is to have all Aboriginal children being cared for by Aboriginal people to help retain connections with their communities, extended family and cultural heritage.
- 50% of the 131 Aboriginal children adopted in 2004/05 were adopted by Aboriginal people.

2006-07 Ministry of Children & Family Development Service Plan

- Aboriginal children account for approximately 9% of the BC child population, but make up 49% of children-in-care and 42% of youth in custody.
- The BC Aboriginal child population is expected to continue to grow. Consequently, the needs for programs and services to serve these children and families will increase.
- Only 33% of Aboriginal children in care were cared for by an Aboriginal delegated agency.
- The creation of five regional Aboriginal Authorities for delivery of services is expected to be complete in 2006, with the new authorities taking over authority in 2007/08.

Who’s Involved?

Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society (745 Clark Drive)

- The signing of the Delegation Enabling Agreement in 2001 enabled VACFSS to provide a full range of delegated Resource and Guardianship services. VACFSS now has level 13 (of 14) delegated authority.
- Services include residential, guardianship, child protection, youth, and young parents
- In 2006, hosted the Aboriginal Best Practices in Child Welfare Conference which they hope to make an annual event.
- Has an Aboriginal Elders Advisory Committee.

Vancouver Coastal Aboriginal Planning Committee (1128 Hornby Street)

- Transition teams have been created in each of the five MCFD regions to administer and deliver a full range of Child and Family Services to Aboriginal communities. There will also be five new authorities for non-Aboriginal services.
- The Regional Aboriginal Authorities will have responsibility for the provincial funding and service delivery system for Aboriginal communities. This change is meant to lead to a full range of culturally appropriate services, but it remains to be seen if funding will allow for it.
- It is anticipated that the Authorities will start to take over service delivery in 2007.

- The Regional Authority will administer and direct funding to agencies such as VACFSS (listed above), rather than deliver programs themselves

Urban Native Youth Association (1640 East Hastings Street)

- One of four Vancouver Youth Hubs that offer Ministry for Children & Family Development services to at-risk youth, primarily those involved with MCFD. Other Youth Hubs are run by Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Pacific Coast Resources Society, and Southill.
- Programs include a Safe House, Parent/Teen Mediation, Transitioning Youth to Adulthood, Mentorship Program, Day Programs.

Native Courtworker & Counselling Association of BC (50 Powell Street)

- Family Advocates incorporate cultural and traditional with professional assessments to assist Aboriginal families involved in the justice system to stay together.

Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents (3455 Kaslo Street)

- Provincial organization with five regions, including Vancouver Coastal.
- Was formed to meet the unique needs of caregivers of Aboriginal children, and the needs of communities for targeted development, recruitment, and training of Aboriginal foster families.

Family Services of Greater Vancouver (1616 West 7th Avenue)

- One of four Vancouver Youth Hubs that offer Ministry for Children & Family Development services to at-risk youth, primarily those involved with MCFD.
- Has contracts with Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society to provide some Family Preservation Services.

Deputy Child and Youth Officer, Aboriginal Services (808 West Hastings Street)

- Has special responsibility for Aboriginal issues across the BC Child and Youth Officer's mandate.
- This position is a result of a Memorandum of Understanding with the First Nations Summit, Métis Provincial Council of BC, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and the United Native Nations.

Musqueam First Nation

- As an on-reserve community, the Musqueam First Nation has a unique relationship with the provincial and federal government regarding child welfare issues. Therefore, they have a Social Development Department which is the liaison for such issues.

Partnerships

- The Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society is working with both Luma Native Housing and Vancouver Native Housing to develop a partnership to secure affordable housing for Aboriginal people who come forward to foster Aboriginal children.

Committees

- Vancouver Coastal Aboriginal Planning Committee is one of five provincial organizations with a mandate to prepare for the transfer of authority to deliver those Aboriginal services and programs currently administered by the Ministry of Children and Family Development. It is expected that the transfer of the authority will be finalized in 2007. Representatives of both rural and urban Aboriginal communities are represented on the committee.

Trends

- Province of BC is actively working to transfer responsibility for core service delivery to the Aboriginal communities.
- There is reduced funding for specific program areas, while there are some increases in areas such as Early Childhood Development.
- The BC Ministry of Children and Family Development is moving toward centralized service delivery, especially for youth. The four youth hubs in Vancouver are a prime example of this shift in service delivery.

Gaps

- Many MCFD services require that a child or youth must have an open file in order to access services. This likely inhibits some families from accessing services that could help them to prevent their children from becoming at-risk and/or officially involved with MCFD.
- The historical mistrust of MCFD within Aboriginal communities leads some to non-service use as many worry that asking for help may put them at risk of having their children apprehended.
- Family preservation is only a small component of MCFD services. A larger focus on this area would likely lead to keeping children safely within their own homes.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Communications & Information Sharing

Relevant Details

- Since Vancouver's Aboriginal population are so diverse and spread out, it is hard for the members of these communities, as well as others, to keep abreast of all relevant activities.
- The Vancouver Aboriginal Council was formed in 1999 to help bring the communities together to share information and make communal decisions, but they are only one aspect of how to ensure good communications within the Aboriginal communities, as well as to inform the broader community about what is happening.
- A large gap is ensuring that information is disseminated in a timely fashion, and to a broad audience. There are many individual information networks through email, faxes, and newsletters, but they are clearly not enough to ensure that as many members of the Aboriginal communities as possible receive information.
- There is a great need for a central clearing house for information dissemination within the Vancouver Aboriginal communities. A central website and email system would greatly enhance communication and information sharing both within the Aboriginal communities and with the broader community.
- City staff can utilize the Contact Information section of this manual to create their own database to disseminate information coming from and through the City.
- In particular it is important for members of the Aboriginal communities to receive up-to-date information on community programs, public events, funding opportunities, decision making processes, research opportunities or research being conducted on Aboriginal issues, and City activities, processes, funding opportunities, and decision-making processes.

Who's Involved?

Vancouver Aboriginal Council

- Not-for-profit organization which is governed by a community based board.
- Hosts monthly community meetings at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre for Aboriginal organizations, government reps, and others to present, discuss and/or decide upon issues important to the local Aboriginal communities.
- Also has portfolios including such areas as education, health, youth, and housing. These committees only meet when needed.
- Online resource guide at www.vac-bc.ca/directory/index.html.

RedwayBC (440 Cambie Street)

- A website completely driven, designed, created and maintained by urban Aboriginal youth in the Lower Mainland.
- A broad, but critical mission of: Harnessing Technology to Inform, Honour and Connect Urban Aboriginal Youth to Services, Opportunities, the Community and Each Other.

Co-op Radio (360 Columbia Street)

- Non-commercial, co-operatively-owned, listener-supported, community radio station.
- Airs numerous Aboriginal-focused and hosted programs.

Turtle Island Native Network

- Comprehensive website on Vancouver, BC, national, and international Aboriginal issues: www.turtleisland.org.

Musqueam First Nation

- Primary communication need is within their community. This is achieved through their website, community newsletter, postings in their community facilities, and by word of mouth.

Partnerships

- None

Committees

- None

Trends

- Youth are currently the most active in the Vancouver media field with both Redwire Magazine and RedwayBC website having great success within the broader community. However, their ability to cover all activities and provide information on a broad scale is limited by the size of their ezine and their internal resources.

Gaps

- There is no central clearing house for information dissemination within Vancouver Aboriginal communities. A central website and email system would greatly enhance communication and information sharing both within the Aboriginal communities and with the broader community.
- There is no Vancouver-based Aboriginal newspaper. Such a paper could be very useful to both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community to present issues, concerns, ideas, positive initiatives, community events, etc.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Early Childhood Education, Parenting & Families

Relevant Details

Almost 60% of the Aboriginal population is under the age of 25, and is the fastest growing population in Canada. Increasing number of children, young parents, and children living in poverty lead to an increased need for ECE, parenting and family support programs that can help to increase the graduation rates for Aboriginal students in Vancouver (14%), to decrease the number of Aboriginal children who end up in the care of the Ministry of Children & Family Development (61% in Vancouver).

- *Facing The Facts! Childcare Needs In Vancouver's Inner City, 2000*, highlights the importance of providing a continuum of childcare support to children in Vancouver's inner-city neighbourhoods, where many live in sub-standard housing, in poverty, in single parent households, and are marginalized (where most Aboriginal people live).
- "...risks for pre-school children must be minimized through more early childhood development supports and services. Other external supports that may reduce risk are accessible child-care coupled with training in positive parenting" (Healing Ways, 1999. Vancouver/Richmond Health Board, p. 50).
- Key strategies include ...building capacity within Aboriginal communities to deliver culturally appropriate services, and supporting Aboriginal communities to develop and implement early childhood development strategies to meet their needs. (Ministry of Children and Family Development 2006/07-2008/09 Service Plan).
- "the City will continue to play a key role in creating opportunities for children birth to 12 years of age and their families to access quality child development services" p. 3, "Positive early childhood experiences increase school readiness and later school success. Lack of readiness puts children at risk of academic, social and behavioural difficulties in school. There is an increased likelihood of children dropping out of school, becoming pregnant as a teen and becoming addicted to alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. School failure affects future success and well being in the workplace." p. 4 (COV "Moving Forward", Childcare: A Cornerstone of Child Development Service 2002).
- The transfer of services to Aboriginal communities usually comes with significantly less funds attached than when the funders themselves offered the programs. This leaves Aboriginal organizations struggling to afford suitable facilities and staff, and those things that will help to make an Aboriginal program successful, including food, cultural activities, Elders involvement, protocols / gifting, and celebrations.
- "Flexibility in how child care funding is allocated is a critical priority for First Nations. First Nations are diverse - geographically, linguistically and culturally. They are at different stages of development, some are self-governing, some urban and others remote. (First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan Assembly of First Nations, 2005).

Who's Involved?

Aboriginal Child & Family Support Services - Vancouver Native Health (877 East Hastings St)

- Run by a committee of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations that provides various programs for Aboriginal children and youth 0 to 19 years old primarily in East Vancouver.

- Offers a Family Support Program, Early Childhood Support Program, and Home Instruction Program for Pre-school Youngsters (HIPPY) through its partner sites.
- Hosts an annual conference for Aboriginal Families & Service Providers.
- In April 2007 will begin operation of the Supportive Child Development Program which will provide services to Aboriginal children with special needs. There will be five staff.

Sundance Daycare - Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre (1607 East Hastings Street)

- An eighteen space daycare for 3 - 5 year old Aboriginal children.
- Two spaces are reserved for children with special needs.

Sheway (533 East Hastings Street)

- A government and community partnership which is led by Vancouver Native Health.
- Health and social services for women who are either pregnant or parenting children less than 18 months old and who are experiencing current or previous issues with substance use.
- Operates in a client-centered, woman-focused environment where staff work in partnership with a woman as she makes decisions regarding her health and the health of her child.

Aboriginal Mothers Centre (2019 Dundas Street)

- Offers drop-in space, free meals, advocacy, early childhood development activities, parent and family support, and an Aboriginal Parenting Program.
- Working towards opening a daycare centre.

Eagles Nest Head Start program - BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (618 East Hastings Street)

- Focuses on 3 - 5 year olds with the intent of bringing them to the school readiness stage to help ensure an easy transition into kindergarten.
- Parental involvement is a major factor contributing to the success of the program.
- The program includes cultural teachings, transportation, snacks, and meals.

Singing Frog Aboriginal Head Start - BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (2150 McLean Drive)

- Shares space with the Grandview Terrace Childcare Centre.
- Many parents volunteer in the program almost every day, and they look forward to having more Elders take part in the program.

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (100 Park Royal S., West Vancouver)

- Helps Aboriginal communities develop high quality, integrated, community child care services that are based in the children's culture, language and history.
- Helps build an Aboriginal child care network by undertaking research, development, advocacy and supporting communities to develop their own resources.
- Includes training workshops, a lending library, rotating curriculum boxes, a traveling child care advisor, annual conferences, newsletters and more.

Urban Native Youth Association (1640 East Hastings Street)

- Building Blocks Worker offers one-to-one support, activities, and advocacy to first time parents.
- Sports and recreation program encourages young parents to become involved with their children, and when possible, provides free child minding for youth participants.

- Young Wolves Lodge works with young parents who are not parenting their children, but would like to work towards reunification.

Native Education Centre - Basic Early Childhood Education Program (285 East 5th Avenue)

- Trains early childhood educators and care providers with an Aboriginal cultural perspective.
- Students learn the basic skills for working with young children, developing day care activities which build age-appropriate skills, and includes a childcare centre practicum.

Amlatsi Family Place - Synala Housing Co-op (3090 Kingsway)

- Family oriented program for parents with children 0 - 6 years old that includes fun, educational, and culturally focused activities.
- Synala Housing Co-op is mandated to maintain a majority of Aboriginal members
- Partnership with Collingwood Neighbourhood House.

Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program - Kiwassa Neighbourhood House (2425 Oxford Street)

- Aboriginal specific parenting program for parents of children 0-5 years. Provides an opportunity to improve parenting skills and share experiences.
- Childcare and transportation are provided (if needed).

Crabtree Corner (533 East Hastings Street)

- Non-Aboriginal organization. Many Aboriginal women utilize this 24 space childcare service and other programs.
- An emergency child care and women's community centre.
- Co-housed with Sheway, operated by the YWCA and located on the Downtown Eastside.

Emma's Childcare Centre - Tupper Young Parent Services (598 East 22nd Avenue)

- An on-site daycare at Tupper Secondary School for young mothers continuing with their education. Parents also learn life skills.
- Many young Aboriginal mothers access this 24 space program.

Musqueam Co-Operative Pre-School (6735 Salish Dr)

- Provides schooling and developmental play to prepare pre-school children to enter kindergarten. Teachers have incorporated Musqueam's traditional language and the use of native designs for the children's artwork into the curriculum.

Musqueam Childcare Centre (6735 Salish Dr)

- Early child education for infant/toddler and infant/toddler with special needs, a program for three to five year olds that focuses on each child's needs and development.
- Opportunities to develop language skills and learn about establishing respectful social relationships. Outdoor exploration and play is incorporated.

Elementary Schools

- The elementary schools with the highest population of Aboriginal students are in the Eastside of Vancouver, including MacDonald, Britannia, Seymour, Strathcona, Sunrise, Grandview, Hastings, and Queen Alexandra.
- Many Aboriginal children, and sometimes parents, access any programs and services offered by these schools. In particular, community schools such as MacDonald have more programs available and partner with community groups to offer services when possible.

Family Places, Neighbourhood Houses, Community Centres

- There are a number of family places, neighbourhood houses, and community centres throughout Vancouver that offer programs that Aboriginal children and families can access, and some are Aboriginal-specific programs.
- Aboriginal people live mainly in the Eastside of Vancouver, so it is important that these sites reach out to, and ensure a welcoming environment for Aboriginal families.

Partnerships

- Sheway, Crabtree Corner, Vancouver Native Health Society, the YWCA, and government partner to fund and host the Sheway and Crabtree Corner programs and site in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver.
- Synala Housing Co-op and Collingwood Neighbourhood House partner to offer the Amlatsi Family Place at Synala.

Committees

- Aboriginal Child & Family Support Services - is governed by an Aboriginal community board which includes Aboriginal Mother's Centre, Helping Spirit Lodge Society, Urban Native Youth Association, Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society, and the Vancouver Aboriginal Council as well as other undetermined partners. Other planning partners include non-Aboriginal organizations who are working in the ECE area.
- Aboriginal Child & Family Support Services is developing an Elder's Advisory Council for its programs. The Elders will provide advice and assume an advocacy role with funders.

Trends

- More Native youth are accessing Aboriginal specific parenting programs, but there are not enough to meet the need, especially given their growing numbers.
- Aboriginal Child & Family Support Services report receiving more referrals from social workers as they gain more trust and develop better communication with each other.
- Aboriginal Child & Family Support Services reports more self referrals from Native youth. They think it is the result of a combination of increased need, better outreach and awareness of the program, and more services being offered throughout Vancouver.

Gaps

- There is not enough child minding and childcare available for parents who want to access resources that may help them to further their education/training or find employment.
- Children aged 6 - 12 continue to be caught in the middle between age groups that funding agencies are focusing attention on (0 - 6 and 13 - 24). This gap may have a large impact on Aboriginal youth graduation rates as, especially during the few years before high school, they need support to ensure they have a successful transition into high school.
- There is a fragmented approach to providing services within Aboriginal communities. This is due to fragmented funding to various organizations, not enough funding to focus time on community development / partnership development, a lack of coordination efforts by funders, and a perceived competition between agencies for scarce funding.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Education

Relevant Details

Vancouver School Board's 2004/05 Aboriginal Report - How are We Doing? and VSB staff

- In 2005/06 there were 2,003 Aboriginal students in Vancouver schools, 3% of overall students. Approximately 155 lived on-reserve, 1204 elementary, 789 secondary.
- There are at least five alternate schools or day programs with approximately 100 students.
- Musqueam First Nation is within Vancouver boundaries, but has no on-reserve school.
- VSB 2003/04 Aboriginal graduation rate was 14% (average was 22.25% for the 4 previous years), compared to the non-Aboriginal rate of 86%.
- Provincial Aboriginal graduation rate is 46%.
- Most youth drop out of school during the transition from elementary to secondary (7, 8, 9).
- Once a Native youth makes it to grade 12, s/he does quite well. The challenge is in getting them there. In 2003/04, Aboriginal youth who were in grade 12 English had a success rate of 95% compared to non-Aboriginal students at 86%. Those in grade 12 Communications had a success rate of 84% compared to 89%, and Math 60% compared to 87%.
- The number of Aboriginal students in special education classes was 166 elementary students and 233 secondary students. Percentage of overall Aboriginal students in special education classes: 1% for sensory disabilities, 7% for learning disabilities, behavioural 18%, mild intellect 1%, and only 10 students were classified as 'gifted.'

Other info:

- Post-secondary education [is] particularly important for Aboriginal people since it dramatically increase[s] their chance of obtaining employment. In 2005 only 39.9% of Aboriginal people had completed some form of post-secondary education compared to 55.6% for non-Aboriginal people. In Western Canada, the employment rate for Aboriginal people aged 25-64 who had finished post-secondary education was 82.5%, almost equal to non-Aboriginal people (Aboriginal peoples living off-reserve in Western Canada: Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2005).
- Only 8.9% of off-reserve Aboriginal people attain a university degree compared to 24.6% for non-Aboriginal people in general. The rates for trades programs and non-university post secondary credentials are almost equal to that of the non-Aboriginal population. (BC Stats article: Educational Attainment of Aboriginal Peoples: Part II - Post Secondary Completion).
- There are only three dedicated Aboriginal libraries, all of which are small, in Vancouver; Xwi7wa at UBC, the Native Education Centre, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.
- Institutionalized concerns have been identified as key factors in dropout rates (i.e. not enough Aboriginal teachers, action on issues, Aboriginal-focused curriculum, or supports to Aboriginal youth despite all indicators identifying them as needing the most supports).
- Although it is commonly believed that all Aboriginal people obtain a free post-secondary education, only 'status' individuals can apply for the limited funding of each First Nation whose funding may only send 4 or 5 students to school each year.
- Many youth who drop out of school drift towards street involvement such as drug sales, sex trade, gangs, and alcohol & drug use to make money and/or cope with their personal issues.

Who's Involved? (Elementary & Secondary)

Qey-Sta:m Learning Centre (Musqueam)

- Helps members to improve their reading, writing, and math skills and to complete their high school education. Students may also learn and begin a cooking apprenticeship, as well as gain work experience.

Urban Native Youth Association (1640 East Hastings Street)

- Alcohol & drug prevention-focused School Support Program to help Aboriginal youth stay in and do well in school both socially and academically.
- Trains and pays Aboriginal post-secondary students to be part-time tutor/mentors to Aboriginal elementary and secondary students.
- Computer lab with designated times and support for youth doing school related work
- Summer Daycamp to outreach to students transitioning from elementary to high school (when most Aboriginal students drop out).
- Two Day Programs for at-risk Aboriginal youth ages 13 - 18 (a.k.a. alternate school).

Vancouver School Board, District 39 (1580 West Broadway)

- 2,003 Aboriginal students in 2005/06.
- Federal transfer payments for Aboriginal students help to fund the 26 First Nations Support Workers who cover over 100 schools. They offer some or all of the following; personal support, referrals, in-class support, crisis intervention, liaison between school & guardians.
- 35 First Nations teachers, and two Principals/Vice-Principals.
- VSB leads a committee for day programs and alternate schools operators.
- The VSB is in the midst of creating an Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement as part of a district-wide strategic plan. Some community members participate on the committee.

First Nations House of Learning (1985 West Mall, UBC)

- Summer Science Program for grade 10 students from across the province.
- Cedar Program for grade 6, 7, 8 students with interest in science, forestry, and arts. Two week summer program.
- Museum of Anthropology's Native Youth Program offers Native youth the opportunity to research and interpret their own cultures in a museum setting.
- Chinook Aboriginal Business Education Entrepreneurship Leadership Forum for grades 10, 11, and 12. One week summer program.

BC Ministry of Children & Family Development

- Have consolidated all of their contracted services for at-risk youth in Vancouver to four not-for-profit organizations who each have a designated Youth Hub in various regions of the city. Each Youth Hub offers a variety of services on-site as well as satellite locations.
- Four day programs for at-risk youth, two of which are Aboriginal specific, are delivered by the four Youth Hubs. Day programs are what are commonly referred to as alternative schools for secondary students who for various reasons are unable to attend mainstream schools.

Vancouver Coastal Health

- Provides funding for mental health, alcohol and drug, and other support people for BC Ministry of Children & Family Development day programs.
- Provides some funding for mental health workers who provide services to VSB students.

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) (100 Park Royal South, W. Vancouver)

- Committee of on-reserve reps who advocate for change in the school system throughout BC.
- Work includes research, policy recommendations, curriculum design, staff training, etc.

Partnerships

- The BC Ministry of Children & Family Development is leading a process to better integrate services, including education, to at-risk youth. This work is in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver School Board, and community not-for-profit organizations. Planning involves ensuring programs are in various regions throughout Vancouver, there is Aboriginal-specific programming, that they work towards ensuring there are adequate staffing resources at each site, and addressing diverse issues such as mental health, justice, and young parents.
- The Vancouver School Board partners with community not-for-profit organizations to offer on- and off-site programming to support students both academically and socially. For example, the Urban Native Youth Association offers homework clubs and tutor/mentors in VSB schools, and staff members refer students to community-based resources to help meet their educational and personal needs.
- Vancouver Coastal Health partners with BC Ministry of Children & Family Development and the Vancouver School Board to provide personal support to students.

Committees

- Vancouver School Board coordinates a Day Program Committee that includes Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancouver School Board, MCFD, and the four Youth Hubs to coordinate and integrate Day Programs. This group meets quarterly to provide updates, talk about issues and concerns, and identify gaps.
- Vancouver School Board has its own internal Aboriginal Planning Committee which makes funding and other Vancouver School Board related decisions regarding Aboriginal funding
- FNESC has a committee made up of the First Nations representatives who concentrate on on-reserve educational issues.

Trends

- In recent years, the Vancouver School Board has formed partnerships with community organizations to offer personal and academic support services both on- and off-site.
- In 2005, the BC Ministry of Children & Family Development restructured their day programs to provide services throughout Vancouver, and to better service distinct populations of youth (Aboriginal, justice issues, mental health, behavioural).
- Since 2004, there have been repeated efforts to launch an Aboriginal-focused elementary and/or secondary school to help improve the academic success of Aboriginal students. Although there has been no funding identified yet, the BC Ministry of Education, the VSB, and many Aboriginal community members and organizations are very interested.
- As few research projects are being conducted to identify what supports are needed to help Aboriginal youth graduate from high school. The focus is on what has been successful how to involve and support family participation, and how to best provide personal support.

Gaps

- Most partnerships and initiatives are focused on at-risk youth, so youth who may be doing well are receiving very little support and/or encouragement.
- Most partnership and initiatives are focused on youth, so children under the age of 13 are often left with minimal supports.
- Aboriginal youth are more likely to become young parents, but there are no programs to help meet their unique needs so that they can stay in and do well in school.
- Not enough First Nations teachers, principals, and support staff.
- Very little Aboriginal content in curriculum and/or those in secondary school that do focus on Aboriginal issues are electives rather than mandatory courses.
- There are only 26 First Nations Support Workers who work with over 100 different schools, so often a FNSW can only get to a school only a few hours a week.

Who's Involved? (Post- Secondary)

Native Education Centre (285 East 5th Avenue)

- Upgrading, College Prep, and Certificate programs.
- A few accredited courses that can transfer with full credit to other post-secondary institutions.
- Supportive and culturally appropriate environment, including building design.

Urban Native Youth Association (1640 East Hastings Street)

- Trains and pays Aboriginal post-secondary students to be part-time tutor/mentors to Aboriginal elementary and secondary students.
- Operates a computer lab that post-secondary students can use for research or data entry.

Institute of Indigenous Governance (Burnaby)

- Numerous programs taught from an Indigenous perspective.
- Some accredited courses that can transfer to other post-secondary institutions.
- Many of their students live in Vancouver.

University of British Columbia

- Their Trek 2000 Vision had a recruitment goal of 1000 Aboriginal students by the year 2000, but this was not met as there were only 350 Aboriginal students that year. The new Trek 2010 Vision only mentions increasing Aboriginal student recruitment and retention without offering any specific goals.
- Offers the First Nations Language Program, First Nations Studies, Native Indian Teachers Education Program, First Nations Legal Studies, Aboriginal Residency Program, First Nations Concentration in the MAS & MLIS programs, and the Institute for Aboriginal Health.
- Has a number of First Nations Advisors or Student Liaisons in various faculties
- Has the First Nations House of Learning (see next category).

First Nations House of Learning (1985 West Mall, UBC)

- On-campus longhouse facility for students.
- Personal and academic support, cultural teachings, and employment for Aboriginal students.
- Works on policy recommendations, curriculum design, and administers a Native Indian Teachers Education Program (NITEP).

Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education (639 Hornby Street)

- Various on-site and E-Learning courses, as well as SFU off-campus courses
- Social activities to bring Aboriginal post-secondary students together

British Columbia Institute of Technology (3700 Willingdon Ave, Burnaby)

- Aboriginal-focused training opportunities in computer programming and other areas.
- Outreach to on-reserve communities to recruit students and/or offer satellite courses.
- Campuses in Vancouver.

Simon Fraser University

- First Nations Studies Program, Certificate in First Nations Studies Research.
- Has a First Nations Advisor.
- Some courses offered at the Downtown Vancouver location.

BC Aboriginal Capacity and Developmental Research Environment (UBC)

- Aboriginal student awards help build research capacity within the Aboriginal communities through scholarships/ fellowships for post-secondary students.

Langara College (100 West 49th Avenue)

- Offers an integrated university transferable program that addresses historic and contemporary Aboriginal issues in Canada.
- Has a First Nations Advisor.
- Curriculum adopts a unique outcome approach, providing flexible options for students in employment or further education, and strives to overcome many of the systemic barriers that can hinder the success and completion rates for many Aboriginal students.

Aboriginal Community Career & Employment Services Society (1607 East Hastings Street)

- Some funding to post-secondary students and summer student funding.
- Funding to the Urban Native Youth Association to provide part-time tutor and mentoring jobs to Aboriginal post-secondary students and a computer lab with resources for students.

First Nations Employment Society (440 Cambie Street)

- Some funding to post-secondary students.
- Summer student funding.

Partnerships

- none

Committees

- Native Education Centre, Urban Native Youth Association, and six other community groups are members of the Aboriginal Community Career & Employment Services Society Board of Directors who find unique ways to help support post-secondary students.

Trends

- UBC and SFU both have Aboriginal Recruitment Strategies, but numbers are still very low. There seems to have been a small amount of progress over the years, but none of the institutions post improvement rates.
- Aboriginal education organizations are evolving to meet the changing needs in the Aboriginal communities in the areas of law, social work, education, and environment.

Many students come from out of town to complete their education, then return to their home communities.

- Aboriginal organizations are partnering more with non-Aboriginal post-secondary institutions to encourage and support Aboriginal students to further their education.
- Aboriginal educational organizations are striving to have more accredited courses and programs, often in partnership with non-Aboriginal educational institutions.
- An increased number of Aboriginal students attending post-secondary institutes has led to decreased access to the very limited funding pool as there are now long waiting lists for funding from First Nations Bands due to the higher demand.

Gaps

- Of the Aboriginal youth who manage to graduate secondary school in Vancouver, very few have the academic, social, or financial means to pursue a post-secondary education. This sometimes means that Aboriginal youth cannot continue with their education despite graduating from high school, or it can lead to very challenging times in post-secondary studies for these students and/or an unsuccessful attempt at post-secondary studies.
- There are no funds to support upgrading, although this is a great need since the vast majority of Aboriginal youth drop out of high school before completion.
- There is a lack of knowledge within Aboriginal communities of post-secondary options
- There is a lack of basic knowledge of how post-secondary schools work, such as what a GPA, transferable course, bachelor's degree, or bursary is. This lack of knowledge can be very intimidating and inhibit many from exploring their educational options.
- Aboriginal schools have many high-quality, but non-accredited courses that cannot be transferred or transferred for full credit. So while the personal support they offer may help students succeed, the students have to face the realities of time, finances, or relocation which may lead them to attend other institutions rather than an aboriginal school which may be their preferred choice.
- With locations throughout Vancouver, there are no glaring gaps, but there is a lack of knowledge of these resources within Aboriginal and mainstream communities.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Elders

Relevant Details

- In Canada 3,888,550 or 13% of the population are 65+, for Aboriginal population 39,680 or 4% of the overall Aboriginal population.
- In BC 533,090 or 13.6% of the population are 65+, compared to 7,240 or 4.3% for the Aboriginal population.
- In Vancouver, all individuals 65+ account for 12.9% of the population (Social Indicators Report, COV), for Aboriginal population in Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area 1,285 or 3.5% (Statistics Canada, 2001).
- Aboriginal Elders comprise a lower percentage of the Aboriginal population due to shorter life spans due to poor health, poverty, and the ongoing issues that many Elders face due to their personal experience in residential schools, or the intergenerational impacts passed on through their families.

Who's Involved?

Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre (1607 East Hastings Street)

- Our Elders Speak Wisdom Society has an Elders Council that helps to plan, fundraise, and host events that promote Elders.
- Hosts a weekly luncheon for Elders.

Indian Residential School Survivors Society (100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver)

- Many of the survivors of the Indian Residential Schools are now Elders
- Support includes crisis counselling, court support, info and referrals, workshops, media, conferences, supports & conducts research, advocates for justice and healing.

Vancouver Native Housing Society (1726 East Hastings Street)

- Bridging the Generations brings youth and Elders together through social and recreational activities, health-related workshops, mentoring, and participation in Aboriginal traditions. Open to all VNHS residents ages 12 to 15 years and 65 years and older.
- A 35 unit Elders opened in 1987. Located at 1545 East Broadway.

Aboriginal Front Door Society (384 Main Street)

- Training is provided to increase the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical health of Elders through increased knowledge and understanding of traditional health and healing practices.

Vancouver Native Health Society (449 East Hastings Street)

- ADAPT Program hosts an Aboriginal Elders Healing Circle three times a month.
- Produced and sold an Elders From All Nations Cookbook.
- Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project. Musqueam shares their garden plot at the UBC Farm with Aboriginal people living in East Van.

Musqueam Elders Centre (Musqueam)

- A place for elders to visit with one another, as well as to gather and have lunch and dinner together. The coordinator identifies social needs of the Elders as well as organizes activities, daily outings, and longer trips for those who can travel.

First Nations House of Learning - Elders in Residence Program (1985 West Mall, UBC)

- Want to create a \$1.5 million endowment fund to enable them to invite Elders to share their knowledge of history, culture, language, and to offer counselling and advice to students.

Aboriginal Elder's Conference

- Elders throughout the province develop inter-social and community links that bind them together as a Nation. It allows them to intermingle with like-minded, like-aged individuals and their families, to reveal common grounds that strengthen those links. It offers the opportunity to interface with youth, which helps to mitigate the generation gap, and allows the younger generations to demonstrate respect, regard, and honour for their Elders.

BC Elders Communication Centre Society (Online Resource)

- A central communication office for Aboriginal Elders, their family and support workers in B.C.
- Fulfills purpose by organizing a network of Elders representatives who act as the liaison to their Elders population, a toll-free number, email, fax, and address where people can contact someone whose job is solely to help with Elders related matters, publishing the monthly provincial newsletter the "Elders Voice", and hosting the first ever B.C. Elders Website - "Preserving the Past" (Aug. 31, 2002).

Pacific Association of First Nations Women (96 East Broadway)

- Aboriginal Elders Support Program helps Aboriginal women ages 55 years and over, to access and participate in health care services and other activities; offers liaison, referral, consultation, advocacy, education, and research.

Native Education Centre (285 East 5th Avenue)

- Aboriginal Resident Care / Home Support Attendant Program trains people to work as Home Support Attendants and Resident Care Aides to provide appropriate supportive assistance to Elders, people with special needs, Aboriginal families and people in residential care facilities.

Partnerships

- The Vancouver Native Health Society and the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre work together to bring urban Elders to the Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project

Committees

The Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre has the Our Elders Speak Wisdom Council. They plan, host, and fundraise for Elders events at the VAFCS and for outings such as the Annual Elders Conference.

Trends

- Statistics show that the overall population of people aged 65 and over is 13% of the population, while the Aboriginal population is only 4% (A Portrait of Elders, Statistics Canada, The Daily, February 2007).
- More Aboriginal organizations and committees are engaging Aboriginal Elders to provide leadership and encourage Aboriginal ways of governing themselves.

Gaps

- There are not many Aboriginal Elder specific programs.
- There are very few opportunities to fulfill the great need for generational interaction between Elders and youth in order to ensure the passing on of cultural knowledge and practices.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Employment

Relevant Details

- Vancouver unemployment rate was 15.3% among Aboriginal people (Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2001).
- Since 1996, the number of self-employed Aboriginal people in Canada has increased by 30.7% - a rate nine times higher than for self-employed Canadians overall. In 2001, there were 27,195 self-employed Aboriginal people in Canada, representing 2.78% of the overall Aboriginal population. Fourteen percent of self-employed Aboriginal people resided on-reserve, while 86% resided off-reserve (Aboriginal Entrepreneurs in 2002, Industry Canada).

Labour Characteristics of the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Population in B.C. 2005/06

- Aboriginal unemployment rate was 16.8% compared to 5.2% for non-Aboriginal people
- Only 10% of Aboriginal people had attained at least some form of educational credential compared to 25% for non-Aboriginal people.
- Many Aboriginal people have post-secondary credentials that do not lead to much increased employability as they are specific credentials without vocational training (eg: adult basic education certificate).
- Due to low education levels, Aboriginal people are over-represented in the lower skilled occupations and under-represented in the high skilled occupations.

Aboriginal peoples living off-reserve in Western Canada: Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2005

- B.C. Aboriginal employment rate 54.5% - below the rate of 61.2% for non-Aboriginal people.
- B.C. Aboriginal unemployment rate 17.3% - twice the rate of 6.6% for non-Aboriginal people.
- In B.C., Aboriginal youth aged 15-24 who made up 26.6% of the off-reserve Aboriginal population had an employment rate of only 43.6% compared to non-Aboriginal youth at 58%.
- In B.C., Aboriginal youth aged 15-24 who made up 26.6% of the off-reserve Aboriginal population had an unemployment rate of 24% compared to non-Aboriginal youth at 13%.
- In B.C., for Aboriginal people aged 25-64 who had finished post-secondary education, the employment rate was over 79%, almost equal to non-Aboriginal people at 82%.
- In Western Canada, the unemployment rate for Aboriginal people aged 25-64 who had finished post-secondary education was 6.9% compared to 3.9% for non-Aboriginal people.
- In Western Canada, Métis people had similar rates to those of non-Aboriginal people.

Who's Involved?

Aboriginal Community Career & Employment Services Society (1607 East Hastings Street)

- Aboriginal training and employment which focuses on the continuum of employment preparedness from schooling to long-term employment opportunities
- Not-for-profit organization with a community-based Board of Directors
- Provides services through Employment Centres in a few locations within the GVRD

- Some project-based funding to Aboriginal not-for-profit organizations to offer employment related services such as computer lab, Bladerunners, and educational training in specific fields such as cook/server, hospitality industry, phone centres, and the film industry.
- The President / CEO is the Co-Chair of the BC Aboriginal Workforce Strategy, whose mandate is to foster partnerships that lead to the inclusion of Aboriginal people in government and private enterprise workforces

Bladerunners - Aboriginal Community Career & Employment Services (56 West Hastings St)

- An internationally recognized, award winning employment program assisting multi-barrier youth in gaining on the job construction training and apprenticeships. Works in partnership with employers, trades organizations, unions, community organizations, government and the Aboriginal Communities to increase opportunities for youth.

First Nations Employment Society (440 Cambie Street)

- An Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement contractor for on-reserve members, but also offers some urban support.
- Some funding to post-secondary students.
- Board of Directors made of up First Nations representatives.

Vancouver Aboriginal Skills & Employment Partnership -VanASEP (3636 East 4th Avenue)

- Overall objective is to create sustainable employment for Aboriginal people in major economic initiatives across Canada through collaborative partnerships, leading to lasting benefits for Aboriginal communities.
- VanASEP will be linking major employers and construction projects to a source of labour supply, focusing primarily on opportunities relating to the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre project, the Vancouver Port Expansion project and the Sea to Sky Highway project.

Qey-Sta:m Learning Centre (Musqueam)

- Services for members who want to improve their reading, writing, and math skills and to complete their high school education and the opportunity for students to learn and begin an apprenticeship in cooking as well as gain work experience.

Vancouver School Board

- Staying in School / Stay on Track provides life and job skills training and supervises work placements for Phase 1, 2 and 3 students as they transition into and out of secondary school. This program includes some outreach. Activities include a spectrum of opportunities and services that ensure mental, social, and environmental factors are addressed in a systematic manner Aboriginal Youth diagnosed with FASD.

Building Opportunities with Business Inner City Society (BOB)

- Not-for-profit organization which is developing a 'one-stop-shop' in the Downtown Eastside to promote business development, mentoring, employment training, and small business loans programs, gradually expanding to include a wider range of services and initiatives.
- Their cluster strategy will bring business and industry leaders together to identify ways of attracting investment, supporting existing DTES businesses, and creating employment for area residents.

Aboriginal Business Canada (300 West Georgia Street)

- Provides support for business planning, start-up, expansion and marketing to Aboriginal entrepreneurs and organizations. Referrals to financial assistance, business info and resource materials, and referrals to other possible sources of financing or business support.

Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada (Saskatoon)

- Workforce Connex is a national forum series that will link you to new regional partners and solutions that offer resolve to employment training, recruitment and retention issues
- The forum series helps develop successful business strategies that help Aboriginal Canadians acquire the right skills and opportunities to enter new labour market sectors.

Partnerships

- Aboriginal Community Career & Employment Services Society partners with government, private sector, other AHRDAs, developers and the construction industry to develop recruitment and retention strategies for Aboriginal people.
- First Nations Employment Society partners with government, private sector, other AHRDAs, developers and the construction industry to develop recruitment and retention strategies for Aboriginal people.

Committees

- Aboriginal Community Career & Employment Services Society with government, private sector, AHRDAs, etc.
- VanASEP has a Board of Directors comprised of AHRDA holders, private business, and First Nations. Names can be found at: www.vanasep.ca.

Trends

- There are increased partnerships with government and private industry to recruit, hire, and train Aboriginal people in various fields.
- On the job training is increasing in the construction industry due to the high need for workers.

Gaps

- Since the drop out rate from high school is at 80% for Aboriginal people in Vancouver, there is a great need for upgrading opportunities and on the job training.
- Although social assistance requires that clients seek work, there are few meaningful jobs for those who do not have the education or skills to compete in today's workforce, therefore there is a great need for transitional programs for upgrading and training.
- Aboriginal women, especially single parents, are much more likely to face daily issues of poverty, housing issues, food insecurity, and have little access to education and training initiatives that can help them to find and retain meaningful employment that will bring them out of poverty. There needs to be specific training opportunities for this demographic.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Family Violence

Relevant Details

- The ongoing effects of the residential school experience, racism, and many other issues have led to many violence issues among and against Aboriginal people

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Juristat, Vol. 26, no. 3

- 21% of Aboriginal people reported experiencing spousal violence in the previous five years, compared to 6% for non-Aboriginal peoplewith 25% of Aboriginal females reporting spousal violence in the previous five years compared to 7% for non-Aboriginal women (p. 6).
- Female Aboriginal victims of spousal violence were much more likely to suffer the most severe forms of violence including being beaten, choked, threatened with or had a gun or knife used against them, or sexually assaulted, 54% versus 37% (p. 6, 7).
- 43% of Aboriginal victims reported injuriesand one third feared for their lives (p. 7).
- Family violence among Aboriginal offenders was 2/3 higher than non-Aboriginals, the rate against family members was double the rate of non-Aboriginals, the dramatic difference is mainly attributable to higher rates of perpetration against female partners. There are no statistically significant differences in rates of violence against children (The Incidence of Family Violence Perpetrated by Federal Offenders: A File Review Study, No. FV-03, Correctional Service of Canada, March 1995).
- Correctional Service Canada recognises the importance of specialised programming to meet the unique needs of Aboriginal offenders, 50% of whom presented with family violence issues (The Incidence of Family Violence Perpetrated by Federal Offenders: A File Review Study, No. FV-03, Correctional Service of Canada, March 1995).

Who's Involved?

Helping Spirit Lodge Society (3965 Dumfries Street)

- Provides safe, protective shelter to Aboriginal women and children, holistic educational programs of enhancement, and support and advocacy to Aboriginal people.
- More specific program info can be found in the Housing/Homelessness and Women's sections of this manual.

Battered Women's Support Services - First Nation's Women's Support & Outreach

- Provides counselling and advocacy services for women who have experienced emotional, physical, sexual or financial violence in relationships.
- Their Aboriginal specific program is provided by a trained Aboriginal women's counsellor.

Circle of Eagles Lodge Society (1470 East Broadway)

- Operates Anderson Lodge which helps women who are transitioning from abusive relationships to independent living.

Aboriginal Wellness Program (255 East 12th Avenue)

- Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancouver Community services.
- Offer talking circles for women who are or have experienced family violence.

Warriors Against Violence (2425 Oxford Street)

- Works to help Aboriginal families unlearn abusive and violent behaviours and reclaim their traditional values of honour, respect, and equality.
- Provides counselling, group work and cultural ceremonies, and public education.

Native Education Centre - Family Violence Resource Centre (285 East 5th Avenue)

- Offers info and referral, free confidential counseling, workshops, online newsletter, and educational resources which you may view on-line or print copies for reference.

Change of Seasons Society (911 Park Royal South, North Vancouver)

- Counselling for Aboriginal men who abuse their spouses, or men with Aboriginal wives.
- There is a 16 week counselling group for men who abuse their spouses and a 6 week anger management group during the summer.

Women Against Violence Against Women - Aboriginal Outreach Worker

- Provides services, educational workshops, information, resources, and referrals for Aboriginal communities.

Partnerships

- None

Committees

- The Aboriginal Women's Collective met again in October 2006 to provide a safe forum for Aboriginal women to identify and address issues that they feel are important to them. The Aboriginal Mothers Centre, Helping Spirit Lodge Society, and the Pacific Association of First Nations Women hosted the first meeting and will work with the Vancouver Aboriginal Council to lobby for funding for a full-time person to work in this area.

Trends

- Aboriginal women continue to suffer high rates of poverty, child apprehension, poor health, and many other issues that leave them vulnerable to family violence.
- More individuals are beginning to talk about violence within families and communities, rather than skirting around the issue. Hopefully this will lead to more open discussion, planning, and initiatives to address this huge issue.

Gaps

- There is very little open discussion at the community level about this large issue.
- There are very few programs to help address family violence, this would especially be helpful for Aboriginal youth who are the largest group of the Aboriginal population.
- Much of the federal initiatives focus on rural or on-reserve family violence, this leaves urban people with little to no support on this foundational issue in Aboriginal communities.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Food Access

Relevant Details

- Due to Aboriginal people's high likelihood of living in poverty or extreme poverty, access to food, especially healthy food is a large issue that affects many members of the communities (66% of Vancouver's Aboriginal population being poor in 1995, Canadian Council on Social Development, 2003) 40% of off-reserve Aboriginal children live in poverty (Campaign 2000).
- Many Aboriginal people live in poverty, and therefore eat more affordable food which is detrimental to their health and can lead to high risk disease for Aboriginal people (diabetes).
- Some Aboriginal people are able to travel to their home territories to gather food such as berries, fish, or wild meat, but many people cannot due to being non-status, having no money to travel, not being connected to their home community, or it not being safe for them to return home even for short periods of time (note, that many on-reserve individuals also do not have this access for various reasons).
- Most Aboriginal programs incorporate food in order to attract participants and to help address the problem of food shortage, but resources are scarce so the food is minimal.

Who's Involved?

Vancouver Native Health and UBC - Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project

- Goal is to provide the opportunity and support for Aboriginal people living in East Vancouver to improve their opportunities and capacity to grow their own vegetables.
- Includes social time, intergenerational time, cultural workshops and events celebrating Aboriginal traditions around food, the harvest and the seasons.
- Community Kitchens onsite incorporating the food planting, nurturing, and harvesting so participants get the "seed-to-table" experience if they come out on a regular basis.

Grandview Elementary School (2055 Woodland Drive)

- Hosts a community garden to which students have access.
- This school has a high Aboriginal population.

Musqueam First Nation

- Has similar lack of food access issues that other urban Aboriginal people face due to high rates of poverty and a lack of resources to grow their own food.
- Some members are able to take part in food fishing, but many do not have access to a boat or fishing supplies that would allow them to exert their treaty right to food fish.

Partnerships

The Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project is based on partnerships. A complete list of funding and community partners can be found at www.vnhs.net/programs/garden.htm.

Committees

- None

Trends

- The growing gap between rich and poor in Vancouver is leaving many people vulnerable to homelessness, hunger, and poverty. This is especially true for Aboriginal people who historically live in poorer conditions than non-Aboriginal people.
- Many Aboriginal people come to Vancouver in hopes of attending school or finding a well paying job. This is very rarely realized, and many Aboriginal people find themselves living on welfare and/or on the streets rather than finding the opportunities they had hoped for. In the meantime, leaving their traditional territories greatly decreased the likelihood of accessing any traditional foods that may be available and accessible on their home reserve.

Gaps

- There is a distinct lack of community kitchens offered through Aboriginal organizations; this is likely due to a lack of cooking facilities and/or funding to support such programs.
- There is very little attention paid to the issue of food access or food security within Aboriginal communities. As with other issues, it is something that is faced on a daily basis, but not named or collectively addressed as a single issue. For Aboriginal people, many issues are directly related to poverty, lack of access, and discrimination.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Health

Relevant Details

- For many complex reasons, including the historical loss of cultural and political institutions, colonialism, racism, and residential school experiences that have had multigenerational impacts, Aboriginal people continue to be challenged by the poorest health status among identified populations [in BC] (*BC Ministry of Health Website*).
- A shift to a sedentary lifestyle, drastic change to diet, and mass poverty has led to problems in areas such as diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.
- Generations of negative traumatic experiences have led to alcohol and drug use, mental health issues, and a skewed sense of sexuality.
- The Non-Insured Health Benefits Program is Health Canada's national, needs-based health benefit program that funds benefit claims for eligible First Nations and Inuit people (*Health Canada Website*).
- Improvements - The 2002 BC Provincial Health Officer's Report shows that there are some significant improvements in the health of Aboriginal people in BC. Example: for infant mortality, unintentional injuries, suicide and most other major causes of death, death rates are improving steadily, often at a rate of improvement that exceeds the provincial average.
- Vancouver - Life expectancy is between 9-13 years less, few mental health or addiction services, frequent distrust of non-Aboriginal services and health care providers - based on past experiences of discrimination, racism, lack of respect and inferior services (*Vancouver Community, Aboriginal Health Services 2005*).

Who's Involved?

Vancouver Native Health Society (449 East Hastings Street)

- Medical Clinic is open to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.
- DTES services include a walk-in clinic, dental clinic, early childhood development programs, diabetes prevention, HIV/AIDS program, Sheway, and dual diagnosis.
- Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project. Musqueam shares their garden plot at the UBC Farm with Aboriginal people living in East Van.

Aboriginal Wellness Program (255 East 12th Avenue)

- Programs and services offered by Vancouver Coastal Health's Aboriginal Services
- Satellite location in the Downtown Eastside.
- Programs vary to meet the needs of the community.

Aboriginal Patients Lodge - Luma Native Housing Society (1254 East 8th Avenue)

- Coordinates with patient advocates to support visiting patients.
- Accommodations for Aboriginal patients and their families while they are receiving medical treatment in Vancouver. Five units within a larger facility. Daily rental fee applies.

Indian Residential School Survivors Society (100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver)

- Many of the survivors of the Indian Residential Schools are now Elders.
- Support includes crisis counselling, court support, info and referrals, workshops, media, conferences, supports & conducts research, advocates for justice and healing

Healing Our Spirit BC Aboriginal HIV/Aids Society (2425 Quebec Street)

- Mandate is to prevent and reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS and provide care and support services to Aboriginal peoples infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Services include education/prevention workshops and providing support to individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Redroad HIV/AIDS Network (100 Park Royal South, W. Vancouver)

- Brings together on and off reserve organizations and projects dealing with HIV/AIDS.
- Works to increase the network of those living with HIV/AIDS, the professionals working in the field and those who have an interest in addressing HIV/AIDS in their community.

Institute for Aboriginal Health (2194 Health Sciences Mall, UBC)

- Objectives are to assist health and human service faculties, schools and departments to develop courses and programs, ladder programs for high school students, host seminars, maintain a computer network of those working on Aboriginal health, and work with Aboriginal communities and agencies to help further community health education and research.

Aboriginal Women's Health at BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre

- First Nations Patient Advocate offers services to improve the quality of health care delivery to Aboriginal inpatients and outpatients through staff education and on-site patient support.
- Outreach program supports Aboriginal communities with education on women's health issues, cervical and breast cancer screening, nurse training, and assistance with workshops.
- Offers workshops and information for Aboriginal women, trains nurses and medical workers to be sensitive to the special needs of Aboriginal women, and to help support Aboriginal communities to become self-sufficient in meeting their women's health care needs.

BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (Victoria)

- Province-wide organization which offers a variety of support services and resources to help aboriginal people with disabilities, and others associated with the disabled.
- Includes advocacy, online resources, conferences, and a library.

Musqueam Health Department

- The Administrator interacts with government's agencies, medical professionals, and Band members on health service issues; identifies community health issues and develops programs to address them; identifies outside sources of funding and develops proposals.
- Health Program includes a Drug & Alcohol Counsellor, Health Promotion and Youth Worker.

Partnerships

- None

Committees

- None

Trends

- More research is being conducted by Aboriginal people in the health field.
- There is an increased emphasis on traditional medicines and foods.

Gaps

- Vancouver Native Health is the only Aboriginal specific health centre in Vancouver. Their location in the Downtown Eastside and the open door policy for non-Aboriginal people has lead to lower usage than what is truly needed.
- There are very few youth-focused health initiatives despite 60% of the Aboriginal population being under the age of 25.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Housing & Homelessness

Relevant Details

- Aboriginal children have almost twice the poverty rate (40%) of non-Aboriginal children. This number would have been significantly higher if the data had included children living on reserves (First Call, BC Campaign 2000: What is Child Poverty).
- Aboriginal people are represented at all points in the continuum of homelessness. In particular, they are either absolutely homeless or relatively homeless and ‘couch surfing’
- There are 24 Aboriginal social housing complexes in East Vancouver with a total of 725 units, but this only meets a small portion of the need.

City of Vancouver Housing Plan for the Downtown Eastside, October 2005

- “whereas 2% of the city’s population identify themselves as having Aboriginal origins, this figure is 9% in the [DTES], ranging from 22% and 23% in Thornton Park and Victory Square to 3% in Strathcona” (p. 20).
- 15% of SRO residents were Aboriginal. Aboriginal people are over-represented in the Downtown Eastside and in the injection drug user community, and have been found to be more likely to be infected with HIV and Hepatitis C...” (p. 54).
- [Recommendation] Given the high proportion of Aboriginal people in the Downtown Eastside population, develop additional culturally-appropriate social housing that is Aboriginal-operated or managed. Follow the recommendations in the Homeless Action Plan to develop Aboriginal social housing, transitional housing and shelters city-wide to properly house Aboriginal people at-risk of homelessness” (p. 124).

Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) Homeless Count 2005 reports that:

- Aboriginal people are significantly over-represented among the Greater Vancouver region’s homeless at 30% compared to their share of the population at 2%.
- There were proportionally more women among the Aboriginal homeless population at 35% than the non-Aboriginal population at 27%.
- The over-representation of Aboriginal people among the homeless is not reflected in the existing distribution of Aboriginal-run homeless services and emergency accommodations
- Aboriginal people were highest among the street homeless (37 or 34% of the total street homeless) and smallest among the sheltered homeless (158 people or 23%).
- People who live in poverty or single parent homes, or have low educational attainment are more likely to live in poor housing conditions or be homeless. Aboriginal people are over-represented in all of these categories, so therefore are at greater risk of homelessness.

Who’s Involved?

Vancouver Native Housing Society (1726 East Hastings Street)

- Owns and operates 13 housing complexes in the Eastside of Vancouver. There are 10 family, two single and one Elders/Seniors building.
- 482 units including 35 unit Elders building and 2 Singles buildings with a total of 136 units
- Offers some social programs to tenants when funding is available, such as an Elders/Youth program, after school programs, and resource centre.

United Native Nations - Swiw' Lus Lam' Chit Youth Housing (East Vancouver)

- Eight apartments for Aboriginal youth aged 18 - 25.

Luma Native Housing Society (25 West 6th Avenue)

- Operates 10 housing complexes, most of which they own, 235 total units.
- Host agency for the Federal SCPI funding for Aboriginal Homelessness.

Urban Native Youth Association (1640 East Hastings Street)

- Seven bed safehouse for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth aged 13 - 18 (max. 7 days).
- 5 bed transition house for Aboriginal young women aged 17 - 24 who are leaving street life.

Synala Housing Co-op (3090 Kingsway)

- 40 unit townhouse development with a mandate and special funding to ensure at least 51% of the units house Aboriginal people.

Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre (1607 East Hastings Street)

- Emergency Cold/Wet Weather Shelter.
- During extreme cold weather only.

Helping Spirit Lodge Society (3965 Dumfries Street)

- A first-stage transition house for abused and battered women and children. Housing is provided for a maximum 30 days.
- A supportive and holistic long-term residential program for Aboriginal women and children. Housing is provided for up to 18 months.

Aboriginal Mothers Centre (2019 Dundas Street)

- Emergency Cold/Wet Weather Shelter (during extreme cold weather only).

Circle of Eagles Lodge Society (1470 East Broadway)

- Anderson Lodge Women's Shelter assists and educates homeless women by providing a safe nurturing environment that encourages positive changes and builds inner strength.

Partnerships

A number of Aboriginal non-market housing projects were developed on land leased by the City at a subsidized rate.

Committees

- Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee is a community based committee that makes policy and funding decisions for the urban Aboriginal component of the Federal Supportive Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI).

Trends

- Most of the 23 Native housing buildings were built in the 1980-90s with very few being built in recent years.
- As Social Assistance becomes harder to qualify for, and rental rates increase in Vancouver, more Aboriginal people will become virtually or actually homeless.

Gaps

- None of the Aboriginal housing organizations has an official strategy to encourage and support youth who are living independently. Partnerships could be developed with youth-serving organizations to identify and develop strategies that will help to support youth who are transitioning to adulthood or living independently to do it successfully.
- Since the Urban Native Youth Association ceased operations of the Native Youth Hostel, there are no Aboriginal specific shelters other than the emergency extreme weather shelters that are operated for only a few days each year.
- Other than Helping Spirit Lodge's Spirit Way, there are no 2nd stage housing projects that can help Aboriginal people who are transitioning from emergency programs, alcohol or drug treatment, incarceration, or an abusive relationship to help them learn the skills necessary to live independently successfully.

Contact Information

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Justice

Relevant Details

- In 2003/04 Aboriginal people made up 19.8% of the B.C. prison population (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Juristat, Vol. 26, no. 3, p. 28).
- In BC in 2004/05, 38% of youth in custody were Aboriginal and 14% were female. (BC Ministry of Children & Family Development 2004/05 Annual Service Plan Report).
- Although overall there were fewer youth being sentenced to custody in BC, Aboriginal youth are increasingly over-represented. In 1996/97 Aboriginal youth were 3 times more likely to be incarcerated; that rose to 5 times more likely in 2004/05; and 7 times more likely in 2005/06. (Child and Youth Officer of BC, Issue Paper 5, 2006).
- “In order to decrease the over-representation of Aboriginal youth in BC, it is important to develop and maintain a profile of incarcerated Aboriginal youth, determine and fund best practices, educate police officers, judges, probations officers, ...develop and enhance First Nations programs that use strengths based or asset-building approaches, and identify existing barrier to the provision of referrals by the youth justice system to community-based programs”. (Child and Youth Officer of BC, Issue Paper 5, 2006).
- A common concern is that, all factors being equal, many Aboriginal people are more likely to go to jail for a crime compared to a non- Aboriginal defendant (type of crime, criminal record, bail amount). Reasons include not understanding their options, racism, or having to remain in jail until trial if they are unable to make bail. Those who cannot afford bail often end up spending more time in jail than the sentence they receive when the trial is finalized. In other cases some might plead guilty, even if they are innocent, as the time for the alleged crime is less than waiting for trial.
- Some provinces have some form of alternative sentencing program such as sentencing circles. Many are operated by Aboriginal communities or not-for-profit organizations.
- Correctional Service Canada recognises the importance of specialised programming to meet the unique needs of Aboriginal offenders, 50% of whom presented with family violence issues (The Incidence of Family Violence Perpetrated by Federal Offenders: A File Review Study, No. FV-03, Correctional Service of Canada, March 1995).

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Juristat, Vol. 26, no. 3

- 60% of violent crime [against Aboriginal people] went unreported to police ...violence was most likely to be committed in or around the victim’s home, 34% (p. 6).
- “Some of these factors [that contribute to violence against Aboriginal people] include being young, low levels of formal education, being unemployed, having low income, being a member of a lone-parent family, living in crowded conditions, and having high residential mobility” (p. 3).

Who’s Involved?

Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services (1607 East Hastings Street)

- Not-for-profit organization with a community-based Board of Directors.
- Has signed agreements with the federal government and courts to ‘divert’ willing Aboriginal first-time offenders with specific non-violent charges.
- Receives direct referrals from the Crown, Vancouver Police Department, schools, social service organizations, and the province (but receives very limited funding).
- The accused person must meet with the Justice Coordinator and fully commit to participating in the sentencing circle process and creating/implementing a wellness plan.

If the accused does not fit the criteria, they are sent back to the mainstream justice system.

- Sentencing circles are carried out by the Justice Coordinator, trained community volunteers, and an Elder. The process includes having the 'victim' present to let the accused know how the crime affected them.

Native Courtworkers & Counselling Association of BC (50 Powell Street)

- Provincial not-for-profit organization with a community-based Board of Directors.
- Courtworkers are liaisons between the court and the accused.
- Drug and alcohol workers available.
- Facilitates and enhances access to justice by assisting Aboriginal people involved in the criminal justice system to obtain fair, just, equitable and culturally sensitive treatment.

First Nations Legal Clinic, UBC (1822 East Mall, UBC)

- Trains law students in issues that can arise in providing legal services to disadvantaged members of the First Nations communities.
- Includes class time plus part-time work at the First Nations Legal Clinic at 50 Powell Street.

Indian Residential School Survivors Society (100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver)

- Support includes crisis counselling, court support, info and referrals, workshops, media, conferences, supports & conducts research, advocates for justice and healing.

Vancouver Métis Community Association - Walk Bravely Forward (744 West Hastings Street)

- Program offered since 2002 helps to reintegrate incarcerated federal offenders back into their families and communities.

Circle of Eagles Lodge Society (1470 East Broadway)

- Assists ex-offenders in becoming more productive, contributing members of society
- COELS helps to reduce the number of Aboriginal repeat offenders through its residential halfway house & rehabilitation services.
- Offers counselling, training, visitation, advocacy, youth canoe journey, women's healing lodge, and liaison.

Urban Native Youth Association (1640 East Hastings Street)

- Alcohol & Drug Counsellors work with youth who are in remand and Youth Detention Centre.

Aboriginal Community Policing Centre (1726 East Hastings Street)

- This centre opened in October 2006.
- Mandate is to be a liaison between Aboriginal communities and the Vancouver Police Department, develop initiatives to respond to Aboriginal crime and safety concerns, recruit volunteers, and the police officer assigned to the office will take onsite reports when possible.

Broadway Youth Resource Centre - Aboriginal Victim Support Worker (691 East Broadway)

- Works with Aboriginal youth victims of crime.

Assembly of First Nations (Ottawa)

- Works on national Aboriginal justice issues including the Aboriginal Justice Strategy, works with Correctional Services Canada to develop a national strategy and action plan to reduce the rate of incarceration and recidivism among First Nation peoples, and discussions with the RCMP to review, evaluate and renew the AFN-CSC Public Safety Cooperation Protocol.

Vancouver Police Department Board

- In recent years, there has usually been an Aboriginal representative appointed to this Board, but most have resigned for various reasons. There are currently two Aboriginal people on the VPD Board.

Justice For Girls

- A non-profit organization that promotes freedom from violence, social justice and equality for teenage girls who live in poverty.
- Trains and employs young women to do court monitoring, advocacy, and presentations
- Has a focus on Aboriginal issues, including research.

Partnerships

- The Native Courtworkers & Counselling Association of BC are currently the host agency (administrative only) for the Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Program, but also partner with them to divert accused Aboriginal people to their program.
- The Native Courtworkers & Counselling Association of BC and the First Nations Legal Clinic at UBC work closely together to support Aboriginal people in conflict with the law.

Committees

- Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Program is governed by a diverse group of community organization representatives.
- Vancouver Police Department Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Youth Working Group meet regularly to discuss and address Aboriginal-specific policing issues.

Trends

- Violence is rising.
- Local Aboriginal communities initiated a large effort that has led to increased positive relations with the Vancouver Police Department and led to the development of a joint VPD and Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee. This, in turn, led to the creation of the Aboriginal Community Policing Centre and the Aboriginal art on VPD police cars.
- The local restorative justice program is receiving reduced funds from the Ministry of Justice and the agreement is up for renewal in 2007.

Gaps

- There continue to be problems with incarcerated Aboriginal people having free access to their cultural / religious freedoms that others enjoy. This is a human rights issue which may end up in the court system.
- There are no exiting programs for Aboriginal women to help them reintegrate back into mainstream society upon their release from prison.
- There is very little attention paid to the needs of incarcerated Aboriginal people including visitations, support groups, exiting programs, or family reunification programs.

Contact Information

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Métis

Relevant Details

- Métis people are one of three groups that the Canadian government recognizes as Aboriginal people. The other two are First Nations and Inuit people.
- Of the 976,305 people who identified themselves as Aboriginal, 30%, or 292,310, reported that they were Métis. 44,265 were in BC, with 12,505 in Vancouver (Stats Canada, 2001).
- There is an ongoing debate over who is an actual Métis person. Some say that a person must be a direct descendant of the original Red River Métis people, while others who are not, but have Aboriginal heritage and no 'Indian Status' now identify themselves as Métis. Please visit www.mnbc.ca/citizenship/citizenship.html to find out more.
- BC and the Métis Nations BC signed the Métis Nation Relationship Accord in May 2006 as a way to work together to achieve results in areas such as health care, housing, education, employment opportunities, Métis identification and data collection.
- In recent years, Métis organizations have been successful in lobbying the Government of Canada in regards to Métis fishing, hunting, and land rights.

Who's Involved?

Vancouver Métis Association (744 West Hastings Street)

- Works towards developing stronger Métis communities and families through advocacy, education, partnerships, and an online "History of the Métis" document for visitors to read.
- Only program is Walk Bravely Forward which helps to reintegrate incarcerated federal offenders back into their families and communities.
- Hosts the Celebration Métis Annual Festival at the Vancouver Art Gallery since 2005.

Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia

- "Métis Nation British Columbia develops and enhances opportunities for our Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services."

Partnerships

- None

Committees

- None

Trends

- Many more people are identifying themselves as Métis, Aboriginal or Inuit in the Canadian Census now that this is an option. More individuals recognizing their Aboriginal heritage has dramatically increased the official census count of Aboriginal people in Canada.

- Métis people are becoming much more vocal in relation to Métis rights with the Federal government, including the areas of hunting, fishing, and land rights.

Gaps

- There is only one Métis association in Vancouver, despite many Métis people living here. Most Métis organizations are in the Surrey area as there is a large Métis population there. The Vancouver Métis Association is mostly a volunteer run organization without the infrastructure needed to provide programs and services to Vancouver Métis people.

Contact Information

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Research

Relevant Details

- There continues to be a lack of credible research on urban Aboriginal people, and the little that has been released is usually a footnote gleaned out of a larger project. There have been no meaningful reports published that adequately represent the realities of urban Aboriginal people in British Columbia, particularly in Vancouver.
- There continues to be a struggle between not wanting non-Aboriginal people to conduct research on Aboriginal people, with the reality that there are few Aboriginal researchers and little funding being awarded to Aboriginal researchers. Central to all of these discussions is that Aboriginal people must lead, conduct, and actively participate in any research that is related to them and their realities.

Who's Involved?

Centre for Native Policy & Research (207 West Hastings Street)

- A non-partisan, social justice, progressive Aboriginal think tank focused on the social, economic, and environmental policy and research concerns of Aboriginal people.
- Acts as a bridge that encourages collaborative solutions by bringing people together beyond politics to promote participatory research and policy alternatives.
- In 2005 released *An Urban Aboriginal Life: The 2005 Indicators Report on the Quality of Life of Aboriginal People in the Greater Vancouver*.

Institute for Aboriginal Health (2194 Health Sciences Mall, UBC)

- Purpose is to increase community-based research capacity within BC Aboriginal communities and in partnership with Canadian and international Indigenous peoples.
- Projects are collaboratively designed, developed, and implemented.

Aboriginal Women's Health and Healing Research Group (2194 Health Sciences Mall, UBC)

- A national network of Aboriginal women health researchers based out of UBC.
- Mission is to create a supportive community for Aboriginal women engaged in health and healing research and policy advice; support community based health and healing research done by and with Aboriginal women; identify and address gaps and weaknesses in Aboriginal women's health and healing research; and foster critical, contextual and Aboriginal approaches to health and healing research initiatives.

Union of BC Indian Chiefs (342 Water Street)

- In addition to political advocacy, they are dedicated to information-sharing as well as to the fostering of fundamental and necessary research skills for Indian people in the province.
- Provides research skills training to BC's Aboriginal communities, through conferences and workshops. Has produced a number of research/legal publications.
- Has a specialized research collection focusing on First Nations and BC lands issues.

Xwi7Xwa Library, First Nations House of Learning at UBC (1985 West Mall, UBC)

- In house and online resources related to Aboriginal issues.
- Links to theses and dissertations.

BC Aboriginal Capacity and Developmental Research Environments (UBC)

- Aboriginal Student Health Research Capacity Building Awards help to build research capacity within Aboriginal communities through scholarships/ fellowships.

McReary Research Society (3552 East Hastings Street)

- Has completed a number of studies on Aboriginal youth issues, usually with an active Steering Committee comprised of members of the Aboriginal communities and often as a follow up to larger studies.

Simon Fraser University - Certificate in First Nations Studies Research

- This program provides a unique opportunity to explore the history and prehistory, culture, language and contemporary situation of Canadian Native peoples, and to acquire basic research skills in Native issues.

Individual Organizations

- Many Aboriginal organizations have conducted their own research to identify the challenges, needs, and strengths of Aboriginal communities. Much of this research would not be considered rigorous academic research, but is useful for their purposes, for funders, and to those who are interested in identifying what is happening at the grass roots level.

Partnerships

- None

Committees

- None

Trends

- Aboriginal people are beginning to take the lead on research that is conducted regarding Aboriginal people. In the past they have often been invited to sit on the Advisory Committees, but not to do the research itself.
- More Aboriginal people are becoming trained in research methods as the benefits of conducting research are now becoming clearer.

Gaps

- There are not enough funds to conduct even a small portion of the research that needs to be conducted on urban Aboriginal issues. Vancouver has a very diverse range of urban Aboriginal communities, with diverse needs, histories, cultures, and aspirations, so it will be a challenge to prioritize research projects that benefits as many of this diverse population as possible.

- There are very few Aboriginal clinical researchers, and the ones that are active in this area are often not available to lead such initiatives. But, as the benefits are now becoming clearer, more Aboriginal people are becoming trained in research methods.

Contact Information

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Sexual Exploitation

Relevant Details

- It is estimated that up to 40% of female and male sexually exploited youth and adults in Vancouver are Aboriginal.
- The ongoing effects of the residential school experience and its accompanying traumas have left Aboriginal people over-represented in areas such as homelessness, family violence, poverty, and alcohol & drug usage contribute to the over-representation in the sex trade.
- Youth as young as 11 are being directly recruited at or around schools by pimps or other youth who are already being exploited.
- Lenient laws and sentencing continue to leave predators on the street to continue to prey upon children and youth.

Who's Involved?

Urban Native Youth Association (1640 East Hastings Street)

- Created a community development manual that focuses on Aboriginal youth sexual exploitation in Vancouver. It can be found online at www.unya.bc.ca/pspubvid.htm.
- Worked with youth to create a video on recruitment into the sex trade (Urban Rez).
- Supporting Our Sisters Project.
- Outreach Workers come into contact and support sexually exploited Aboriginal youth.

Sacred Lives: Canadian Aboriginal Children and Youth Speak Out About Sexual Exploitation

- Research manual on Aboriginal child and youth sexual exploitation.
- Written by Cherry Kingsley and Melanie Mark for Save the Children Canada, 2000.

Aboriginal Mothers Centre (2019 Dundas Street)

- Offers drop-in space, free meals and clothing, advocacy.
- Hosts a talking circle for women involved in the sex trade.

Downtown Eastside Women's Centre (302 Columbia Street)

- Services include laundry facilities, washrooms and showers, telephone, personal hygiene supplies, healing circles, one-to-one conversations.
- Accessed by local Aboriginal women.

PEERS Vancouver (119 West Pender Street)

- Dedicated to the empowerment, education and support of sex workers, offers a number of exiting programs, advocacy, skills training, and support programs for women in the sex trade.
- Accessed by local Aboriginal women.

PACE (119 West Pender Street)

- Offers exiting programs, skills training, and support programs for women in the sex trade
- Accessed by local Aboriginal women.

Boys R Us - Three Bridges Community Health Centre (1292 Hornby Street)

- A drop-in centre for male and transgendered sex trade workers, particularly in Downtown South and Yaletown areas.
- Offers exiting programs, skills training, support programs, and helps individuals access resources such as health care, housing, and other community services.
- Accessed by local Aboriginal men and transgendered people.

WISH Drop-in Centre (119 West Pender Street)

- Offers a number of exiting programs, skills training, and support programs for women in the sex trade, advocacy, community education, and relationship building.
- Accessed by local Aboriginal women.

Covenant House Vancouver (575 Drake Street)

- Services for youth aged 16 - 24.
- Crisis Shelter provides 24 hour crisis care, counselling, in-house addictions management, life skills training, referrals, help with identification, employment and housing search assistance, repatriation, recreational outings, shared or private room, 3 meals a day, laundry.
- Accessed by Aboriginal youth.

Dusk to Dawn (1056 Comox Street)

- Late night youth drop-in centre in Downtown Vancouver which offers food, laundry, showers, and some place safe to be from 8pm - 7:30am.
- Accessed by Aboriginal youth.

John Howard Society (763 Kingsway)

- Workshops for parents and/or teachers, presentation to youth 12-24, sensitivity training, one-to-one, and consultations with persons who have entered and exited the sex trade.
- Accessed by Aboriginal youth.

Partnerships

Living in Communities

- City-wide integrated approach in relation to the impacts of sex work on neighbourhoods.
- A collaboration of community, business, government.
- Through an extensive community consultation process, an action plan was developed that includes policy and practical strategies to address issues associated with sex work.

Committees

- None

Trends

- Use of internet and new information technologies for the production and exchange of child pornography. Children and youth are unknowingly exchanging still images of themselves or live images through web cams to complete strangers they meet online.

Gaps

- There are no exiting programs that help those exiting the sex trade to successfully reintegrate back into a healthy lifestyle through lifeskills, education, training and employment.
- Young people continue to be recruited into the sex trade with little consequence to those who recruit, pimp, sexually exploit, and abuse them.
- There are very few prevention activities that address the root contributing factors to a person being sexually exploited (abuse, poverty, addictions, family violence, racism, sexism).
- Written and visual resources that are being developed are not widely circulated due to poor networks or lack of funding to mass produce resources.
- A general lack of affordable housing contributes to homelessness and sexual exploitation, and there is a lack of transition and long-term housing for those exiting the sex trade.
- Transsexual and transgendered individuals are often marginalized within the marginalized. A continued lack of understanding of their lifestyles and support needs leaves them vulnerable.
- There is a lack of detox and treatment specific to sexually exploited youth and adults that can help to meaningfully address the issues that are unique to their situations without the shame and exclusion that may come in a mainstream detox facility.

Contact Information

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Sports & Recreation

Relevant Details

- There are no statistics for Aboriginal sports & recreation in Vancouver.
- “We Declare that: Sustainable commitment and investment in active living, physical activity, physical education, recreation and sport are essential to promote health and address social issues facing Aboriginal/Indigenous Peoples in communities across Canada” (Maskwachees Declaration, Federal-Provincial/Territorial Advisory Committee on Fitness and Recreation June, 2000).
- “...active lifestyles play an important role in the health of individuals and their communities. That’s why [we are] working to increase recreation and sport opportunities to Aboriginal people in British Columbia by providing support to Aboriginal organizations in three areas: sport performance, sport participation and capacity / sustainability (BC Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts’ Sport & Recreation Branch website).

Who’s Involved?

Urban Native Youth Association (1640 East Hastings Street)

- Their Aboriginal Youth First Sports & Recreation Program provides opportunities to 11-23 year old Aboriginal youth living in the Eastside of Vancouver. The goal of the program is to create programs that include leadership training, skills training, and basic lifeskills. There is a special focus on encouraging youth who are not currently active to become involved.
- The development of this program included conducting a survey of 224 Native youth.
- The program has over 50 community partnerships that result in programs being offered in many locations in East Vancouver.

Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre (1607 East Hastings Street)

- Has a gymnasium that is used both for sports and recreation activities and community events. This reality decreases the amount of time that can be prioritized for such activities
- Offers youth programming, and some early childhood activities.

Warriors Against Violence Society (2425 Oxford Street)

- Offers some youth-focused outdoor recreation programming.

Musqueam First Nation

- Offers a number of activities in their gymnasium as well as their outdoor soccer field
- More info can be found at www.musqueam.bc.ca/sports.html.

Schools, Neighbourhood Houses, Community Centres

- There are a number of schools, neighbourhood houses, and community centres throughout Vancouver that offer programs that Aboriginal children and families can access, and a few are Aboriginal specific programs which are usually offered in partnership with Aboriginal organizations.
- Barriers to access include having to pay fees, transportation, childcare, and no Aboriginal staff or programming.
- Aboriginal people live mainly in the Eastside of Vancouver, so it is most likely that if they were to visit a family place, neighbourhood house, or community centre, it would be in

those locations. These are the sites that should reach out to, and ensure a welcoming environment for Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Association of BC (Saanichton, BC)

- A multi-sport umbrella organization providing guidance and support to the Aboriginal people of BC through opportunities in sport, physical activities and recreation.
- Goal is to strengthen and encourage the physical, mental, cultural, emotional and spiritual aspects of community and individual life, by creating opportunities for success at every level.

Aboriginal Sport Circle (Ottawa)

- National voice for Aboriginal sport, which brings together the interests of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Established in 1995, the ASC was created through a national consensus-building process, in response to the need for more accessible and equitable sport and recreation opportunities for Aboriginal peoples.
- A collective of Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Bodies with a mandate to represent the grassroots sport and recreation interests of the Aboriginal peoples of their regions.

Partnerships

- Urban Native Youth Association's AYF Sport & Recreation Program is built on community partnerships that are built upon formal agreements. There are over 50 partnerships.

Committees

- Urban Native Youth Association's AYF Sport & Recreation Program has a Youth Advisory Council that helps UNYA to respond to the needs of Native youth.

Trends

- Urban Native Youth Association's AYF Sport & Recreation Program focuses much of its efforts on helping youth to learn transferable skills that they can use on sport/rec teams/activities, or for work in areas such as refereeing or coaching.
- UNYA's AYF Program and Warriors Against Violence offer program that focus on peer leadership activities that teach youth new skills that help them to become mentors to other youth.

Gaps

- There are very few Aboriginal people in organized sports in schools, or amateur and professional sports. The benefits of sports and recreation need to be introduced to Aboriginal youth at an earlier age, existing programs need to be more welcoming of Aboriginal people, and more Aboriginal people need to take on mentorship roles to encourage participation.
- Despite much success, there is a lack of funding to build upon the Urban Native Youth Association's AYF Sport & Recreation Program's programs and activities
- There is a lack of programming for Elders, families, and children.

Contact Information

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Substance Use / Misuse

Relevant Details

Report On The Health Of British Columbians Provincial Health Officer's Annual Report 2001: The Health and Well-being of Aboriginal People in British Columbia

- “Alcohol and illicit drugs continue to take a huge toll on the lives and health of the Aboriginal populationLike other high-risk behaviours, alcohol and drug misuse reflects social and cultural stresses, which impact people’s ability to cope with life in healthy ways ...[and] can only be solved through comprehensive efforts addressing predisposing social conditions, prevention and treatment of substance abuse, and reduction of harms that accrue when prevention and treatment fail. [BC] should boost and enhance community programs such as the Four Pillars Approach in Vancouver, with a focus on culture-based services specific to the Aboriginal population” (p. 6).
- “Many [Aboriginal people] liveon the East Side of Vancouver ...Alcohol and drug addiction [is one] of the big challenges facing Aboriginal people”. (p. 40).
- Tobacco and alcohol take a huge toll on the lives and health of the Aboriginal population. Like other high-risk behaviours, tobacco and alcohol misuse reflect social and cultural stresses, which impact people’s ability to cope with life in healthy ways. (p. 55).

Who’s Involved?

Hey-way’noqu’ Healing Circle for Addictions Society (33 East Broadway)

- An outpatient family-based program for Aboriginal individuals and families.
- Provides intensive adult day treatment, relapse prevention support, women’s traditional teachings, one to one and group counselling, parent support circle, prevention/outreach services, community-based educational workshops, women’s day program, children’s counselling, and youth programming.

Native Courtworker & Counselling Association of BC (50 Powell Street)

- Detox Support Program for those transitioning from detox programs back to the community
- Alcohol & Drug Outpatient Team includes individual counsellors.

Urban Native Youth Association (1640 East Hastings Street)

- Alcohol & Drug Counsellors who work with Native youth at various locations throughout Vancouver.
- Young Bears Lodge is a 16 week residential A& D Program for Native youth aged 13-18.
- School Support Program supports youth in school that are at risk of or abusing substances.
- Young Wolves Lodge is a three-month residential program that supports 17 - 24 year old Native females who are trying to make positive change in their lives. Also includes a Transition Worker who follows-up with participants for one year after finishing the program.
- Supporting Our Sisters is an outreach program that focuses on supporting young Native women in the DTES. Groups are held to engage young women who are in the sex trade.

Sheway - Vancouver Native Health Society (533 East Hastings Street)

- A partnership initiative of government and community.

- Provides comprehensive health and social services to women who are either pregnant or parenting children less than 18 months old and who are experiencing current or previous issues with substance use.
- Offers highly specialized services to a population with highly complex needs. Sheway operates in a client-centered, woman-focused environment where staff work in partnership with a woman as she makes decisions regarding her health and the health of her child.

Watari Research Association (877 East Hastings Street)

- Youth Day Treatment Program is a 7 week voluntary alcohol and drug day treatment program for youth aged 13-24.
- Program includes identity & self-awareness, relationships, communication & social skills, decision making, recreation, community support, creative expression, ongoing care, group and 1-1 counselling, assessment & referrals, and transitional outreach support.

Musqueam First Nation

- Drug and Alcohol Counsellor is responsible for the development and maintenance of a D & A counselling program, provides counselling and support to individuals, families, and groups dealing with chemical dependency and its related issues.
- Also offers referrals to treatment centres; home and institution visits; and prepares and presents workshops to Band membership.

Partnerships

- Urban Native Youth Association and the Coming Home Society co-fund the Young Wolves Lodge Program and work together to acquire funding for additional supports such as the Transition Worker and house renovations.
- Urban Native Youth Association's Alcohol & Drug program partners with the West Coast Alternate Program to engage and support the students with FAS/FAE effects.

Committees

- None

Trends

- As with many communities, many Aboriginal people are becoming addicted to crystal methamphetamine.
- Youth are not being referred to the support programs they need. There seems to be more of a focus on probation, rather than identifying and dealing with personal issues.
- For youth, the change from incarceration to diversion programs seems to have led to less referrals to the alcohol and drug services they need.

Gaps

- As with other groups in Vancouver, there are not enough detox and treatment programs, nor is there the diversity of programs required to accommodate the diverse high needs.
- There continues to be a low referral rate to Aboriginal-focused programs for youth as it seems that they are not considered clinically focused enough as treatment programs despite the positive effect that cultural ways of addressing substance abuse issues may be.
- There is a lack of mental health workers or concurrent disorders workers to help work with individuals who are both misusing substances and living with a mental health issue.

- Within the Aboriginal communities, there is a need for (but not many programs that work with) the whole family.
- There are not enough transition and follow-up programs for those moving from one stage of recovery to the next (detox to treatment to post-treatment).
- There seems to be a lack of unpaid or volunteer workers who are working directly with youth who are trying to stop misusing substances.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Two Spirit - LGBT

Relevant Details

Many Aboriginal people refer to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans-gendered people as Two-spirited. This term is being used more as Aboriginal people learn the meaning behind the term. In essence, the term Two-spirit acknowledges that a LGBT person has both a male and female spirit within them. The term is also used to ensure that the history of Two-spirit people within many Aboriginal cultures is not lost or minimized.

Historically, many Aboriginal communities held Two-spirit people in high regard as medicine people, healers, and mediators who could relate to both the female and male contexts. The traditional Aboriginal worldview of inclusiveness and respect allowed for Two-spirit people who identified primarily with the opposite gender of their physical gender to fill unique roles within their communities. For instance, a male Two-spirit person could help with cooking, childminding or other activities normally fulfilled by females, or a female Two-spirit person could participate in normally male-centered activities such as hunting.

Unfortunately colonization, especially through the residential school experience, has led to widespread homophobia in most Aboriginal communities. The forced conversion to Christianity and its beliefs drastically changed the worldview of Aboriginal people, not only about Two-spirit people, but also women, children, and Elders.

Many Two-spirit people cannot live openly as a Two-spirit person in remote Aboriginal communities for fear of their personal safety and public ridicule. For these reasons, many Two-spirit people are forced to leave their home communities to live in larger urban centres where there is a LGBT community that they can 'fit into'. Even though urban centres are often more welcoming of Two-spirit individuals, there is still widespread homophobia in urban Aboriginal communities, so many of these individuals remain isolated. Aboriginal people in general have a suicide rate 4 - 6 times higher than non-Aboriginal people in Canada, but due to the factors listed above, for Two-spirit individuals the rate is even higher.

Who's Involved?

Aboriginal Wellness Program (255 East 12th Avenue)

- Weekly groups for Two-spirit people (held periodically).

Urban Native Youth Association (1640 East Hastings Street)

- UNYA previously offered a Two-spirit youth program that was quite successful, but the funding was discontinued. While the loss of funding left a large gap in service, UNYA's staff work hard to ensure their programs are safe and welcoming to Two-spirit Native youth.

A & D Service Provider's Networking Group (59 West Pender Street)

- Working group with the purpose of facilitating networking and information sharing, discussing issues in providing services to LGBT clients, and to make it easier to find appropriate places to refer LGBT / Two-spirit clients.

Partnerships

- None

Committees

- None

Trends

- Aboriginal communities are beginning to realize that the homophobia does exist has its roots in outside influences that disregarded the traditional Aboriginal ways of including and honouring all people within their communities. This realization has begun to make it safer for Two-spirit individuals to live openly, but still in a cautious way. This trend is slightly better in urban communities such as Vancouver.
- There are now a few programs that actively encourage Two-spirit participation.
- Some Two-spirit young males who come to Vancouver end up working in the sex trade.

Gaps

- There are no specific programs for Two-spirit people. Programs are needed that can help Two-spirit people and others understand the traditional roles of Two-spirit people, what led to the homophobia in Aboriginal communities, what issues Two-spirit people face, and how to better support and welcome them into the community.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Volunteering

Relevant Details

Seemingly, there are few Aboriginal people who are members of voluntary organizations or go through formal volunteer training, but Aboriginal communities have always benefited from what is commonly known as volunteerism. Aboriginal communities which are historically communal in nature depend upon individuals helping each other without repayment.

For the most part, Aboriginal people do not see the help that they provide as volunteerism; rather it is a way of life that keeps the community going. For instance, Aboriginal communities could not host their feasts without community members lending a hand in cooking or setting up and taking down tables and chairs. In urban settings, Aboriginal organizations could not function as well as they do without their volunteer board members and program helpers.

In Vancouver, there are many Aboriginal volunteers that mostly go un-noticed, if not unrecognized. Their volunteer activities include service on not-for-profit organization's Board of Directors, on community councils, steering committees, and advisory groups (primarily Aboriginal) and Aboriginal parents volunteering for their child's daycare, schools, sports team, or caring for other's children. Historically, Friendship Centres were based upon volunteerism, although this is not a primary focus today. The Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre relies heavily on volunteers to host community events, help fill gaps in program staffing, support Elders, and fulfill many other unpaid duties that would otherwise go undone.

Although there has historically been low volunteerism of non-Aboriginal people in Aboriginal organizations, this is not always due to non-Aboriginal people's reluctance to become involved. Many times not-for-profit organizations are so over-taxed with their current work that they must be very selective when engaging volunteers as sometimes it is a lot of work to educate them on their organization and program issues, train them, provide support and supervision, and answer their ongoing questions. For non-Aboriginal people, there may also be the added work of education of historical and cultural issues, cross-cultural training, and misunderstandings that arise out of cross-cultural differences. However, non-Aboriginal volunteerism in Aboriginal organizations is a good means for cross-cultural interaction within the communities, especially with youth. It is a great opportunity to overcome stereotypes, mistrust, and fear on both sides.

Who's Involved?

Aboriginal Women's Health at BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre - Aunties in Action

- The goal of the program is recruit volunteers to take part in a "train the trainer" program at BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre. Once they take the training, they help other volunteers in their communities to run the program.
- The volunteers visit Aboriginal patients and their families when they are in hospital. They help make the health care system more welcoming and friendly for Aboriginal people.

First Nations Big Sisters Mentoring Program

- Goal is to enrich the lives of First Nations girls through one-to-one friendships that offer support, guidance, and exposure to positive life choices and role models within their own culture.
- Programs include storytelling, crafts, cultural dancing, role model panels, and more.
- Recruits First Nations big sisters, but will match non-First Nations women also.

Local Aboriginal Organizations

- Many local Aboriginal organizations recruit volunteers to help run their programs, help with administrative tasks, or to achieve other goals. None of these organizations has the financial resources to hire a Volunteer Coordinator which could greatly increase their ability to engage volunteers to help improve their overall organization.

First Nations Caring For Children Society (Ottawa)

- The Voluntary Sector Initiative researched the relationship between the voluntary sector and First Nations child and family service agencies serving on reserve residents in Canada.
- A PDF of this report can be found online at <http://www.fncfcs.com/docs/VSILitReview.pdf>.

CESO Aboriginal Services (1999 Marine Drive, N. Vancouver)

- Over 3,000 Volunteer Advisers (VAs) share their professional experience by serving as mentors, advisers and trainers to clients and partners in areas that range from new business start-up, to mentoring, to advising on governance and housing issues.
- Goal is to build capacity of Aboriginal individuals, communities and businesses to achieve greater self-sufficiency and growth through the transfer skills and knowledge, development of products and services, and the accumulation and dissemination of best practices.

National Aboriginal Voluntary Organization

- Incorporated in 2002 after a community consultation process identified Aboriginal volunteerism as a unique process that needed to be fostered by a unique organization. Produced a thirty minute video called It's Our Way. Unfortunately, the organization has folded. This was likely due to a lack of sustainable funding. However, reports of their findings can be found online at www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/about/aboriginal_report.cfm.

Partnerships

- UBC's Trek 2010 Program has formal partnerships with a number of inner-city organizations, of which the Urban Native Youth Association was the only one as of 2005.
- A few Aboriginal organizations have formal agreements with volunteer organizations such as Frontier College, UBC's Trek 2010 Program, or Volunteer Vancouver.

Committees

- None

Trends

- A few Aboriginal organizations are now working with volunteer organizations such as Frontier College, UBC's Trek 2010 Program, and Volunteer Vancouver to identify and recruit qualified volunteers.

- Aboriginal youth in Vancouver are becoming very much involved in community activities primarily through volunteer activities which include planning and hosting youth activities and serving on boards, steering committees, and councils.
- The Ministry for Children & Family Development's new Mentorship Programs for Aboriginal youth have led to greater volunteer mentorship opportunities. This initiative is led by the Urban Native Youth Association.

Gaps

- There is a great need for an Aboriginal Volunteer Centre that can recruit, train, refer and support volunteers who want to work within Aboriginal communities, and for Aboriginal people who want to volunteer either within or outside of Aboriginal communities.
- As mentioned in the beginning of this section, the difference of understanding about volunteerism may lead to the conclusion that there are very few Aboriginal volunteers, but this could not be farther from the truth.

Contact Information

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Women

Relevant Details

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Juristat, Vol. 26, no. 3

- Aboriginal women at 3.5 times higher risk of violence compared to their non-Aboriginal counterparts (p. 5).
- 21% of Aboriginal people reported experiencing spousal violence in the previous five years, compared to 6% for non-Aboriginal people ...with 25% of Aboriginal females reporting spousal violence in the previous five years compared to 7% for non-Aboriginal women (p. 6).
- Female Aboriginal victims of spousal violence were much more likely to suffer the most severe forms of violence including being beaten, choked, threatened with or had a gun or knife used against them, or sexually assaulted, 54% versus 37% (p. 6, 7).

Public Health Agency of Canada. Family Violence in Aboriginal Communities: An Aboriginal Perspective

- There are no national studies providing information on the prevalence or incidence of family violence in Aboriginal communities.
- A 1989 study by the Ontario Native Women's Association found that 8 out of 10 Aboriginal women in Ontario had personally experienced family violence. Of those women, 87 % had been injured physically and 57 % had been sexually abused.
- In some northern Aboriginal communities, it is believed that between 75% and 90% of women are battered.

Native Women's Association of Canada - Submission to the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada, 2002

- The current health status of Aboriginal women must be ameliorated within a holistic framework which acknowledges the impact of colonization and resultant socio-economic and health determinates, such as: poverty, violence, and substance abuse. Our needs must be addressed in ways which honour our right to self-government and our cultures.
- Life expectancy is 76.2 years vs. 81.0 for non- Aboriginal women.
- Have higher rates of circulatory problems, respiratory problems, diabetes, hypertension and cancer of the cervix.
- Represent a higher percentage of cases of HIV/AIDS than non-Aboriginal women (15.9% vs. 7%). 50% are attributed to IV drug use, in comparison to 17% all female cases.
- Birth rate is twice that of the overall female population. Aboriginal mothers are younger - 55% are under 25 (28% for non-Aboriginal) and 9% are under 18 (1% for non-Aboriginal).
- Mortality rate due to violence is three times the rate for all other Canadian women. For Aboriginal women ages 25 to 44, the rate is 5 times that for all other Canadian women.

Who's Involved?

Helping Spirit Lodge Society (3965 Dumfries Street)

- Provides safe, protective shelter to Aboriginal women and children, holistic educational programs of enhancement, and support and advocacy to Aboriginal people.
- Programs include residential, employment, lifeskills, parenting, and homelessness programs.

Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association (2019 Dundas Street)

- Offers some programs and opportunities to female Aboriginal youth.

Aboriginal Mothers Centre (2019 Dundas Street)

- Based on a grassroots, community approach to building capacity and empowering mothers to become self-sufficient in a non-hierarchical setting.
- Includes child minding, Aboriginal HIPPY / Headstart program, Small Business Development Centre, homelessness initiatives, Community Learning Centre, parenting program, Talking Circle for sex trade workers, library, and free food, clothing, and furnishings when available.

Pacific Association of First Nations Women (96 East Broadway)

- Assists Aboriginal women and their families with health, education, advocacy, and social services including the Aboriginal Health Liaison, Aboriginal Elders Support Program, and culturally appropriate Home Care Services, including respite for foster parents, supervised access, housekeeping, and companionship.

Urban Native Youth Association (1640 East Hastings Street)

- Young Wolves Lodge is a self-referral program for females aged 17 - 24 who are actively working towards positive changes in their life. Staff members help them gain the lifeskills needed to work towards successfully living independently or with their family.
- Aboriginal Youth First Sports & Recreation program which has a large emphasis on recruiting young women into sports and recreation activities.
- Has a focus throughout the organization to ensure young females have access to the resources they require.

Circle of Eagles Lodge Society (1470 East Broadway)

- Anderson Lodge Women's Shelter which has a mandate to assist and educate homeless women by providing a safe nurturing environment that encourages positive changes and builds inner strength allowing them to achieve their goals.

Sheway - Vancouver Native Health Society (533 East Hastings Street)

- A partnership initiative of government and community.
- Provides comprehensive health and social services to women who are either pregnant or parenting children less than 18 months old and who are experiencing current or previous issues with substance use.
- Offers highly specialized services to a population with highly complex needs. Sheway operates in a client-centered, woman-focused environment where staff work in partnership with a woman as she makes decisions regarding her health and the health of her child.

Aboriginal Wellness Program (255 East 12th Avenue)

- Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancouver Community services.
- Offers Talking Circles for women who are or have experience family violence.

Native Women's Association of Canada (national)

- Mission is to help empower women by being involved in developing and changing legislation which affects them, and by involving them in the development and delivery of programs.
- An aggregate of 13 Native women's organizations from across Canada.

Battered Women's Support Services - First Nation's Women's Support & Outreach

- Provides counselling and advocacy services for women who have experienced emotional, physical, sexual or financial violence in relationships.
- Their Aboriginal specific program is provided by a trained Aboriginal women counsellor.

Justice For Girls

- A non-profit organization that promotes freedom from violence, social justice and equality for teenage girls who live in poverty.
- Has a focus on Aboriginal issues, including research.

Downtown Eastside Women's Centre (302 Columbia Street)

- Mission is to provide for basic needs and to work toward positive change for women and children in the DTES.
- Services include laundry facilities, washrooms and showers, telephone, personal hygiene supplies, healing circles, one-to-one conversations.
- Accessed by local Aboriginal women.

Non-Aboriginal Organizations working with sex trade workers

- PACE, WISH, PEERS, and DAMS.
- Some have Aboriginal workers and/or funding, and work with many Aboriginal people.
- See the 'Sexual Exploitation' section for more info.

Aboriginal Community Career & Employment Services Society - Women's Wellness Day

- Hosts an annual Wellness Day to provide opportunities for low income women to access low cost and free health and wellness services they might not otherwise be able to afford.
- Activities include entertainment, traditional medicine, massage, tarot card reading, arts and crafts tables, and other health related activities.

Women Against Violence Against Women - Aboriginal Outreach Program

- Provides services, educational workshops, information, resources, and referrals.

Battered Women's Support Services - First Nations Women's Support & Outreach

- Services are available over the phone or in person for women who have experienced violence in relationships.
- All services are provided by trained Aboriginal women counsellor/advocates including Empowering Mother's Parenting Program and Inside the Circle: Empowered by our experiences As Aboriginal Women a Residential School Survivors Support group.

Canadian Heritage - Aboriginal Women's Program

- Objective is to enable Aboriginal women to influence policies, programs, legislation and decision making that affect their social, cultural, economic and political well-being while maintaining their cultural distinctiveness and identity.
- Includes the family violence initiative and the self-government initiative.

Partnerships

- The Aboriginal Mothers Centre, Helping Spirit Lodge Society, and the Pacific Association of First Nations Women recently came together to raise awareness about Aboriginal women's issues, to find solutions to funding cutbacks, and to lobby for additional focus and funding for Aboriginal women and family issues.

Committees

- None

Trends

- Aboriginal women continue to suffer high rates of poverty, child apprehension, poor health, and many other issues. Many of these issues are attributed to cutbacks to welfare, social services, and a low priority of Aboriginal women's issues on the national scene.
- Aboriginal women continue to raise children on their own and have children young
- Some young Aboriginal women in Vancouver are learning community development skills that are helping them to participate in decision-making processes in Aboriginal communities.
- Aboriginal women continue to migrate to Vancouver from small towns or First Nations communities in order to flee violence, find work, continue their education, or find better schooling for their children. Unfortunately, many of these women are ill-prepared for the high cost and harsh living environments that they are forced into when arriving. This often leaves them in deep poverty, homeless, with little money for food, or at-risk of having their children apprehended.

Gaps

- There is an overall lack of Aboriginal women in leadership roles in Aboriginal communities. This large gap leads to a minimal focus on issues that affect women's lives.
- There is an overall lack of community focus on the issues that underlie many of the problems within Aboriginal communities. These issues mostly revolve around the lives of Aboriginal women as they are often left to raise children on their own and are vulnerable to men's violence. The underlying issues include poverty, family violence, poor housing, and gender bias.
- There is a need for formal and informal leadership development opportunities for young Aboriginal women. Since 60% of the Aboriginal population is under the age of 25, this is a critical issue.
- There needs to be a community focus on violence in intimate relationship, especially for young women and men. Without this, the cycle of violence will continue.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

Youth

Relevant Details

- Approximately 60% of the Aboriginal population is under the age of 25.
- Aboriginal youth represent about 4% (5,500) of the city's total youth population of 139,600.
- Up to 85% of Native students leave high school before graduation.
- Up to 40% of Vancouver street youth in are Aboriginal (City of Vancouver, Dr. Penny Perry)
- Aboriginal youth are 4-7 times more likely to commit suicide than non- Aboriginal youth (Choosing Life).
- More than 50% of Aboriginal youth live in single parent households, which are surviving on less than \$10,000 annually.
- Up to 60% of the prostituted adults and youth are Aboriginal (Adolescent Street Unit).
- Aboriginal youth are much more likely to go to jail than their peers.
- A recent study of Youth at Risk indicates that 67% of the youth are not attending school and that 55% of respondents are First Nations (Vancouver Police Department, 2002)
- The Canadian Council on Social Development published the results of a study that indicates in 1995 Vancouver had the highest urban poverty rate in Canada for its Aboriginal population.
- Aboriginal youth who have a supportive family, a support network, and knowledge of where to go for help are much more likely to finish high school, and refrain from negative behaviors such as using alcohol and drugs and gang activity.
- The Vancouver School Board 2005 report shows that those Native youth who finished grade twelve English, Communications, and Math during the years 1994-2004 consistently achieved equal to or higher success rates than their non-Native peers.
- Native youth have identified community supports, a safe place to go, and individual supports as their top reasons for their success in moving beyond their challenges in life.
- Over the past ten years, Native business start-ups across Canada have exceeded those of the rest of the population by 105%. A primary focus on Native business development is youth, the largest group (approximately 50%) of the current Native population.

"The Aboriginal population in Canada is growing faster, and is much younger, than the general Canadian population... the median age for the Aboriginal population is 23.5, compared to that of the Canadian population which is 38. In 2001, over one third of Aboriginal youth were under the age of 14.... These demographic indicators suggest that the well-being of Aboriginal people in cities has a direct impact on the well-being of the cities themselves, most especially in western Canada where a substantial number of Aboriginal people reside."

- Urban Aboriginal Youth: An Action Plan for Change
Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, October 2003

Who's Involved?

Redwire Native Youth Media Society (Vancouver)

- Not-for-profit organization since 1997

- A media and arts organization dedicated to providing Native youth with an uncensored forum for discussion, in order to help youth find their own voice and to be by, for and about Native youth; all content, editorial decisions and associated media projects are initiated and led by youth, inspiring creativity, motivation and action.
- Redwire is the first Native youth run quarterly magazine. It is distributed nationally.

RedwayBC (440 Cambie Street)

- A website completely driven, designed, created and maintained by Urban Aboriginal Youth in the Lower Mainland. Over 45 youth researched over 340 pages of content and helped publish 30 e-zines since November, 2003.
- A broad, but critical mission of: Harnessing Technology to Inform, Honour and Connect Urban Aboriginal Youth to Services, Opportunities, the Community and Each Other.

Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association (2019 Dundas Street)

- Not-for-profit since 2003.
- Mandate is to advocate for urban Aboriginal youth within the Greater Vancouver area, encourage and assist urban Aboriginal youth to assert their voices and to foster participation within Aboriginal communities.

Urban Native Youth Association (1640 East Hastings Street)

- Not-for-profit since 1989
- Offers 18 diverse programs and services from tutor/mentors to a safehouse
- Over 90 community partnerships including organizations, schools, and community centres
- One of the four Ministry of Children & Family Development designated Youth Hubs for at-risk youth in Vancouver
- Is in the midst of a \$40million capital campaign to build a multi-purpose Native Youth Centre at Hastings and Commercial. The land is already secured.

Warriors Against Violence Youth Program (2425 Oxford Street)

- Works to help Aboriginal families unlearn abusive and violent behaviours and reclaim their traditional values of honour, respect, and equality.
- Provides counselling, group work and cultural ceremonies, and public education.

Broadway Youth Resource Centre (691 East Broadway)

- A part of the Pacific Community Resources Society, not-for-profit since 1984.
- One of the four Ministry of Children & Family Development designated Youth Hubs for at-risk youth in Vancouver.
- A unique hub that is a partnership of 8-10 organizations who offer intergrated programs and services out of one site.
- Many Aboriginal youth and adults in the Mount Pleasant access BYRC's programs and services.

Covenant House Vancouver (575 Drake Street)

- Services for youth aged 16 - 24 who have either willingly fled physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse or those who have been forced from their homes.
- Many Aboriginal youth access their programs and services.

Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society (49 West Cordova Street)

- Not-for-profit agency.
- Serves street-involved children, youth, and adults in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and Mount Pleasant areas.
- Many Aboriginal youth and adults in the Downtown Eastside access DEYAS' programs

Musqueam First Nation

- Offers one time, short-term, and ongoing programs to Band members.
- Programming at the Youth Centre includes reading groups, sports and recreational activities, cultural teachings, and workshops.

Watari Research Association (877 East Hastings Street)

- Not-for-profit since 1986.
- Mission is to facilitate positive change in at-risk children, youth, families and communities through the design and delivery of innovative services.
- Many Aboriginal youth and families access their one-to-one workers as well as their alcohol and drug programs.
- They are in the second year of a five-year research project which will measure the success of combining literacy strengthening and family counselling with Aboriginal families in minimizing a young person's risk-taking behaviours.

Urban Multi-purpose Aboriginal Youth Centre Initiative (UMAYC)

- Mandate is to create a network of urban, multipurpose, Aboriginal youth programming that is accessible, Aboriginal community-based, culturally relevant and supportive projects, programs, services and counselling to 15 -24 year old urban Aboriginal youth.
- Vancouver's UMAC program is led by an Aboriginal Youth Council which is elected each year by their peers. Their main role is to promote and support the UMAC initiative, as well as to review and make recommendations on funding proposals.

City of Vancouver Youth Outreach Team

- The Youth Outreach Team provides expertise on how to engage youth meaningfully to other City staff (or the public) who are working on projects that affect youth and therefore should have youth input. At times we've even done the actual workshops used to gather youth input or feedback. But mostly we're "conveners, conveyors, and connectors." We bridge the gaps between the rest of the City structure and the youth of Vancouver by functioning as guides for youth to access the municipal "system."

Partnerships

- The Urban Native Youth Association partners with the Broadway Youth Resource Centre to house an Aboriginal Youth Worker to reach out and support Aboriginal youth in the Moun Pleasant area.
- The Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association has developed both ongoing and short-term partnerships to host many youth events.
- The Urban Native Youth Association has almost 100 community partnerships that help them to provide a continuum of services to Native youth.

Committees

- Advisory Committee for the Native Youth Centre Initiative that is comprised of the lead agency, Urban Native Youth Association, staff and Board members and all three levels of government. Their primary goal is to provide input and advice on the development and fundraising for the NYC.
- The BC Ministry of Children & Family Development is leading a process to better integrate services to at-risk youth with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver School Board, and community not-for-profit organizations. Planning involves ensuring programs are in various regions throughout Vancouver, there is Aboriginal-specific programming, that they

work towards ensuring there are adequate staffing resources at each site, and addressing diverse issues such as mental health, justice, and young parents.

- Vancouver's UMAC program is led by an Aboriginal Youth Council which is elected each year by their peers. Their main role is to promote and support the UMAC initiative, as well as to review and make recommendations on funding proposals.
- Urban Aboriginal Strategy has identified youth issues as a priority and includes a designated Youth Representative on their committee.

Trends

- Vancouver's Aboriginal youth population continues to become ever more active in many aspects of community life including the arts, culture, and especially youth issues.
- Native youth, and their allies, continually advocate for more youth representation on committees, boards, and other planning bodies to ensure that the largest segments of Aboriginal communities are involved in decision making processes. More youth are being included, but not always meaningfully.
- There are a number of youth led organizations that have become quite successful, including RedwayBC, Redwire Magazine, and the Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association.
- There continues to be a focus on keeping Aboriginal youth in school, but graduation rates have not increased in Vancouver in many years.
- Some Aboriginal youth are gaining more opportunities to obtain on the job training in such successful programs as Bladerunners.
- Aboriginal youth are very active in music, video, multi-media.
- Aboriginal youth are becoming more involved in cultural activities as meaningful opportunities increase.

Gaps

- Native youth, and their allies, continually advocate for more youth representation on committees, boards, and other planning bodies to ensure that the largest segments of Aboriginal communities are involved in decision making processes. More youth are being included, but not always in a meaningful fashion.
- Although 60% of the Aboriginal population is under the age of 25, there are not enough youth focused programs within larger organizations.
- Government initiatives need to increase their efforts to meaningfully engage Aboriginal youth in their processes, and, they should make a special effort to include them in mainstream initiatives as well.

Contact Information

Addresses, phone, fax, email, and website information for any of the organizations above can be found in the Contact Information section of this manual.

> PART 3 – CONTACT
INFORMATION <

Contact Details

Aboriginal Specific Organizations & Ongoing Initiatives

Aboriginal Art & Culture Celebration Society

#2708 - 438 Seymour Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6H4

Ph: 604-684-2532, Fax: 604-951-8806, Email: germaine.aaccs@shaw.ca Website:

www.aboriginalday-van.com

Aboriginal Business Canada

Floor 21, 300 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, V6B 6E2

Ph: 604-666-3871, Fax: 604-666-0238

Aboriginal Child & Family Support Services (Vancouver Native Health Society)

#309 - 877 East Hastings Street, Vancouver

Ph: 604-602-7558, Fax: 604-602-7559, Email: acfss@shawbiz.ca

Website: www.vnhs.net/programs/child.htm

Aboriginal Community Career & Education Services Society (ACCESS)

#110 - 1607 East Hasting St, Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S6

Ph: 604-251-7955, Fax: 604-251-7954, Email: info@buildingfuturestoday.com, Website:

www.buildingfuturestoday.com

Aboriginal Community Policing Centre

#100 - 1726 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC

Tel: 604-678-3790 or 678-3791, Fax: 604-678-3792, Email: coordinator@vacpc.org, Website:

www.vacpc.org

Aboriginal Elders Conference

www.bcelders.com/annual_elders_gathering.htm

Aboriginal Front Door Society

384 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V6A 2T

Ph: 604-697-5666, Fax: (604) 801-5883, Email: afd@telus.net

Aboriginal Mothers Centre Society

2019 Dundas Street, Vancouver, BC, V5L 1J5

Ph: 604-253-6262, Fax: 604-253-6263, Email: mark@amcs.ca, Website: www.amcs.ca

Aboriginal Patients' Lodge (Luma Native Housing Society)

1254 East 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5T 1V2

Office: (604) 707-9191, Reservations Cell: (604) 682-7375, Fax: (604) 707-9135

Website: www.lnhs.ca/Aboriginal_Patients_Lodge/index.htm

Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Association of BC

#4 - 2475 Mt. Newton X Road, Saanichton, BC, V8M 2B7

Ph: 250-544-8172, Fax: 250-544-8173, Email: asra@asra.ca, Website: www.asra.ca

Aboriginal Sport Circle

Roundpoint Building, RR 3, Akwesasne Mohawk Territory

Cornwall Island, Ontario, K6H 5R7

Ph: 613-938-1176, Fax: 613-938-9181, Website: www.aboriginalsportcircle.ca

Aboriginal Wellness Program

#320 - 1290 Hornby Street, Vancouver, V6Z 1W2

Ph: 604.633.4238, Fax: 604.714.3477, Email: AboriginalHealthServices@vch.ca

Website: <http://www.vch.ca/aboriginalhealth/wellness.htm>

Aboriginal Women's Health at BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre

Aboriginal Health Program Coordinator, Ph: (604) 875-2348, Email: atoddennis@cw.bc.ca

First Nations Patient Advocate, Ph: (604) 875-3440, Email: dcllellamin@cw.bc.ca

Website: www.bcwomens.ca/Services/AboriginalHealth/default.htm

Aboriginal Women's Health and Healing Research Group

#406 - 2194 Health Sciences Mall, UBC, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z3

Ph: 604-827-3349, Fax: 604-822-2495, Email: lindaday@interchange.ubc.ca

Website: www.awhhrhg.ca

Amlatsi Family Place

Amenity Room, 3090 Kingsway, Vancouver, V5R 5J7

Ph: 778-883-0753, Website: www.cnh.bc.ca/amlatsti

Anderson Lodge Women's Healing Centre (Circle of Eagles Lodge)

Ph: 604-874-1246, Fax: 604-874-9464, Website: www.circleofeagles.com/anderson.htm

Assembly of First Nations

Trebla Building, 473 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON K1R 5B4

Ph: 613-241-6789, Toll-Free: 1-866-869-6789, Fax: 613-241-5808, Website: www.afn.ca

BC Aboriginal Capacity and Developmental Research Environment

#400 - 2194 Health Sciences Mall, Instructional Resource Centre, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z3

Ph: 604-827-5464, 1-866-880-5464, Fax (604) 822-2495

Email: jennala@interchangeubc.ca Website: www.health-disciplines.ubc.ca/iah/acadre/

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

#708 -100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver, V7T 1A2

Ph: 604-913-9128, Fax: 604-913-9129, Website: www.acc-society.bc.ca

BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society

1179 Kosapsum Crescent, Victoria, B.C. V9A 7K7

Toll Free: 1-888-815-5511, Ph: 250-381-7303, Fax: 250-381-7312, Website: www.bcands.bc.ca

BC Elders Communication Centre Society

1415 Weiwaikum Road, Campbell River, BC, V9W 5W9

Ph: 250-286-9977 or 1-877-738-7288, Fax: 250-286-4809, Email: bcelders@telus.net, Website: www.bcelders.com

BladeRunners (Aboriginal Community Career & Education Services Society)

56 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V6G 1B4

Ph: 604-688-9116, Email bladerunners@buildingfuturestoday.com, Website:
www.buildingfuturestoday.com/progbladerunners.htm

Centre for Native Policy & Research

#301 - 207 West Hastings St, Vancouver, BC, V6B 1H7

Ph: 604-488-1029, Fax: 604-488-1049, E-mail: info@cnpr.ca, Website: www.cnpr.ca

Change of Seasons Society

911 Park Royal South, North Vancouver, V7P 3M8

Ph: 604-986-9015, Fax: 604-325-9157

Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education

639 Hornby St, Vancouver, BC, V6C 2G3

Ph: 604-268-7860, Fax: 604-291-5098, Email: info@cdgc.ca, Website: www.cdgc.ca

Circle of Eagles Lodge Society

1470 East Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V5N 1V6

Ph: 604-874-9610, Toll Free: 1-888-332-6357, Fax: 604 874-3858, Website:
www.circleofeagles.com

Deputy Child and Youth Officer, Aboriginal Services

#901 - 808 West Hastings Street, Vancouver BC

1-800-476-3933, Fax: 604 775-3205, Email: cyo@gov.bc.ca, Website: www.gov.bc.ca/cyo

Eagles Nest Aboriginal Head Start (BC Aboriginal Child Care Society)

618 East Hastings St, Vancouver, V6A 1R1

Ph: 604-253-3354, Email: eagles.nest@telus.net, Website:
www.ahsabc.com/projects/eaglesnest.html

Family Violence Resource Centre (Native Education Centre)

#222 - 285 East 5th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

Ph:604-873-3765, 1-800-667-3230, Website: www.necvancouver.org/fvrc_information.shtml

Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents

3455 Kaslo, Vancouver, BC, V3M 3H4

Ph: 604-291-7091, Fax: 604-291-7098, Email: info@fafp.ca, Website: www.fafp.ca

First Nations Big Sisters Mentorship Program

34 East 12th Avenue, Vancouver, V5T 2G5

Ph: 604-873-4525, Fax 604-873-2122, Email: info@bigsisters.bc.ca

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

#1001-75 Albert Street, Ottawa, K1P 5E7

Ph: 613-230-5885, Fax: 613-230-3080, Email: info@fnfcfs.com, Website: www.fnfcfs.com

First Nations Education Steering Committee

#113 - 100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2

Ph: 604-925-6087, Fax: 604-925-6097, Toll-Free: 1-877-422-3672, Email: info@fnesc.ca,
Website: www.fnesc.ca

First Nations Employment Society

#101 - 440 Cambie St, Vancouver, BC, V6B 2N5

Ph: 604-605-7194, Fax: 604-605-7195, Email: jobs@fnes.ca, Website: www.fnes.ca

First Nations House of Learning

1985 West Mall, UBC, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z2

Ph: 604-822-8940, Fax: 604-822-8944, E-mail: fnhltemp@interchange.ubc.ca,

Website: www.longhouse.ubc.ca/

First Nations Legal Clinic (UBC)

1822 East Mall, UBC, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z1

Ph: 604-687-0285, Fax: 604-822-5269, Email: taylor@law.ubc.ca,

Website: www.law.ubc.ca/fnations/clinic.html

Full Circle: First Nations Performance

#206-02 - 555 Great Northern Way, Vancouver, BC, V5T 1E2

Ph: 604.683.0497, Fax: 604.683.8953, Email: info@fullcircle.ca, Website: www.fullcircle.ca

Healing Our Spirit BC Aboriginal HIV/Aids Society

#100 - 2425 Quebec Street, Vancouver, BC, V5T 4L6

Toll-Free: 1-866-745-8884, Ph: 604-879-8884, Fax: 604-879-9926

Email: info@healingourspirit.org, Website: www.healingourspirit.org

Helping Spirit Lodge Society

3965 Dumfries Street, Vancouver, BC V5N 5R3

Ph: (604) 872-6649, Fax: (604) 873-4402, Email: helping_spirit@telus.net,

Website: www.helpingspiritlodge.org

Hey-way'noqu' Healing Circle for Addictions Society

#206 - 33 East Broadway Vancouver, BC, V5T 1V4

Ph: 604-874-1831, Fax: 604-874-5235

Email: heywaynoqu@telus.net Website: www.firstnationstreatment.org/heywaynoqu.htm

Indian Residential School Survivors Society

#911 - 100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver, V7T 1A2

Ph: 604-925-4464, Toll free: 1-800-721-0066, Fax: 604-925-0020, Email: reception@irsss.ca,

Website: www.irsss.ca

Indigenous Media Arts Group

1965 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5T 3C1

Ph: 604-871-0173, Email: imag@telus.net, Website: www.imag-nation.com

Institute for Aboriginal Health (UBC)

#400 - 2194 Health Sciences Mall, UBC, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z3

Ph: (604) 822-2115, Email: dmhughes@interchange.ubc.ca, Website: www.health-sciences.ubc.ca/iah

Institute of Indigenous Governance

#200-4355 Mathissi Place, Burnaby BC V5G 4S8

Ph: 604-602-9555, Fax: 604-602-3400, Email: iig@all-nations.ca

Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association

#200 - 2019 Dundas Street, Vancouver, BC, V5L 1J5

Ph: 604-254-5513, Email: charlene@kayaweb.ca, Website: www.kayaweb.ca

Luma Native Housing Society

25 West 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

Ph: 604-876-0811, Fax 604-876-0999, Email: info@lnhs.ca, Website:

www.lnhs.ca/Luma/index.htm

Musqueam Childcare Centre

6735 Salish Dr. Vancouver, BC

Phone: 604-263-3261, Website: www.musqueam.bc.ca/directory.html

Musqueam Co-Operative Pre-School

6735 Salish Dr. Vancouver, B C

Ph. 604-263-3261, Website: www.musqueam.bc.ca/directory.html

Musqueam Elders Centre

4000 Si-Lu Drive, Vancouver, B C

Ph. 604-263-6312, Pager: 604-801-2919, Website: www.musqueam.bc.ca/directory.html

Musqueam Indian Band Administration Dept.

6735 Salish Dr, Vancouver, B C, V6N 4C4

Ph. 604-263-3261 Fax: 604-263-4212, Website: www.musqueam.bc.ca

Native Courtworker & Counselling Association of British Columbia

50 Powell St, Vancouver, BC, V6A 1E9

Ph: 604-687-0281, Toll Free: 1-877-771-9444, Fax: 604-687-5119, Email: nccabc@nccabc.net,

Website: www.nccabc.ca

Native Education Centre

285 East 5th Ave, Vancouver, BC

Ph: 604-873-3772, Email: asmith@necvancouver.org, Website: www.necvancouver.org

Native Women's Association of Canada

Six Nations of the Grand River, P.O. Box 331, Ohsweken, ON N0A 1M0

Ph: 519-445-0990, Fax: 519-445-0909, Email: reception@nwac-hq.org,

Website: www.nwac-hq.org

Pacific Association of First Nations Women

#204 - 96 East Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V5T 4N9

Ph: 604-873-1833, Fax: 604-872-1845, Email: pafnw@telus.net

Qey-Sta:m Learning Centre (Musqueam)

6404 Crown St, Vancouver, B C

Ph. 604-263-0763, Website: <http://www.musqueam.bc.ca/directory.html>

Red Road HIV/AIDS Network

804-100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver, BC . V7T 1A2 .

Ph: 604-913-3332, Toll Free: 1-866-913-3332, Email: info@red-road.org,

Website: www.red-road.org

RedwayBC

c/o #101A - 440 Cambie St. Vancouver, B.C, V6B 2N5

Ph: 604-605-8901 Ext 28 or 23, Email: Valeriem@fnes.ca or sienna@redwaybc.ca, Website: www.redwaybc.ca

Redwire Magazine Native Youth Media Society

PO Box 2042 Station Main Terminal, Vancouver, BC, V6B-3R6

Ph: 604-602-7226, Fax: 604-602-7276, Email: info@redwiremag.com, Website: www.redwiremag.com

Singing Frog - Aboriginal Headstart (BC Aboriginal Child Care Society)

2150 McLean Drive, Vancouver, BC, V2G 1J1

Ph: 604-253-5388, Email: vanessa@vanahs.com

Squamish Nation

320 Seymour Boulevard, North Vancouver, V7J 2J3 (Mail: P.O. Box 86131, N. Van, V7L 4J5)

Ph: 604-980-4553, 1-877-628-2288, Fax: 604-980-9601, Website: <http://www.squamish.net/>

Sundance Daycare (Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre)

1607 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S7

Ph: 604-251-4844, Fax: 604-251-1986, Email: info@vafcs.org, Website: www.vafcs.org

Synala Housing Co-op

3090 Kingsway, Vancouver BC, V5R 5J7

Ph: 604-433-0753 Fax: 604-433-0763

Tsleil-Waututh Nation

3075 Takaya Drive, North Vancouver, V7H 2V6

Ph: 604-929-3454, 1-866-929-3454, Fax: 604-929-4714, Email: saraht@twnation.ca, Website: <http://www.burrardband.com/>

Turtle Island Native Network

www.turtleisland.org

Union of BC Indian Chiefs

#500 - 342 Water Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B-1B6

Ph: 604-684-0231, Fax: 604-684-5726, Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca, Website: www.ubcic.bc.ca

United Native Nations

#110 - 425 Carrall Street, Vancouver, BC

Ph: 1-800-555-9756 or 604-980-0323, Fax: 604 980-0324, Email: unn@unns.bc.ca,

Website: www.unns.bc.ca

University of British Columbia - First Nations House of Learning

1985 West Mall, UBC, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z2

Ph: 604-822-8940, Fax: 604-822-8944, E-mail: fnhltemp@interchange.ubc.ca,

Website: www.longhouse.ubc.ca/

Urban Native Youth Association

1640 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S6

Ph: 604-254-7732, Fax: 604-254-7811, Email: unyainfo@unya.bc.ca, Website: www.unya.bc.ca

Uts'am / Witness / Squamish Nation

Ph: 604-713-1800, Fax: 604-713-1813, www.utsam-witness.ca

Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society (VACFSS)

745 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC V5L 3J3

Ph: 604-872-6723, Fax: 604-872-5274, Email: info@vacfss.com, Website: www.vacfss.com

Vancouver Aboriginal Council

P.O. Box 2155, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3V3

Ph: 604-682-1723, Fax: 604-682-1760, Email: vac@vac-bc.ca, Website: www.vac-bc.ca

Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre

1607 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S7

Ph: 604-251-4844, Fax: 604-251-1986, Email: info@vafcs.org, Website: www.vafcs.org

Vancouver Aboriginal Skills & Employment Partnership -VanASEP

3636 East 4th Avenue, Vancouver, V5M 1M3

Ph: 604-294-5448, Fax: 604-294-5442, Website: www.vanasep.ca

Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services

1607 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S7

Ph: 604-251-7200, Fax: 604-251-7201, Email: vatjs@telus.net

Vancouver Coastal Aboriginal Planning Committee

#200 - 1128 Hornby Street, Vancouver, V6Z 2L4

Ph: 604-908-1404, Email: Shannin.Metatawabin@gov.bc.ca, Website: www.vcapc.ca

Vancouver Coastal Health - Aboriginal Health Services

#320 - 1290 Hornby Street, Vancouver, V6Z 1W2

Ph: 604-633-4238, Fax: 604-714-3477, Email: AboriginalHealthServices@vch.ca, Website: <http://www.vch.ca/aboriginalhealth/>

Vancouver Métis Community Association

#211 - 744 West Hastings, Vancouver BC, V6C 1A5

Ph: 604-682-2933, Fax 604-683-3911, Email: vancouvermetis@hotmail.com, Website: www.vancouvermetis.com/

Vancouver Native Health Society

449 East Hasting St, Vancouver, V6A 1P5

Ph: 604-254-9949, Fax: 604-254-9948, Email: vnhs@shawbiz.ca , Website: www.vnhs.net

Vancouver Native Housing Society

1726 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC

Ph: 604-320-3312, Email: zkomurcu@vnhs.ca, Website: www.vnhs.ca

Vancouver School Board - Aboriginal Education Administrator

1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V6J 5K8

Ph: 604-713-5215, Website:

www.vsb.bc.ca/vsbprograms/kto12/AboriginalEducation/default.htm

Warriors Against Violence Society

2425 Oxford Street, Vancouver, BC, V5K 1M7

Ph: 604-255-3240, Fax: 604-254-7673, Email: letpar@shaw.ca

Xwi7Xwa Library (First Nations House of Learning at UBC)

1985 West Mall, UBC, Vancouver, V6T 1Z2

Ph: 604-822-8738, Fax: 604-822-8944, Website: www.library.ubc.ca/xwi7xwa/welcome.html

Mainstream Organizations with Aboriginal Initiatives or Programs

A & D Service Provider's Networking Group

59 West Pender St, Vancouver

Ph: 604.714-3484 x1-2269, Email: devon.macfarlane@vch.ca

Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada

#820 - 606 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 3H1

British Columbia, Wendy Cheney 604-666-8262

Toll free:1-866-711-5091, Ph: 306-956-5367, Fax: 306-956-5361, Email: contact.us@ahrdcc.com, Website: www.ahrdcc.com

Battered Women's Support Services - First Nations Women's Support & Outreach

P.O. Box 21503, 1424 Commercial Dr, Vancouver, BC V5L 5G2

Ph: 604-687-1868, Fax: 604-687-1864, Email: information@bwss.org Website: www.bwss.org

BC Institute of Technology - Aboriginal Services

3700 Willingdon Ave, Burnaby, BC V5G 3H2

Ph: 604-432-8474, Fax: 604-431-0724, Email: aboriginalservices@bcit.ca, Website: www.bcit.ca/aboriginal

BC Ministry for Children & Family Development - Vancouver

Ph: 604-660-2433, Fax: 604-660-4005

BC Ministry of Health, Aboriginal Health.

www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/aboriginal/index.html

Boys R Us

1292 Hornby Street, Vancouver, V6Z 1W2

Ph: 604-633-4200,

Broadway Youth Resource Centre

691 East Broadway Street, Vancouver, BC, V5T 1X7

Phone: 604-709-5720, Fax: 604-709-5721, Email: byrc@pcrs.ca, Website: www.pcrs.ca/Content/Program%20Pages/Youth%20Services/BYRC/BYRC%20Home.asp

Building Opportunities With Business Inner City Society (BOB)

Website: www.vancouveragreement.ca/Pdfs/051012FINALNewsRelease-BackgrounderBOB.pdf

Canadian Heritage - Vancouver Office

#400 - 300 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, V6B 6C6

Ph: 604-666-0176, Fax: 604-666-3508

Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House

4065 Victoria Drive, Vancouver, V5N 4M9

Ph: 604-874-4231 , Fax: 604-874-7169, Email: ccnh@telus.net

CESO Aboriginal Services

#212 - 1999 Marine Drive, N. Vancouver, V7P 3J3

Ph: 604-986-4566, 1-800-986-4566, Fax: 604-984-3584, Email: british.columbia@ceso-saco.com, Website: <http://www.ceso-saco.com/english/national/aboriginal/index.php>

City of Vancouver Social Planning Department

453 12th Avenue West, Vancouver, V5Y 1V4

Ph: 604-871-6032, Email: social.planning@vancouver.ca,

Website: www.vancouver.ca/aboriginal

City of Vancouver Youth Outreach Team, Social Planning Department

453 12th Avenue West, Vancouver, V5Y 1V4

Ph: 604-871-6032, Email: youth@vancouver.ca, Website: www.vancouver.youth.ca

Living In Community

Ph: 604-254-5401, ext. 208, Fax: 604-254-7673, Email: info@livingincommunity.ca, Website: www.livingincommunity.ca

Co-op Radio

#110 - 360 Columbia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6A 4J1

Program Co-ordinator 604-684-8494 ext. 226, Email: programs@coopradio.org, Website: www.coopradio.org

Covenant House Vancouver

575 Drake Street, Vancouver, V6B 4K8

Ph: 604-685-5437, Fax: 604-685-5324, Email: info@covenanthousebc.org, Website: www.covenanthousebc.org

Crabtree Corner

533 East Hastings St, Vancouver, BC, V6A 1P9

Ph: 604-216-1650, Email: enquire@ywcavan.org, Website: http://ywcavan.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3404

Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

302 Columbia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6A 4J1

Ph: 604-681-8480, Fax: 604-681-8470, Website: www.dewc.ca

Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society

49 West Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 1C8

Ph: 604-685-6561, Fax: 604-685-7117, Email: info@deyas.org, Website: www.deyas.org

Dusk to Dawn Resource Centre - Street Youth Job Action

1056 Comox St. Vancouver, V6E 4L7

Ph: 604-683-7354, Fax: 604-683-7358

Emma's Childcare Centre - Tupper Young Parent Services

598 East 22nd Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5V 2A2
Ph: 604-713-8233, Email: enquire@ywcavan.org, Website:
www.ywcavan.org/families/childcare

Family Services of Greater Vancouver

1616 West 7th Ave, Vancouver BC V6J 1S5
Ph: 604-731-4951, Fax: 604-733-7009, Website: www.fsgv.ca

Firehall Arts Centre

280 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, V6A 1L3
Box Office: 604-689-0926, Office: 604-689-0691, Fax: 604-684-5841, Email:
firehall@firehallartscentre.ca, Website: www.firehallartscentre.ca

Grandview Elementary School

2055 Woodland Drive, Vancouver, V5N 3N9
Ph: 604-713-4663, Fax: 604-713-4665, Website: <http://grandview.vsb.bc.ca>

Health Canada, First Nations & Inuit Health.

Website: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/nihb-ssna/index_e.html

John Howard Society

763 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC V5V 3C2
Ph: 604-872-5651 ext. 314, Fax: 604-872-8737, Email: seyouth@jhslmbc.ca

Justice For Girls

Ph: 604-689-7887, Fax: 604-689-5600, Email: info@justiceforgirls.org

Langara College - Aboriginal Studies Program

100 West 49th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5Y 2Z6
Ph: 604-323-5645, Fax: 604-323-5590, Website: www.langara.bc.ca/aboriginalstudies/ABST-index.html

McCreary Centre Society

3552 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, V5K 2A7
Ph: 604-291-1996, Fax: 604-291-7308, Email: mccreary@mcs.bc.ca

Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program - Kiwassa Neighbourhood House

2425 Oxford Street, Vancouver, BC, V5K 1M7
Ph: 604-254-5401 ex 227, Fax: 604-254-7673,
Website: <http://kiwassa.vcn.bc.ca/index.pl/parentinggroup2>

PACE

#416 - 119 West Pender Street, Vancouver, V6B 1S5
Ph: 604-872-7651, Toll free: 1-866-872-8751, Fax: 604-872-7508, Email: pace-admin@telus.net

PEERS Vancouver

323-119 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1S4
Ph: 604-681-3044, Email: pr@peersvancouver.org, Website: www.peersvancouver.org

Roundhouse Community Centre

181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver, V6Z 2W3

Ph: 604-713-1800, Fax: 604-713-1813, Email: roundhousecc@vancouver.ca, Website: www.roundhouse.ca

Sheway

533 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6A 1P9

Ph: 604-216-1699, Fax: 604-216-1698, Email: sheway.sheway@vch.ca, Website: www.vnhs.net/programs/sheway.htm

Simon Fraser University - Certificate in First Nations Studies Research

AQ 6188, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, V5A 1S6

Ph: 604-291-4774, Fax: 604-291-4989, Website: www.sfu.ca/fns/fnrc.htm

Urban Multi-purpose Aboriginal Youth Centre Initiative (UMAYC)

Contact either the BC Association of Friendship Centres at 1-800-990-2432 or the Department of Canadian Heritage, C/O Bruce Lund: 604-666-1558, Website: <http://www.bcaafc.com>

Vancouver Police Board

c/o 312 Main Street, Vancouver, V6A 2T2

Ph: 604-717-3170, Fax: 604-257-3878, Email: office@vancouverpoliceboard.ca

Watari Research Association

#301 - 877 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V6A 3Y1

Ph: 604-254-6995, Fax: 604-254-6985, Email: info@watari.org, Website: www.watari.org

WISH Drop-in Centre

119 West Pender Street, Vancouver, V6B 1S5

Ph: 604-669-9474, Fax: 604-669-9479, Website: www.wish-vancouver.net

Women Against Violence Against Women - Aboriginal Outreach Program

Ph: 604-255-6232, Email: aboriginalprogram@wavaw.ca, Website:

www.wavaw.ca/services_programs.php