



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

**Dze L K'ant Friendship
Centre Society**





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT

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VICE PRESIDENT

SUSIE HOOPER
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ABOUT THE DZE L K'ANT FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

THE DZE L K'ANT FRIENDSHIP CENTRE SOCIETY IS AN INDIGENOUS-LED NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION GUIDED BY CULTURAL VALUES THAT PROVIDES ACTIVITIES, SERVICES AND INFORMATION FOR URBAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.

WE FOCUS ON DEVELOPING SKILLS AND STRENGTHS WHILE INCORPORATING SPIRITUAL, EMOTIONAL, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING TO HELP PEOPLE BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT AND SELF-RELIANT. THE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE IS DEDICATED TO PROMOTING AWARENESS AMONG ALL PEOPLE.



ANNETTE MORGAN

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is a honour that we present the 2022/2023 annual report.

This report serves as a comprehensive overview of our organization's indigenous cultural responsibility and how we maintain an indigenous safe space. We hope you see our pride with the achievements made during the past year.

The board and staff continue to thrive and make a positive impact in our communities while ensuring our infrastructures are a priority.

Our commitment to enhancing the lives of others is reflected in the work we do daily, and we are proud to share the significant milestones we have achieved.

Throughout the year, we have focused on indigenous housing and indigenous daycares to drive sustainable growth and create meaningful change.

Our dedicated team, along with the support of our valued partners and funders, have worked tirelessly to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities for indigenous services and advancement.

We have strived to maintain transparency and accountability in all our operations, ensuring that every dollar invested in our organization is utilized effectively and efficiently.

As we move forward, we remain committed to continuous improvement, learning from our experiences, and adapting to the evolving needs.

We will continue to embrace Indigenous innovation, collaboration, and strategic partnerships to drive sustainable growth and create lasting change.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our board of directors, staff, volunteers and community partners for their support and belief in our mission.

It is through your collective efforts that we have been able to achieve the remarkable outcomes outlined in this report.

2022-2023 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

It has been an incredible year at the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre. Below are some of our key highlights as we continue to grow to meet the needs of community members we serve.



- Our **Houston Friendship Centre building** project is now well underway and we are on track to break ground on this project in Spring 2024!
- **Indigenous Childcare planned for Houston and Telkwa, BC:** We are pleased to announce that two proposals for the development of Indigenous-focussed childcare have been approved through Growing Aboriginal Head Start in BC.
- We continued to receive support for our new **Friendship Fund initiative** this year. This fund is supported by a number of local businesses and individuals in our community and provides resources for our organization to carry out community education on reconciliation and healing from residential school trauma.
- We hosted our **second annual Orange Shirt Week** this September providing hundreds of school-aged children, their parents and community members a chance to engage with our staff and programs in a fun and culturally safe manner to gain greater awareness about the impact of residential school systems.
- **Indigenous Peoples Day** was hosted on June 21st 2022 at the Cultural Centre in Smithers as well as the Houston Friendship Centre. Both events were well attended and we are so pleased to be together again celebrating Indigenous peoples and culture.
- The **Dze L K'ant Housing Project** is on track to begin construction in Spring 2024. This project will provide 37 affordable culturally safe homes for Indigenous families and elders.
- Our staff continue to provide a **high level of care to our community members** and each of their reports provide information about the large and small ways in which we provide support.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY CELEBRATIONS

This year we were pleased to bring back all of our in-person events.

Indigenous People's Day was attended by over 400 community members from Smithers, Hazelton, Witset, Houston, Telkwa and surrounding areas.

Our events were hosted in Smithers at the Cultural Centre and in Houston at the Houston Friendship Centre.

We wish to acknowledge our Indigenous Peoples Day Committee and staff who worked hard to make the day special for our community.



2ND ANNUAL ORANGE SHIRT WEEK

AS AN ORGANIZATION WE HAVE RESPONDED TO THE GROWING INTEREST IN COMMUNITY HEALING BY HOSTING A WEEK OF RECONCILIATION ACTIVITIES AIMED AT PROVIDING A SAFE SPACE FOR ALL PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM AND ITS IMPACTS. THIS YEAR WE HOSTED OUR SECOND ANNUAL EVENT.



Orange Shirt week activities this year included:

- Traditional song and drumming
- Truth sharing and traditional story telling
- Traditional foods (fish soup and bannock)
- Trauma informed information on the history of residential schools
- Hands on traditional crafts
- War canoe tours provided by our staff at lake Kathlyn for school groups, community organizations and businesses

Our event was designed to be child friendly, thought provoking and healing for our community. We offered a range of activities for children of all ages including rock painting, goody bags, balloons, crafts and coloring as well as a number of games, competitions and draw prizes.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE CULTURAL CENTRE

AT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY WE CELEBRATED 30 YEARS SINCE THE OPENING OF THE CULTURAL CENTRE. THE BUILDING IS NOW FULLY OWNED OUTRIGHT BY THE DZE L K'ANT FRIENDSHIP CENTRE SOCIETY OFFERING A SAFE AND HEALTHY SPACE FOR COMMUNITY GATHERINGS, ACTIVITIES, CEREMONIES AND EVENTS.



SUE ALFRED AND DOLLY ALFRED SPOKE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CULTURAL CENTRE FOR THE COMMUNITY. WE WERE HONOURED THAT SUE ALFRED SHARED MEMORIES OF THE WORK THAT WAS DONE 30 YEARS AGO TO ESTABLISH THE CULTURAL CENTRE.

MOVING TOWARD INDIGENOUS-LED CHILDCARE CENTRES IN TELKWA AND HOUSTON



In March, with help from The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, Dze L K'ant received the exciting news that our two proposals for childcare from the Growing Aboriginal Head Start in BC Capital Funding had been accepted. Chosen by The Aboriginal Head Start Association of British Columbia (AHSABC) Elder Advisory Circle, their recommendations were that these projects be permanent, sustainable, and reflect the Indigenous communities where they are located. AHSABC centres are planned, designed, and operated with input and guidance from parents, Elders, program partners and government; all sharing the responsibility of growing quality early learning environments for children and families.

The funding is intended to provide new licensed off-reserve childcare spaces that are offered to Indigenous families at no cost, support children with extra support needs, and commit to providing a respectful working wage for the Early Childhood profession. The funds will cover all costs associated with project management, building, permits, licensing, outdoor play area, and all equipment and supplies. The builds will be completed by March 31, 2026.

The District of Houston and the Village of Telkwa were enthusiastic about the builds and keen to partner with Dze L K'ant. The final design and program may change after consultations with parents, Elders, and community members but the original proposals were for multi age facilities which service children 0 to 12 years old with dedicated all season outside learning areas, and will feature Indigenous culture, design, toys, and artwork. Telkwa will have 51 spaces and Houston 24 spaces. We are very pleased to be working on projects which will provide much needed Indigenous centred childcare, which will allow our community members to pursue employment and school opportunities.

DZE L K'ANT AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR INDIGENOUS FAMILIES AND ELDERS



Our journey to affordable housing for urban Indigenous people

Since 2018 the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre has been working to increase our capacity to offer culturally safe and affordable housing to our community. In 2021 we received approval from BC Housing to move our project forward. The Town of Smithers has provided the land through a long-term lease agreement.

Our project will be the community's first-urban based Indigenous-led housing development, located in downtown Smithers, providing 37 affordable homes for Indigenous families and elders who are living off-reserve. The three-storey building is designed to reflect the needs and diversity of local Indigenous cultures we serve.

We continue to work with Lu'ma Development Management, Studio 9 architecture + Planning and BC Housing to ensure beautiful, safe and high quality homes. Groundbreaking for the building is expected in spring 2024, with the new homes welcoming residents by the end of 2025.



A participatory approach to development of our housing project:

Our goal is to ensure that our building design reflects community need.

In 2022 we developed our community's first Urban Indigenous Housing Study. This study involved high levels of participation from community members about their housing needs and challenges. The study has been an important means of advocacy and a resource during the design & development process.

In 2022-2023 we also engaged in a number of outreach activities including information booths at events such as Indigenous peoples day providing information on our project and seeking inputs.



HOUSTON FRIENDSHIP CENTRE PROJECT

OUR NEW FRIENDSHIP CENTRE IS DESIGNED TO CREATE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY PRIDE IN THE LOCAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRE AND ENSURE WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A PLACE OF BELONGING FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES LIVING IN HOUSTON FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.



During 2022-2023 the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society staff have been working toward the design and development of a new Friendship Centre in Houston, BC.

The project will ensure our organization can continue to grow and provide high quality culturally centered programs, activities and services to a diversity of community members in Houston, with a particular focus on supporting early years, youth programming and holistic health and wellness for Indigenous families living off reserve in our community for generations to come.

The new building is designed specifically to suit the Friendship Centre's programming needs including providing adequate and well-designed space for cultural ceremonies and activities.

OUR FUNDERS

This project is being supported by an Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – Rural and Northern Communities Program (RNC) grant.

We have also secured additional funding from the following sources:

- Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT)
- Federal Accessibility Grant (Ministry of Social Development and Employment)

We continue to pursue funding to ensure this project moves forward on schedule.



KEY PROJECT GOALS:

- ☐ Develop a custom designed building to meet community need
- ☐ Maximize existing site
- ☐ Increase accessibility to ensure greater access for elders and people with disabilities
- ☐ Design a building to reflect local Indigenous culture and create strong sense of belong
- ☐ Increase space and opportunities for services to grow
- ☐ Complete project by April 2025

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE & SUPPORT FOR 2SLGBTQ+

Strategic priorities

The Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Board of Directors has made the following key strategic priorities within our 2022-2023 Strategic Plan:

- Gender equality; championing and advocating for Indigenous women and gender diverse peoples.
- Providing strategic direction and vision for better interventions related to responses to gender based violence.
- Ensuring our staff are educated on gender-based violence.

Increasing support

Our staff successfully pursued funding through the Department of Women and Gender Equity aimed at increasing awareness, safety and supports for Indigenous women and Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ community members who experience or are at risk of gender-based violence including education, cultural supports and changes to organizational policy frameworks.

Gatherings for dialogue:

We hosted a well-attended workshop in Smithers on gender-based violence education, cultural approach, changes to policy. This workshop involved our staff and board of directors as well as participation from experts in this field along with those with lived experience.

Research and organizational policy changes:

We began work with an experienced culturally knowledgeable consultant to undertake a research and policy development project. This will involve a review and changes to our policy and processes designed to increase inclusion and safety for 2SLGBTQ+ people. Our goals are to incorporate Indigenous practices, guidance and culturally based approaches to make tangible changes to our policy and operations with regards to 2SLGBTQ+ people.



GENDER BASED VIOLENCE & SUPPORT FOR 2SLGBTQ+

OUR WORK IS DIRECTED AT INCREASING UNDERSTANDING OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND TAKING TANGIBLE STEPS TO ADDRESSING THE CONCERNS OF PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES. THIS WORK INCLUDES INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE EXISTENCE AND IMPACTS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE, ENSURING GREATER KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING AMONGST OUR BOARD, STAFF, CLIENTS AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY

A LOGO TO TELL OUR STORY

IN 2022 WE CONNECTED WITH A LOCAL WET'SU'WETEN 2SLGBTQ+ ARTIST TO LEAD THE PROJECT AND CONTINUE TO ALLOW VISION AND STORY TO GUIDE US THROUGH. SATSI NAZIEL, TRANSLATED FROM WET'SUWET'EN TO ENGLISH AS "SUN HEART". SATSI NAZIEL WAS BORN A TWO SPIRITED PERSON IN SMITHERS BRITISH COLUMBIA. THEY WERE RAISED IN LHEIDLI T'ENEEH TERRITORY IN PRINCE GEORGE AND ON THEIR TRADITIONAL WET'SUWET'EN TERRITORY.

SATSI IS A STUDENT AT THE FREDA DESIGN SCHOOL OF NORTHWEST COAST ART. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN CREATING ART PIECES FOR THEIR COMMUNITY THAT WILL ENRICH THE HEARTS OF THEIR OWN AND OTHER NATIONS PEOPLE.



A HUMAN IN THE BENTWOOD BOX DESIGN

IN OUR CULTURE BENTWOOD BOXES CARRIED PRECIOUS THINGS , THIS HUMAN IS SEEN CARRYING A DRUM AND DRUM STICK , THE DRUM HAS A RAINBOW CIRCLE WITH A NORTH WEST COAST STYLE HEART IN THE CENTER . IT CAN BE SAID THAT THE SPIRIT OF A TWO-SPIRIT PERSON IS THAT SPECIAL THING WITHIN THE BOX OF OUR BODY , THEY CAN BE THE HEARTBEAT OF A NATION AND OF A SONG.

DRUMS ARE SAID TO CALL BACK OUR SPIRITS. THIS PROUD TWO-SPIRITED HUMAN IS DRUMMING TO CALL BACK THE SPIRITS OF OTHERS ON THEIR TWO-SPIRIT JOURNEY OF SELF DISCOVERY AND THE SALMON WITHIN THE EYES REPRESENT THE FISH WE ARE FAMOUS FOR HARVESTING.



The Dze ƛ K'ant Friendship Centre's programming in Smithers continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs in our community. During 2022-2023 we have seen an increase in capacity with regards to supporting people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, outreach support and harm reduction. We have also increased our capacity at the Learning Hub to meet education and training needs of urban Indigenous people.

SMITHERS PROGRAM REPORTS

- MENTAL HEALTH & OUTREACH
- ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELLING
- HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM
- HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM
- EMPLOYMENT LIFE SKILLS TRAINING/LEARNING HUB
- HIV AIDS AWARENESS
- LEGAL ADVOCACY
- FAMILY GATHERINGS
- MMIWG FAMILY SUPPORT
- CAPC (COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN FOR CHILDREN)
- MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING
- HEALTHY CARE PREGNANCY PROGRAM
- CULTURE IS ALIVE (YOUTH PROGRAM)

MENTAL HEALTH & OUTREACH

AWARENESS, HEALING AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Over the past 7 years the Friendship Centre's Mental Health and Outreach worker, an elder and a survivor of residential school, has developed a strong and enduring connection with elementary school students at Muheim Elementary. In 2022, Muheim Elementary dedicated a Friendship Table to our worker to honour her work in creating space for conversations about residential school impacts, safety and care within their school community.



HEALING CIRCLES & ONE ON ONE SUPPORTS & SENIOR CHEF

Mental health challenges are on the rise in our community. Our trauma informed Mental Health Outreach Worker continues to offer one-on-one supports and healing circles to reduce isolation and support clients where they are at in their healing journey.

This year we were able to continue our popular Senior Chef program with support from New Horizons fund. Our Mental Health Outreach Worker provides the weekly gathering where those 65+ come together to cook healthy meals and enjoy each other's company. The program reduces isolation, increases cultural connection and food security for participants.



ALCOHOL & DRUG FACILITATOR PROGRAM; ALL CLANS PATROL; INDIGENOUS HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM



Our Alcohol and Drug Counsellor provides One to One Counselling, Treatment Planning, and Harm Reduction Planning, Groups, Family Sessions, and Cultural Presentations.

All Clans Patrol is a new and innovative program we are developing, using grassroots tools designed to create a community safety patrol that is Indigenous Lead.

Indigenous Harm Reduction Program: Hosts the Backpack Program, with our office being amongst Smithers' Harm Reduction Supply Distribution Sites, as well as a Training Site for Naloxone Kits, and Harm Reduction Principles.

SUCCESS STORIES AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023

We are pleased to have acquired a large grant to create a lasting Community Safety Program, still under construction today. Trainees and Backpack Program will unite and become an Indigenous Lead Community Safety Patrol we are currently calling "All Clans Patrol". Path Forward grants from the BCAAFC are currently supporting communities to end the violence in our communities.

Backpack Program is an Episodic Overdose Prevention Service run by Peers with either Lived or Living Experience. Peer distribute Harm Reduction Supplies and Naloxone Kits with no stigmas, after hours, and discretely. This has been running for three years now

Storytelling, awareness and events

War Canoe Paddling, Cultural events like Storytelling, Drumming and Singing, as well as the Sobriety and Harm Reduction pathways being well maintained with united effort. The two pathways can compliment each other. Not one way can support our communities alone.

THE OPPOSITE OF ADDICTION IS NOT SOBRIETY, THE OPPOSITE OF ADDICTION IS CONNECTION
AND LOVE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY.



INDIGENOUS HOUSING SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

The Indigenous Housing Support Program operates in both Smithers and Houston. Our goal is to reduce homelessness and support people where they are through culturally safe services.

The program aims to provide a high quality of culturally safe advocacy and support to those who are wishing to move toward greater housing stability including those who are currently:

- Homeless
- At risk of homelessness
- At risk of eviction
- Living in overcrowded and/or unsafe housing situations,
- Living long-term in motels
- Couch surfing
- Fleeing violence/abuse

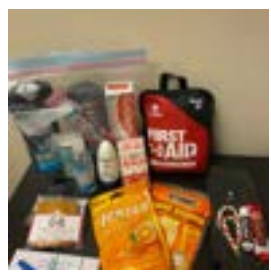
Our program is now in its fourth year and we are an essential support system for urban Indigenous people experiencing homelessness or at risk within our community.

We provided the following during this reporting period:

- Essential needs support: Food security, basic hygiene items, laundry and showers and telecommunications.
- Community advocacy, referrals and outreach services. Temporary emergency shelter via short-term motel room stays.
- Financial rental supports including assistance with damage deposit, overdue hydro bills and rent in arrears to reduce homelessness.



IN 2022-2023 OUR PROGRAM PROVIDED OVER 750+ FOOD SUPPORTS, PROVIDED AROUND 75 SLEEPING BAGS, OVER 400+ HYGIENE KITS, 600+ BUS TICKETS, OVER 300+ TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROVIDED TO CLIENTS.



Our program served over 120 individual clients and provided 24,296 points of service between April 2022 - March 2023.



HOMELESS OUTREACH PILOT PROJECT

BACKGROUND

In 2021 the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre partnered with the Town of Smithers to apply for the Strengthening Community Services Grant offered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). This grant was specifically designed to fund communities to better support people experiencing homelessness during the pandemic and pandemic recovery period.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

While there were various components to this successful grant application, the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre's role was focussed on developing an Indigenous outreach worker pilot project as a means of increasing community capacity to provide culturally appropriate support to people experiencing homeless in Smithers.

Support and a safe space

A significant portion of the role of the outreach worker has been focused on building trust and being present in the community. Our worker has conducted regular wellness checks with people who are unsheltered and has provided a safe space at the Friendship Centre for individuals in need of support.

Food support

The importance of access to healthy food was identified early on in this program. Our outreach worker has made fresh fruit and healthy snacks available for those experiencing homelessness at all times during the week. Hot meals such as soups and chilli were regularly provided and our worker created 'to-go snack kits' with protein shakes, granola bars, fruit, cheese and crackers.

Workshops and activities

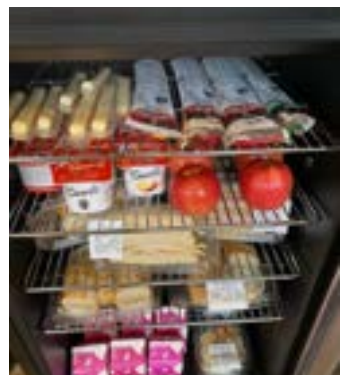
We have offered a number of cultural workshops e.g. mask making, medicine bag making which are designed to connect clients with their culture and with Friendship Centre support systems. These activities increase cultural and community connectedness which is critical for increasing overall wellbeing and healing.

Basic needs

Through this grant funding we have been able to provide community members with regular and reliable access to a wide range of resources to assist with their basic needs. Key items have included grocery cards, snack kits, hygiene kits (soap, toothbrush & toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo & conditioner), traditional medicine, tents and sleeping bags, warm wool socks, jackets and footwear.

Harm reduction

Our worker has collaborated with our alcohol and drug counsellor and harm reduction program to create and distribute harm reduction kits which include a range of supplies including naloxone kits.



EMPLOYEMENT LIFE SKILLS & TRAINING (LEARNING HUB)

The Essential Life Skills Coordinator aims to increase Indigenous participation in our local workforce through skills building and training.

This program provides a wide range of resources, supports and referrals on labour market and community resources.

We are pleased to have increased our capacity through the development a larger space, allowing us to provide access to computers, fax machine and phone accessibility. This reporting period we continued to provide mentorship, resume writing and interview skills, and job searches.

Clients who successfully find employment are also then able to access equipment required to do their job safely including work boots, jackets, hardhats and other necessary equipment.

Ths year we offered a number of culturally safe workshops to engage participants and build confidence, these including drum making and medicine bag making.

We successfully completed our Healthcare Assistant Program (HCA) in partnership with the Native Education College and will soon be offering another program through our Learning Hub, this time providing Early Childhood Education certification to local community members. These programs reduce barriers to access to post-secondary education and are closely aligned with our local economy and we are pleased to see that our graduates are successfully finding employment upon completion of their certifications.



HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAM

This program is designed to bring awareness to clients about the risks of HIV-AIDS and Hep C, reduce stigma and encourage safe sex and safe drug use practice without judgement.

2022- 2023 SUCCESS STORIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

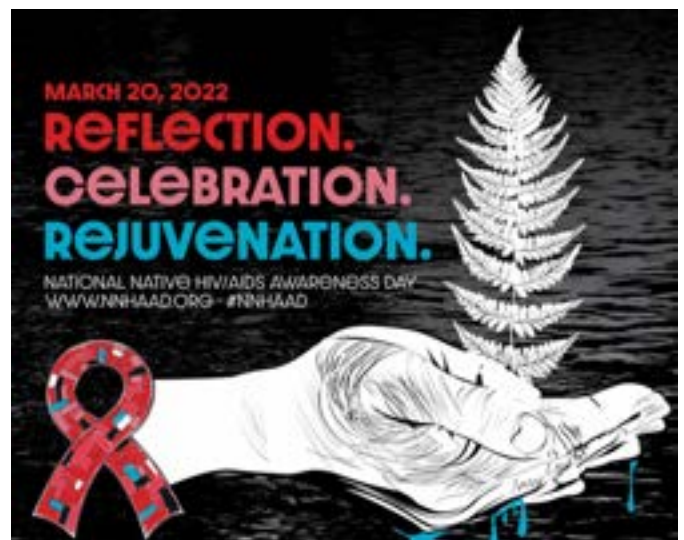
We have successfully provided a significant amount of condom distribution in this reporting period by working with other programs which serve vulnerable clients. For example, condoms continue to be included in our hygiene kits for homeless clients. This collaboration was a strong success at reducing stigma and providing access.

We have continued to provide resources and information online and via email to clients. Posters are created with key information daily and engagement has been strong with staff reporting that new clients are emerging because social media is an easier way to connect for those living more remotely.

Our focus for 2022-2023 is incorporating Indigenous approaches to wellness within our program and engaging with other Indigenous organizations through this work.

IN ORDER TO SUPPORT OUR CLIENTS WE PARTNER WITH MANY DZE L K'ANT FRIENDSHIP CENTRE PROGRAMS INCLUDING: HOUSING PROGRAM, HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM AND OUR DRUG & ALCOHOL PROGRAM.

OUR WORKER ENSURES FREE CONDOM LOCATIONS ARE PROVIDED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: COLLEGE, HIGH SCHOOLS, LOCAL SUPPORTIVE BUSINESSES SUCH AS RESTAURANTS AND BARS AND COFFEE SHOPS.



LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

DZE L K'ANT FRIENDSHIP CENTRE'S LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM IS DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LAW FOUNDATION OF BC.

The Legal Advocacy Program provides legal support, advocacy and education for low-income individuals in the area of Poverty Law through direct-advocacy services, the distribution of public legal education supplies, and through the organization and facilitation of workshops.

This year our program continued to assist low-income individuals with a wide variety of Poverty Law-based issues and inquiries. We directly supported clients through making legal information and referrals readily available and by providing both full representation and summary services. In key areas of Poverty Law, we also facilitated workshops and distributed public legal education supplies to the community. We additionally saw a notable amount of income security and housing-related issues in the region and this was reflected in the issues that clients brought forward to our program. This included evictions, landlord/tenant disputes, applications and denials for income assistance and disability assistance, and a wide range of issues concerning clients' legal rights and benefits. The services offered this year helped clients to understand and navigate these complicated legal systems and make informed decisions about their future.

On December 7th, 2023, our program planned and organized a workshop covering the rights and responsibilities of tenants. This was in response to an increase in tenancy-related inquiries in the community and was run in partnership with the Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre (TRAC). We had 20 attendees to this workshop and were able to provide a rich amount of general and case-specific information for all those who joined.

**BETWEEN
APRIL 2022-
MARCH
2023 OUR
LEGAL
ADVOCATE
COMPLETED
271 CLIENT
FILES
COMPLETED
AND
PROVIDED
1,289 POINTS
OF SERVICE.**



THE ABORIGINAL FAMILY GATHERINGS PROGRAM

The Family Gathering program brings together families who are new to the area and do not know the area or the community that are of Indigenous decent. We bring them together to form a bond with local persons, businesses and organizations they might need.



THIS PROGRAM SERVED 275 INDIVIDUALS. IT PROVIDED 1,731 POINTS OF SERVICE. 20 FOOD SUPPORTS WERE PROVIDED. 6 CLEANING KITS PROVIDED. 120 MISCELLANEOUS SUPPORTS PROVIDED.

SUCCESS STORIES

WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE MAKE-OVERS WITH BLISS WELLNESS ON INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S DAY WHERE 5 MOMS AND DAUGHTERS WERE TREATED LIKE PRINCESSES AS WELL AS A FEW STAFF MEMBERS THANKS TO THE GENEROUS DONATIONS FROM NATURE'S PANTRY.

THIS YEAR WE ASSISTED EACH LADY IN OUR PROGRAM TO MAKE A RIBBON SKIRT AND A DRUM THROUGH DONATIONS TO THE PROGRAM.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023

This year we made many meals together, a few outings to parks for picnics, got ready for seasonal life events such as spring cleaning, berry picking, Fall Fair, School in and school out to name a few. We also have local businesses come in to meet and greet the group on occasion. We had Love of Rocks come in, Bliss Wellness, Nation2Nation, Nature's Pantry. Trips to the museum and Art Gallery are always well attended. We provide Indigenous cultural teachings, crafts and practices whenever we can.

MMIWG FAMILY SUPPORT

The Missing & Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls Program provides family counselling to individuals and family members who are requiring one-on-one, small group sessions.

Activities have been undertaken in both Smithers and Houston to raise awareness for MMIWG. In 2022-2023 these activities included individual and family support service and awareness raising activities.

The MMIWG program has provided following activities during this reporting period:

- Grandmothers Project
- Ribbon Skirt Project
- Drum making workshops
- Storytelling and cultural teachings



COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

The Community Action Program for Children (CAP-C) is a federal initiative that provides a supportive environment for moms, dads, grandparents and other caregivers and their children aged to 0 to 6. The program is delivered via a “coalition” model providing the funding for perinatal and early childhood education ECE partners in Smithers, Houston, Terrace, Kitimat, Dease Lake and Prince Rupert. Here are some of our programs and supports that are offered throughout the Coalition:

- **PREGNANCY OUTREACH PROGRAMS**
- **QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS**
- **FAMILY SUPPORT, EDUCATION & RESOURCES**
- **SUPPORT FOR PREGNANT WOMEN**
- **FORMAL AND INFORMAL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT • OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY**



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023

This year CAP-C Coalition provided a wide range of supports. Outreach, group sessions and individual sessions were available to families in need, as well as prenatal and postnatal information and supports that are needed to raise a healthy baby.

This year all programs were back in person after the COVID-19 pandemic and everyone is so happy to be back. We are proud of the many culturally safe programs we offer families.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA (PHAC) THEY HAVE BEEN FUNDING THIS PROGRAM IN OUR ORGANIZATION FOR OVER 20 YEARS



**OUR MENTAL
HEALTH
COUNSELING
PROGRAM
PROVIDES ONE ON
ONE COUNSELING,
GROUP THERAPY
AND WORKSHOPS
FOR INDIVIDUALS
AND FAMILIES.**

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLOR

NUMBER OF CLIENTS: 22 POINT OF SERVICE: 250

The program offered inclusive services to ensure that those with different sexual orientation, LGBTQI2SA+, gender identity, age and ability are included in our programming. We offered services to everyone in the community who needs help. Our clients came from the Indigenous, Aboriginal, and Metis communities as well as the greater community of the Bulkley Valley and Smithers catchment area from Hazelton to Houston. We provided appointment and walk in services. We provided counseling, advocacy and referral. We also helped with treatment applications, and we collaborated with other agencies in the community and provided high quality care. Additionally, the program offered workshops, group therapy and community mental health awareness events. We offered cooking and nutrition workshops, weekly yoga and meditation classes, and trauma education events. The program collaborated with a certified nutritionist, a certified yoga instructor and the medical and mental health team from the hospital, as well as the BV Society for Community Collaboration to successfully deliver these workshops and events. Five hundreds community members, in total, attended these events.

SUCCESS STORIES

THE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLOR SUPPORTED CLIENTS WITH ALL DIFFERENT KINDS OF MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS, SUCH AS DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER, PANIC ATTACK, OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER, BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER, SCHIZOPHRENIA, SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND MORE. THE COUNSELLOR ALSO OFFERED RELATIONSHIP AND COUPLE THERAPY, GRIEF AND LOSS COUNSELING, AND SELF- IMPROVEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT COUNSELING. THE PROGRAM OFFERED A HOLISTIC APPROACH, IN WHICH WE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDERS AND THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICE TO OUR CLIENTS.

OVER THE LAST YEAR, THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE NEUROFEEDBACK ADVOCACY PROJECT TO IMPLEMENT A NEW TECHNOLOGY INTO THE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM. NEUROFEEDBACK IS A NON-INVASIVE TREATMENT THAT HELPS CLIENTS WITH A WIDE RANGE OF MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS. THE DZE L K'ANT FRIENDSHIP CENTRE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BCAAFC, WAS ABLE TO PURCHASE THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT IN APRIL 2023 TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT FOR THE NEXT YEAR.



INREACH WORKER, HEALTHY CARE PREGNANCY PROGRAM (HCPP)

The Healthy Care Pregnancy Program provides community based inreach to support pregnant and newly parenting individuals using and who have used substances and are experiencing risks to their health and wellness both prenatally and up to seven months postpartum.

Our idesignated HCPP Inreach Worker meets with the participants throughout the pregnancy and postpartum period, walking alongside their journey and supporting their access to basic needs, wile supporting positive transitions in and out of acute care settings.

Below is are services the In-reach worker has provided during 2022-2023

- Advocacy
- One-on-one meetings and support
- Transportation to appointments
- Collaboration with healthcare and service providers to delivery holistic and comprehensive support
- Working with MCFD, legal aid, parent legal centre, nutritionists and housing support workers to ensure clients are supported throughout their journey toward holistic health
- Delivered care packages, groceries, meals and healthy snacks to clients
- Support with basic life skills e.g. cooking and cleaning
- Navigation services including assistance with employment, education and various government application forms

CULTURE IS ALIVE YOUTH PROGRAM

The program offers a number of culturally focussed activities aimed at empowering our youth during a challenging time of their lives as they transition to adulthood. The program is centred around trust building, relationship building and mentorship and through this process we have been able to increase confidence in our youth, support them with social, emotional challenges. Our program is proud to be providing a support system as youth make the difficult transition between high school and the workforce by providing support for their learning, education and employment goals. We are particularly proud of the close collaborations between our Learning Hub and Employment program which is allowing youth low barrier access to a wide range of education and training and employment opportunities.

This year we provide a range of services to Indigenous youth in our community, including:

- Collaborations with the high school key teachers and Indigenous support workers via School District 54
- Bi-monthly cultural workshops and food sharing – time to come together to do crafts and share food together. This year we hosted popular drum making and cedar basket workshops.
- Driving Lessons- 18 youth participated in these lessons.
- Food skills for families workshops
- Hygiene kit and food support distribution – by partnering with Covid-19 relief funding we were able to provide basic need supports to over 25 youth.
- 18 Mental wellness kits were created specifically for youth.





The Friendship Centre staff in Houston provide high quality programming focused on cultural protocols and approaches to healthy lifestyle, including pregnancy outreach, early years and parenting supports programming, mental health counselling, youth programming and Indigenous housing supports. Cultural safety, family support and food security are core components of all of our programming and our community kitchen provides popular cultural foods programs.

HOUSTON PROGRAM REPORTS

- ABORIGINAL EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM)
- AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
- CONNECTIONS PROJECT (YOUTH PROGRAM)
- INDIGENOUS EARLY YEARS PROGRAM
- MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLOR
- ABORIGINAL EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT (TADPOLES PROGRAM)
- HOUSTON PREGNANCY OUTREACH PROGRAM (POP)

ABORIGINAL EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT/FAMILY SUPPORT

The Aboriginal Early Childhood Development offers a full range of integrated, culturally appropriate, early childhood development services. The goal is to provide families with access to a range of culturally appropriate early childhood prevention and early intervention services that promote positive parenting and increase families capacity to effectively parent. The intent of the program is to provide safe, nurturing environments for children , maximize their growth and enhance their development potential.

WORKSHOPS: The Aboriginal early Childhood development program facilitated a number of workshops designed to enhance parenting skills, competencies, confidence and connection. We offered a range of workshops, group sessions and individual sessions. workshops offered throughout 2022-2023 included:

- The Nobody's Perfect parenting program.
- Helping your child Cope.
- Setting Limits.
- Building independence in your child.
- Healthy Co- parenting
- Nutrition and development.
- Conscious parenting.
- Mother Goose.
- Bringing Tradition home.
- Self Care and mental health supports



TS' IDIHDZIK KITCHEN MEANING " GIFTS OF FOOD"

In partnership with the United Way of Northern BC, we were able to facilitate Ts' idihzik Kitchen again this year.

The Ts' idihzik kitchen meaning " Gifts of food" is a program dedicated to help alleviate ongoing food insecurity effecting many young Indigenous families in our community. The program participants vary in their need from moderate to severe. the program reduces barriers, connecting families with access to food, provide tools and knowledge around nutrition equipping our families to make informed and healthy choices linking the connection between nutrition and development.

The Ts' idihzik kitchen operates every Wednesday offering two classes each day and hosts 16 families in total. The program is currently running at full capacity with a wait list. Families come together to decide what meal they will be preparing and is involved in the budgeting and purchasing of items. The program encourages socialization and learning to make nutritious, cost effective meals. Nutrition, budgeting, meal planning and family participation are the fundamentals of this program.



THE NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED IN 2022-2023: 185

POINTS OF SERVICE: 34,516

OVER 1,100 FOOD SUPPORTS PROVIDED

OVER 100 HYGIENE AND ORAL HEALTH KITS PROVIDED

WINTER CLOTHING AND SEASONAL NECESSITIES

PROVIDED APPROX 30 FAMILIES WITH BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The After School Program provides a safe, supportive after school drop-in program, as well as Spring Break and summer care for children ages 8-12 years of age, free of charge. The program is fully inclusive, providing centre and community-based outings, supports, food, security needs, and cultural connection.

The After School Program is a free, licensed child care program for school aged children aged 8-12. We offer a fun, inclusive, child centred program focused on positive health promotion. The After School Program provides fun, educational, and culturally relevant programming to community kids, giving them a place to participate and belong in the community.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023

This year our program was able to provide a sense of food security for our children by providing healthy, nutritious snacks daily. We offer a range of take home kits such as bagged lunches, fruit kits, and milk.

We offered many cultural teachings such as drumming, bannock making, soapberry workshop, traditional medicine workshops and much more.

We offer one on one support for the children such as family support and referrals.



HEALTHY SNACKS ARE PROVIDED TO THE CHILDREN DAILY SUCH AS FRUIT, DAIRY, MEAT AND VEGETABLES.

LEARNING ABOUT TRADITIONAL MEDICINE:

THE CHILDREN LEARNED HOW TO MAKE THEIR OWN SALVE FOR THEMSELVES AND FAMILY, WHILE LEARNING THE HISTORY AND BENEFICIAL PROPERTIES OF CEDAR AND DANDELION.

MMWG AWARENESS:

THE CHILDREN SHOWED RESPECT AND SOLIDARITY AS WE ALL SANG AND DRUMMED FOR OUR STOLEN SISTERS AND SHOWED OUR SUPPORT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. THEY ASKED QUESTIONS AND EXPANDED THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON THE SUBJECT. IT WAS A SUCCESSFUL DAY FULL OF RESPECT, LOVE, AND KNOWLEDGE.

WE SERVED OVER 40 CHILDREN IN THE 2022-2023 YEAR WITH OVER 1,800 POINTS OF SERVICE.

CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

The Connections Program creates culturally relevant networks of supportive community connections, centred around clients needs; removing risks to child safety and improving permanency.

The program involves:

- Intensive outreach supports to families to reduce there risk of removal and whose children are returning home.
- Providing supports for targeted children and youth ages 13 – 19 through a daily youth drop in program.
- Coordinating to make service plans to. improve outcomes thronging connecting children and youth with culture, kinship, life skills, education, mental health and future planning.

THIS YEAR THE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE MUCH NEED SUPPORTS TO THE URBAN INDIGENOUS YOUTH OF HOUSTON. OFFERING WORKSHOPS ONCE WEEK AT THE HIGHS SCHOOL SUCH AS TRADITIONAL ART, HEALTHY EATING, MENTAL WELL BEING AND KICK BOXING/SELF DEFENCE. THE PROGRAM ALSO PROVIDED FAMILY SUPPORTS TO FAMILIES WITH OPEN MCFD FILES, SUPERVISED VISITS, ONE ON ONE SUPPORTS, HOME VISITS AND SOME FOOD SECURITY.

**1228 CLIENTS SERVED
1380 YOUTH SERVED**

**ABORIGINAL FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT POINTS OF
SERVICE 17,279.**

**YOUTH PROGRAM POINTS OF
SERVICE 23,000**



THE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM PARTNERED WITH THE CATAPULT YOUTH PROGRAM RECEIVED AND GRANT IN SUM OF 75,000. THE GROWING ROOT PROJECT PROVIDED SERVICE TO URBAN INDIGENOUS YOUTH IN BOTH COMMUNITIES. WORKING TOGETHER WITH HOUSTON SECONDARY THE PROGRAM WAS ABLE TO CONNECT WITH YOUTH ON MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS THROUGH WORKSHOPS AND HAVING A PRESENCE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL. THE TURNOUT AND RESPONSE FROM THE YOUTH WAS GREAT, MANY COMMENTS ABOUT MEETING NEW PEERS AND LEARNING NEW THINGS ABOUT THE LOCAL CULTURE.

INDIGENOUS EARLY YEARS PROGRAM (IEY)

Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre's Indigenous Early Years Program provides culturally appropriate programming for children and families, including weekly drop-in programming, referrals, home visit support, and one-on-one support to early years families in Houston and its surrounding communities. Its focus is on healthy child development, connections and referrals, and positive support for early years families. Cultural workshops, parenting workshops, child development programs are all offered as some of the Indigenous Early Years Programs.

In 2022-2023 the IEY program has approx. 89 families registered to receive supports from the IEY program. The IEY has helped to distribute approx 54 off reserve families in Houston resources such as humidifiers, cleaning kits, etc using off reserve/covid funds. The IEY program offered the following this year:

- ISPARC Honour Your Health Program & FitNation Program 28 Adults and 64 children
- IEY Family Day
- Over 50 people attended the IEY Family Day event National Indigenous Peoples Day
- Naloxone training



Succes stories

Bear (Sis) & Beaver (Tsa) Tanning Workshop

We hosted a Bear Tanning Workshop hosted on location by Leo Duarte. This workshop allowed over a dozen adults and over 80 youth witness and experience the different stages of processing bear hide as well as engaged in hands on body experience. We learned how to harvest and make Bear Grease, what it is used for, the medicinal proprieties and each participant were able to take a jar or two home at the end of the workshop. The hide that was tanned will be used in further teachings, presentations and workshops for our early years programs.

Family Photos event:

Every year the Indigenous Early Years program host a week of Family photos. This gives families the opportunity to come and get free family photos that they can use to share on their social media, Christmas cards etc. We set up a back drop and provide appointment times for each photo session. Afterwards each family gets a set of digital prints sent to them, as well as opportunity to attend a photo workshop where they can make their photos into cards, crafts, etc.

Over 900 families engaged in our programming in 2022-2023 including Indigenous people day events, MMIWG awareness march, teddy bear picnic and lake events, education workshops and community Christmas Luncheon.



ABORIGINAL EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (TADPOLES PROGRAM)

THE TADPOLES PROGRAM IS AN IN-PERSON PARENT/TOT PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN, AGES 0-6. THIS PROGRAM IS A PLAY GROUP THAT FOCUSES ON CHILDREN DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS AND WANTS THROUGH CRAFTS AND PLAY, AS WELL AS PROVIDES CHILDREN AND PARENTS WITH A SOCIAL AND WELCOMING PLACE TO GATHER.



We offered a wide range of activities, crafts, and learning opportunities for the children.

The Tadpoles Program has helped many children with their developmental skills. I have seen a lot of improvement in clients gross motor skills, fine motor skills, social/emotional skills and especially speech/communication skills. This year we focused a lot on communication skills because there were a few children ages 3-4 unable to speak full sentences and/or speak clearly. I have helped refer the parents to a speech therapist and I saw a significant amount of improvement within our regular clients.

**105 clients
served in
2022-2023**

**5,742 Points
of Service
for 2022-
2023**

**75 Take-
Home Craft
Kits
provided for
families**

Highlights

Not only do we do in-house groups, we also join in with the community to help children with developmental skills. For example, The Teddy Bear Picnic, National Indigenous Peoples Day, Christmas Luncheon, etc. The Teddy Bears' Picnic brought children, teddy bears and parents together on Wednesday May 18th for a morning full of fun, connection and play. Children were invited to bring their stuffed animals for a special play date they met with each agency in the community to do a fun and engaging activity from crafting, to blowing bubbles, running an obstacle course, story walks and more! The Houston Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre, School District 54, Thomas Robinson were some of the agencies that joined The Teddy Bear picnic that was Hosted by Houston Link to Learning at the Houston Public Library. Over 60 people participated in this event. This was a fun day of positive engagement, connections and building positive, and healthy development for children ages 0 to 6 and their families.



MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLOR



The community counselling program has provided culturally safe counselling services to many clients and our program is receiving ongoing referrals. Currently there is no waitlist and clients are able to begin speaking with a counsellor within a few days of referral. Clients have reported a sense of relief by having the opportunity to receive mental health support without concern for affordability

The mental health counselling program was developed to address the mental health needs of community members by providing accessible and culturally safe counselling services. The program provides mental health counselling and support to community members over the age of 18 at no cost and works to provide culturally-competent practice in a safe environment that empowers clients. Group counselling, delivery of workshops focused on mental health, assisting with support and referrals to treatment centres, providing resources such as written worksheets, and individualized counselling sessions are all within the scope of the program. The ultimate goal is to give clients a space to feel safe, be heard, and feel empowered.

WHAT OUR CLIENTS HAVE SAID:

Reported feeling better (“like a weight is taken off of my chest”) after attending culturally sensitive counselling sessions.

Reported feeling more confident in managing their mental health after attending counselling sessions.

Reported an improvement in coping skills and strategies related to mental health and emotional regulation.

Reported a reduction in symptoms of anxiety and/or depression symptoms after attending ongoing counselling sessions.

Reported a sense of relief to have a confidential and safe space to speak authentically (“it’s nice to have a someone to talk to who won’t judge me”)

WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2022-2023

THE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING PROGRAM IN 2023 SERVED ON AVERAGE 18 REGULAR CLIENTS.

THREE TREATMENT REFERRALS (WERE MADE.

FOUR CRISIS COUNSELLING CALLS

PROVIDED A RANGE OF WORKSHOPS AND RESOURCES

PROVIDED 7 MENTAL WELLNESS BOXES DELIVERED TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

HOUSTON & DEASE LAKE PREGNANCY OUTREACH PROGRAMMING

Our pregnancy outreach programs are designed to help improve healthy development in children ages 0-1, provide specific prenatal, maternal and new born care, provide pregnancy test, provide nutritional information & support healthy eating, knowledge/experience of pre and Post-natal care, risk factors and Breastfeeding.

THIS YEAR OUR POP PROGRAMS HAVE PROVIDED:

- EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING SPECIFIC TO PRENATAL, MATERNAL AND NEWBORN CARE.
- PREGNANCY TESTING
- NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT HEALTHY EATING
- CULTURAL TEACHINGS AND SUPPORT CIRCLES FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING ABORIGINAL FAMILIES PRENATAL/POSTNATAL DROP IN GROUP.
- OUR STAFF HAVE ASSISTED DEVELOP BIRTH AND ACTION PLANS, PROVIDED OUTREACH, AND MADE REFERRALS TO OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS SUCH AS PEOPLES HAVEN, STIKINE HEALTH CENTRE, TAHLTAN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND THE TELEGRAPH CREEK NURSE.

SOME OF THE KEY EDUCATION TOPICS THAT WERE PROVIDED TO FAMILIES WERE:

- INFORMATION REGARDING BREASTFEEDING,
- KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS RELATED TO HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT PRENATAL AND POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION CLASSES



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Workshops (Houston)

In Houston we hosted number of workshops designed to increase knowledge of traditional and natural products for babies and increase understanding of affordable alternatives to store bought products. We learned how to make homemade baby food, lavender salve, and homemade cream to help with diaper rash, homemade baby wipes, homemade sprays with essential oils. Our clients learned how to produce their own products for their children affordably.

Fun Friday activities (Dease Lake)

Every Friday Dease Lake POP does a fun activity like a craft, family pictures, jam making, luncheon, berry picking, wellness walks etc. We have had very positive feedback about these activities as some mothers have told our worker it feels like an escape from home when they are able to come out and do these activities, as they are very stress-relieving.

Dease Lake has had great success by connecting with hard to reach clients and building stronger relationships by focussing on mental health and healing.

EQUITY, INCLUSION AND SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

As an Indigenous organization our goal is to support our community to heal, learn and grow. This year a key focus has been the importance of equity and inclusion in everything we do.

We will continue to respond to growing challenges in our community including housing, employment, food security, gender-based violence, mental health and addictions by seeking funding and ensuring services are delivered in a culturally safe manner that honours our traditions.

We are honoured by the increased support we are receiving not only from our government funders and organizations but from our local businesses and community members.



**INSPIRE.
BELIEVE.
BELONG.**

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR KEY FUNDERS 2022-2023

- National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC)
- BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
- Northern Health
- Law Foundation
- BC Housing
- Aboriginal Headstart Association BC
- Ministry of Child and Family Development
- Department of Women and Gender Equity
- Lu'ma Native Housing
- CMHC
- BC Aboriginal Childcare Society
- United Way Northern BC
- New Horizons

*WE THANK ALL OF OUR FUNDERS WHO SUPPORTED US DURING
2022-2023.*



ACKNOWLEDGING OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Office of the Wet'suwet'en
- Witset First Nation
- Alpenhorn/Noir Restaurant
- Sullivan's Motor Products
- Telly's Restaurant & Grill
- Nature's Pantry
- Subway Smithers
- Smokescreen Printing
- Marks Workwarehouse
- Smithers Brewing Co
- District of Houston
- Town of Smithers
- Smithers Chamber of Commerce
- Wetzinkwa Community Forest
- Dungate Community Forest
- Chamber Of commerce.
- Houston Food Market
- Pawsome Adventures
- Buy- Low Foods
- The Houston Leisure facility.



**Healing
together.**

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