

UNYA NEWS

RECREATION PROGRAM

The Urban Native Youth Association will be hosting a three year sports and recreation initiative for Aboriginal youth in the Eastside of Vancouver. This program will begin with a survey of Native youth to identify what they see as lacking and/or important to them. The information gathered will be used to plan sports and recreational activities that Native youth identify as needed. A major focus of this program is to offer sports and recreation activities in different locations in EastVan so that as many Native youth as possible can participate. Another goal is to find ways to encourage youth who do not usually participate in sports and recreation activities to become involved.

TWO-SPIRIT RESEARCH

UNYA has partnered with Youthquest! and the Centre to carry out a pilot project to reach out to rural youth to try to identify their needs as a Two-spirit or gay/ lesbian/ bisexual/ transgendered youth in a rural setting. The project team is traveling to Prince George, Kamloops, Nanaimo, and Trail to provide information on how to set up YouthQuest! style drop-ins and to do Pride Speaks. UNYA has also hired someone to coordinate a Native Youth Steering Committee that has developed a survey specifically for Native youth. If you are a Two-spirit youth and would like to fill out a questionnaire, please contact Gil at 604-728-9180 or email him at glerat@shaw.ca. The overall goals of this two year project are to train youth to do Pride Speaks, to set up a drop-in program, to network with each other, to host a conference next summer, and to produce a report of recommendations and next steps for further 'research' and program development. This project is sponsored by Health Canada's Population Health Fund.



Did You Know:

That your children are much more likely to do well in kindergarten and the following grades if they already have a basic knowledge of the alphabet, how to count, and how to recognize some simple words before they enter kindergarten?

If you would like to learn how to help your children be well prepared for kindergarten, you can contact the Aboriginal Mothers Centre who has partnered with the Britannia Community Centre to supervise two HIPPY Workers. The HIPPY Program helps parents learn how to help their 3 - 4 year old children learn to read before they enter kindergarten. Phone: 604-252-6262 fmr

PEER SUPPORT PROJECT

UNYA has partnered with Jamie Teras of the BC Lions to develop a Peer Support Program for Native Youth. The focus is on training Native youth to be role models and/or support people to each other. Jamie has been working in this area for the past two years. This particular program has been a success in the United States with youth from specific cultural groups such as the African American community. Jamie is working with Native youth and others to develop a culturally appropriate program specifically for Native youth. We will provide further updates in the future.

YOUNG MOTHERS RECOVERY HOUSE

UNYA has partnered with the Coming Home Society and the Homelessness Initiative to open a five-bed house for 17 - 24 year old Native mothers who have 'lost' their children to the Ministry for Children and Families. The program, which will begin in February or March 2003, is a live-in program that will work with young mothers on parenting skills, life skills, personal development, and other areas. The overall goal of the program is to help young Native mothers work towards being reunited with their children.

NATIVE YOUTH HOSTEL

We are operating another Youth Hostel until September 30, 2003. This Hostel is for 17 - 24 year old homeless youth. It is a program that is based on youth working towards positive changes in their lives, by finding employment, housing, reuniting with family, entering training, etc. Youth must be clean and sober for 72 hours. Youth must refer themselves. Phone: 604-408-8256.

AWAY PROGRAM ENDS

We are very sad to report that the AWAY Program shut its doors on November 30/02. The end of this unique program was the result of provincial cuts and new priorities for programs. All of the youth who were attending were connected to other resources in the community before the program ended. We thank Karen Lepine, the Program Coordinator for all of her hard work over the years.

Homework Clubs

Our First Nations School Success Project Team has helped to set up eight Homework Clubs in five EastVan schools. The schools are Strathcona Elementary, Templeton Secondary, Grandview Elementary, McDonald Elementary, Britannia Elementary and Secondary schools, and the Native Youth Drop-in Centre at UNYA. The focus of the Homework Clubs are to help youth learn study skills, to help youth with their homework, to model good group and social skills, and to provide older Native youth with the opportunity to be positive role models by tutoring. As each of these Homework Clubs becomes stable and self-sustaining, we will move to another school to help set up one there.

The following is a list of dates and times of the current homework clubs. Please call the school for room numbers.

Mondays

Britannia Secondary 12:10 – 1:00 p.m.

Bridges Program 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Grandview Elementary 3:00 – 4:30

Templeton Secondary 12:30 – 1:30 pm

every second Monday

Tuesdays

Templeton Secondary 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

every second Tuesday

Strathcona Elementary 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Templeton Secondary 12:30 – 1:30 **every**

second Wednesday

Seymour Elementary 1:45 – 3:00 pm

Macdonald Elementary 3:00 – 4:30

U.N.Y.A. Drop In 4:00 – 5:15 p.m

Thursdays

Templeton Secondary 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Fridays

Did You Know?

That education can contribute to not only the wealth of people, but also the health of people by helping to improve your living conditions through:

- Better paying jobs which helps to provide more money
- Which gives you better access to healthier food
- And allows you to participate in more positive activities in the community
- Or to drive a car
- Or to travel
- It can also add to your personal well being by the sense of personal satisfaction that you gain by completing schooling and being able to gain skills to find jobs that you would like to do rather than being forced to work at jobs that you do not enjoy

So please do yourself a favor and stay in school!

Check out our website to get more info on our programs & services at

www.unya.bc.ca

Homework Tips for Test Taking

1. Avoid cramming. Start your studying well before the test date.
2. Review the notes you've made in class. Make a list of everything that you think is going to be on the test. Ask your teacher what you should prepare.
3. Practice and practice to memorize specific facts you think are important, including names and dates.
4. Make up questions that you think will be on the test and try answering them. Trade practice questions and answers with a friend. Make flashcards out of them!
5. Don't forget to bring all the tools you'll need. Is your pencil sharp? Do you need a ruler? Are calculators allowed?
6. Try not to be too stressed. Stay calm, and remember, you'll likely do well!

YOUNG BEARS LODGE

We have chosen **Young Bears Lodge Empowerment Program** as the new name for our program. We believe that this is an appropriate name as the work that youth do for themselves is based on self-empowerment so that they can make healthy choices for themselves after leaving the program.

OUTREACH TEAM REDUCED

The Attorney General has decided to cut our funding for two Prevention/Outreach Workers who worked with local schools, community centres, and families to help prevent Native youth from moving towards street life and activities. Unfortunately this means that we only have one worker left in the area who can do this important work. We thank Cecilia and Gerri-Lee for all of their dedication and hard work.

YOUNG PARENTS SUPPORT WORKER

UNYA is happy to be sharing a Young Parent Support Worker with the Broadway Youth Resource Centre. This worker will be working with youth up to age 24 who have children aged 0 – 6. This person is a member of a team of Early Childhood Support Team hired by Vancouver Native Health who is the program host. The main focus for the program is to provide support to youth regarding issues directly related to or that affect their children.