

The Urban Native Youth Association is proud to be “Training the Leaders of Tomorrow”. We have been providing services to Native Youth since 1988. Currently, we provide 21 prevention-focused programs that help to meet the immediate and longer-term needs of youth. Our underlying philosophy is that Native youth have the right to live safe, healthy, and positive lives that are free from negative influences.

Youth are consulted in the ongoing development of all programs and initiatives, as we feel that youth are the experts in their own lives and are in the best position to advise us on youth issues. We always strive to have at least four of our nine board members be Native youth.

UNYA is committed to maintaining an inclusive and welcoming environment for all Aboriginal youth, including those who are status, non-status, Inuit, Metis, and Two-Spirited/LGBTQ.

We will continue to adapt to the ever-changing needs of Native youth to ensure that they have the best chance possible to lead safe, healthy, and positive lives.

**Program Funding Provided by:**

Ministry of Children and Family Development

In Partnership with Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society

<b>UNYA Contacts</b>	
Main office - Administration	604-254-7732
Aboriginal Outreach Team	604-254-5147
Aboriginal Transition Team	604-254-7732
Aboriginal Wellness Counsellor	604-254-7732
Aboriginal Youth Safehouse	604-254-5147 1-877-223-4321
Aboriginal Youth Worker at BYRC (for 15 – 24 year olds)	604-709-5723
Aboriginal Youth Worker at UNYA (for youth 11 – 17 years)	604-254-7732
Alcohol & Drug Counsellors (13 – 21 years old)	604-254-7732
Alcohol & Drug Referral Worker at BYRC	604-709-5736
Aries Program (alternate school for 13 - 18 year olds)	604-255-1326
AYF Sports & Recreation Program	604-254-7732
Cedar Walk Program (alternate school for 13 – 18 year olds)	604-708-9130
Mediation Program	604-254-7732
Mentorship & Kinnections Programs	604-254-7732
Native Youth Drop-In Centre (for youth 15 – 24 years)	604-254-7712
Native Youth Learning Centre (computer lab for youth 15 – 30 years)	604-254-5620
Ravens Lodge (transitional foster care program)	604-435-7343
School Support Team	604-254-7732
Young Bears Lodge (A & D empowerment program for 13-18 yrs)	604-322-7577
Young Wolves Lodge (women's recovery for 17 - 24 years)	604-321-1118
24-Hour Youth Info & Referral Line	1-877-223-4321
<b>Publications &amp; Videos</b> • AYF Sports & Recreation Survey • Full Circle – a manual on sexually exploited youth • Helping Hands – youth resource manual of programs and services • Two-spirit Youth Speak Out! – needs assessment for LGBTQ youth • Urban Rez – a video on sexual exploitation	604-254-7732 or In pdf format at <a href="http://www.unya.bc.ca">www.unya.bc.ca</a>

## Kinnections Program



*Training the Leaders of Tomorrow*

1618 East Hastings Street  
 Vancouver, BC V5L 1S6  
 Phone: (604) 254-7732  
 Fax: (604) 254-7811  
 Email: [kinnections@unya.bc.ca](mailto:kinnections@unya.bc.ca)  
 Websites: [www.unya.bc.ca](http://www.unya.bc.ca)  
[www.nativeyouthcentre.ca](http://www.nativeyouthcentre.ca)

# Connecting youth to trained community volunteer mentors who can provide support as youth become adults

Kinnections provides support to youth, mentors, and referring Social Workers

## How Youth Can Benefit

- You can identify your own mentor, or we have available mentors waiting for you
- You can do lots of fun things together such as:
  - Activities like the gym, bowling, or shopping
  - Grabbing a bite to eat
  - Going to places like the Vancouver Aquarium or Science World
  - Talk about things that are important to you – get advice
- You can also do other things together that will help you as you are becoming independent:
  - Apartment hunting
  - Job, training, or education search
  - Help with budgeting
  - Referrals to other programs and services

## Program Goals

- To connect Aboriginal youth to volunteer community members
- Mentors will become a youth's advocate, role model, and friend
- To form long-term friendships to help support youth as they transition to living independently

## How Social Workers Can Benefit

- Provide youth with access to a fully trained mentor in areas such as:
  - Life-skill coaching
  - Sexual exploitation
  - Cultural awareness
  - Substance abuse and misuse
- Ensure youth has access to a trustworthy, reliable adult
- Ensure youth will receive referrals to appropriate services through their mentor

## How Volunteers Can Benefit

- Gain valuable experience for your resume
- Make a difference with a youth who needs someone like you – Volunteering just 6 hours a month makes a big difference
- To share knowledge and experiences
- Receive financial support and/or free passes to assist you in taking your youth on outings
- Receive ongoing training in areas such as:
  - Cultural awareness
  - Life-skill coaching
  - Conflict resolution
  - Online safety
  - Mental health
  - Healthy boundaries
  - Referrals to services
- Both Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal volunteers are needed

If you are interested in becoming a mentor please call the Kinnections Program at 604-254-7732 or email kinnections@unya.bc.ca

## Who Can Participate?

- Aboriginal youth ages 15-19
- In Care of MCFD or VACFSS or on a Youth Agreement

## Referral Form

If you want a mentor, all you have to do is fill out this form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

We need your Social Worker's information so we can talk to them about getting you a mentor

Social Worker: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you can't get their signature before sending in the form, don't worry we'll get it for you)

**Fax completed form to  
604-254-7811 or drop off at 1618  
East Hastings Street**