

UNYA NEWS

YOUNG BEARS LODGE

Our Native youth alcohol and drug treatment program has just moved into a new house which will allow them to take on a full group of five youth. Young Bears had their open house on April 4/02. There were about 50 youth, youth workers, community workers, and funders on hand to witness this wonderful event. We thank all those who have given us their support during our transitional period to becoming more stable in our new house. The Young Bears Lodge is a sixteen-week program for 13 – 18 year old Native youth. This program includes individual and group counselling, recreation, cultural teachings, group outings, arts & crafts, academic opportunities, and basic lifeskills.

HOMEWORK CLUBS

UNYA has been awarded a two-year contract through the Population Health Fund to set up a series of homework clubs for Native youth in the Vancouver School system and in some community service organizations. The two full time workers will be responsible for finding and contracting with volunteers including VSB staff to run the homework clubs. They will act as a support team to help set up the clubs and ensure there are enough volunteers, but local schools or community agencies will have to be responsible for running the homework clubs after the initial set up period. We will be starting in five sites, then once a homework club is set up and stable, the team will then move on to another location. We will set up as many homework clubs as possible over the two years of this project. Beyond the two years, we hope to find additional funding to keep on at least one staff person to act as a support person to all of the homework clubs. We hope to have our first homework clubs up and running in May.



NEW WEBSITE

We recently had our website redesigned by Greg Pierre a Native youth who also painted our logo onto our front window. Please be sure to log on and see all of our program and service info at:

www.unya.bc.ca

Native Youth Drop-in Centre

A reminder that our Drop-in Centre is open from 5 – 10pm on Mondays and 3 – 10pm from Tuesday to Friday. The Drop-in Centre is for 15 – 24 year old Native youth. We have computers, a pool table, arts & crafts, U & Me Discussion Groups, and more. Please drop

Did you know? That the transition years of school, grades 7 – 8 and grades 8 – 9 are the most difficult time for a youth in school? This is due to not having the stability of a single classroom, the shock of a new school, much less teacher support, too much freedom, not enough social support, and many other variables that leave a youth vulnerable to school drop out.

BASKETBALL CAMP

UNYA's School Support Team hosted a week-long Native youth basketball camp during spring break. Thirty 11-14 year old youth were coached by SFU's Assistant Coach Steve Dynie. They were also supported by the Aries Project, six youth peer helpers, Bladerunners, Future Shop, and the Royal Bank. Congratulations to all those youth who took the challenge and learned many new skills.



QUICK FACT: There are approximately 60,000 Aboriginal people in the Vancouver area, of which over half are under the age of 25. That means there are at least 30,000 Native children and youth in the Vancouver area.

CHEHALIS YOUTH CAMP

The Chehalis Youth Healing Camp has finished hosting a young men's camp and is currently hosting a young women's camp. This camp is meant to prevent youth from becoming homeless by helping them to learn cultural teachings, lifeskills, and positive alternative to drinking and/or doing drugs. The camps are six weeks long.

SEY MANUAL

UNYA will be releasing its manual on sexually exploited Native youth issues in May. This manual is focused on community development. We will be providing basic information about sexual exploitation, a review of existing services to identify gaps in the continuum of care, recommendations based on those gaps, a list of ways in which the Native community can help end this large problem, and a section for parents and youth that will provide scenarios of recruitment, list warning signs, identify youth who are at-risk of being recruited into the sex trade, ways in which parents can talk to their children about sexual exploitation, and where youth or their parents or guardians can go for help.

SUMMER DAYCAMP

UNYA's School Support Team will host another Native youth summer daycamp for youth aged 12 – 14 in Vancouver's Eastside. The daycamp will be focused on teaching youth positive group interaction, the importance of education, learning about resources in the community, and supporting those youth who are in the transition years of grade 7 – 8 and grades 8 – 9. Please check with the first Nations Support Worker at your child's school at the end of May for registration info. Please note that there is limited space available, that youth must be willing to learn new skills while attending this daycamp, and that the camp will only run four days of the week, and six hours a day.

Did You Know: that there is an Aboriginal youth specific website? It is at www.ayn.ca. Check it out, it is full of great links, ayn gear, chat rooms, events, game links, daily rants, and cyberskins a forum for Native youth voice.

For your info:

Many people have been assuming that unya is a part of the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, but we are not. We do rent space from them for the AWAY and Aries Programs, but we are a separate organization that has been around since 1989. The following is a list of the Urban Native Youth Association's programs and services:

UNYA Programs:

BYRC Youth Worker
AWAY Program
Homework Clubs
Aries Project
Aboriginal Safehouse
Native Youth Hostel
Young Bears Lodge
Chehalis Youth
Healing Camp
School Support Team
Prevention/Outreach
Team
Native Youth Drop-in
Centre

CONTACT INFO

Main Office

1640 E. Hastings
Street, Vancouver,
BC, V5L 1S6

Phone: 604-254-
7732

Fax: 604-254-7811

Email:
unyainfo@unya.bc.ca

Website:
www.unya.bc.ca



HELPING HANDS

UNYA still has copies of *Helping Hands: Empowering Native Youth*, which is a manual that was created to help Native youth find programs and services in the Vancouver area. These services include schools, counselling, arts programs, free stuff, cheap meals, drop-in centres, community centres, housing info, cultural info, cultural programs, drop-in clinics, A & D treatment programs, detox services, support services, safehouses, parenting programs, pregnancy services, legal services, advocacy groups, victims services, pre-employment programs, anti-violence services, and more. The manual was produced by two Native youth who compiled all of the information and four other Native youth who contributed artwork and poems. There are copies specifically for youth and some for parents, guardians, service providers, and school support workers. Please drop by the office if you would like a copy.

SEY VIDEO

UNYA will be producing an educational video on sexually exploited Native youth issues. The video will focus on prevention of youth being recruited into the sex trade and other useful information. A Native youth will be hired to carry out the project. The video will be available for schools, parents, and others who live or work with Native youth. We hope to finish the project by the end of summer 2002.

V.A.C. Youth Portfolio Mtg.

Just a reminder that the Vancouver Aboriginal Council's Youth Portfolio meetings are held on every third Thursday of the month at 1:30pm. They are usually held in the Chief Simon Baker Room at the Friendship Centre. The group usually discusses current youth related activities or youth related concerns. They also try to work together to find ways to address issues in the community. See you there.