

Growing Support

The NYC continues to gather support from youth, community members, steering committees, all three levels of government, and the private sector. Everyone is on board, now we just have to make it happen! What can you do to help make this project a reality, sooner rather than later? Write to your local MP or the Prime Minister and spread the word amongst your family, friends, or co-workers.

Adam's Star is Rising

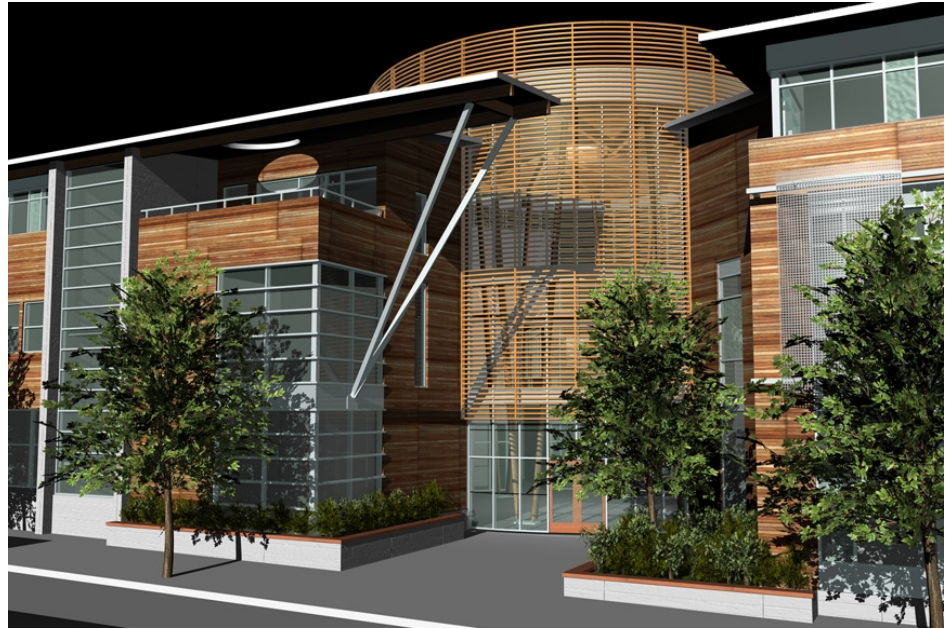


Adam Beach has been working tirelessly on Native youth issues for many years, including as a Patron for the Native Youth Centre. His acting career has skyrocketed recently, yet Adam continues to support community initiatives that he believes can make a difference. Thanks Adam for continuing to support Native youth on their journey to realizing their dreams.

Project Patrons

Dr. Evan Adams
Adam Beach
Thomas Berger
Dr. Martin Brokenleg
Chief Leonard George
Peter Mansbridge
Lee Maracle
Terry-David Mulligan
James Taras

Native Youth Centre Meets Government, Private Sector & Community Priorities



The Native Youth Centre project is a unique opportunity for all levels of government to partner with the private sector and the Aboriginal community to address an urgent need with a well thought out and pragmatic solution that will benefit all Canadians.

In Vancouver, the Youth Funders Table has identified youth hubs as a priority for the delivery of youth services. The Youth Funders Table is comprised of the major government and private funders of youth services.

In 2005 the BC Ministry of Children & Family Development consolidated all of their services in Vancouver for at-risk youth into four youth hubs. We have been chosen as one of the hubs to provide services to Native youth.

In February of this year, the Government of Canada identified the following as their top priorities:

- 1) Further tax reductions as part of a comprehensive economic agenda;
- 2) Continued steps to tackle crime;
- 3) Further strengthening Canada's global image;
- 4) Strengthening the federation by addressing Senate reform and fiscal balance with the provinces;
- 5) Clear, decisive steps to protect our environment.

We continue to identify how the Native Youth Centre will benefit all Canadians, not just Native youth. The NYC will help to reduce taxes through cost savings in the areas of justice, healthcare, education, child welfare, and social assistance (approx. \$13.7M per year); will help reduce crime by providing safe and relevant programming, will help to improve Canada's global image in relation to its First Nations people; will support the goals of Vancouver and British Columbia; and will be a showcase environmentally friendly building.

The NYC also fits with many priority areas of the private sector and foundations who are interested in partnering with ourselves and the three levels of government to make this important project a reality.

Just as importantly, our social and economic benefits analysis shows that local community centres, the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee, the Greater Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy, and youth themselves have all identified the Native Youth Centre as an initiative that will go a long way towards meeting the needs of the Vancouver community. The NYC project has received support letters from organizations locally, provincially, and nationally.

Making a Difference, One Youth at a Time



Eighteen years experience has led to long-term engagement of youth. Chelsea is one example of how youth progress through our programs over time.

Chelsea is a member of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation and has been involved with UNYA for ten years. As a 13 year old, Chelsea's first contact with us was with the Young Girls Group, then at 15 she accessed our Drop-in Centre, she also joined the Young Women's Drum Group, played floor hockey and basketball, and went on 4 canoe journeys.

Chelsea has volunteered in fundraising efforts for youth activities and developed a partnership with our local Safeway to raise funds for our programs. Now we are proud to say that Chelsea is the Assistant Coordinator for our computer lab.

Chelsea says "UNYA staff have always had a positive influence in my life, and have helped me with guidance and support through out the years". Chelsea "thinks that it is great that the NYC is being built. It will be a centralized place to have access to a variety of services".

Chelsea is a great role model for Native youth and adults alike. Her drive and openness to support have helped her to recognize and take hold of opportunities that UNYA and others have offered her.

Campaign Chair Honoured with Award

We are proud to share the great news that our Capital Campaign Committee Chairperson, Melanie Mark, was presented with the YWCA's Young Woman of Distinction of Award in 2006.

Melanie was honored for her long-term commitment and work on youth issues, particularly in the Aboriginal community. Her advocacy work includes co-authoring two reports to help combat the sexual exploitation of youth (*Sacred Lives* in 2002 and *Full Circle* in 2003); serving on many community boards, and speaking at conferences. In addition she has been the Chair of our Capital Campaign Committee for three years.

Her current work includes being a board member of the Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre, an Advocate with the Child and Youth Officer Office of BC, Chairperson of the



Aboriginal Community / Vancouver Police Dept. Working Committee, and a spokesperson for the Native Youth Centre. Recently, she was nominated for the Business in Vancouver Forty Under 40 Awards.

Of course, Melanie also has a personal life which includes raising another leader of tomorrow, her three year old

daughter Maya. In 2005, she earned a BA in political science and sociology.

Melanie continues to be a role model for Aboriginal youth. She is proof positive that when provided with meaningful and accessible programs, services, and opportunities Aboriginal youth can accomplish anything.

What is the Native Youth Centre?

The Native Youth Centre is a 65,000 square foot facility that will allow us to consolidate and expand upon our current 18 programs. The new programs will help to fill gaps in services specifically focused on arts, meeting space, pre-employment, young parents, culture, and prevention services to help youth reach their full potential.

The Native Youth Centre is an innovative response to the current and future needs of Native youth in Greater Vancouver. It is a youth-driven, community-based project that will be the first of its kind in North America.

The NYC will provide a single point of entry to a dynamic hub of programs and services at the corner of Hastings Street and Commercial Drive in Vancouver.

Using a holistic, preventative, and culturally relevant focus, the NYC will consolidate and expand on UNYA's current programs and services and provide greater opportunities for community partnerships.

The NYC will include a gymnasium, community kitchen, drop-in programming, computer lab/learning centre, spiritual space, and an arts and culture studio, among other diverse programs and multi-functional spaces.

The NYC will provide Native youth with increased access to life skills, job training and education, as well as social, cultural, arts, and recreational activities.

The NYC will be a community landmark that will benefit Vancouver as a whole. It will be energy efficient, environmentally sound and have LEED certification. It will also reflect a strong sense of Aboriginal culture in materials, function and design. The Native Youth Centre will help enable generations of Native youth to feel a sense of belonging, and develop the knowledge and self-confidence that are the foundations of success in life.

What is a Hub Model of Services?

A hub model of services is a single site with a variety of programs and services that range from prevention to follow-up. Hubs are developed to help ensure accessibility and usually focus on particular populations.

Hubs provide a 'one stop shop' that focuses on program integration to encourage cross program usage and referrals. Hubs encourage, and make it much easier, for youth to access services to meet their immediate and long-term needs. The integrated model and co-location of services then serves an important function of encouraging youth to access services that they might not otherwise know of, or access.

All three levels of government have endorsed youth hubs as a means to provide relevant and effective services to youth.

The City of Vancouver "supported the development and ongoing sustainability of the new hub model of youth service delivery to provide a "one stop shop" approach for youth to access a diverse range of programs" and that the City's Social Planning Department was "working with [UNYA] in the development of a new permanent site for their organization".

In 2005, the BC Ministry of Children & Family Development consolidated all of their services in Vancouver for at-risk youth into four youth hubs. We have been chosen as one of the hubs to provide services to Native youth, and have been providing these programs for almost two full years with great demand and success.

The Government of Canada's Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples stated that "urban Aboriginal youth centres are a key component to providing that vital weave of support for Aboriginal youth... youth emphasized... the need for facilities where they could come together in a comfortable and welcoming environment... a safe place, free from alcohol and drugs, where they could be with their peers, develop their interests, learn from elders, or simply hang out." (Urban Aboriginal Youth: An Action Plan for Change. 2003. p. 51)

We believe that creating a hub of services for Native youth will help us to reach more youth, and expand upon our current successes in providing fiscally sound and accessible services for youth that are making a positive difference in their lives.

Why Vancouver and Why Now?

Vancouver is the ideal place to build a Native Youth Centre for many practical reasons which include being a project that will bring real and long-lasting results, and the unique landscape in Vancouver due to many events that are converging all within the same time period. This type of convergence is rarely seen and makes the NYC project unique within Canada and beyond. The time to act is now, while all parties are on the same page so that everyone can reap the economic and social benefits that this centre will bring.

- Our strong reputation with government and other funders is based on our 18 year history of fiscal responsibility, program development, volunteer recruitment, youth involvement, and our 95 plus community partnerships
- The BC Ministry of Children & Family Development has adopted a hub model of services for at-risk youth in Vancouver. In consultation with community, we were chosen as the Aboriginal Youth Hub.
- The Youth Funders Table, which is comprised of government and private funders of youth services in Vancouver, has formally adopted the hub model of services as the most appropriate way to provide services to at-risk youth
- Private sector donors have committed funds to the NYC to ensure the urban Aboriginal youth population is supported
- The 2010 Olympics are a great opportunity to showcase the NYC as a model for cooperation and action on urban Aboriginal youth issues. We look forward to hosting Olympic community-based activities in 2010.
- All 3 levels of government have been on our Advisory Committee for the past four years. The NYC is a prime example of what can be accomplished if all levels of government partner with the private sector and Aboriginal community to create real and lasting change.

Environmental Design

The Native Youth Centre is being designed to be as energy efficient as possible in order to fit with Aboriginal values of protecting the environment, and to reduce energy costs for the building to help ensure our long-term sustainability.

Leadership in Energy Efficient Design (LEED) is the standard used for rating energy efficient buildings in North America. Ratings include basic certification, silver, gold, and platinum. We will definitely reach the gold level for converting a 'brown site' (gas station), being on many major bus routes, from our use of glass and wood throughout, and through our well thought out design that is meant to make the building as user friendly and cost efficient as possible.

Our use of glass and wood will also contribute to the overall look and feel of the building by creating a feeling of openness while also letting natural light reach inside the building.

We will be working with First Nations Bands and forestry companies to help identify how they can contribute to NYC. We're sure many will recognize the benefits of donating lumber and its transportation to a project which will greatly benefit urban Aboriginal youth, and also has the benefit of contributing to the long-term sustainability of our planet.

Our Experience

We have been providing programs and services in Vancouver for over 18 years, we have over 80 staff, 90 community partners, and over 100 volunteers. In addition to our 18 programs, we also develop and share resource materials with the broader community, provide advocacy, serve on many community and government advisory bodies, and work to ensure all service providers have programs and service that are relevant and accessible to Native youth.

We are proud to say that we have developed a strong reputation for our fiscal responsibility, partnership development, advocacy, community development, youth inclusion, and program development. This proven track record led to our designation as the Aboriginal Youth Hub in Vancouver. Through a community consultation process we were chosen by the community to develop the Aboriginal Youth Hub.

We are proud to say that we not only provide relevant services to Native youth, we also engage a diversity of youth throughout our organization. In addition, youth have been engaged throughout the development of the Native Youth Centre from program design, to development of the logo and permanent donor recognition, outreaching to youth, and participating in meetings as spokespeople.

www.nativeyouthcentre.ca

Permanent Donor Recognition

Our Board of Directors has developed a number of ways to show our appreciation to those who donate to the Native Youth Centre capital campaign. These permanent donor recognition opportunities are categorized by the amount of donations, but all donors of \$20 or more will receive a thank you letter and have their name included on our glass wall within the Native Youth Centre.

Our largest donors will have their names included on an art installation in the main foyer of the NYC. The picture to the right is the Native youth artist's rendering of the approximately 8' x 10' piece of art. Other recognition opportunities include your name on an art installation outside of the building either on one of the main artworks, on an art installation by the front entrance, or on plaques in the sidewalk leading up to the NYC entrance.

All artwork will be created by Native youth. Please join us in reaching our goal. You can see more detailed information online at www.nativeyouthcentre.ca



NYC Invited to Chile

The Native Youth Centre Team is proud to have been invited to have one of our members join the Canadian delegation to attend the Expert Group Meeting on Urban Indigenous People and Migration in Santiago, Chile at the end of March. Our Capital Campaign Chairperson Melanie Mark made the trip down to represent both the project and Canada.

The trip was a great opportunity for her to see how other Indigenous people from around the world are adapting to the vast urban migration of Indigenous people to urban settings, as well as to network with other participants.

Melanie's previous experience in attending and networking at international events proved invaluable as she made sure to network with as many people as possible to raise the profile of the NYC. Her work included handing out project packages, business cards, and chatting with people about our unique project.

Thanks to the Department of Indian & Northern Affairs through the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for their support in ensuring that the Native Youth Centre has access to great opportunities such as this. We look forward to more partnerships that can help to make the NYC a reality.

Ways To Get Involved

- Spread the word
- Attend our events
- Refer people to our website
- Volunteer at events
- Send us information about who we might approach to gain either a letter of support or financial support
- Donate - mail a cheque or donate securely at www.nativeyouthcentre.ca
- Transfer air miles to us so that we can travel to promote the NYC

Letters of Support Received

- Many community organizations
- First Nations
- Vancouver Aboriginal Council
- Assembly of First Nations
- Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre
- Metis Nation of BC
- Greater Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy Steering Committee
- UMAC Youth Advisory Committee