

Education & Training

Aries Program - educational day program for youth 13-18 years. Includes academics, lifeskills, training, A & D awareness, recreation, and cultural enrichment.

Cedar Walk Program - educational day program for youth ages 13-18 years. Includes academics, lifeskills, recreation, and cultural enrichment, with a focus on employment & training.

Kinnections Program - connects 15-19 year-old youth to volunteers who act as mentor, advocate, and role model as they transition from long-term care into independent living.

Mentorship Program - connects youth 12-18 years with volunteer mentors who provide positive social, educational, and cultural opportunities as well as support, advocacy and guidance.

Native Youth Learning Centre – a computer lab for youth ages 15-29 years. Provides e-learning, workshops, resume writing, internet access, homework clubs, and one-to-one support to help youth gain academic and employment skills to prepare for and participate in the workforce.

School Support Team - works with VSB staff to connect youth to community resources, help them stay in and do well in school, both academically and socially, and abstain from alcohol and drug use.

New Program - Pre-Employment Program

Will include lifeskills, work experience, and one-to-one and group educational support to help prepare youth for the workforce.

New Program - Café

This functional café will serve as a training program. Youth will learn how to bus tables, wait on guests, cook, operate a register, reconcile receipts, and promote the café. Other opportunities will include catering, supporting other NYC programs, and hosting private functions.

New Program - Arts & Carving Studio

This training program for will work closely with the Retail Space to provide opportunities for youth to learn entrepreneurial skills that can benefit them in their personal, artistic, and employment endeavours. Youth will learn arts skills, as well as marketing and sales skills. The Studio will collaborate closely with all programs (especially the theatre), and work on special projects in the summer months to encourage youth on summer vacation to learn while having fun.

New Program - Library

Benefits of access to research and key resources, all in one place, is incalculable. Our programs, youth, community workers, students, educators, and many others will be able to find information that can help them to better understand and respond to Aboriginal youth issues.

New Program - Retail Space

Will provide youth real-life experience in pricing, cataloguing, marketing, and selling merchandise which they have produced themselves, in the Arts & Carving Studio.

Personal Support Programs

Aboriginal Outreach Team - provides support to 12-18 year old youth who are considered at risk of becoming street-involved or entrenched because of involvement in high-risk activities and areas of Vancouver.

Aboriginal Transition Team - provides intensive one-to-one support to youth aged 12-18 years who are involved with MCFD or VACFSS. Assists youth in connecting with community resources and developing the confidence, life and social skills necessary to live independently.

Aboriginal Wellness Counsellor - works with youth ages 12-18 years to provide information & referrals, counselling, and workshops addressing mental health and wellness.

Aboriginal Youth Workers - based out of UNYA and the Broadway Youth Resource Centre at Fraser & Broadway. Provide a range of cultural, recreational, and educational group programming, outings, referrals, advocacy, and some one-to-one support to Native youth accessing UNYA, BYRC, local schools, and/or community centres.

Alcohol & Drug Counsellors - offer individual and group counselling sessions for youth ages 13-21 years, at various locations in East Vancouver.

Alcohol and Drug Counsellor at BYRC – supports youth ages 13-24 years through individual and group counselling, information & referrals, and workshops to raise awareness regarding alcohol and drug prevention, and assist youth in making positive life choices.

Mediation Program - works with youth ages 12-18 years to help youth positively address issues in their lives by providing mediation, communication skills, workshops, and referrals. Referral required.

Native Youth Drop-in Centre - a safe, fun and healthy space that is run for and by youth ages 15-24 years. Hosts discussion groups, arts & crafts, movie & video nights, pool & foosball, internet access, cultural activities, and group outings. Referrals, a volunteer program, and some snacks also provided.

New Program - Pre-teen Drop-In Centre

A safe, fun and healthy space for youth ages 12–15 years. This program will be a key point of access that will engage younger youth and provide cross-program referrals to keep them engaged in healthy activities.

New Program - Youth Drop-In Clinic

A free and confidential resource for Native youth. Medical practitioners will provide health care information, basic health care, and referrals.

New Program - Childminding / Childcare

The addition of a childcare program will offer many new opportunities for young parents to pursue sport, recreational, cultural, educational, training, and employment opportunities while their children are being cared for. Children in the program will learn age-appropriate skills, including positive interpersonal skills. Youth will also have an opportunity to train and work in the childcare program.

New Resource - Elders/Youth Lounge

Will provide informal opportunities for youth to meet and interact with Elders. Elders will also have opportunities to share their knowledge with youth in all program areas.

New Resource - Spiritual Space

Will be a safe place for youth to learn about and practice their spiritual beliefs, and access a quiet place for solitude and reflection, as needed.

New Resource - Sweatlodge

Will provide a space for accessible, urban-based cultural ceremonies and teachings which will be available to Native youth who might not otherwise have or participate in such opportunities.

New Resource - Greeting / Resource Area

This central gathering place will provide opportunities for youth to volunteer, fulfill practicums, and gain work experience while helping to provide info and referrals to other youth. Youth will be able to use interactive information kiosks to find out about where they can access support, as well as educational, training, and employment programs and services.

Residential Programs

Aboriginal Youth Safehouse - a safe place for youth 16-18 years old to help them make the first move from the streets. Maximum seven-day stay, with possibility of extension for those youth who are actively working towards positive change in their lives. Open 24 hours a day.

Ravens Lodge - a residential program for youth ages 11-15 years. VACFSS placements only.

Young Bears Lodge - a five-bed resource for 13-18 year old youth. The sixteen-week program includes individual and group counselling, recreation, cultural teachings, outings, arts & crafts, academic opportunities, and lifeskills.

Young Wolves Lodge - a five-bed, four-month residential program for 17-24 year old females who have substance abuse/misuse-related issues and are trying to work towards positive change in their lives. Also works with women to help them reunite with their children.

New Program - 2nd Stage Housing

The addition of second stage housing will provide a much-needed facility for youth who have accessed any of UNYA's other first stage housing, but still need to develop the lifeskills necessary to successfully live independently. Youth will have access to the other program areas in the Centre, and will contribute through volunteering as a part of their program.

Sports & Recreation & Arts Programs

AYF Sports & Recreation Program - offers diverse sports & recreation, leadership and volunteer opportunities for youth ages 11-23 years old as a means of fostering youth skills development. Activities include leadership and skills training, with a focus on encouraging youth not currently active to become involved.

New Resource - Gymnasium

The gymnasium will greatly increase the depth and breadth of activities that can be offered to youth within UNYA, and in partnership with other community organizations.

New Program - Theatre

A new community resource to create and host youth productions, which will also provide state of the art facilities for youth to express themselves through the arts, will be a resource for all UNYA programs, and a place to host meetings and conferences. Youth will have opportunities to learn about all aspects of theatre production, including lighting, directing, box office sales, marketing and promotion, and design.

New Resource - Multi-purpose Rooms

Will provide new community resource that will allow us to expand our programming and community partnerships.