



Circle of Eagles Lodge Society Spring Newsletter 2019



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Background of Circle of Eagles Lodge (COELS)

Circle of Eagles Lodge Society was incorporated as the Allied Indian and Metis Society on May 29, 1970. The Society formally changed its name to the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society at its 25th anniversary, 1995.

Vision

Circle of Eagles Lodge Society (COELS) envisions Indigenous Brothers and Sisters leading healthy, balanced lives as empowered individuals, within their families, communities, cultures and traditions.

Mission

COELS supports Indigenous Brothers and Sisters leaving federal institutions and those dislocated from society, to reintegrate into Community by providing respectful wholistic services and culturally safe spaces.

Programs and Services

Programs and services of COELS are developed through strategic conversations with knowledgeable stakeholders. They include former and current Brothers and Sisters of COELS, community organization partners, Coastal Health frontline workers, Elders, community members, Corrections Services Canada, Parole Officers and COELS Board of Directors, Management and Staff. The goal is to bridge the gaps of existing good community programs and services with COELS in house programs.

Head Office Administration

6520 Salish Drive
Vancouver B.C. V6N 2C7

Tel: 604-428-7963
Fax: 604-874-3858

Naa-na-himyis Brothers Healing Lodge

Tel: 604-874-9610
Fax: 604-874-3858

Anderson Lodge Healing Centre for Women

Tel: 604-874-1246
Fax: 604-874-9464

COELS Resource Centre

2008 Wall Street
Vancouver B.C. V5L 1J5

Tel: 778-658-5760
Fax: 604-874-3858

Board and Staff Directory

Board of Directors 2018-2019

Shelley Joseph, President
Garry Jobin, Vice President
Maggie Joseph, Treasurer
Darryl Ghostkeeper, Secretary
Lucy Wallace
Fay Nelson
Rick Lavallee
Daryl Gray

Staff

Merv Thomas, Chief Executive Officer
Barb Ellis, Director of Operations
Laverne Snow, Finance Manager
Lucie Lacaille, Administration

Brothers Lodge

Danette Delorme, House Manager
Craig Snow, Admin Asst.
Ellen Stewart, House Supervisor
Artemis Lai, House Supervisor
Darcy Erickson, House Supervisor
Sharon MacAlpine, House Supervisor
Kelsey Pootlass, House Supervisor
Sidney Phillips, House Supervisor
Bruce Clayton, House Supervisor

Womens Lodge

Velma Albert, House Manager
Ida Joe, Administrative Assistant
Claire Cameron, House Supervisor
Chona Ureta, House Supervisor
Lisa Snow-White, House Supervisor
Mavis Williams, House Supervisor
Laurie Ahdemar, House supervisor
Linda August, House Supervisor
Andrea Peters. House Supervisor

Circle of Healing Program

Barb Ellis – Program Coordinator
Housing and Supports Program
Crystal Roy, Housing Support Worker
Rob Bain, Housing Support Worker

K'emk' emalay Indigenous

Pre-Employment Skills Training

Isadore Phillips, Program Coordinator

Elders

Ross Muelforth, Elder
Lorraine Muelforth, Elder
John Delorme, Elder
Ray Thunderchild, Elder

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Message from the CEO

By Merv Thomas

This has been one of the most challenging and heartbreaking times in recent memory for me as well as the Indigenous communities, not only in Vancouver, but also nationally and internationally. But Indigenous people are resilient, and we always continue to move forward.

We want to thank Mr. Ken Clement for his 25 years of service, volunteering his time serving not only on the Board of Directors of the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society (COELS) but also many other Boards, committees both nationally and internationally. For years at COELS, he always made a point of sharing a meal with the Brothers and Sisters on Christmas Day as well as other holidays. His leadership has been a mainstay at COELS, and it will be missed. I, the Brothers and the staff continue to support him, and we want to ensure that he knows that his years of dedicated service will not be forgotten.

Renaming Ceremony

Along with all of life's and work challenges, there are also many exciting events that are being planned for COELS. One of which is the Renaming Ceremony of the Brothers' Lodge to Naa-na-himiyis Brothers' Healing Lodge, which will be held on March 15, 2019. The Ceremony will start at the Judge Alfred Scow Gym at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre at 1607 East Hastings Street. Lunch and refreshments will be served.

Marge White was the founding President of the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society and she was also a former Executive Director, of which there have been five over the course of its almost 50 years. Marge has also been a mainstay at COELS and her passion and commitment for ensuring that the Brothers and Sisters are supported as they reintegrate back into the community has contributed to the success of COELS.

We want to thank the Brothers of COELS for carving two totem poles in her honour. The totem poles will be unveiled at the Blessing Ceremony of the Naa-na-himiyis Brothers' Healing Lodge. Please join us for this special event.

Brothers, Sisters and the Opioid Crisis

We continue to face the challenge of the opioid crisis and Circle of Eagles Lodge Society has been working diligently to face this challenge head on. During the Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week campaign, COELS and CAAN co-hosted a community forum to seek input from key stakeholders including CSC, the Indigenous Community. This forum was held to begin the discussions of ways that we can work together to address this epidemic. A more detailed discussion can be found in this newsletter which identified some solutions.

Tsetusem Canoe Healing Journey (Camp Potlatch)

Plans are now underway, once again for the Tsetusem Canoe Healing Journey (Camp Potlatch). The first journey will be held from May 6-10th. Invitations to the Brothers have been sent out. This year we are setting aside three (3) seats for the Brothers at Kwikwexwelhp, three (3) seats for Mission Minimum and nine (9) seats for the Brothers at COELS and in the community.

Brothers are encouraged to work with their Case Management Teams earlier so that they may be granted an extended leave from the institutions. Sometimes permission may be sought at the Parole Board of Canada and it is important to apply early to ensure proper permissions have been obtained. These canoe journeys have assisted many Brothers in their healing journeys. We are looking at funds for a Sisters Journey this year.

We hope you enjoy this spring newsletter!!

Brothers Lodge to be renamed to Naa-na-himyis Brothers Healing Lodge

By Danette Delorme, House Manager

The Brothers' Lodge to Naa-na-himyis Brothers' Healing Lodge, which will be held on March 15, 2019. The Ceremony will start at the Judge Alfred Scow Gym at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre at 1607 East Hastings Street. Lunch and refreshments will be served.

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Sweat Lodge Grounds

The Sweat Lodge is finally up and running. Elder John Delorme is pouring the Brothers' sweats on Sundays and Elder Juanita is pouring the Sisters' Sweats on Wednesdays. Please note that the last Sunday of every month has been set aside for the community.

We want to thank the Brothers that helped in cleaning the grounds, you know who you are, the Sweat Lodge grounds look amazing and it is very clean. We pray that you will be blessed for your work in getting the Sweat Lodge and surrounding grounds ready for the Brothers and Sisters.

**The schedule for the Sweat Lodge is:
First – Third Sundays – Brothers' Sweat
Wednesdays – Sisters Sweat
Last Sunday of Every Month – is open to the community.**

Elders

We want to thank the Elders for all the work that they do to helping the Brothers and Sisters:

Elder John Delorme – for his work with the Sweat Lodge for the Brothers
Elder Juanita – for her work with the Sweat Lodge for the Sisters.
Elders Ross and Lorraine Muelforth – for their one on one counseling as well as taking the Brothers and Sisters for Spirit Baths and for taking them to the Longhouses as the winter ceremonies are being held.
Elder Ray Thunderchild - for teaching drumming and singing.

Staff

We want to welcome new staff members, Bruce, Rose-Marie, and Jennifer. You are truly making a valuable contribution to our team. And a big thank you to all the Managers and Staff for your work in ensuring that the safety of the community, the brothers and staff and for your assistance in helping the Brothers and Sisters successfully make their way back to their families and communities.



*You are cordially invited to a
Renaming Ceremony!*

**The Brothers' Lodge
located at 1470 East Broadway will be renamed to**

Naa-na-himyis Brothers Healing Lodge

In honor of...

Marge White

**Founding President and Former Executive Director of the
Circle of Eagles Lodge Society**

When: Friday, March 15th, 2019
Starting at 11:00 am

Where: Judge Alfred Scow Gym,
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre,
1607 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC

**The unveiling of the totem poles
at 1470 East Broadway scheduled for 2:30 pm.**

Lunch and refreshments served.



RSVP
to admin@circleofeagles.com
or 604-874-9610



Naa-na-himyis Brothers Healing Lodge



Sisters Lodge

By Velma Albert, House Manager

This newsletter comes to you in good spirits from Anderson Lodge to our Brothers and Sisters. We continue to provide programming and supports for Sisters at Anderson Lodge. The Sisters Lodge provides beds for homelessness, as well as a correctional residential facility (CRF). One of the ways we can support Sisters is if they are homeless, or are have their residency condition removed and have no financial means, staff will assist them in securing financial assistance.

When arriving at Anderson Lodge there is an initial treatment plan, the Sisters identify if they suffered from substance misuse and are wanting to seek more support. We provide information on what is available in the community such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotic Anonymous (NA) at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, Vancouver Recovery Club, and Metro Vancouver Indigenous Services Society (MVISS). As well we have an Elder and Alcohol and Drug Counsellor at Anderson Lodge.

Most of the Sisters who attend Anderson Lodge's program have a great desire for Indigenous programming and spirituality. We offer a sweat for the Sisters every Wednesday, as well as a community Sweat on the last Sunday of the month. We also hold a talking circle on Friday mornings. All Sisters are required to attend as this is the time that they share their concerns in the house and or any struggles that they may be experiencing. Once they voice their concerns/issues, they hear group feedback.

Anderson also has a Drug group and currently we have one sister that drums and sings traditional songs in the evenings after she is finished her work. It is common to come into Anderson Lodge and see Sisters working on beading, or traditional star blankets, as well as a homemade meal prepared by staff every evening for dinner.

On the 10th, Circle of Eagles Lodge Society had its annual Christmas party at the Heritage Hall. Most of our Sisters and staff and their families attended, at the party we enjoyed a homemade turkey and ham dinner. We also had a visit from Santa Clause who brought with him a sack full of presents for everyone.

For our sisters at Fraser Valley Institution, I plan to be there to meet and interview you on every second Mondays of the month. I will have information on Anderson Lodge's house rules, who is eligible to attend, and about our orientation at the Lodge upon your arrival. Nevertheless, you are all welcome to see me, even if you just want to say, "hi"; just listen for the announcement.

Musi Cho...



Anderson Lodge Healing Center for Women

Lela Joe - A Success Story



Hi, my name is Lela Joe and I attend The Circle of Eagles Pre-Employment Program. Isadore and the staff have been so helpful and supportive. I want to thank the staff of Circle of Eagles Program, they have encouraged me and have helped me so much to find the confidence that I was lacking. Thank You so much for all their wonderful help here at the program. Everyone is so awesome here at the Program it has been a wonderful experience for me being a single mom and thinking that I would never be able to find a job.

I am so very grateful to have found this program. Isadore especially has been very helpful with getting everything we need to succeed in finding a job and keeping a job. When I first came enrolled in the K'emk'emelay Employment Skills Training. I had zero confidence and no motivation to find a job, now I feel as though I have the right knowledge to go find a job that I would like to do. I feel like I can succeed, All thanks to the staff at Circle of Eagles.

I think this program is very good for anyone who would like to go find a job and have the certificates to Show that they can do whatever they want. I feel so privileged to have met and have been so lucky to have come across this program. This program has been a wonderful learning experience for me, I have met some awesome people and learned so much here at Circle of Eagles.

It has been very insightful on the skills I do have and what I am capable of. I really appreciate all the time and effort the Circle of Eagles Pre-Employment have done for me. Thank You so much. I now have the confidence and skills to get that job I have always wanted to do...



- Confined Space
- TDG
- Fall Protection
- WHIMS
- Forklift
- Food Safe
- First Aid
- Transportation Endorsement
- Traffic Control.



Sweat Lodge ceremonies for the Sisters are held every Wednesday.

Call Anderson Lodge for more information.
(604) 874-1246

Cultural and Support Programs and Services

K'emk'emelay Indigenous Pre-Employment Skills Training

by Isadore Phillips

Circle of Eagles Lodge Society Resource Center has been busy with people coming into the office and going through training programs to be certified in various areas of industry construction and other related employment opportunities.

- Fall Protection
- Confined Space
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System
- Fork Lift Operator
- Traffic Control-March 9 and 10
- Scissor Lift

Since this program began I have been watching a person participate in a training program that they have never ever thought possible due to personal beliefs and self-doubt or self-esteem issues has been very rewarding. I really look forward to duplicating a goals oriented exercise with a few of the participants who couldn't imagine what next week looked like for them let alone a month or two. Lela J has been an inspiration to us at the office watching her come out of her shell over the past few months has been wonderful. We first met this young lady was very shy and suffered from an anxiety, today she comes into the office and her presence is known as she now laughs and jokes with the staff at the office, other participants and even the facilitators. It has been such a pleasure to make acquaintance with

K'emk'emelay Indigenous Pre-Employment Skills Training

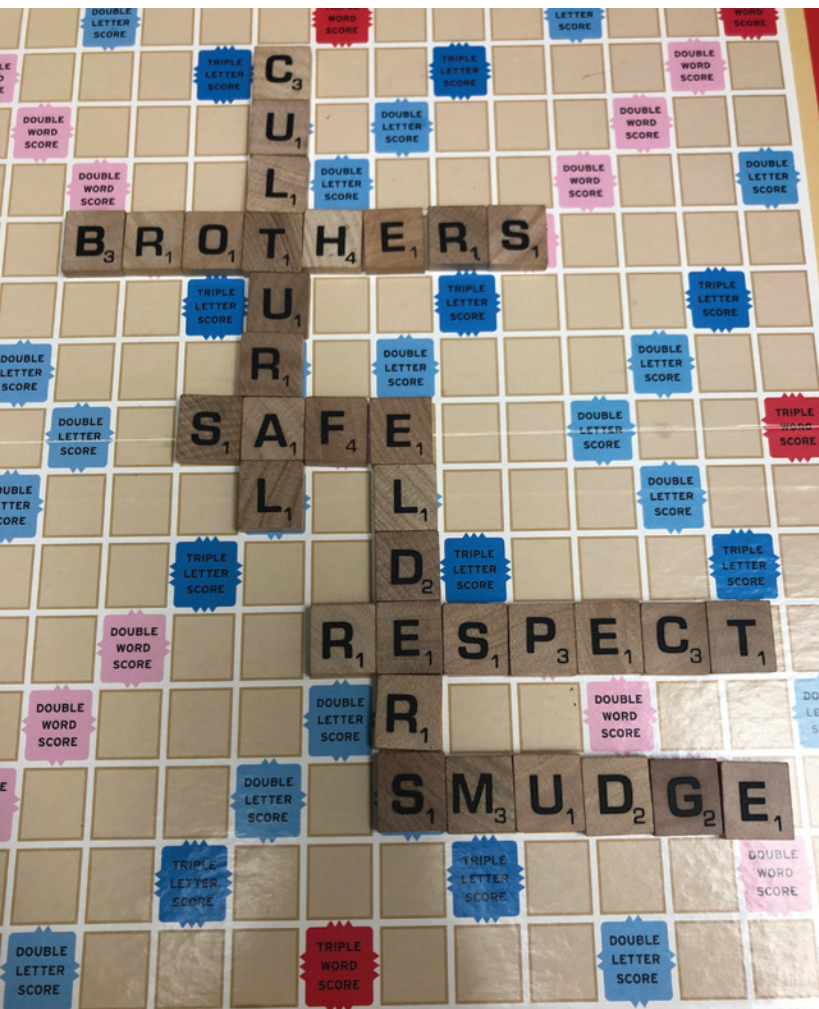
Please contact us and we can work with you to join in the program. We can be reached at coelspep@circleofeagles.com or 778-658-5760 to make an appointment.

Continuous Intake.

her for sure. I look forward to continuing to support her as she now gets ready to move into her next phase of putting into practice what she has learned.

Over the next few weeks I hope to be working with a couple of resources to begin coming into the Circle of Resource Center at 2008 Walls Street. These employers will share their stories and knowledge of what a day in their work situations land them, hopefully to share some of greater possibilities that exist with a willingness and commitment to continue learning or develop new skills. There is an employer coming into share what reclamation employment looks like for a day's work with Brendan B of Evergreen Hydro-Seeding; Dennis M from Construction has committed to come to the class and hopefully can bring in a few trades contractors with him; lastly our Traffic Control Training Agency is willing to bring in contact information for those participating names of his employers that are looking for employees.

My next task is to start going out and meeting with members of the Probation, Parole and Restorative Justice based on extended invitations to participate in and share what exactly the K'em K'emelay Employment Skills Training offers to its participants. My hope is to have this employment initiative become a part of each participants plan upon release to a halfway house where they will have more input and impact so that we can provide more quality services to the members of the houses in the Greater Vancouver Area.



Peer Support Worker

Who are we?

Here at Circle of Eagles Lodge Society (COELS) we provide support for Brothers and Sisters reintegration into the community. Our Peer Support program is a new initiative to provide one on one support with Brothers and Sisters who have lived a common experience.

What we do?

We provide emotional and social support to the brothers and sisters to ease their reintegration into the community. Having shared a common experience gives our peer support workers the extra guidance to help in common situations.

Where?

We are located at 2008 Wall Street in Vancouver BC. We are located close major bus routes and there is ample parking in the neighborhood.

When?

We are open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday to Friday

Contact Resource Center 778-658-5760

Circle Of Eagles Lodge Society - Housing & Support Program

by Crystal Roy

Circle of Eagles Lodge Society started the Housing and Support Program through the Metro Vancouver organization and opened our doors October 2016. Since then we've temporarily worked out of the head office Circle of Eagles Lodge Society at 1470 East Broadway Vancouver BC. October 1, 2018 we moved to 2008 Wall Street Vancouver BC where we have a shared space with the following community resources: Canadian Aboriginal Aids Network, CIRCLE OF HEALING PROGRAM and Circle of Eagles Lodge Society PRE EMPLOYMENT.

Our program designed to assist aboriginal brothers and sisters to get accommodation within their means and have a place they can call home. We take all the necessary steps to assist them at the best of our abilities. We branch out in the community to get assistance if they don't fall under our criteria for our assistance. We work with them to find out where it is they would prefer to live and how far they are willing to move to meet their needs and their budget. We have other resources we can send refer them to for example; The Aboriginal Friendship Center, Aboriginal Mother's Center, Luma Housing, Transformative Justice, The John Howard Society, Salvation Army. We try to line them up with resources all over to best meet their needs. With everyone's helping hands working together we can make a difference in their lives.

Call Crystal Roy at 778-658-5760 for your housing needs.

Tsetusem Canoe Healing Journey

by Merv Thomas

Tsetusem Canoe Healing Journey (Camp Potlatch)

Plans are now underway, once again for the Tsetusem Canoe Healing Journey (Camp Potlatch). The first journey will be held from May 6-10th. Invitations to the Brothers have been sent out. This year we are setting aside three (3) seats for the Brothers at Kwkwexwelhp, three (3) seats for Mission Minimum and nine (9) seats for the Brothers at COELS and in the community.

Brothers are encouraged to work with their Case Management Teams earlier so that they may be granted an extended leave from the institutions. Sometimes permission may be sought at the Parole Board of Canada and it is important to apply early to ensure proper permissions have been obtained.

These canoe journeys have assisted many Brothers in their healing journeys. We are looking at funds for a Sisters Journey this year.

Please contact Ellen and Clare at 604-874-9610 for more information.



The COELS Harm Reduction Project

Several incidents occurred during the year which made this project extremely important to address this opioid crisis with the Brothers and Sisters. In July of 2018, one of the Brothers a young 23 year old indigenous Brother from the prairies arrived to COELS and very shortly thereafter went Unlawfully at Large. Two days later he arrived back to COELS but left once again, but clearly he was under the influence of drugs. Later that day, COELS received a call that he had overdosed and that evening he passed onto the Spirit World.

Another Brother, in November, in the fall of 2018, went home for a weekend pass and COELS once again received a call that he had passed onto the Spirit World from a drug overdose. These two senseless deaths left the staff and the other Brothers reeling from grief and shock.

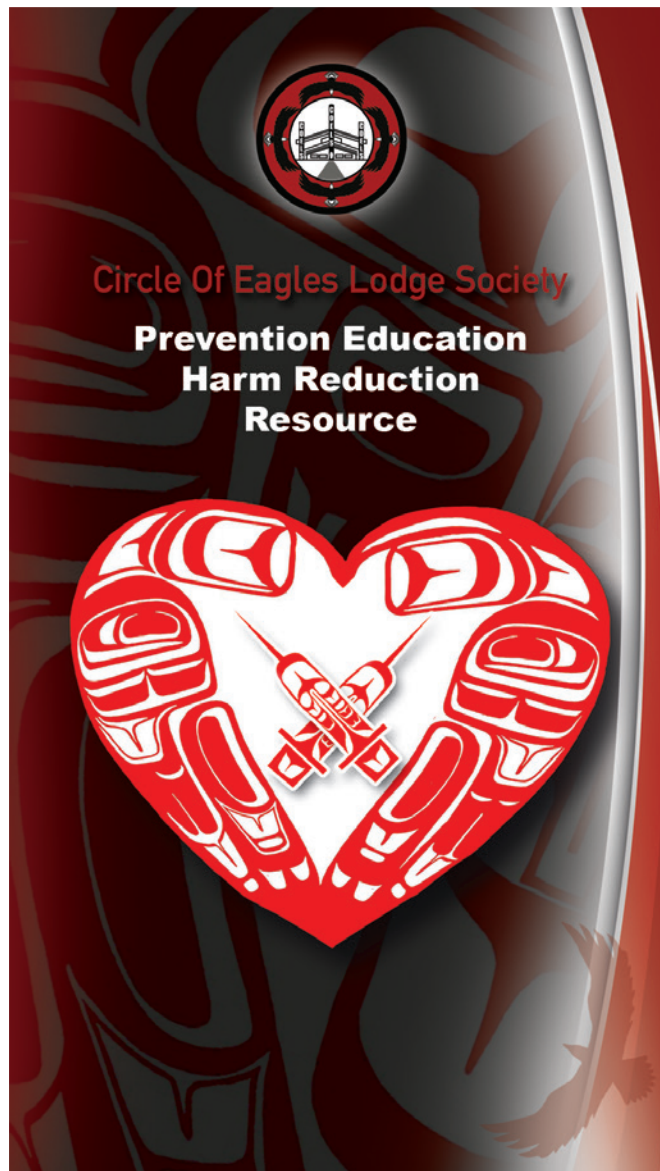
According to CSC, within the previous year, there were 51 overdoses in the halfway houses such as COELS. 29 of those were Indigenous, and approximately half of those resulted in death.

Since these deaths and overdoses, many Brothers continue to be suspended for drug use and even one Brother in early March 2019 went into what is suspected as drug induced psychosis. Clearly this project is needed and COELS went beyond the scope of this project to try and implement harm reduction approaches to arm this population with prevention education harm reduction resources.

COELS is a firm believer that people need to be educated on the risks of drug use. Indigenous Brothers and Sisters are continuing to use, and we know this because overdoses are continuing, Brothers and Sisters are being breached for drug use. We believe that we must meet people where they are at, in a spirit of non-judgment and acceptance. We do not condone drug use nor are we trying to promote the use of it, rather the COELS Harm Reduction Project is to assist people make choices that are less harmful. By incorporating harm reduction into their lives, we believe that they will be safer, from dying or overdosing, from the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis C and other Blood Borne Infections. Harm reduction saves lives.

The COELS Harm Reduction Project achieved the following results:

1. Many meetings were held throughout the year to discuss this issue. Key stakeholders including a focus group hosted by the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council was held and Brothers were able to share their experiences regarding the opioid crisis. Meetings with CSC included local and regional CSC and culminated with a face to face meeting with Anne Kelley, Commissioner of CSC, and the President of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Bersabel. At those meetings COELS expressed the challenges faced by the Brothers and Sisters. As well as some of the challenges faced by COELS as it strives to incorporate harm reduction into the organization.
2. Community Readiness Training – CAAN and COELS conducted a Community Readiness Training to see how ready the local community was in addressing this issue. Although there has been much work with other key populations, those who are leaving federal institutions were not always part of the discussions. This project brought their voice to key tables.
3. Indigenous Brothers and the Opioid Crisis Community Forum – there was a community forum held on December 6, 2018 in Vancouver, to discuss the opioid crisis and to discuss harm reduction. This gathering was co-hosted by COELS and CAAN and was part of the national Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week campaign. Key stakeholders were invited to share what their organizations were doing to address this issue. Afterwards work was done to discuss solutions. The COELS Harm Reduction Project final report is being completed and will be released shortly.
4. Prevention Education Harm Reduction Project Resources – COELS will be releasing its first Harm Reduction kit for Indigenous Brothers and Sisters. This kit will be shared locally, regionally and nationally as a resource for other regions as a wise practice.



To order this resource
contact Circle of Eagles Lodge at
604-874-9610
or check out our website at
www.circleofeagles.com
and Facebook
www.facebook.com/CircleofEaglesLodge

Cultural and Support Programs and Services cont...

Circle of Healing Outreach

by Jennifer Cupello

My name is Jennifer Cupello and I am the new outreach worker for the Circle of Healing program. I started this position in December 2018. Since that time, I have been providing support to the brothers and assisting them with their reintegration into the community.

I have been meeting with the brothers upon their release to the community to assist with developing a plan and schedule that will meet their immediate goals. This is to ensure that immediate needs (such as medication and applying for identification) are being met as soon as possible. I also meet with them regularly to discuss their progress with their goals and any concerns that they may have.

I have been providing assistance for completing various tasks in the community. I have helped them set up their medical services coverage. I have also been accompanying them to different appointments in the community. For example, attending parole officer appointments with them, taking them to the doctor's office to get refills of medication, setting up bank accounts and showing them how to use the transit system.

I have also accompanied them to different offices to obtain their identification. In addition, I have provided them with information on

different resources available in the community and how to access these resources.

Moving forward, I think this outreach position will play an important role in the successful reintegration of the brothers in the community. Many brothers are released into the community with stress and anxiety and are not familiar with available resources and how to complete certain tasks.

Also, some of them have not been on parole in the past and are not sure how to manage it or what is expected of them while in the community. They need someone to help them problem solve and show them basic life skills. I will also be providing extra support when they need someone to talk to if they are feeling stressed. By providing this type of support it may help make their transition to the community easier and reduce the number of brothers who go back into the institution.

To contact Circle of Healing Outreach Worker
778-951-9611

Social Media

COELS has started a new Facebook Page – come check us out!
www.facebook.com/CircleofEaglesLodge





**Circle Of Eagles Lodge Society
Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network**

**Prevention Education
Harm Reduction
Report**



2019

www.caan.ca www.circleofeagles.com

**To order this resource contact
Circle of Eagles Lodge Society
or Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network**

Solutions for the Opioid Crisis.

From the report, the following is a brief synopsis:

Executive Summary

This report describes the proceedings of the Harm Reduction Dialogue and Gathering hosted by the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society (COELS). COELS has the mission to provide Indigenous people with a culturally safe space to re-enter their communities through a holistic approach, such as offering holistic programs and services (i.e., addictions, employment, mental health, cultural activities, out-referrals). COELS hosted the harm reduction dialogue (on December 6, 2018) in response to a meeting with the Minister of Health to discuss recent overdose deaths of male residents at COELS' healing lodge. This report provides a summary of the information shared in breakout groups on the day of the gathering, as well as focus group findings from COELS residents with lived experience with the opioid crisis.

Challenges and Solutions Regarding the Opioid Crisis

During the Harm Reduction Dialogue and Gathering, participants were divided into breakout groups and discussed challenges and solutions for addressing the opioid crisis. Challenges in addressing the opioid crisis largely centered on challenges related to system level barriers, including a lack

of resources for healing, and working within the confines of challenging policies. A lack of access to detox and treatment also emerged as a challenge whereby locations of centres were described as inaccessible. Finally, gathering participants spoke of the challenges around fractured and disconnected relationships, where trust and collaboration between frontline workers and services users has not always been established. Solutions that were generated among gathering participants called for increased educational and awareness raising resources, as well as increased accessibility for service users to attend detox and treatment. Harm reduction practices, including increased safe injection sites and access to fentanyl testing strips was also noted as a step towards addressing the opioid crisis. Finally, culture as a valid method of treatment was identified as a wise practice as well as a solution. In particular, gathering participants spoke of the need for land-based healing options, such as sweat lodge, canoe journeys, and camp potlatch.

Considerations for next steps

Based on the findings from the dialogue, findings from the focus groups with COELS residents with lived experience, and the case study of the Portugal harm reduction model, the following next steps emerged:

Cultural healing

Encourage models that use culture as treatment; specifically, treatment blended with culture, as a way back to wellness

- Gathering participants and focus group participants highlighted the importance of replacing a culture of using, with cultural identity and community, as opioid use becomes a culture in itself that Indigenous people who are disconnected from their culture are susceptible to using drug use as a form of culture and as a way to connect to a community

Consider advocating for more healing lodges specifically long-term access to land-based healing (e.g., Camp Potlatch and Canoe Journeys)

Consider advocating for increased access to cultural space where individuals are able to smudge and conduct ceremony within treatment centres

- Advocate for programming that increase access to sweat lodges
- Advocate for more Elders in the institutions to provide guidance and support for healing to Indigenous folks who have trauma that needs to be addressed for their addictions to improve

Increase access to detox and treatment

Consider creating more geographical options for detox centres in the lower mainland (e.g. additional centres outside of DTES)

- Participants shared about the importance of having access to detox, treatment and housing that is away from the drug use environment to get on the path to recovery.

Additionally consider, more remote facilities with access to nature and increased low-barrier detox centres, to meet different individual needs to healing

- These models were highlighted as a promising practice by participants
- It was noted that healing in nature is a best practice by all participants

Consider advocating for the developing more pre-treatment for detox and treatment to address trauma, through a trauma informed lens as well as using a continuum of care model that supports individuals transitions to different stages of their journeys

- Breakout group participants shared the importance of beginning to treat trauma before the detox and other aspects of the wellness journey

"My addictions went away when I dealt with my trauma." Val Nicholson, CAAN Board Chair.

Circle of Eagles Lodge Society Board and Managers Retreat Victoria, BC

On February 27-March 3rd, the Managers and Board met in Victoria to have a strategic planning session. The Managers met prior to the Board on Thursday and Friday, and the Board joined on Saturday and Sunday. The Board and Managers updated the Vision and Mission Statement as:

VISION

Circle of Eagles Lodge Society (COELS) envisions Indigenous Brothers and Sisters leading healthy, balanced lives as empowered individuals, within their families, communities, cultures and traditions.

MISSION

COELS supports Indigenous Brothers and Sisters leaving federal institutions and those dislocated from society, to reintegrate into Community by providing respectful wholistic services and culturally safe spaces.

During the course of the planning meetings a SWOT Analysis was completed that set the course for the strategic planning priorities and key activities.



Special thanks to the following people for their incredible contribution.

Board Members

Shelly Joseph - President, Gary Jobin – Vice President, Maggie Joseph - Treasurer, Darryl Ghostkeeper – Secretary/ Elder, Lucy Wallace, Fay Nelson, Daryl Gray

The following key strategic priorities were identified:

PRIORITY ONE – FISCAL INTEGRITY

GOAL: Ensure that COELS is financially stable and sustainable.

PRIORITY TWO – OPERATIONS – PROGRAMS & SERVICES

GOAL: Review COELS programs and services, and revise as necessary, to improve the quality of existing programs and services so they become more culturally appropriate.

PRIORITY THREE – HARM REDUCTION

GOAL: Increase COELS harm reduction work based on recommendations from the community forum on harm reduction.

PRIORITY FOUR – COMMUNICATIONS

GOAL: Review, revise, and implement a communications strategy.

PRIORITY FIVE – HUMAN RESOURCES & TRAINING

GOAL: Ensure staff are supported, well-trained and treated fairly.

PRIORITY SIX – PARTNERSHIPS & ALLIANCES

GOAL: Explore and maintain partnerships with sister societies and other service organizations.

PRIORITY SEVEN – EVALUATION & STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMS & SERVICES

GOAL: Use evaluation and statistical analysis to convey the impact/ value that COEL's programs and services provide to Brothers and Sisters, community, funders and potential funders.

PRIORITY EIGHT – SOCIAL VENTURE

GOAL: Continue to develop the social venture.



Elder/ Lifetime Member:
Marge White

Staff/Management Team

Merv Thomas - CEO, Barb Ellis – Director of Operations, Laverne Snow - Finance, Velma Albert – House Manager, Anderson Lodge, Lucie Lacaille – Administrative Assistant

Facilitators – Infocus Management Consulting

Dave Baspaly, Cheryl Hogg



Upcoming Events

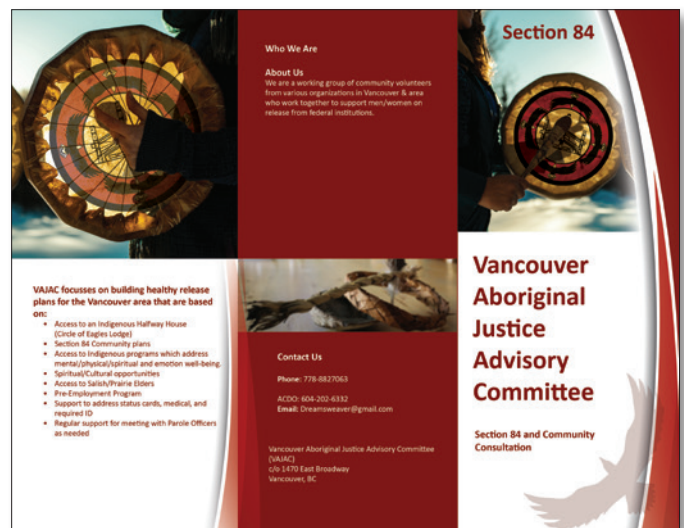
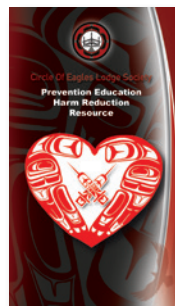
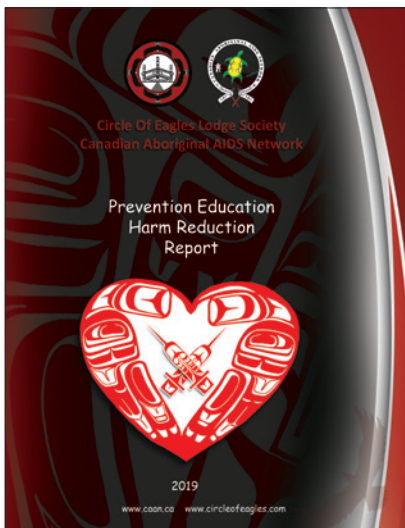
March 9 - Governor General to visit the Brothers Lodge

March 15 - Renaming Ceremony

April 1 - Intake of K'emk'emelay Indigenous Pre-Employment Skills Training

May 5-10 - Tsetsusem Canoe Healing Journey for Brothers at Camp Potlatch

Contact our office if you want to access any of our resources.





Important dates to remember

March 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5 Resume Writing	6 Resume Writing	7 Resume Writing	8 Resume Writing	9	10
11 Cover Letters	12 Cover letters	13 Job Research	14 First Aide Level One	15 PEP-Job Research Renaming Ceremony	16	17 Transportation Endorsement
18 Job Information	19 Job Information	20 Dennis Mechado Brentwood Constnruion	21 Fall Protection Training	22 Confined Space	23 Traffic Control	24 Traffic Control
25	26	27 Evergreen Hydra-seed	28	29	30	31

April 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Recruitment Week	2 Recruitment Week	3 Recruitment Week	4 Recruitment Week	5 Recruitment Week	6	7
8 Recruitment Week	9 Recruitment Week	10 Recruitment Week	11 Recruitment Week	12 Recruitment Week	13	14
15 Getting to Know ME	16 Getting to Know YOU	17 Identifying Who YOU Are	18 Identifying Personal Barrier	19 ACCESS Assessment	20	21
22 Challenges and Barriers	23 Challenges and Barriers	24 Goal Setting	25 Goal Setting	26 Developing Personal Map	27	28
29 NVIT ACCUPLACER Testing	30 WORK PLACE Essential Skills					

May 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 First Aide Level 1	2 Transportation Endorsement	3 Communications Video	4	5
6 Work Place Criminal Record Check Camp Potlatch	7 Work Place Essential Soft Skills Training Camp Potlatch	8 Work Place Essential Soft Skills Training Camp Potlatch	9 Food Safe Training Camp Potlatch	10 Transportation of Dangerous Goods Camp Potlatch	11	12
13 NVIT NEC or BCIT Tours	14 Fork Lift Training	15 Work Place Communications	16 Scissor Lift Training	17 Class Personal Day	18	19
20 Communication Skills	21 Setting up Email	22 Job Search Website Education	23 Job Search Job Descriptions	24 20 Facts Sheet	25	26
27 Resume Research	28 Resume Worksheet	29 Resume Writing	30 Cover Letters Information	31 Cover Letter Writing		

K'EMK'EM ELAY

Employment Training Skills

2008 Wall Street
Vancouver BC
778-658-5760
isadore@circleofeagles.com





Circle of Eagles Lodge Society

Head Office Administration

6520 Salish Drive Tel: 604-428-7963
Vancouver B.C. V6N 2C7 Fax: 604-874-3858

Anderson Lodge Healing Centre for Women

Tel: 604-874-1246
Fax: 604-874-9464

Circle Of Eagles Lodge for Men

Tel: 604-874-9610
Fax: 604-874-3858

Pre-Employment Program

2008 Wall Street Tel: 778-658-5760
Vancouver B.C. V5L 1J5 Fax: 604-874-3858