

# Circle of Eagles Lodge Society Annual Report 2022-2023



**Annual General Meeting  
Online Via Zoom  
June 7, 2023  
5:00 PM**





**In loving memory of all those who lost their lives in  
Residential Schools, Foster Care, and Prisons and the many  
people who lost their lives through COVID.**

**In loving memory of Terrance Machiskinic.  
Rest in Peace Brother.**

**In loving memory of Chief Alan Stager,  
a long time supporter of COELS.**



## Circle of Eagles Lodge Society 2022-2-23 Board of Directors

Darryl Gray  
Rick Lavallee  
Jason Watt  
Shelley Joseph  
Rob O'Dea  
Lucy Wallace  
Fay Nelson  
Garry Jobin  
Cheryl Dics

President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member

## 2022 - 2023 Staff List

### Administration

Merv Thomas	Chief Executive Officer
Barbara Ellis	Director of Operations
Laverne Snow	Finance
Isabella Au	Finance
Samantha Chow	Admin Finance

### Circle of Eagles Resource Team

Barb Ellis	Circle of Healing
Sarah Thomas	Housing Manager
Jennifer Cupello	Circle of Healing Outreach
Genevieve Picky	Pre-Employment Program
Crystal Roy	Housing and Support
Rob Bain	Peer Support
Amanda M	Trading Post Store Manager
Henry Peters	Cook/Housing Support
Chona Ureta	Bannock on the Run Coordinator
Laurie Ahdemar	Alcohol & Drug Counselor
Jason Lawrence	Admin/COVID Coordinator
Greg Pierre	Graphic Design

### Elders

John Delorme  
Mary Louie  
Marge White

## Naa-na-himyis Brothers Healing Lodge

Danette Delorme	House Manager
Pascal Bradley	Admin Assistant
Craig Snow	House Support Worker
Ellen Stewart	House Support Worker
Cherish Love Bear	House Support Worker
Johnny Skipp	House Support Worker
Far Sebastian	House Support Worker
Edward Maxwell	House Support Worker
Thorfinn Schultz	House Support Worker
Dupree Collins	House Support Worker
Ross Muehlfarth	House Support Worker

## Anderson Lodge Healing Centre for Women

Ida Joe	House Manager
Ida Joe	Admin Assistant
Chona Ureta	House Support Worker
Mavis Williams	House Support Worker
Lisa Snow-White	House Support Worker
Ellen Stewart	House Support Worker
Trish Leclair	House Support Worker
Stacy Pascal	House Support Worker
Rose Marie Francis	House Support Worker
Genevieve Picky	House Support Worker
Shaunee Jack	House Support Worker
Andrea Peters	House Support Worker
Elizabeth Breaker	House Support Worker





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## Circle of Eagles Lodge Society



### Head Office Administration

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Vancouver B.C. V6N 2C7

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Fax: 604-874-3858

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1470 East Broadway  
Vancouver B.C. V5N 1V6

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

### Anderson Lodge Healing Centre for Women

2716 Clark Drive  
Vancouver B.C. V5N 3H6

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

### COELS Resource Center

2008 Wall Street  
Vancouver B.C. V5L 1J5

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

### Circle of Eagles Trading Post

2008 Wall Street  
Vancouver B.C. V5L 1J5

Tel: 778-658-5999  
Fax: 604-874-3858

### Circle of Eagles Graphic Design

2008 Wall Street  
Vancouver B.C. V5L 1J5

Tel: 778-658-5999  
Fax: 604-874-3858

# Chief Executive Officer Report

By Merv Thomas, CEO

Tansi, I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional territory of the Coast Salish People. We are grateful to be allowed to live, work, and play in these beautiful lands. This has been a year of transition, with the world and COELS healing from the effects of COVID. The work that Circle of Eagles Lodge Society, its service, compassion, and cultural values is greatly needed to ensure that Indigenous Brothers and Sisters receive supports to ensure their successful return to community.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the Board of Directors for their leadership, dedication, and compassion and for giving up their time to volunteer to guide and oversee the governance of COELS. The Board has had a busy year, having had three retreats, and they have extended and revised in a small way the COELS Strategic Plan. It is attached in this report. We hope that the membership, partners, and stakeholders will read as COELS continues to expand its work towards a national level.

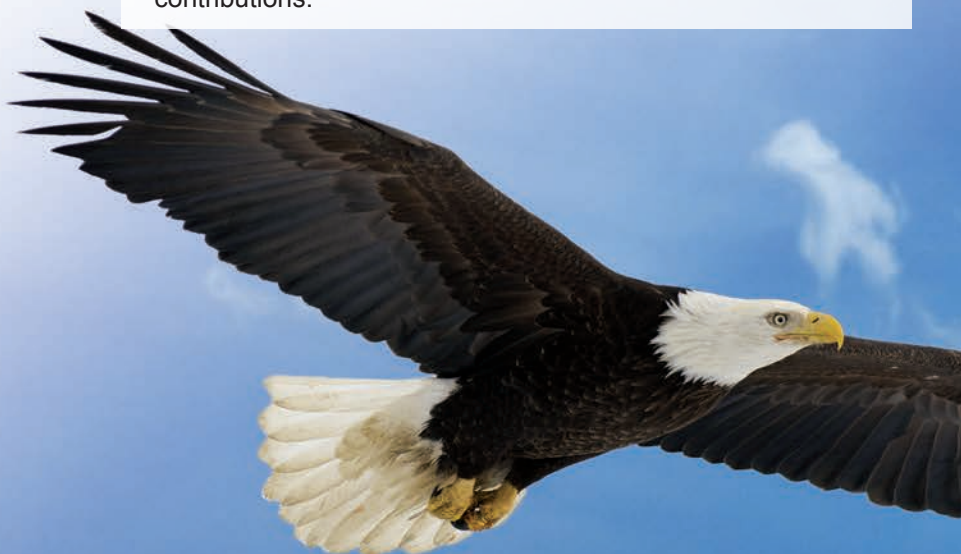
Special thanks and appreciation to the Directors and Managers of COELS: Barb Ellis, Director of Operations, Velma Albert, House Manager who left her position this year after working for the Sisters for almost 20 years, Danette Delorme, House Manager of Naa-Na-Himyis Brothers Healing Lodge, Laverne Snow, Finance Manager, and Sarah Thomas. We acknowledge their ongoing commitment to making meaningful contributions and providing leadership to carry out the programs and services for the Brothers and Sisters for whom we work, as well as the community who are experiencing homelessness.

Of course, all this could not be accomplished without the dedication of the many Elders and staff of COELS, for their compassion, dedication, and resilience in adapting to the many changes that we have experienced in the past and especially now as we continue moving beyond the pandemic. Many of the staff have been with the organization for 20 years and more, and they were honored with an award at the COELS 50th, 52nd Anniversary Gala, which was held on May 27, 2022, last year.

We also want to acknowledge and thank the Brothers and Sisters for their continuing patience and understanding. We are very proud of all your accomplishments and achievements as we have seen more Brothers and Sisters leaving our homes and services in a good way and going to their own homes to their families. We have seen Brothers and Sisters access cultural programs and services provided by COELS. And we hope for the best for all your futures.

This past year, we have had many successes. We hosted a very successful celebration honoring 50 years of service and was attended by many past and present Executive Directors, community leaders, former staff, Brothers, and Sisters. The Circle of Eagles documentary received numerous awards and was shown in festivals throughout the world. We continued to provide services to Elders with the Bannock on the Run, housed numerous people through the Housing and Supports Program, assisted Brothers and Sisters gain meaningful employment through the Pre-employment Program, continued to provide cultural supports, sacred fires, Sweat Lodge Ceremonies, and we continue to work on improving our overall programs and services. I am very proud to be working with the Management Team, Elders and staff who make this work easier as we continue to move forward and onward.

We are in the process of purchasing a building which will allow us to expand our services and provide second stage transition programs and services for those Brothers, Sisters and others who need a bit more assistance before they move to their forever homes. Thank you to Lu'ma Native Housing to the Ronald S Roadburg Foundation for their generous contributions.





We were also able to do some minor upgrades to both facilities, kitchen and dining areas at Anderson Lodge, electrical upgrades, new appliances and fixtures through a grant from Lu'ma allowed us to improve the living conditions at both lodges. We were able to get a grant for the programs for a new vehicle which will assist us to do more work with the healing journeys, the homeless programs and support for transportation.

We also experienced many challenges, continued outbreaks of COVID within our facilities, and other illnesses which impacted both staff and Sisters at Anderson Lodge. We saw a decrease in the number of Sisters being released to Anderson Lodge which almost forced us to close this program.

We continue to seek funding for a position for our Section 84. We have provided this service but have done this work from the sides of our desk and this needs more capacity and support. For over 20 years COELS has provided this service with no funding nor capacity from CSC. We hope that we can finally secure funding so that we can do this work in a more effective way.

There have been many staffing changes this past year, some long-term staff left us due to other opportunities including Velma Albert who has returned to her community to help her people. Some staff left due to housing shortages and increase in the cost of living in Vancouver. But we also have had new staff bringing new energy and ideas.

We have incredible hopes for our future. We continue to work towards our national work and engaging potential partners in other regions. We are currently working with a Metis agency in Red Deer to potentially open a halfway house there. We are working with communities in Quebec on peer support work as they seek guidance on how to work for their families coming home from prisons. We are planning to host a national gathering for communities and others who want to work with Indigenous Brothers and Sisters leaving federal corrections. There is much work needed in this region. COELS participated in a report that is currently being released on the overwhelming overrepresentation of Indigenous people incarcerated.

In closing, none of this would be possible without the ongoing support from our partners and funders.

We want to thank the Correctional Services Canada for our ongoing partnership, special thanks to Dennis Herfst and Zureen Kahn this past year, thank you to Lu'ma Native Housing Monica Day, to the Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation for the capital grant to purchase 658 Alexander for the second stage transition housing program, to Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society, Lynn White and her incredible staff, Aboriginal Mother Centre for their space in their building, Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council, and Metro Vancouver Indigenous Services Society, Greater Vancouver Food Bank, Indigenous Services Canada for their COVID funding and for funding for the Family Violence Prevention Program, and many others.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to acknowledge the membership for your ongoing support for the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society.

This concludes my report.

In respect,

Merv

# Circle of Eagles Lodge Society

## Annual General Meeting

June 7, 2023 at 5:00 pm  
via Zoom



## Agenda

### Opening Prayer

1. Registration
2. Meeting called to order
3. Election for Chair
4. Minutes of 52nd Annual General Meeting
5. President's Report
6. Chief Executive Officers Report
7. Audited Report 2022-2023 Fiscal Year
8. Appointment of Auditors
9. Staff Reports:
  - a. Circle of Eagles Resources Report
  - b. Naa-na-himyis Brothers Healing Lodge Report
  - c. Anderson Lodge Sisters Healing Lodge Report
10. Nominations for Board of Directors
11. Honoring Ceremony
  - a. Edith Anderson Awards
  - b. Presentations and Awards
12. Adjournment

### Elder

Darryl Gray

Merv Thomas

MNP Auditors

Barb Ellis

Danette Delorme

Ida Joe



# 52nd COELS Annual General Meeting Minutes

## Circle of Eagles Lodge Society Annual General Meeting Minutes June 9, 2022

**Opening Prayer** – Chief Robert Joseph

**Nominations for Chair were presented.**

**Motion #1**

That Art Zoccole accepts the nomination for Chair.

M/S/C- Lucy Wallace/Fay Nelson/Carried

Art Zoccole officially calls to order the Annual General Meeting of the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society at 5:39 p.m.

**Motion #2**

That the 2022 AGM minutes are accepted as presented.

M/S/C – Jason N/Gary Jobin/Carried

**President's Report**

Presented by Daryl Gray

**Motion #3**

That we accept the President of the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society's Report.

M/S/C – Gary Jobin /Jason Watt/Carried

**Chief Executive Officer**

Presented by Merv Thomas

**Motion #4**

That we accept the Executive Director's Report.

M/S/C – Lucy Wallace/Rob O'Dea/Carried

**Audit Report**

MNP Chartered Accountants presented the audit report for the fiscal year April 31, 2021 – March 31, 2022.

**Motion #5**

That we accept the Audit Report by MNP Chartered Accountants report for the fiscal year April 31, 2021 - March 31, 2022.

M/S/C –Rob O'Dea/Fay Nelson /Carried

**Motion #6**

That the Board re-appoints MNP Chartered Accountants for our next fiscal year 2022 - 2023.

M/S/C – Rick Lavallee/Jason Watt /Carried

**Programs Report**

Presented by Barb Ellis

**Naa-Na-Himiyis Report**

Presented by Danette Delorme

**Anderson Lodge Report**

Presented by Velma Albert

**Motion #7**

That we accept all three Manager's Reports.

M/S/C – Lucy Wallace/Rob O'Dea/Carried

**Nominations for Board of Directors**

A slate was presented to the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society membership for the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year.

**Motion #8**

That the slate presented to the membership is accepted with the following Board Members, Maggie Joseph, Shelley Joseph, Cheryl Simkin, Ruby Harry, Jason Watt, and Namaste Marsden

M/S/C – Lucy Wallace /Rick Lavallee/Carried

**Edith Anderson Awards were presented.**

- Rosie A. from Anderson Lodge
- Jason N. from Naa-Na-Himiyis

**Meeting Adjourned** at 6:59 p.m.





## Naa-na-himiyis Brothers Healing Lodge Annual Report

By Danette Delorme, House Manager

Good evening, Board of Directors, Staff and Guests, this is my report for the 2022 to 2023 fiscal year. We are a Community Residential Facility for Indigenous men that are being released from the Institutions through Canada. We accept Indigenous and non-Indigenous men that are following the Indigenous Traditional Healing path.

We want to acknowledge and express our extreme thanks to CSC, namely Dennis Herfst and Zureen for their incredible support as we navigated through these challenges.

### Overall COELS Statistics January 1st – December 31st, 2022

The following is a brief breakdown for the COELS CRF.

#### 1) Naa-na-himiyis statistical breakdown

- a) COELS overall was at 94 % capacity in 2022. There was a total of 5857 bed days out of a potential of 6205 bed days a decrease over the last fiscal year.

	# of beds	# of days	Total BD	Actual	% usage	Total # of Bros
January	17	31	527	470	0.89	18
February	17	28	476	464	0.97	18
March	17	31	527	521	0.99	18
April	17	30	510	477	0.94	21
May	17	31	527	519	0.98	18
June	17	30	510	484	0.95	19
July	17	31	527	469	0.89	18
August	17	31	527	460	0.87	18
September	17	30	510	481	0.94	19
October	17	31	527	504	0.96	21
November	17	30	510	497	0.97	20
December	17	31	527	511	0.97	20
		365	6205	5857	0.94	228
						19



2) Overall, through the year, there were 5 UALS (1 less than previous year) and 22 suspensions (compared to 18 suspensions in 2021), For a total of 27 suspensions and UALS.

There were four transfers to treatment, 0 reached stat release, 4 reached their Warrant Expiry and one Brothers passed in our Healing Lodge. For a total of 9 other exits.

		Total UALS and Suspensions	Treatment Transfer	Stat Release	FP	Res lifted	WED	Total other exits	Total Exits
	5	5	1					1	6
1		1						0	1
	1	1						0	1
1	3	4					1	1	5
1		1						0	1
	3	3	1				1	2	5
	1	1					1	1	2
	3	3						0	3
1		1					1	1	2
1	1	2	1				1	2	4
	3	3						0	3
	2	2	1					1	3
5	22	27	4	0	0	0	5	9	36

3) In terms of high risk, please note. High risk Brothers are those who have the following designations: LTSO, LTSO SR/WR and Tandem, SR/WR, Tandem Brothers. The following is a brief breakdown of each. Please note that in the case that a brother has both an LTSO/SRWR and Tandem, they are only counted once.

Tandem/DP	Tandem/LTSO/WR	Tandem/SR	LTSO/WR	SR/WR	FPWR	Total HR	HR%	Total Bros Tandem
4	4		1	8	1	18	1.00	10
4	3	3	1	5		16	0.89	10
4	3	4		4	1	16	0.89	11
5	4	4	1	3	1	18	0.86	13
4	2	5	1	2	1	15	0.83	12
5	2	6	2	1	1	17	0.89	13
5	4	4	1	3	1	18	1.00	11
5	1	5	2	3		16	0.89	11
4	1	5	2	4		16	0.84	10
4	3	4	2	3		16	0.76	11
5	3	3	2	3		16	0.80	11
6	3	3	2	3		17	0.85	11
55	33	46	17	42	6	199	0.87	134
		134						0.59

There was a total of 87% overall rate of high-risk Brothers in the facility. In terms of Tandem, 59% of the Brothers were Tandem. The Brothers came with multiple high-risk needs, including dealing with various issues, addictions, extreme trauma through their experiences with residential schools and dealing with systemic racism, many were dealing with other mental health issues, including often undiagnosed FASD, ADHD and with COVID other mental health related issues.

Drug use continues to be a major concern for COELS, that continues to maintain zero tolerance towards alcohol and drugs and even if there are suspicions to alcohol and drugs COELS maintains the right to withdraw services. They continue to breach their conditions and suspensions, a majority of which is for drug use. The current drugs that are being used are Crystal Meth and fentanyl, which in Vancouver is often poisoned. This continues to be major concern for COELS Admin.

This fiscal year we continued to follow the COVID 19 safety protocols, taking all the precautions in our day-to-day operations.

CCIB – Community Correctional Intervention Board Meetings are held on Wednesday mornings, and we continue to meet through Teams and in person every other week. This is where we review file information and discuss the Brothers that are soon to be released.

Brothers in the Institutions - I have not been able to attend the institutions in the lower mainland yet due to the COVID19 but the restrictions are slowly being lifted. I do receive phone calls and letters from the Brothers inside, this continues to be my main connection with them again this year.

Community Resource Expo – The staff and I usually attend the Expo Fairs in the Spring and in the Fall, hopefully we able to do this again soon. We attend all the Institutions in the lower mainland, and we meet with a lot of Brothers during that week and speak to them about the programs and services we have to offer.

Culture – The Sweat Lodge ceremonies are now being held on Saturdays; we also have Elders that the Brothers are encouraged to meet with to continue with their healing journey. Spiritual Advisor Laurie holds a sacred fire every second Thursday at 5:30 pm at Anderson Lodge. She is also a counselor and a cultural support person she has a smudge and medicines she shares with the group.

Camp Pottlatch – We are looking forward to when the Brothers can attend the camp again, they are usually held in the Spring and in the Fall and they help the Brothers in their healing journey. They stay for three nights and four days, they participate in the sweat lodges, healing circles, workshops and go out on the water with our very own canoe. The Elders and the Staff work with the Brothers and share their stories and their traditional knowledge.

In June Circle of Eagles Lodge Society hosted a Gala and acknowledged all the staff of all the hard work and years of service they worked at COELS. A documentary about Circle of Eagles Lodge was showcased and was well received, everyone enjoyed the event. It was a great success.

Section 84/VIJAC I continue to work with Section 84 release planning, and we meet regularly on every other Monday at 11:00 a.m. We discuss the new cases applying for a Section 84 and receive updates on the progress of some of the Brothers that have already applied. Lately there seems to be a lot more interest in the Brothers applying for a Section 84 and I am receiving more letters and phone calls from the Brothers in the Institutions wanting more information.

Activities - We were able to have a few fun activities with the Brothers to participate in, always with the safety protocols in place. We had pumpkin carving contest, a gingerbread house contest to name a few.

This year we were very busy at Christmas time, staff did a lot of shopping for gifts and treats. Santa made an appearance and delivered gifts and goodies at the Heritage Hall. The Brothers enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings.

COVID19 – The Brothers and staff kept in compliance with our safety procedures, we were given COVID19 resource manuals and workbooks to keep us informed and up to date.

Programs – Naa-na-himysis has a Pre-Employment program, Circle of Healing program, a Housing Navigator program, and an Outreach Worker. The program facilitators will have a more detailed report on their individual projects.

Staff – We have 10 house support staff that work 24/7.

Throughout the year we had a few staff leave and a few new staff that joined our team.

I want to thank all the staff for their continued dedication and hard work this past year, it is very much appreciated. This is our current staff list.

Artemas Lai – Case Management Supervisor  
Jennifer Cupello – Outreach Worker  
Pascal Bradley – Administrative Assistant  
Ellen Stewart – Full-time House Supervisor  
Thorfinn Schultz – Full-time House Supervisor  
Edward Maxwell – Part time/On-call House Supervisor  
Dupree Colins – Part time/On-call House Supervisor  
Cherish Bear - Part time/On-call House Supervisor  
Ross Muehlfarth - Part time/On-call House Supervisor  
Johnny Skipp - Part time/On-call House Supervisor  
Craig Snow - Elder

This ends my report. Thank you all,

Danette Delorme







## Anderson Lodge Healing Centre for Women

By Ida Joe, Assistant House Manager

### Introduction

Good evening members of the Circle of Eagle Lodge Society (COELS), Board of Directors, Staff/brothers of Naa-Na-Himiyis Brothers' Lodge, and Anderson Lodge staff/Sisters. This document serves as the Annual General Meeting report (AGM) for Anderson Lodge.

### Coronavirus Up-date

Although the BC Public Health made changes to the public health order – face covering, on March 11 of this year, COELS continued with its COVID-19 protocol until April 2023. Since then, COELS' eased restrictions on most of its pandemic rules to coexist with Public Health. Nevertheless, all Sisters and staff are strongly recommended to continue with the following COVID-19 Protocol:

### Staff/Sisters

- Wash hands immediately after entering Anderson Lodge
- Staff/Sisters are encouraged to wash hands or use the hand sanitizer as often as they can throughout the day
- Staff/Sisters: recommend using a face mask in the common areas except for eating/drinking)
- Remain 2 meters apart from all staff and Sisters.
- Shift Change Procedure: Staff must call in 10 to 15 minutes before reporting to work
- Upon reporting to work, staff must take their temperature with the portable thermometer in the office. Record it on the staff "Temperature Log."
- All staff must participate in the Staff Safety Plan by checking off, yes/no on the "Daily Health Checklist" document
- A daily temperature check must be taken of all Sisters and is recorded in the Temperature Logbook
- Only one or two staff members in the main office
- There is a second office in the facility for a second staff member to work
- Each office and work area must be sanitized when staff has completed their shift. This includes office

chairs, desks, computers, keyboards, pens, etc.

- All pens, hand-sets, and keys must be sanitized in the main office
- All high-touched areas must be wiped in the two-step procedure: 1. Use the spray bottle of soap/water to wipe the area clean. 2. Use the spray bottle that contains bleach/water. Wipe the areas after step 1. Let dry. This shall be done at least four times per day
- Sisters must keep the common rooms and their personal space sanitized/cleaned using the two-step method.
- Staff/Sisters must report to their supervisor/staff soon after they have learned that they, a co-worker, or another have symptoms of COVID-19
- Staff is to continually provide messaging to the Sisters that if they do not feel well, they inform someone immediately
- Staff/Sisters follow all COVID-19 policies posted on the walls of Anderson Lodge
- Follow all cleaning procedures within the facility
- Staff/Sisters review all memorandums with the clipboard labeled, "COVID-19" outside the main office door
- Staff/Sisters wipe down the tables and areas that have been used before and after each usage

All Sisters and staff were provided with personal protective equipment (PPE). They were grateful for the various equipment.

This year, one sister continues to have a job of wiping all high-touch areas such as the doorknobs, handles, stair railings, kitchen areas, dining room areas, and the living room areas four times per day. All high-touched areas must be wiped in the two-step procedure: 1. Use the spray bottle of soap/water to wipe the area clean. 2. Use the spray bottle that contains bleach/water. Wipe the areas after step 1. Let dry. This method of lessening the COVID-19 has been working for the Sisters and staff at the Lodge. At his time, I would like to thank the sister who has taken on this role as she maintains the high-touch areas three times per day. Just as last year (2022), Anderson Lodge continues to keep



our Sisters and staff safe from the Coronavirus through education. The society continued to provide workbooks and COVID-19 surveys on it. The work benefits our new Sisters as they have a better understanding of keeping free of COVID-19. Once our Sisters and staff have completed the exercise, the next step was to complete a worksheet that was included. There was a high contribution in these exercises. After each workbook has been completed, all participants received an honorarium.

### **BBQ**

To assist with staff and Sisters' COVID-19 fatigue and anxiety, COELS held a BBQ for everyone a few times this year. Our CEO brought the steaks and sausages to barbeque them. While he cooked the steaks/sausages, Anderson Lodge staff prepared salads and drinks. It was well-received by both the Sisters and our staff.

### **Anderson Women's Healing Lodge, Statistic (Homelessness Program)**

Information gathered from fiscal-year-end April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023:

In total, 8 Sisters were served. Two was between the ages of (19 – 29), five were between the ages of (30 - 54), and one was over 55 years of age.

All 8 Sisters identified as female; and they all were descendants of Indigenous heritage. Out of the 8 Sisters, five reported their marital status to be single, and three reported separated.

In terms of the immediate reason for services, two had spousal abuse, four had family breakdowns, one was stranded in the city, and one had alcohol abuse issues.

In terms of source of income/change of income, zero was employed, four were on disability, three Sisters were on social assistance, and one was reported to have no income.

While residing at Anderson Lodge, no one participated in education, and 8 had social and cultural involvement. 8 reported that they had an increase in their cultural engagement or knowledge of their heritage at Anderson Lodge.

In terms of increased access to services and programs, 18 referrals were made: 8 were made to the Spiritual/cultural program, 8 to the COELS housing program, and two were made to the Anderson Lodge's addiction program.

The major form of housing in the past year: Five reported having their own house or apartment, two reported from family house / apartment, and one came from a rooming house.

Two secured permanent accommodations, five left the program, and one did not return to the Lodge.

Anderson Lodge is in partnership with Luma Native Housing, and Corrections Service of Canada (CSC); and at this time, we would like to take this opportunity once again to thank them for assisting us in continuing our services to the homeless and Conditional Released Aboriginal women through funding our program.

### **Anderson Lodge Cultural Wellness Program**

#### **Bannock on the Run:**

It was operating out of Anderson Lodge at the beginning of the year, but due to renovations in March 2023 the project was relocated to another site. The cooking and the preparation of the meals were made at the new site, but our Sisters continued to arrange the Elders' goodie bags. One sister also participated in the food distribution. She rides with staff and assists with handing out all meals and a goodie bag to 36 elders in total.

#### **Sweat Lodge**

Anderson Lodge's sweat lodge ceremonies were postponed due to the Global pandemic in 2020. Since that time, there was no sweat lodge ceremony offered to Anderson Lodge's Sisters. However, there was a knowledge keeper and a firekeeper that held a ceremonial fire for our Sisters.

#### **Ceremonial Fire**

We have two past Sisters who light a ceremonial fire on Wednesday evenings – a knowledge keeper and a firekeeper. One of the current Sisters assisted them when one of the leads was unable to attend. Most of the Sisters enjoyed the fire. They learned the Indigenous ways of healing and worldview through drumming/singing, storytelling, people telling their stories of their journeys, and information sharing.

#### **Housing Navigator/Employment Training**

The Housing Navigator reports to Anderson Lodge on Thursdays to assist the Sisters in securing suitable accommodations. Although there were some struggles in placing our Sisters in a place that they can call home, she worked hard in reaching their goal. Some Sisters secured a home while others relocated to their family/friends' residences. Some of the challenges were, that the cost of rent continued to increase, not enough funds to cover the rent, and some places do a credit check on the Sisters and then made the accommodations unavailable to them.

COELS' employment/training officer reported to Anderson Lodge on Mondays to assist our Sisters with employment and training. COELS hired another employment officer and she commence working with our Sisters in March, of this year. Both employment officers assisted our Sisters in preparing resumes/cover letters, online job searches, employment training placements, zoom employment pieces of training, and providing our Sisters with work gear to start working. This year, the majority of work that our Sisters did was kitchen work: chefs, catering companies, and warehouse. Others worked as truck drivers delivering seafood to various restaurants, CSO in construction and one was a dog trainer.



## Staff Training

This year we continued to see value in staff training; hence, our staff is to attend five training days per year. Staff participated in 12 in person training, and 15 webinar training. The following are staff training/webinars from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023:

### Training April 2022 – March 2023

Dates	# of Staff participation	Training	Webinar Training
April 22, 2022	3 staff	Motivational Interviewing ( St Lenard's Society)	
April 27, 2022	1 staff	) First Aid Level 1 (St John's Ambulance)	
April 28, 2022	1 staff		Tenancy Law, Evictions, and Housing Advocacy in Rural and Remote Settings(HSABC)
May 4, 2022	1 staff		Low impact debriefing for frontline workers(HSABC)
May 17, 2022	1 staff	First Aid Level 1 (St John's Ambulance)	
June 6, 2022	1 staff	First Aid Level 1 (St John's Ambulance)	
June 9, 2022	1 staff	First Aid Level 1 ( WorkSafeBC)	
July 18, 2022	2 staff		Harm reduction, Naloxone Training (HSABC)
July 21, 2022	3 staff		Dispute Resolutions (HSABC)
July 25, 2022	4 staff		Gender Diversity and Inclusion (HSABC)
August 10, 2022	1 staff		Managing Hostile interactions (HSABC)
August 11, 2022	1 staff	First Aid Level 1(Work Safe)	
August 17, 2022	2 staff		Methamphetamines and Psychosis (HSABC)
September 5, 2022	1 staff		Food safe (Safe check)
September 7, 2022	1 staff		WHIMIS with GHS (Safe check)
September 8, 2022	1 staff		Trauma in Practise Informed care in Frontline settings(HSABC)
September 13, 2022	2 staff		Module 1: Drug Policy in Canada (HSABC)
September 14, 2022	2 staff		Module 2: Philosophical Underpinnings (HSABC)
September 15, 2022	1 staff		Responding to <u>ACE'S</u> in Frontline Settings (HSABC)
October 19, 2022	5 staff	Safe Talk Suicide prevention workshop (Crisis Centre BC)	
November 17, 2022	1 Staff		Naloxone Training (St Paul's Foundation)
December 8, 2022	1 Staff	Managing Hostile interactions (HSABC)	
December 17, 2022	1 Staff	First Aid Level 1 (St John's Ambulance)	
December 20, 2022	3 Staff		Urinalysis Training (CSC)
March 6 – 9, 2023	2 Staff	Risk Assessment (CSC)	
March 15, 2023	1 Staff	Food Safe	
March 27 – 30, 2023	2 Staff	Risk Assessment (CSC)	

We welcome various training for our staff to participate and to benefit our team, it would be our pleasure to join you in your training.

### **Corrections Service of Canada (CSC)**

From April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, Anderson Lodge served 17 women on Conditional Releases. 10 were on Day Parole while six were on Statutory Release with Residency, and one on full parole with Residency. Four out of the 17 CSC Sisters were of high-risk status, and three were considered high needs Sisters.

One was between the ages of (19-29), 13 were between the ages of (30-54), and three were reported to be within the 55+ category. In addition to the 17 women on Conditional releases, we also served two transgender persons. 14 were of Aboriginal descent, while three were of non-Aboriginal descendants.

For this year, out of the 17 Sisters, 15 reported their marital status to be single. Zero was married, and two were in a common-law relationship. In terms of children, out of the 17 Sisters, there were 121 children: seven of them were with family members, three were in Ministry Care, and 11 were grown adults.

In terms of employment, four CSC Sisters worked full-time, two worked part-time. And one was on old age pension.

In the fiscal year 2022/23, Anderson Lodge had some successes in assisting the CSC Sisters in the area of private accommodations; two reached their full parole, two reached their statutory release date, and one reached their Warrant Expiry Date. In addition, one transferred to another Community Residential Facility (CRF) and one transferred to a residential treatment center. Most of them were successful in securing private accommodations.

Six were suspended due to substance use, two went Unlawfully at Large (UAL), and Six remained at the facility to continue the program.

Not only does this group of Sisters attend our in-house program but attended the CSC and community programs as well.

### **Urinalysis (UA) Program**

In August 2021 CSC trained six of our staff members to collect Urinalysis (UA) at Anderson Lodge. This year, this program continues to be in good operation. CSC continues to refer Sisters from Anderson Lodge, Sisters from the community, and the other CRF(s) to have a UA done at the Anderson Lodge's site. As this program was in operation for only one year, we are happy to report that all is well and is progressing positively.

### **Institutional Visits**

There were no Institutional visits to the Fraser Valley Institution due to the Coronavirus outbreak in our community. The last visit was in early March 2020. This writer has not seen an invitation to the Institution this year as the pandemic continues.

To keep in spirit with our contract, we have accepted more telephone calls/ letter writings with the Sisters at the Fraser Valley Institution.

### **Acknowledgment of Staff:**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| • Velma Albert       | - House Manager  |
| • Ida Joe            | - Administration Assistant/<br>Assistant House Manager |
| • Laurie Ahdemar     | - Alcohol & Drug Counselor                             |
| • Chona Ureta        | - House Support /Bannock<br>on the Run Coordinator     |
| • Mavis Williams     | - House Support  |
| • Trish Leclair      | - House Support  |
| • Lisa Snow          | - House Support  |
| • Elizabeth Ferguson | - House Support  |
| • Ellen Stewart      | - On-Call relief                                       |
| • Andrea Peters      | - On-Call relief                                       |
| • Stacey Pascal      | - On-Call relief                                       |
| • Rose Marie Francis | - On-Call relief                                       |
| • Cheyenne Layton    | - On-Call relief                                       |
| • Genevieve Picky    | - On-Call relief                                       |

### **Acknowledgment of Practicum Student:**

- Suzanne Paddinge  
- Counselling Art Therapy – Alder University, Vancouver BC  
Although Ms. Paige helped us from October 18, 2022, until present,, we well like to acknowledge her for her hard work in learning to help our Sisters Thank you Suzanne.

Without our staff/practicum student, we would not be able to have a successful program this year. I thank you all for your hard work and dedication to our Sisters, and the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society.

We also would like to thank the Housing Navigator (Crystal Roy/Sarah Thomas), COELS Employment Officer (Jenelle Palfreyman/ Genevieve Picky), for working and supporting our Sisters through this challenging year.

Thank you





# Capital Upgrades for Naa-na-himiyis and Anderson Lodge

COELS received a capital grant to do some minor upgrades, purchasing a new vehicle, furniture and fixtures.

The following occurred:

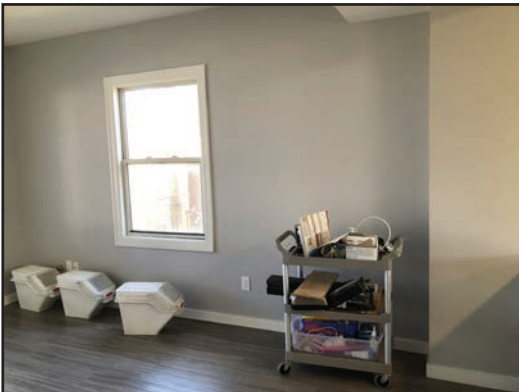
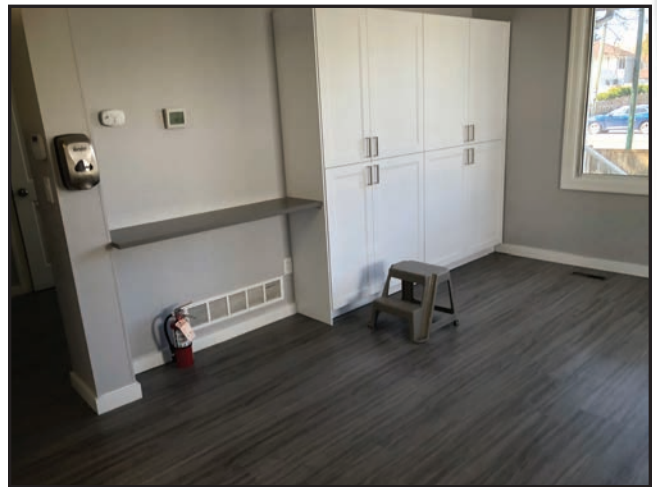
Electrical upgrades at Naa-na-himiyis – each year the fuses were tripping at this facility, electrical upgrades will ensure that the Brothers will be able to enjoy a cool room during the hot summer months without the electricity going out.

Renovations at Anderson Lodge included – changing the floors, cabinets, painting, new fixtures including stoves, fridges and sanitizers, which brightened up the living space for the Sisters.

New tvs, stoves, fridges, wall mounts, ensured that the living space at both houses was greatly improved. The stoves were old, and the temperatures were not always ideal.

New vehicle for the society ensured that the programs and services were greatly enhanced.

Thank you to the homelessness committee and Lu'ma Native Housing for their ongoing support to the COELS programs and services.



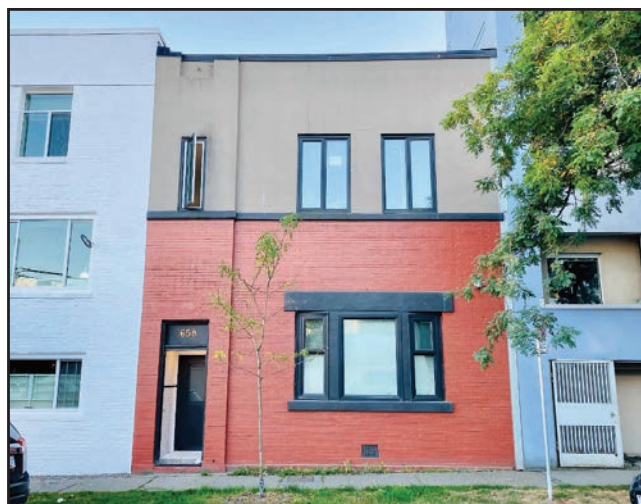


## 658 Alexander Purchase

Part of COELS Strategic plan has always included second stage housing for the Brothers and Sisters transitioning out of our programs. In March, COELS applied for a down payment from the Capital Grants at Lu'ma Native Housing and received a grant of \$1 million to purchase a new building. Through this grant, COELS was able to secure additional funding of \$500,000 from the Roadburg Foundation. The building located at 658 Alexander is a 18 bed facility including 12 single room occupancy rooms, and 6 bachelor suites. This will allow COELS Brothers and Sisters a second stage housing opportunity to enter this yet to be developed program. The plan is to provide continuing supports for the Brothers and Sisters transitioning from the Healing Lodges or from homelessness to have supportive living services. We hope to have this operating before the end of summer providing all the conditions for the purchase are met.

### Location

The property is located on the south side of Alexander Street between Princess Avenue and Heatley Avenue in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. This location is highly accessible by various forms of transportation and is in proximity to numerous amenities and residential services.



### Property details

#### ADDRESS

658 Alexander Street, Vancouver, BC

#### PROPERTY IDENTIFIER

015-598-501

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lot 12 Block 43 District Lot 196 Plan 196

#### SITE DIMENSION

25 ft x 122 ft

#### SITE AREA

3,050 sf

#### ZONING

DEOD

#### BUILDING AREA

+/- 5,300 sf (Est.)

#### YEAR BUILT (BC ASSESSMENT)

1912

#### UNIT MIX

SRO (Standard) 13

Self-contained SRO 5

**Total 18**

#### GROSS TAXES (2022)

\$3,907.44

#### FINANCING

Favourable assumable debt

- Rate: 1.93%

- Monthly payments of \$7,854.56

- Remaining principal of \$2,053,344.17  
(as of Nov 2022)

- Maturity: March 1, 2031

#### SALE PRICE

\$3,870,000



## Improvements

The property is improved with a renovated two-storey multi-unit residential building consisting of 18 suites, five of which are self-contained with a private washroom and shower. Recent renovations include:



New torch-on roof with restored skylights (2014)



Brick and chimney work along with new double-pane windows



Complete electrical rewiring including new panel, meter, cable-box and thermostat controls



Updated water supply lines and in-suite cast-iron plumbing



LED lighting throughout



New high efficiency commercial hot water tank and venting



Restored cast-iron radiators with new valves



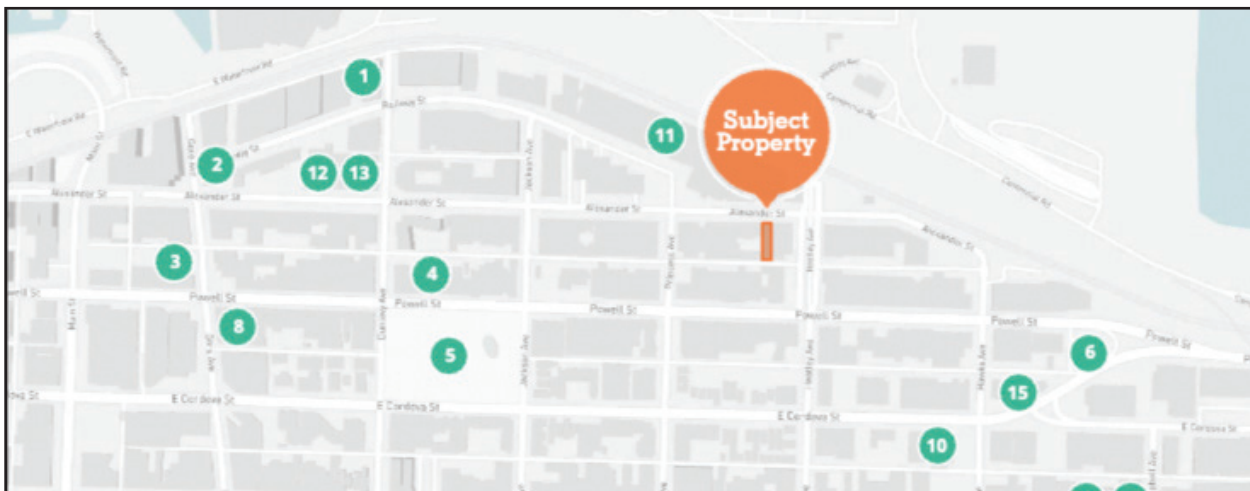
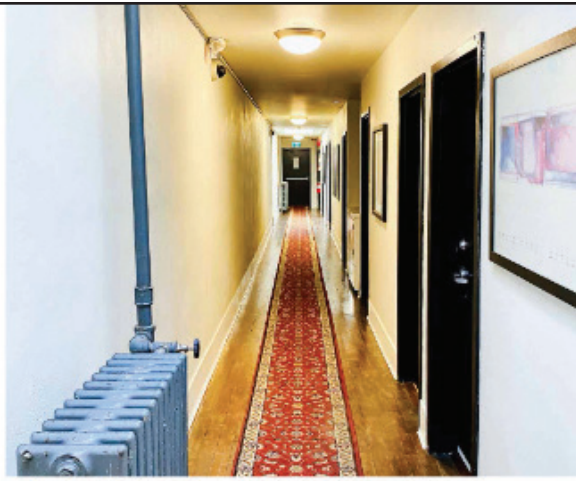
Closed-circuit security camera system and entry intercom



Original fir floors have been restored and walls painted throughout



Upgraded cabinetry, countertops, and bathroom fixtures





## Circle of Eagles Trading Post (COETP)

By Amanda McGee

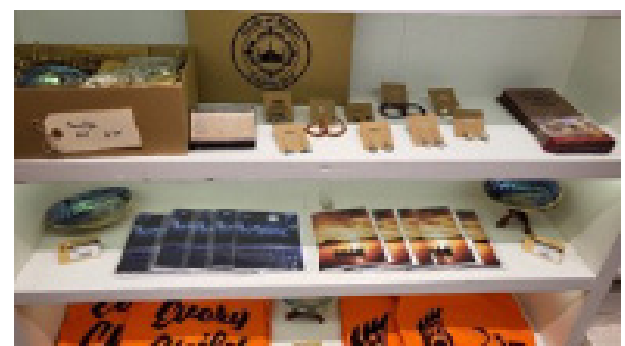
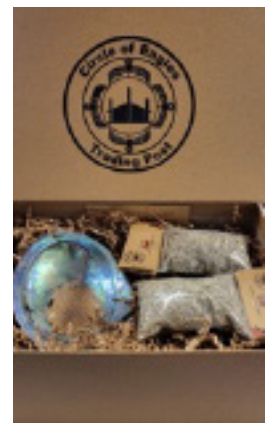
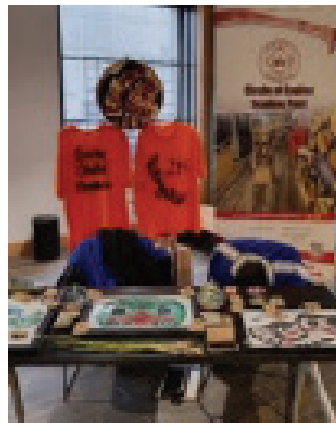
Annual Report April 1/22 – Mar 31/23

This past fiscal year has been a very busy and exciting year. We have accomplished so much growth with the Trading Post, and we are thrilled to share some of our wonderful successes. April 6 was our 1st Anniversary of when we had our soft opening of the Trading Post. It was amazing to see how it had evolved over the year. The growth and networking that had taken place and the opportunities that we had to promote the store were a huge help in getting the Trading Post name and brand out there.

We have had some amazing artwork that we have acquired, some new paintings and some phenomenal painted drums. We have also invested in framing a few of the paintings that we had purchased which helps increase the sale value and esthetic appeal.

We are part of the Buy Social Canada network, and we were invited to attend The Exchange Inner City event that took place on April 4. We were also invited to have a table set up which went amazing! We made some great contacts and sold a few of our products. It was an excellent form of marketing and interacting with other social enterprises. While we were at this event, we were asked if we wanted to take part in a pop-up shop that Buy Social Canada was putting together, which we gladly accepted.

In April we attended the event for the Buy Social - Social Enterprise Marketplace, a social enterprise pop-up shop located at the Bentall Centre in downtown Vancouver. We took a few of our items to be placed on a shelf or two there as well as some business cards and brochures for marketing materials. Working together with other social enterprises has been a huge help with promoting the Trading Post. During the month of May we had an article that was written and printed in Alberta Native News. This article outlined the Trading Post and what we do and how we work with the Brothers and Sisters. Since this article was released, we have had an increased traffic on our social media and





website. As a result, we have more than doubled our website views, increased our Facebook page followers, and have had many more shares and engagements. Around this time, we also created a smudge kit to promote smudging and have them ready made almost as a gift box. Since we have created these and in combination with the additional traffic on our site, we have seen an increase in purchases of this item.

The BC Infrastructure Benefits (BCIB) has been working on a variety of projects throughout the province and they chose to provide a smudge kit to each of the construction sites, such as the transit expansion on Broadway and the highway work being done up north. They contacted us and we were able to provide 18 smudge kits for their project which was an amazing opportunity for the Trading Post to be further promoted. Each smudge kit has the Trading Post logo on it, therefore, if anyone using the kit wants more information they will know where to contact while supporting cultural growth. This helps so that smudge is readily available for their workers who follow the red road.

We created a new design for orange t-shirt day and placed an order for both adult and youth t-shirts. Our goal was to be able to increase our sales this year over those of last year which we succeeded at achieving. We also provided each of the Elders who are part of Bannock on the Run with a t-shirt. Additionally, we also received 2 significant orders for 2 companies/organizations that are associated with Buy Social Canada. The Open-Door Society has multiple locations throughout the province that we shipped and delivered to. The other was a construction company that is currently working on building the new hospital in Vancouver.

We had the opportunity to take in Recovery Day on September 10. We had been provided with an excellent booth space for the event and we were able to reach many people. It was a huge success in terms of sales for the Trading Post, as well as letting people know about COELS and what we do and who we work with. We found that many people were receptive to what we do and preferred supporting local organizations especially those that are Indigenous led with it came to purchasing orange t-shirts.

Through recent networking we have also been contacted by a couple of local businesses and organizations to have graphic design services provided. This is something that we are hoping to expand on and feel that these recent and upcoming opportunities will help pave the way for future endeavours. One of our opportunities to do so was at an event that we were invited to attend which was a Social Value Trade Show being hosted in conjunction with Exchange Inner City and Buy Social Canada.

We also applied for a grant through the Buy Social Canada Seal the Deal Fund. The purpose of this grant initially was to help cover the costs of the orange t-shirts. However, based on the criteria which they had implemented this campaign wasn't feasible. However, we were able to meet with them and clarify the requirements and update our application. We were approved with the impression that we will be utilizing the funds to expand our inventory within the Trading Post. We are thrilled to have been provided this funding.

In the fall some of the Brothers took part in a carving workshop with our Peer Support worker in attendance and we are hoping that this may encourage some of them to create items to put in the Trading Post. We have also been in contact with the Associate Director of Aboriginal



Programs, Connie Watts at the Emily Carr University of Art + Design. We were also able to plan for a workshop for the Brothers and Sisters in November to learn how to make rattles and other items. They are welcoming, encouraging and want to share teachings/skills with Brothers, Sisters, and Staff. This was an excellent workshop for all who attended.

Once again, Buy Social Canada promoted a #GiftSocial campaign which lists the social enterprises that they associate with and have goods and services for sale to help promote them. The Trading Post was featured in their email and on their Facebook page.

During the month of December, through our membership with Buy Social Canada we have started to collaborate on a few projects with the social enterprise BudgieBox. As a result, we had the opportunity to have some of our Kwa Kwem Tn art cards be purchased and added to some of the corporate gift boxes that they were creating for Destination Vancouver. This was a phenomenal opportunity to promote the Trading Post to the community.

Also, we created 40 gift boxes for the parole officers for their Christmas Gifts. We were able to take the concept that we have used for the smudge kits and created these with the Trading Post tumblers, some freeze-dried candies and chocolate.

In mid-January, we were able to attend a 2-day event the National Gathering: Affirming Indigenous Data Sovereignty being put on by the Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor. This took place at the Sheraton Wall Centre. We were able to be 1 of 20 tables that was able to promote the Trading Post as well as COELS and sell Indigenous specific crafts. We were able to take some of our smudge kits and orange t-shirts among other culturally relevant items to this event. The attendees were so happy to see the different products we have. We also had the opportunity to network with other organizations from throughout the province and the country that may connect with us in the future to purchase more of our products.

We have also started bringing some of the Brothers down to work on some of their items such as carving, painting, drum making and sewing of star blankets to sell in the store. This helps enable them to gain a routine of getting up and leaving the house, working on some items while being exposed to the staff at the Resource Centre. In return, it also benefits the Trading Post as we can gain additional inventory items. We are collaborating with the KPEP program to help provide incentives and well as work with them to learn new skills for future employment. One of the goals that we are looking to achieve this year is having one of the Brothers begin working a few hours in the Trading Post to gain some work experience.

We were contacted by the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS) and they were offering a workshop titled Healing Rainbow: Grief & Loss Workshop for those who identify as LGBTQ+2S. They requested that we possibly incorporate the rainbow colors to our smudge boxes for their order. The goal was to try adding that additional touch to the kits for the event. This connection has stemmed from the OISI event that occurred at the Marriot which provided a great networking opportunity.

Another exciting venture that we are trying to start planning is a work experience in the Trading Post with one of our Brothers. We are hoping to create a training plan with detailed instructions and explanations on how to use the Point-of-Sale (POS) system. We will also be working with them on their interaction/communication skills with the customers and try to improve their self-esteem while encouraging them throughout the learning process. We look forward to seeing what the coming year has in store for the Circle of Eagles Trading Post!





# Circle Of Healing Outreach

By Jennifer Cappello

This past year has gone by fast and the work that we have done with the Brothers has been positive and really seems to have a positive effect on their release in the community. With COVID 19 restrictions being lifted we were able to get back to some cultural activities that we haven't been able to attend in a few years. In May, we went with some of the Brothers to the Mother's Day Pow Wow and it was the first one that was held in the last three years. The Brothers seemed to really enjoy the Pow Wow and it was fun to be around people again and experience Pow Wow dancing for the day. We also attended an open house at Native Education College with the Brothers so they could see what courses are available and learn more about the college. We also participated in more healing circles with the Brothers when they were struggling in the community. It allows us to assist them with moving forward in a good way and to provide support in a positive way. It allows the Brothers to feel safe and to talk openly about their struggles and it seems to have a positive effect on them.

We have been working with the Brothers on creating a plan when they are released to the community, and we also help them create goals for themselves. With most of the COVID restrictions being lifted the past year it has allowed us to attend more appointments in the community with the Brothers rather than doing them online or by phone. It has also allowed us to connect them to resources that had been closed previously. Some of the different appointments that we attended with the Brothers include health appointments, opening bank accounts, meetings with the parole officers, and ICBC appointments to get photo ID. We do face challenges when it comes to health care and assisting the Brothers with finding a family doctor. It is hard to find a family doctor for them and many times we take them to the walk-in clinic. Many of the Brothers we work with qualified for the segregation lawsuit and we helped them fill out the applications and send them in earlier in the year and they slowly started to receive the payments. We also help them get approval to attend certain cultural activities and cultural ceremonies by providing the details to the PO so they can approve curfew extensions or overnight passes if needed.

We have been able to work closely with staff at Naa-Na-Himiyis and the staff at Circle of Eagles Resource Center to provide the Brothers with additional support. This has allowed for all of us to work with the Brothers and help them achieve their goals and complete tasks in a more efficient manner. As a team we all work together to provide support to the Brothers in different areas and it allows us to focus on more than one specific need that they may have. For example, we work with Brothers

who need more 1:1 support in the community and having staff that can work them 1:1 has been beneficial to the Brothers. It has allowed them to have staff accompany them to more appointments and activities in the community which has helped them feel more comfortable and learn their way around and how to use the transit system. We have also been making referrals to the resource center for the Brothers to get assistance with their taxes and housing needs.

In addition, we worked with the Brothers to help them prepare for employment and assist with making their transition to starting a new job easier. For example, we were able to provide them with bus tickets to get work when they start working so they have a way to get to work and can start working right away. We also worked with working gear to get them the proper work gear they need. Working gear provides work gear to the Brothers at no cost and this helps prepare the Brothers for entering the work force. In the last year, we have been able to make appointments for many of the Brothers with working gear and many of them received the work gear they needed, and they were new items. The Brothers have also been referred to the COELS pre-employment program and that program has been able to provide the Brothers with some job training opportunities.

Being on parole and reintegrating into the community is not easy for the Brothers and they do face challenges and struggles and sometimes they return to custody. Some of them continue to reach out to us for ongoing support while they are back in the institution, and we will continue to work with them until they are released back to the community. We talk with them about what they need to work on and come up with new ideas that could better assist them deal with the struggles they were facing when they returned to custody. We want to make sure we provide this continued support for the Brothers. We also work with Brothers who don't reside at Naa-Na-Himiyis and are living in a different CRF. They are welcome to come to Naa-Na-Himiyis to meet with us or participate in activities through Naa-Na-Himiyis.

Overall, we had a good year with the Brothers and many of them made a lot of positive progress in the community and some of the Brothers were able to have longer periods of success in the community compared to past releases that didn't go well. We even had one of our Brothers we work with move back to his home community and continue his parole there in a different CRF. We don't have many Brothers who get to go back home so it was a positive experience. We are looking forward to a new year and working with the Brothers and continuing to help them have success in the community.

# Peer and Housing Support

By Rob Bain

Hi, my name is Rob, and I am the Peer Support worker for Circle of Eagles.

I came into the organization in 2016 as a Brother and spent a year living at the lodge. This time I was working a delivery job and trying to get my life back in order. I was coming close to my full parole and had to plan my next step. Barb made a suggestion that would put me on this path I lead today.

I started a Social Media Marketing course and ended up doing my practicum with Barb. She was working on a project that was part of her Circle of Healing that she invited me to help. Having been through the system like the Brothers I have a shared experience that provides me a view most don't have. This view would give us the insight of what are the needs and how we can address them. As we continued to work on this project, I was asked to help a couple of the Brothers who were going through some medical issues. These little tasks would grow more and more since there wasn't anyone who could help them with these day-to-day issues. I would try my best to accommodate these requests. Soon all my time would be on the Brothers (I was part time) This is when Barb decided we shift to Peer and Housing Support because that is what I am dealing with daily. That is when they added more responsibilities to my position, and they found a way to hire me full-time.

My many responsibilities would grow to include providing emotional and social support for the Brothers. This would be me spending time and talking to them about whatever they wanted. These one-on-one sessions would also provide me an outline of what I needed to plan for them. These plans usually would be how to help them with finding services like A.A/N.A. meetings or connecting them to people in our organization that can provide services like our Pre-employment program. These meeting would also be a chance for me to suggest ways to spend idle times or just a friendly ear for them.

One of my other responsibilities would be helping the Brothers connect to sell their artwork to the Trading Post. I work closely with Amanda who is the manager of the Trading Post, and we provide an option for them to sell their goods at a reasonable price. We continue to see a Brothers coming out of the institution with amazing artistic abilities and we support that.

I also will assist the Brothers in finding them services that can help them with their education or training. I connect them to our Pre-employment services at the Resource Centre or an outside agency that provides specific training.

Another one of my responsibilities is to assist them navigate through the medical system. We've had past Brothers who had medical issues and need help to get to appointments. I would take them and go in with them if they pleased. It is amazing to see how good they treat them when there is a support worker beside them. Not only does it comfort the Brother with me being there it also assures them that they will be given decent care.

Another one of my responsibilities is a co-coordinator for the Tsetsusem Canoe Healing Journey. This bi-yearly event is one that we all look forward to. This healing journey is a time for the Brothers to get out of the city and experience the healing nature of the land. The days are filled with events like drum making, spirit baths, sweats, sacred circles and more. It is something that we all look forward to since it has a positive affect to all those who attend.

As the organization progresses and evolves with the times, we see a rise in diversity amongst our Brothers and Sisters. We do our best to accommodate theses issues and find ways that are sensitive to their needs. This includes educating ourselves on how to treat everyone equally.

The Peer Support job is always evolving with the times, and we thank the Creator for the strength to walk this path.

Thank you!

Rob Bain

Peer Support

**The Trading Post located at  
2008 Wall Street in Vancouver  
is now OPEN!**



Visit us at  
[www.circleofeagletradingpost.ca](http://www.circleofeagletradingpost.ca)



[www.circleofeagletradingpost.ca](http://www.circleofeagletradingpost.ca)





# Circle of Eagles Outreach Program (COP)

By Henry Peters

Kitchen Coordinator/Housing Support/Outreach Navigator

With us now being able to look at these covid stricken times through the rear-view mirror, a bit of optimism is just on the horizon. We will be able to look back on these last few years as growing years for humanity. We were able to come together and learn and adapt to a threat our generation has never seen. Obviously, we are not in the clear just yet, but if anything, it has taught everyone including myself how to truly work together and how to be better as a person. It gave me opportunities I never was able to see before, and it helped me grow tremendously as a human being.

I'd like to highlight some of my various contributions I have made to COELS this year of 2022/2023.  
Cooking at Naa-Na-Himyis

I have created a menu that reflects the various tastes that the Brothers have. It is made to be both appealing and appetizing with a mix of both healthy and very home-style way of cooking that I and the Brothers have grown up on. I believe that a good meal will bring everyone together, and food has always meant love for me. It brings the Brothers together and can mean more than just nourishment. I am always open to suggestions and one example; the Bannock that is cooked on a weekly basis is a 100-year-old recipe from one of the Brothers' grandparents. That represents family and bonding, the fact he was able to share with me a family recipe and allow others to nourish themselves with it, is a sign that we are coming together as one. I show respect and love with my food to the Brothers, and they show the same respect and love back.

I started cooking for Naa-Na-Himyis in October 2021. I would make a menu for the week, send it off to Barb to be approved, and order from Sysco. My week would be as follows:

- Monday- Accept Sysco, put away food and freezer items, do inventory and determine what we need, make Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
- Tuesday- Shop at Superstore or The Warehouse for other items that Sysco did not have available, make Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
- Wednesday- Make Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, prepare Thursday's dinner to be kept in the fridge for the next day's staff to warm up, make up next week's Menu for Barb to approve, order Sysco for the following week

Overall, from April 1st, 2022, to March 31st, 2023, I have served up 3,120 meals in total for the Brothers. I would also come in on holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving to make sure they got a nice turkey dinner.

On May 27th, 2022, we had our Gala at York Theatre in Vancouver. For this event, myself, the Brothers, and the staff at Naa-Na-Himyis made 500 total meals. It consisted of 200 regular sandwiches, 50 vegetarian sandwiches, 50 gluten free charcuterie, 50 vegetarian charcuterie and 150 regular charcuterie boards. A documentary film made by Circle of Eagles was shown in the main theatre. It was a very emotional experience, something I will never forget.



On December 3rd, 2022, COELS organized a large Christmas Party for the Brothers and Sisters. Staff and I at both Anderson and Naa-Na-Himyis cooked roughly 200 meals that consisted of turkey, honey glazed ham, stuffing, corn, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, yams, brussel sprouts and gravy. Each of the Brothers and Sisters also received some gifts! It was a wonderful time!

Sarah our housing manager has organized a Food Bank program that we have utilized for the Elders, Brothers at Naa-Na-Himyis and Sisters at Anderson Lodge. Sarah and I or Rob our peer support worker would go and pick that up every Friday, distribute what I determined was needed at each house (fresh vegetables, meat, bread etc.) and bring the rest for the Elders Program Sarah has put together. We picked up from the Food Bank around 40 times throughout the year. It has been a huge help, knowing the Brothers and Sisters can use the fresh vegetables and knowing the Elders are able to get more food for themselves when they do not receive the help from other organizations.

Another focus for food has been our food handout in the DTES. This year has been a struggle however, with the violence seen in the DTES, we have not been able to hand out as often as we wanted. When we did though, we always made it great. We had a total of 4 hot dog BBQs for the DTES residents, with each of them serving 250-300 hot dogs, 250-300 individual bags of chips, 250-300 cans of pop, 250-300 potato and macaroni salad. We also had 4 pancake breakfasts this year, with us serving 200 plates each time consisting of sausages, bacon, scrambled eggs, pancakes, hot coffee, and orange juice. Along with the food that we handed out, Sarah and I organized a clothes and shoe giveaway at least once a month for the year. During the colder seasons, we would also give out jackets and clean socks. Around 12,000 bags of lunches consisting of sandwiches, Oreos, Pepsi, and blueberry muffins were handed out to those in the DTES throughout the year. Next year, we want to hopefully see an increase of double of what we did this year happen.

Thank you,  
Henry Peters





This program is beneficial not only for the Elders that we work with but also with our Sisters residing at Anderson Lodge. Their commitment to the program and their assistance is what helps keep it going. They are actively involved in participating in the program while receiving an honorarium. This helps them work toward other goals in preparation for the next stages of their journey. When needed we try and schedule them using a rotation, depending on their availability to provide everyone the opportunity to help and serve the Elders.

We also tried to provide extra little treats for the Elders during special occasions. In September for orange t-shirt day/Truth and Reconciliation Day on the 30th we provided and orange t-shirt to each of the Elders. For Christmas we had personalized stockings embroidered with each of their names made for each one. During the last fiscal year, we were able to serve 864 meals to the Elders.



We feel that it was hugely successful in helping those struggling with the increased cost of living and those who are lonely. This statistic is a great number to see knowing that they received a healthy meal and provided them with a bag of goodies and some interaction.

Some of the Elders struggle with mobility and being able to clean. We were able to arrange for an Indigenous cleaning company to go and help clean some of the Elders units. We were also able to help a few with getting a new bed as a couple of the Elders did not have a bed or had one that was no longer able to be used. We have also been able to help source resources for those needing further assistance including putting them in touch with our Outreach department.

We continue practicing proper food safety precautions and all staff and Sisters are certified in Food Safety Certification. We were also mindful to individually package items for the Elders and get pre-packaged items for their goodie bag that we distributed with each meal.

Each time we go to make our delivery the Elders express such gratitude. They have mentioned that they appreciate they are thought of and share touching words. Often, there are a few of them waiting in the lobby of one of the buildings which we deliver to. Seeing them and hearing what they have to say helps make the whole program even more enjoyable; it makes the hard work worth it.



## Outreach department

by Sarah Thomas

The Circle of Eagles Lodge Society Housing Outreach Support Program has been working with Brothers and Sisters and their families as well as many people in the community since 2016 and we've had many success's and continue to work on getting everyone their needs met by giving a helping hand, listening ear, feeding the homeless, assisting with getting their things in order bit by bit whether it's their identification, filling out subsidized housing, taxes, old age pension application, offering food bank, basic start up kit, assisting with damage deposit or rent, bills, rental arrears writing a support letter, renting resume getting them to complete the renting it right.

Throughout this year we've made important connections to provide some of our clients with services within the community. We were able to take a few Brothers to Emily Carr to learn how to make rattles, earrings, fur cuff. The Housing Outreach manager arranged for a woman to go into the women's healing lodge to do a workshop on how important your hair is and how to take care of it. They've a past sister go into the sister's lodge and learn how to make salve. Bringing in tradition teachings to help the Brothers and Sisters healing journey as well as life skills they'll need.

We've served over 63 clients between the gathering place and the COELS resource completing their 2021 income taxes and we've managed to house and relocate some of the sister's and brother's that have completing their Warrant Expiry Date.

We've had clients return to school, found part-time and full-time jobs, do volunteer work, attend training to return into the work force. We strive to make connections to assist our Brothers, Sisters, families with all their needs to find their forever home and make the transition a good one.

# Circle of Healing K'emk'emelay Pre-Employment Program

Another year has passed, and we have had some exciting times and a few changes with our K'emk'emelay Pre-Employment Program. We said goodbye to our previous Co-ordinator Jenelle and have now welcomed Genevieve.

The past year involved navigating around the COVID pandemic and trying to gain training for our Brothers and Sisters while keeping everyone safe and healthy. This included maintaining no close contact classroom training at our Resource Centre, but we were able to offer some certifications and ticket training offsite. We were able to provide forklift, occupational first aid level 1, WHMIS, and food safe level 1 training for our Brothers, Sisters, staff, and those in the community.

We were also provided the opportunity to work closely with Brothers and Sisters enabling us the opportunity to work with them on establishing their personal goals and needs to reach their education and career aspirations. In association with the employment aspirations, we took the time to work with each and help them with resume development, searching for jobs and obtaining work attire.

We have been able to maintain a connection with other resources in the community such as a local non-profit Dress for Success which provide one or two complete professional outfits that can be used for a job interview or work. This resource has been able to benefit a few of our Sisters and we look forward to maintaining this relationship for future Sisters. Weekly our Pre-Employment Co-ordinator spends time at each of our houses.

They would spend time with the Brothers at Naa-Na-Himyis and the Sisters at Anderson Lodge. This time allowed staff the opportunity to build relationships with them. This also provided the opportunity to build relationships with the staff at each location and educate them in the services that the K'emk'emelay Pre-Employment Program can provide.

There are various organizations that the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society works with and that our K'emk'emelay Pre-Employment utilize to assist in training services. These organizations include ACCESS, Bladerunners, Embers Staffing Solutions, Trauma Tech, Traffic Control Academy, Working Gear, Dress for Success, Native Education College, and Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, and we actively seek to develop new relationships with members of these organizations and new resources in the community.

Some of our Brothers and Sisters require further assistance during their job search and the Pre-Employment Co-ordinator can take that extra time to support them and help the best they can. We accompany them to some of their appointments such as to Working Gear where they accommodate our needs by providing work wear for several Brothers and Sisters, which helps provide them with the opportunity to enter the workforce with the gear they need.

We also have attended Embers on several occasions with Brothers and Sisters who were looking for part-time or casual work mainly in the construction field and we continue to be impressed with the individualized support they provide each potential employee which is beneficial for our Brothers and Sisters re-entering the workplace.

One of our goals is to continue working with the Brothers and Sisters after they leave the healing lodges in the next part of their journey. We maintain a relationship with them and continue to support them by checking in via phone calls, texts, or email to ensure that they have continuous support. Our goal is to help them maintain employment and any further training they may require. This is something that we try and convey to the Brothers and Sisters as they are working through our Pre-Employment Program.

One of our continuous challenges that our program faces is the interruption in their progress if they are returned to custody or we can no longer reach them. If they are returned to the institution, we try and make it a priority to work with them and continue moving forward in a good way when they are re-released back into the community.





# COVID:

By Jason Q Lawrence

This past year we continued to maintain and order supplies such as sanitizer, wipes, gloves, cleaning supplies and masks etc. We would order them and have them delivered to our Wall Street location, where they are stored for distribution to our other locations as needed. These supplies were inventoried, maintained, and distributed to locations as needed by the COELS COVID Coordinator (CCC) when requested.

The COVID Coordinator also worked with each of our locations to gather vaccine and booster information as well as attend COVID meetings with the Brothers and Sisters to offer assistance accessing vaccines and boosters. The requests have declined throughout the last year to the point where no one is asking for any assistance at this point. Occasionally the COVID Coordinator attends Brothers and Sisters house meetings to remind them of the importance of vaccines and boosters and to offer support and assistance.

While some of our staff and Brothers and Sisters were ill with COVID, the COVID Coordinator supported them by shopping for food and medicines, and then delivered the supplies as they were in isolation.



**Circle of Eagles Lodge Society**



**Vaccines and  
Booster Shots...**

**Vaccinated  
Booster Shots**

**..become less  
effective**

**3 Months**

**..over  
time.**

**6 Months**

**Vaccines  
and  
Booster  
Shots**

**Get your COVID 19 Vaccines  
and Booster Shots!**

[www.coels.ca](http://www.coels.ca)

**Circle of Eagles Lodge Society**



**Get your  
vaccine/  
booster shot**

**Wear a mask  
in common  
areas when  
sick**

**Maintain  
physical  
distance**

**Stay home  
when sick**

**Feeling sick  
get a  
rapid test**

**Vaccines  
and  
Booster  
Shots**

**Get your COVID 19 Vaccines  
and Booster Shots!**

[www.coels.ca](http://www.coels.ca)





## Tsetsusem Healing Journey 2023

By Jason Q Lawrence

The past couple of years we were unable to host our Canoe Healing Journey due to COVID. The decision was made that this year we would start planning to bring it back during the beginning of May 2023. We contacted the Boys and Girls club of BC to book the dates. Planning began well in advance to ensure we had adequate enough time to make all arrangements. This included going shopping several times for cultural supplies and tools for the workshops, extra outdoors supplies, and food and drinks.

This also involved contacting the Elders, one of which was the sweat lodge keeper. We asked the Elder that runs the sweat lodge about where he orders firewood from. We chose to order the wood for the sweat lodge from the service used by our Elder which saved on time and was much more financially feasible.

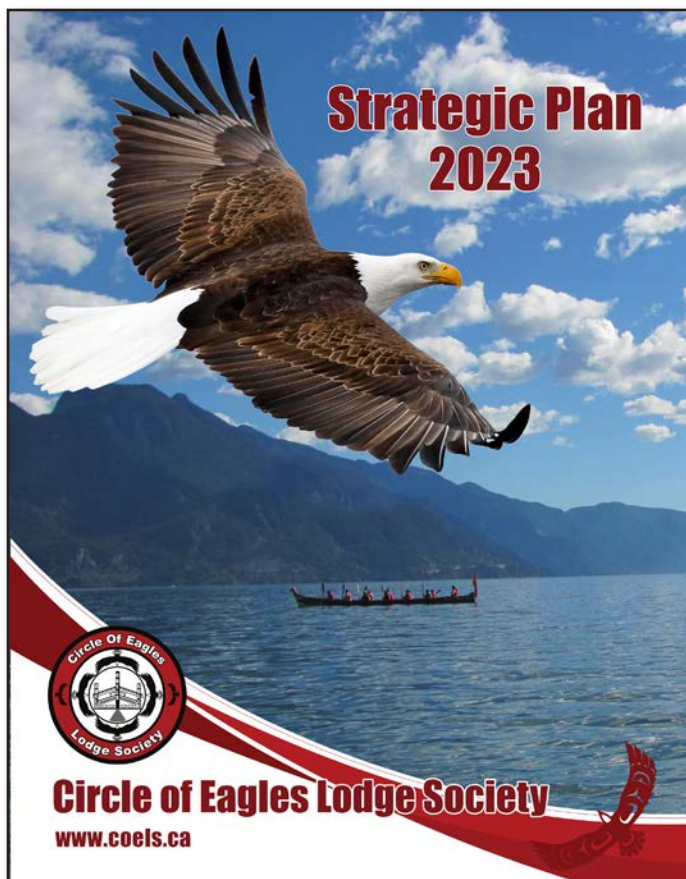
Part of this process also involved putting up a sign-up sheet and emailing the institutions to get names of those Brothers interested in attending. Once compiled, we contacted CSC RHQ and the Parole Officers to get permissions for the participants. This also required that we go over general case files for each of the participants.

We plan to have a variety of activities such as workshops on anger management, cultural ceremonies, sharing circles, healing circles, cultural programming, and services to address historical trauma, violence and addictions workshops, pipe ceremonies, sweat lodges, and letting go ceremonies.

We look forward to our Tsetsusem Canoe Healing Journey in May!







## Circle of Eagles Lodge Society Strategic Plan 2023

### Priority One – Explore Expansion Opportunities

GOAL: To increase the scale and reach of the Circle of Eagles model across Canada.

### Priority Two – Explore New Programming Opportunities

GOAL: To expand the programs and services available through the Circle of Eagles.

### Priority Three – Fiscal Stability

GOAL: Ensure that COELS is financially stable, sustainable and prepared for expansion.

### Priority Four – Operational Continuity – Programs & Services

GOAL: Review COELS programs and services to create stability and to improve the quality of existing programs and services so they become increasingly culturally appropriate.

### Priority Five – Harm Reduction

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

### Priority Six – Communications and Expansion Brand Development

GOAL: Review, revise, and implement a communications strategy for the expanded mandate.

### Priority Seven – Human Resources, Recruitment and Training

GOAL: Recruit quality candidates, and ensure that all staff are supported, well-trained and treated fairly.

### Priority Eight – Partnerships, Alliances and Political Capital

GOAL: Explore and maintain partnerships with sister societies and other service organizations and develop national level relationships in anticipation of expansion.

### Priority Nine – Evaluation & Statistical Analysis of Programs & Services

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

### Priority Ten – Social Venture

GOAL: Continue to support the social venture.  
31.







## Gala and Film Screening

By Jason Q Lawrence

This past year we celebrated the COELS 50nd Gala at the end of May 2022. Due to the COVID pandemic we were unable to host it at the time we planned so it was appropriately coined the 52nd Gala. We had a big celebration at the York Theatre with a red carpet and media wall. During the gala we screened our documentary titled 'The Circle of Eagles - from prison to community, embracing Indigenous culture'. This film was screened at a variety of film festivals throughout the world and won numerous awards including Best Canadian Documentary from the Vancouver Independent Film Festival, Best Social Justice Music Video at the SRFA Cannes, Honorable mention from the Montreal Independent Film Festival and was an official selection at the International Social Change Film Festival.



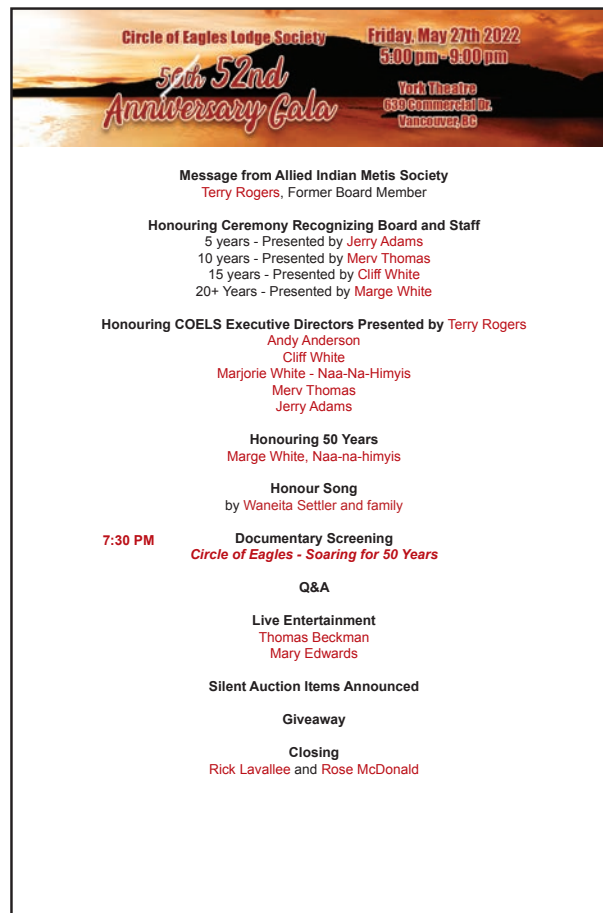
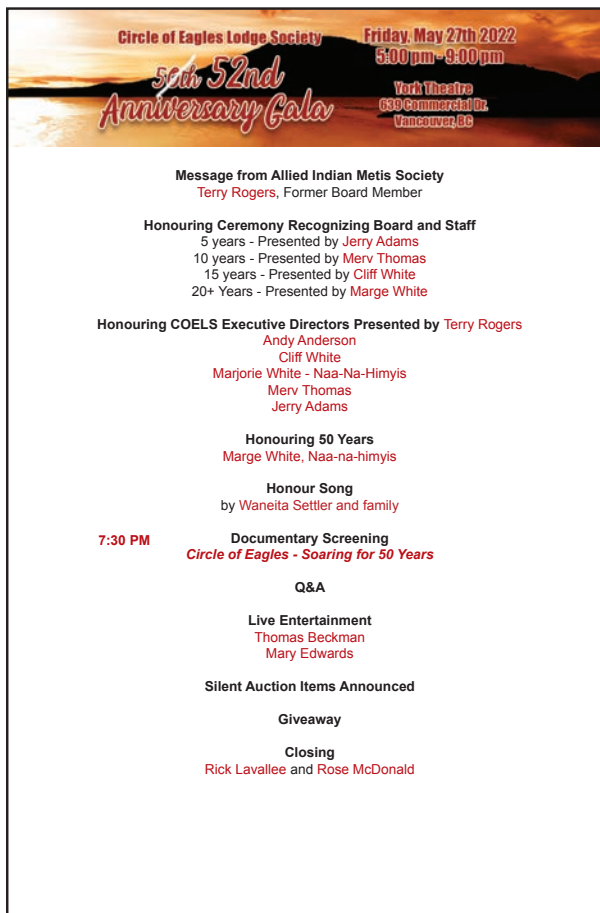
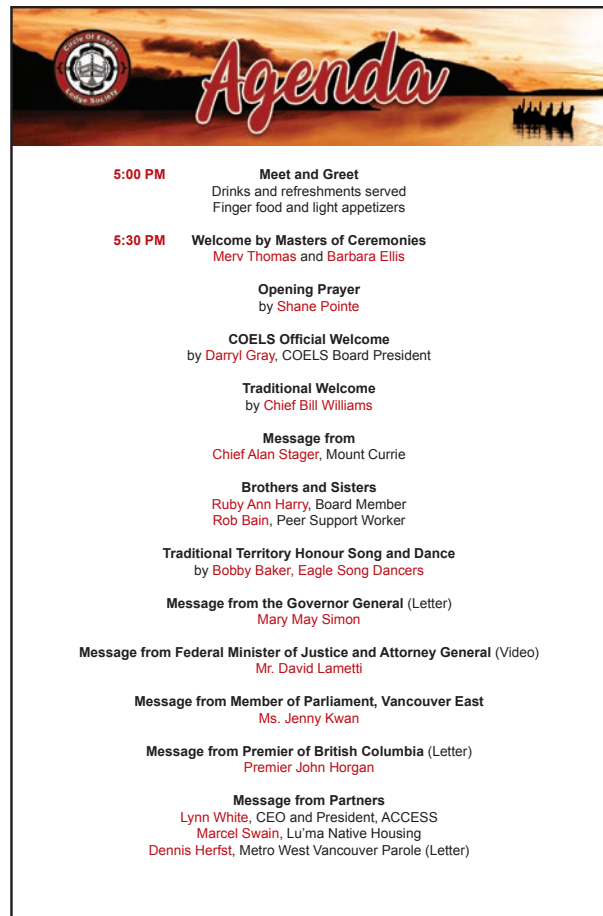
The evening included a cultural celebration, live music, a silent auction, dignitaries, special surprise guests, fundraising and the premiere screening of our documentary. This 50th (52nd) year anniversary celebration highlighted the incredible achievements of Indigenous Brothers, Sisters, Board of Directors, and staff that keep the home fires burning. The documentary told the story of COELS, from it's beginning to the present, and looking forward. It shared powerful, emotional stories of the impact of government policies in residential schools, foster care, poverty, and addictions is a story of many Indigenous people, leading to higher rates of incarceration, poverty, and educational achievement. It was a huge success!

This year we had the film translated to French and added closed captioning. We then screened the film in Quebec at a health regional conference, attended by our CEO and peer navigator who represented COELS and spoke at the event.

Moving forward the COELS Production team has been scheduling Interviews for our new endeavour making a documentary on ADHD. We continue to share our 50th anniversary documentary and are eager to see how this new project comes together.







## Welcome to the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society 50th, 52nd Year Anniversary Gala!

We want to acknowledge the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and we wish to thank them for allowing us to host this gala on their lands.

The Board of Directors, Managers, Staff, Brothers and Sisters would like to extend our deepest appreciation for showing your support by attending and celebrating our incredible milestone either in person or online via livestream.

Tonight, we will be celebrating a dream which started over 50 years ago. The Brothers at BC Penitentiary wanted a safe place where they could go once they exited the prison. The dream was brought to fruition through the efforts of Marge White, who was the founding President of the organization. Allied Indian Metis Society was incorporated on May 27, 1970 and the society formally changed its name to the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society at its 25th anniversary.

In 2000, the society bought another building which houses the Brothers at the Naa-na-himiyis Brothers Healing Lodge. In 2003 we entered into a contract with Corrections Services Canada to begin offering services to Indigenous Sisters at the Anderson Lodge Healing Centre for Women; a home for Sisters leaving federal corrections and a life of homelessness.

The building of a traditional sea going canoe, Kwa Kwem Tn, expanded the healing programs of the organization. Today, many additional programs and services are offered; including a Pre-employment Program, Life Skills Teachings, Elders, Cultural and Traditional Supports, Sweat Lodge, Housing and Support Programs, Peer Support, Harm Reduction, Outreach, Circle of Eagles Trading Post, Circle of Eagles Graphic Services, and many other programs and services that provide wholistic wraparound services.

We acknowledge and thank our partners, Aboriginal Community Employment Services Society, Lu'ma Native Housing, Indigenous Services Canada, Corrections Services Canada, First Nations Health Authority, Boys and Girls Club, Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council, and many other partners and supporters. Without which our goals would be more difficult to achieve.

Lastly, thank you to the Board of Directors for their guidance and leadership, the Managers for keeping the Staff and the Residents safe; and to the Staff for their compassion and commitment in furthering our goals and mandate. Many have been with the organization for years, and it is because of that steady service that we are able to assist Brothers and Sisters make meaningful changes in their lives.

Thank you, for joining us in celebrating our important milestone and helping us celebrate our achievements!  
Ekosi,

Merv Thomas  
Chief Executive Officer



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL • LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE

### Message from the Governor General on occasion of the 50th Anniversary Gala of the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society

I am pleased to share my warmest greetings and salutations to all those attending the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society's 50th anniversary gala.

For over five decades, your organization has provided support, comfort and healing to individuals in need. By opening the doors to your sanctuary rooted in Indigenous traditions, you have also provided something truly invaluable: a home to many who had none. What is more, the success of your program is a testament to the healing powers of Indigenous customs and ceremonies as a way to recover from trauma. This community of brothers and sisters you have built together has made you all stronger.

Your altruism has given hope and new opportunities to those who may have thought these lost forever. There is no greater gift.

I wish you all a wonderful gala.

Mary May Simon

1 SUSSEX DRIVE • 1, PROMENADE SUSSEX  
OTTAWA • CANADA • K1A 0A1 • WWW.GG.CA





# Years of Service




**Kelsey Pootlass** – Naa-na-himiyis  
**Artemas Lai** – Naa-na-himiyis  
**Austin Lee** – Naa-na-himiyis  
**Lisa Snow-White** – Anderson Lodge  
**Laurie Ahdemar** – Anderson Lodge  
**Rob Bain** – Resource Centre  
**Jennifer Cupello** – Resource Centre  
**Jason Lawrence** – Resource Centre




**Darryl Gray** – Board of Directors, President  
**Maggie Joseph** – Board of Directors, Treasurer  
**Garry Jobin** – Board of Directors, Member  
**Fay Nelson** – Board of Directors, Member  
**Crystal Roy** – Resource Centre  
**Isabella Au** – Finance  
**Ellen Stewart** – Naa-na-himiyis  
**Sharon MacAlpine** – Naa-na-himiyis


**Circle of Eagles Lodge Society**
**Friday, May 27th 2022**  
**5:00 pm - 9:00 pm**  
**50th 52nd Anniversary Gala**  
**York Theatre**  
**630 Commercial Dr.**  
**Vancouver, BC**



**Richard Lavallee** – Board of Directors, Vice President




**Lucy Wallace** – Board of Directors, Members  
**Chona Ureta** – Anderson Lodge  
**Barbara Ellis** – Director of Operations  
**Danette Delorme** – Naa-na-himiyis, House Manager  
**Velma Albert** – Anderson Lodge, House Manager  
**Ida Joe** – Anderson Lodge  
**Mavis Williams** – Anderson Lodge  
**Laverne Snow** – Finance Manager  
**Craig Snow** – Naa-na-himiyis



**Andy Anderson** – Executive Director  
**Cliff White** – Executive Director  
**Marjorie White** – Executive Director  
**Merv Thomas** – Executive Director  
**Jerry Adams** – Executive Director



Marge White – Naa-na-himiyis



Founding President  
 Former Executive Director  
 Elder  
 Vancouver Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee - Former Chair



## Circle of Eagles Soaring for 50 Years

### A Circle of Eagles Lodge Society Production

This film shares powerful, emotional stories of the impact of government policies, residential schools, foster care, poverty and systemic racism which has led to extremely high rates of incarceration of Indigenous people in Canada. "I have been in almost every federal prison across Canada, right to the SHU (Special Handling Unit) and I still have not found one institution that was as bad as I experienced in residential school." Said Ron Laprise. Devastatingly, many Indigenous children died in Canada's residential schools, and still, many who survived ended up in Canada's prisons. This film highlights that there is hope and healing in culture and a return to indigenous knowledge and ceremony.

**Directed by** Merv Thomas

**Produced by** Barbara Ellis and Jason Q Lawrence

**Filmed and Edited by** Darko Sikman

**Music by** Thomas Beckman

**Theme Song by** Mary Garnet Edwards

**In association with** Look Hear Productions



**Circle of Eagles Productions**

coels.ca/50thfilm

## Circle of Eagles Soaring for 50 Years Film Awards, Nominations, and Official Selections

### Awards

WorldFest - Houston International Film Festival  
**Award Winner, Best Short Documentary**  
(under 60 minutes)

Montreal Independent Film Festival  
**Award Winner, Best Feature Documentary**  
(Over 40 Minutes)

Vancouver Independent Film Festival  
**Award Winner, Best Feature Documentary**  
(Over 40 Minutes)

Silk Road Film Awards Cannes  
**'I Had A Dream'** by Mary Garnet Edwards  
(Circle of Eagles documentary film theme song)  
**Silk Road Award for Best Social Justice Music Video**

### Nominations

Lonely Wolf International Film Festival  
**Circle of Eagles - Nominee**

Cannes World Film Festival  
**I Had A Dream - Mary Garnet Edwards - Nominee**

Cannes World Film Festival  
**Circle of Eagles - Nominee**

### Official Selections

Kalakari Film Fest  
**Circle of Eagles**  
**Official Selection**

Garifuna International Indigenous Film Festival  
**I Had A Dream - Mary Garnet Edwards**  
**Official Selection**

Red Dirt Film Festival  
**Had A Dream - Mary Garnet Edwards**  
**Official Selection**

Dreamspeakers International Indigenous  
Film Festival  
**Circle of Eagles**  
**Official Selection**

Montreal Independent Film Festival  
**I Had A Dream - Mary Garnet Edwards**  
**Official Selection**

RNCI Red Nation International Film Festival &  
Awards - Native Cinema  
**Circle of Eagles**  
**Official Selection**

International Social Change Film Festival  
**Circle of Eagles**  
**Official Selection**





**CIRCLE OF EAGLES LODGE SOCIETY**  
**CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS**





# CONSTITUTION

## NAME OF SOCIETY

## CIRCLE OF EAGLES LODGE SOCIETY

## SOCIETY'S PURPOSES

1. The purposes of the Society are:

a) To develop and operate an Aboriginal Community Residential Facility/Training Centre in British Columbia for Aboriginal persons reintegrating into their communities.

b) To construct, hold, manage, provide and/or maintain housing for low and moderate income persons.

c) To support the development of other Aboriginal Community Residential Facilities/Training Centers throughout Canada, wherever the need arises; to maintain active liaison with all other centres; and to train staff members to support the development of other Aboriginal Community Residential Facilities/Training Centers.

d) To assist in resolving Aboriginal issues through traditional practices such as: Healing Circle Talks, Medicine Wheels, Native Cultural Awareness, Native Spirituality, Native Substance Abuse treatment, West Coast cultural teachings and Personal Development sessions.

e) To assist in providing Aboriginal People with training in leadership, management, and other areas of development required to advance their independence and self reliance. BC

## CIRCLE OF EAGLES LODGE SOCIETY BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE 1 – MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1-1

The members of the Society are the successful applicants who have become members in accordance with these by-laws and those who have not ceased to be members.

(a) Any person of North American Aboriginal descent may apply to the Board for membership in the Society, and on acceptance by the Board of Directors and payment of the annual membership dues provided herein, shall be a member of the Society.

(b) Any person desiring to become a member or Associate member of the Society shall submit an application to the Secretary of the Board, in the form approved by the Board, along with payment of the annual membership dues.

#### Section 1-2

(a) Associate Membership shall be available to all persons of non- Aboriginal descent provided that person supports the purposes of the Society, on acceptance by the Board of Directors and payment of the annual membership dues.

(b) An Associate Member may vote or be a Director, and shall be entitled to attend meetings, speak at meetings, and receive information which is delivered to all other members.

(c) The number of Aboriginal members shall at all times exceed the number of Associate members of the Society.

### **Section 1-3**

(a) Honourary membership may be conferred by the members of the Society in attendance at any general meeting of the Society. Candidates for Honourary membership will be nominated by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. Honourary members will have voting privileges and shall be entitled to attend meetings, speak at meetings, and receive information that is delivered to all other members.

(b) Honourary members are not required to pay membership dues.

### **Section 1-4**

Membership in the Society ceases upon non-payment of annual dues and membership in the society may be cancelled for any breach of the Society's bylaws, or for cause, by the vote of more than sixty (60) percent of the membership present at any general meeting of the Society.

## **ARTICLE II – MEETINGS**

### **Section 2-1**

The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held at the time and place, in accordance with the Society Act, that the Directors decide.

(a) Notice of the Annual General Meeting must be in writing, delivered either by hand, by mail, by facsimile transmission, or by e-mail, at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting.

### **Section 2-2**

Special General Meetings of the Society may be called by the President when such special meetings in his/her opinion are deemed necessary, and shall be called by the President upon the demand of five (5) members of the Board of Directors or upon a petition signed by not less than ten (10) percent of the voting membership of the Society.

(a) Notice of Special General Meetings shall be given in the manner set out in Section 2-1 above by notifying the membership at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting.

### **Section 2-3**

A quorum at annual or general meetings will consist of a minimum of 1/3 of the voting members in good standing, but if a quorum is not achieved, the meeting shall be adjourned for one week to a place and time announced at the meeting. At the second meeting a quorum shall consist of those in attendance, provided there are a minimum of 3 voting members in good standing present.

### **Section 2-4**

The amount of annual dues for each succeeding year shall be determined at each annual general meeting of the Society. Until further changes, the annual fees shall be as follows:

(a) Members and Associate Members - \$5.00



(b) Honourary Members and Elders as defined by the Board – No Charge

## **Section 2-5**

Members of the Society may resign by giving one month's notice of resignation to the President of the Society.

## **ARTICLE III – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

### **Section 3-1**

(a) The Board of Directors of the Society shall consist of a maximum of 12 (twelve) elected members with full voting privileges. Membership of the Board of Directors shall consist of at least two-thirds members of North American Aboriginal descent, and not more than one-third non-Aboriginal members.

(b) A Brother/Sister who will represent their population may be appointed to the Board of Directors by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

(c) Any employee of the Society shall not be eligible for membership in the Society or election to the Board of Directors.

### **Section 3-2**

The following schedule indicates which Directorship becomes vacant at the Annual General Meeting at which directors are elected, using a staggered term in each calendar year, commencing 2001, up and including year 2010. After the year 2010, the same pattern established by this schedule shall be continued. The Director number refers to the ranking of the Directors based on the number of votes each Director receives at his or her election.

Year of Election Term of Office Directorship (12)

2001-2002 1 year 9, 10, 11, 12

2001-2003 2 years 5, 6, 7, 8

2001-2004 3 years 1, 2, 3, 4

2002-2003 1 year 9, 10, 11, 12 (election)

2003-2004 1 year 9, 10, 11, 12 (election)

2 years 5, 6, 7, 8 (election)

2004-2005 1 year 9, 10, 11, 12 (election)

3 years 1, 2, 3, 4 (election)

2005-2006 1 year 9, 10, 11, 12 (election)

2 years 5, 6, 7, 8 (election)

2006-2007 1 year 9, 10, 11, 12 (election)

2007-2008 1 year 9, 10, 11, 12 (election)

2 years 5, 6, 7, 8 (election)

3 years 1, 2, 3, 4 (election)

2008-2009 1 year 9, 10, 11, 12 (election)

2009-2010 Schedule continues

2010-2011 Schedule continues

### **Section 3-3**

It will be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to elect from among themselves the Executive members of the Board immediately following the Annual General Meeting.

### **Section 3-4**

Any member of the Board of Directors absent from two (2) consecutive Board meetings, without a valid reason acceptable to the Board, shall cease to be a member of the Board.

### **Section 3-5**

Vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors as a result of unfilled terms will be filled by a two-thirds vote of the remaining Directors of the Society.

### **Section 3-6**

A quorum of the Board shall be five (5).

(a) The minimum number of Directors with North American Aboriginal ancestry shall not be less than three (3).

### **Section 3-7**

Any member of the Board of Directors shall be deemed to have vacated his/her position if:

(a) He/she applies for employment with the Society;

(b) He/she applies or is currently participating in any of the programs or services offered by the Society, except in the case of the Brother/Sister who has been appointed by the Board;

(c) He/she is associated with any business or organization that contracts with the Society;

i. provided that a Society member shall not be required to vacate his/her office by reason of his/her being a shareholder or member of any business or organization which has entered into contract with, or does any work for the Society, provided he/she discloses that fact, but he/she shall not vote in respect of such contract or work, and if he/she votes, his/her vote shall not be counted; and

ii. provided further that, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, members of the Board of Directors may receive due reimbursement from the Society for any out-of-pocket expenses they incur while engaged in activities on behalf of the Society and authorized by it.



### **Section 3-8 - DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The duties of the Board of Directors shall be to manage the affairs of the Society, and without limiting the foregoing, the directors may:

(a) Name such standing and ad hoc committees as they consider necessary for the conduct of the Society's affairs from among the members of the Society.

(b) Develop and adopt policies governing all aspects of the Society, such as:

i. Staff employment;

ii. Board responsibilities; and

iii. Overall general Society matters.

(c) Advise the general membership of the Society and make recommendations for their consideration and actions.

#### **The duties of the Board of Directors shall also include:**

(d) Choosing the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Society as soon as possible after each Annual General Meeting of the Society;

(e) Having responsibility for managing the funds of the Society and for the raising of funds for the Society;

(f) Appointing the Chairman for each standing Committee from among themselves;

(g) Employing and discharging an Executive Director and determining his/her salary and terms and conditions of employment; and

(h) In the absence of an Executive Director, employing and discharging such staff members as they may deem necessary, and determining their number, remuneration, and other terms and conditions of employment, pursuant to the established personnel policies and procedures.

### **Section 3-9 - OFFICERS**

(a) The officers of the Society or the Executive Committee shall be the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

(b) Such officers shall be elected from among its members by the Board of Directors at its organizational meeting immediately following the Annual General Meeting.

(c) The immediate past President will be a member of the Executive Committee ex-officio if he/she holds a current membership in the Society.

(d) Any officer who resigns or leaves office for any other reason and is unable to complete his/her term of office may be replaced by a member appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

(e) Any officer shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, but not limited to one year.

### **Section 3-10 - DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

**(a) The President:**

- i. shall preside at all meetings of the Society, the Board and the Executive, and shall enforce the observance of the Constitution and by-laws, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees other than the nomination committee, and shall exercise general care and superintendence of the affairs of the Society;
- ii. may be empowered to act as one of the signing officers.

**(b) The Vice-President**

- i. shall in the absence of the President perform the duties of the President, and when so acting he or she shall have the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities hereby given or imposed on the President;
- ii. may be empowered to act as one of the signing officers.

**(c) The Secretary**

- i. shall have charge of all the records and minutes of the Society and records of all the committees:
- ii. shall conduct or cause to be conducted the official correspondence of the Society;
- iii. may be empowered to act as one of the signing officers.

**(d) The Treasurer**

- i. shall be responsible for the proper keeping of the books of account and such other records as may be prescribed by law or as may be required by the Society;
- ii. have charge of, and render, the financial statements of the Society when required;
- iii. may be empowered to act as one of the signing officers.

### **Section 3-11 - DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**The Executive Director:**

- (a) shall preferably be of North American Aboriginal descent;
- (b) shall be responsible for the general direction of the affairs and operation of the Aboriginal Community Residential Facility and other programs and services as provided by the Society in accordance with the policies laid down by the Board of Directors;
- (c) shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for his/her administrative conduct; and
- (d) shall serve as an advisor to the Board of Directors, and under the Secretary of the Board shall keep the records of the Society, the Board and all the committees; but shall have no vote on the Board of Directors, or be a member thereof.



## **Section 3-12 - RESOLUTIONS**

A resolution in writing signed by all the Directors shall be valid and effectual as if it has been passed at meeting of the Directors duly called and constituted. Resolutions may be signed in counterpart, and an electronic or fax copy of a Director's signature shall be the same as an original.

## **ARTICLE IV – FUNDS**

### **Section 4-1**

All funds of the Society shall be deposited in the name of the Society at a financial institution selected by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 4-2**

In order to carry out the purposes of the Society the Directors may, on behalf of and in the name of the Society, borrow such funds as the Directors think desirable and secure the payment or re-payment of such borrowing by giving security, in whatever form the directors shall deem fit, over the funds, property, and assets of the Society, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, by the issuance of debentures.

### **Section 4-3**

The members may by special resolution restrict the borrowing powers of the Directors, but a restriction imposed expires at the next Annual General Meeting.

## **ARTICLE V – AUDITORS**

### **Section 5-1**

At the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Society, an Auditor or Auditors, who shall be a member or members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia, may be appointed to hold office until the next Annual General meeting of the Society.

## **ARTICLE VI – SEAL**

### **Section 6-1**

The Directors may provide for a seal for the Society, and the Directors shall have the power from time to time to destroy the seal and substitute a new seal in its place.

(a) The Directors shall provide for the safe custody of the seal of the Society, which shall not be affixed to any instrument except in the presence of:

- i. any two Directors;
- ii. the President and Secretary; or
- iii. such other person or persons as may be prescribed from time to time by resolution of the Directors.

(b) Such Directors, officers and persons shall sign every instrument to which the seal of the Society is affixed in their presence.

(c) A resolution of the Directors directing the general use of the seal may be passed at any time by the Directors, and shall apply to the use of the seal until countermanded by another resolution of the Directors.

## **ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

### **Section 7-1**

The Constitution and by-laws shall not be altered or added to except by a Special Resolution of the Society passed at a general or special meeting by seventy-five (75%) of the voting membership present.

## **ARTICLE VIII – NOTICE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION**

### **Section 8-1**

Notice to propose a Special Resolution shall be deemed to be duly given if signed by a proposer and a seconder, who shall be voting members of the Society in good standing, and delivered to the Secretary, that the Secretary has delivered to the membership of the Society not less than 14 (fourteen) days before the General or Special Meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX – DISSOLUTION**

### **Section 9-1**

Dissolution of the Society may only be decided by a Special Resolution of the Society.

### **Section 9-2**

In the event of dissolution, any property or assets remaining shall be distributed to such charitable organizations as directed by Special Resolution of the Society.

## **ARTICLE X – RULES OF ORDER**

### **Section 10-1**

Roberts Rule of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for matters of procedure not specifically covered by these by-laws.

## **ARTICLE XI – MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Section 11-1**

The Society shall be a non-profit organization.

### **Section 11-2**

The operations of the Society are to be carried out in the Province of British Columbia. This clause was previously unalterable.



### **Section 11-3**

All gaming monies, or assets purchased with gaming monies, held at the date of winding up or dissolution of the Society, shall be distributed to such charitable Aboriginal organization or organizations in British Columbia having similar charitable purposes, as directed by the members by Special Resolution. This clause was previously unalterable.

### **Section 11-4**

Upon winding-up or dissolution of the Society, all assets other than those gaming monies or assets purchased with gaming monies addressed in Section 5 remaining after the payment of all costs, charges and expenses incurred in the winding-up, including the remuneration of a liquidator, and after payment to employees of the Society of any arrears of salary or wages, and after payment of any other debts of the Society, shall be distributed to such charitable Aboriginal organization or organizations in British Columbia as directed by the membership by Special Resolution. This clause was previously unalterable.

### **Section 11-5**

The members of the Board of Director's shall serve without remuneration, and the Directors shall not receive, directly or indirectly, any profits from their position as Directors, but may be paid reasonable expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as Directors. This clause was previously unalterable.

### **Section 11-6**

The Society is constituted exclusively for charitable purposes and must not distribute any gain, profit or dividend, or otherwise dispose of its assets to a member of the Society, without receiving full and valuable consideration, and any profits or other accretions to the Society shall be used for promoting its purposes. This clause was previously unalterable.



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