

A Circle Of Caring

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Vancouver Aboriginal
Health Society

Be - Connect - Root - Grow





Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society

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Message from Board Chair Adam Munnings

On behalf of the Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society Board of Directors, I am pleased to introduce *A Circle of Caring*, VAHS's 2021-2022 annual report. *A Circle of Caring* highlights the activities our programs engaged in during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. In these pages you will discover that despite the pandemic, VAHS staff continued to deliver excellent services to the urban Indigenous community in Vancouver. Over and over, staff proved its resilience by being flexible and adapting to the changes that have been a hallmark of managing the pandemic.

Not all our changes were pandemic related. In November 2021, we were pleased to welcome Rosemary Stager-Wallace as VAHS's new executive director. The former health director for the Southern St'at'imx Health Society brings with her a wealth of experience in Indigenous health care and a foundational commitment to land-based healing.

Moving into the next year, our focus is on the new VAHS Healing Centre that will be located at 52-92 East Hastings Street as part of the new Aboriginal Land Trust housing development. Innovative features of the new centre, such as a permanent sweat lodge and medicinal garden, will afford more opportunities for land-based healing and the further incorporation of Knowledge Keepers and Elders into all VAHS's services.

I thank our staff, program volunteers, and partners for their contributions towards making VAHS the strong, responsive and creative organization that our urban Indigenous community depends on.

Sincerely,

Adam Munnings
Chair, VAHS Board of Directors



FY 2022 Board of Directors

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Message from Executive Director Rosemary Stager-Wallace

I am pleased to present *A Circle of Caring*, VAHS's 2021-2022 annual report. *A Circle of Caring* not only refers to the *Circle of Care* document – the cultural framework that guides our work as an organization—it illustrates how we provide our services to the urban Indigenous community in Vancouver. Through our four programming areas and our partnership with Sheway, we can address urban Indigenous health inequities in a way that acknowledges the four sectors of wellness denoted on the Medicine Wheel: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Whether it's services at our Primary Care Clinic or our Indigenous Early Years child and family programs, all our services are grounded in traditional healing and the ancestral knowledge of our staff, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members.

Prior to joining VAHS in November 2021, I was the Health Director for the Southern St'at'imx Health Society located in Líl'wat Nation. As part of my work there, I was involved in successful land-based healing initiatives including the award-winning recording *The Kindness Project* and the *Ntákmén Calendar*, a 164-page field guide to the botanical resources of St'at'imx territory for SSHS members. What was exciting was not the accolades that these projects received, but how these projects resonated with our people.

Bringing people together with culture and tradition proved to be incredibly healing. I saw men engaged in a cabin-building develop friendships as they developed skills. I saw women embracing traditional foods and medicines, and people for whom their first sweat lodge ceremony was the beginning of their sobriety journeys. And always, at the heart of it all, was the steady beat of the drum, our collective Indigenous heart.

What drew me to VAHS was its commitment to land-based healing and the opportunity to build on traditional Indigenous health care with the opening of the new VAHS Healing Centre at 52-92 East Hastings. As VAHS moves into the next year, we are well-positioned to be a leader in urban land-based healing with the new Healing Centre providing opportunities to bring ceremony and other traditional healing modalities to urban Indigenous people in Vancouver, in the neighbourhood that so many community members call home.

There's a lot to do, but as you'll read in *A Circle of Caring*, we're well prepared to take on the challenges.

I am humbled to work with Knowledge Keepers and Elders who work everyday in the Our Circle is Strong cultural program to ensure that traditional spirituality and culture support the medical, dental and social programs we operate to support a connected and empowered urban Indigenous community.

It is an honour to work with the dedicated people at VAHS and the community we serve.

Kúkwstur'ckálap (Thank you to all),

Tsekonámus Losí
Executive Director



Circle of Care

Ensuring Indigenous ways are incorporated into all VAHS services

In 2021, VAHS adopted the *Circle of Care* document outlining its strategy for, and commitment to, incorporating Traditional Knowledge and Land-based Healing into all its services. VAHS Policy Analyst and *Circle of Care* creator, Marlee Poole, explains the *Circle of Care* approach to delivering urban Indigenous community-focused services.

VAHS programs are designed with the understanding that health is holistic and informed by our connections to culture and community. We provide physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual supports that are rooted in the strengths of Indigenous peoples and cultures. We walk alongside each person to deliver affirming, trauma-informed, and culturally-grounded care, based on their self-determined health needs and aspirations.

Guided by Elders and Knowledge Keepers, we address the social determinants of health and reclaim healing practices that colonialism seeks to erase. We recognize the best of western medicine while understanding that we cannot solely prescribe our way to wellness or disconnect any of our challenges from the systems around us. Good medicine is not just about things we put on or into our bodies, but about anything that helps us act or feel better; this can include skill building, social supports, being on the land or in nature, and having a sense of security and belonging. Connections to Indigenous cultures can guide all of these, and we facilitate access to traditional teachings, medicines, and ceremonies as part of healing journeys.

Our Circle of Care approach is transformative and empowering, meeting people where they are at to promote positive health outcomes and a strengthened sense of identity. We lead the delivery of culturally-safe urban health care by reclaiming our knowledge and practices so we can all thrive.

Marlee Poole
VAHS Policy Analyst



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Programs



Artist: Brad Henry

VAHS Primary Care Clinic

Delivering Health Services Supported by Traditional Wellness

VAHS's Primary Care Clinic provides medical, mental health, and social support services to urban Indigenous people and residents of the Downtown Eastside community. The clinic works in partnership with the First Nations Aboriginal Primary Care Network (FNAPCN) to improve health care access, services, and experiences for urban Indigenous people in the Vancouver area.

The Primary Care Clinic offers a wide range of services, from check-ups to OAT and HIV care. In 2021-2022, close to 700 people accessed clinic services. The clinic is now at capacity and is unable to currently accept new patients.

The clinic serves the following four purposes:

- Provide culturally safe, trauma-informed and relevant primary care services to urban Indigenous people living in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) community
- Implement an Indigenous model of care at VAHS to support Indigenous primary care
- Provide and enhance patient access to primary care services
- Increase the number of Indigenous patient attachments to VAHS, to a primary care provider (MRP) and the Primary Care Clinic team

In the past year, the Primary Care Clinic has made significant improvements to its systems and practices including reporting procedures and safety protocols, providing access to Traditional Healers and Elders as part of patient care teams, and undertaking the Mobile Women's Primary Care Clinic initiative that will launch in 2023.

Primary Care Clinic

STATS FROM APRIL 1, 2021 TO MARCH 31, 2022

1108

Panel size

3075

Total appointments

2185

Primary Care appointments

685

Unique patients

10

Wellness Registry Tools completed

91.2%

Clients claimed Indigenous identity

Top 3 Conditions

1

Mental Health,
Alcohol Use Disorder
(303)

197 (17.8%)

2

Mental Health,
Opiate Use Disorder
(3040)

185 (16.7%)

3

Mental Health,
Tobacco Use Disorder
(3051)

166 (15%)

Primary Care Clinic Activities in FY 2022

COVID-19 MANAGEMENT

During the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Primary Care Clinic endeavoured to keep staff and clients safe by adhering to provincial guidelines and mandates.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND DEVELOPMENT

In FY 2022, physician vacancies were filled, a 0.5 FTE registered nurse (RN) was hired, and the casual RN pool was strengthened, a 0.2 FTE dietician was brought on board, and a full-time Social Worker was also added to the team.

Existing processes were enhanced last year. An Elders and Healers Group was established and became involved in shaping culture and operations. The staff onboarding process added San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training to its requirements.

The Primary Care Clinic also undertook the Mobile Women's Primary Care Clinic initiative, planned to be launched in early 2023.

REPORTING

An attachment numbers tracker was established in FY 2022 and allied health/Traditional Healers were trained to use EMR for patient encounter to capture VAHS activity. The Clinic Operations Supervisor joined the FNAPCN data e-health group as VAHS's representative. The Wellness Registry Tool was introduced to physicians and allied support staff for FNAPCN reporting.

CLINIC SITE & EQUIPMENT

QUALITY AND SAFETY INITIATIVES

A new clinic medication storage system was established and implemented. A locked storage system for physician triplicate prescriptions pads was introduced. A safety committee will be established in FY 2023 to address issues like acquiring a back-up power supply for the vaccine refrigerator.

LOGISTICS & IMPLEMENTATION

To assist with logistics and implementation, the Primary Care Clinic utilized MetricAid scheduling software for staff and physicians, and Penny Timesheet. In FY 2023, a structured scheduling system will be put in place for allied staff.

LEADERSHIP

Weekly "mini meets" were introduced to improve communication and transparency throughout the society, and were specifically aimed at dialogue pertaining to how to improve patient access, care and outcomes.

Monthly Wellness Wednesdays were also established to allow for team building, cultural connections, cultural and clinical learning, and staff acknowledgements.

Target Outcomes

Client-focused Outcomes

Timely and consistent access to a primary care provider

Enhanced health care experiences grounded in trauma informed, culturally safe care

Access to cultural opportunities, with Traditional Healers and Elders as part of care teams

Health care system-focused Outcomes

Improved access to primary care for urban Indigenous populations

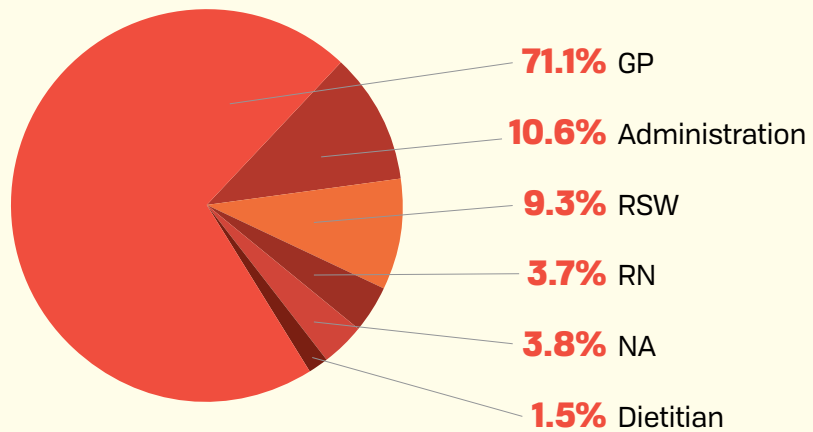
Increased patient attachment

Enhanced ability of Indigenous clinical services clinicians to support clients and work in a team-based care model

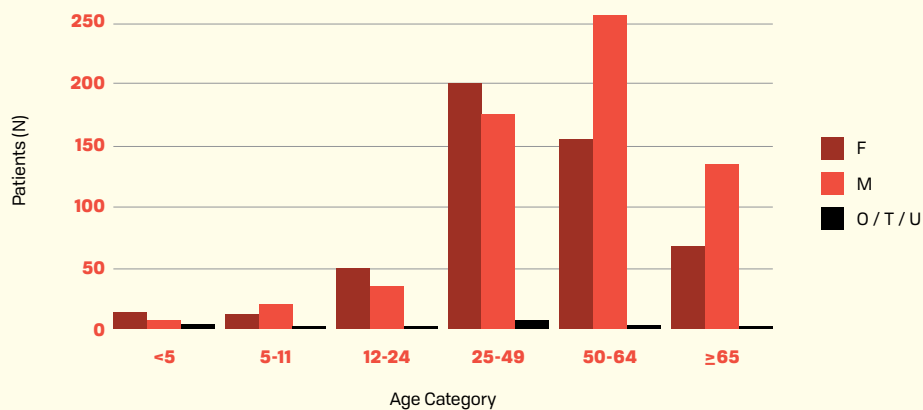
Improved information sharing and collaboration with key service partners (FNAPCN)



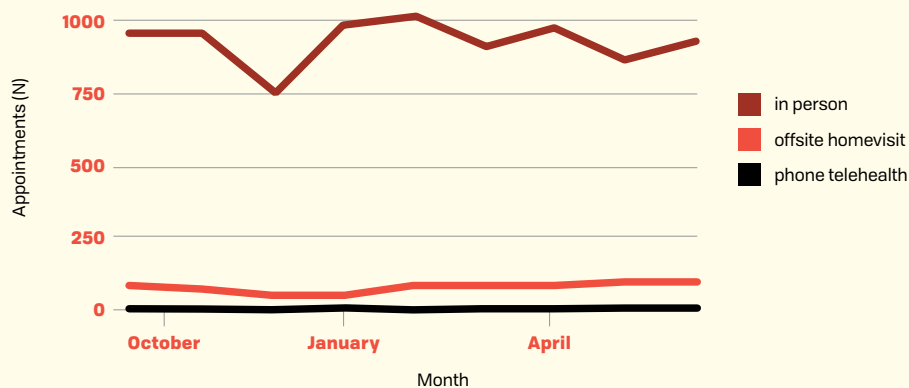
Current Quarter Appointments by Provider Type



Patient Panel



Appointments of Current and Previous Quarters by Month



VAHS Dental Clinic

Providing Culturally Appropriate, Low Barrier Dental Care

VAHS's Dental Clinic, also known as the Eastside Dental Clinic, offers preventative and urgent services to patients with little or no dental coverage. Now in its 14th year of operation, the clinic offers services ranging from emergency care to implant surgery.

The VAHS Dental Clinic is the lowest barrier option to address dental needs for people living in the Lower Mainland. While the focus of clinic is providing services to urban Indigenous people in the Downtown Eastside, non-Indigenous clients are also welcome to access services. This is made possible through the clinic's network of partnerships with dental schools, the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), and dental suppliers. A dedicated team of nearly 700 volunteer dentists, dental assistants, instructors, dental hygienists, and front desk staff help to deliver services.

In FY 2022, the clinic saw dramatic increases in all service areas, apart from orthodontics. Clinic treatments (4,733) were up 50% over last year and the patient load (2,792) increased by 21%. This is a direct reflection of market needs and continues with a trend that began at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought clinic capacity to 200%.

Our Vision

To be a proactive dental service that aims to make a difference in the dental not-for-profit sector

Dental Clinic Activities in FY 2022

NEW AND IMPROVED SERVICES

VAHS's dental clinic, also known as Eastside Dental Clinic, increased its services in FY 2022. The clinic now offers implants (including crowns), Solea All-Tissue Dental Laser services, and Gentle Wave Procedure technology for pain-free treatment. Solea All-Tissue Dental Laser technology is a privileged service that the clinic has been able to access, becoming one of 200 clinics—and the first not-for-profit clinic—across Canada that have this technology. Eastside Dental is also the only not-for-profit clinic currently offering Gentle Wave Procedure technology to support its root canal services.

The clinic is working to further increase the diversity of its offerings by continuing to develop orthodontic treatments, cephalometric x-rays—Eastside Dental is the only clinic in the province with this technology—Gentle Wave Procedure technology, and an intraoral digital scanner to increase patient comfort while taking specific oral impressions to improve clinic efficiency.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteers and students continued to be essential to Eastside Dental's operations. Annually, an average of 600 volunteers, including dental professionals and instructors, assist with front desk and chair side functions. The clinic also hosts approximately 800 students per year. These students include those learning to become dental assistants and dental hygienists, as well as high school students interested in pursuing dental careers.

Sponsorships are also key to the clinic's success. In FY 2022, Eastside Dental maintained its strong partnerships with denturists, private and public dental programs, and dental suppliers. This has allowed for a major flow of patients to move towards the improvement of their dental health.

New partnerships are being developed with an eye to further support for the clinic when it relocates into the

VAHS Healing Centre in Fall 2023. The new facility will be a cornerstone in the provincial dental service and will help ensure proper oral health for the community.

Currently, the clinic is involved with a dental software pilot project. This partnership is in process and the software has been installed in Eastside Dental's Indigenous Early Years location at Phil Bouvier Centre. The software will be implemented in September 2023.

FUNDING

As in previous years, the dental program continues not to have a proper annual budget, which makes it reliant on volunteers, student rotations, and sponsorships. Despite this challenge, the office has found its way to keep moving forward.

STAFFING AND SUPPORT

Eastside Dental is deeply affected by the lack of staff within its operations. Despite this limitation, the clinic is increasing services and building a good reputation as a dental provider. Many dental professionals do not see the clinic as a viable working environment. This is a multifaceted problem that affects other not-for-profit dental providers in the province. Clinic management hopes that the move to a purpose-built clinic within the VAHS Healing Centre will make it a more attractive workplace to dental professionals.

NEW FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

Eastside Dental is pleased to announce that its preventative family clinic, located at Phil Bouvier Family Centre, will have a designated staff for its community immersion services. This new facility will be the program that supports the community immersion aspects of the of the clinic's work when it relocates to the new VAHS Healing Centre in 2023.

CHALLENGES

The increase in demand for dental services has resulted in more maintenance and repairs of both the clinic's space and its equipment. Keeping up with the need for proper functional equipment has been one of the critical challenges for Eastside Dental in FY 2022.

	2020-2021	2021										2022			Total	%
	Apr-Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		Increased	
Diagnostic	2218	230	227	193	233	239	300	219	223	155	239	251	283	2792	20.6%	
SERVICES (EXCLUDING DIAGNOSTICS)																
Preventative	519	50	90	96	98	132	98	119	153	112	86	115	161	1310	60.4%	
Restorative	823	121	152	152	128	110	150	142	192	134	120	144	185	1744	52.2%	
Endodontist	201	29	18	23	20	36	33	30	34	23	23	13	30	312	35.6%	
Periodontic	72	6	13	13	3	19	17	24	38	15	18	20	31	217	66.8%	
Prosthetic - removable	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	8	75%	
Prosthetic - fixed	14	1	0	0	2	4	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	14	0%	
Oral surgery	588	97	77	54	64	38	69	116	127	94	54	74	94	958	38.6%	
Orthodontics	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	-25%	
General services	143	4	5	7	4	5	14	27	19	11	19	17	34	166	13.9%	
SERVICES PER MONTH	2367	309	355	348	319	345	395	462	570	391	320	383	536	4733	50%	

Indigenous Early Years

Programming that Builds Strong Families

VAHS's Indigenous Early Years (IEY) delivers programming that creates strong and resilient families. IEY offers a diversity of supports including an Aboriginal Infant Development program, an Aboriginal Supported Childhood Development program, a Building Blocks drop-in and home visiting program, a team of Family Support Workers, an FASD Supported Circle, and a Family Violence Intervention program.

VAHS's IEY programs are delivered at the Phil Bouvier Family Centre (PBFC) in the Strathcona neighbourhood, a few blocks from VAHS's main office on East Hastings Street. Collaborate, compassionate, and creative, the people who work in IEY's programs provide and develop programming infused with land-based healing and Indigenous knowledge. Knowledge Keepers and Elders are also integral members of IEY. This report looks at the achievements and activities of IEY's Administration Department, Aboriginal Supportive Development Program, Family Support Workers Program, and the Early Childhood Development Team. Despite limitations created by COVID-19, IEY was able to continue to its programs, using technology to connect with clients when face-to-face programming was not possible.





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Administration Department

The IEY Team includes the Administration Department that is overseen directly by the Director of IEY who is supported by a full-time Administrative Assistant. This part of the IEY circle supports all programs that operate within IEY.

Administration Department Activities in FY 2022

FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM CHANGES

In FY 2022, the eight-week program currently referred to as the Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP) experienced staff changes for the first time in eight years. The program coordinator moved on to a Knowledge Keeper role with VAHS and the long-time Elder for the program, semi-retired in March 2021 when he started working solely with the Our Circle is Strong cultural program.

The new FVIP Coordinator has brought a lot to the program and has built on the strong cultural foundation of the program. There has been an increase of work on the affects of trauma, residential school impacts, and developing solid life skills in many areas. Another change implemented was involving the Wellness Counsellor, a FT position, within the FVIP on a daily basis. This gave those in the program another resource right in their circle, as it also opened up relationships and future paths for the participants' families and partners.

IEY offered five FVIP groups in FY 2022, with a total of 25 people completing the program. Groups were smaller this year due to COVID containment strategies. IEY looks forward to offering the program to more folks in each session in FY 2023.

COUNSELLING DEMANDS INCREASED

Within the Wellness Counsellor caseload, IEY saw 14 new people over the year and continued to provide individual counselling to 23 people. The Wellness Counsellor also supported a weekly Indigenous Woman's Talking Circle, which went from being in Zoom rooms in 2020 to on-site at our centre once again in 2021.

Within all healing services, staff noticed a large increase in needs, and the intensity of these needs, around mental health, suicide prevention, grief and loss, opiate deaths and their aftermath, and anxiety and coping issues due to COVID-19 and other factors external to families and how they function.

FOOD AND KITCHEN SERVICES

In FY 2022, IEY's Chef, assisted by casual kitchen assistants, provided daily meals for everyone at PBFC, including groups, meeting participants, staff, and guests. She also supported and provided meals for community in times of grief or crisis, and to assist with food security. During FY 2022, IEY offered our community the following:

- 9,048 lunches on-site
- Supported the summer Park and Play programs in July with picnic and premade foods, generally serving 40 to 60 families per week in July 2021
- Four special occasion meals were served at the PBFC to a total of 320 people
- 88 families were helped with prepared meals at times of crisis or grief
- Approximately 30 families were helped with fresh fruit, snacks and/or other food supports directly from the kitchen
- More than 200 hours of training and mentoring in Culinary Arts were offered to Indigenous youth (baking, food prep, fruit carving, setting up catering tables, etc.)
- The kitchen served approximately 400 meals on-site to help support weekly Elders' meetings with a healthy lunch and a comfortable meeting space
- IEY provided approximately 300 lunches for groups held offsite in partner locations

CHILDMINDING FOR ON-SITE GROUPS

One full-time childminder (CM) and four casual CMs provided childminding services for those accessing services at PBFC. This service, which closed in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was able to re-open in FY 2022. While most childminding services took place at PBFC, CMs also assisted with summer Park and Play groups in a neighbourhood park. In total, CMs provided care to of 492 children last year. Services were offered on about 160 days at PBFC, with another 20 days of childminding provided in parks and other locations where IEY hosted programs.

IEY ADMINISTRATION

IEY's Administration Department's work is performed by the IEY Director (DIEY) and a full-time Administrative Assistant (AA). These two positions provide daily support to all other IEY services and are integral to the department's routine functioning and overall success. During the last fiscal year, IEY Administration facilitated the following for the families it serves:

- **Emergency Food and/or Supply Services:** IEY Administration provided 87 orders of supplies and food through Instacart and a further \$5,000 in gift cards to help more than 100 families with these essentials in FY 2022.
- **Diaper Services:** IEY Administration offered free diapers and wipes to people who accessed services at PBFC. More than 4,000 diapers were distributed in FY 2022.
- **Self-Care Packages:** 24 packages were distributed to people to help sustain and uplift parents and caregivers. Packages included traditional medicines and other proven items for self-care and stress relief.
- **Welcome Baby Kits:** 20 kits were distributed for new babies. The kits are worth about \$250 and include many of the essentials needed for a new little one.
- **Pediatric Dental Services** were set-up in FY 2022. Both the Administrative Assistant and the IEY Director worked closely with the Director of Dental Services to establish the Pediatric Dental Clinic (PDC) that will open fully in 2023. This is a very exciting service partnership that will greatly benefit children and families.
- **Maintenance and Building Needs:** The AA and DIEY are responsible for different aspects of ensuring the Phil Bouvier Family Centre runs safely and well for all who access services or work from here.



Aboriginal Supported Childhood Development Program

The Vancouver Aboriginal Supported Childhood Development Program (VASCDP/ASCDP) works with, and provides support services to, families within the Vancouver area. This provincially-funded program is designed to meet the needs of Aboriginal (status, non-status, Métis, and Inuit) children who have extra support needs. ASCDP believes that early intervention is about identifying the child's needs early, helping the parent/guardian understand those needs, and then working together to plan and find the supports that the parent/guardian needs to support their child's future development.

ASCDP supports 108 children and 25 community centers with child-specific spaces. The program's Enhancement Workers assist families by helping them find programs and community resources and assisting support workers/care providers for the children with extra support needs. ASCDP emphasizes planning for inclusion in day-to-day family life, in daycares, in preschools, and in after school care programs to develop a child's self-esteem and identity, allowing them to grow and learn in a safe and nurturing environment.

The program works with all families: birth, adopted and foster. ASCDP accepts open referrals, which means referrals will be accepted by letter, fax, or phone from either parents or professionals (referrals from professionals must have parental consent.)

ASCDP provides supports in various community childcare settings such as Aboriginal Head Start Programs, preschool, daycare, after school care, spring/summer

camp, and on an exceptional basis, in the child's home. ASCDP services are developed and led by the local Aboriginal community with local cultural knowledge and a greater understanding of the community in mind. Cultural and spiritual connection is what makes this program unique to Aboriginal communities. ASCDP services are designed to ensure cultural safety and relevance for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children and families across BC.

Program Enhancement Workers are trained to offer a variety of workshops that support the children and families in their caseloads. ASCDP also utilizes the Aboriginal Infant Development Workers to bring Indigenous cultures and knowledges into the programs. The FASD Key Worker also provides workshops for VASCDP programs upon request. These programs may request specific workshops that ASCDP has to offer to programs/staff to connect and help better understand the child, our cultures, or families' needs.



Aboriginal Supported Childhood Development Program Activities in FY 2022

FAMILY SUPPORT

In FY 2022, ASCDP continued to work with and provide support services to families within the Vancouver area. Support services were offered in a variety of settings to more than 100 children and their families living in the city.

RETURNING TO “NORMAL” SAFELY

At the end of FY 2022, ASCDP was almost back to “normal” with most schools/programs opening with minimal COVID-19 restrictions. Most schools and programs had loosened their COVID-19 restrictions including dropping the requirement to wear a face mask. Most programs were not using masks, but if they were, ASCDP workers followed their lead and used masks as well.

The majority of the IEY staff were fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and most programs had eliminated the requirements for PPE for COVID-19. Wearing masks was no longer mandatory. However, during FY 2022 some adults in some programs continued to wear masks. Mask usage was not widespread among children.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

When there were outbreaks of COVID-19, the four ASCDP Enhancement Workers were notified by email or phone so they could reschedule their visits.

STAFF RETENTION AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION

As of FY 2022, ASCDP program had four dedicated Enhancement Workers, three of whom are long-term staff members that have been with program since its inception in 2007. Over the years, each ASCDP Enhancement Worker has gotten to know families, programs/community and other service providers within the Vancouver area that support the children of our communities. The ASCDP team also includes a Team Leader who has many years of experience within childcare settings and supporting children with extra support needs. All ASCDP staff has made a positive difference in the lives of the children, families, and programs that they have gotten to know throughout the years.





VASCDP Helps Women Find Their Voices

by Yasna Baeza
ASCDP Enhancement Worker

Recently, I reconnected with a parent that I had worked with for three years when her son was in my caseload. This parent shared with me that she is currently working with women that have left abusive relationships in a women's shelter in Vancouver. She also shared with me that many of the women have children attending group care programs such as daycares, preschools or Out of School Care programs around Vancouver. This parent currently supports women and children in getting into safe housing, and connects them with other programs that will provide supports for themselves and their children.

One of the programs she "highly" recommends is the Vancouver Aboriginal Supported Child Development Program for the children that may require extra support. She said to me, "I tell the mothers how the support goes beyond what is required from the workers." This parent shares her experience with our program and tells the mothers she works with how she was able to find her voice in order to fight for the rights of her child by literally holding the hand of the Enhancement Worker assigned to her case. She then hugged me and thanked me for sitting by her side for every meeting and for talking to her after hours when she had questions or doubts on how to approach a situation. Now, with what she has learned by working on supporting her child and working with us, she is now able to connect with other mothers in similar situations and helps them to find their voices.

While talking to a young daycare manager about the child she had recently referred to our program, she thanked me for supporting her in implementing strategies in her daycare and how she is still so new to this job, and she wants the best for the children attending her program and she wants to support her staff to the best of her abilities. She said that with the support VASCDP provides to her centre, she has been able to focus on a more culturally based approach for teaching and she is currently planning to get more parents to join her program.



My Family Testimony

by *Lakeshia Hanson-Ford*
ASCDP Enhancement Worker

One family that comes to mind that has been so grateful for the support, guidance and advocacy from our program and the services we have been able to provide is a grandparent raising her grandchild.

His story begins with unfortunately being pre-exposed to drugs in-utero and experiencing withdrawal symptoms after birth. He received approximately three weeks of morphine for neonatal abstinence syndrome and remained in the hospital for about a month after birth. Not too long after being released to his mother from the hospital, he was removed from her care, due to a breach of her supervision order and her ongoing struggle with substance abuse. He was then placed in several different foster homes, where he experienced physical abuse and neglect. Once his grandmother got involved through MCFD and heard about all the horrible struggles and challenges her grandson was experiencing, she expressed an interest to care for her grandson. The process to receive full custody of her grandson took time, money, court dates, paperwork, and numerous phone calls. He is now in her care. With her patience and relentless advocacy for this child, he has shown significant change in his life, and it's truly heart-warming to see the progress, positive outcomes, and the special love and bond they share—they both have come a long way on their journey.

When she started her journey to get custody, her four-year-old grandson was not able to speak. A tremendous difference has been made between then and now, and today we can share all his successes. His vocabulary has blossomed tremendously; he tells stories and wants to converse with you. He now has positive participation in school and has more focus with his schoolwork. He is continuing to receive treatments and therapy, and he is now on the top of the waitlist at Sunny Hill for further supports. All this success has been able to come to fruition through The Creator, his grandmother, and the guidance and supports of his team through our program and other professionals.

This family's story is one of those stories that we had to share; you can truly feel in your heart that they will continue to grow and overcome any obstacles that come in the future.

Early Childhood Development Services

IEY Early Childhood Development (ECD) services are delivered through programs such as the Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP), which has been in place for 30 years. IEY Director, Mary Clifford, was one of the people responsible for the development of this innovative program that brings cultural connections to the supports provided to urban Indigenous children and families.

ECD offers a variety of programs and events to support both children and parents. In FY 2022, the team was proud to offer the following groups:

- Bringing Tradition Home
- Weekly Facebook Live streams: arts and crafts, traditional storytelling, recipe sharing, health and wellness updates, resource sharing, etc.
- Aboriginal Parent-Child Mother Goose
- FASD Support Group for Parents/Caregivers
- Building Blocks weekly drop-in for parents and children
- Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP) developmental play group
- Body Mind and Spirit Yoga group
- Medicine Wheel Teachings
- Seven Sacred Teachings
- Health and Fitness Walking group

ECD Services Activities in FY 2022

COVID IMPACTS

The second year of the COVID-19 pandemic was a difficult time for all the urban Indigenous families served by ECD. Many families suffered from the isolation and disconnect from community. The ECD team made sure to constantly drop off anything families needed, made sure they knew what was open, and honoured them by offering Zoom and Facebook Live programming to help keep them safe. The staff all did a phenomenal job taking care of community members using ECD services. The program looks forward to an exciting FY 2023.

SPRING FLING

In the spring, ECD hosted Spring Fling where the program handed out men's, women's and children's clothing that was graciously donated by the Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation. The event was held in the outdoor, undercover space at PBFC. Families were invited to come to the office in waves, shop at the tables, pick up a bagged lunch, and safely visit with staff. Great weather contributed to the event's success. All ECD programs participated to make this a hit for the families ECD serves.

ABORIGINAL PARENT-CHILD MOTHER GOOSE PROGRAM

AIDP offered the Aboriginal Parent-Child Mother Goose Program on-site at PBFC. The families were happy to slowly start returning to the centre. This program is offered in four languages as all members of AIDP staff are Knowledge Keepers and Language Users. Cree, Heiltsuk, Wet'suwet'en and English languages are all used in rhymes and songs to help with brain development and growth.

SUMMER FUN IN THE PARK!

In July, IEY ECD programs offered the annual Summer Fun in the Park! program. The goal of this program is to show families that you don't need a lot of money or resources to go to your local park and play with your children. The program offered nutritious bagged lunches, sunscreen, water toys for the children, and entertainment.

RETURN TO IN-OFFICE PROGRAMMING

In September 2021, ECD programs—Building Blocks, AIDP and FASD— resumed in-office groups. ECD also continued to offer weekly Facebook Live groups to include the families not ready for in-person interaction.

FALL SPECIAL EVENT PROGRAMS

For Thanksgiving, ECD offered a Thanksgiving Feast Giveaway draw through Facebook Live. Later that month, ECD hosted a Halloween celebration for families to engage in arts and crafts, have a meal, play some games and, of course, hand out treats. The event also included a giveaway of new Halloween costumes for all, which added a bit of excitement to the event.

IEY FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

To facilitate the greatest number of participants safely, IEY offered three different times families could come to the Family Christmas Party at PBFC for a delicious meal, pictures with Santa, play some activities and win a door prize. Each family went away with a set of PJs for each member of their immediate family, a wonderful recipe for fudge, popcorn, a Christmas craft kit, storybook and hot chocolate—everything needed for a fun, festive family night at home.

NEW YEAR 2022 RE-OPENINGS

By January 2022, all ECD programs were offering in-house groups at PBFC.

MURDERED AND MISSING WOMEN'S MARCH

Staff participated in the Murder and Missing Women's March with their families.

FOOD SUPPORT

ECD delivered groceries and supplies to approximately two families per week throughout FY 2022.







Be - Connect - Root - Grow



Family Support Worker Program

The Family Support Worker Program (FSW Program) is a family-centred program that works with Indigenous parents and caregivers with children from birth to 18 years old. The FSW Program offers educational and cultural activities for the families and children.

Family Support Workers (FSWs) connect families to community-based services that have a strength-based approach to promoting and supporting effective parenting skills. This strength-based practice involves collaborative casework with agency and community programs. The FSWs support and empower individuals to face various challenges and, in some cases, help to ensure that families stay together. FSWs assist families in applying what they learn to guide and support their children.

FSWs play a significant advocacy role, accompanying parents and caregivers in Family Court and liaising with Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). This benefits parents and children by building on their own strengths and acknowledging their personal values. Through this work, the FSW Program helps preserve families from the foster care system and from further breakdowns, while helping them realign with their cultural norms and practices. The program provides innovative, culturally appropriate services, and strengthens relationships with families and community.

The FSW Program works in partnership with several agencies in Vancouver, with each agency hosting an FSW that provides early childhood supports to its service area. In FY 2022, FSW had partnerships with:

- Britannia Community Services Centre
- Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House
- Kiwassa Neighbourhood House
- Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House
- South Vancouver Neighbourhood House

All FSW staff work part-time at these co-location sites. The FSWs engage with their families through community visits, email, phone, text messaging, the Indigenous Early Years Facebook page, or by visiting the 717 Princess office.

Family Support Worker Program Activities in FY 2022

COVID-19 IMPACTS

The pandemic continued to impact program delivery. In-person programs had limited capacity to allow for adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols including the wearing of masks, hand sanitizing, and physical distancing. Facebook Live Groups and Zoom technology were essential to program delivery in FY 2022.

The FSW Program employed a gradual entry to open the doors at the PBFC to welcome back families and staff to once again be with each other. Upon re-opening, families needs included supportive housing and food security.

Britannia Community Services Centre and the Neighbourhood Houses were not fully open to the public until September 2021. The FSW Program leader met with co-location staff to talk about office space and protocols to follow. Staff worked at home and at the office. Using online and in-person resources, staff created safe places to support families that needed guidance and resources in the community. Zoom meetings continued throughout the year. Community centres followed the City and WorkSafe BC guidelines regarding PPE and some workspaces had Plexiglas installed.

Staff members were supported in their workspaces. The Safety Plan was constantly evolving and FSWs were updated when plans regarding office space changed. FSWs were on-site once a week, depending on whether or not they had their own office. The office space continued to be monitored to ensure safety.

GRIEF AND LOSS CIRCLES

Offered via Zoom, Grief and Loss Circles created safe and trusting spaces to share the journey of those who went to the other side of the camp. The group processed their feelings with reflecting, hearing the heartbeat of the drum, and the medicine that was singing songs to create inner healing. Families felt they were no longer alone, built trust and began to share their grief and loss with each other.

MY TWEEN AND ME

Offered via Zoom, the My Tween and Me program allowed parents to gain a better understanding of the effects of positive influences, healthy development, and positive relationships. Parents learned about the challenges that today's tweens face and developed tools to equip them to overcome these challenges. The program aims to help build confidence within parents and tweens to facilitate effective communication. The parents, assisted by two trained facilitators, met with other parents to share challenges and successes, explore new ideas and discuss concerns during the four week program, which awards those who finish the program with a certificate of completion.

MEDICINE WHEEL

Offered via Zoom, the Medicine Wheel program empowered women and connected them with their inner- selves/ ancestors. The basis of this program is to explore a holistic way of healing presented by the four aspects of health the Medicine Wheel addresses: physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. During the program, women review the Medicine Wheel, engage in self-care, and continue healing practice to share with their children and grandchildren. It is an expectation of the program that participants will apply teachings to role model to their children.

7 SACRED TEACHINGS

This workshop created a forum for parents to explore the 7 Sacred Teachings: Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, and Truth. The expectation is to have families teach their children and grandchildren the 7 Sacred Teachings by incorporating them into their daily lives.

INDIGENOUS FAMILY GATHERING: A DAY AT TROUT LAKE

This outdoor activity was aimed at families with children up to the age of 12. There were safe children's activities, singing, storytelling, and featured guests to entertain all.

FUN IN THE SUN PROGRAM!

Families met at Norquay Park once a week to play in the park and form relationships between the mothers and children. Families and children took part in a variety of activities, including enjoying nutritious snacks and lunches, while getting to know each other. The last event for Fun in the Sun Program was a celebration where pizza, juice, water, and fruit were served, and the families were presented with small prizes.

WALKING GROUP

Armed with a first aid kit and thermometer, parents and children walked Hastings Sanctuary, Woodland Park, and Trout Lake and discovered a new park in the Hastings-Sunrise area, breaking the isolation that accompanied the pandemic. Parents connected with other parents, sharing ideas and fun. A co-facilitator provided participants with information about the trees in the parks as the kids played and had fun in nature. Sandwiches, fruit, and water were provided. COVID-19 safety protocols, including wearing masks, hand sanitizing, and physical distancing were followed.

PAMPER ME DAY

Mothers and grandmothers were invited to pamper themselves for the day and were provided with all the supplies for manicures and pedicures.

APPRECIATION BBQ

An Appreciation BBQ, adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols, was held to bring the community together to share culture with the families. There was singing, drumming, storytelling, and laughter. The knowledge shared by the Elders focused on our connection to Mother Earth. Participants shared a delicious BBQ, snacks, games, and laughter as they watched the children play in the water park. There were prizes and giveaways for children and adults. Blankets and water bottles were given to the drummers and the singers were provided with an honorarium. The children enjoyed their candy loot bags.

KIDS UP FRONT

Through its partnership with Kids Up Front, the FSW Program can offer free tickets to sports and entertainment events in the city. Kids Up Front provides event opportunities through partnerships with entertainment organizations, cooperations, media, and the general public. When tickets are available, Kids Up Front allocates tickets for child-serving agencies to distribute to their members. The FSW Program thanks Kids Up Front for bringing light into the lives of IEY families.

MONDAY NIGHT DINNER

A COVID-19 safe Indigenous Family Dinner and Cultural Sharing Night was held as part of Summer in the Park. Families gathered to embrace traditional teachings, share stories, and listen to songs and dances by brothers and sisters in the community. The families shared a meal of salmon and bannock.

SPECIAL EVENTS

As the doors to PBFC reopened, IEY's special events were well-received, with COVID-19 protocols in place to keep everyone safe. The IEY Easter Party brought parents and children together for a day filled with laughter, joy, and happiness—capturing the good thoughts everyone was sharing. The reconnection with families in the building was exciting for staff and clients alike. The families supported one another, encouraging each other to attend the next event or IEY program. Parents received Easter baskets delivered to their homes.

The Spring Fling was enjoyable with families filling their bags with new clothing items. The Hallowe'en Party brought out the little child in everyone. The Christmas event was eventful, with parents given gift cards and a gingerbread house kit for the IEY Gingerbread House Contest, the results of which were featured on the program's Facebook page.

WOMEN'S AND MEN'S CARE PACKAGES

The FSW Program put together 20 care packages designed for families who had lost loved ones and needed emotional support. The packages were to help support, brighten, and lift clients' spirits up during their difficult times. The care packages contained a journal, pen, mask/sanitizer, small smudge kit, Starbucks or Tim Horton's gift card, chocolate or mints, and traditional medicine. The men's package also contained socks, while the women's packages contained a candle and candleholder.



Our Circle is Strong: Elders/Cultural Program

Connecting Our Community to Traditional Indigenous Ways

VAHS's Our Circle is Strong: Elders/Cultural Program strengthens cultural connections for urban Indigenous people in Vancouver. Delivered by Knowledge Keepers and Elders, this program's offerings are designed to keep spirits, hearts, and minds healthy and strong.

The primary goal of Our Circle is Strong is to directly address cultural identity, as it underlies the social determinants of health, with a focus on improving resilience. Our Circle is Strong provides a cultural pathway for individuals, families, and communities to improve their health holistically and develop positive individual and collective identities through connections to Indigenous cultures.

The people who work within this program have extensive cultural knowledge and a diversity of experience. These dedicated Elders and Knowledge Keepers provide support and guidance to program participants including:

- Providing access to health care providers
- Therapeutic listening
- Holistic wellness teachings
- Advocacy
- Workshops
- Seasonal ceremonies
- Smudging and brushing
- Feasts
- Prayers
- Singing and drumming
- Traditional medicines

Our Circle is Strong Activities in FY 2022

COUNSELLING

In FY 2022, Our Circle Is Strong provided counselling options to the community. Elders and Knowledge Keepers were available for One-to-One and Group Counselling. Scheduled sessions were up to 60 minutes in duration. Community members were also welcome to drop in for a sage smudge, eagle fan or cedar branch brushing, or to say a prayer with an Elder. Program workers also referred people to other counselling resources.

VAHS PROGRAM SUPPORT

Throughout FY 2022, Our Circle of Strong provided Elders and Knowledge Keepers to all VAHS programs as requested.

MONDAYS: BEADING CIRCLE

This weekly event gave participants the opportunity to work on a personal project or take part in workshops offered by skilled Elders. Projects undertaken included lanyards, earrings, necklaces, and pins.

TUESDAYS: SOBRIETY LUNCHEON, LIFE SKILLS, AND CULTURAL ARTS

Designed to help people on their sobriety journeys, this weekly full day of activities starts with drop-in and scheduled appointments for people seeking to connect with Elders and Knowledge Keepers. This is followed by a Sobriety Luncheon and Talking Circle, which provides a stigma-free space for participants to discuss sobriety, build community, and share cultural teachings to support wellness over a homemade hot lunch. The day concludes with a Life Skills/Cultural Arts session that introduces new activities every week.

THURSDAYS: TEXTILE THURSDAYS CULTURAL SEWING CLASSES

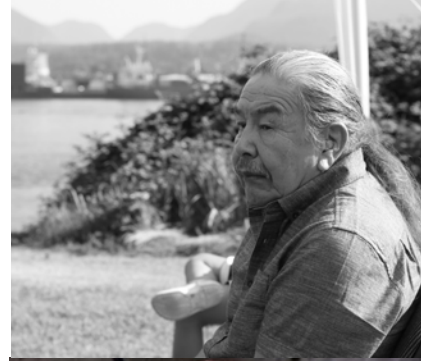
Participants learned how to create traditional clothing and ceremonial items, including ribbon skirts, shirts, star blankets, sweat lodge dresses, and medicine pouches. In FY 2022, Our Circle is Strong provided supplies for one project per participant, however many community members brought their own supplies to sew additional items.

FRIDAYS: TEA TIME AND CULTURAL SHARING

This weekly event gave participants the opportunity to visit with Elders, play games, share cultural teachings, and build community.

COVID-19 IMPACTS

Our Circle of Strong adhered to all COVID-19 protocols in its program delivery.



Be · Connect · Root · Grow

Sheway

Supporting Healthy Pregnancies and Parenting

Sheway's mandate is to support pregnant and parenting people that use substances and their children. The program provides health and service supports necessary to achieve positive pregnancy outcomes and provide positive early parenting experiences.

Sheway delivers its programming with the support of dedicated partners. The Sheway Partnership Committee provides advice and assistance to the support collaborative policy and service delivery aspects of its work. In FY 2022, committee members included:

- Barry Seymour/ Rosemary Stager-Wallace, VAHS
- Denise Nelson, VCH
- Miranda Kelly, VCH
- Michelle Sing, YWCA
- Shirin Jangi, MCFD
- Karen Spears, MSDPR
- Alison Grundle, VACFSS
- Danica Hamilton, BC Women's Hospital
- Scott Harrison, St Paul's Hospital
- Dana Clifford, Sheway Program Coordinator

Sheway would like to thank all members for their time and dedicated service in FY 2022.

Sheway Activities in FY 2022

IMPACTS ON SERVICE PROVISION

Sheway service provision was in constant flux in FY 2022 due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing effects of the toxic drugs crisis on the community. The Sheway team was creative and flexible in adapting the services to follow the guidance of the public health orders and provide services in a safe manner. The flexibility was noted in the fluidity of the response to the various COVID waves, gradually opening up services and then limiting them again. Sheway is hopeful that it can continue with the opening of its drop-in spaces and groups that started in March 2022.

The COVID-19 pandemic taught the organization many important lessons; one of them being the human need for social connection. As Sheway services re-opened, clients

have been connecting again in the drop-in space, sharing meals, supporting each other and attending groups. In FY 2022, Sheway began re-welcoming clients into its safe, supportive space.

Both Sheway's medical and social support services remained open to provide virtual and in-person visits. The creativity shown in adapting the services to remain safe continued throughout COVID-19 waves; some groups were held in a park, parenting groups were provided virtually, counselling was provided on a walk, and when public health orders allowed, groups were held on-site. Staff were able to engage with clients on outreach and support them in accessing care.

The Community Kitchen program adapted to support clients by providing a six-week program in which the clients taking part received a food bag with ingredients, some kitchen equipment, and a recipe dropped off at their homes. They would then be able to connect with the facilitator if they had any questions. Sheway also piloted a Community Kitchen program for clients living in residences without cooking facilities, providing a crockpot and weekly food bags with ingredients and a recipe to prepare a full meal. This program was very successful.

COVID-19 VACCINES AND SUPPORT

Sheway's medical clinic provided COVID-19 tests to both adults and children in our program and provided vaccinations to clients when available. Sheway continued to provide support to clients who needed to isolate or were quarantined due to COVID-19.

FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS

In FY 2022, Sheway's food security programs remained a central aspect of its services. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sheway provided food services in to-go containers and/or on-site in our drop-in when infection control procedures allowed. An average of 880 hot lunches per month were provided to clients. We were able to provide more food bags and hampers delivered to clients due to an increase in funding through donors and grants.

Sheway continued to provide fresh fruit and cheese thanks to funding from the YWCA and the donation of eggs from the BC Egg Board. The program has a longstanding partnership with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, which enables the program to improve food security for its clients. Sheway is also the grateful recipient of anonymous donations through the VGH/UBC Hospital Foundation.

FAMILY VISITS

Sheway continued to prioritize visits for families and their children who were in care. The visits were supported both in-person and virtually. The in-person visits followed all infection prevention and control measures provided by the Medical Health Officer.

LEGAL AID GRANT

In FY 2022, Sheway received a grant from Legal Aid BC to set up Virtual Meeting Room Access to Legal Aid BC Parents Legal Centre. Through this program, Sheway staff was able to support access to lawyers and court proceedings virtually with their clients.

PERINATAL SUBSTANCE USE PROJECT

The Provincial Perinatal Substance Use Project continues to support the peer support worker position at Sheway. Funding has been increased to include the hiring of a second peer support worker for the next fiscal year, as well as extending the funding for both positions until August 2025. Sheway is hopeful that it will be able to find sustained, ongoing funding for these positions. The project also funded a review of the Sheway Partnership Committee and update of the Terms of Reference.

COLLABORATION WITH VCH INDIGENOUS HEALTH PROGRAM

Sheway and the Indigenous Health program at VCH have formalized a commitment to work collaboratively to enhance the experiences and outcomes of Indigenous people accessing services through Sheway.

MEDICAL CLINIC VISITS

During the last fiscal year, Sheway's medical clinic provided an average of 840 medical visits each month: 377 clinic visits and 463 telehealth visits. In response to the toxic drug emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic, Sheway also increased the number of outreach visits for both medical and social supports throughout the year.

DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The demand for Sheway's services continues. In FY 2022, Sheway provided direct medical and social services, as well as social support and practical assistance, to 343 women and 471 children. Sheway continued to build relationships with primary care providers in the community to work on transitioning our families to permanent care providers and other social service programs.

FENTANYL EFFECTS

The Fentanyl poisoning of illicit substances has continued to affect the clients served at Sheway. The community has lost current and past clients to overdose deaths. Sheway noted an increase in the number of clients who passed (11 clients in this last year). The noted increase in the intensity of the substance use and the complexity of clients' needs has continued. The resulting grief and loss continue to be felt in the community.

LUNCH PROGRAM

Sheway provided lunches "to go" or in-person daily and were also able to deliver nutritional hampers to client families. The program was able to utilize the food security resources it has as well as grants and donations from food rescue organizations to supplement its hamper program and support the client's food security issues.

VOLUNTEERS

Sheway is grateful for the overwhelming dedicated support of its volunteers and donors. Sheway programs and clients have continued to benefit from these relationships. Sheway clients continued to utilize the skills of a volunteer who supported families with completing their annual tax returns virtually. Another volunteer sorted and organized our donations weekly. She was flexible and when allowed per public health orders, continued to provide these services. This allows the team easier access to distribute the items to the clients.

Client Statistics

In FY 2022, Sheway provided services to

343 women

who accessed the Sheway medical, outreach or drop-in services. Of these:

35%

were having their first baby

0.4%

were under 20 years of age

65%

have had previous children

28%

were between 20-29 years of age

64%

self-identified as Indigenous

57%

were between 30-39 years of age

90%

used Sheway Medical Services (10% have their own family doctor/ midwives and access Sheway's social supports)

14.6%

were over 40 years of age

47%

were on opiate replacement therapy. 12% had Opiate Use Disorder and are not on ORT

In FY 2022, Sheway provided direct services to

471 children.

Of these:

79

babies born this year

57

babies (72%) were born full term (>37 weeks G.A.)

65

babies (82%) weighed over 2500 grams

38

babies (48%) went home from the hospital with their mothers

As of March 31, 2022 **33** babies (41%) were still in their mother's care

26

babies (33%) went into Foster Care

As of March 31, 2022, **none** of these babies had been returned to their mother's care

5

babies (6%) were placed with family members

6

babies (8%) were still in hospital as of March 31, 2022

2

babies were still born (2.5%)

2

babies passed away (2.5%)

Financial Report



Artist: Brad Henry

A Snapshot of VAHS's Financial Position of FY 2022

Supporting transparency and employing best practices, Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society annually retains an independent auditor, Reid Hurst Nagy (RHN) to prepare its financial statements. Throughout the year, the Executive Director provides the Board of Directors with regular financial updates. These updates present information from all VAHS programs detailing the financial impacts of the society's activities.

In this annual report, the summarized financial statements are presented*. These documents include the Auditor's Report, Statement of Operations, Statement of Change in Net Assets, Statement of Financial Position, and Statement of Cash Flows.

* The complete financial report, with auditor's notes, is available at the VAHS office at 449 E. Hastings Street during business hours.



Independent Auditor's Report

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2022, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with ASNPO.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many charitable organizations, the Society derives part of its revenue from monetary donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donations revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended March 31, 2022 and 2021, current assets as at March 31, 2022 and 2021, and net assets as at and March 31 for both the 2022 and 2021 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2022 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going

concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Societies Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, the accounting principles used in preparing and presenting the Society's financial statements are in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and have been applied on a consistent basis.



REID HURST NAGY INC.
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
RICHMOND, B.C.

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
REVENUES		
Province of British Columbia	3,982,154	3,618,729
Province of British Columbia - Community Gaming Grants	-	67,000
Vancouver Coastal Health Authority	1,632,009	1,433,260
Donations	263,789	312,072
Government of Canada	543,964	344,566
Government of Canada - Public Health Agency	5,080	50,000
Other funding	325,386	195,707
Settlement recovery (Note 11)	-	112,500
BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre	51,896	51,896
Gain on sale of capital assets	2,000	-
Interest income	1,667	2,197
Dental services	467,150	46,205
	7,275,095	6,234,132
EXPENSES		
Advertising and promotion	9,467	10,699
Automotive	16,141	12,376
Bank charges and interest	10,675	7,091
Depreciation	89,459	63,863
Donated equipment, furniture, and supplies	-	70,359
Donations	4,367	3,353
Equipment	30,772	64,887
Insurance	27,025	23,993
International Health Conference	-	6,266
Meals and travel	40,192	17,771
Medical Supplies	138,476	89,718
Office and general	137,333	159,019
Office and general - COVID-19	-	107,765
Professional fees	185,733	192,951
Rent	312,180	303,768
Rent subsidies	240,914	252,005
Repairs and maintenance	84,373	68,353
Subcontract	1,520,524	1,115,956
Supplies	505,686	318,211
Telephone	56,198	54,614
Training	19,666	10,855
Utilities	39,904	27,168
Wages and benefits	3,563,079	3,023,026
	7,032,164	6,004,067
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	242,931	230,065

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2022

	Invested in Tangible Capital Assets \$	Unrestricted \$	Total 2022 \$	Total 2021 \$
BALANCE, beginning of the year	215,337	78,849	294,186	64,121
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(89,459)	332,390	242,931	230,065
Purchased or donated tangible capital assets	221,648	(221,648)	-	-
BALANCE, end of the year	347,526	189,591	537,117	294,186

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended March 31, 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash (Note 3)	1,860,313	1,435,994
Short term investments (Note 4)	6,473	6,462
Accounts receivable	192,212	201,379
Amounts due from employees	8,700	-
GST receivable	16,825	13,676
Prepaid expenses	63,613	109,045
	2,148,136	1,766,556
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 5)	347,526	215,337
	2,495,662	1,981,893
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	92,503	62,066
Wages and benefits payable	114,031	114,530
Government remittance payable	22,150	98,347
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	1,729,861	1,412,764
	1,958,545	1,687,707
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	189,591	78,849
Invested in tangible capital assets	347,526	215,337
	537,117	294,186
	2,495,662	1,981,893

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenses	242,931	230,065
ADJUSTMENTS FOR NON-CASH ITEMS		
Depreciation of tangible capital assets	89,459	63,863
Gain on sale of tangible capital assets	(2,000)	-
	330,390	293,928
NET CHANGES IN NON-CASH WORKING CAPITAL		
Accounts receivable	9,167	(105,414)
Amounts due from employees	(8,700)	500
GST receivable	(3,149)	(104)
Prepaid expenses	45,432	(10,408)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	30,437	(301,311)
Wages and benefits payable	(499)	(8,517)
Government remittance payable	(76,197)	20,092
Deferred revenue	317,097	550,117
	643,978	438,883
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Redemption (Acquisition) of short term investments	(11)	(8)
Outlay for tangible capital assets	(221,648)	(112,413)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	2,000	-
	(219,659)	(112,421)
NET INCREASE IN CASH	424,319	326,462
CASH, beginning of the year	1,435,994	1,109,532
CASH, end of the year	1,860,313	1,435,994



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