

Program Funding Provided By
Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family
Services Society (VACFSS)

UNYA Contacts

Phone

UNYA Main Office	604.254.7732
Aboriginal Outreach Team	604.254.5147
Aboriginal Transition Team	604.254.7732
Aboriginal Wellness Counsellor	604.254.7732
AYF Sports & Recreation Program	604.254.7732
Aboriginal Youth Safehouse	604.254.5147
24 hour Youth Info & Referral Line	1.877.223.4321
Aboriginal Youth Worker	604.254.7732
Alcohol & Drug Counsellors	604.254.7732
Alcohol & Drug Counsellor at BYRC	604.709.5720
Aries Program	604.255.1326
Cedar Walk Program	604.708.9130
Kinnections Program	604.254.7732
Mediation Program	604.254.7732
Mentorship Program	604.254.7732
Music, Arts & Culture (MAC) Program	604.254.7732
Native Youth Learning Centre	604.254.5620
Overly Creative Minds (OCM) Program	604.254.7712
Ravens Lodge	604.254.7732
School Support Team	604.254.7732
Young Bears Lodge	604.322.7577
Young Wolves Lodge	604.321.1118

Urban Native Youth Association

UNYA began in 1988, has 20+ programs, 110+ volunteers, 200+ community partners, 100 staff, and over 25,000 visits per year. Youth are consulted in the development of programs and services as we believe they are experts in their own lives and are in the best position to advise us on youth issues.

Our programs are developed to help meet the educational, training, cultural, artistic, and personal needs of Native youth. We continue to focus on community development initiatives, as we believe that the strengthening of our community as a whole can have a tremendous and positive impact on Native youth's lives.

We believe that Native youth have the right to live safe, healthy, and positive lives that are free from negative influences. We strive to address issues that negatively affect their lives by providing a supportive continuum of care, with a large focus on prevention-based activities as we believe that Native youth lack opportunity – not ability. We know that when youth have access to meaningful opportunities, they excel as they have many strengths to build upon. We will continue to adapt to meet the changing needs of Native youth to help ensure that they have the best chance possible to reach their goals and full potential.

Publications available in pdf online at www.unya.bc.ca are focused on health, parenting, sexual exploitation, healthy cooking on a budget, Two-spirit, sports & recreation, and the ins & outs of college and university



Transitional
foster care
program for
Native youth
ages 12-18

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Urban Native
Youth Association

What is Ravens Lodge?

Ravens Lodge is a 5-bed live-in program for Aboriginal female youth who are in the care of the Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS).

Our main goal is to empower youth to make healthy choices to create positive change in their lives. We offer a safe environment, using culture as therapy. We also offer one-to-one support, information, referrals, and cultural activities and ceremonies.

We help youth to connect to their culture, family and community supports, develop life skills, and make positive choices in all areas of their life. Our program also offers support to youth and potential foster homes to assist with a smooth transition.

Who can access Ravens Lodge?

- 12-18 year old Native youth who are in the care of Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS)
- Youth can only be referred to the program through VACFSS



The staff helped me to understand what was happening and why I was there. It helped to have someone explain things to me.

Circle of Courage

We use the Circle of Courage model to help us support and advocate for youth. This holistic model shows us that youth need to develop a healthy sense of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity in order to develop a good sense of self-esteem, confidence, and overall health.

Our staff uses the Circle of Courage when reviewing youth's progress to ensure we are meeting their overall needs.

Program Includes:

- Five bedrooms
- 24-hour, 2 person staffing
- Safe, supportive, respectful, and non-judgmental environment
- Foster parent transition support
- Healthy meals
- Learning how to cook healthy meals
- Cultural teachings and cultural activities
- Access to Elders
- Recreational activities
- Group outings
- One-to-one support
- Learning life skills
- Arts and crafts
- Access to counselling
- Referrals to community supports



They made me feel at home and helped me connect with my culture

We gratefully accept donations of:

- Bus tickets
- Unused toiletries
- Arts & craft supplies