



2024/2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Year at a Glance



WE RECOGNIZE THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE KATZIE AND KWANTLEN FIRST NATIONS. WE RESPECTFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE MANY NATIONS WHO ARE REPRESENTED BY THE URBAN INDIGENOUS POPULATION IN THE FRASER VALLEY AND METRO VANCOUVER AREA.



FRASER RIVER INDIGENOUS SOCIETY

REPORT GUIDE



Annual Report 2024/2025

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OUR MISSION & VISION

WE ARE AN INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION PROVIDING SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR OUR COMMUNITY. ACKNOWLEDGING OUR PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS - OUR VISION IS TO GUIDE COMMUNITIES OF SELF DETERMINED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO LIVE IN A COLLABORATIVE WAY.

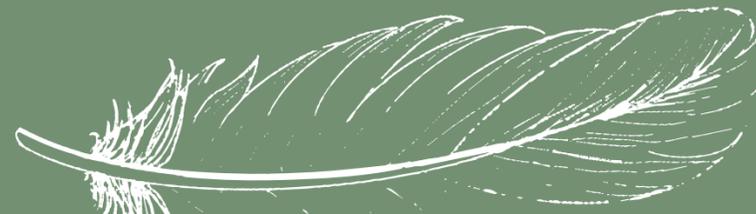
HISTORY & NAME CHANGE

IN 2011 THE FRASER RIVER ALL NATIONS ABORIGINAL SOCIETY WAS FORMED TO ANSWER THE NEEDS OF THE URBAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF MAPLE RIDGE AND PITT MEADOWS.

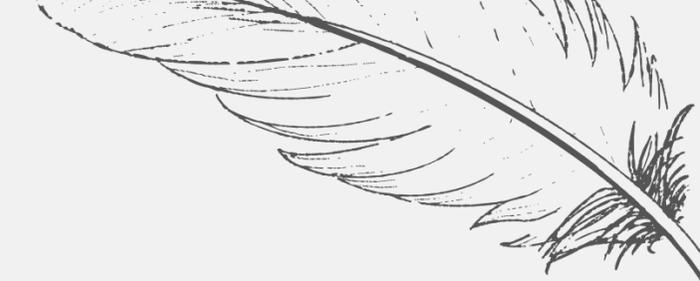
NOW CALLED FRASER RIVER INDIGENOUS SOCIETY, WE ARE HERE TO SERVE URBAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND SO WE WELCOME PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS AND AGES SO WE CAN FOSTER A SENSE OF BELONGING AND PROVIDE SPACE TO CONNECT AND CELEBRATE.

WE ARE EVOKING A NAME CHANGE FROM FRASER RIVER ALL NATIONS ABORIGINAL SOCIETY TO THE FRASER RIVER INDIGENOUS SOCIETY.

THIS CHANGE ACKNOWLEDGES THE DIVERSITY OF PEOPLES WE SERVE: URBAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, PEOPLE WHO MAYBE LIVING FAR FROM THEIR TERRITORY, THOSE WHO ARE DISPLACED FROM THEIR COMMUNITIES AND HERITAGE THROUGH COLONIAL RULE, AND THOSE WITH MIX FAMILY DYNAMICS.



OUR TEAMS



Circle Home Housing Support

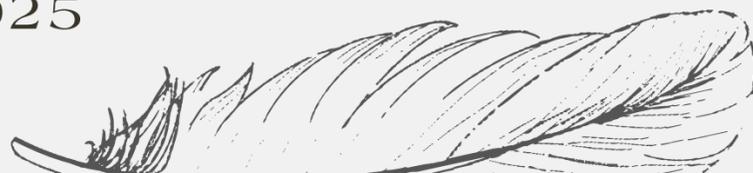
FRIS operates a Housing support program for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This program emphasizes the importance of housing as a first need to meet and provides a wealth of supports to promote long term stability and success after that. Persons with Indigenous heritage are more likely to be homeless than others, and regularly experience stigma, a feeling of being disconnected from their communities and heritage, and the results of inter-generational trauma from decades of negative residential school experiences. This makes returning to housing and life stability exceptionally difficult and requires a person-centered, culturally sensitive approach. FRIS's Support Workers specializes in this approach. In addition to our own clients, the program also provides support to other programs in the community who need help getting individuals with First Nations, Métis or Inuit heritage in touch with cultural supports.

Early Years Program

Our Early Years programs are delivered in community or in a family home setting. We believe in the potential of every child, and we know that each child is unique. We work together with families to recognize each child's strengths and develop their abilities. If children grow up with a sense of belonging, they can keep their cultures vital and restore their communities. Our Indigenous early years program aims to create a community of healthy, happy, children supported to reach their full potential, and to encourage all children to begin a lifelong journey of learning within a culturally supportive and safe environment of high-quality Early Childhood Development programs, services and supports.

Family Development Program

The Family Strengthening Program is a short-term intervention program. The service start date commences on the day of the foundation meeting. The program is open to Indigenous families whose members reside in the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows area and are delivered in community or in a family home setting. In-home support is utilized where risk is higher, or where barriers prevent the individual or family from participating in other programs. Fraser River Indigenous Society is an innovative multi-service agency working at all levels to provide permanency to Indigenous Children and Youth for the purposes of achieving reunification, physical permanency and relational permanency when reunification is not possible. Fraser River Indigenous Society has established itself and this program as a relevant key service organization for Urban First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and individuals. Our program aims to enhance the capacity of Indigenous families in the Maple Ridge/ Pitt Meadows area to care for their children in a self-determined way.



HOUSING
PLACEMENTS

23

HOUSING
TO HOUSING

6

INTAKES

112

TOTAL INDIGENOUS
WORKSHOPS HOSTED

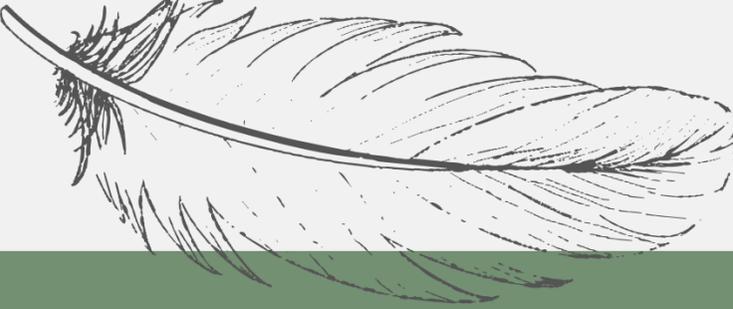
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FRIS operates a Housing support program for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This program emphasizes the importance of housing as a first need to meet and provides a wealth of supports to promote long term stability and success after that. The program operates under a three-step system to ensure structure and success in a way that moves away from mainstream practice and creates a more personalized approach. This benefits the community by providing low-barrier and accessible services in a culturally safe way. FRIS's Housing Support Program provides assistance to community members who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of losing their housing. Over the past year, the program has supported a steady number of individuals and families by helping them secure safe accommodation and access the services they need. Using a simple three-step support model, the program offers low-barrier, culturally safe guidance that has helped many participants work toward greater stability and long-term success.

CIRCLE HOME





The Early Years Programs are delivered in community spaces or within family homes, creating environments that are welcoming, safe, and culturally grounded.

We believe in the potential of every child and recognize that each child’s journey is unique. Our team works alongside families to nurture every child’s strengths, support their individual growth, and celebrate their milestones. Through meaningful relationships and culturally informed practices, we strive to create experiences that build confidence, connection, and curiosity.

When children grow up with a strong sense of belonging, they carry forward their cultures, stories, and languages – helping to keep traditions alive and strengthening the future of their communities.



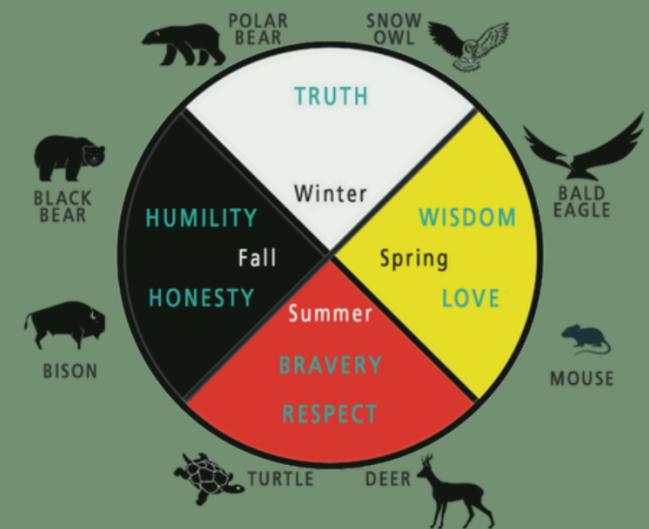
EARLY YEARS

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



The Family Development Programs primary focus is on family development, supporting connections between the families and their children and/or youth and assisting the community members with the opportunities to engage in positive social contacts, emotional support, and to promote healthy life skills and choices.

The programs assist community members with connection to the Elders/Knowledge Keepers to enhance their spiritual wellbeing, and to facilitate the cultural teachings and activities. The FRIS programs are open to all self-identifying Indigenous families who reside in the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows region.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



Community programs at the Fraser River Indigenous Society provide essential support, connection, and cultural grounding for Indigenous individuals and families. These programs strengthen community ties, promote wellbeing, and help keep culture and traditions alive. By creating safe, welcoming spaces, FRIS supports healing, empowerment, and a strong sense of belonging.

- Women's Circle provides a safe, confidential place to meet for Indigenous women looking to connect with community.
- Men's Circle provides a safe place for Indigenous men to talk, learn new activities, and enjoy the company of others.
- Youth Circle provides a safe and welcoming space for Indigenous youth to connect, share experiences, learn new skills, and take part in cultural and recreational activities together. It's a place to build confidence, friendship, and a sense of belonging while having fun and supporting one another.
- The parenting group Bringing Tradition Home program offers a transformative journey for Indigenous caregivers seeking to deepen their connection to traditional parenting practices.
- The Oots'n Wineeya Traditional Kitchen program provides educational opportunities to practicing food preparation, healthy eating, and preservation skills.



STORY BLANKET



THE STORY BLANKET DROP-IN PROGRAM IS A FREE INDIGENOUS PLAYGROUP FOR CHILDREN AGED 0 - 6. ALL ARE WELCOME. THE PARENT/CAREGIVER PARTICIPATION PLAYGROUP CONSISTS OF FREE PLAY, CIRCLE TIME, CRAFTS, DRUMMING, CULTURAL TEACHINGS WITH ELDERS AND NUTRITIOUS SNACK.



ANNUAL RECIPIENTS
(CHILDREN)

87

ANNUAL RECIPIENTS
(ADULTS)

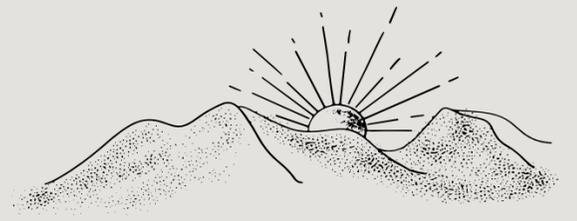
57

INDIGENOUS
RECIPIENTS
SERVED

26



SUMMER PROGRAMMING



DURING SUMMER, FRASER RIVER INDIGENOUS SOCIETY HOSTS CULTURAL CAMPS THAT BRING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN TOGETHER TO CONNECT WITH THE LAND, TRADITIONS, AND ONE ANOTHER. THESE CAMPS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN FROM ELDERS AND KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS THROUGH HANDS-ON CULTURAL TEACHINGS, STORYTELLING, CRAFTS, AND LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES. BY CREATING A SAFE AND WELCOMING SPACE FOR CULTURAL LEARNING AND COMMUNITY BUILDING, THE CAMPS STRENGTHEN IDENTITY, BELONGING, AND INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTION — ENRICHING THE LIVES OF FAMILIES AND HELPING CHILDREN GROW WITH PRIDE IN WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY COME FROM.

**SUMMER
CULTURAL
CAMPS**

**INDIGENOUS
RECIPIENTS
SERVED**

**WILDPLAY
ELEMENT
PARKS**

19

**SOAP STONE
CARVING**

13

**DREAM-
CATCHERS**

13

**KANAKA
CREEK
HATCHERY**

11

**BUTTON
BLANKETS**

14



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

Fraser River Indigenous Society was honoured to host the celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day with the support of the City of Maple Ridge and PLEA Community Services. This event was to honour and celebrate Indigenous culture. This year's theme was "BRIDGING GENERATIONS THROUGH STORYTELLING – CONNECTING ELDERLY AND YOUTH THROUGH SHARED NARRATIVES" which fosters meaningful connections between elders and youth by sharing personal narratives that preserve wisdom, build empathy, and strengthen community bonds.



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FRIS COMMUNITY

THROUGHOUT 2024 AND 2025, FRIS CONTINUED TO CREATE MEANINGFUL SPACES FOR CONNECTION, CULTURE, AND HEALING THROUGH EVENTS LIKE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS CHRISTMAS GATHERING, ELDERS LUNCHEONS, AND A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS. THESE GATHERINGS HONOUR THE WISDOM AND GUIDANCE OF ELDERS, NURTURE THE GROWTH AND SPIRIT OF CHILDREN, AND STRENGTHEN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY. ROOTED IN INDIGENOUS VALUES, EACH EVENT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER TO SHARE STORIES, TRADITIONS, MEALS, LAUGHTER, AND LEARNING — HELPING PRESERVE CULTURE, BUILD BELONGING, AND SUPPORT THE WELL-BEING OF ALL GENERATIONS.



GET IN TOUCH

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