



MMMOOOOOOKE
NA SIIYEA YEA
(MNSYY)

ALL MY RELATIONS
ELDER PROGRAM

VANCOUVER NATIVE
HEALTH SOCIETY

INDIGENOUS ELDERS AT VNHS



- Elders play an integral role in incorporating cultural traditions into all programs and services offered at VNHS.
- Elders provide guidance and connection to Indigenous culture and spirituality and help ensure our health services stay true to Indigenous teachings and knowledge.

ELDERS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- The Mmmoooooke Na Sii Yea Yea Elders program was created in 2013 to respond to community demand for access to culture and Indigenous Elders.
- The program was further developed when research was conducted at Vancouver Native Health Society. Specifically, the research aimed to determine the impact of including Indigenous Elders





ELDERS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT CONT..

- As part of this research, Vancouver Native Health Society hosted a Community Knowledge Exchange Ceremony. The following was shared by participants.
- Indigenous cultural practices are a form of medicine.
- Elders as traditional healers should be respected within the “Western” system as health care providers equivalent to others.

ELDERS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT CONT.



- Participants desire to maintain a continuity of care with the Elders.
- Increased effort towards developing a gender balance amongst the Elders in the program.
- The final theme that emerged from the ceremony was an acknowledgement that the cultural practices that the community members are learning today help inspire the continuation of those practices across generations. Additionally, it empowers individuals to develop the capacity to become Elders themselves.

ELDERS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT CONT.

- The knowledge exchange ceremony helped to establish some suggestions for conducting holistic healthcare within Indigenous communities.



- Healthcare workers should call upon Indigenous Elders to support community members in reclaiming their lost identities, reinstating a sense of vigor and reconnecting patients with their culture.
- Resources should be invested to support Indigenous community members to pair with traditional healers who match their gender and past experiences.
- Regular cultural gatherings with Elders and community members are needed to maintain individual resilience and collective strength.



ELDER EUGENE HARRY

XIQUELUM (COWICHAN NATION)



**ELDER
KAT NORRIS**

COAST SALISH - LYACKSON
FIRST NATION

ELDER GLIDA MORGAN

Tla'amin First Nation

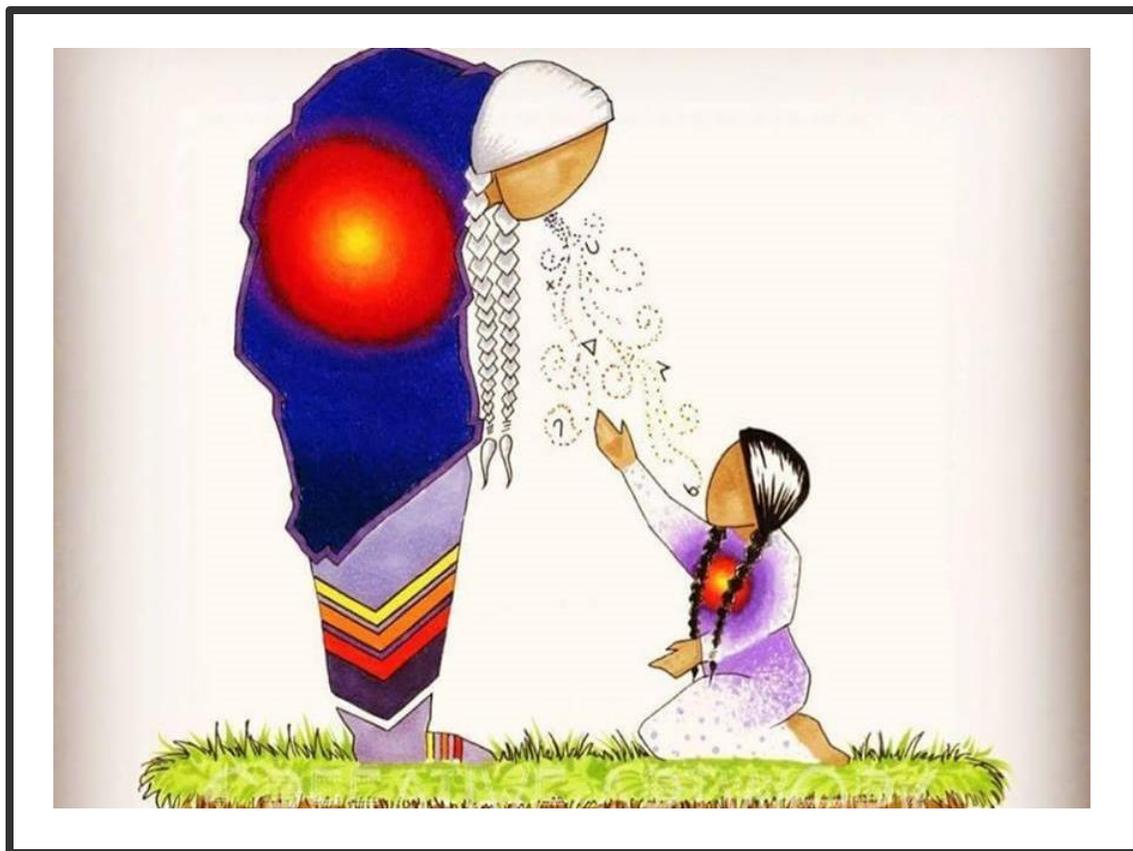


ELDER FRED JOHN

XAXLIP FIRST NATION



ABOUT ALL MY RELATIONS ELDERS PROGRAM



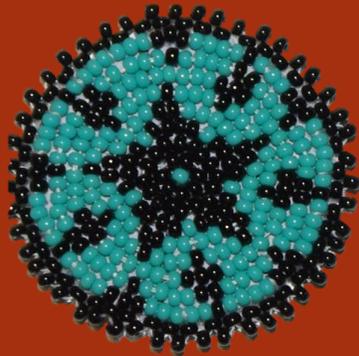
- This project aims to increase MNSYY participants' wellness and sense of positive identity through connection to Indigenous culture, spirituality and Indigenous Elders to address the intergenerational effects of residential schools and colonialism. The goal of this program is to directly address culture-identity as a focus on supporting resilience and the healing journey.

- Program Services and Activities:
 - One to one visit with an Indigenous Elder
 - Access to healthcare providers
 - Access to Indigenous ceremony – Sweat lodge, Burning ceremony, Seasonal feasts, etc
 - Weekly cultural teaching circles (**Thursdays 2-4pm**)
 - Therapeutic listening
 - Advocacy
 - Referrals to many forms of health and social services – including detox centers, alcohol and drug counselling, and housing support

PROGRAM SERVICES & ACTIVATES



CULTURAL TEACHING CIRCLE ACTIVITIES HAVE INCLUDED:



-
- Seasonal ceremonies; Summer, Spring, Winter and Fall ceremonies
 - Welcoming, Naming & baby blessing ceremonies
 - Harvesting and medicine teachings
 - Learning to work with traditional plants & salve making
 - Tobacco ties teaching, drum making, crafts, etc.
 - Elder led Talking circles
 - Guest Elders share teaching of Medicine Wheel, songs & stories
 - Prayer and traditional song teachings
 - Group outings to seasonal ceremonies and traditional sweat lodge
 - West Coast Art & cedar making projects

MNSYY PROGRAM GOALS



- The impacts of colonization, inter-generational and ongoing traumas have left many with a negative or absent connection to their Indigenous community and culture. Cultural identity and affiliation have been associated with positive mental health and the ability to get through life challenges.

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- *The stories of people who have accessed the Indigenous Elders and participated in some of the healing ceremonies are moving, they have helped people in ways that clinical medicine has been unable to touch and a testament to the team that has worked so hard to create this partnership. This is incredibly significant because for so long this access and the belief in the importance of it has been dismissed and denied.*

“I would like more connections with Elders, they bring something else that I haven’t experienced before”.

-Elders Program Participant



“When it comes to living a healthy lifestyle & feeling “whole/complete” spirituality and cultural practices are a very healthy and wholesome way for natives to feel complete and self-identify”.

-Elders Program Participant

UNDRIP CALL TO ACTION

- We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties
- We call upon those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients