



National Association  
of Friendship Centres  
Association nationale  
des centres d'amitié

# Supporting Urban Indigenous Communities

**Assembly of First Nations Income  
Assistance Forum**

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# Calgary, AB

- **The NAFC acknowledges that Calgary is the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations).**
- **Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta District 5 and 6.**
- **We pay tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7.**





# About the NAFC

- The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) was established in 1972. We currently represent over 100 Friendship Centres and Provincial/Territorial Associations (PTAs) from coast-to-coast-to-coast and make up the Friendship Centre Movement.
  - The NAFC seeks to be a central, unifying body for the FCM
  - The FCM is Canada's most significant national network of self-determined civil society community



# Alberta PTA & the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary



**anfca**

alberta native friendship  
centres association





# Friendship Centre History

- Friendship Centres emerged in the mid- 1950's as a response to the number of Indigenous people moving to urban areas of Canada, concerned individuals began to organize to meet the needs expressed by their community members.
- Early in the movement, Friendship Centres provided:
  - Referrals
  - Counselling on matters such as employment, housing, education, health, etc.
  - Links with other community organizations
  - Meeting space & social hub for the Indigenous community





# The First Friendship Centres

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Indian and Metis Friendship Centre

Vancouver, British Columbia

Coqualeetza Fellowship Club

Toronto, Ontario

North American Indian Club



# NAFC History

- In the late sixties, Friendship Centres began to organize into Provincial/Territorial Associations (PTAs).
- In 1969, a steering committee of Friendship Centres emerged to examine the feasibility of establishing a national body to represent the growing number of Friendship Centres.
- In 1972, the National Association of Friendship Centres was incorporated.





# Structure of the Movement





# Snapshot of the FCM Today



**1,000,000+**  
Total of Clients  
Served



**1,300+**  
Total Programs  
and Services



**\$76,172,516.22**  
Total in-kind  
& Leveraged Funds



## National Association of Friendship Centres

Representing Friendship Centres since 1972, the National Association of Friendship Centres is a network of over 100 Friendship Centres and Provincial/Territorial Associations from coast-to-coast-to-coast, which make up part of the Friendship Centre Movement—Canada's most significant national network of self-determined Indigenous owned and operated civil society community hubs offering programs, services and supports to urban Indigenous people.



LEGEND: ● Members ● Non-Members ● PTA ● Head Office

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

-  [facebook.com/TheNAFC/](https://facebook.com/TheNAFC/)
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## Alberta

- **21** Friendship Centres
- **343** Employees.
- **120** Programs
- **217,953** Clients served



## Manitoba

- **11** Friendship Centres
- **462** Employees.
- **124** Programs
- **169,520** Clients served



## British Columbia

- **25** Friendship Centres
- **1,297** Employees.
- **557** Programs
- **288,231** Clients



## Saskatchewan

- **10** Friendship Centres
- **238** Employees.
- **108** Programs
- **136,546** Clients





## Quebec

- **12** Friendship Centres
- **169** Employees.
- **48** Programs
- **12,768** Clients



## Yukon

- **1** Friendship Centre
- **47** Employees.
- **15** Programs
- **3,304** Clients



## Nunavut / Northwest Territories

- **8** Friendship Centres
- **135** Employees.
- **122** Programs
- **9,081** Clients



## Atlantic

- **5** Friendship Centres
- **235** Employees.
- **124** Programs
- **32,915** Clients



# The NAFC Today

- The NAFC represents over 100 Friendship Centres and Provincial/Territorial Associations (PTAs) from coast-to-coast-to-coast and make up the Friendship Centre Movement (FCM).
- Our **mission** is to support Friendship Centres and PTAs in achieving their diverse missions and visions within their urban Indigenous communities.
- Our **vision** sees us ascending to a future that remembers the past and is rooted in our cultures to improve the well-being of Indigenous people living in urban environments.
- In addition to administering national funding to Friendship Centres, the NAFC also conducts:
  - Policy Analysis and Development
  - Advocacy
  - Research
  - Data Collection





# DID YOU KNOW FRIENDSHIP CENTRES USE A WRAP AROUND SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL?

Friendship Centres provided over 1264 programs across the FCM using their multi service delivery approach.





# Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples

- Core funding program for Friendship Centres:
  - Provides funding for organizational capacity
  - Programs and Services
  - The development of Urban Coalition Tables
  - Research and Innovation
- Current UPIP (\$32 million) expires in 2025.
- Funding is severely limited and shared among all FCs.
- FCs mostly rely on unpredictable proposal-based funding to access funds through other mechanisms, both federal and provincial.





# NAFC Administered Funding

- **Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF)**
  - Prevention, preparation and response to COVID-19
  - Food security supports, emergency support, mental health programming, housing supports and vaccination clinics.
- **Infrastructure**
  - NAFC supports FCs in major and minor infrastructure needs, from major builds and property acquisitions to minor repairs and renovations.
- **Student Supports Learning Program (SSLP)**
  - Supports Indigenous youth through services and opportunities outside of the classroom, helping them graduate high school, continue their studies, and gain new skills to succeed in their education and in the labour market.
- **Mental Health and Health Navigation**
  - Allows Friendship Centres to develop their own mental health programs and services as well as supports urban Indigenous community members in accessing provincial health services.
- **Investment Readiness Program (IRP)**
  - Supporting FCs in building their capacity to participate in Canada's growing social finance market.
- **Indigenous Languages**
  - Provides funding to FCs to develop and implement their own urban Indigenous language revitalization programs.





# Program Successes

## Traditional Learning



### **Under One Sky- Monoqonuwicik- Neoteetjg Mosigisg Inc.**

Fredericton, New Brunswick

Under One Sky is developing and building a Land Based Healing project for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to experience traditional teachings, cultural activities, and land-based activities. The goal of this project is to provide a safe space for youth to share traditions and culture while taking a holistic approach to healing.



### **Napi Friendship Association**

Pincher Creek, Alberta

Napi Friendship Association started a Powwow Dance class with knowledge keepers presenting traditional teachings such as rock teachings and ribbon shirt making for youth.



### **Victoria Native Friendship Centre**

Victoria, British Columbia

The Indigemind Land-Based Learning Program provides 6 weeks of land-based training for local urban Indigenous youth to support mental health and wellness, youth leadership development, and land-based climate action.



# Program Successes

Nfld. & Labrador

## New inn opens for Indigenous people travelling to St. John's for medical treatment



First Light operates the Lunar Inn and a shuttle service to help people get around

 [Heidi Atter](#) · CBC News · Posted: Oct 22, 2022 1:06 PM EDT | Last Updated: October 22, 2022



The Lunar Inn opened this month for Indigenous people who need to travel to St. John's for medical reasons. (Jennie Williams/Lunar Inn)

Montreal

## Sweat ceremonies return to Montreal's First Nations Garden



Native Friendship Centre to organize ceremonies at new sweat lodge

 [Joe Bongiorno](#) · CBC News · Posted: Mar 18, 2023 4:00 AM EDT | Last Updated: March 18

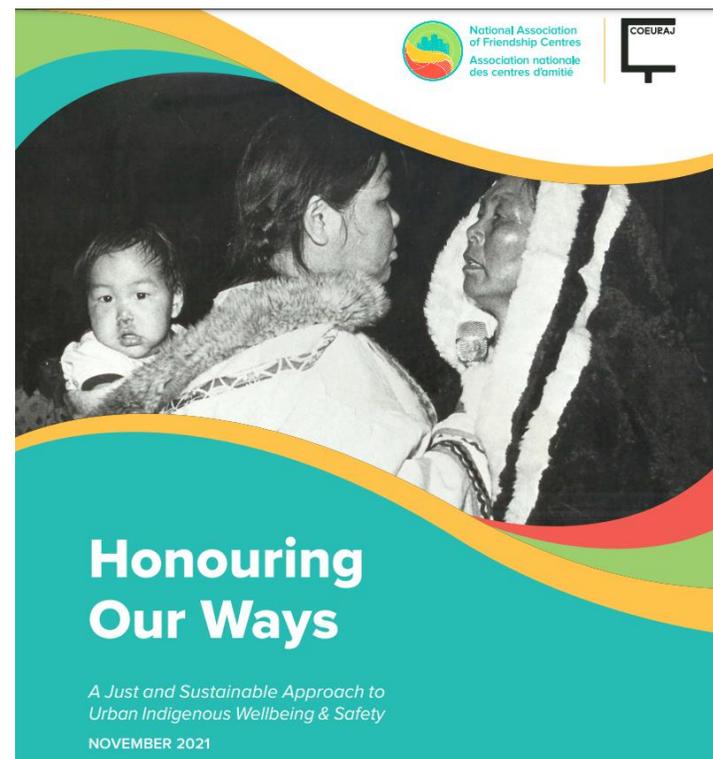


Sweat ceremonies at the First Nations Garden will return in the spring for the first time since the start of the pandemic. (Claude Lafond/Space for Life)



# NAFC Policy and Research

- NAFC's Policy Department analyze, advocate for and develop policy responses to the following topics through an urban Indigenous lens:
  - Children and Youth
  - Environment and Climate Change
  - Health
  - Housing and Homelessness
  - Languages
  - International
  - Justice
  - MMIWG2S+
  - UNDRIP
- The NAFC is engages in community-based research to better understand the realities of urban Indigenous communities and to inform pathways forward:
  - The Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network
  - Partners for Engagement and Knowledge Exchange





# Friendship Centres and First Nations

- For many, FCs are first point of contact when moving to the city or leaving the reserve:
  - Provide navigationsupports, access to housing, culture and community
- Some FCs have developed strong relationships with First Nations and Tribal/Treaty Councils:
  - Procurement of services such as lodging, transportation, health services and cultural programming in the city.
- Friendship Centres provide supports to First Nation students attending high school, university or college in the city.
- For those living, learning or working away from their communities, FCs provide a home away from home, access to culture, medicines, ceremony, food and a sense of belonging.
- **The relationship we want:**
  - See us as a support/service/friend, that you can utilize to support and engage your community members.





# Migwetch Merci Thank You

To learn more about the NAFC please visit [www.nafc.ca](http://www.nafc.ca) or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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