

connections

community services

Supporting children, youth, families and our community to thrive since 1974.

Annual General Report 2016-17

Connections 2016-17 Annual Report

We have been lucky in the past year to have so many volunteers, and partners step up to support the success of children, youth and families within our community. Whether that is helping kids succeed at school, supporting at risk youth and adults find employment or providing outreach support for youth and families at risk. This past year over 2700 kids, youth, families and adults benefited from the programs and supports offered by the agency. Several thousand more learned more about their community, neighbors, local cultures and resources through events and group activities in the community. None of this would be possible without the critical support of volunteers, staff, community partners, donors and funders. We definitely have seen positive changes through the work we have done, and celebrate the successes. However, while we work hard to ensure each child, youth and family is able to thrive, there is always more to do. Based on what we have heard from clients, partners and the community in general several priorities have been set going forward. These include: affordable out of school care programs, youth housing, accessible employability programs for at risk populations, assistance for children and youth in care/transitioning out of care and making sure that each person is able to connect to supports and resources they need, when they need them.

The past five years have seen growth in several areas of supports we have been able to provide. This growth has not come without some challenges and change. We continue to work to leverage partnerships, donations, volunteers and in kind supports to extend the critical dollars we are provided. However we are seeing transition in some of the employment program funding and one of our corporate sponsored programs. It is critical that we talk about the value of the funds contributed. When we review the funding provided by government as compared to the value and benefit to our community the return exceeds the contributions made by government. In fact for each dollar provided by government we are able to provide three dollars in value to our community. A very large portion of our community relies on the services provided by our organization. We know that our community values the impact of the work we do, and it is important that we all continue to talk about the importance of it to our neighbors, and government. As an individual you can have an impact on the kids, youth and families within our community and make a real difference.



“During this past year over 2700 kids, youth, families and adults have benefited from the programs and supports offered”

Our approach continues to be one that is based on prevention, empowerment and ensuring that each child, youth and family is welcomed whatever their situation or needs are. It is amazing how sometimes the smallest thing can make a difference, or help someone open up about what they are going through.

No one should struggle in silence, we are a community and by working to connect our local assets we can have a huge impact on the lives of our neighbors. To that end we have transitioned to our new name and brand! We are truly excited to link our agency, the work we do, our staff, volunteers and funders to the core of what we are about – connections. Without connections we are not a community. And while youth continue to be a focus, our mandate has moved beyond youth over the last 40 years. The new brand speaks of the work we do, the impact we have and the partners and assets that make it all possible. Thank you to each and every one of you that has helped us get to where we are today, who give of themselves to benefit their neighbors and their community. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Sincerely



Marshall Thompson

Children and Youth Programs

Connections Kids Club

Previously having two sites in Richmond in October 2016 we expanded and opened a third location in West Vancouver at Caulfeild Elementary. These programs run throughout the school year before and after school and offer programming on Professional Development days and also run camps over Winter break, Spring Break and the eight weeks of summer. Each program provides daily activities and a healthy snack for the students .



Blundell BAS Program

Blundell is in its third year of operation and continues to run smoothly despite a number of challenging behaviours and quite a few students coming and going from the program. Currently the program has 16 students enrolled, 10 full time and 6 part time and we already have a number on students on the list to start next September. There are two staff at Blundell that keep the kids busy with arts and crafts (they made their own mascot out of paper mache—A Panda bear for their Bamboo kids club), outdoor activities and field trips and also help the kids with their homework. Helping students achieve goals such as one student didn't know her address and phone number and with the help of our staff she learned it. She was so proud of herself and when she presented this new information to her teacher she won a gift card because she went above and beyond by also learning her postal code. Other students are practicing their reading and gaining confidence through this and are finding it easier to socialize and play with others in the group. Winter camp was a bit smaller than years past but it was because a number of the students who regularly attend went away for the holiday but fun was had by all who did attend. Spring break camp ran for two weeks in March and had not only our regular participants in the program but a number of returning and new

campers from outside the Blundell community. These camps ran at near capacity with 16 the first week and 17 the next.(although capacity is 20 we kept the number down because of some of the special needs of a few of our students). Some of the outings the group has gone on were, mini putt, Burnaby village museum and the Rieffel Bird Sanctuary. Once student that had been in the group for years managed to beat his fear of heights and went to the top of the tower at the bird sanctuary. He beamed with pride with his accomplishment---Huge success for him.

Quotes from Kids "I love the Bamboo Club and the activities and crafts we make", We go on the best field trips! My favourite ones are Mini Putt, Bowling and Terra Nova Park"

Cook BAS Program

Cook, now in its second year of operation, continues to run at full capacity and continually has inquiries as to space and people wanting to be placed on the waitlist. We even have one registered for September 2018. The staff here have developed a great relationship with the teachers and administrators and feel like a part of the school community. Throughout the year the program is running at 23 students with an additional 5 that come irregularly. Summer camp was a huge success with eight weeks of fun, most of the campers were from the program so they knew the program and ended up coming all eight weeks without one camper complaining about being bored, they couldn't wait to see what was coming up the next week. They took care of the school garden and were able to harvest some veggies to eat as snack and bake with during the camp as some of their activities. They baked pumpkin muffins, home fries, Zucchini muffins and snacked on fresh cucumber, tomatoes and carrots. Winter camp ran for one week and was at full capacity and continued to provide many fun activities to fill the days . Spring break camp was so successful we had people wanting to sign up for summer camp before it was even over. We had Urban Safari come in to entertain and teach the kids about various rescue animals. During the regular programs that run throughout the school year there were a number of successes that come to mind. One young man with social and emotional challenges and had trouble playing with others or losing managed to change how he saw things through a number of conversations , social stories and role playing. He even offered to be IT in tag when he saw a younger student having trouble catching the other kids. Another student with Autism who has problems engaging in play and usually plays by himself with parallel play or just listening to music has now been sought out by other students who are trying to teach him how to play and they are being very patient with him. Bop it is a very popular game with this young boy because of the sounds it makes and for the first time he actually took the game out and played it the way it is meant to be played and that was all because one of his peers took the time on his own to teach him that it sounds better if you follow the instructions.



Quotes from kids and parents: " Where are we going today? Is it over already? Can we do this again next week" " I came to pick him up early but he insisted he wants to stay in daycare." " thank you for supporting his childhood desires and being with my children in our absence ..God Bless" " He has been talking about this field trip for days now and was so excited since last night. Thanks to you guys."

Caulfield BAS Program

Caulfield is our newest program located in West Vancouver. Opening in October 2016 we got off to a slow start because of delays in start up by the SD and licensing/inspections that got put off a number of times before we could get our license and many families had already found something for the school year. We did have a small number of students enrol and they fully participated in the program daily and even did a short skit in front of the whole school at Christmas with Bret one of the staff. Because of the small numbers we went from two staff to only one but will probably have to go back to two as next year the numbers are going up. We did not run camps this year because the need was not there but are willing to run them once we get the numbers. We have recently started taking registration for next year and we already have 5 new students ready to start in September and we even have two families that came to the school specifically for the before and after school care program we provide.



Quotes from parent and children: " He doesn't need to come here he wants to come here and I think that is great, he is practicing his English and making friends" , " I am having fun I don't want to go home yet"

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is an opportunity to provide school children with healthy breakfasts to start their day off right before a day of school and productive learning. Breakfast Club continues to be a very well attended event at Blundell Elementary. Last year we operated twice a week and had an average attendance of 45-50 kids per breakfast . This year we had to cut down to only one day a week but it is still going strong. We have one staff who plans and organizes the meals and we have a wonderful little group of ladies who volunteer to help us make , serve and clean up the breakfasts every week. We have three volunteers returning from last year plus two moms from the school who have come in to help. At times a number of the school staff stop in to help out as well. We are very supported by the administration and the school pays for the food to be served from a fund they received a few years ago. Weekly we have anywhere from 45 to 60 students participate in this program.



Considering Blundell is quite a small school we are serving almost half the population on some Thursdays. United Way day of Caring has come in on four occasions with volunteers from various businesses in Richmond, with added volunteers we tend to serve more extensive breakfasts such as pancakes (plain and blueberry), fruit, cereal, juice, toast and yogurt. In December after volunteering

with us one of the groups (Coast Capital) donated \$600 towards the program because they liked their experience so much. Another local business Nature Foods donated boxes of cereal and granola bars to be used as part of the program.

Connections Homework Clubs

Homework club runs from 3:30 to 5pm once a week at each location. Students are encouraged to bring their work from school and get help from our High School tutor mentors. Each week after the work is done the students are given a snack and encouraged to participate in activities to improve social skills and self esteem. Volunteers are encouraged to bring any skill or knowledge they have and present it to the group if they like. For example, group games, arts and crafts or just favourite book as a kid. At the end of their time with us each volunteer receives a letter telling of their work and the number of hours they committed to us

Last April to June we ran three homework clubs (free of charge) at Hugh Boyd , Brighthouse Library and Cambie Library , this year we are only running from the first two locations but hope to be up to three again next September. Because of difficulty finding staff and getting the information out this year we didn't start up until January 2017 but once we did get the word out we had many returning students and also new ones sign up to join our groups. Many of the students are ESL with ESL parents so they are using us to better their English as well as get their homework explained to them and help them through it. We have High school volunteers that usually work with one or two students at a time and when the work is done they engage in various games and activities with the kids. We have a great relationship with the libraries and they have been very helpful letting us use their resources, computers and even giving us behind the scene tours and scavenger hunts. Over the past year March 2016-March 2017 we have worked with 59 students , had 23 high school mentors and two staff oversee the programs.

We have had many inquires about a homework club for high school age students as right now we only serve the grade 4-7 age range , but possibly next year we can look to expand and include the older kids.

Youth Programs

Station Stretch School Program Annual Report – Vince Shyong

The Youth and Family Worker (YFW) position at Station Stretch is a partnership between the Richmond School District and RYSA. The purpose of the YFW is to provide supportive services to the students attending an academic program for teens who have not been successful in the regular high schools.

During the 2015-16 school year, the school enrolled 43 students between the grade levels of 8-10. The student composition was nearly 50% male and 50% female. 43% of the students successfully graduated from the program with their Grade 10 while the rest continued to work towards their Grade 10 completion. The remaining students either transferred from the school or did not advance due to issues that impeded their academic progress. Over 50% of the students received intensive counseling or support while the remaining received moderate support, transition support, or consultation services. Each student will receive at least 8 sessions related to integration, adjustment, and exiting the program. Youth who require more intensive support will receive as many sessions as needed. In addition to the 43

youth who attended the program, the YFC continued to offer services to 7 students who had graduated from the program and needed additional support to maintain some momentum in their academic and personal progress.

Issues regarding mental wellness were the most frequent problems that I had to deal with this year. Anxiety and depression impaired so many of our student's progress. Although many of them were able to complete their Grade 10 with us, the transition to their community school was frocked with setbacks this year. Almost all of them were able to maintain their placements but had to reduce their course loads in order to salvage some academic credits. Three of the students had to be removed from school but I was able to continue supporting them in an experimental Grade 11 that we are running. The most devastating issue that I dealt with this year was drug use. The number of users was relatively low and not among the immediate school population but without former students. The intensive support and efforts to help theses youth was almost more than I could bear.

Success Story

Emily successfully completed her Grade 10 courses and transferred to a community school to finish her senior years. Throughout her teen years she suffered dearly, plagued by anxiety and depression. During the day she would laugh and appear as if she hadn't a care but in the evening she would go home with the haunting feeling that her heart was broken just because it was night time. She drank alcohol and used drugs to sooth the unyielding pain but eventually met the people who would expose her to heroin. That was the moment that her life went so horribly out of control. Emily rapidly increased her use and high on a daily basis seeking out the means to sustain her addiction. She spurned her family and friends and disappeared for days on end. She was sexually exploited and resorted to crime. And when heroin no longer gave her the high she sought she turned to injecting fentanyl. During this terrible decent she allowed me to keep in contact to tell me she couldn't stop and did not want to. The family, school, and community mobilized all of the resources we could but only the law could stop her in the end. Emily was court ordered to go into residential treatment. Emily has been clean for several months now. She let me know she appreciated the consistent compassion and care. Knowing someone would always accept her no matter how far she fell made a difference. When she felt less than human someone was still around to help.

Youth Outreach Program

During the past year we have been able to support and engage over 89 youth. Some of the issues they were facing included social isolation, mental health, addictions, dropping out of school, family conflict, language barriers and criminal involvement. We were able to work with over 42 of those youth to set goals and achieve them during this past year. Thanks to the support 13 returned to school, 17 reported significant improvement in their health and overall wellness and 12 completed goals relating to social, emotional and family related matters. We have noticed an increasing number of new immigrant youth becoming isolated with little or no support from family. They don't go to school and typically play video games most of the day. This isolation leads to other issues such as anxiety and depression. During the past year we also have seen great growth in a number of the youth and over 10 are now volunteering for the agency. They help with our intergenerational programs, volunteer at special events and help out around the office.

Intergenerational Programs

One of the things we learned over 10 years ago through a Seniors and Youth program was the impact that intergenerational programs can have on both youth and Seniors. Thanks to a bunch of committed youth and seniors we have continued to see that success this past year. During the last year Seniors have taught youth about traditional calligraphy, traditional recipes from a variety of cultures, shared their stories from their youth and volunteered their time to benefit children and youth in our programs. Youth have joined in and we started helping seniors with English. Youth worked with groups of seniors up to 20 to learn conversational English and practice their language skills. Both groups learned a ton! Finally, we also started a tech class where youth taught seniors about the internet, computers, cell phones and generally answered their questions while they were at the centre. During the year we had over 65 seniors benefit from the supports and over 70 youth involved as participants or volunteers!



Youth led Seniors ESL

Employment Programs

Over the past 10 years we have offered a variety of employment programs and this year unfortunately we saw program funding reduced or reallocated. As a result we weren't able to help as many people as we have in past years. However this past year we were able to run 3 cycles of our Job Options program. This program worked with at risk and underemployed youth, adults and seniors. The majority of these participants were unemployed for over 6 months and had been unsuccessful through other job supports in the community. During the shorter program we had over 320 people enquire about the program and their eligibility, out of those 85 were eligible and considered for participation, but we only had room for 30. As a result we had a waitlist at the end of over 55 people! During the program we worked with each person one on one, and supported them through group skill based workshops. They participated in the classroom portion for a minimum of 4 weeks and then they were linked with an employer for a work experience placement. To support them, we helped with job requirements such as boots or uniforms, and provided short term certificates to help them succeed, such as first aid, basic accounting program training. Out of the 30 participants we were able to find long term employment after the work experience for 25 of them. This was amazing given that many had been unemployed for months if not years! Not only did we impact the participants but we had employers looking for the next placement given the work we did in preparing the participants!



Job Options Participants

Pathways Aboriginal Centre

Pathways Aboriginal Centre (Pathways) has been offering a variety of programs and activities for 11 years. Funding for the centre has been provided through a variety of partners including; Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY), Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Strategies (MAVUS), The Government of Canada, Vancouver Coastal Health, The Richmond School district (SD38), The United Way, The Government of British Columbia and several other grants and donors. Pathways continues to build on previous years by listening to our community members' voices to ensure they have access to appropriate and culturally based supports, resources and activities that promote the health and wellness, skill development, leadership, cultural awareness and school participation within the Aboriginal community of Richmond. With the support of many staff, community supports and local agencies over the last year Pathways supported 372 Aboriginal children, youth and their families. Through events, activities and celebrations such as National Aboriginal Day, family nights, powwow dancing, homework clubs, a winter feast celebration and many more exciting events! We have connected with over 300 community members and have worked with over 8 agencies and partners during the last year. This year brings many memories including the Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference in Victoria, BC, planting the garden and powwow dancing.



Aboriginal Achievement Ceremonies

Pathways Aboriginal Outreach Education Program (PAOEP)

Pathways Aboriginal Outreach Education Program (PAOEP) is a partnership program with RYSA, the Richmond School District and Vancouver Coastal Health. The program works with the school district, local counsellors and social service workers, community agencies, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFASS), Ministry of Social Development, Aboriginal Court workers, the Vancouver Friendship Centre and other RYSA programs to ensure that Aboriginal children, youth and families are supported to receive or access resources and assistance they require. The program's goals are to promote health and wellness, success at school and at home and ensure that we provide services with respect and consideration of the diverse traditions, and culture within the Aboriginal community. PAOEP supported 33 different children, youth and their families. The program provided over 350 individual counselling sessions, 125 group sessions and 77 educational drop-in sessions. Services and supports were provided at the various schools, at Pathways, in the community and during family visits. The program produced 11 unique newsletters and these were distributed to over 150 community contacts on our mailing list. The PAOEP organized 13 community and 22 family events with over 372 people attending events and workshops including: a traditional talking circle, gardening workshops at the OSKAYAK Garden, ongoing art therapy group for children traditional

talking circle, teachings, a community winter celebration, monthly family activity nights, Ravens Homework Club and leadership opportunities.

Ravens Homework Club

RYSA and the Pathways Aboriginal Centre hosted the Ravens Homework Club. RHC is free and homework support is provided from volunteer mentors, tutors and Pathways staff. This year 6 high school students excelled as tutors and mentors to 16 elementary school aged children. Weekly RHC activities include tutoring, and fun activities such as a fitness laser tag, talking circles, learning how grow your own food all were offered as away to promote team work, communication and staying active. Healthy snacks and drinks are provided during each session.



Youth on Ski/Board outing

OSKAYAK Youth Program

The goal of the OSKAYAK Youth Program (OYP) connects with urban Aboriginal youth between the ages of 10 to 24. During the past year 32 youth participants participated in and received support from the OYP. The program works with children and youth in developing cultural awareness and pride, life skills, employment readiness skills, and supporting career and educational goals. The program provides an opportunity for participants to interact and learn from Elders, professionals, mentors, and to support each other in their ongoing cultural and generational learning, fostering a place for social cohesion and constant community support. The program provides an opportunity for youth to participate in cultural, life skills, youth engagement, and leadership development workshops. Employment was also a huge focus for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. This program directly supported 4 youth with acquiring temporary jobs, 3 youth acquired part-time work where as 7 youth acquired full time employment. Activities and workshops varied such as attending the Gathering Our Voices Conference in Victoria B,C, powwow dancing, painting, regalia making a series of Halkomelem Language workshops. Leadership, tutoring and mentoring workshops were ongoing throughout the fiscal year. Resume workshops, food safe course, and career fairs and meeting with career experts also took place throughout the fiscal year. 80% of participants reported an increase in support in their lives, thanks to all of the Elders, facilitators, volunteers, and staff that collaborate together to offer this dynamic program.

Throughout the 2015- 2016 fiscal year participants of the OSKAYAK Youth Committee (OYC) worked for the 10th year in a row to plan and fundraise for events and activities important to themselves and to the local Urban Aboriginal Community. The OYC meet monthly to support the creation and development of all programming and events held and or supported by Pathways Aboriginal Centre. Some of the important activities identified by the OYC focused on cultural development, life skills and wellness, youth engagement, leadership and community development. For example the OYC volunteered at the 2015 National Aboriginal Day Celebration where they participated in, danced and supported and volunteered their time in the important community events.

Roots to Grow

The Aboriginal Child, Youth and Family Program provided one to one, group, family and caregiver support to strengthen individuals, families and foster placements to 32 children, 16 youth, and 15 families. Children, Youth, Families and caregivers were welcome to join us at the centre for drop in activities, monthly family nights, workshops, cultural learning opportunities and outing. We were able to sit down with clients one to one and discuss and challenges, or needs you have and work towards resolving them and connecting to any needed resources. We also worked with 21 clients to engage the Ministry or other government services to address issues or access supports needed. The program is client focused, confidential and works to provide culturally sensitive supports and services.



Kids age 4-6 in Art Class

The Aboriginal Family Arts Program (AFAP)

The Aboriginal Family Arts Program (AFAP) provided 61 Aboriginal participants with opportunities for the Aboriginal Families and/or caregivers of Aboriginal Children and Youth to engage together as a family, gain awareness of the importance of health and wellness, utilize art as a positive outlet and connect with our Cultural Roots. The program has met once a week at the Pathways Aboriginal Centre for a total of 35 program sessions which included: 29 cultural workshops, and 6 community events.

National Aboriginal Day

National Aboriginal Day Celebration was held at Richmond's Cannery in Steveston. There was an excellent turn out of performers and community members. Over 180 visitors came to watch the traditional dancing, story tellers and artisans. The day was opened by an Elder Henry Charles, local city council members and funders. Unique to this year's celebrations was canoe pullers from Musuqeam that came ashore and came to celebrate the important day with us!. The celebration was a fun day that allowed the greater community a chance to learn about Aboriginal culture while sharing traditional songs and dancing together.



One of Pathways Pow Wow dancers 1

"It was great to work with Pathways; we (Cannery) hope we can work together again next year!"

Quotes:

- “It is fun” , “It is very supportive” , “we learn, good experiences” , “teaching the whole family” , “it is great” , “I enjoyed making dream catchers, medicine wheels, pow wow dancing.” , “I learnt to make bannock in the oven” , “yes supportive to my needs”
- “I literally never do anything physical, I hate it. But I love snowboarding, and I’m going to ask for only snowboarding gear and tickets for any presents from now on! Can we do chill again next year?”
- “I love Fridays at Pathways because all my friends are here. Nobody at my school understands me or gets me like my friends do here, that’s why I love it here”

Success Stories:

This month a family went to court and their child was successfully returned to their care. We have stayed connected with and supported the family with MCFD. They are definitely on the right track and have accomplished a number of goals in a very short time. We will continue to empower the family and offer support and programming.

A young parent in the community was referred to Pathways a year ago by MCFD. Pathways supported the young family to connect with a number of community resources and accomplish a number of goals. Program staff supported the young parent to reconnect with their family

This winter we participated in a snowboard program called “Chill”. A selected group of youth would be picked up, given snowboard gear, taken to Cypress Mountain and given lessons every Monday for 6 weeks, all for free. One youth we extended the invite to come was not physically active at all, she had no interest in any form of physical activity and hate P.E. at school. Our goal was to expose her to something she would never have been exposed to and hopefully get her interested in. She was very nervous about joining us, but agreed because it was “different” than any other physical activity she had tried before. The first 2 weeks (lessons) were tough, she was very hard on herself, kept saying she was no good, was the worst in the group and was unsure if she wanted to continue. But by the third week, after much motivation and reassurance that she’s doing well, and is capable, her attitude changed, and so did her skill level. She began to excel and did exceptionally in the program. She looked forward to Mondays to continue the program and expressed her wish for it to continue. So not only did we succeed in exposing her to some new physical activity, but we also saw her confidence grow and made some friends in the process.

Other Programs

Stay in School Awards

Each year our partnership with Children’s Aid Foundation allows us to support youth in their efforts to stay in school and succeed despite challenges. The recipients are



recommended by community service staff, teachers and others. The program provides a financial stipend to support their efforts to stay in school that the kids can use as they see fit – this provides a motivation for many to work through some of their challenges. Many of the youth have been or are in foster care, have family challenges, some learning issues and others have made choices that have impacted their situation. The program also provides bursaries for kids to pursue further education. The bursaries are up to 200 dollars and we support the youth and families to start education savings plans. During the last year the stories of the recipients were very moving, and we were pleased to be able to provide some sort of recognition to over 43 recipients! One of the recipients has been a participant at our Pathways Aboriginal Centre, and over the years has volunteered and worked through a number of challenges. She is now on her way to Medical School! Way to go, hard work and commitment are rewarded!

Volunteer and Leadership Programs

During the year the agency works with a variety of youth volunteers, and others, to get involved in the world around them. Many of the youth are simply looking for required hours at school, others to make a difference or give back for support they received. Regardless, it is amazing the impact that volunteering has on these youth. We have seen inspiration for career and educational choices, eyes opened about some of the challenges others face in the world, learning first hand about our history and the experience of Seniors that were new immigrants decades ago. We also see them taking charge and getting involved, each year they develop a number of volunteer driven activities to benefit the community. During the past year they have volunteered at a number of events, organized recreational outings for kids, been trained as tutor mentors to support kids to succeed and led activities to benefit Seniors. This year the focus was on the environment. Youth organized a number of clean up activities in our community. The impact was amazing and the youth had tons of fun. At the end of it all youth reported increased confidence, skills, social connections and community awareness. Several also told us they were going to get into teaching or the social service sector thanks to the experience they gained!



Seniors and Youth at Tech Class

Additional Program and Activity Photos

Connections Community Services



Group of Volunteer Youth trained as tutor mentors



Kids on an outing to Steveston Fish Market



Kids in out of school camp



Kids on outing to marsh as part of camp activities to learn about environment



Kids art project on what makes them smile



Visit from local zoo to child care program to introduce kids to some local wildlife



Kids art about animals they like part of child care programs



Kids making dream catchers part of the Pathways programs



Kids who learned how to Pow Wow dance showing their skills and the outfits they made At National Aboriginal Day celebrations.



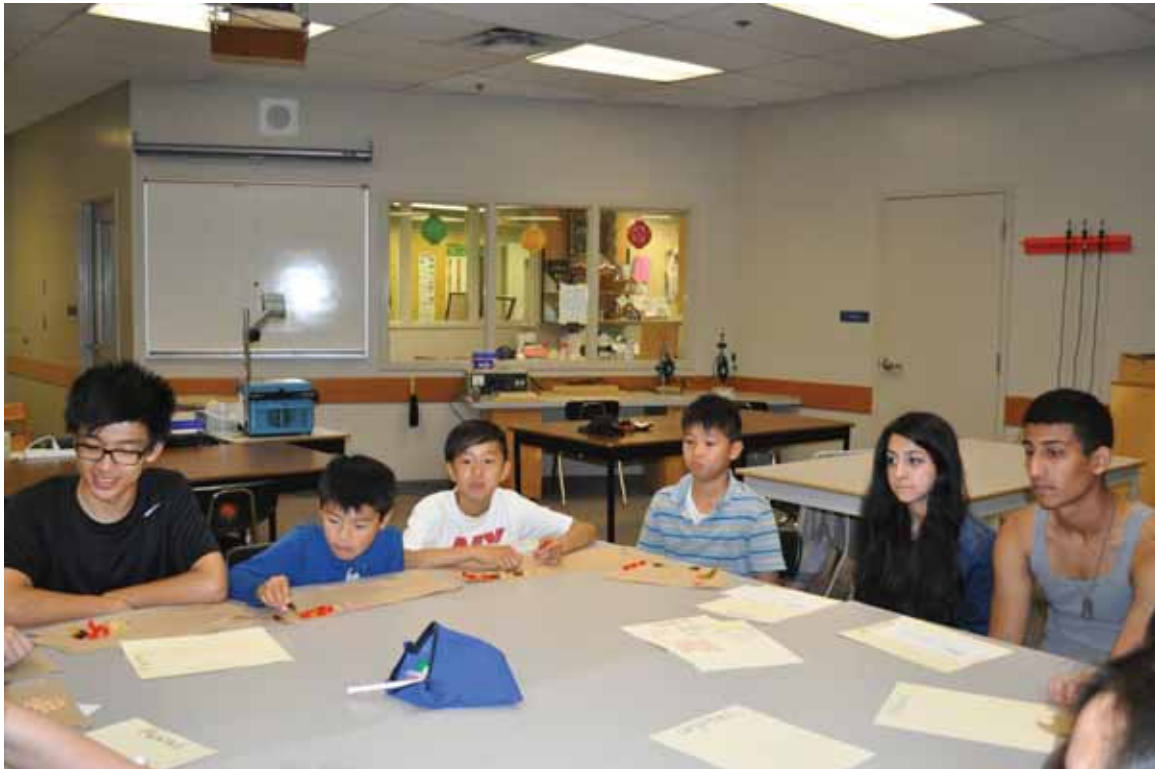
Youth Outreach Group Activity



Homework Club participant



Spring Break Camp (includes kids with behavioural issues or special needs)



Kids participating in art activity with youth volunteers leading



Kids and youth at the Aboriginal Centre in a healthy eating workshop led by local Elder Chef Maluh



Aboriginal Kids at Ravens Homework Club



Mask making and painting workshop for kids and youth



Aboriginal kids at Aboriginal summer camp



Aboriginal youth that worked on short movie project



Child participating in a children and family activity