



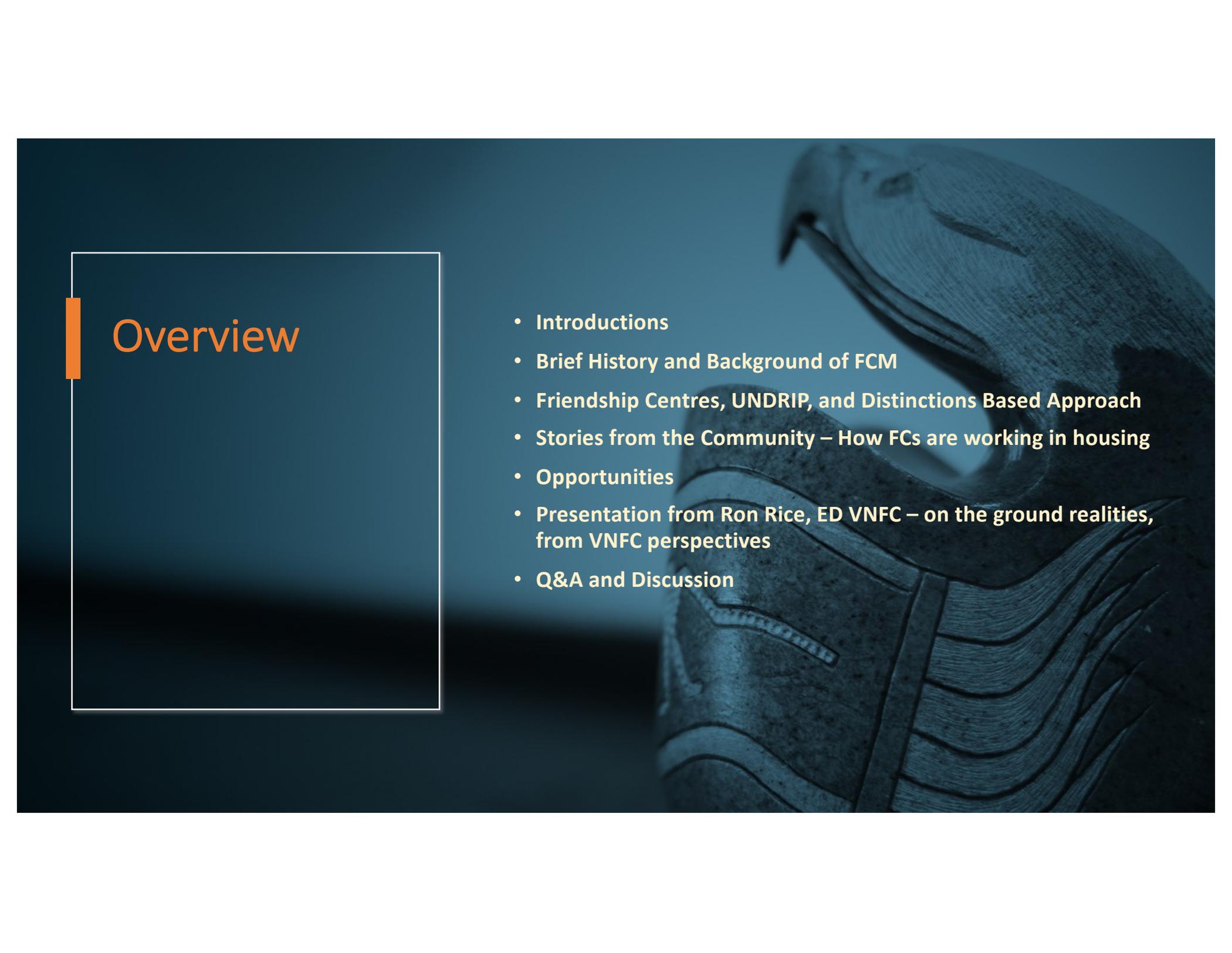
National Association
of Friendship Centres
Association nationale
des centres d'amitié

Housing Services for Urban Indigenous People

March 12, 2020

Jocelyn Formsma, Executive Director,
National Association of Friendship Centres

Ron Rice, Executive Director, Victoria Native Friendship Centre



Overview

- Introductions
- Brief History and Background of FCM
- Friendship Centres, UNDRIP, and Distinctions Based Approach
- Stories from the Community – How FCs are working in housing
- Opportunities
- Presentation from Ron Rice, ED VNFC – on the ground realities, from VNFC perspectives
- Q&A and Discussion



Introductions

NAFC Staff during Teambuilding session

Brief History and Background



Who We Are

- The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) is a network of over 100-member Friendship Centres (FCs) and Provincial-Territorial Associations (PTAs) from coast-to-coast-to-coast. The NAFC was incorporated in 1972 to represent the growing number of Friendship Centres at the national level.
- The concept of a “Friendship Centre” originated in the mid-1950s. As more and more Indigenous people were moving to urban areas, concerned individuals began to organize to meet the needs expressed by their community members.
- The NAFC seeks to be a central, unifying body for the Friendship Centre Movement (FCM), to promote and advocate the concerns of local FCs and PTAs, and
- To provide important urban Indigenous perspectives to the federal government and to the general public.

The Beginning of the Friendship Centre Movement



Volunteer driven and operated, Friendship Centres began in the mid-1950s as the number of Indigenous people moving into larger urban areas increased.



Indigenous agencies emerged out of a clear need for specialized services to help Indigenous newcomers to the city. These agencies would provide referrals and offer counselling on matters of employment, housing, education, health and liaison with other community organizations.



As the demand for services by urban migrating First Nations, Inuit and Métis people increased so did the number of Friendship Centres. The nature of programming and services was quickly enhanced.

Expansion of Friendship Centres

Three Friendship Centres: the North American Indian Club in Toronto, The Coqualeetza Fellowship Club in Vancouver and the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre in Winnipeg.

Establishment of the NAFC. 43 FC's are established.

The number of FC's reaches 117.



1950's

1968

1972

1983

2012

2019

Friendship Centres reach a total number of 26 centres.

80 Friendship Centres are open in Canada.

107 Friendship Centres under NAFC Membership

Most Recent Friendship Centres

QC

- Centre d'amitié autochtone de Maniwaki (2018), Maniwaki
- Centre d'amitié autochtone de Lac-Saint-Jean (2018), Lac-Saint-Jean
- Centre d'amitié autochtone de Trois-Rivières (2018), Trois-Rivières

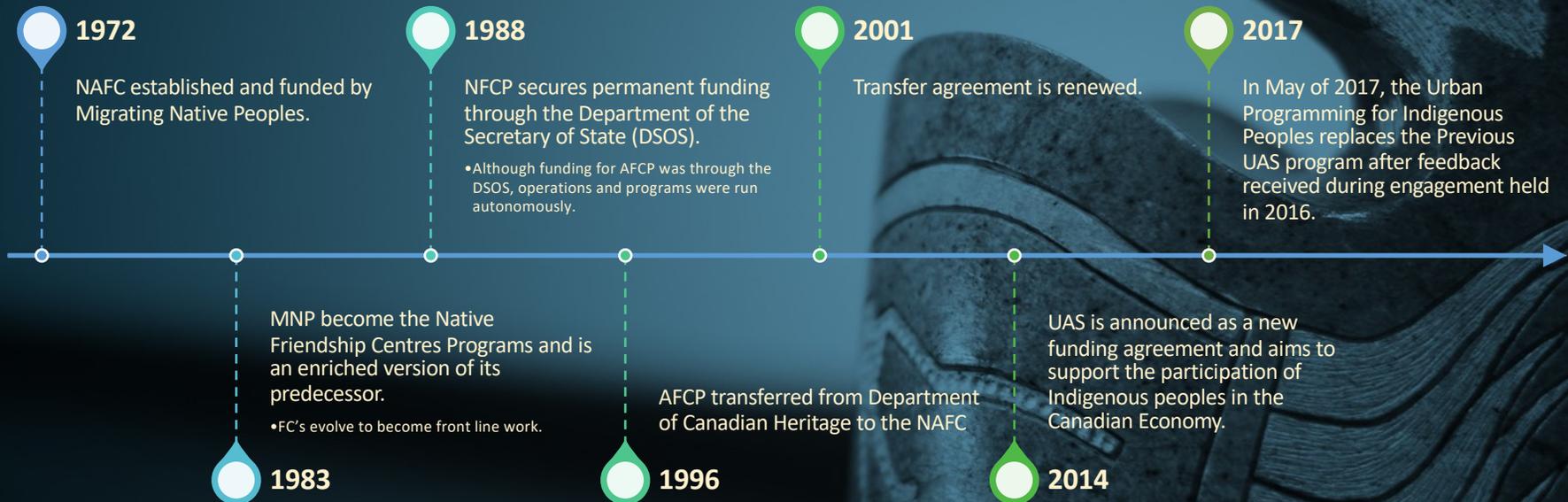
Manitoba

- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre (2019), Winnipeg

Alberta

- Miywasin Friendship Centre (2018), Medicine Hat

Funding History



Friendship Centres at a Glance

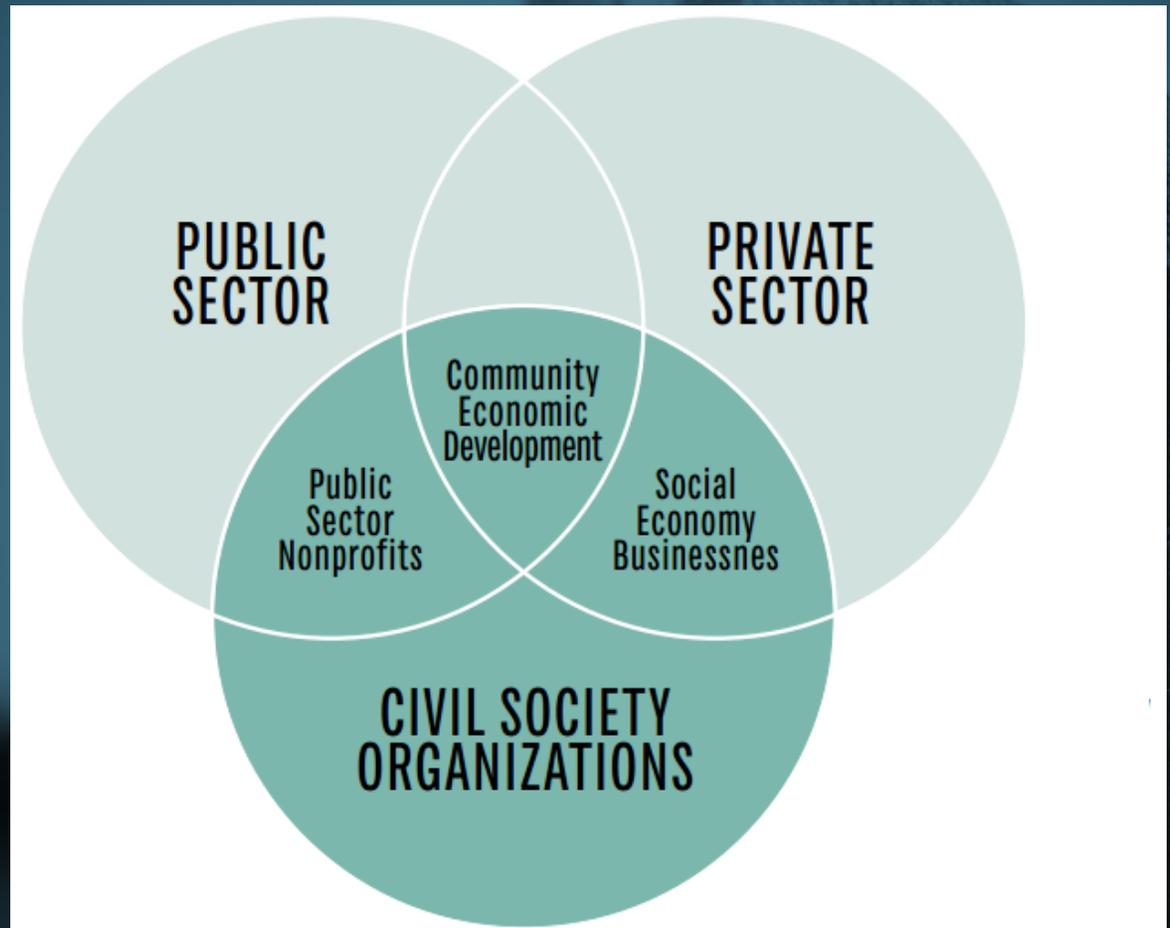
- Over 2,700 Staff, 6800 volunteers working in Friendship Centres across the country, with 238 buildings in communities and cities from coast to coast to coast.
- Friendship Centres offer wraparound services to all urban Indigenous people regardless of status for:
 - Housing
 - Shelter
 - Childcare
 - Health
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Culture and language
 - family
 - Economic and cultural development
 - Justice





Friendship Centres,
UNDRIP, and Distinctions
Based Approach

**Friendship
Centres and
their Role with
Indigenous
Societies**



<https://seontario.org/social-enterprise-in-ontario/>

FCM, UNDRIP,
and
Distinctions
Based
Approach

What is Self-Determination?

Key Articles of UNDRIP

Outline Distinctions Based Approach
and Real/Potential effects on urban
populations and FCs

UNDRIP (cont'd)

Article 1

Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, **as a collective or as individuals**, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law.

Article 2

Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and **individuals** and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, **in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.**

Article 5

Indigenous peoples have the right to **maintain and strengthen their distinct** political, legal, economic, **social and cultural institutions**, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

UNDRIP (cont'd)

Article 9

Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.

Article 14

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
2. Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
3. States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

UNDRIP (cont'd)

Article 20

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.

Article 23

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.



Recognizing Distinctions

Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people come from diverse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities. The Calls for Justice must be interpreted and implemented in an equitable and non-discriminatory way, addressing the needs of distinct Indigenous Peoples, and **taking into account factors that make them distinct**. These include, but are not limited to:

Self-identification

- First Nation
- Inuit
- Métis

Geographical- or regional-specific information

- North, South, East, West
- Proximity to urban centres, oceans, water, and natural resources
- Locations of traditional territories and homelands

Municipal, provincial, and territorial boundaries

- Residency
- On-reserve/off-reserve
- Rural/urban
- Remote and northern
- Communities and settlements

A gendered lens and framework that ensures that impacts on women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA individuals are taken into account. This also includes understanding the differences and diversity among 2SLGBTQQIA people and understanding that the needs, within communities of individuals, may not necessarily be the same.





Successes - Snapshot of FCM Today

Snapshot of FCM Today



1,457,444
Total of Clients
Served



1,254
Total Programs
and Services



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



Alberta

- **21** Friendship Centres
- **307** Employees.
- **308** Programs
- **302,677** Clients served



Manitoba

- **11** Friendship Centres
- **n/a** Employees.
- **107** Programs
- **640,200** Clients served



British Columbia

- **25** Friendship Centres
- **1,203** Employees.
- **512** Programs
- **275,426** Clients



Saskatchewan

- **10** Friendship Centres
- **n/a** Employees.
- **85** Programs
- **72,743** Clients





Quebec

- **13** Friendship Centres
- **200** Employees.
- **88** Programs
- **12,349** Clients



Nunavut / Northwest Territories

- **8** Friendship Centres
- **95** Employees.
- **59** Programs
- **97,660** Clients



Atlantic

- **5** Friendship Centres
- **n/a** Employees.
- **80** Programs
- **302,677** Clients



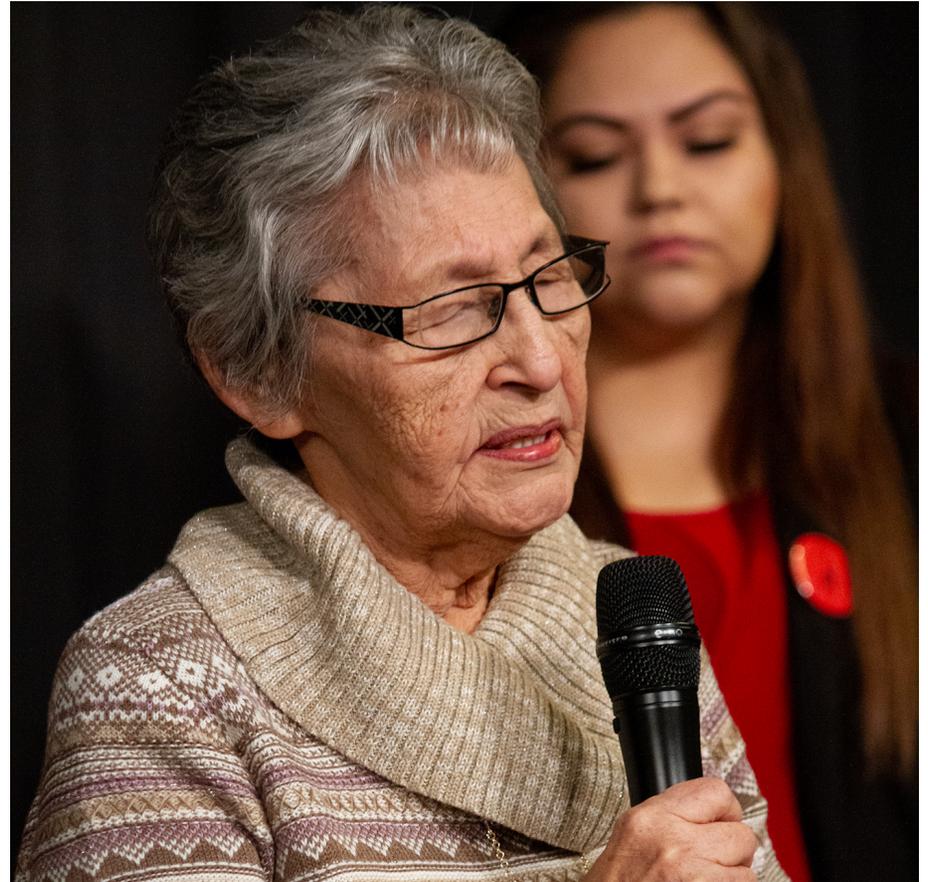
Yukon

- **1** Friendship Centre
- **n/a** Employees.
- **15** Programs
- **4,642** Clients



FCs and Housing/ Homelessness

- In 2016-2017, Friendship Centres operated:
 - 96 Housing programs
 - 53 Homelessness initiatives
- Serving approximately 73,000-77,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit community members





Stories from the Community

Case Studies on the work of Friendship Centres

Stories from the Community

Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society

A has been a client with us since last year. She had moved with her three sons, ages 23, 17 and 15 to be near family that have lived here for many years. Her sister said she could stay with her and her six-year-old grandson in their two-bedroom basement suite until she secured a place of her own.

She had applied to BC Housing and the various native housing organizations yet even with letters of support she had been unable to secure her own living space. She was continually looking at market housing but, sadly, faced repeated discrimination as an Aboriginal single parent with three children.

Unfortunately, her sister's apartment developed black mould, and everyone was continuously getting sick.

The TLC team wrote further letters of support and the Navigator started viewing rental opportunities with X, informing potential landlords that she had successfully raised over 30 foster care children and never used alcohol or drugs. Within a month using this new, supported approach, X was thrilled to have secured a three-bedroom suite for herself and her three boys.



Stories from the Community

Kikinahk Friendship Centre in Saskatchewan reported that for the first in years, no homeless persons froze to death this past winter. We were open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week all winter.



Stories from the Community: Small Centres Making Big Impacts

Wachiay Friendship Centre

- Working with M'akola Housing Society to build 20 to 25 affordable seniors housing units on Wachiay's adjacent property

Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society

- Through community engagement the biggest success stories include partnership with the Town of Smithers and the municipality of Houston, BC. This partnership is moving their Housing project forward and opens the door to our next housing proposal for the community of Houston.

Battleford Indian & Metis Friendship Centre

- Operationalizing rooming house and looking to do an infrastructure study.

Stories from the Community

Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre

Services included education, employment, youth, senior, housing and programs to help families as they work to increase their standard of living, engage in their culture and live healthy lifestyles

Lynn Lake Friendship Centre

housing referral assistance

Centre d'amitié autochtone du Lac-Saint-Jean (CAALSJ)

The Centre du Lac St-Jean is developing a structuring project in social housing. The Centre is organizing partners to coordinate the complementary services that will be offered to the members who will be tenants of the housing units. Social housing is very important in Roberval since member consultations clearly identified housing needs as one of the greatest barriers to a healthy and stable life in the city.



Stories from the Community

Mikmaw Native Friendship Centre

For the last 18 months the Society has been working with the Assembly of Nova Scotia, KMKNO, Public Services of Canada and CMHC as of December 15 2019 – 5853 College Street in Kijipuktuk has been transferred to the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Society – through a direct transfer from Public Services of Canada – initiated and fully supported and approved through the Assembly of Nova Scotia (all 13 Chiefs approved of the direct transfer). This space will provide 15 transition and emergency beds for Indigenous people's experience homelessness in Kijipuktuk.

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre – Surrey BC

- The Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre (FRAFCA) is a relatively new member of the BCAAFC, joining our movement in 2012. The past few years the Fraser Region Friendship Centre has become a strong community Centre, an example of innovative programs, community outreach and strong foundation in management and administration which allows the front-line staff to provide dynamic and needed community programs.
- More Indigenous people are moving to Surrey and has recently out paced the Downtown East Side of Indigenous representation, and while downtown Vancouver has dozens of Indigenous Support Agencies, in Surrey there are just three. The Indigenous population in Surrey is over 15,000 with a growth rate of 7% a year. This makes all the programming from early years, youth, employment to Elders all vital programs within both the Centre, and the city of Surrey.
- FRAFCA's policy of 'Any door is the right door', means whomever walks into the Centre knows that they will get support and a welcome from whomever they first see.



Lloydminster Native Friendship Centre

Over the past several years, Lloydminster Friendship Centre staff has been providing support services to a young couple who had been living on the streets because of multiple issues caused by addictions. This couple has a number of health issues and faced severe barriers to making positive changes. Several times this couple was provided services to access supports and addiction treatments, however the lack of aftercare supports caused them to relapse and they became homeless once again. Last spring the couple had decided to try again to make positive lifestyle changes. The friendship centre staff supported them through this process. This young couple now has their own apartment and with community resources were able to furnish their home. The young man is now working full time. This is a huge achievement for this couple and a great example of how important it is not to give up on people. The Lloydminster staff went above and beyond for this couple and feels very gratified that the couple now have a warm home and have become self-reliant.

Stories from the Community

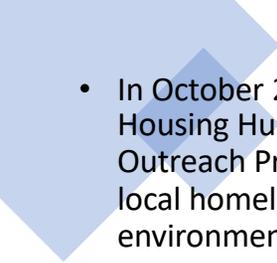
Native Montreal/Montréal Autochtone

- diversifying funding, establishing service partnerships in multiple sectors, representing the Centre on multiple local round tables and leading our developing social housing sector

Tłıchq Łeàgłq Ts'ıllı Ko Friendship Centre

- Our OTL healing workshops for the homeless and others has been a success.



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- In October 2018 the Community Service Worker in partnership with the Housing Hub developed a program called H.O.O.P.S (Helping Others Outreach Programs and Services), in which the CSW would go to the local homeless shelter and offer programs and services in an environment that was more easily accessible to the clients.
 - Lavinia (Lovie) Aggek is a 67-year-old Indigenous woman who currently resides at the local Emergency Shelter. Lovie has been a part of the homeless population for several years and battles with an addiction to alcohol. As anyone would expect with being in such a vulnerable population, there are a lot of stigmas surrounding her and her fellow peers, which can often lead to hostility.
 - When I first met Lovie, she was very closed off and hard to communicate with as she didn't have much trust in others. As the weeks went by and I became a familiar face, Lovie began to trust and open up about some of the issues she faces every day, such as alcoholism and depression.
 - Lovie participates in almost every H.O.O.P.S session and has utilized the One Door Drop- in Service. I believe that these sessions have boosted her self-esteem and have given her the confidence to attend other services offered at the Labrador Friendship Centre such as the Women's Friendship Circle and the annual in her Name Vigil. These sessions have improved her social connections immensely and have helped her regain her place as a part of the community.
 - When asked how she enjoyed the programs and services offered by UPIP, Lovie stated "I really enjoy coming to the programs, it is good for us homeless people to have somewhere to go during the day."



Labrador Friendship Centre

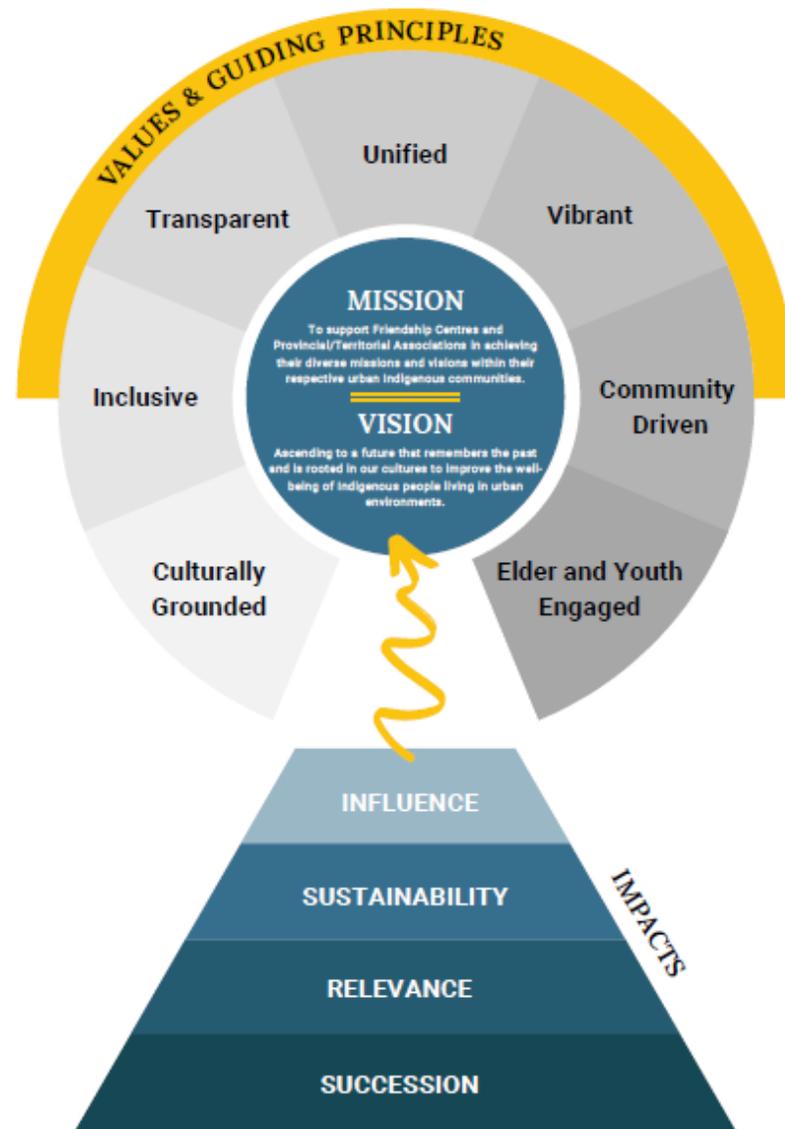


Opportunities

- Space for civil society and layered identities within Distinctions-Based
- Collaboration for better services and fewer service gaps for FNs
- Match efforts to realities
- Mutual supports for efforts



NAFC's Direction





Meegwetch!

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