



*Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society*



2018—2019 Annual Report



# Mission Statement

The Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society will provide for the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of all peoples through the development of community-based services, while encouraging the community to preserve, share and promote Aboriginal cultural distinctiveness.

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# Message from the President



It has been another eventful year here at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS). Every day, many community members pass through our doors seeking a range of services. People from all nations, all walks of life, and all stages of life are touched in some way by the Friendship Centre.

KFS is a second home to many of the most vulnerable members of our community, and our lobby is their 'living room'. It is a safe place for them to sit down and warm up in the winter, or cool down in the summer. There is always a warm cup of coffee or a cool drink of water waiting for them.

Our programming serves people in all four stages of life: infants, youth, adults, and Elders. We continue to offer a wide variety of services including outreach and housing support, affordable rental housing, parenting programs, child development programs, youth services, addictions and mental health counselling services, Elder care, and services for immigrants. I'm happy to report that our programming has expanded this year, as you will read later in the pages of this report.

I would like to express my gratitude for the valuable partnerships we have with various levels of government, businesses, and other community service providers. We cannot do what we do on our own. It truly takes a community to serve our community.

I would also like to thank my fellow Board members and our Executive Director, as well as our many hard-working staff, summer students, and interns who have contributed so much to the ability of KFS to serve the community, and help our people feel at home here.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to say lim' limpt to our dedicated volunteers. Volunteers enable us to offer popular and vital services and events such as: Saturday Outreach Breakfast, Family Night, Elders' Luncheon, Turtle Island Festival, and many others. Please consider supporting the Friendship Centre by volunteering.

All my relations.

*Dinah Littlechief*  
President

## Board of Directors

**President: Dinah Littlechief**

**Vice-President: Jean-Anne Copley**

**Secretary: Ann Bell**

**Treasurer: Dr. R. Robin Dods**

**Board Member: Karen Vircavs**

**Youth Member: Michael Mucha**



# Message from the Executive Director

Wai sim put t'kw,

It is an honour to be a part of the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS ) team. I believe it takes a team to work together to help our people to achieve their goals and to overcome their many challenges.

I am very thankful for our current Team Leaders: Alana, Ali, Sheridan, Francis, and Tina for their support and guidance to their teams. Their leadership enables all staff to provide the best service to our people and community. Many of the Team Leaders represent KFS on community advisory committees that relate to their specific team.

We have had a few staff changes over this past year. Of particular note, Francis Lampreau has taken over the finance department. We have also added a number of new programs: Indigenous Youth Justice Worker, Youth Mental Health Clinician, chichimala KFS Youth, and Disability Tax Aid.

Our new housing project, *Margaret's Landing*, is continuing. Demolition work on the existing structures on the site has been completed, and site preparation for construction is underway. The expected completion date is October 2020.

We continue to participate in and/or host a number of community events including: Sisters In Spirit Vigil, Lake Country Native Association Family Winter Gathering, National Aboriginal Addictions Awareness Week, Turtle Island Festival, World Film Festival, Kelowna Culture Days, Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign, Honour Your Health, Childrens' Christmas Party, Elders' Christmas Party, and Feed the People.

Lim' limpt to the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and community members for their continuing support in assisting our Centre to meet the many needs of the people who walk in through our front doors.

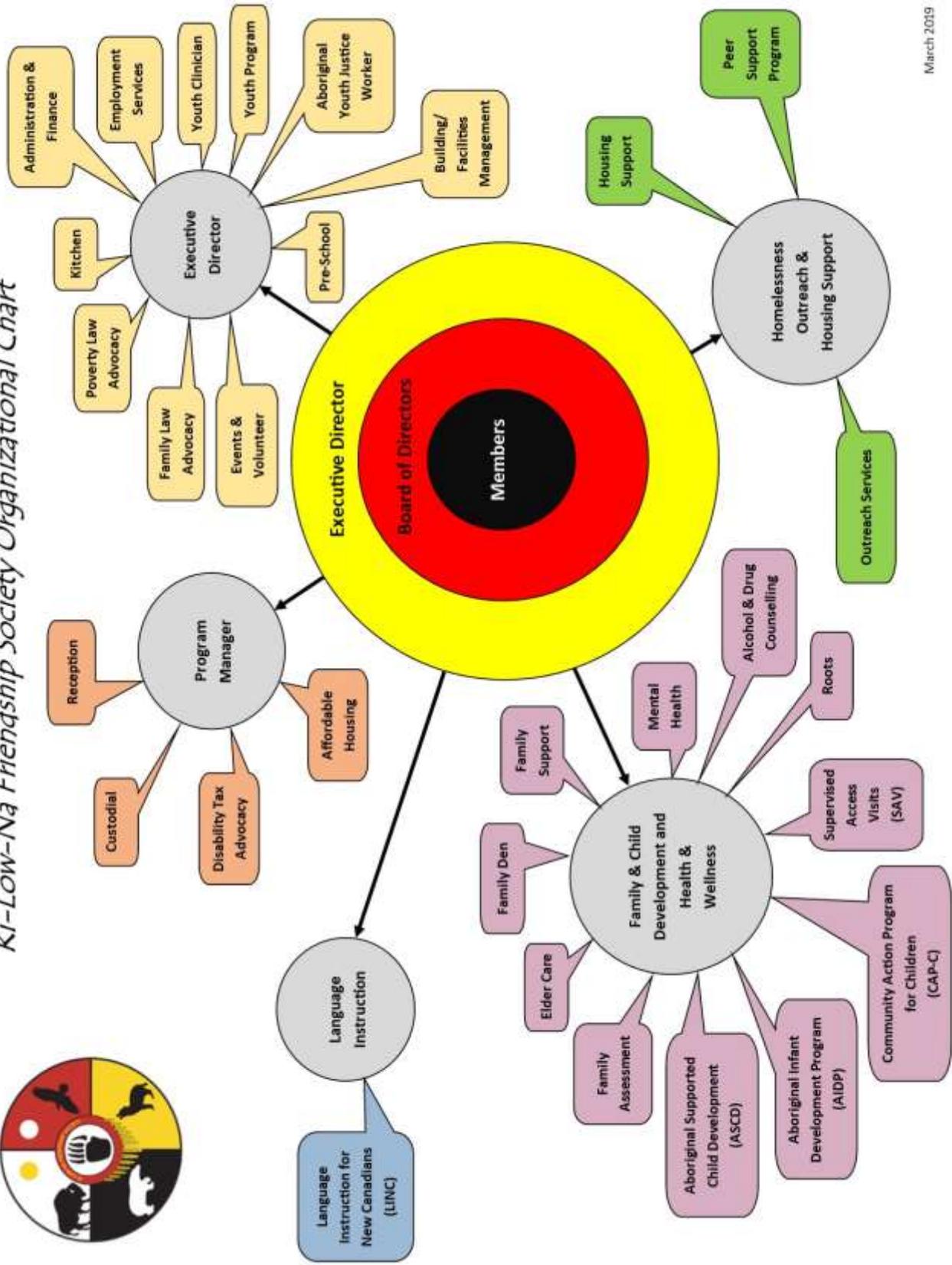
All my relations,

*Edna Terbasket*  
Executive Director



# Organizational Structure

*Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society Organizational Chart*

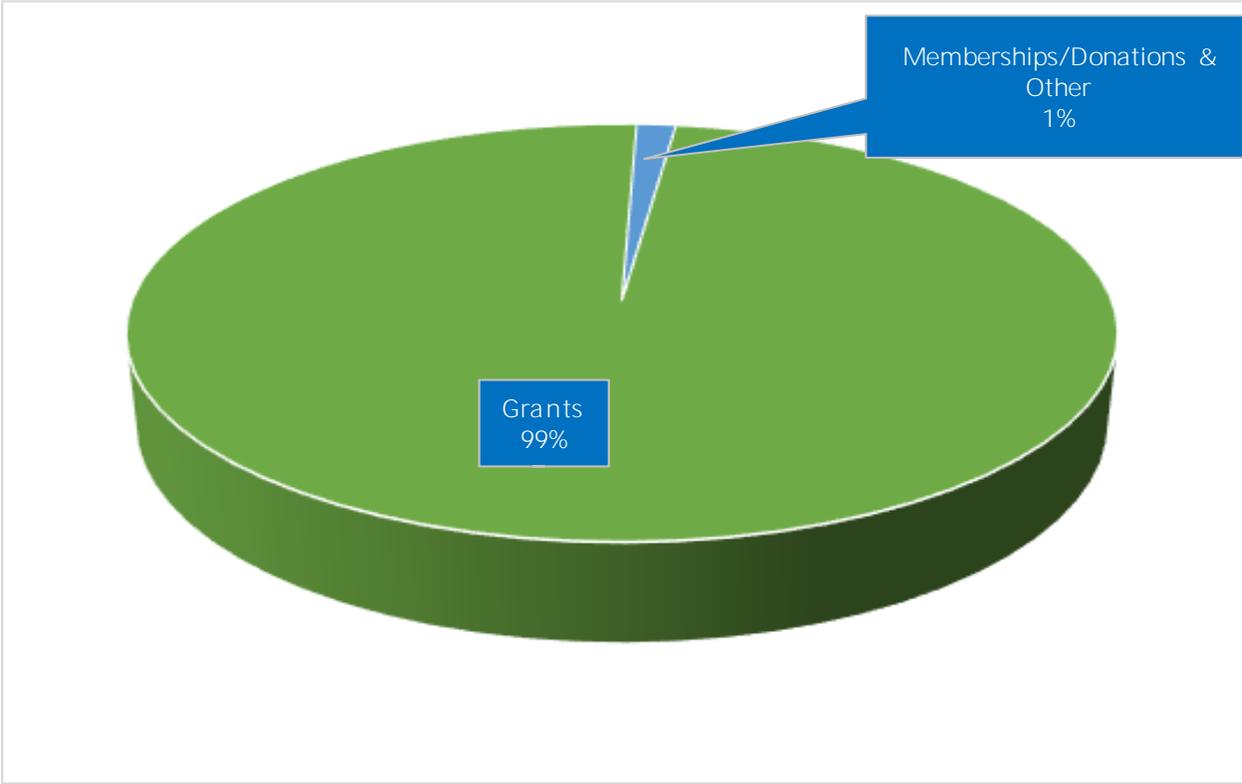


March 2019

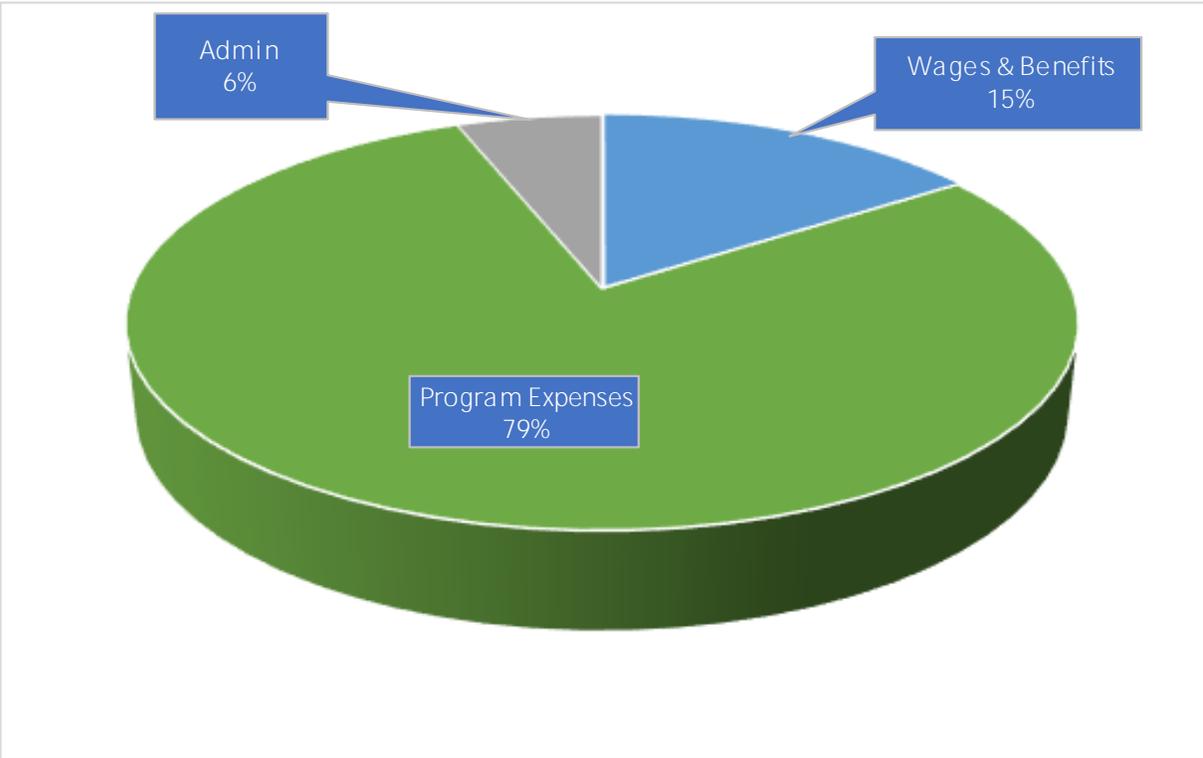


# Revenue & Expenses Overview

## Revenue



## Expenses



# Administration & Finance Report

It has been another active year at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS). The financial position of the Society continues to be strong, and the number of programs and services offered has increased.

Some highlights from the year include:

- Our 86-unit affordable housing project *i spa-us ki-low-na Heart of Kelowna* has completed its second year of operation.
- Demolition of the existing houses at our Margaret's Landing property was completed in March 2019, paving the way for construction of 49 units of new housing.
- We have added three new youth-focused programs: Aboriginal Youth Justice Worker, Youth Clinician, and chichimala KFS Youth—our new youth program.
- We have added a new Disability Tax Aid program.
- Additional capacity funding has allowed us to purchase a mini-van for the family programs, install a new childrens' play area at the Family Den, and upgrade our computer server system.
- Our Community Gaming Grant was approved for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, allowing us to continue offering Family Night, Elders' Luncheons, Christmas events, and the Community Computer Lab.
- In March, a mural by Syilx artist Sheldon Louis was installed on an outside wall in the front of our offices at 442 Leon Avenue. The mural depicts the late Emory Robins, who attended our *Turtle Island Festival* for several years as the leader of our host drum. The mural will be officially unveiled at the 2019 *Turtle Island Festival*.

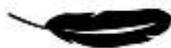
A significant change here at KFS is the contracting of R2L2 Business Services to provide bookkeeping and financial services. Francis Lampreau of R2L2 began work as our new Financial Controller in August 2018.

A special thank-you to Lucia Crazy Bull for her dedication and support in the reception position as well as to Dorothy Goodeye who fills in with reception when needed; and to Noel Ferguson who performs many building repairs and improvements, and keeps our office and program spaces clean.

As always, we encourage all community members to engage with the Friendship Centre and get to know the services and programs available here. There's always a need for volunteers to help out too!

Thank you to everyone for your support!

*Jeremy Bowers*  
Program Administrator



# Health, Safety, and Facilities Report

This has been a busy year at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS), and the upkeep of our buildings and facilities is no exception. Our programs and services operate from a number of locations: our main offices at 442 and 477 Leon Avenue in downtown Kelowna; i spa-us ki-low-na/Heart of Kelowna—our affordable housing in the Central Green neighbourhood; the Family Den in the Rutland neighbourhood; Margaret’s Landing in the Black Mountain neighbourhood, and Sk̓mxist Pre-School at Quigley Elementary School. Additionally, we operate two 15-passenger vans, a mini van, and a cargo trailer.

This year, through funding from the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development, KFS acquired a 2009 Honda Odyssey minivan, which will be used by the Family Support and Family Assessment programs for client transportation. Also, through this same funding, we have begun to develop an updated outdoor childrens’ play-space at the Family Den.

Vandalism has become an increasing issue in the downtown area over the past year, and KFS has not escaped its effects. Windows in the 477 Building have been broken multiple times, cable service has been vandalized at both 477 and 442 Buildings, and graffiti has become more prevalent. This has necessitated increased repair and maintenance costs, and the installation of additional security cameras.

This year, the following projects and upgrades have been completed:

- Replacement of carpeting with durable linoleum flooring in Outreach/Employment & Counselling office spaces (442 Leon Building).
- Upgrade of security camera system and installation of additional cameras (442 Leon Building).
- Installation of new outdoor lighting (442 Leon Building).
- Installation of additional security cameras (i spa-us ki-low-na).
- Installation of security cameras (477 Leon Building).
- Upgrade of appliances (Family Den).

The following regular-interval inspections were completed:

- Annual fire & safety equipment inspections (all buildings and vehicles).
- Biannual commercial vehicle inspections (both 15-passenger vans).
- Monthly inspections & testing of fire & safety equipment (all buildings and vehicles).
- Annual kitchen facility inspection by Interior Health.
- Annual elevator inspections and regular servicing (442 Leon Building & i spa-us ki-low-na).
- Biannual HVAC servicing (442 Leon & 477 Leon Buildings).
- Monthly mechanical system inspection/servicing (i-spa-us ki-low-na).

All buildings and vehicles are in good repair, and all necessary inspections are up-to-date. All required licensing and certification of buildings, facilities, systems, and vehicles is current.

*Jeremy Bowers*  
Program Administrator



# i spa-us ki-low-na Affordable Housing

It has been another busy year at *i spa-us ki-low-na Heart of Kelowna*. We have been up and running for over two years as of October 2018, with consistently full occupancy. Jacki Wlodarczyk has been the property manager for the past year, and in that time, she has ushered in a number of community-building activities including: a community garden, the Lonely Arts Club—a weekly gathering of artists and would-be-artists who explore their talents, community book exchange, and a community pantry. All of these activities have served to develop a stronger sense of community among the tenants.

Many Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) programs utilize the amenity space including: Elder Care, Community Action Program for Children (CAP-C), and the Peer Mentoring Group. Tenants also utilize the amenity room for private functions. Coffee is usually on every weekday in the amenity room as well.

We are grateful to Noel Ferguson who keeps the building well maintained and performs many small and large repairs, as well as working with contractors.

We look forward to an exciting third year of operations!

*Jacki Wlodarczyk*  
Property Administrator

*Tina Larouche*  
Program Director

*This project is a partnership between the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society and the Aboriginal Housing Management Association, BC Housing, and the City of Kelowna.*



# Margaret's Landing Housing Project

With the March 2017 approval for this project, preliminary work began on planning and developing affordable housing at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society's (KFS) property at Margaret's Landing in the Black Mountain neighbourhood of Kelowna. Initially, this was planned to be affordable housing—similar to *i spa-us ki-low-na Heart of Kelowna*, where rental rates are set, and not geared to income. However, with the announcement of the B.C. Provincial Government's new Building BC: Indigenous Housing Fund, this project was moved to this new funding program by BC Housing, and Margaret's Landing will now be operated as subsidized housing for Indigenous people, with rents geared to income. Funding for development and construction will be provided by BC Housing, and on-going operational subsidies and agreements will be with the Aboriginal Housing Management Association.

Demolition of the two existing houses on the site was completed in March 2019, and development permits are now in place. Site preparation has begun, and construction is expected to start in May 2019. Occupancy is anticipated in the second half of 2020.

Once again, as with *i spa-us ki-low-na Heart of Kelowna*, KFS is working with VanMar Constructors—who is the general contractor, Patrick McCusker Architecture, and Innovative Housing Consultants Inc. The team from KFS includes: Edna Terbasket, Tina Larouche, Cam Martin, Jeremy Bowers, and Francis Lampreau.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of construction in 2019!



*Tina Larouche*  
Program Director

*This project is being developed in partnership with BC Housing and the Aboriginal Housing Management Association.*



Conceptual drawing of Margaret's Landing Housing—courtesy of Patrick McCusker Architecture.



# Special Programs

This year has been rich with special programs at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society.

*Our Families Are Very Sacred* has continued this year under the guidance of Arnold Akachuk, Randy Jim, and several guest artisans, knowledge-keepers, and craftspeople. Excursions out on the land to gather and learn about medicines and sacred places were an integral part of this program. The overall aim of *Our Families Are Very Sacred* is to promote healing from domestic violence through traditional culture and knowledge-sharing.

In connection with our *Youth Mental Health Clinician* program, Syilx artist Sheldon Louis coordinated the installation of a mural in front of KFS's main offices (see pictures on page 21). KFS staff and community members participated in bringing this mural to life. The mural depicts the late Emory Robins along with some of his family members. Emory Robins attended KFS's National Aboriginal Day celebrations for over two decades as the leader of the host drum. The official unveiling of this mural will occur in conjunction with *Turtle Island Festival* on June 21, 2019. Plans are in the works to have more mural installations.

We also had six youth, along with two chaperones, attend *Gathering Our Voices* in Port Alberni on Vancouver Island in March 2019. Over 1,000 youth from all over British Columbia, as well as a group from Ontario, attended (see pictures on page 28).

At our *i spa-us ki-low-na Heart of Kelowna* housing, the *Lonely Arts Club* meets weekly. This activity is open to anyone, regardless of artistic experience, and is facilitated by local artist Jean-Anne Copley.

Jeremy Bowers  
Program Administrator



# Community Kitchen

Our Community Kitchen is a focal point of almost all activities here at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS). The sharing of food is an integral part of Indigenous culture, and healthy meals are an important part of many of our programs. Some of the programs and activities supported by the kitchen include: Community Action Program for Children, Elders' Luncheons, Turtle Island Festival, Family Night, Feed The People, Childrens' Christmas Party, Saturday Outreach Breakfast, Youth Programs, and Our Family Is Sacred.

We have also provided catering services for community events such as the Okanagan College Exhibition Pow Wow, Aboriginal Career Fair, Sisters In Spirit Vigil, and the World Film Festival. Additionally, we provide catering for organizations who rent meeting/activity spaces at KFS. Also, coffee is always available to our community members, as well as occasional snacks.

Many thanks to the volunteers who help to make our many delicious meals possible!

*Deanna Donald*  
Kitchen Coordinator



# Community Computer Lab

The Community Computer Lab is available to community members who may not otherwise have access to a computer and the internet. Staff are available to assist clients with computer-related questions and issues, and to help clients gain basic computer skills. This enables clients to search for employment, housing, or to fill out on-line applications. This year, thanks to a generous donation of refurbished computer equipment, we were able to upgrade our computer workstations.

There are two workstations and a printer available during all business hours in the Employment/Outreach area. Internet access and a telephone are available for clients. WiFi internet access is also available to KFS guests and clients.

*Jeremy Bowers*  
Program Administrator

*We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia.*



## Events & Volunteer Coordinator

The Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society's (KFS) Events program continues to grow, building valuable relationships with the Kelowna community and out-of-town organizations. KFS is now in a partnership with Kairos Canada to host Kairos Blanket Exercises with a steady stream of requests coming in for the exercises from organizations throughout Kelowna, including a regional meeting of Boys and Girls Clubs (attended by 210 participants—our largest group yet), and B.C. Public Service employees. The Kairos Blanket Exercise is an experiential learning activity that educates participants about the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada, and the experience of colonialism. Feedback from Blanket Exercise participants is positive, and emotional. Also, KFS hosted a bridge-building dinner prepared for the KFS community by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at in the spirit of reconciliation. This was attended by several community members and staff.

KFS continues to host and/or participate in community events such as: World Community Film Festival, Kelowna Culture Days, Sisters In Spirit Vigil, and various Festivals Kelowna events. KFS has worked to deepen connections and partnerships with community partners such as Festivals Kelowna this year. Regular events including Turtle Island Festival (KFS's signature event of the year), Family Nights, Elders' Luncheons, and the annual Childrens' Christmas Party continue to be popular events.

KFS continues to work tirelessly to provide the urban Indigenous community with programs, services, and events that help people to make positive lifestyle choices.

We are working to better organize our Volunteer program.

*Freda McLean*  
Events Coordinator

*Jeremy Bowers*  
Program Administrator

*We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia.*



# Youth Mental Health Clinician

Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society began in December 2018 to offer art therapy for Indigenous youth ages 12-18. Youth benefit from art therapy by creatively expressing concerns, strengths, and issues without having to describe experiences that are difficult to discuss or explain. No artistic experience is necessary, and there are many engaging materials to use including paint, clay, collage, wood, recycled materials, and more. In collaboration with Syilx artist Sheldon Louis, KFS staff and community members completed a mural on an outside wall of the KFS main offices in March 2018 during Spring Break (see pictures on page 21).

Individual and group sessions are free and offered at the Friendship Centre and through outreach thanks to the welcoming support of community organizations. Referrals can be made by contacting the Youth Mental Health Clinician.

*Dianne Shannon, MA RCAT*  
Youth Mental Health Clinician

Canada



*Funding for this program is provided by the Government of Canada through Jordan's Principle.*



# Skæmxist Preschool

Skæmxist preschool runs Monday through Friday. Two classes are held: a three year-olds' class that runs on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, and a four year-olds' class that is held on Monday/ Wednesday /Friday that runs from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. During the preschool day, the children are provided with healthy snacks and a lunch that follows the Canadian Food Guide, providing the children with nutrition from 3-4 food groups. There are 10 children enrolled in the Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday class and 10 children in the Tuesday/Thursday class. Two staff are employed at Skæmxist preschool: one Early Childhood Educator with special need certification, and an Early Childhood Assistant. Currently, one staff has their Class 4 driver's license. The preschool provides pick up and drop off service for families that do not have transportation to get their children to school.

The program runs from September through June. During the school year, the children are given the opportunity to try many new things. This includes field trips into the community such as visiting the pumpkin patch, going to a hair salon, visiting Kangaroo Farm, area museums, bowling, petting zoo, and a bakery.

Skæmxist preschool curriculum incorporates Indigenous culture that includes cultural teachers coming into the preschool. These include: nsyilxcæn language teachings, singing, art, and traditional foods for the children to try. This year, a parent-participation drum making workshop was included as part of the curriculum. The preschool curriculum is play based, giving children the opportunity to explore, turn-take, problem-solve, gain independence, and choice-taking.

Throughout the year, the children are prepped for their entry into kindergarten. The children are provided with the knowledge and skills that they will need to succeed such as: learning to print their names, shapes, colours, use of scissors, and identifying letters and numbers.

Alice Ryder  
Preschool Coordinator



*Funding for this program is provided by the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development.*



# chichimala KFS Youth

In March 2018, the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) received last-minute funding which we chose to use to fund a *Youth Mini Wilderness Weekend*. About a dozen participants, along with a trip leader, chaperones, and an Elder spent a weekend in the Dee Lake area near Lake Country, BC. The funding for this one-time mini program was continued to a multi-year funding agreement, which KFS is using to start up a new youth program. This fills a gap that has existed in our programming since 2014 when funding ended for our previous *Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth* program.

Our new youth program has been up and running since Fall 2018, and it continues to grow. A Youth Coordinator, Sherry Landry, and Youth Assistant, Jonas Gairdner-Loe have been hired, and they've been working tirelessly to develop programming and recruit participants. So far, youth have participated in a skiing and tubing day at Big White, going to the movies, attending community events, and other activities.

We look forward to the continuing growth of this program!

*Jeremy Bowers*  
Program Administrator



*Funding for this program is provided by the British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres.*



# Indigenous Youth Justice Worker

A new program offering at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) is the *Indigenous Youth Justice Worker* program. Approximately two years ago, KFS submitted a proposal for a Youth Justice Worker program to the Department of Justice Canada, but no response was initially received until early in this fiscal year, when an updated proposal was requested by the Department of Justice. Working in consultation with a committee of KFS staff, representatives from the Okanagan Boys and Girls Club, and the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development, the original proposal was modified by KFS staff and re-submitted. KFS has also received key support for this program from the superintendent of the Kelowna RCMP and the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

The program has been up and running now since January 2019, and Samantha (Sam) Hinter has been hired as the Indigenous Youth Justice Worker. She will soon be joined by an Assistant Youth Justice worker.

*Jeremy Bowers*  
Program Administrator



*Funding for this program is provided by the Department of Justice Canada.*



# Aboriginal Supported Child Development

The Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society's (KFS) Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) program is designed for children and youth age five to eighteen who have developmental delays and/or disabilities. Support is offered in a variety of ways, and is flexible to fit the individual child's needs. Services are delivered with a culturally sensitive approach, while keeping the children close to their roots and traditions.

Services vary depending on each child's needs, but some examples of ASCD supports include: play therapy, art therapy, educational games and events, outdoor activities, one-on-one support, small group work, supported academic learning, volunteering, traditional arts, connecting children and families to community resources and events, cooking, life skills, hiking, gardening, and much more.

Program staff consists of ASCD Program Coordinator Lori Dodds, who has been with the program since March 2019. Lori is from the Giixaala Nation, and has ECE and infant development certification. ASCD staff has been fortunate to participate in training and development opportunities throughout the year.

**Children supported: 20**

**Hours of individual intervention: 333.25**

**Hours of group intervention: 460**

Key program highlights from this past year include: running Girl Power groups and Summer Camps; offering a Spring Break camp; participating in and supporting Family Nights and Elders' Luncheons; and participating in the annual Turtle Island Festival held at KFS (a celebration of National Aboriginal Day).

*Lori Dodds*  
ASCD Program Coordinator



*Funding for this program is provided by the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development.*



# Roots

*A Child's Roots are Forever* is a partnership program with the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) and the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). The program ensures family, community and cultural connections are respected and honoured for Indigenous children in care.

The Roots Practitioner develops Cultural Safety Agreements and Cultural Safety Packages for families. Identifying children's ancestral roots, extended family and cultural community supports are an integral aspect of the program. The program assists Indigenous communities in connecting and reclaiming children and youth in MCFD care. Many communities are developing "Welcome Back Home" ceremonies nurturing a sense of belonging, as well as connections for children and youth with their birth family, extended family, community members, and forever families.

**Direct hours of service: 837**

*Freda McLean*  
Roots Practitioner



*Funding for this program is provided by the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development.*



# Aboriginal Infant Development Program

The Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP) at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) provides culturally sensitive support for families with children ages 0 - 5 who are at risk or have developmental delays. My name is Lisa Marsh, and I am the Aboriginal Infant Development worker. I have been working with children and families for over 30 years, the last ten years in both Aboriginal Infant and Supported Child Development. My educational background includes Early Childhood Education, a Bachelor of Arts, and I am concurrently enrolled in a Masters of Psychology program, my focus being child and youth mental health. I have had the pleasure of being part of the family support team for this past year. Currently, the AIDP program is providing services to 44 children in 35 families, with several of our families expecting.

The program works collaboratively with the Family Support, AIDP, CAP-C, and other programs at KFS in order to truly provide wrap around support to our families. In particular, we work closely with the CAP-C program and coordinator to offer parenting, prenatal, and infant development programming targeted to meet the specific needs of families. The AIDP program incorporates all four aspects of the Medicine Wheel to ensure that child(ren) and families experience healthy mental, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual growth.

This support may include:

- Home visits
- Referrals to and collaborations with early intervention therapies and specialists
- Advocacy
- play-groups
- Educational programs
- Parenting support & enhancing parenting skills
- Developmental screenings and assessments
- Individual activity plans that support each child's healthy development; and
- Linking families to cultural teachings and activities.

*Lisa Marsh*  
AIDP Worker



*Funding for this program is provided by the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development.*



# Community Action Program for Children

The Community Action Program for Children (CAP-C) at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) is a community-based children's program that promotes the healthy development of young children (0-6 years). To Increase the health and social development for aboriginal families and Children. While every CAPC site is unique, they all share these Guiding Principles as their foundation:

- Children First
- Equity and Accessibility
- Community-based
- Strengthening and Supporting Families
- Flexibility

Our CAP-C program helps with enhancing traditional parenting skills, increasing confidence, building community, and relationships. It results in a healthier population and greater involvement by communities. It focuses on prevention and health promotion and supports a wide range of programs and services from primary intervention. This initiative is based on a more family-centered strengths-based model.

This year, we have changed the name of our group from CAP-C (the name of the federal program) to KFS Families. This reflects that we collaborate with other KFS programs to deliver the best and most well-rounded services! Some of our activities this year have included: drum and rattle making, the *Too Hot For Tots* fire and burn prevention workshop, car seat safety, water/swimming safety presentation, *Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program*, medicine picking and nature walks, animal farm visits, swimming, waterpark/beach visits, *Food Skills for Families*, and nutritional bingo. All group sessions include a nutritious lunch as well as light snacks. We also started a new prenatal/postnatal (until babies reach 12 months) group called *Baby Circle* (temporarily until we get our cultural name from one of our Elders). Here, we talk about topics that are relevant for new parents like best practice for sleeping, babies' first foods, parental mental health, immunizations etc.

Our KFS Families program also partners with several community agencies and professionals to enhance the program. We had regular visits from an IHCAN's Speech Therapist, Kelowna Doula's Association and a Dental Hygienist with the Lift the Lip Dental Program.

One of the highlights this year was our Baby Blanket Ceremony where we welcomed 15 new babies into our Community, it was a very special day!

This past year, we had our participation numbers reach a total of 670 parents and 855 children attend our KFS Families program.

*Elya Martinson*  
CAP-C Coordinator

Canada

*Funding for this program is provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada.*



# Mural Project



## Photo Credits:

All except top-left and bottom-right by Sheldon Louis.

# Connecting to Community



Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Reconciliation Dinner

## *Community Health Fair*



## *Sisters In Spirit Vigil*



# Turtle Island Festival





# Family Support

The Family Support program at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) is part of the Counselling Team. Referrals to the program are received from the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and self-referrals through KFS.

The Family Support program supports urban Indigenous families who are involved with MCFD and have, or may be at risk of having their children removed from their care. Family Support Workers attend MCFD intake meetings, Family Court, family group conferences, and legal mediations. They also provide emotional support, transportation, in-house referrals, and client follow up. Clients are supported and helped to understand and follow-through with court conditions, and MCFD requirements in order for family reunification to take place. The program supports urban Aboriginal Parents to be successful and gain confidence in their ability to create a healthy family.

**Total clients served: 351**

**Number of new clients: 127**

**Direct hours of service: 1,031**

## Highlights for this year:

- Team collaboration with:
  - Okanagan Nation Alliance—Family Decision Making.
  - KFS programs: Outreach, Poverty Law Advocacy, Family Law Advocacy, Aboriginal Infant Development, Aboriginal Supported Child Development, Community Action Program for Children, Employment Services, Mental Health Services, and Addictions Counselling.
- Connection to community resources:
  - Court: providing assistance with obtaining and providing guidance for legal services.
  - Connections to community resources: Food Bank, Salvation Army, Mam's for Mamas, Building Healthy Families, The Bridge, The Pregnancy Place, and Interior Health.
  - Providing emotional support for families interacting with MCFD.
- Life skills: educating clients on a variety of topics such as budgeting, organizing, cleaning routines, mental health, and social service-related topics.
- Eleventh annual Baby Blanket Ceremony held at KFS with Elder Theresa Terbasket sharing her prayers and love with the families.
- Gingerbread Event, and Family Soup and Social Event.

*Veronica Winser*  
Family Support Worker

*Davina Huey*  
Family Support Worker



*Funding for this program is provided by the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development.*



# Family Assessment

The Family Assessment program at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) supports and advocates with urban Indigenous families from Oyama to Peachland who are involved with, or at risk of involvement with the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). The Family Assessment Worker can assist with developing and implementing safety plans with MCFD in a culturally sensitive approach, attend court case conferences, family decision-making meetings, and mediation as an advocate. In addition, the Family Assessment Worker can coordinate wrap-around services for Indigenous families, provide one-on-one emotional support, connect families to cultural resources, in-house referrals to other KFS programs, and community referrals as requested. The Family Assessment program is part of a multidisciplinary team working together to advocate, empower, and improve Indigenous children and families in a respectful way.

**Total clients served: 604**

**New clients: 233**

**Direct hours of service: 1,095**

*Sheridan Terbasket*  
Family Assessment Worker



*Funding for this program is provided by the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development.*



# Family Den

The Family Den is a transition house that supports Indigenous families in the family reunification process by providing a safe, caring, semi-supervised, drug and alcohol-free housing program. Residents are required to be drug and alcohol free, participate in Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society programs and services, and work collaboratively and follow-through with their safety plan, supervision order, and other requirements from their B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development social worker. The goal of the program is to ensure that Indigenous children and families are safe, healthy, have access to culturally-appropriate services and resources, and to have confidence and stability when they transition on their own.

*Sheridan Terbasket*  
Family Assessment Worker



## Supervised Access Visitation

The Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) provides supervised access visits for Indigenous and non-Indigenous families involved with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). The purpose of the Supervised Access Visitation (SAV) program is to ensure the safety of children, and to encourage the maintenance of family relationships. The program currently has a full-time worker, who facilitates visits and coordinates the program, and two part-time workers. We are hoping to hire an additional part-time SAV worker to accommodate more visits. The program works with 14 families and accommodates approximately 16 visits per week. From April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019, we provided 2,529.50 hours of service to families through the SAV program.

The SAV program supports families in a variety of ways:

- Positive parent-child relationships are encouraged, and when needed, workers provide gentle suggestions, model appropriate interactions, or protect children from harm if a family member's behaviour is in breach of specific guidelines.
- Whenever appropriate, the program allows families to visit with children in an environment where they feel most comfortable – such as at their home or in the community. For cases where this may not be an option, KFS has two comfortable visiting rooms available that all families are welcome to use. Our family rooms have recently received a make-over, with a number of new toys and activities added for the families to enjoy.

Overall, the goals of the program are to maintain healthy relationships while supporting families to cope with the separation they may be experiencing, and to support children with the process of integrating back to family and/or community.

*Amara J. Waldram*  
Supervised Access Visit Coordinator



*Funding for this program is provided by the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development.*



# Gathering Our Voices



# Family Law Advocacy

The Family Law Advocacy program at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) provides support, advice, and full-representation (document preparation) for low-income clients who have family law matters either in Provincial or Supreme Court. The Advocate cannot represent clients in court, so all clients who access the program are self-represented litigants. Family law matters include: divorce, division of assets, child and spousal support, parenting time (custody), and protection orders. For clients whose needs are beyond the scope of the program, referrals are provided, as appropriate, to: Legal Aid, Access Pro-Bono, Family Duty Counsel, and the Family Law Line.

Some program highlights to note:

- Significant increase in the number of hearings in both Family and Supreme Court in which the Advocate has assisted the client in speaking to the court, with the judge's permission.
- Continued collaboration with other KFS programs and services.
- Significant increase in the number of clients receiving help with wills and estates.
- The Advocate has continued to develop strong working relationships with most Duty Counsel lawyers at the courthouse, court registry, and Legal Aid.
- The Advocate assisted a female client in obtaining a permanent Protection Order against a former spouse in Provincial Court—normally, Protection Orders are only in effect for one year and must be renewed prior to expiration.

The Family Law Advocacy program has Sydney Hamilton as a part-time Law Assistant as of October 2018.

*Debra Apperley*  
Family Law Advocate



*Funding for this program is provided by the Law Foundation of British Columbia.*



# Poverty Law Advocacy

The Poverty Law Advocacy program at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) offers a wide range of Poverty Law services such as: Aboriginal Status applications, Persons with Disabilities and CPP Disability applications and appeals, Income Assistance appeals, Residential Tenancy issues, B.C. Human Rights complaints, Employment Standards complaints, as well as referrals, case management, and other legal service information. The Law Foundation does not allow service regarding Criminal cases; therefore, the program refers criminal matters to Native Court Workers or Criminal Duty Counsel. Family Law issues are referred to the KFS Family Law Advocacy program. The Poverty Law Advocacy program provides limited assistance with civil (small claims) matters. The program works closely with a supervising lawyer.

The Poverty Law Advocate attends legal information workshops and conferences in order to have the most up-to-date skills and knowledge to most effectively help clients. Additionally, the Advocate also continues to network closely with other agencies in the community in an effort to ensure that we are able to provide the best possible information and services to our clients, and to ensure community awareness of the program. The program has assisted 769 clients in way of information/referral, advice/summary, and full-service files during the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The program has had many successes with appeals and arbitration hearings.

The Poverty Law Advocacy program has Sydney Hamilton as a part-time Law Assistant as of October 2018.

*Yolonda Beaudry*  
Poverty Law Advocate



*Funding for this program is provided by the Law Foundation of British Columbia.*



# Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada

The LINC program (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and is free of charge to students. LINC provides basic and intermediate language training for adult newcomers to Canada. Through additional funding from the British Columbia Provincial Government, we are also able to offer our LINC classes to naturalized Canadians, refugees and Provincial nominees.

We operate five classes at eight levels to help immigrants settle in Canada. LINC classes help students speak and understand English for day-to-day life (housing, banking, work, etc.); gain job skills; and learn about Canadian life, laws, health care, and society; learn about Indigenous cultures; obtain the language requirement for citizenship; and make new friends. As part of the program, students volunteer, go on field trips, and hear guest speakers. All of these activities are designed to engage students in real world language learning.

**LINC served 140 students from over 40 different countries.**

## Highlights for this year:

- Year-end potluck picnic in City Park with all the LINC classes joining together for a morning of activities, eating and visiting.
- In September 2018, the LINC 4 class attended the Okanagan College Annual Youth Powwow. As Newcomers to Canada, the students participated in the opening ceremony by receiving the local Indigenous flags from members of the Okanagan First Nations. They watched traditional First Nations dancing and drumming and talked to people who were selling handmade items.
- The LINC 5 students enjoyed volunteering for the monthly Elders' Luncheons at KFS, where they helped prepare and serve the food, set up and clean up. Students making bannock.

KFS is unique in Canada as the only Indigenous organization providing immigrant services.

I would also like to thank our LINC team for another successful year: Emily Hardy, Kathy McMurray, Carrie Skinner, and Ronan Scott.

*Alana Turigan*  
LINC Coordinator



*Funding for this program is provided by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and the B.C. Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology.*



# LINC Snapshots...



LINC 5 students volunteering for monthly Elders' Luncheons.



LINC 4 students attending Okanagan College Annual Youth Powwow.



Myra Canyon/KVR Trail: September 2018.



Potluck time!



LINC 5 students meeting with Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran.

# Addictions Counselling

Prevention and treatment programs at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) are developed around the traditional and holistic teachings of the Medicine Wheel. The goal of our services is to assist individuals to recover to a positive physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual state of health and well-being.

Through addictions counselling in a culturally-appropriate framework, each client receives the respect they need to grow and develop a healthy sense of pride and personal responsibility. Culture is a vital part of individual and collective empowerment. It highlights the interdependence of personal values, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviour. Cultural knowledge strengthens treatment and prevention. Through our addictions counselling services, we provide assessment, counselling, prevention, educational material and workshops, and referrals to appropriate support programs for people dealing with addictions.

Here are some of the activities completed this year:

- One-on-one counselling services.
- Referrals to treatment services.
- Provision of after-care support to individuals who have completed their treatment.
- Attendance at case-management meetings with B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development and in-house KFS staff regarding how to best help mutual clients deal with family and other issues.
- Attending weekly Partners In Community Collaboration meetings.
- Facilitating weekly Wellbriety group and Mens' Circle.
- National Aboriginal Addictions Awareness Week in November 2018.
- Participation with clients in sweat lodge and other ceremonies as appropriate.

*Randy Jim*  
Addictions Counsellor



*Funding for this program is provided by Interior Health.*



# Mental Health Services

The Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society's (KFS) Mental Health Services program facilitates healing opportunities for a vast number of clients each year, including: status and non-status Indigenous, Métis, Inuit, and non-Indigenous peoples of all ages. Participants engage in positive mental health practices through education, recreation, culture, and counselling. Components of the program include: advocacy, referrals, one-on-one sessions, and groups. Utilizing the concepts of the Medicine Wheel, the program strives to bring balance to those struggling with thoughts and adverse experiences by exploring personal and community strategies aimed at improving wellness at physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual levels.

This year, KFS's Mental Health Services program continued emphasizing group work as an approach to healing, alongside individual work with clients. An integral component of the program entails working together as a group and community to collectively support positive mental health in individuals and families. Indigenous healing is relational in nature (ie. based in relationships between all people and things). The group work offers instruction in traditional healing practices and cultural programming, which are necessary components of individual well-being.

Workshops offered during this past year included: The Best of Me (building healthy self-concept and fostering healthy relationships), Anger Management (also conducted one-on-one for those who struggle with their schedule), Womens' Circle (cultural approaches to healing), Mindfulness (supports clients to gain self-awareness; and to cope with anxiety, depression, trauma, and emotional regulation among many other things), Community Inclusion Group (meeting in-community to create connection with natural resources, make new friends, and accomplish a feeling of belonging).

*Melissa July*  
Mental Health Worker



*Funding for this program is provided by Interior Health.*



# Elder Care

The 2018-2019 year has been full of excitement, knowledge sharing, fundraising, and new adventures for the Elders. What is very fulfilling is the dedication and hard work that went into fundraising this year to be able to attend the 43rd BC Annual Elders Gathering in Vancouver, BC. The group fundraised enough to pay for the travel and accommodations and will continue to fundraise for future years. The Elders volunteered many hours throughout the year preparing, cooking, selling, advertising, finding donations, and cleaning for our Taco Days and selling BC Licensed Lotto Cash-Draw Tickets. Thank you to the community members who contributed their time and funds to our Elders fundraising. There will be more to come in the next year.

Other exciting programs & new events this year were the monthly Karaoke Nights, potlucks, Okanagan Falls Salmon Feast, traditional drum-making, kangaroo farm trip, Turtle Island Festival, Okanagan College picnics and drumming circles, Health and Community Fairs, the new Diabetes and Obesity program, chair yoga and Elders FIT group, various Sixties Scoop workshops, Food Bank trips, and planning the *Honouring Our Ancestors* program. *Honouring Our Ancestors* is a special grant we received for a program that will occur from 2019-2020. It is based on sharing knowledge and reconciliation of our roots and culture. Elders will be leading groups where everyone is welcome to join such as Traditional Food and Plant gathering, harvesting and learning protocols.

Some services provided for Elders include: medical transportation services, bus tickets, massage therapy, ensuring that meal-supplements are available, and transportation services to get groceries. Our Elders' Luncheon continues every month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from 11:00 am—1:00 pm at which we present an Elder of the Month award with a gift and acknowledgment. Throughout the year, this program and others support 200-300 Elders.

*Shanny McIvor*  
Elder Care Coordinator



*Funding for this program is provided by Interior Health.*



# Our Elders...



# Outreach & Housing Support

The Outreach & Housing Support program at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) has grown this year and is now providing services seven days per week. Throughout 2018-2019, program has assisted over 233 families and individuals combined. We have provided support for both individuals and families in maintaining and obtaining housing this year. Once again, the program was able to offer 'housing retention kits' to help people get settled in their new homes. We were also able to purchase two tablets that we can take to clients when doing home visits to complete forms that might need to be filled in by clients who are not mobile. As well, we were also able to assist clients with financial utility relief support which maintains their housing. The program also provides a hot breakfast every Saturday throughout the year, which has been very successful with the help of the dedicated volunteers. It has served approximately 500 people this year.

Our program is supported by three contracts: Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program (AHOP), Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), and the Homelessness Prevention Strategy (HPS) Program. The AHOP and HPP programs focus their services on the prevention of homelessness.

AHOP connects Aboriginal people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with housing. We assess clients' needs, assist with personal goals, and connect individuals and families with stable accommodation and culturally appropriate services. The program is guided by the following principles: (a) program services are accessible and client focused; (b) operations are transparent and accountable; (c) the service environment is safe, secure and welcoming; and (d) the sector is collaborative to improve service effectiveness.

The HPP program is an enhancement to the AHOP program, and focuses on the prevention of homelessness by targeting services to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to crisis or transition. Individuals who are absolute homeless, hidden homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and are within one of the following target groups are eligible to be HPP clients: (a) people leaving the corrections and/or hospital systems; (b) women who have experienced violence or are at risk of violence; (c) youth, including those leaving the care system; or (d) people of Indigenous descent.

The HPS program provides assistance to individuals and families to find immediate shelter or long-term housing. Clients are referred to appropriate housing in the community including Now Canada, Gospel Mission, Inn from the Cold, Willowbridge, Cardington, New Gate, Heath House, Hearth Stone, West Kelowna Shelter Society, and other appropriate housing and shelter facilities. Also, the program provides a broad range of services that include referrals to alcohol and drug counseling and treatment, transportation to medical appointments, help applying for Income Assistance, life skills (communication, health, nutrition, shopping, budgeting, and applying for jobs), and other appropriate counseling and ongoing case management in partnership/collaboration with other community service providers and KFS programs.

All Outreach programs engage and collaborate with the greater Kelowna/Central Okanagan community through Partners in Community Collaboration (PICC). PICC is a weekly networking meeting of service providers. This meeting provides an opportunity for all community support services to better know each other and the services offered and to engage in light case management for the benefit of the greater community. Our team also works in collaboration with the KOAST (Kelowna Outreach and Support Table) on both the greater west side and Kelowna. As well, we participate in a monthly meeting called Partners for a Healthy Community (PHC). PHC is a collection of RCMP, City of Kelowna bylaw, business community, and service providers—meeting to discuss and collaborate on problem areas and individuals in the



downtown core. This year, we also focused on creating more community partnerships and providing innovative opportunities for our clients to access health care services and destigmatize STBBI's.

The program actively works in collaboration with the LECOH (Lived Experience Circle on Homelessness) to find solutions to end homelessness. As well, we work closely with UBCO Social Worker Department to find better solutions to understanding and educating people regarding homelessness. We collaborate with many partners including Interior Health, mental health, Brain Trust, and others in order to help clients. This provides opportunities to help improve the health of our clients by building relationships within the community.

Program staff has been trained in a number of areas: capacitation training to become Ready to Rent presenters, Mental Health First Aid, Non Violent Crisis Intervention, Addictions and Trauma, and other workshops and skill building initiatives. The Outreach department also provided a Diversity and Inclusion workshop during a KFS staff Pro-D day. We look forward to continue growing as a department, as well as to increase our collaboration with community partners and build capacity within our organization in order to provide more numerous and meaningfully engaging services for our clients.

<i>Ali Butler</i>	<i>Heather Spence</i>	<i>Malcolm Evans</i>	<i>Charity Celesta</i>
Team Leader	Outreach Worker	Outreach Worker	Outreach Worker

*Funding for this program is provided by BC Housing, Aboriginal Housing Management Association, and Central Okanagan Foundation.*



# Employment Services

The Employment Services program at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) has had another busy year. We enjoy meeting and working with hundreds of people from all Nations across Canada.

Our mandate is to encourage self-sufficiency for aboriginal individuals by addressing local and regional labour market and community needs and priorities through the delivery of employment and training program services.

Since the majority of clients are urban Indigenous homeless people, the program intake process has been streamlined. Clients are assessed for employability and, if necessary, referred to appropriate resources for needed assistance such as: outreach services for housing, counselling services for addictions, or employment readiness programs.

**Number of clients served: 130**

**Percentage of clients employed: 60%**

**Percentage of clients in school: 14%**

## Success stories from the past year:

**Rachel Christie:** a 21 year-old Cree from Sucker Creek First Nation, Rachel completed her goal and has a diploma in Practical Nursing from Okanagan College. She is now working in her dream job, following in her mother's footsteps working in Fort St. John, BC for Northern Health.



**Bruce Lovell:** a member of Kahkewistahaw Cree Nation, Bruce graduated with his Red Seal in Culinary Arts from Okanagan College. He was recruited to work at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society full-time as the new Kitchen Coordinator. "I could feel the support from KFS and the College all the way!" said Bruce.

**Rachel Cluderay:** a 22 year-old Cree from Yellowknife (pictured here with KFS Executive Director Edna Terbasket), Rachel successfully completed her four month co-op term in support of her Bachelors Degree from the University of Victoria at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society. She assisted in the following areas: family services, outreach, events, and law advocacy. One of her accomplishments was the Okanagan Service Expo, which brought together local resources in Kelowna to support our homeless population.



Additionally, Barbara Jagodics (KFS's Employment Coordinator) completed her Career Development Practitioner and Essential Skills Certification from Douglas College.



*Barbara Jagodics*  
Employment Coordinator



*Funding for this program is provided by the Okanagan Training and Development Council.*



# Disability Tax Aid

The *Disability Tax Aid* program has been in operation at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (KFS) since June 2018. It is operated in partnership with Disability Alliance BC. The primary service we provide is assisting low income clients with the filing of their taxes. We can go back up to 10 years for them if need be, and there is no charge for this service at all. We also provide assistance with the completing of application forms, such as those related to applying for Persons With Disability (PWD) and Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD) as well as for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). We can also help advocate for clients if they are running into problems or roadblocks as they try to navigate through the government departments related to these services such as Service BC, Service Canada, or the Canada Revenue Agency.

Most of our clients receive disability income through PWD or CPPD, although many others are able to work but just have lower income, are on social assistance, or are seniors receiving pensions. While the program started slowly, word quickly spread within the community and it became busy very quickly. This culminated with the Spring 2019 tax season, keeping our calendar booked solid for three months, with calls and emails coming in constantly from community partners and clients seeking assistance.

*Rob Roy*  
Disability Tax Aid Worker



*Funding for this program is provided by Disability Alliance BC.*

**Number of clients served: 342**

**Number of client appointments: 408**

**Number of tax returns filed: 302**

**Total number of tax years filed: 791**

**Average number of tax years filed per client: 2.62**

**Total amount of tax refunds to clients: \$623,027.00**

**Average tax refund per client: \$2,062.00**



# Staff Snapshots



# 2019 Annual General Meeting Agenda

June 26, 2019

1:00 pm

Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society—Okanagan Room  
442 Leon Avenue, Kelowna, BC

## 1. Call to Order

a) Opening prayer.

## 2. Adoption of Rules of Order

a) Adoption of agenda.

## 3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting

a) Adopt minutes of Annual General Meeting: August 15, 2018.

## 4. Auditor's Report

a) Review and adoption of March 31, 2019 financial statement.

## 5. Reports

- a) President's Report
- b) Executive Director's Report

## 6. New Business

## 7. Nomination of Directors

## 8. Election of Directors

## 9. Adjournment

a) Closing prayer



# 2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society – Okanagan Room  
August 15, 2018

*The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.*

## 1. Opening Prayer

Angie Todd-Dennis

*It was noted at 1:33 pm that a quorum was met.*

## 2. Adoption of the 2018 Annual General Meeting Agenda

### Motion #1:

To accept the 2018 Annual General Meeting Agenda as presented.

Moved by: Ann Bell; seconded by: R. Robin Dods; all in favour; motion carried.

## 3. Adoption of the 2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Edna Terbasket read the minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

### Motion #2:

To accept the 2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes with the following correction: correct the spelling of 'Grant Thornton'.

Moved by: Dinah Littlechief; seconded by: Jean-Anne Copley; all in favour; motion carried.

## 4. Auditor Report (Grant Thornton)

Tyler Neels, Partner and Auditor with Grant Thornton attended the meeting to review the March 31, 2018 Audited Financial Statements. The Board of Directors reviewed the draft version and went through the documents in more detail at an earlier meeting with the Auditors.

Items highlighted in the report were as follows:

- Responsibilities of management and auditors
- Clean opinion
- Balance sheet
- Changes in net assets
- Statement of operations:
  - Positive revenue over expenses
- Notes that were highlighted:
  - Note 2: Going Concern regarding liquidity risk
  - Note 3: policies



**Motion #3:**

To accept the 2017-2018 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Moved by: Angie Todd-Dennis; seconded by: Michael Mucha; all in favour; motion carried.

**5. President's Report**

All members present read the President's Report (found on page 3 of the 2017-2018 Annual Report) to themselves.

**Motion #4:**

To accept the President's Report as presented in the 2017-2018 Annual Report.

Moved by: Ann Bell; seconded by: Jean-Anne Copley; all in favour; motion carried.

**6. Executive Director's Report**

Edna Terbasket touched on the highlights of her report as follows:

- Kim Dubrett-Draney left her position as Finance and Administration Supervisor.
- *i spa-us ki-low-na Heart of Kelowna*, Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society's affordable housing project won an Award of Excellence in the Multi-Family category in the 2017 Thompson-Okanagan-Kootenay Commercial Building Awards.
- Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society's second affordable housing project at Margaret's Landing is expected to start construction in Spring 2019.
- Application for Youth Justice Worker program has gained positive attention from the coordinator at the Department of Justice in Ottawa.
- New Disability Tax Advocacy program this year was noted.

The following additional comments were made:

- R. Robin Dods mentioned Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society's involvement on the Education Committee.
- Angie Todd-Dennis asked about how or if in-kind contributions of skills/services can be captured on financial statements. Response from Auditor was that it can be done, but the Society needs to track hours worked and value of work done, which is difficult to do. This is reflected in reporting of general in-kind contributions, but not on financial statements.
- Ann Bell mentioned and congratulated Edna Terbasket on the honorary degree she received from Okanagan College.
- Edna Terbasket mentioned that she wishes to set up a scholarship in honour of Joshua DuBrett—this was referred to New Business.

**Motion #5:**

To accept the Executive Director's report as presented.

Moved by: R. Robin Dods; seconded by: Ann Bell; all in favour; motion carried.



## 7. New Business

### (a) Adopt Updated Constitution and By-Laws

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society were updated to bring them into compliance with the new *B.C. Societies Act*. A copy of the updated Constitution and By-Laws was distributed to all attendees for their review.

#### **Motion #6:**

To adopt the Constitution and By-Laws of the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society as presented.  
Moved by: R. Robin Dods; seconded by: Ann Bell; all in favour; motion carried.

### (b) Scholarships

R. Robin Dods discussed the establishment of a scholarship where recipients would eventually 'pay forward' what was given to them to someone else who needs help. It was mentioned that this possible scholarship could be in memory of Joshua DuBrett.

### (c) Foster Homes

Angie Todd-Dennis discussed housing that exists in Nanaimo for foster parents, and other housing – long-term housing for families dealing with members being on long-term medical care needs. Particular concern for those in foster care—many do not feel welcome. Concern also for youth who 'age out' care, and other at-risk youth. Todd-Dennis asked if consideration could be given at the new Margaret's Landing housing for parents who are or want to be foster parents. She asked that the Society look into ways to help foster children and parents, and to make finding funding for such help a priority. Edna Terbasket spoke of a long-standing idea of establishing the Grandmothers' Lodge – a place where parents and infants/toddlers could live together with resident Elders.

### (d) Clothing Exchange

R. Robin Dods discussed setting up a system whereby donated clothing could be directed efficiently to people who actually need it. Possibly establish a system where people could pay \$2.00 to come in and get what they need. This would also help to keep clothes out of the waste stream. She asked that the Society look into hosting this.

### (e) New Accountants

Edna Terbasket introduced R2L2 Business Services, who will handle accounting and bookkeeping for the Society.



## 8. Nominations and Elections for Board of Directors Positions

The following members of the Board of Directors had completed two-year terms: Karen Vircavs, Jean-Anne Copley, Dinah Littlechief, and R. Robin Dods. All were willing to stand for another term.

### Call for Nominations:

Dinah Littlechief nominated Karen Vircavs – seconded by Ann Bell.  
Angie Todd-Dennis nominated Dinah Littlechief – seconded by Jean-Anne Copley.  
Michael Mucha nominated R. Robin Dods – seconded by Jean-Anne Copley.  
R. Robin Dods nominated Jean-Anne Copley – seconded by Ann Bell.

Calls for nominations were made three times. Nominations were then closed.

Nominations were accepted by acclamation.

## 9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

## 10. Closing Prayer

Dinah Littlechief





*Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society*

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