



Monthly Newsletter

September Issue 05

Welcome back to our Monthly Newsletter from the North Okanagan Friendship Centre Society! As summer winds down, our programs are settling into a steady routine, and we look forward to the season ahead. We wish everyone a smooth transition into fall, and send our best to all students in School District #22 as they begin the 2025/2026 school year.

This September, we are preparing a Truth & Reconciliation Event: Walking The Path Together, taking place on Tuesday, September 30th from 11am–2pm. We invite you to join us in reflection, learning, and community connection on this important day.

Weekly Events

Monday:

AIECD Lunch
11:30-1:30

Tuesday:

Fathers Circle
10:00-11:30
Wellbriety
5:30-7:30

Wednesday:

Mothers For Recovery
9:30-11:30
Seniors Lunch
11:30-1:30
AIECD Lunch
11:30-1:30
Father's Group
5:00-7:00

Thursday:

Prenatal Drop-In
9:00-3:30
POP Lunch
11:30-1:00

Friday:

AIECD Cultural Craft
once a month

Program Recap: Summer Highlights

The summer was a fun-packed one here at NOFCS!

Our **Fathers Support Group** continued to meet each week, spending much of their time at Lakeview Pool (Peanut Pool) to cool off and connect fathers and their children. A highlight of the season was celebrating the birthdays of the children in the group—special moments that brought families together and strengthened community bonds. The **Seniors Program** kept busy gathering for weekly lunches and bi-weekly coffee & craft days. They enjoyed a memorable afternoon of paddling at Kekuli Bay with Adaptive Adventures, and later wrapped up the season by coming together for a canning day, sharing both skills and stories.

The **Aboriginal Infant & Early Childhood Development Program** hosted their Summer Fun Days every Tuesday at Lakeview Park. Families joined in outdoor activities, shared snacks, and built friendships in the spirit of play and connection.

As the season comes to a close, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Maya**

Gregoire, our Receptionist/Mental Health & Addictions Assistant. Maya has been a bright presence at NOFCS, keeping the atmosphere positive and welcoming for both clients and staff. We thank her for her contributions and wish her every success in the future—she will be greatly missed! We are grateful to all who joined in these activities, making this summer a season of connection, learning and community at NOFCS.



AIECD Hum & Drum Group



Maya G.



AIECD Summer Fun



Father's Support Group



Seniors Canning Day w Maggie K.

Community News

Job Vacancies

Through the summer we had some exciting support for the Friendship Center.

First, NOFCS received a **\$5000** donation from the Royal Bank of Canada.

And second, is the recognition of The North Okanagan Friendship Center and our partnership with Cody Henderson from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction by being a **2025 finalist** for the **Premier's Award** for Innovation and Excellence in the Partnership category. "The Premier's Award for Partnership recognizes joint ventures or multi-party initiatives between the BC Public Service organizations and organizations in the broader public sector, other levels of government, and Indigenous communities..."

Check out our website for job descriptions and how to apply!

POP Social Worker

Pregnancy Outreach Program. Part-Time
\$28-\$30/hr

POP Registered Nurse

Pregnancy Outreach Program. Part-Time
\$38-\$40/hr

Receptionist/MHA Assistant

Mental Health & Addictions assistant and front desk. Full-Time \$22-\$24/hr

Lets Keep in Touch!

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Visit our website through this QR code, or by visiting www.nofcs.ca



Interim E.D. Tina Marie & Board Member, Eva Strom with RBC



Cody Henderson, and production filming for the awards

Community Resource Spotlight: VDICSS

The Vernon & District Immigrant & Community Services Society is a non-profit organization that supports newcomers to Canada and Vernon. They offer supports through programs such as Settlement Services, Language Services, Employment Service, Community Connections and Temporary Foreign Workers Outreach Support.

VDICSS has been a collaborative partner with the Friendship Center for a handful of years, and we look forward to working with them again at the upcoming **Truth & Reconciliation Event on September 30.**

Please take time to join their self-led **Indigenous Learning Tour** from **September 12-October 17.** It is a great community initiative to encourage pause and reflection around local and Canadian Indigenous peoples. Find more information at <https://www.vdicss.org/ilt-2025>



Important Dates

Sept 1 - Labor Day *NOFCS Closed*

Sept 1-5 - AIECD Closed

Sept 10 - AIECD **Summer Wrap-Up & FASD Awareness BBQ 11am-1pm**

Sept 29 - *NOFCS Closed* in lieu of Sept 30 Truth & Reconciliation Day

Sept 30 - Truth & Reconciliation Day Event 11am-2pm

Oct 13 - Thanksgiving *NOFCS Closed*

Did You Know?

Many children from the Okanagan and surrounding Nations were taken to the Kamloops Indian Residential School, which operated from 1890 until 1978- almost 100 years! Orange Shirt Day honours those survivors, remembers the children who never came home, and reminds us that **every child matters.**