



URBAN NATIVE
YOUTH ASSOCIATION

The
COMING HOME
Society

2024



Dear friends,

The photo below shows the Unity Pole erected in 1977 outside the Elementary-Secondary School in Gitlaxt'aamiks (New Aiyansh). This month marks the 50th anniversary of the beginnings of this totem pole. The pole celebrates the 1974 creation of School District 92 which gave the Nisga'a Nation control over its own education system.

The rainbow at the top of the pole recalls the Nisga'a story of a great flood. It is a sign of the Creator's promise of survival for the people, and new hope for the future.

The **Coming Home Society** is all about survival and new hope.

We work in partnership with **Urban Native Youth Association** and **Warriors Against Violence Society** to support Indigenous Peoples' recovery from the effects of the Residential School system. We help with daily needs, and contribute to the programs that offer new opportunities for the future.

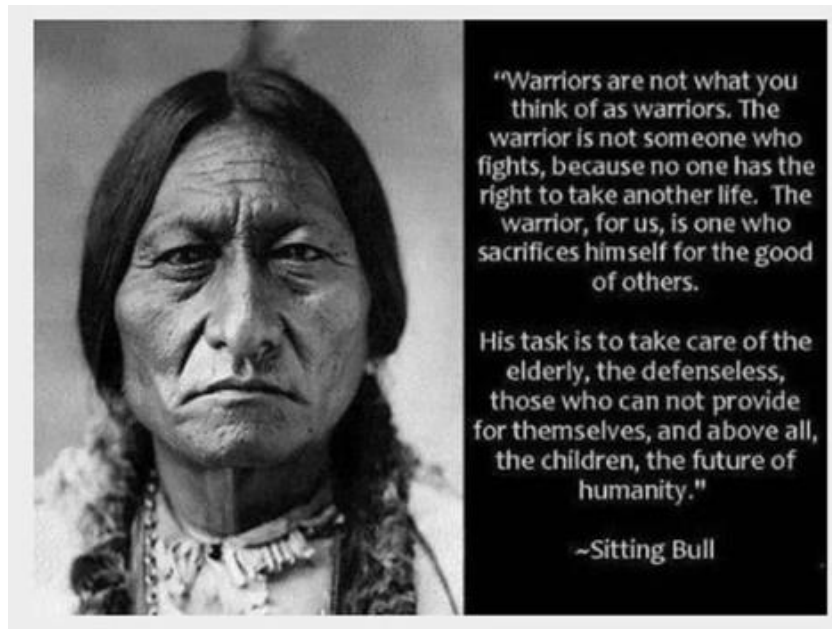
Your donations make survival and new hope a reality for many. Thank you!

*Linda Adams,
President, Coming Home Society*



Rainbow at the top of the Unity Pole, Gitlaxt'aamiks

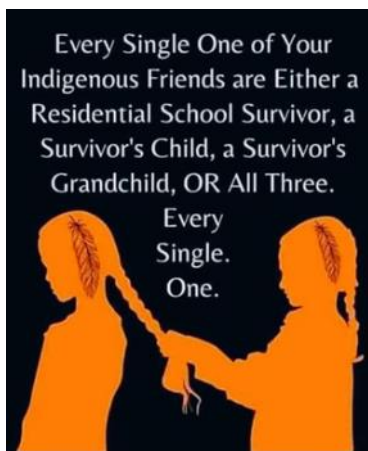
Warriors Against Violence—healing Aboriginal families



The Residential School system destroyed Aboriginal families. It left people powerless and victimized. Families became the setting for the acting out of anger and shame. At 'Warriors' men and women share their stories and free themselves from the impacts of abuse. Relationships of respect and equality begin, and men become the *protectors* of the family—not the *perpetrators* of abuse.



Members of St. James' Church Mothers Union are guests at a Warriors Against Violence monthly potluck supper



Urban Native Youth Association— empowering youth

Your donations support Urban Native Youth Association's 20+ programs for Indigenous youth in the urban setting. Programs range from services that meet immediate needs such as safety, food, and housing, to programs that provide opportunities for youth to develop their talents and make their voices heard. **Here is a sampling:**



Drum-making workshop



Food Pantry where youth can shop for free groceries to put food on the table for themselves and their families



Youth en-route to 'Gathering our Voices' - four-days of events and workshops to "empower and inspire youth so they can contribute their gifts to their communities and the world."

-an annual event of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centers. (UNYA youth participation made possible by donors)



'Every Child Matters' Campaign— displaying a t-shirt designed by an UNYA youth and sold as a fundraiser for the Society

New life and hope in the spirit—a personal story

My husband's elder brother went to the Spirit World in March. He died suddenly at the Vancouver celebration of Hobiye -the Nisga'a New Year. He was a chief, and he went to the next world at the very moment the traditional dancers were singing the song that welcomed chiefs into the Feast Hall.

He attended residential school from the time he was six years old. He knew only his own language when he arrived. He was abused there.

A few years ago he and his wife were with us for Easter. Then in his seventies, he shared his residential school experience for the first time with our children.

When we sat down to eat Easter dinner, he did the blessing of the food in the Nisga'a language, which he was taking lessons to relearn. It was the first time we ever remembered him speaking Nisga'a. He prayed, not to the Creator as we expected, but to Jesus Christ and God.

This is from a man who had lost his identity through Residential School and the churches, and yet he was still a believer in our Christian ways.

For us it was an Easter story of forgiveness and new life for sure.

And did I mention that his eldest son grew up to be an ordained priest in the Diocese of Caledonia?

Linda Adams, Coming Home Society

HOW TO DONATE

(All donations will receive a charitable tax receipt)

- Google Canada Helps and donate to the Coming Home Society
- Make a cheque payable to the Coming Home Society.
Mail it to 303 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1L4

For more information please contact ladams99@shaw.ca
or call Linda Adams at 604-290-4117