

SECTION 9

COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT

April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

LG file #102073

Port Alberni Friendship Center

Culturally grounded • Holistic • Community focused



Program Overview

The Port Alberni Friendship Center is committed to supporting Indigenous youth, families, and community members through culturally grounded, holistic programming. These initiatives focus on healing, empowerment, education, and cultural revitalization through a range of interconnected services.

Four Directions Program

The Four Directions Program promotes cultural revitalization and holistic wellness by grounding participants in traditional knowledge, language, and values:

- Cultural Preservation & Revitalization
 - Traditional teachings, oral storytelling, language immersion, song, dance, drumming, traditional medicines and foods.
- Community Engagement
 - National Indigenous People's Day, National Reconciliation Day and Orange Shirt Day, with intergenerational connections between Elders and youth.
- Youth Empowerment
 - Cultural, recreational, social, educational and life-skills programming that fosters belonging and cultural pride.



Legal Advocacy Program

The Legal Advocacy Program offers accessible legal, financial, and housing-related support for individuals and families in need:

- Income Assistance support in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.
- Residential Tenancy Education with Tenants Rights Action Coalition.
- Legal workshops covering family law, elder abuse, income assistance and more.
- Tax and financial support, including income tax preparation and Canada Pension workshops.
- Referrals, court-process support, housing registry access and connections to community agencies.



Legal advocacy and community support

Youth Programs

Youth Drop-In Program

The Youth Drop-In Program creates a safe, inclusive, and culturally respectful space for high-risk Indigenous youth aged 12–29:

- Drug- and alcohol-free social, recreational and educational engagement.
- Mentorship and referrals to internal and external support services.
- Peer and mentor involvement, including young parents and adults.
- Safe community connections that help reduce high-risk behaviours.

Youth Life Enhancement Program

With over two decades of delivery, the Youth Life Enhancement Program supports youth aged 12–29 in developing life and leadership skills:

- Personal Development — confidence, self-esteem and emotional well-being through one-on-one and group settings, including talking circles.
- Cultural Identity — teachings from Elders and the Nuu-chah-nulth language.
- Skill Building — communication, conflict resolution, emotional regulation, assertiveness, time management and leadership.
- Employment & Independence — budgeting, cooking, tenancy rights and job-readiness training.



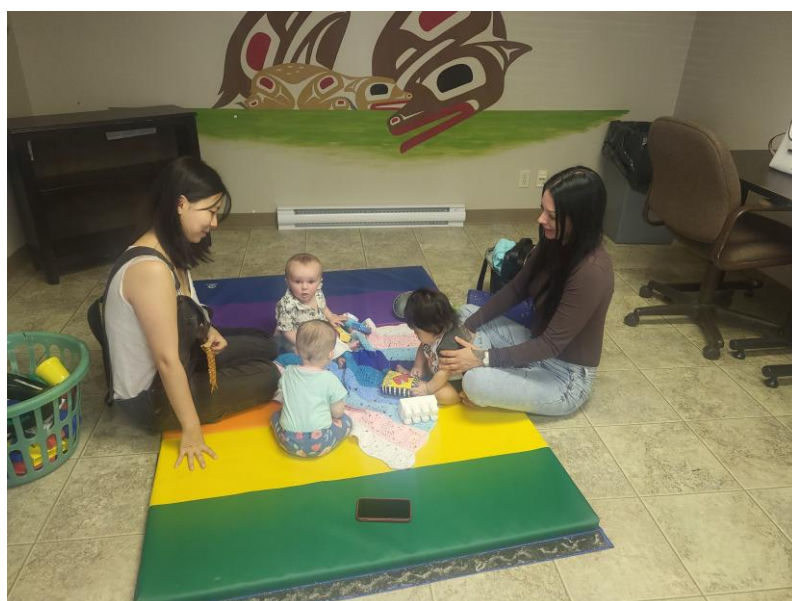
Culture, Family & Community Connections

These activities create welcoming opportunities for children, youth, families and Elders to gather, learn, celebrate and strengthen cultural and intergenerational connections.

Traditional Baby Welcoming



Kids' Corner & Family Fun



Youth & Elders Cultural Camp

Intergenerational activities create opportunities for youth and Elders to spend time together, share knowledge and strengthen community relationships.



Cultural Celebrations & Connections

National Indigenous Day Celebration and other cultural gatherings provide opportunities for community members to celebrate culture, participate in shared activities and strengthen relationships.



National Indigenous Day Celebration

Youth Connection



Cultural Afternoon



Ready Set Grow Youth Program

Ready Set Grow provides opportunities for youth participation, group learning, discussion and cultural connection.



Wellness Day

Wellness Day brings community members together through family activities, community connection and wellness-focused participation.

Community wellness activity



Family and community connection



Cultural Wellness Group



Community Benefit Summary

These programs reflect the Port Alberni Friendship Center's mission to uplift Indigenous youth and community members through culturally rooted, collaborative, and empowering services.

Together, the programs demonstrate an interconnected approach to cultural revitalization, advocacy, youth development, family engagement, practical life skills, wellness and meaningful community connection.

