

Working to Solve Homelessness:

Urban Native Youth Association



"Our main goal is to provide opportunities for Native youth that will help them reach their full potential and personal goals."

The Urban Native Youth Association was formed in 1988 with services and programs specifically for Aboriginal youth that reside within the lower mainland. It is a safe place that now offers over 21 programs and services, such as:

- Shelter
- Transitional housing
- Addiction treatment
- Athletic programs
- Computer programs
- Education programs
- Mentorship programs
- Counseling
- Various forms of other assistance and support

The programs and services offered improve the lives of youth and are meant to involve and help guide them on their journey to adulthood. The mandate of UNYA is to instill self-confidence and provide a healthy space where youth can begin to assert themselves. The organization believes that Aboriginal youth are the "leaders of tomorrow." UNYA helps instill the core values that youth will need to succeed in a non judgmental, supporting space will help them achieve great things.

UNYA has also:

- Created two manuals, *Holding Hands* and *Full Circle*
- Hosted community meetings and forums
- Conduct research
- Hosted workshops
- Hired and trained youth
- Participated in the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council

The four live-in programs available to youth provide them with time and space to focus on personal matters. These programs vary from live-in addiction programs, a safe house, to a transitional foster program.

Source: <http://www.unya.bc.ca/>

Homelessness, together we can solve it.
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WEEK