



LOWER FRASER VALLEY ABORIGINAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



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Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society's 2025 Annual Report showcases commitment to supporting our Urban Indigenous community for a better future and celebrating progress made.

NOVEMBER 17 2025



ABOUT OUR SOCIETY

OUR MISSION

We are comprised of a dedicated group of individuals who promote, support and advocate for services to meet the needs of our Aboriginal families in Langley. We organize events to help build our community.

OUR MANDATE

To provide support, assistance and referrals to Urban Indigenous and their families. To provide programs in areas including but not limited to, social, cultural, recreational, economic, community development, cultural and historical restoration.





EY SWÁYEL

Miigwetch

Welcome and thank you for attending the Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society's 25th Annual General Meeting.

AGENDA

November 17, 2025

Opening & Welcome - 7:00

Dinner - 7:00-7:30

7:30 pm Call to Order

1. Establish Quorum
 2. Elect Chair
 3. Approval of Agenda
 4. Approval of Minutes from 2024 AGM
 5. President's Report - Cecelia Reekie
 6. Annual Program Report - Carly Lepisto, Executive Director
 7. Financial Audit Report
 8. Election of Directors and Officers
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Directors at Large
 9. New Business
 10. Meeting Adjournment
- Closing





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Good evening

It is an honour to stand before you tonight and share the 2025 highlights of the Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society. This past year has truly been one of growth, rebuilding, and renewed connection. Together, we have reached important milestones that have strengthened our organization and deepened our relationships across the community.

I want to begin with some of the progress we made within the organization itself. This year, we successfully moved into our new office — a warm and welcoming space that reflects who we are and what we value. It has already become a place where families, staff, and community members feel comfortable and supported.

We also completed a full financial audit and engaged a professional audit company to ensure that all of our reports with the CRA are up to date. This included addressing and filing ten years of outstanding documentation. It was a huge undertaking, and one that has placed us on strong and stable ground.

We repaid all outstanding funds owed by LFFVAS, and today we can confidently say that our organization is financially responsible and secure. And this year, we also welcomed a new Executive Director who is helping lead us into a strong and sustainable future. Alongside this internal work, we had a very full and meaningful year out in the community. Our Open House on April 14th was a wonderful celebration of our new office, with so much support from community members and partners.

On March 13th, we witnessed the unveiling of the House Posts at Foundry — a powerful moment that honoured culture, art, and collaboration.

The MMIWG2S Walk on May 5th was moving, emotional, and very well attended. It reminded us of the importance of gathering together to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people, and to continue advocating for safety and justice.

National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st at Douglas Park was filled with celebration, learning, and cultural pride. And on September 30th, more than 300 people joined us for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation — a day of reflection, remembrance, and honouring Residential School Survivors and their families. We are grateful to all the community organizations that partnered with us that day.

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We also continued our Family Gatherings — in the fall, at Christmas, and again this spring — all hosted in partnership with the Langley School District. These gatherings continue to be a beautiful way of strengthening family bonds and building community.

And on November 11th, we were honoured to lay the Indigenous wreath at Douglas Park, a meaningful act of remembrance for our Nations and our Veterans.

None of this work happens alone, and I want to take a moment to express my deep gratitude. To our Board Members — thank you for your dedication, your leadership, and your belief in our shared vision.

Ernie, your guidance continues to steady us.

Kim, your quiet leadership is always appreciated.

Kathie, you keep us focused and on track.

Kurt, your energy and enthusiasm lift us all.

Ashley, your commitment to community shines through in everything you do.

Lauren, even from afar, your support is truly felt.

Judy, your steady presence is a real strength for our team.

And to Elder Cheryl Gabriel — it brings us comfort knowing you are near us, offering wisdom, strength, and belief in our work.

To Carly, our Executive Director — this year started with many challenges, but through your hard work and leadership, LFBVAS has moved forward in such a positive and meaningful way. Thank you for your dedication, and please know that we also honour the sacrifices your family has made as you've taken on this role.

To Nadine — we are so grateful for the countless hours you spent ensuring our financial health and accountability. Your work has made a real and lasting difference.

And to all of our LFBVAS staff — your compassion, commitment, and the care you show to our families and community every single day is the heart of who we are. Thank you for everything you do.

As we move forward into the coming year, I feel incredibly hopeful. We are stronger, more connected, and more grounded than ever before. And we will continue this work together — with heart, humility, and a commitment to our families and community.

All my relations,

Cecelia Reekie
President





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR

This past year has been a time of growth, reconnection, and renewal for the Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society. We raise our hands in gratitude as we acknowledge that our work takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, and Semiahmoo Peoples. We honour their teachings, their stewardship of these lands, and the strength and resilience of their communities. It is a privilege to walk this path with them and with the Urban Indigenous community we serve.

Guided by culture, by the relationships we hold in community, and by the teachings shared by our Elders and Knowledge Keepers, we strengthened the supports we offer to Urban Indigenous children, youth, families, women, and community members. Cultural programming remained at the heart of our work, grounding us in identity, belonging, and wellness as we navigated both celebrations and challenges throughout the year.

In addition to delivering programs and services, this year required focused attention on rebuilding and strengthening our internal systems. We completed outstanding tax filings and introduced improvements to our financial processes, ensuring greater clarity and accountability. Independent audits were initiated to reinforce transparency and increase confidence in our operations. These developments have moved us toward greater fiscal stability. We acknowledge, however, that continued work is needed as we strengthen our administrative foundation and plan for long-term sustainability.

EARLY YEARS DEPARTMENT

The Early Years Department provided a wide range of cultural programming, community events, and family-centered supports. Our Infant and Child Development Workers continued to provide one-to-one services in homes, schools, and community settings, supporting 38 children through Early Years and 32 children through the Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP).

The Mímele drop-in program remained active at both Shortreed and Blacklock Elementary Schools, where Elders, health professionals, and community partners offered cultural teachings and wellness resources. Programs such as Circle of Security Parenting, Infant Massage, and walking groups further supported families throughout the year. The Early Years team also worked closely with local agencies to ensure families received holiday support and essential resources.

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ABORIGINAL HEAD START

Aboriginal Head Start began the fiscal year with celebrations including the Mother's Day Tea Party and the Father's Day BBQ, both of which brought families together for cultural connection and community-building. The involvement of Aunty Janet, Gary, and Joanne strengthened the cultural foundation of the program through drumming, singing, storytelling, and shared meals.

The June Graduation Ceremony welcomed more than 60 guests and included traditional drumming, the blanketing of each child, family-made drums, framed photographs, and a feast prepared by Chef Milly. The program continued throughout the fall and winter with Orange Shirt Day learning, a collaborative pumpkin patch visit with the Early Years team, and a December community dinner at Shortreed Elementary, supported by Chef Milly and Chef Matthew.

YOUTH PROGRAM – SPA:TH

The Spa:th Youth Program continued to grow at Blacklock Fine Arts Elementary and HD Stafford Middle School. Programming was grounded in the Seven Sacred Teachings and the medicine wheel, with Elders and Knowledge Keepers offering teachings through beading, weaving, drum making, traditional food preparation, and mentorship. United Way funding supported an eight-week summer camp that provided cultural and land-based learning opportunities. Youth participated in powwow dancing, drum making, kayaking, swimming, and visits to local cultural sites, strengthening identity, confidence, and connection.

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Housing Department continued to provide essential supports to unhoused and at-risk community members. Daily services included harm reduction supplies, hygiene kits, clothing, traditional medicines, and lunch programs that served approximately 45 meals each day, supplemented by hot meals during the winter months.

Staff also assisted community members through treatment referrals, Hepatitis C testing, overdue utility assistance, emergency hotel placements, status card applications, transportation support, and weekly food assistance. The ongoing support of the Ron Cares Society enabled continued distribution of hygiene kits

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WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT AND SPIRIT PATH TRANSITION HOUSE

The Women's Department offered a culturally safe and supportive space for women to gather, connect, and participate in healing activities. Weekly Healing Circles provided opportunities for beading, weaving, cultural teachings, and peer support.

Spirit Path Transition House continued to offer comprehensive, individualized supports to women and children, including case management, life-skills development, employment readiness, cultural activities, meal preparation, and housing navigation. Collaboration with ISHTAR strengthened access to trauma-informed counselling and specialized supports.

REFLECTIONS MOVING FORWARD

This year demonstrated the strength, resilience, and unity of our community. Culture guided every program, every celebration, and every moment of challenge. It reminded us of our identity, our teachings, and our responsibilities to one another.

As we continue rebuilding our internal systems and strengthening our financial foundation, we remain deeply committed to the cultural practices, relationships, and values that shape our work. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Elders, Knowledge Keepers, staff, Board, funders, partners, and the families and individuals who walk with us.

With culture at our center and community at our heart, we look forward to continuing this important work in the coming year

Chi-miigwech,

Carly Lepisto,
Executive Director





EARLY YEARS DEPARTMENT

This year Early Years department highlights were community events, collaborating with agency and supporting our families in community. Our hosted events were pumpkin patch, farewell to summer/back to school event, cedar weaving, hosting the elf store, winter solstice dinner, buffalo farm, movie night, health and wellness with the Langley School District, and pow wow and pasta night.

Our infant and child development workers continue to support families on a 1:1 basis within the home, classroom and daycare setting, and in the community. Supporting the health and well-being of Indigenous children and their families by providing support, advocacy, resources, financial support, transportation support and more.

Our early years development worker supported 38 children over the year whilst our Aboriginal infant development program worker (AIDP) supported 32. Mímele- our parent led drop-in playgroup ran throughout the year at Shortreed Elementary School and Blacklock Fine Arts Elementary School with visits from Elder Rita, dental hygienists, Siyem Car, UBC practicum nurses, speech and language pathologist, and Aboriginal Support Workers. We were introduced to berry picking, had pancake breakfast, field trip to our local Stable Harvest Farms, nature walks in local trails, as well as spending park days around Langley and Aldergrove.

This year we collaborated with Langley Gymnastics Foundation to sponsor 5 families for Christmas for each family member with clothing and a toy of their request. For families that weren't able to access Christmas hampers in the community, our Early Years team helped connect them to the Langley Christmas bureau who was also providing gift cards, food and gifts for families at Christmas.

We ran several groups through the early years department such as Circle of Security for parents, Infant Massage, and walking group. Our staff took training this fiscal year to be trained in offering Circle of Security Parenting.





SPA:TH YOUTH DEPARTMENT



This past year LFFVAS youth has seen so many new faces! Spa:th increased youth registrations at both locations, Blacklock Fine Arts Elementary and HD Stanford Middle School, to support Urban Indigenous youth through our after school program and summer camps.

The focus for the past year was to focus on 7 sacred teachings and the medicine wheel to all teachings, crafts, physical activity and emotional support. Spa:th has connect with Aboriginal Support Workers from various schools and invites guest speakers to provide cultural teachings such as beading, weaving, drum making, cooking and more from Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

United Way approved LFFVAS to run summer camp for 8 weeks allowing us to fill the gaps that so many Urban Indigenous youth experience during the summer break. This included pow wow dancing, drum making, community pool field trips, kayaking, visiting Fort Langley National Historic site and more.





HOUSING DEPARTMENT



Our housing department continues to be welcoming and support our community members in a good way. We provide harm reduction supplies, hygiene kits, clothing and extreme weather supplies for our unhoused folks. We support with applications to treatment centres and support with navigating their recovery journey. We serve on average 45 bag lunches per day and extend our serving hours to provide hot meals in the colder months. We offer smudging and provide traditional medicines.

We are grateful recipients of Ron Cares Society hygiene kits and hand out what he provides. We offer onsite Hep C testing every 3 months We participate in community care days at The Salvation Army Gateway of Hope shelter.

Housing continues to have a growing number of new intakes; we are able to prevent our community members from becoming unhoused as well as support with overdue utility bills, provide emergency temporary housing hotel placements, make referrals to our community partners, support with status applications, provide advocacy, support in navigating systems, and provide bus tickets. We also offer weekly food support which consists of grocery cards and food shops on alternating weeks in our free store.



WOMENS DEPARTMENT



Our women's department continues to be a supportive, uplifting program offering a multitude of supports and cultural programming. Tuesday, we host our women's healing circle for women experiencing trauma and abuse. A continual number of community members gather to engage in cultural crafting including beading, weaving and cultural teachings that include the 7 sacred teachings and the medicine wheel shared by our elders.

The women are encouraged to support each other with their crafts. There is a genuine feeling of community and connection which enables the women to open up and to feel safe in sharing their experiences which gives others permission to share their story and to feel supported in their healing journey.

We continue to provide a homey, supportive, culturally safe space for women and children to stay at our women's transition house Spirit Path. Women connect with their support workers weekly for their one-to-one meetings where goals are set and concerns and needs are heard. Thursday's our support workers teach the women life skills including budgeting; bill paying and prepare a meal with participants as well as support in housing searches employment preparation/ searching and cultural crafting and outings. ISHTAR came to present the services they provide to the women; we continue to collaborate with our community partner ISHTAR as a supportive resource providing counselling and a vast number of supports for women experiencing trauma.

Our goal is to provide wrap around supports tailored to the women's unique needs during their stay in Spirit Path, their transition into regaining their independence and beyond through a trauma informed culturally safe approach.





ABORIGINAL HEAD START

We began this fiscal year with two wonderful celebrations — a Mother's Day Tea Party and a Father's Day BBQ. Both events were filled with laughter, connection, and a great turnout from our families. Having Auntie Janet, Gary, and his wife Joanne join our program has brought so much joy and meaning. They engage the children through drumming, singing, and storytelling, and we all share lunch together afterward. Their presence continues to enrich our program and strengthen our sense of community.



Our Graduation Ceremony in June was a beautiful and memorable event with over 60 guests in attendance. The ceremony opened with traditional singing and drumming, setting a heartfelt tone for the day. Each child was blanketed, and parents or guardians presented the drums they had lovingly made as gifts. We also took individual photos of each graduate, printed and framed them, and shared them with families — everyone was thrilled with how they turned out! To complete the celebration, Chef Milly prepared a delicious feast that everyone enjoyed together. It was truly a day to remember.



In September, we observed Orange Shirt Day by wearing orange shirts in remembrance of the children who attended residential schools. During circle time, we shared age appropriate conversations and read books to help the children learn and reflect in a gentle, meaningful way. In October, our group partnered up with Early Years team and visited the pumpkin patch, where families and staff spent the day exploring and choosing pumpkins. Although it was a cold and rainy day, we were touched by how many families still came out to participate— their enthusiasm made it a wonderful outing. For December, we partnered with the Early Years team to host a festive community dinner at Shortreed Elementary School. It was heartwarming to see so many families gather to share a meal together. Chef Milly and Chef Matthew prepared a variety of delicious dishes that everyone truly enjoyed.





PARTNERS



LANGLEY VINEYARD



DONORS



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Working with communities in BC's
Interior, Lower Mainland, Central
& Northern Vancouver Island



Supported by the Province of British Columbia



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LU'MA NATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY



INDIGENOUS
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Better health. Best in health care.



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THE PLACE TO BE



Celebrate Canada



CANADIAN
CONSTITUTION
FOUNDATION



Patrimoine
canadien

Canadian
Heritage





MIIGWETCH THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

LFVAS is honoured to live and work on the traditional unceded territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui and Semiahmoo First Nations.

All my relations.

