



**Our Place**  
PROMOTING LOCAL ACCESS & COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

**Reconciliation Through Collective Impact Place-Based Strategies**



*Hip Hop Drop Team of Volunteers, Mentors and Facilitators get ready for the launch of the Drop at an Orientation/Training Session hosted by Britannia. See page five for more details on the Hip Hop Drop*



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# The Youth Matters Pledge of Support for Community Accountability

The purpose of the Youth Matters Community Accountability pledge is to support the goal of parents, children, elders and youth to be meaningfully included in decisions about themselves and their community. As organizations, institutions, professionals, and residents in the city of Vancouver, we believe that children, youth and families in the Inner City have a right to safe nurturing and healthy environment that promotes optimal growth and development. In concurrence with the Healthy City Strategy and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we support the goal of working together to develop and implement and community accountability process based on principles of accountability, engagement, inclusivity and being place-based as outlined in the pledge. The pledge has already been signed by the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Park Board, the Vancouver Public Library, the Vancouver Police Department, the First Nations Health Council, the Representative for Children and Youth, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, The First Nations Summit,



## *Pledge of Support*

### YOUTH MATTERS COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY

Whereas children, youth, and families in Vancouver's inner city have a right to safe, nurturing, and healthy environments that promote optimal growth and development; and whereas community organizations, government services, ministries, and mandated services have been provided by society to act to consolidate this right; and whereas a disproportionate number Aboriginal children and youth continue to be taken into government care; and whereas many levels of government have adopted relevant recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, recognizing that systems must be accountable to Aboriginal people – and by extension to all affected individuals; the undersigned parties hereby affirm their commitment to community accountability.

We pledge to support the Youth Matters Community Accountability Guiding Principles.

We pledge to support the goal of parents, children, elders, and youth to be meaningfully included in decisions about themselves and in their community.

We believe that their different perspectives, identities, and experiences must be acknowledged and valued.

We encourage and challenge organizations, institutions, and professionals to be truly accountable to the individuals receiving their services and to the community at large; to ensure services, funding, and resources are framed and grounded in the context and realities of their neighbourhoods and their lived experiences. Further, we encourage them to embrace and abide by and adhere to the spirit and intent of the Youth Matters Community Accountability Guiding Principles.

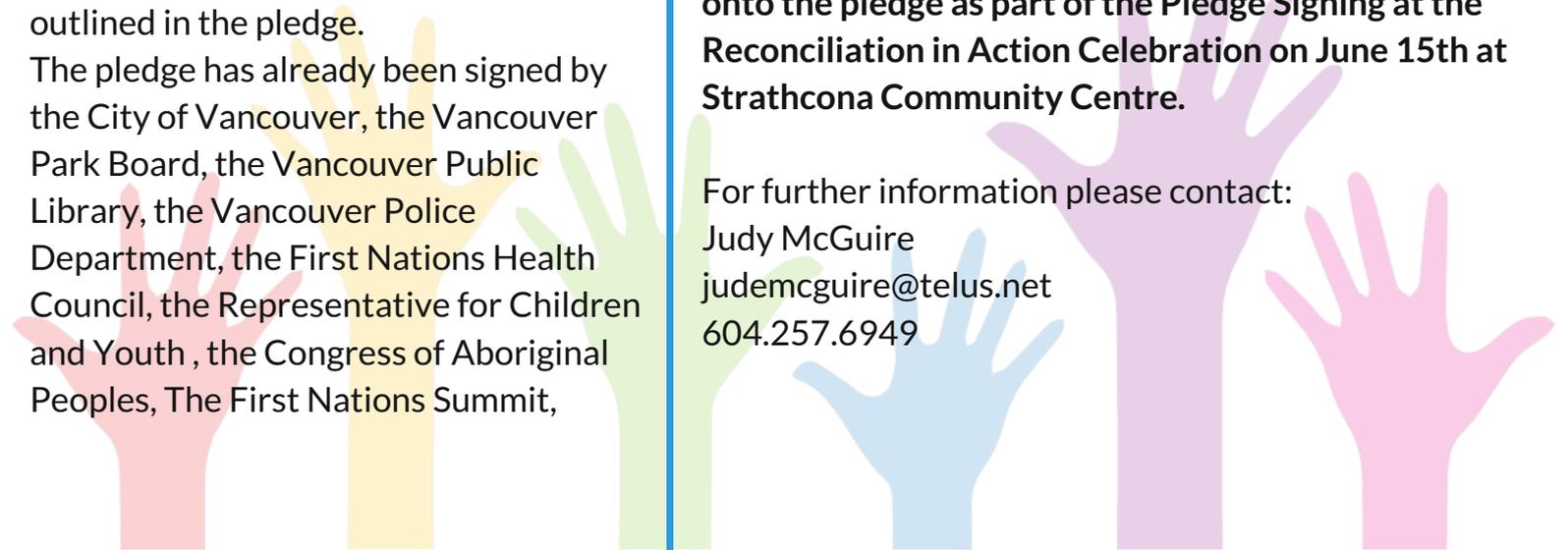


The North West Indigenous Council, and the British Columbia Government Employees Union.

**We look forward to having resident-based groups sign onto the pledge as part of the Pledge Signing at the Reconciliation in Action Celebration on June 15th at Strathcona Community Centre.**

For further information please contact:

Judy McGuire  
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 604.257.6949



# Youth Matters Forum at Hastings January 2018

## Presentation Highlights

### Opening Remarks: Doug Kelly, First Nations Health Authority

I've been thinking about the number of times that I've come here. And the number of organizations you people represent. There is a disconnect between government priorities, policies, investment and the work we are doing. There is no shared understanding. I think about Government in Ottawa and Victoria (as being) far away. The chiefs and leaders understand that. Intersectoral responses and collaboration are needed -- Our Place is doing this -- starting with community centres and creating an example of how to work with urban populations



Photo credit: Angela Fama

**Brielle Morgan**  
Discourse  
Media  
Child Welfare  
Reporter

### Brielle's goals as a child welfare reporter:

- Work with youth and families, investigating their questions and making space for their stories/ideas.
- Break down complexity to support a deeper, broader understanding of this system.
- Call attention to the impacts of colonization on Indigenous families/communities.
- Connect people around possible solutions.

### Barriers to good child welfare reporting:

- Staggeringly complex — takes time.
- Newsrooms lack diversity and lived experiences of the child welfare system.
- Privacy rights vs. right to speak up.
- The stigma on families in the system.
- Fear of backlash for speaking out.

### 2018 goals:

- Work with parents to share their stories and perspectives on the child welfare system in a way that honours the safety and dignity of their families.
- Deepen public understanding.
- Show how parents, particularly Indigenous women, are advocating for change.

### Brielle Morgan, child welfare reporter

[brielle@discoursemedia.org](mailto:brielle@discoursemedia.org), 778 903 1982



**Jai Singh**  
Lawyer, Sixties  
Scoop

### The 60s Scoop Settlement and the Failure to Learn – Jai Singh

Jai Singh's background is as a practicing lawyer in India for 10 years in human rights law (Public interest litigation which is similar to the class action in Canada), and questions of public policy. He is now working on promoting a class action lawsuit on behalf of those excluded from the federal government's settlement for Indigenous individuals affected because the settlement excluded Metis and Non-Status individuals. The residential school settlement did not distinguish between Metis, Status, Non-Status (though it did exclude impacts of clinical trials and death; only sexual abuse was acknowledged). The settlement of the 60s Scoop settlement was \$750 million -- \$75 million went to the lawyers and the rest were split by the individuals named by the feds.



**RAYCAM  
RENEW**

## Council Adopts Motion for Proposed Ray-Cam Renewal

**"Ray-Cam is a caring and safe place that welcomes everyone. It is the community's rec room. I am very happy that city council feels that it is time for a renewal." Park Board Chair Stuart Mackinnon**

The Ray-Cam Renewal Plan represents almost three years of visioning and productive collaboration between our Renewal team and stakeholders including community, staff, potential partners, and professional consultants. City Council has now adopted the motion to have staff review the proposed renewal so that it can be considered as part of the city's 2019-2022 capital plan. Ray-Cam Cooperative Community Centre has been providing support, services, and a place for East Side families for more than 40 years. Originally constructed in 1976, the community centre has expanded over the years but it's now bursting at the seams and starting to show its age. The current two-story building at 920 E. Hastings was recently re-zoned for up to 12 storeys of mixed use. Ray-Cam is one of Vancouver's highest membership, most frequently used community centres – a welcoming, family-oriented, safe space, with recreation and programming for people of all income levels, including youth, seniors, new immigrants, and indigenous residents. Over 700 volunteers take an active role in decision-making and staffing, along with program and service delivery for over 6,000 members. A renewed Ray-Cam envisions a neighbourhood centre with services and affordable rental housing to meet the needs of the local population. Expanded recreational, child care, seniors, local health and youth programs. Facilities for partner organizations, NGO's, and local startup enterprises; and potential leasable space for local-serving businesses. The centre exists under a unique partnership – the land is owned by the province and has been granted in perpetuity for the use and enjoyment of local residents. The centre is jointly operated by the Ray-Cam cooperative, the city and the park board. Ray-Cam Cooperative Centre will now sit at the table with the city, BC Housing and parks board to get on the ballot for the Oct. 2018 capital plan.

For more information: <http://raycam-renew.ca/> or contact Kate Hodgson [kate.hodgson@vancouver.ca](mailto:kate.hodgson@vancouver.ca)



## The Hip Hop Drop

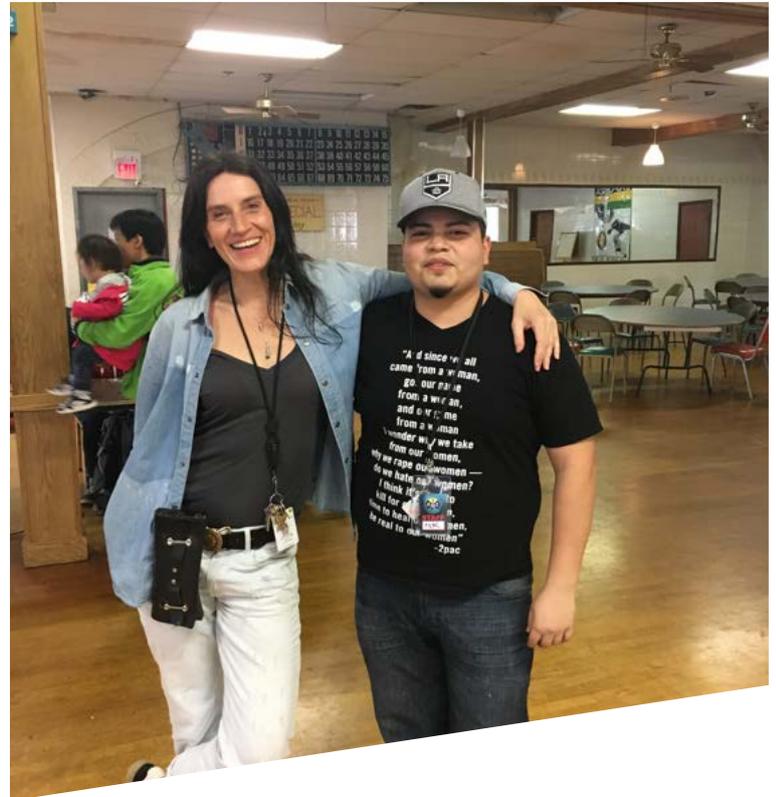
The "Hip Hop Drop" (HHD) is a recently launched weekly drop-in space, located at Astorino's on the corner of Venables and Commercial Drive, where youth 12 to 18 have the opportunity to learn and participate in multiple elements of the Hip Hop subculture, including rapping, breakdancing, djing, and beatboxing, graphic design, recording, and fashion. The HHD is hosted by 3 well-known local MCs: Dani and Lizzy as well as HK (Bryant Doradea).

Guests are brought in each week to teach different aspects of Hip Hop as well as lessons they've learned in their own journeys. This program is supported by several community-based agencies including the Network of Inner City Community Services Society (NICCSS), Britannia Community Services Society and Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement (ALIVE) Society.

The HHD functions as a proactive and fun community-based program, engaging at-risk youth and their peers in a safe and supportive space. There are youth services staff on site to help address and/or connect youth to other appropriate services and resources if need be.

The vision is one where community members, creatives, and professionals are working in synergy to create an empowering environment around some of our neighbourhood's most vulnerable youth, building their self-esteem and connecting them to positive networks of support.

Hip Hop is one of the universal youth interests across the world. It has been successfully used as youth engagement tool in many places and is also a popular outlet for populations of marginalized/oppressed young people.



*Organizers Bryant and Diana setting up for the 2nd week of "The Drop"*

The first night was a great success, with a large number of youth and youth workers, participating and staying throughout the whole evening. We look forward to the coming months of this pilot project, as we can safely say that our participation will only grow!

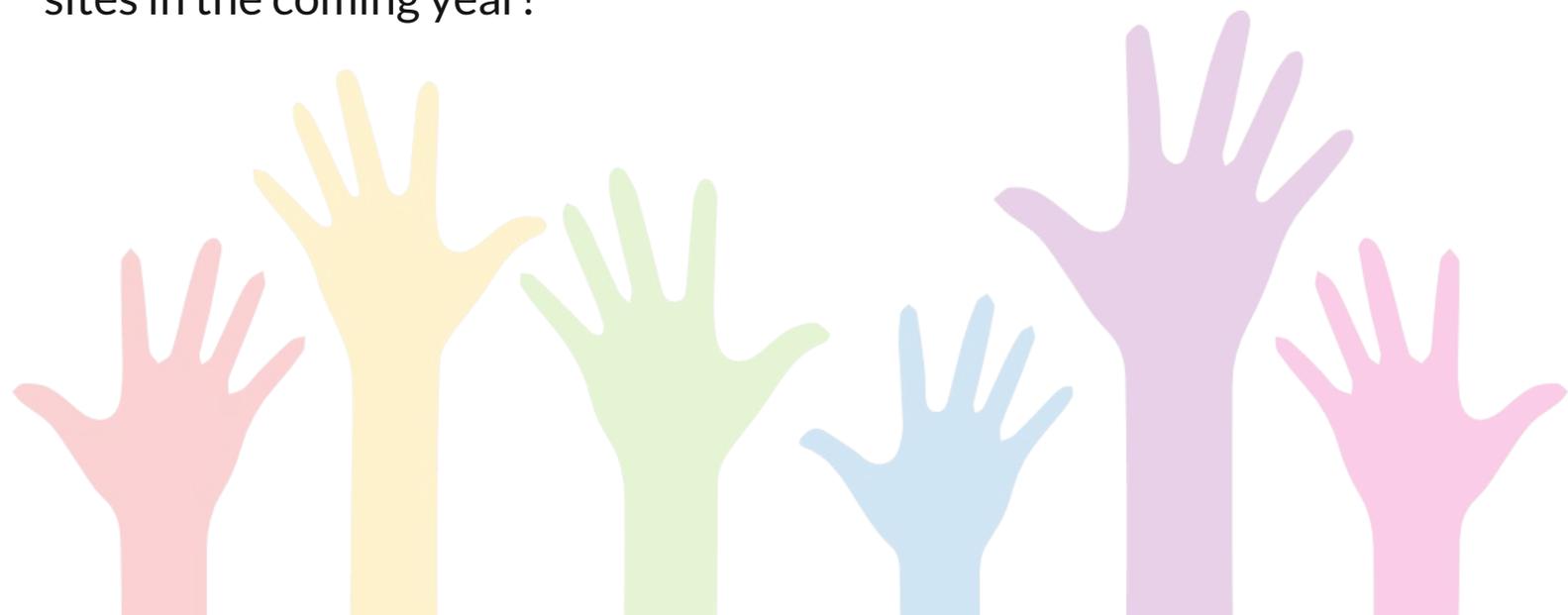
Hip Hop is flexible and diverse so there is always at least one element that a youth can see themselves interested and be excelling in. Simply put, Hip Hop is therapy, confidence, community, entrepreneurship, creativity, positivity, empowerment, and expression wrapped into one!

**For more information contact: Diana Guenther**  
[diana.guenther@vancouver.ca](mailto:diana.guenther@vancouver.ca)

# RISE ALIVE - Indigenous Leadership Strategy



This session of the RISE initiative kicked off in February of 2018 in the five Inner City Community Centers (Hastings, Britannia, Mount Pleasant, Ray-Cam, and Strathcona). We currently have three incredibly talented RISE leaders who collectively, as a team, carry out their programs and initiatives across all five centres. While this round of the RISE initiative ends at the end of June, we have many exciting projects in the works! One that we are currently so excited about is the collaboration we are doing with the Vancouver Park's Board Arts + Culture team to support the Hip Hop Drop that is happening at Britannia. As a RISE team, we are also helping to plan, engage, and connect our communities through the upcoming Reconciliation in Action event in June at Strathcona Community Center. As we reach the halfway mark in this RISE cycle, we are busy planning for the future of what we want the RISE program to look like, and tracking down the grants and the funding sources to help make this initiative a more permanent and ongoing fixture in the Parks Board Community Centers. We're also hoping to expand to a few new sites in the coming year!



## Crystal Asham



Crystal Asham: My name is Crystal Asham, and I am an Urban Indigenous woman. I was raised in East Vancouver. I am an Anishinabek from Peguis First Nation in Manitoba. I am the RISE Leader for two community centers Ray-Cam and Strathcona. My time as a RISE leader has been really exciting and educational. At Ray-Cam I have been involved in Grad Strategy and the Brighter Family Futures program. With Grad Strategy, I am engaging with the youth after school playing educational games and or doing crafts. With Brighter Family Futures, I am supporting the existing family program in serving dinner and connecting with families. I have facilitated a Medicine Bag workshop with the families in the program that was very successful and well attended. I have only just started my RISE Leader work at Strathcona Community Centre, so right now I am just learning what the community center has to offer and how I can engage Indigenous families, youth, and elders within that community. I am excited to be tasked with this role and am enjoying engaging Indigenous people and my role in making these community centers a space for the Indigenous populations to feel more welcomed.

## Shaniece Angus

My name is Shaniece Angus, I am a RISE Leader at Mount Pleasant Community Centre. Since starting at MPCC, I have now completed all my training. I have been working shifts alongside multiple members of the team to get a better understanding of how the Community Centre runs. At this moment I am working on connecting with the Native Education College to get students more involved with our Community Centre and to bridge the services that haven't been met. I am looking forward to being able to provide Indigenous peoples a stronger connection with Mount Pleasant Community Centre from an Indigenous perspective.



## Daniel Cook



Daniel Cook: My name is Daniel Cook, and I am the RISE leader at both Britannia and Hastings Community Center. While our hours are limited at each of our sites, RISE is participating in some great projects. At Britannia, half of my time is spent developing relationships with youth at the Teen Centre (TC), and with Elders in the Elders Program at the 55+ Centre. TC is open outside of school hours, and offers multitude activities for youth, and access to the fun staff! The other half of my time is dedicated to the \*very\* successful 'Hip Hop Drop,' which aims to offer workshops on the many elements associated with Hip Hop Culture (Breakdancing, Dj'ing, Rhyming, Graffiti Art, and a chance to Produce/Record their own music). Future Projects RISE hopes to offer/assist in at Britannia are: a Mobile Mural Project, Paddle Carving Workshop Series, and Painting/Naming Ceremony of a Northern-Dancer style Canoe (with out-trips afterwards). I have just started my time at Hastings Community Center, so I will be starting to plan some big programs for them in the coming weeks! As for right now, I'm spending my time getting to know the community, and participating in a few of their ongoing weekly programs, such as Men's Club.



The Strathcona CPC (SCPC) is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization that works in partnership with the community and the Vancouver Police Department.

The SCPC is committed to delivering crime prevention and safety programs through a wide range of services to the residents, businesses, and agencies throughout the Strathcona catchment area. These programs and services will be delivered through the efforts of trained volunteers and supported by CPC staff.

The office, after intensive effort, is going to be open at 872 E Hasting April. 30th The SCPC invites you to stop by to meet the Neighbourhood Police Officer (NPO) Janine Tanino and the staff.

Volunteers are the heart of the SCPC and we will be actively recruiting volunteers. We need your help, your enthusiasm, and your expertise. For more information on programs and volunteer opportunities please visit our website at [www.strathcpc.ca](http://www.strathcpc.ca)

Mark your calendar:

Saturday, May 26th: In partnership with the City of Vancouver's "Keep Vancouver Spectacular" program, there will be a giant neighbourhood Community Clean Up from 10:00 to noon. Coffee, hot chocolate, and Timbits will be served. Meet new friends and help clean up your neighbourhood. Hope to see you all there.

Friday, June 29th: Join us for "Summer Movie Night at MacLean Park". There will be a free family movie for all ages hosted by the NPO, volunteers and staff of the Strathcona Community Policing Centre. Movie to be announced, watch for the posters.

## **urPlace** GRADUATION STRATEGY

In 2012, inspired by the results being recorded in the Early Years work, OURPLACE partners began putting together the details to address all the key education transitions through a prenatal to post-secondary collective impact place-based approach. Additional community-based supports and resources have been integrated to address areas including prenatal care, middle years, secondary school success, and adult education and training.

The development of the Middle years "Links to Graduation" piece is a key focus right now with additional resources to bring on learner support



### *Links to Graduation Homework Club*

Workers in the community and incorporate an after-school homework club at Ray-Cam two days a week. The idea is to develop individualized strategies that start with learners and their caregiver(s), to support access to a range of options available through Graduation Strategy partners. This includes tutoring, peer support, mentorship, primary health care and assessments, family support, sports and recreation, counselling and advocacy, and adult education.

## What does meaningful Community Engagement look like?

Community engagement is both a verb and a noun, and in many ways, it is much like a roadmap.

It is the process by which we arrive at one point, and show us the many different ways we can get there.

It is universal in that it simplifies the form and format to the extent that it is more accessible to more people.

It articulates the surrounding context and options and warns us of hazards or opportunities.

It is also the product that results from research and input of a variety of sources, measured against good data.

Community engagement refers to both the process AND the outcome by which community advocacy organizations and individuals iterate processes of decision making, relationship development and/or capacity building for the purpose of applying a collective vision for the benefit of a community.

When describing community engagement in the context of what is meaningful, we are speaking very subjectively. For politicians "meaningful" may be optics, for bureaucrats and planners it might be metrics, and for stakeholders, it is invariably outcomes.

## Engagement and Resource Sharing Methodologies

There are six general methodologies of engagement and how resources are shared.

1. **PASSIVE** One-way communication: People are informed about what has been decided, and community is engaged by way of advertising, newsletters, public notification. Resources aren't controlled by the community.
2. **REACTIVE** Community consultation: People are consulted or answer questions but the process does not concede any share in decision-making. Methods include questionnaires, surveys, focus groups, panels, juries, and "sticky notes on a board". Some opportunity for resource sharing with the community.
3. **PROACTIVE** Community participation: The communities influence priorities, resource use, and service provision through a planning partnership. Joint management of projects and activities using planning groups, forums, and design charrette. Resource-sharing determined by terms and conditions set by process controller (planners).
4. **INTERACTIVE** Community partnership: Community participates in joint analysis, development of action plans and the strengthening of local groups and institutions. The process seeks multiple perspectives, and consensus on resources use. Community supported to have equivalent access to expertise, advice and training. The community has management control of specified services and resources through joint community / public sector control, or negotiated contracts.
5. **EMPOWERED** Community-led: Community-led systems change, developing contacts with external institutions for the resources and technical advice they need but retain control over how those resources are used. Community pressure and campaign activity influence policy. Complete community authority for management of services and resources.
6. **ENTRUSTED** Community control: Same as 'community-led' but also influences prioritization and control of service provision and associated budgets. The community has a leading voice in determining priorities in policy. The community has a leading voice in the delivery of public services. Community makes decisions about resources and public budget allocation



## Our Place

Website: [ourplace-vancouver.ca](http://ourplace-vancouver.ca)

Phone: 604 257 6949

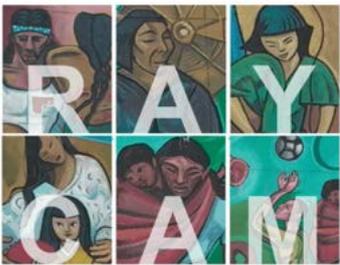


## Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement Society (ALIVE)

Website: [alivesociety.ca](http://alivesociety.ca)

Email Address: [info@alivesociety.ca](mailto:info@alivesociety.ca)

Phone: 604 417 0327



920 EAST HASTINGS 604.257.6949

## Ray-Cam Cooperative Community Centre

920 E Hastings St  
Vancouver British Columbia  
V6A 3T1

Website: [alivesociety.ca](http://alivesociety.ca)

Phone: 604 257 6949

## Upcoming Dates

**April 19th**

Youth Matters @ Mt. Pleasant  
Neighbourhood House

**May 4th**

Our Place, Our Voice, Our Path

**May 13th**

Mother Day Pow Wow at  
Britannia

**May 17th**

UBC HELP Presentation to  
Graduation Strategy Partners  
**TBD**

Inner City Youth Worker Hub  
Meeting Pt.II

**June 15th**

Reconciliation in Action @  
Strathcona Community Centre  
Youth Matters

**September 25th**

EPIC Elders  
Reconciliation in Action  
Youth Matters  
ALL at Britannia



**Next**

**Reconciliation in  
Action and Youth  
Matters June  
15th**