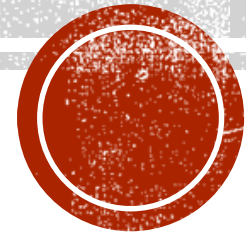


ABORIGINAL COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

It starts with:

Building Community & Indigenous Governance



WHY WE STARTED THIS JOURNEY

- Service organizations report **30-35%** of clients identify as Aboriginal
- GVCEH could not get on-going indigenous involvement
- Required 'leadership' - engagement with VI First Nations leaders, Metis, and Aboriginal organizations
- **The ACEH was formed/drum signing**
- **We recognized specific, meaningful and culturally-appropriate initiatives were needed**
- **Aboriginal Street Community needed to have their voices heard**
- **Baseline Data was needed; Out of 100 surveyed, 48% from one of the three tribal groups on Vancouver Island, 19% BC**





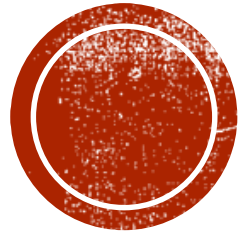
COLLABORATION WAS KEY

In addition to First Nations Metis & Aboriginal organizations ~ Non-profits, Activists, Public & Private Stakeholders and people with lived experience were invited to the table.

Required us to be socially innovative.

- BC Non-Profit Society**
- Registered Charity**





ACEH: OUR STORY

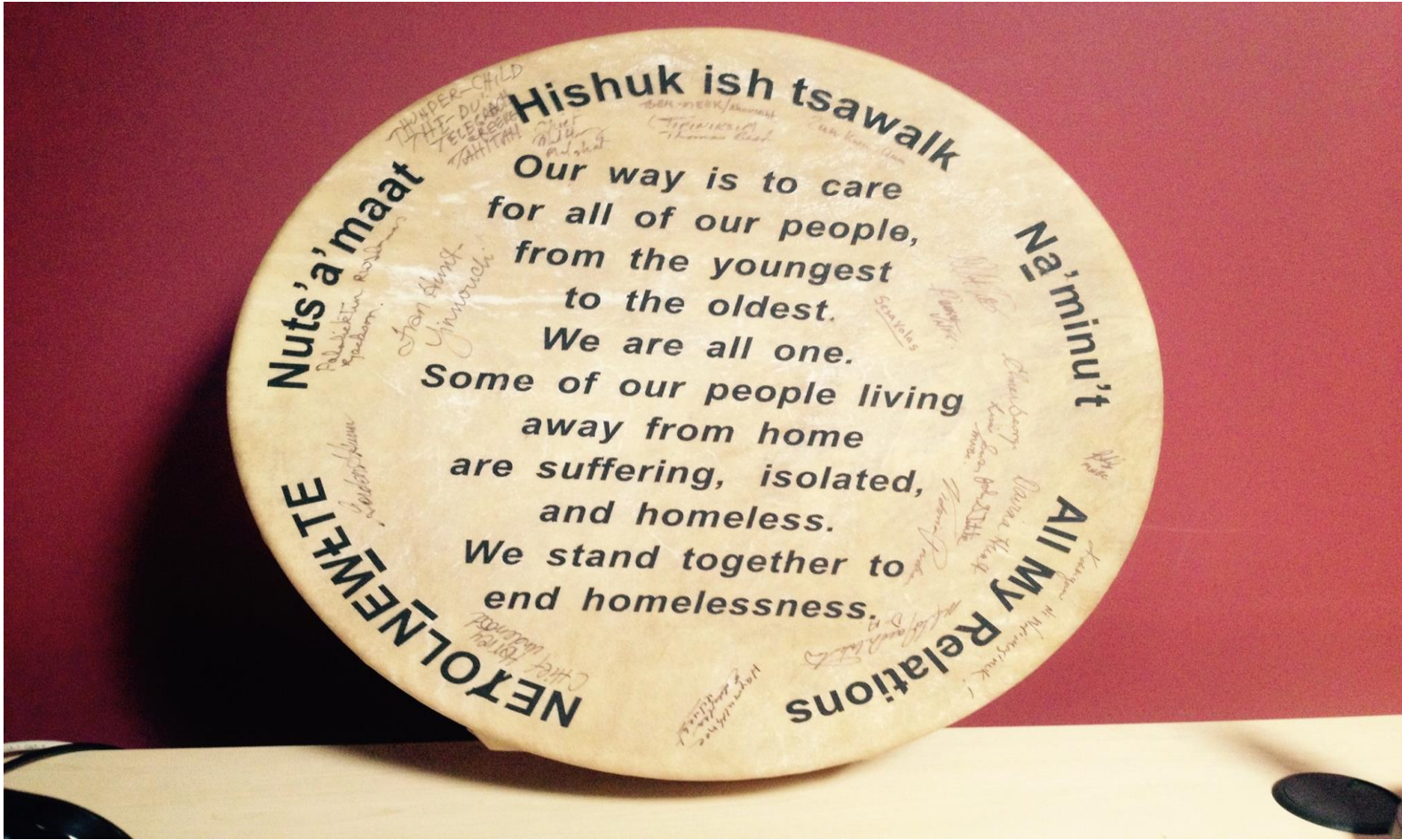
Governance: 5 year strategic plan, island wide protocol agreement, island wide research.



**WE GALVANIZED
THE STRENGTH OF
OUR LEADERS ~
INDIGENOUS
PROTOCOL**



ACEH VISION STATEMENT ~ OUR DRUM





WE INDIGENIZE HOW TO LISTEN, LEARN, GIVE

- Story-telling
- Sharing information
- Reciprocity
- Elder Teachings
- Connections to ancestral lands
- Land-based teachings and learning



WALKING TOGETHER

- Kwakiutl District Council
- Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council
- Tsawout First Nation
- Quatsino First Nation
- Lyakson First Nation
- Métis Nation BC
- Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre
- Victoria Native Friendship Centre
- Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness



SYSTEMIC BARRIERS

- Challenges such as the Indian Act, jurisdictional issues, residential schools, child welfare, social marginalization, isolation, discrimination, stigmatization and **trauma all contribute** to a lack of adequate housing for “**Our People Living Away from Home**”



OUR PATH IN A NUTSHELL

- Action-focused, people centred - geared towards long-term individual and collective impacts
- Rooted in cultural strategies/indigenous ways of knowing
- Systems approach
- Geared towards replacing security and monitoring with support and love
- Focused on strengthening self-identity
- Forged through fearless leadership
- Bound by unity ~ “for us by us”/**we** identify the challenges and the solutions; always moving, always learning...





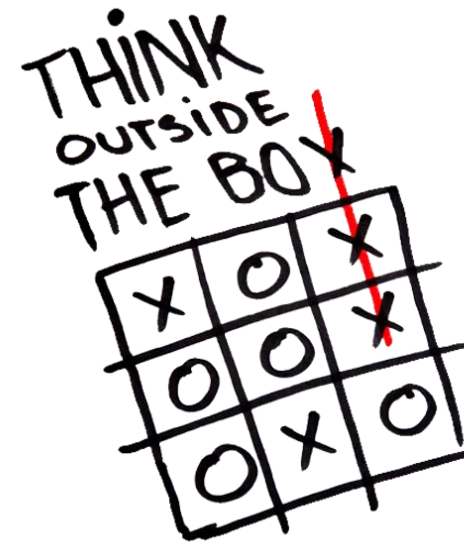
PREMISED ON BUILDING COMMUNITY

- Inclusive
- Feeds the heart, soul and mind
- Indigenous being & knowing



CHANGING THE DISCOURSE

- We seen through, invisible barriers [the box]
- Provoked space for new conversations
- Sparked new ideas and made new connections and alliances





**Victoria Aboriginal Street Community:
'A Vision for Our Future'**

**WE PUT A FACE
AND STORY TO
REALITY ON THE
STREETS, IN THEIR
WORDS...**

**OUR DIGITAL
STORY: *VISION FOR
OUR FUTURE***



WE WOVE TOGETHER PEOPLE, POLICY, AND PURPOSE

- We situated cultural safety, health and wellness while also influencing policy and systemic change.



DRUM MAKING / CEDAR BARK WEAVING



TALKING CIRCLES / FOCUS GROUPS



ARTS & CRAFTS – CULTURAL SPACE



INDIGENOUS NURSING STUDENTS & HONOURING EVENTS





FEASTING SHARING RECIPROCITY

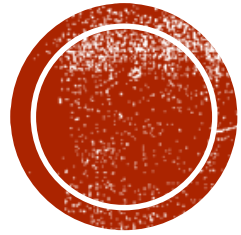
Aboriginal
Street
Community
together in a
spiritual & safe,
cultural place



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS & ALLIANCES

- Mayor's Priority One Task Force; 20 Aboriginal people experiencing chronic homelessness in Victoria.
- Island-Wide Research
- UVic CIRCLE
- Indigenous Women's Circle
- Indigenous Nursing Students
- Managed Alcohol Program (proposed residence program)





VIDEO & DISCUSSION

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=KOIJDPSKG20&FEATURE=YOUTU.BE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOIJDPSKG20&feature=youtu.be)

Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi

Executive Director

Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness