

Urban Indigenous Identity, Gender, and Wellness: Sharing Wisdom Across Generations

Youth & Young Adult Advisory Council Group Agreement

Background

The purpose of the *Urban Indigenous Identity, Gender, and Wellness: Sharing Wisdom Across Generations* project is to learn from urban Indigenous youth, young adults, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Traditional Healers how wellness is connected to land-based activities, Ceremony, Indigenous identity, and gender. Lillooet Friendship Centre Society, Métis Community Services Society of BC, and researchers from the University of British Columbia Okanagan are leading the project.

Youth & Young Adult Advisory Council Role

The **Youth & Young Adult Advisory Council (YYAAC)** is a group of young people who work together to make decisions and plan what's next for the project. The YYAAC does the following:

- ❖ Shares thoughts and ideas about programs and activities.
- ❖ Helps decide who can join the project.
- ❖ Shares ideas about the best ways to invite and encourage young people to join.
- ❖ Suggests how to create safe and welcoming spaces for youth and young adults.
- ❖ Provides ideas to keep the project meaningful and relevant for youth, young adults, and their communities.

Guiding Principles

Guided by Indigenous knowledge, the YYAAC is based on the principles of:

- ❖ Respect, trust, reciprocity, and relationships.
- ❖ Valuing diversity of culture, genders, knowledge, and beliefs.
- ❖ Honouring youth and young adult experiences and journeys.
- ❖ Having fun!

Membership

The YYAAC is a group of young people 14-34 years who are connected to Lillooet Friendship Centre Society and Métis Community Services Society of BC. Each member is an important part of the Circle. YYAAC membership can have as many as **8 youth and young adults** with 4 youth and young adults from each Centre. Ideally there will be a balance between youth and young adults from each Centre. Centres decide who to invite to join the YYAAC.

Gatherings & Meetings

YYAAC gatherings and meetings will be held up to **4** times per year. One to two of them will happen face-to-face. At least 50% of YYAAC members need to be present to make decisions.

Decision Making

Decisions will be made through group agreement by everyone (consensus), ensuring that youth and young adults from each Centre have a say. Some decisions might need approval from the Centres or UBC team if they involve community or university approval.

Support

Members will receive honoraria to recognize their time and expertise. Initially, UBC team members will help with organizing and facilitating YYAAC meetings. The hope is for YYAAC members to take on leadership of meetings in the future. The expenses for meetings will be covered by UBC Okanagan (honoraria, snacks, travel).