

SEKWEHA: “FOR THE YOUTH”

Information Package



National Challenges Facing Our Youth



- 50% of Aboriginal youth drop out of high school
- First Nations girls under 18 give birth at a rate 6 times higher than the Canadian average
- Among Indigenous youth, the suicide rate is 5 to 7 times higher than among their non-Indigenous peers
- Indigenous youth are 7-9 times more likely to be incarcerated
- The Indigenous population is growing twice as fast as the general Canadian population
- By 2026, the Indigenous population will rise to well over 1.5 million; 41% will be less than 25 years of age
- Every year for the next decade, there will be tens of thousands of potential labour market entrants among this population, but in most of their communities, there is little or no work available
- Lack of emotional support in communities: alcohol & drug abuse rates high, family violence, dysfunctional family structures, family dynamic is lost, youth are the parents of younger siblings and cousins, youth are left to support themselves for daily living
- Loss of identity, language and cultural through residential school and other historical occurrences

Sekweha's Vision



Our vision is for a healthy, safe and sustainable community, helping children and youth to gain the knowledge, confidence and skills they need to be successful in life and make a positive contribution to their community.

Youth are our future leaders!

It started with a campfire.....



- A group of community leaders got together and formed the Sekweha Board in 2009
- Walk in Two Worlds vision in 2012 – youth & industry connection – working world and traditional world, learning by doing
- Workshops with youth and community members created our focus. Here's what they said:
 - A safe place
 - A place to call their own
 - Things to do and learn
 - Land-based learning
 - Integrate culture in programs and school

Facts About Sekweha

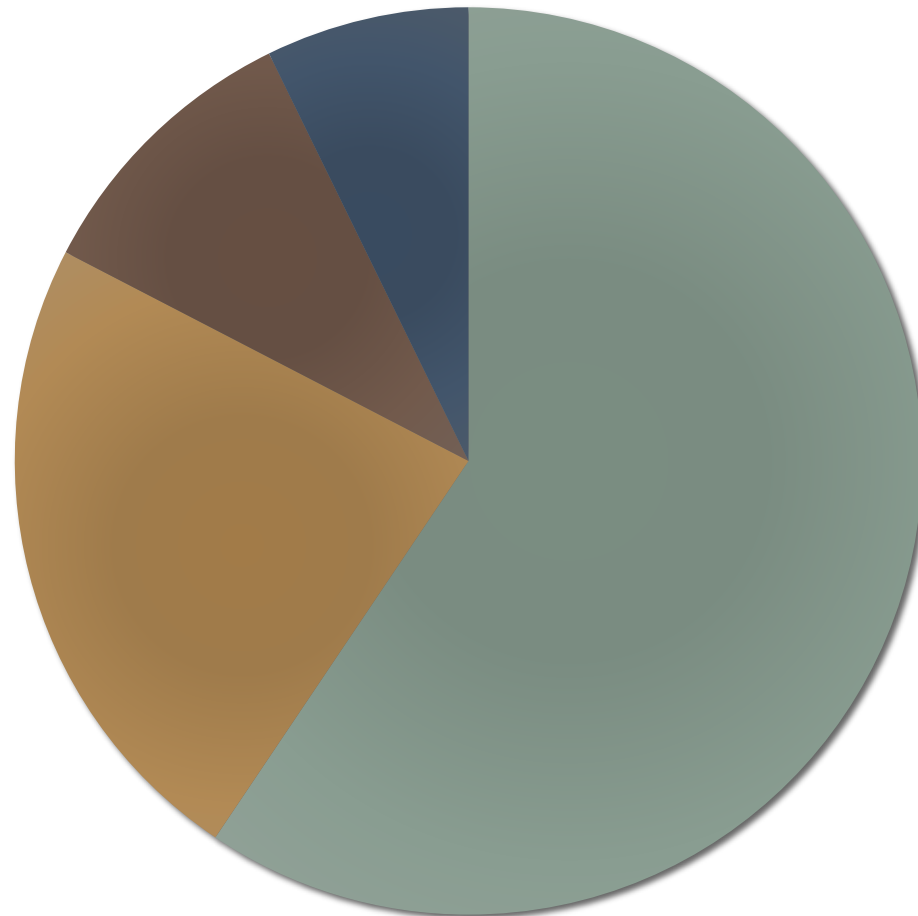


- Serve 125+ youth annually, ages 8 to 21
- Support youth-led structured and unstructured programming **7 days a week**
- **5 to 8 hours per day** of high-quality, mentorship-based programming around topics such as lifestyle skills, traditional crafts, sports, and youth-to-youth mentorship support, healthy mental & emotional support
- Open **345 days per year**, with minimum **2 qualified Youth Workers** on duty every day
- Average **16 to 40 youth** at the youth center per day
- Serve one meal per day: Sekweha youth and youth workers together made over **7000 meals at the youth center in 2014!**
- Trips out of community to expand exposure for youth (sports, educational, entertainment, Land base camps, Cultural camps)
- Noted observation by community members since Sekweha began of less vandalism by youth, less teen pregnancies, less crime from youth, more engaged youth, more polite and respectful youth – especially towards Elders

What We Do



Sekweha Activities (based on time per year)



- Daily Programming
- Out of Community Trips
- Training for Sekweha staff & Community Volunteers
- Summer Student Employment Program

How Sekweha Operates



- Let youth voice and ideas lead us
- Layers of Sekweha:
 - Volunteer Board members
 - Community Coordinator
 - Youth Workers
 - Junior Leaders
 - Youth
 - Volunteers & partners
- Hire local high school graduates to be Youth Workers
- Youth Workers are trained and supported to be mentors
- Offer consistency and stability to youth in the community
- Wisdom of Elders in the community guide programming

Becoming Sustainable & Independent

- Taking ownership of all aspects of Sekweha (youth center operations, finance management, staffing, board, fundraising, continuing to achieve great things with youth)
- Current Fundraising – received funds from ex. Alberta Mental Health, ALGC funding, various industry companies
- Supported with resources from Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI), which includes: 5 companies (ConocoPhillips, Imperial, Nexen, StatOil, Suncor), Northland School Division, RCMP, RMWB

What We Need



- Opportunities for training youth and youth workers in areas
- Job placement opportunities for youth and recent high school/GED graduates
- Financial support, especially for daily operations
- Volunteers & mentors

Contact Information



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Sekweha Board members:

Delores Cardinal

Kevin Couselan

Sherry Deltess

Henry Herman Jr.

Ex-officio's:

- Northland School Division
- SCI
- RCMP, held by Sgt. Chan Dara
- RMWB