

Backgrounder

Support for Aboriginal healing programs

The Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services is providing the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority with \$800,000 to assist in programs that support the healing of urban Aboriginal people, particularly in the Downtown Eastside. Many of these programs focus on the needs of women, children and families. They integrate Aboriginal and mainstream services, responding to Aboriginal beliefs about the interrelated nature of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of healing.

Funding for aboriginal healing programs in the Downtown Eastside will provide:

- Substance abuse counselling and support for young street-involved Aboriginal women in the Downtown Eastside between 13 and 30 years old. These services will address issues of safety, addiction, trauma, abuse and anger.
- Advocacy and resource support for prenatal and post-partum women struggling with substance dependency.
- Enhanced mental health counselling, treatment and support to Aboriginal women and their families through Vancouver Coastal Health Authority's mental health teams, including assessment and referral.
- Enhanced support to Aboriginal families for infant development information, resources, assessment and referral.
- An Aboriginal nurse to enhance support to Aboriginal families for health services, home care and health education.
- Support for the further development of the Aboriginal Healing Centre and related programming in the Downtown Eastside.
- Alcohol and drug day treatment for at-risk youth living outside the Downtown Eastside.
- Health-care workers to provide support for aboriginal people who are in treatment programs following detoxification.
- An Aboriginal Addictions Practice Consultant to provide clinical and education services to support Aboriginal addictions counsellors.