

## Our Philosophy

“Healing is a Life Long Journey”

Kackaamin Family Development Centre Society is dedicated to a holistic approach to family recovery, healing and growth. We provide an environment for physical, emotional, mental and spiritual healing. Recovery from alcohol and drug abuse and other addictive behaviors is a lifelong process and a permanent responsibility of each participant.

## Our Mission Statement

Kackaamin Family Development Centre empowers First Nation People to adopt a balanced lifestyle that renews one's sense of cultural identity and pride. It is our belief that through the fusion of traditional and current aboriginal teachings people from all cultures whose lives have been affected by addiction can begin a lifelong transformation that will benefit all communities

## Our History

Kackaamin Family Development Centre (formerly known as Kakawis) is now located at the new facility in Port Alberni on Vancouver Island BC. Our former centre located on Meares Island, the site of the Christie Indian Residential School, closed in the early 1970's when the Catholic Church along with various community members and elders made the decision to start the Family Centre. In 1974, the first client families attended. Over the next 35 years KFDC has evolved from a safe haven for troubled families into a spiritual and therapeutic healing centre, positively shifting the lives of thousands of families who have been negatively impacted by colonialism and residential school experiences.

In 2008, we were fortunate to receive Capital Funding from Aboriginal Housing Management through BC Housing, the Order of Mary Immaculate, the Real Estate Foundation, the McLean Foundation and private sector funding that allowed us to build the new \$7.9 million facility located in the beautiful Alberni Valley. Our program has evolved over the years and presently we host seven family sessions per year. Each session is 42 days long. We have 3 concurrent programs that are interwoven at Kackaamin: The Adults, the Children and Youth (K thru 12) and the Toddlers and Infants. The program is designed to facilitate family discovery, healing and recovery.

## Our facility is licensed and accredited

In June 2010 we were given the “Accreditation Primer Award” for Aboriginal Substance misuse Organizations by Accreditation Canada. We have moved into the full Qmentum Accreditation now and are scheduled for survey in June 2011. We will continue to update our stakeholders throughout this process. We are also a licensed facility through Community Care Licensing part of Vancouver Island Health Authority. Both of these recognitions have been driven by our commitment to excellent client care and the application of best practices in our field and in all areas of our organization.



## **An overview of the adult program**

Kackaamin employs adult counsellors who facilitate educational workshops that broaden the knowledge of our adult clientele on a variety of topics. Weekly individual, couple and family counselling along with community capacity building support sessions.

The educational workshops cover a variety of topics such as:

- Alcohol, drugs and their effects
- Behavioral addiction
- Grief and loss
- Communication
- Anger management
- Co-dependency
- Residential school
- Spirituality and Cultural development
- Recreation with your family
- AA meetings
- Cultural and traditional teachings
- Healing ceremonies and sweat lodges.
- “The Virtues Project”

## **An overview of the child and youth program**

The children and youth have a full time school teacher and teacher’s aide. These two positions are funded by School District # 70. We ask that your children bring all English and Mathematics material from their respective schools. Your children will have the opportunity to see our Child and Youth Clinical Therapist during the session. The Learning Centre’s approach consists of many elements all rooted in the “Virtues project” wherein your child’s inner talents and strengths are named and developed throughout the session.

## **An Overview of our Toddler program**

Our Toddler Centre Daycare is a nurturing and safe place for newborns and toddlers up to the age of five. The children participate in a variety of play activities that have therapeutic and gentle teachings such as aboriginal drumming and art therapy. We recognize that our toddlers will one day be our elders and we nurture any talents that they possess and welcome what they each have to show us about themselves.

## **Our Funders**

We are primarily funded by Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) and Health Canada - First Nations, Inuit Health Branch. We are seeking funding for other projects which will be posted on our site as they become available.



## Our Board of Directors

We are a nonprofit Society and we operate with a Board of Directors that consists of 9 Board Members from various areas of Vancouver Island, 3 Elders and one appointed position. Our Board of Directors meets on a regular basis and has several committees that operate within the Board.

## Our Administration

Our admin office consists of our Executive Director, Executive Assistant, Intake Coordinator, Bookkeeper and Accreditation Coordinator.

## Introducing the “Klama (*Foundation*) Youth Development Program”

We have included at our new facility 2 eight bed houses for the Klama Youth Treatment Program. In the latter part of 2009, we received funding from Health Canada for Re-profiling. We are in the process of developing two concurrent Youth Programs for adolescents (aged 12-15 and 16-18 years) that will operate in conjunction with the Family Development Program.

Klama Youth Treatment Program will embrace a treatment model new to residential youth facilities in Canada. Klama Youth Treatment Program will focus on building youth and community capacity across cultures by:

- Introducing and Strengthening cultural and traditional teachings and skills
- Empowering and developing our youths’ given strengths through the continual recognition of their abilities.
- Delivery of multiple therapeutic techniques that promote living a healthy, balanced and functional lifestyle.

We also offer academic education, employment readiness, maintenance and life skills to youth that will create a healthy and strong foundation for continual community development.

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT: STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE

