



National Association of Friendship Centres

Association nationale des centres d'amitié

32nd Annual Youth Forum
Reconcili-ACTION – Strengthening our communities
November 25-27, 2021
Victoria Conference Centre
720 Douglas St, Victoria, BC V8W 3M7

YOUTH FORUM ANNOUNCEMENT

The NAFC Aboriginal Youth Council calls on ONE youth voting delegate from each Friendship centre, ages 14-24, to register online here: [AYC 32nd Annual National Youth Forum](#). Mark your calendars with November 25-27, 2021, 32nd National Annual Youth Forum!

The Voting Delegate from each Friendship Centre interested in attending the AGM can reimburse their travel to approximately \$860 each. Meaning youth can attend the Youth Forum for a subsidized cost as most of the trip is covered. If planning to attend, please register below and note the following:

- As of September 13, 2021, all visitors 12 and older must show proof of vaccination. BC residents will need to prove their vaccination status for a 1st dose and on October 24 for two doses to dine at restaurants or attend gyms and ticketed events.
- People from other parts of Canada must show a vaccine record officially recognized by a province or territory and a valid government photo ID.

Please note, Chaperones are not available through the Aboriginal Youth Council (AYC) or the NAFC national office. An adult should accompany all delegates under 18 years during the Youth Forum and evening social activities. If possible, the chaperone could be a delegate who is 18 years of age or older from your Friendship Centre or another Friendship Centre within your region.

This year's theme is Reconcili-ACTION – Strengthening our Communities. The event will be at the Victoria Conference Centre in Victoria, BC. This year's Youth Forum hopes to welcome up to 100 youth from Friendship Centres (FCs) across the country to vote on a new Youth Council (YC). We are discussing issues that concern YOUTH and sharing ideas that matter to YOU. This year's goal is to participate in YC elections, share knowledge, and gain experience of life lessons learnt from leaders in mental health, leadership, and engagement. Overall, the 2021 Youth Forum gifts youth with knowledge and tools to motivate them to follow a path of wellness, awareness, and determination.

The NAFC Youth Council acknowledges and respects the Lekwungen (lək' wəŋən) peoples on whose traditional territory the Youth Forum takes place and to the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples, for their hospitality. This event host is the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) and its Youth Council, with the support of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC), the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC). It's Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council (PAYC).

We are thrilled to have Victoria's own **Megan Whonnock** Emcee at the event. Megan is a Sayisi Dene woman living on the west coast, bringing a wealth of VNFC experience as the past secretary. Additionally, we have **Brianna Marie Dick (Tealiye)** of the Songhees/Lekwungen Nation Emcee Culture Night.



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The forum begins with a continental breakfast, youth forum registration, and a collaborative opening ceremony. Featuring a warm welcome and opening prayer by Elder Shirley, THE-LA-ME-YÉ Alphonse, who is from the Hul'q'umi'nun People of Cowichan Nation and a spiritual leader of the T'Sou-ke Nation on Vancouver Island; greetings of welcome by the VNFC Executive Director Ronald Rice, a member of the Cowichan Tribes, Sage Lacerte (TBC), a Carrier womxn from the Lake Babine Nation, BCAAFC Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council, Shyla Elgie, BCAAFC President Dr. Sharon McIvor, NAFC Youth Council President Desarae Bilinski, NAFC President Christopher Sheppard, and NAFC Executive Director Jocelyn Formsma.

Whether you are a voting member or not, the guests for this year's forum are sure to uplift and educate with their engaging presentations and captivating personalities.

The 32nd Annual National Youth Forum workshop & presentation list:

[Jody Wilson-Raybould \[she/her\]](#) (We Wai Kai Nation) shares with the audience the story of why/how she got involved in politics and how youth can be engaged in leadership! Her experience as an Indigenous leader sitting around the Cabinet table, her proudest achievements, and what true reconciliation means. She shares her books ['From Where I stand: Rebuilding Indigenous Nations for a Stronger Canada.'](#) and ['Indian in the Cabinet: Speaking Truth to Power.'](#) However, JWR wants to answer YOUR questions!

[T'áncháy \(Tunchai\) Redvers \[they/them\]](#) (Dene/Métis) Indigenous youth experience the highest rates of negative instances such as suicide yet are the faster growing demographic in Canada. Tunchai makes the case that changing this reality and creating environments for Indigenous youth to live and succeed. Implies centring Indigenous youth voices, honouring Indigenous strengths, and challenging toxic norms and beliefs.

[Larissa Crawford \[she/her\]](#) (Métis/Jamaican) is a published Indigenous and anti-racism researcher and an award-winning ribbon skit artist. She is the founder of Future Ancestors Services, an enterprise providing speaking, training, research, and community services that centre ancestral accountability, climate justice, and equity. Her aim during her talk is to uplift youth, who, despite facing disproportionate barriers, remain committed to Earth and community in their work and lives.

Culture Night includes Dinner and:

[Unity Drummers](#) is an urban Indigenous group that will be opening Friday's culture night!

[PIQSIQ – Throat Singing Sisters](#) Tiffany Ayalik and Inuksuk Mackay performing as the duo PIQSIQ take to the stage at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre to perform their blend of traditional Inuit throat singing infused with modern technology

[Weaver Rose Wilson](#) (Yuuṭu?iṭ?atḥ First Nation) will be teaching a 1-hour weaving workshop during culture night where participants learn. The art and skill of cedar weaving and creating a cedar craft to take home.

[ANSWER Drum Group](#) is an acronym for All Nations Strong Women for Education and Reconciliation. ANSWER is an urban Victoria women's drum group representing Nuuchahnulth, Mohawk, Mi'kmaq, Anishnawbe, Metis, and Cree women. This circle of women who deal with colonialism's lived trauma and impacts using culture, song, and drumming to heal.



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Day 2 includes:

[Harry Snowboy \[he/him\]](#) (James Bay Cree) Harry is an author, public speaker, cultural advisor, and a traditional healer to numerous Native communities. Harry will be leading an Elder and youth dialogue on the importance of cultural connection to help them and their communities to promote a dialogue.

Victoria Uban Reconciliation Youth looks to have an engaging, interactive conversation about reconciliation. And hosting a workshop about identity and the imposter syndrome many young people may feel, particularly those who grew up urban and away from their Nation.

Join the NAFC Youth Council:

The following positions are available and up for election this year:

- **AYC President** **2-year term;**
- **AYC Vice-President** **2-year term;**
- **AYC Treasurer** **2-year term;**
- **AYC Secretary** **2-year term**
- **NAFC Youth Executive** **2-year term**

All delegates who are interested in running for an AYC position and the  [benefits of joining](#) must and complete the below fillable forms:

- A [Letter of Intent](#) stating which position(s) they are running for
- A [Letter of Support](#) from their local Friendship Centre or Provincial/Territorial Association
- [Youth Forum Letter of Credentials](#)

The AYC would like all Friendship Centres to nominate **ONE** youth from their community to be acknowledged for their outstanding work in the Friendship Centre Movement. This person should exhibit strong leadership skills, volunteerism and be a positive role model for Friendship Centre youth. All Friendship Centres interested in submitting a nomination form for a youth recipient must complete:

-  [Nelson Mayer Youth Recognition Award – General Information](#)
- [The Nelson Mayer Youth Recognition Nomination Form](#)

The deadline for submission of these forms is midnight Eastern Standard Time on November 19, 2021. Email documents to registration@nafc.ca, Cc: bbarberstock@nafc.ca and shafez@nafc.ca.

The AYC is also requesting the Friendship Centre Movement to donate to the Youth Forum generously. Items such as promotional articles to be distributed as prizes and giveaways, a monetary contribution or items for the Annual Silent Auction would be greatly appreciated to help make the annual event a success.

Online registration will be available until November 26, 2021: [Register Here](#)

More information and necessary documents are available online here; [Youth Forum 2021 – Info Package](#).



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If you have any questions about the event; travel, workshops, voting requirements – please get in touch with the Youth Coordinator Brandon Barberstock by Email: bbarberstock@nafc.ca

In Friendship // Amitiés,

Brandon Barberstock *(he/him)*

Youth Coordinator

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Celebrating **50 years**
of Friendship

Célébrons nos **50 ans**
d'amitié

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