



BCAAFC

Provincial Budget Announcement

February 20, 2018

The BCAAFC will receive provincial government funding support for Friendship Centres as announced in today's budget. \$6 million over three fiscal years will be dedicated to Aboriginal Friendship Centres through the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Although this amount falls short of the requested \$3.1m, it is nonetheless a step in the right direction.

There are 25 Friendship Centres in BC with over 1000 employees that provide status blind services to Indigenous people. Friendship Centres have been supporting the Indigenous population migrating to urban communities for over fifty years in the areas of education, child and family services, housing, employment and training, mental health and wellness, cultural supports and reclamation.

BCAAFC President, Annette Morgan commented, "A commitment to \$2M per year over 3 years *is good news for Friendship Centres in BC. We see this government moving in the right direction and towards reconciliation by supporting urban Indigenous people in key areas, including our Friendship Centres, housing, skills and training, and child care. The Indigenous off reserve population continues to grow, and with this funding support Aboriginal Friendship Centres can better support Indigenous people.*"

The Provincial Three Year Fiscal Plan states:

A total of \$6 Million over the fiscal plan period is provided to the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to increase funding to the Aboriginal Friendship Centres. This funding will allow these organizations to improve upon the important education, job training, health and cultural services delivered to urban Indigenous residents in communities across the province. This government's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous people gives us hope for our future.

Other Indigenous investments in the 18/19 budget includes \$2M for Friendship Centres, \$30M in housing, \$10M in Indigenous Skills Training Program, and \$10M in federal/provincial child care funding.

In Friendship,

Leslie Varley
Executive Director