



RISEBRIDGE

Nanaimo/ACAI | Sept. 22, 2021

Presenter: Jovan Johnson, ED

We are guests on the unceded and ancestral territories of the Snuneymuxw, Stz'uminus, Snaw'now'as, and Kwakwaka'wakw first nations, allowing us to connect with communities in BC's Interior, Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver Island. We are grateful for their care and wisdom of this land. We are committed to working towards reconciliation and the ongoing process of decolonization as we continue our work in the community.

Who Are We?

A new not-for-profit society run by action-oriented peers and professionals mandated to provide a safe and culturally-anchored low-barrier space to advance the mental health, resilience, and wellbeing of our community while amplifying social justice movements and elevating harm reduction initiatives.

We strive to minimize the gaps in our social service offerings by providing peer mentorship, supportive programming, system navigation, and culturally-informed responsive services to uphold the right and dignity of all community members with a intersectional, decolonial, racial justice and system equity lens.





First Month Recap

- Opened our doors on Aug 1st at #4-34 Nicol Street, Nanaimo.
- Hosted over 60+ community meetings with other professionals and organizations in the community.
- Attend 4 nationwide conferences.
- Participated in several community events (Fresh Start back to school, Anti-Racism rally, art in the park, & International Overdose Awareness Day).
- Served 100+ community members through our programming and services despite not officially starting programming.
- Signed up 40+ passionate volunteers so far during a climate of labour shortage.

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Current Offerings

An accessible open door to a safe space.



- Culture Education
- Community Navigation and Advocacy
- Youth Nights
- Pre/Post Natal Support
- Peer Counseling
- Allyship Education
- Women/Men's Empowerment
- 16 Step Recovery Options
- Accessible Condoms & Sanitary Supplies
- Black Community Connect
- Health Promotion
- Sex Education
- LGBTQ2IA+
- Grief Support
- Naloxone Training
- Afro-Textured Hair Care
- Food Accessibility Program
- Binders to Bra Program
- Culture Education
- Harm Reduction & Health Promotion
- Elder Education
- Community Events

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BIPoC Food Accessibility Program

In collaboration with La Teranga - ISSAMBA Centre

Registration open for our biweekly **free** food basket program for BIPOC community members in need.

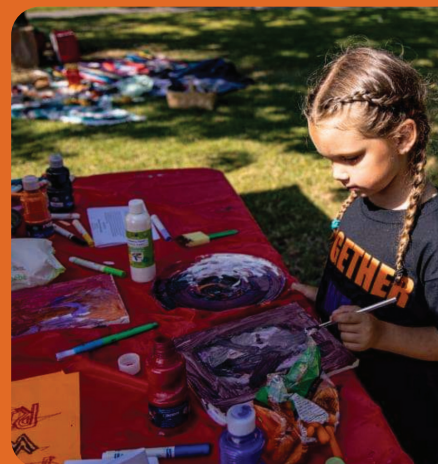
bit.ly/rb-food-program



Goals & Vision

Short-Term Program Planning Under Our Collaborative Community Framework

- Operate as a low barrier safe space and resource office for community
- Promote anti-racism and EDI offerings
- Facilitate 15+ programs per week to support the wellbeing of BIPoC and fill in the gaps found between our other local organizations
- Collaborate with as many organizations and businesses as possible to make an immediate impact for the Mid-Island area.



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Low Barrier Safe Space, Resource Centre, Community Navigation & Advocate Services



RISEBRIDGE

An inclusive & supportive community for ALL

- City adopted EDI Programs & Positions
- Anti-Racism Campaigns



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City of Nanaimo Supporting **RISEBRIDGE**

WE NEED HELP

01

Underfunded Grant

Funding support for short-term community navigator services and programs not already available in community.

02

EDI Consultations

Long term funding support for EDI consultations, advocacy support, and Anti-Racism research, and campaigns.

03

The Safe Space

A larger long term lease building and urban community garden space

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Please consider the urgent **NEED**
for the valuable support and
offerings we are providing.





RISEBRIDGE operates from an equity-oriented community collaborative framework that encompasses the intersectional lens of cultural safety, trauma-informed practice and harm reduction initiatives. We provide the culturally affirming mental health support to build resiliency and further capacity for all in need.

Always open to feedback, questions, and suggestions!

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