

Press Release

June 19, 2020

Carrier Sekani Family Services is very pleased to announce that we have been approved for funding to provide a Foundry Youth Center for Burns Lake. The Foundry center is one of eight new centers across the province and will offer invaluable services and supports to thousands of young people across British Columbia.

Dr Travis Holyk, CSFS Executive Director of Research, Primary Care and Strategic Services says that "Foundry is a province-wide network of integrated health and social service centers for young people aged 12-24 years. Foundry centers provide safe and non-judgmental services for young people to access mental health, substance use services, primary care, social services and peer and family supports all in one place.

This will be the first service of its kind for the village of Burns Lake and the third location in northern BC.

Judy Darcy, BC Minister of Mental Health and Addictions is excited that young people in these eight new communities will have "quick access to the mental health and substance use services they need and deserve."

CSFS advocated for a Foundry center for the Burns Lake Community, as youth and community leadership noted the lack of available services during community consultation. Dr Holyk explained that a large component of Foundry model, starting at the proposal stage, is youth and community input.

CSFS is currently working with Foundry Central Office on planning and operationalization of the Burns Lake Foundry. A location for the center and estimated opening date has yet to be determined.

More information on the Foundry model can be found at <https://foundrybc.ca/expansion2020/>