



CARRIER SEKANI  
FAMILY SERVICES

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Creating wellness together

## New Foundry centre announced to support young people in the Vanderhoof area

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For immediate release

Families and young people will have greater access to mental health, primary care, and addiction services with the expansion of Foundry centres to Vanderhoof, as announced by the Province of British Columbia on March 4, 2024.

Foundry centres across BC serve as sites for health, mental wellness and substance use services for youth. Foundry Vanderhoof will provide all youth aged 12-24, along with their families, free and confidential age-friendly, culturally informed wellness and substance use service for their unique needs.

In 2019 northerners were informed of a new Foundry planned in Burns Lake, with Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) as the site developer and operational organization. CSFS, through the acceptance of our application to the province, is pleased to announce that we will be leading the development of a Foundry centre to serve families and youth in Vanderhoof. Foundry Vanderhoof will serve the immediate community, with plans to provide satellite services to Nadleh Whut'en, Stelat'en, and Saik'uz First Nations, as well as Fraser Lake in order to improve youth services along Highway 16.

“We know that many youths struggle with numerous issues and influences in today’s society,” states Saik’uz First Nation Chief and CSFS Board President Chief Priscilla Mueller. “And if we are to stay true to our promises to make youth our future leaders, then we must create the space to promote their wellbeing and positive growth. I look forward to my neighbour communities to support CSFS and Foundry Central in creating this safe, inclusive and much-needed space for all families and youths.”

Next steps will include the formation of planning and engagement committees as well as the initiation of capital processes, including site selection. The capital campaign (financial) for this project is in development and will involve partnerships with Foundry Central and others, as well as fundraising campaigns – more information to come soon

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