



Camponi Housing Corporation

Community and Tenant Engagement Strategies

Camponi Housing Corporation

***Vision:* Healthy homes supporting strong communities.**

Mandate:

Committed to providing, maintaining and sustaining affordable, safe and respectable housing for families; with particular emphasis and priority upon individuals and families of aboriginal ancestry

Mission:

- Fostering growth, strength and pride in the Métis community
- Providing safe, affordable and adequate housing for Métis people in Saskatoon
- Maintaining a stable and sustainable organization



Needs of Aboriginal Peoples

When discussing the needs of Aboriginal People in Canada it is imperative to acknowledge the effects of colonization on both individuals and communities.

The social suffering, intergenerational harms of historical trauma and cultural dislocation inflicted on aboriginal people through colonization practices in Canada have created a situation which requires a holistic approach to healing and reconciliation.



Colonization in Canada

Aboriginal peoples across Canada share a legacy of colonization which has resulted in social, economic and political circumstances that bring significant challenges to their health and well-being.

Aboriginal people include; First Nation, Métis and Inuit people of Canada.

Process of Colonization of Indigenous Peoples

Ninety percent of the Indigenous population was decimated through;

- Introduction of diseases such as Smallpox and Influenza.
- War
- Mass killing of Buffalo which Indigenous people relied on.
- Poverty and starvation due to displacement of Indigenous people off 98% of their land and resources

Process of Colonization

Those that survived faced:

- Relocation and restriction to small isolated land bases “on reserve land”
- Laws banning spiritual and cultural practices (Indian Act 1867)
- Forcible removal of children from their families and placement in residential schools (last closure 1998)
 - Physical, sexual and psychological abuse
 - Forbid and suppressed expression of Indigenous language, culture and identity
 - Living conditions so poor that the level of disease and mortality rate for students was measurably higher than average (including death rates of up to 69%).
- 60's and 70's Scoop of approximately 20,0000 aboriginal children by child welfare authorities

Impact of Colonization

Traditional family unit was destroyed:

- For over a century, many Aboriginal children aged 4–18 had virtually no experience of family and community life.
- Families were deprived of ordinary bonds of love, care, and pride and the right to parent their own children.
- Traditional knowledge about parenting skills and child development were destroyed.
 - 48% of all foster children are Aboriginal while only 7% of all children in Canada are Aboriginal
 - 85% or more of foster children are Aboriginal in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Impact of Colonization

Loss of Cultural identity and pride:

- Taught to be ashamed of their heritage, language, customs, and spiritual traditions.
- Loss of language and the ability to communicate with Elders
- Loss of knowledge, traditions, culture and history passed orally from one generation to the next
 - In Saskatchewan only 20 percent off reserve First Nations people and 9% of Métis can conduct a conversation in their aboriginal language.
 - 43% of First Nations people living on a reserve reported the ability to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language.

Impact of Colonization

Loss of Livelihood and skills

- Theft of homelands and ancestral territories diminished hunting, fishing, and agricultural skills.
- Economic self-sufficiency and an ancient, deeply spiritual connection to the land was disrupted and deliberately undermined.
- Dependency of government systems created a loss of self-determination and hope.
 - In Canada the unemployment rate is 37.5 % among Aboriginal people compared to 24.2 % for non-Aboriginal people and in Saskatchewan's the unemployment rate is close to five times higher for Aboriginal residents. (18.5 % vs 3.8 %)
 - The median income for Aboriginal peoples was 27.5 percent lower than for the rest of Canadians in 2010
 - 40% of Aboriginal and 50% of Status First Nation Canadian children live in poverty. (64% in Saskatchewan and 62% Manitoba vs 17% general population)

Impact of Colonization

Intergenerational Trauma of Aboriginal people has manifested in higher rates of:

- **Suicide:** 5-6 X higher than general population
- **Mental illness;** Depression 2 X higher than general population; 50% vs 30% of the general population experience moderate to high levels of psychological distress.
- **Addictions:** 2-6 X greater risk of alcohol related problem; use substances at a younger age; and are 2-3 X more likely to die due to substance abuse
- **Violence:** 3 X more likely to be a victim of violent crime
- **Sexual Abuse:** 57% of Aboriginal women have been sexually abused; 2 X more likely to be victims of sexual abuse as children

A Holistic Approach to Wellness

- Aboriginal people have a holistic view of mental wellness and emphasize relations and connections to others.
- Culture and spirituality are the frameworks of all treatment.
- Family and community have a key role in helping individuals regain their sense of balance.
- Effective treatment involves identifying the strengths of families and communities and developing programs that build on these strengths.




Holistic Housing Strategy

Camponi Housing Corporations Holistic Housing Strategy is intended to usher in practical, positive, impactful, and sustainable change based upon a model of empowerment, community involvement and strategic partnering.

Holistic Housing Strategy

- Sale of units and revitalization of remaining inventory and expansion of existing portfolio (multi-dwellings)
- Maintaining existing/remaining portfolio
- Increasing our capacity to provide affordable housing by creating economic opportunities
- Ensuring financial sustainability by introducing cost saving practices (procurement strategies bundling- partnerships- leveraging financial opportunities)
- Establishing partnerships and communication strategy
- **Enhancing and improving tenant relations and developing initiatives and partnerships that will create awareness and skills necessary for successful tenancies**



Holistic Housing Strategies


Building Community through Cultural Healing

Community Engagement Initiatives

- Culture Camps
- Cultural Workshops
- Cooperatives
- Elder Involvement
- Social Media
- Community Leadership Program

Individual/ Family Support Initiatives

- Skill Building Workshops
- Advocacy, Information and Referral Services
- Person-Centered Case Planning/Wrap Around Service Program
- Family Immersion Program



Community Engagement Initiatives

Tenant Engagement Coordinator

Children Culture Camps

Camponi held two Children's Culture Camps Summer 2016

Goals:

- Facilitate opportunities for Elders to share traditional knowledge with our tenants and their children in order to instill a sense of pride and knowledge in Aboriginal Culture and Tradition while providing opportunities for healing.
- Promote community healing in a manner that is respectful of Aboriginal cultures.
- Plant the seeds to grow the next generation of Traditional healers and teachers.



Cultural Workshops

- Kinship – facilitated by Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre
- Quilling – facilitated by Tenant Engagement Coordinator
- Ribbon Skirt Sewing- facilitated by Tenant Engagement Coordinator

Goals:

- Develop skills
- Build community relationships among our tenants
- Foster cultural pride and a healthy cultural identity
- Promote healing by reconnecting with Aboriginal culture and practices

Community Cooperatives

- The Tenant Engagement Coordinator is applying for funding and developing several co-ops for items identified as common needs within the community.
- The co-ops will be open to all Camponi tenants and will be operated and managed by the tenants under the guidance of the Tenant Engagement Coordinator

Goals:

- Empower community members to work towards collective goals in resourceful independent ways.
- Meet common goals and needs that they may not otherwise be able to afford.
- Build stronger more stable communities through shared interest and collective goals.

Elder Involvement

- Elders are very important members of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit communities.
- The term Elder refers to someone who has attained a high degree of understanding of First Nation, Métis, or Inuit history, traditional teachings, ceremonies, and/or healing practices and have earned the right to pass this knowledge on to others and to give advice and guidance on personal issues, as well as on issues affecting their communities and nations.
- “Elder” does not necessarily indicate age.

Elder Involvement

- Elders are the holders of Aboriginal wisdom, knowledge, and history.
- Elders share traditional culture, values, and lessons using orality and role modeling traditional practices
- Elders traditionally hold crucial roles in supporting both formal and informal education in First Nations communities.
- Elders enhance the self-esteem and pride of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit people.

Elder Involvement

Elders at Camponi Housing:

- Sit on the Board of Directors and help determine strategic direction of the company
- Participate actively in the tenant selection process
- Perform Traditional prayers and blessings at events
- Provide guidance and support to staff and tenants

Social Media

Camponi has opened a Facebook page managed by the Tenant Engagement Coordinator.

Goals:


- Encourages communication and feedback between Tenants and Camponi Housing.
- Build a sense of community among tenants.
- Provide information on Camponi events and announcements.
- Provide information on community resources and events.

Community Leadership Program

The Tenant Engagement Coordinator is working towards identifying tenants who have an interest in becoming **Community Leaders** and mentors to fellow tenants in their neighborhoods.

Community Leaders will be trained to:

- Lead tenant meetings
- Identify community issues affecting Camponi tenants
- Expand community understanding of these issues
- Take action, together with partners, to address the issues within their communities.
- Represent their community group at Community Association meetings in order to give voice to the concerns and interests of Camponi tenants.



Individual/ Family Support Initiatives

Wrap Around Service Coordinator

Workshops

Camponi Housing offers a variety of free Skill Building Workshops

Skill Building Workshops

- Budgeting
- Cooking on a Budget / Meal planning
- Gardening skills
- Home Alone/Babysitting Course for youth

Goals :

- Offer barrier free opportunities to build the skills necessary to be a successful tenant
- Build Community

Wrap Around Services (WAS)

Support services for tenants identified as needing help in maintaining their housing or improving their quality of life.

- Services are person-centered so there is no one size fits all approach to supporting tenants to make changes in their lives.
- The type and intensity of support is determined by the needs of the tenant.
- Services range from informational to intensive case management services.

Wrap Around Services

Tenants can come into or call the Wrap Around Service office to access:

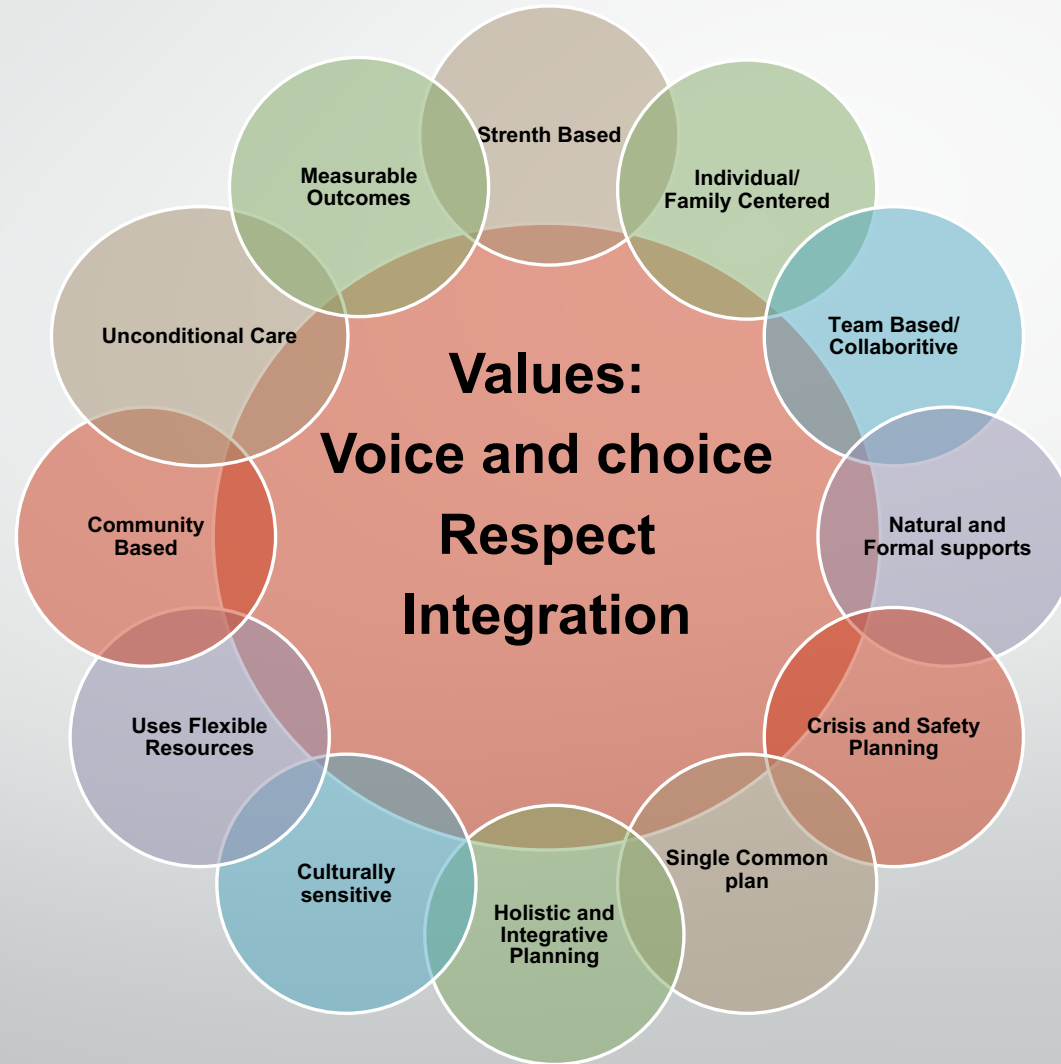
- **Information and referrals** to in-house and outside community services and programs.
- **Assistance** with understanding or navigating complex systems such as financial assistance programs.
- **Budgeting Assistance**
- **Advocacy** for tenants who are involved with other systems such as Child and Family Services

Wrap Around Service Program

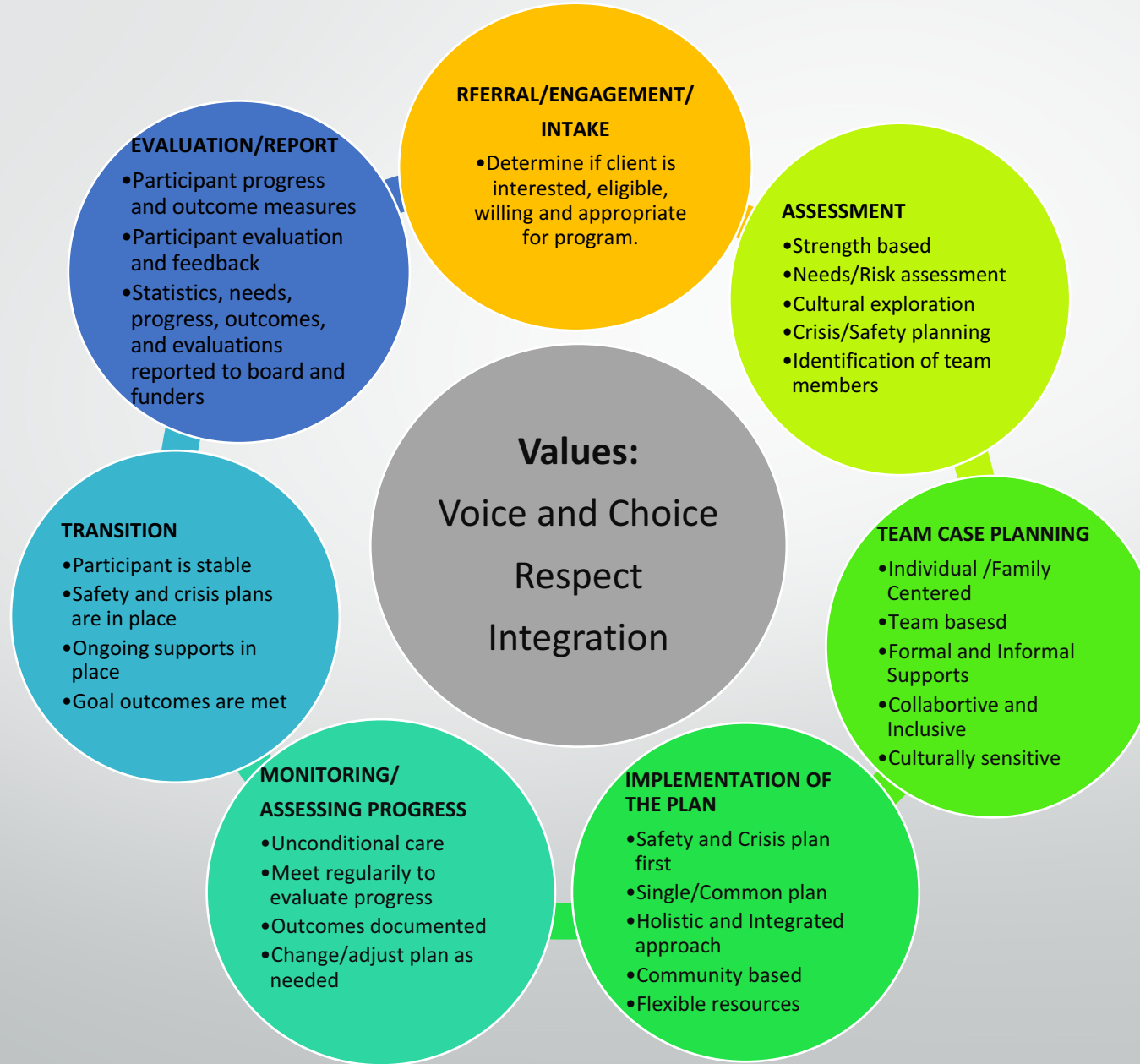
Most intensive support service offered through WAS

- This program is intended for tenants who need more **intensive team based support** in order to succeed in making changes in their lives.
- These tenants are typically experiencing multiple complex challenges that are impacting their ability to maintain their housing and/or their quality of life.
- Person-centered team based planning process driven by the unique needs of the participant and their family.

Wrap Around Values and Principles

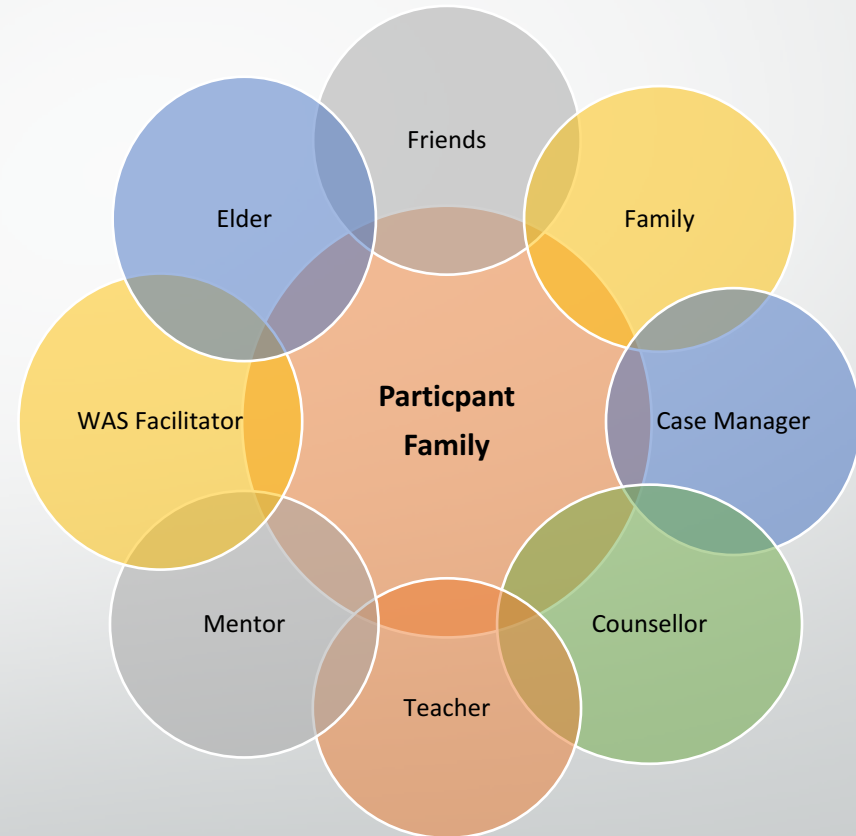


Wrap Around Process of Care



Program Goals

The goal of the service is to aid individuals and families in creating a team of people who can support them in meeting their needs, empowering them to accomplish their personal goals and improve their quality of life while improving their tenancy.





Family Immersion Program

Families whose children are at risk of apprehension would attend a live-in immersion program where they would be given the opportunity to learn parenting, relationship and life skills while healing through traditional teachings, customs and ceremony.

Family Immersion Program

Goals:

- Keep families together in a healthy and sustainable way
- Gain parenting and family relationship skills through Traditional teachings
- Heal intergenerational and personal trauma
- Build relationships and self-esteem
- Instill pride Traditional customs, culture and identity

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