



Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Calgary  
A good place to be



# Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary

A good place to be

Kim Kakakaway

Home Fire Housing Support Worker

Heidi Walter

Manager of Housing First Programs



Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Calgary  
A good place to be

# Youth Housing and Shelter

## 828-HOPE Referral & Assessment

### Prevention & Outreach

[Script](#)

[Fusion](#)

[Elements](#)

### Youth Shelters

[Avenue 15](#)

- Loft
- Link
- Launch

[Safe House](#)

### Housing with Support

[The Infinity Project](#)

[Haven's Way](#)

[YTA](#)

[Home Fire](#)

[Aura Host Homes](#)



Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Calgary  
A good place to be

# How Did We Get Here

## Since inception in 2009

- Infinity has supported 112 youth
- 74 youth have been discharged

## 2015-2016

- Infinity's housing rate for 2015/16 was 92%
- 90% of youth who graduated, successfully completed the program and had a positive exit destination
- Average length of stay is 970 days or 2.65 years





Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Calgary  
A good place to be

# How Did We Get Here

- Infinity Project data showed Aboriginal youth average length of stay was 200 more days longer than non-Aboriginal youth (HMIS data)

- 90% of these Aboriginal youth reported mental health and/or addictions (HMIS data)

- Aboriginal people make up less than 3% of Calgary's population, but make up 21% of its homeless population

Indigenous youth are over-represented in the population of young people who access emergency shelters. Of these youth, about 29% were Indigenous youth, compared to about 2.8% of Calgary's general population according the Statistics Canada's National Household Survey (2011).

Calgary Homeless Foundation Winter 2016 PIT

<http://calgaryhomeless.com/blog/calgary-homeless-foundation-releases-october-2016-point-tir>



# What We Learnt



Youth

Healing

Resiliency  
and  
reconciliation

Housing  
Stability

Successful  
Transition to  
Adulthood



Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Calgary  
A good place to be

# #HomeFire

...is a “*housing first*” program for Aboriginal youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Home Fire supports Aboriginal youth experiencing homelessness a home, a home where they can **begin to heal, build community and reconnect with culture and family**. We help create a **permanent home in the community of their choice**, provide them **financial supports** to quickly access housing and wraps **transitional supports** around them to help maintain their housing. **Our plan is to walk hand in hand and incorporate the broader, cultural community, along our path to healing together for the youth who become involved with the Home Fire program.**

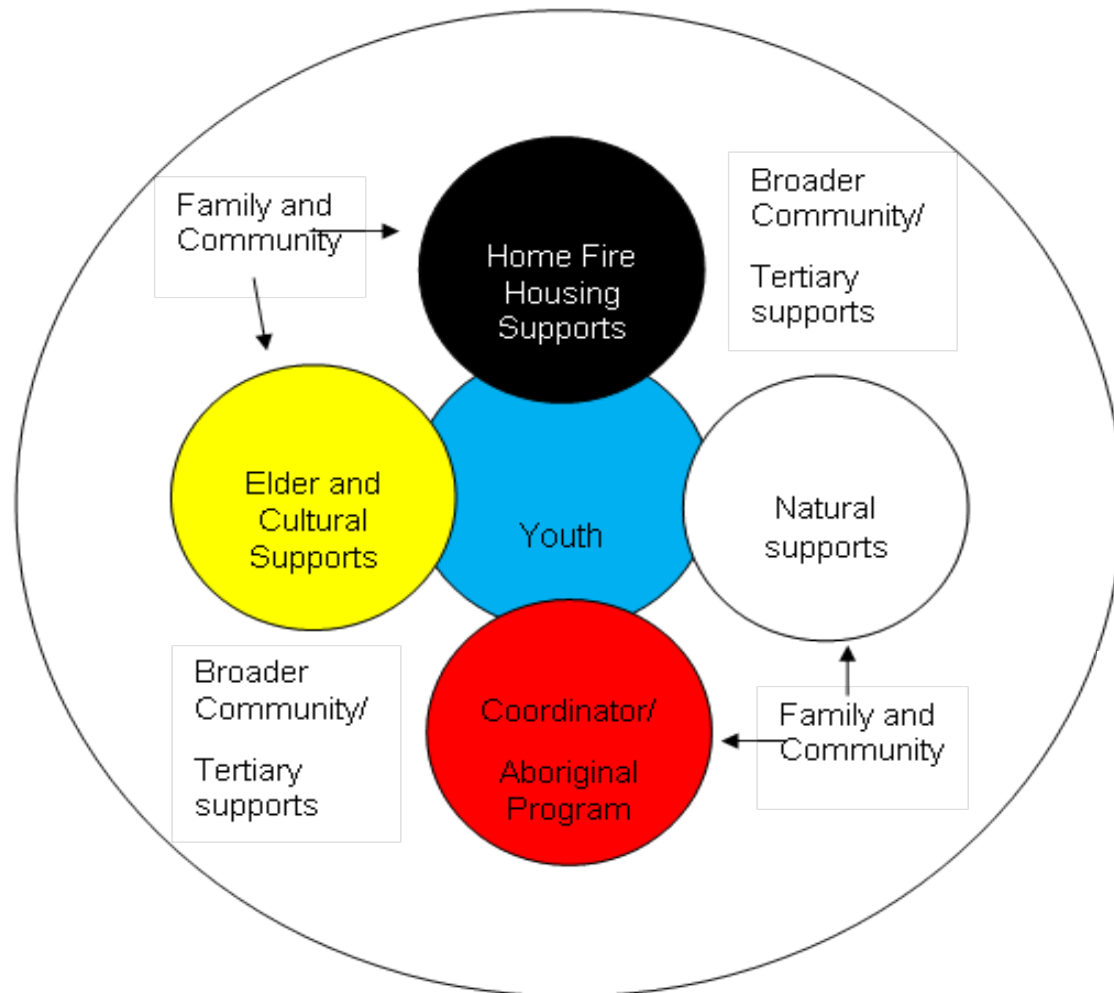




Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Calgary  
A good place to be

# Home Fire Supports System

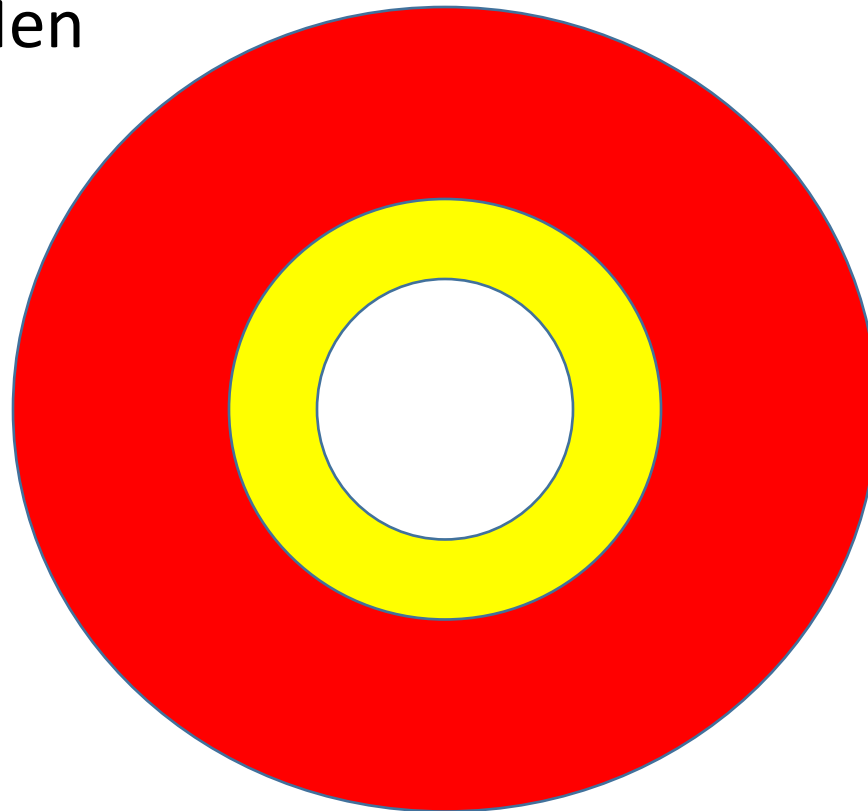
*"It doesn't matter where you are on this earth. When you connect with another Aboriginal person, it's like you've found family." Mike Lickers*



# Traditional community structure

- Women/Men

- Elders/  
Teachers



- Healers

- Children





Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Calgary  
A good place to be

# Relationship-Based Case Management

- Healthy supportive relationship
  - “Doing with” in the early stages of skill acquisition and confidence building
  - Space for making mistakes
  - Intentional Practice
- Coaching and goal setting
  - Transition planning begins on the day of intake
  - Dual Transitions: from homelessness to housing & adolescence to adulthood
  - Healing, Resiliency and Reconciliation
  - Outcome Star
- Informal mentorship with an Aboriginal support person
- System navigation and facilitated referral
- Flexible financial supports
- 24/7 emergency on-call support
  - Rotates through front line housing staff
- **Zero discharge to homelessness**





Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Calgary  
A good place to be

# Home Fire Guiding Beliefs

1. Housing is a human right.
2. Choice” and “voice” in one’s own life is essential.
3. All youth need time and practice to learn to be good neighbors and to gain the skills and confidence necessary to live as self-sufficient adults.
4. Supportive, accepting relationships that youth can count on are essential as youth move out of homelessness and street life.
5. Youth need financial and instrumental supports to get started.
6. All people benefit from connection with community supports and resources that offer a safety net in times of trouble
7. Culture is healing



Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Calgary  
A good place to be

# What We Have Learnt

- Home Fire Council
- Cultural components in everyday life
- Creating Space
- Adjusting to Urban Centers





Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Calgary  
A good place to be

# What We Are Thinking About

- Indigenizing Outcome Measurements
- Symbolism
- More Elder Involvement
- Supporting Natural Supports





Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Calgary  
A good place to be

# Home Fire Outcomes

Since inception **April 2015**

- 17 youth served
- Average SPDAT score in Home Fire is 46
- Length of stay is 971 days or 2.65 years
- Currently, Calgary's vacancy rate is 7%





Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Calgary  
A good place to be

# Home Fire youth

*Thanks sister,  
I knew you would understand, you are the only one I can talk to*

- Home Fire youth (Age 20)



Calgary Homeless  
FOUNDATION

