

Gukwas sa Wagalus The Rainbow House

Building Safer Spaces: Together



Gukwas sa Wagalus
Rainbow House



***Building
Safer
Spaces:
Together***

What's in a name?

Our project carries a name in two languages to reflect the strong desire between the K'omoks First Nation and Dawn to Dawn to work together to fill the need to create a safe, secure and culturally appropriate house for indigenous and non-indigenous queer youth in the Comox Valley.

In conjunction with our partners at Comox Valley Pride Society, we have chosen to use the 'Rainbow' motif associated with the queer community as the symbol for our project. Our logo incorporates the D2D logo, the Rainbow and specially designed form line art from Karver Everson, a Puntledge and Kwakwaka'wakw artist from the K'omoks First Nation.

For Dawn to Dawn, the project name had to recognize and honour the traditional and unceded territories of the Puntledge, E'iksen and K'omoks peoples where this house will sit. The name of the house will also reflect the young people who will live there.

Gukwas sa Wagalus directly translates to House of the Rainbow. Gukwas sa Wagalus is an indigenous phrase that comes from the Wakashan language Kwak'wala and is spoken in 15 First Nations in B.C. Kwakwaka'wakw means "those who speak Kwak'wala." The language is spoken on northern Vancouver Island, nearby islands and along the adjacent area of the mainland.

Our project - Gukwas sa Wagalus / Rainbow House encompasses diversity, inclusion and respect for all.

Welcome to Gukwas sa Wagalus / Rainbow House!

Gukwas sa Wagalus Rainbow House

Dawn to Dawn is partnering with Pride Society Comox Valley, supported by Hereditary leadership and the K'omoks First Nation, on a project to house indigenous and non-indigenous 2SLGBTQQIA+ young people in the Comox Valley.

Need

2SLGBTQQIA+ youth often experience higher levels of homelessness than do their peers.

'Among homeless youth in BC, 1 in 3 females and 1 in 10 males self identify as queer.'

- BC Poverty Reduction Coalition (2014)

Not all family members are accepting and supportive and this can lead to rejection, discrimination and abuse. Few of these young people seek refuge in the 'shelter system' due to discrimination and safety concerns.

'1 in 4 queer and trans youth in BC are forced out of their homes due to extreme family conflict.'

- BC Poverty Reduction Coalition (2014)

Words from the project Champion...

"These young people in our community often face greater levels of homelessness than their peers, and they can be shunned by family, and are wary of shelters for their personal safety. These young folks, both indigenous and non-indigenous, are falling through the cracks."

-Grant Shilling, Community Front-line Outreach

PROJECT OVERVIEW



Vision

Gukwas sa Wagalus / Rainbow House will provide safe, supportive, culturally sensitive housing for queer youth 16-28.

“To be visibly trans in any regard, while being unhoused definitely makes you prone to more housing discrimination.”

- Comox Valley Youth

Transitional housing but NOT defined by set time limits or length of stay. With support and guidance from a ‘live-in’ peer who would receive accommodation and remuneration.

Culturally sensitive support from partner organizations will lead to formal agreements with partners including protocols, expectations and operating procedures.

There is a lack of services and cultural sensitivity for people who identify as 2SLGBTQQIA+ and Indigenous. Colonialism in the healthcare system can often result in stereotyping, discriminatory and abusive interactions, or denial of service, and unwelcoming environments for Indigenous peoples.

- Community Substance Use Strategy: Phase One Report (2121)

Property

Gukwas sa Wagalus / Rainbow House will acquire and renovate an existing home in a connected and accessible residential area of the Valley.

The project will provide 5+ individual bedrooms with communal spaces and full kitchen, living room and at least 2 bathrooms. There should be outdoor space for gardens, socializing and cultural sharing.

“Trans individuals are more likely to become homeless. When we accompany that with shelters without spaces for trans people, it becomes a problem.”

- Anonymous

Goal

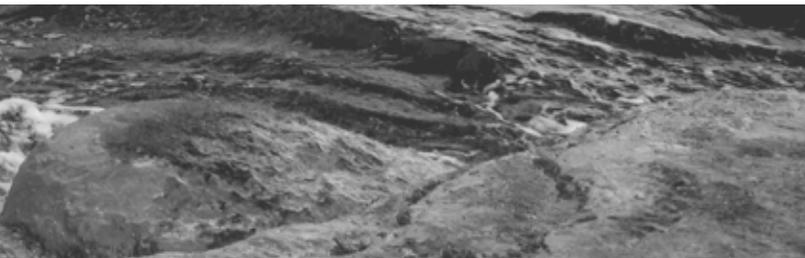
Gukwas sa Wagalus / Rainbow House will require capital financing in the order of \$1.5 million for the acquisition of a suitable building and the needed renovations that will be required to create a safe, secure and culturally sensitive home.

Annual operating costs will need approximately \$125k every year.

Current funds available within Dawn to Dawn operating resources have provided some \$250k for our project.

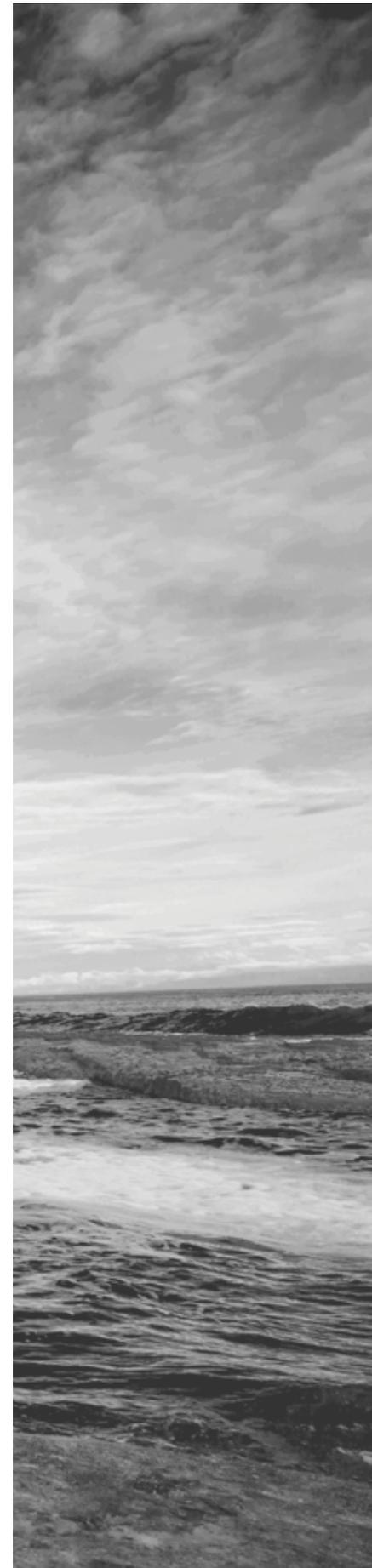
Homelessness is a ‘social justice’ issue. A safe and secure place to live should be available for everyone.

Thank you.
Halakas’la



Tentative Operational Budget

Line Item	Amount
<u>Utilities</u>	
Gas	<u>\$1800</u>
Electricity	<u>\$2100</u>
Cable	<u>\$2400</u>
<u>Municipal Taxes</u>	<u>\$5000</u>
<u>Building Maintenance (Exterior)</u>	<u>\$6000</u>
<u>Yard/Garden Maintenance</u>	<u>\$4000</u>
<u>Snow/Ice Removal</u>	<u>\$1500</u>
<u>Building Insurance</u>	<u>\$6000</u>
<u>Annual Fire Inspection Service</u>	<u>\$1000</u>
<u>Pest Control</u>	<u>\$600</u>
<u>Appliance Repair/Maintenance</u>	<u>\$600</u>
<u>Project Share of D2D Costs</u>	
(20% accounting/management/ED/bank/legal fees \$TBD)	
<u>Wages & Benefits For Live-in Peer</u>	<u>\$65000</u>
Compensation package includes rent, basic food costs and cellphone use.	
Rent \$1600 x 12 = \$19200	
Food \$400 x 12 = \$4800	
Cellphone \$75 x 12 = \$900	
<u>Mortgage Services Costs</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>Groceries / Cleaning / Personal Hygiene</u>	<u>\$35000</u>
<u>Contingency (10% of budget)</u>	<u>\$15000</u>
<u>Total Estimate</u>	<u>\$133800</u>



Dawn to Dawn Action on Homelessness Society

Dawn to Dawn (D2D) is a registered not-for-profit society working to provide safe, secure transitional housing for individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the Comox Valley.

Homelessness can happen in many ways. Job loss, mental health issues, addiction and family abuse can all be contributing factors that may result in the loss of adequate housing and culminate in an individual or family becoming homeless.

D2D formed in 2009 and is providing a permanent, residential housing program in the Comox Valley. D2D uses a 'scattered housing model' to provide safe, secure housing for the un-housed. The Society has purchased some units and rents other units or houses and selects people for the limited spaces available in the program.

To date, D2D has provided supportive housing for more than 200 people since 2009. Today, the Society is housing 50 people including 16 children in 34 units in the Valley.

Once housed, clients are supported in acquiring the services each individual needs to re-gain their independence, to self-actualize and return to be a functioning member of society. This might include jobs or skills training, as well as physical health treatment and mental health services.

The Society, with financial support from CV Community Foundation and CVRD, also delivers a broad range of recreation programming that serves to provide joy, connection, fitness and a relief from the vagaries of being on the street.

Dawn to Dawn considers housing to be a basic human right. It is the foundation of good health, personal security and stable communities. Our goal is a community where everyone has a place to call home and access to the services allowing them to become participating members of society.

dawntodawn.org



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dawntodawn.org/the-rainbow-house-wagalus-gukw-project