



First Direction Sponsor,

Thank you so much for supporting your youth to attend our training!

YouthCO is located in Vancouver and exists to reduce the impact that HIV and Hep C have on the youth of British Columbia. We are an organization of young leaders who work to effect meaningful change through peer support, education and community engagement. We strive to foster inclusive communities where youth empower youth to make informed decisions about their own well-being and work to end the stigma surrounding HIV and Hep C.

YouthCO's Yúusnewas Aboriginal Youth Program provides culturally-appropriate HIV and sexual health workshops throughout British Columbia. Yúusnewas means *taking care of each other* in the Squamish language and one of the ways that we can do this is by teaching each other about sexual health. The legacy of residential schools has made this very challenging for many of us to do and our aim is to help make this happen in a safe, fun and inviting way.

For this project, our aim is to build up community capacity for HIV education and awareness throughout the province. In order to do this, participating youth need an adult sponsor who can offer them further opportunity for volunteerism, community engagement and leadership development.

Steps of participation:

1. Youth attend training in Langley, BC
 - Colonization, decolonization and healthy bodies
 - HIV & Hep C basics
 - Video-making & editing basics
2. Mentors and community members provide opportunities for youth to share their knowledge.
Note: youth will not be able to do full workshops but they can do things like small presentations or booths at health fairs.
3. YouthCO facilitators visit community to do workshops.

Thank you for your interest, for any questions please call or email the Yúusnewas program manager at 604-688-1441 or jessicas@youthco.org

Huy Chexw aa,

Jessica St. Jean