



Help us create a new Healing Centre
in the heart of
the Downtown Eastside

A safe, inclusive space where people can heal and flourish



Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society

The Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society (VAHS) improves and promotes the spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health of people, with a specific focus on the urban Indigenous community of Greater Vancouver.

Established in 1991 to address the lack of healthcare for urban Indigenous people in our region, we take a holistic approach to proactively address the social determinants of health rather than simply treat the illnesses they cause.

By providing trauma- and violence-informed programs and services, we create a safe and community-driven environment characterized by a "culture of caring"—an environment that is free of judgment and aims to restore the well-being of our clients.

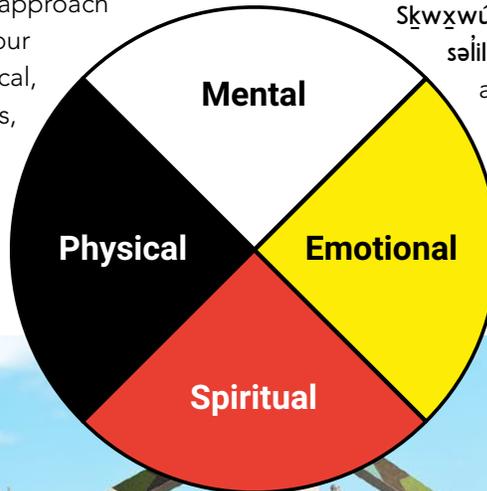
Indigenous culture is at the foundation of our approach to health and well-being. We incorporate all four aspects of the medicine wheel (spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health) into our services, programs, and community building. As such, we can provide guidance through culture and create opportunities for people to move into a space of thriving.

Why a New Healing Centre is Needed

VAHS is developing a new Healing Centre as part of an Indigenous-led community housing and health project located in the heart of the Downtown Eastside.

The Healing Centre will provide a crucial upgrade to VAHS's current operating spaces and will harmonize a variety of Indigenous and community care services within a convenient one-stop location. In addition, the Healing Centre will offer a holistic approach to wellness focusing on the spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional elements of well-being, and will take a two-eyed approach to healing that blends Indigenous and Western medicine.

Along with the housing that accompanies it, the Healing Centre will create opportunities to celebrate the rich history of the of the **xwməθkwəyəm** (Musqueam), **Skwxwú7mesh** (Squamish), and **səlilwətaʔ4** (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples and represent an important step towards reconciliation.



The Healing Centre, situated on the first three levels of the 52-92 East Hastings Street development, will harmonize a variety of Indigenous and community care services within a convenient one-stop location, including medical and dental care as well as mental and emotional support services.



What the New Healing Centre Will Offer to Our Community

Designed to welcome everyone with dignity, respect, honour, and love, the Healing Centre will offer Indigenous health programs including:



A **primary care clinic** that demonstrates respect and value for patients and is responsive to the unique needs of our Indigenous and non-Indigenous community;



A traditional, full-service **dental clinic** with by-donation options for those without dental coverage;



A **pharmacy** for all clients;

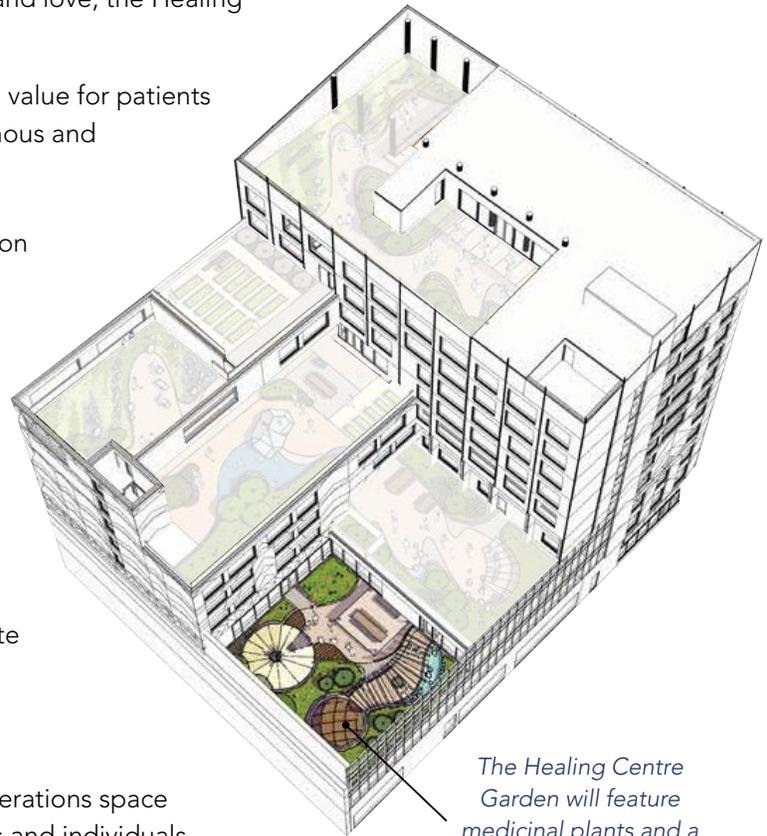


A **welcoming physical layout** that promotes holistic healing for all, including outdoor elements such as medicinal plants, a sweat lodge, and a teepee for healing circles; and

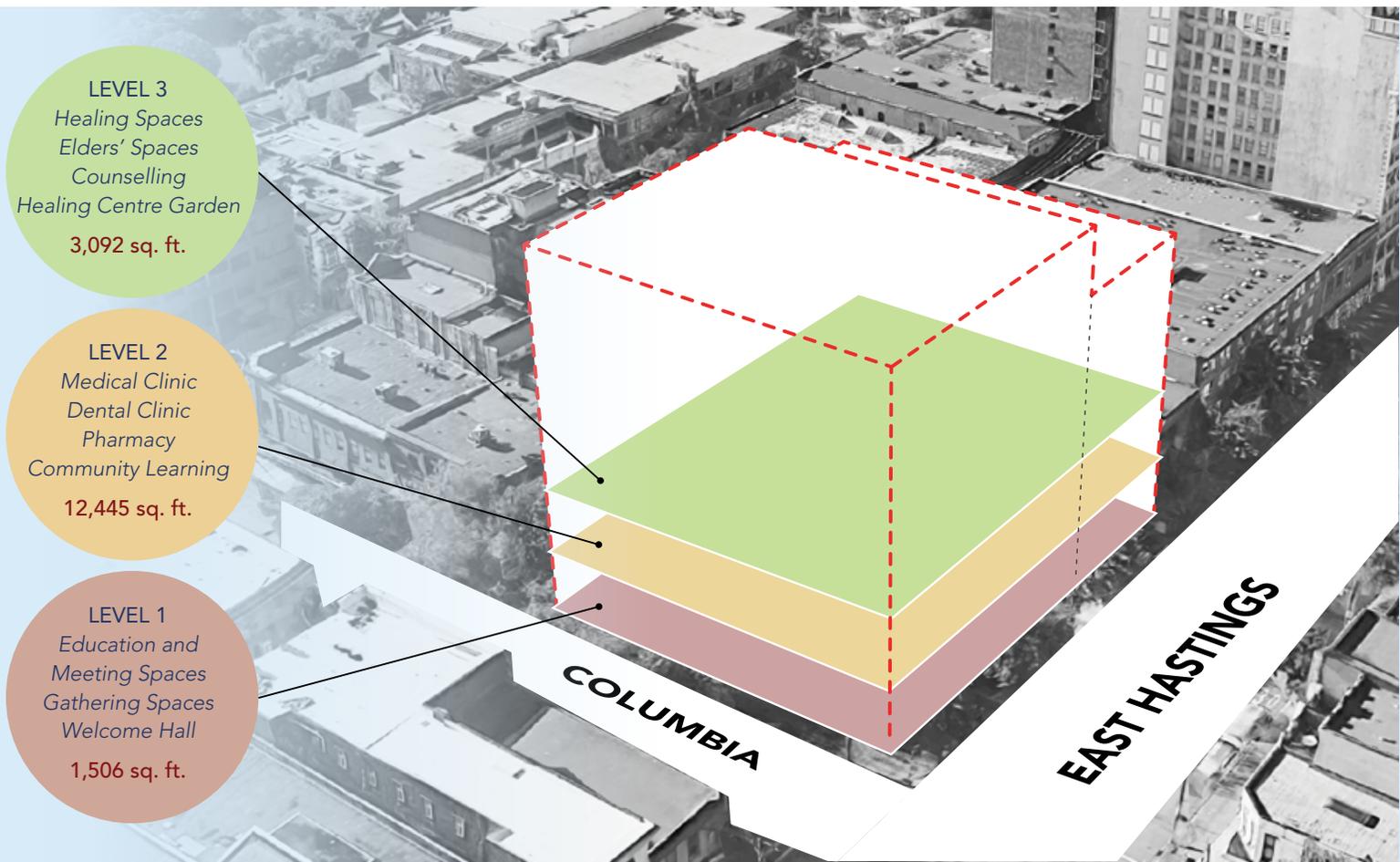


Mental and emotional support services that operate from a place of non-judgment and help people feel accepted, safe, cared for, equal, and supported.

The third floor of the Healing Centre will include dedicated operations space for counselling services offering support to Indigenous families and individuals.



The Healing Centre Garden will feature medicinal plants and a sweat lodge and teepee for healing circles



LEVEL 3
Healing Spaces
Elders' Spaces
Counselling
Healing Centre Garden
3,092 sq. ft.

LEVEL 2
Medical Clinic
Dental Clinic
Pharmacy
Community Learning
12,445 sq. ft.

LEVEL 1
Education and Meeting Spaces
Gathering Spaces
Welcome Hall
1,506 sq. ft.

COLUMBIA

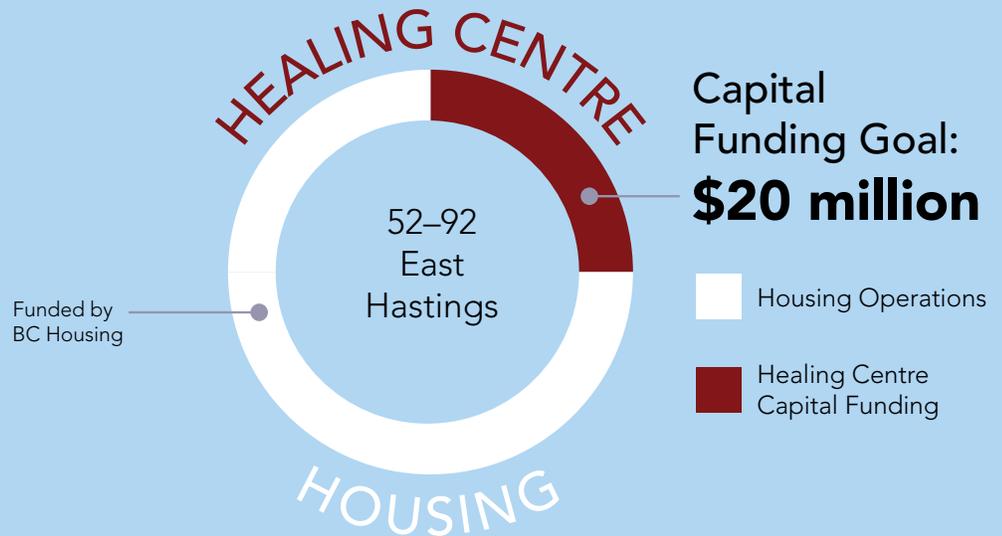
EAST HASTINGS

We Need Your Help to Make the Healing Centre a Reality

The architectural plans and development permit are in place. We've talked to our neighbours and have received expressions of hope, anticipation, and support for a space that allows us to increase our delivery of programs and services that are rooted in 30 years of community-driven practice and honour health and healing for all.

The Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society is now seeking major funders to support the capital costs of building the Healing Centre.

As a capital funder, your organization would be joining a robust, diverse, and experienced team of contributors who are coming together to deliver a leading-edge health and housing initiative and are committed to caring for Indigenous communities and the Downtown Eastside neighbourhood.



“The Healing Centre is a place of traditional knowledge that is put into practice alongside of western medicine.”

—Chief Bill Williams

The Aboriginal Land Trust Housing and Healing Centre, approved for construction at 52-92 East Hastings Street, is a collaboration of the Aboriginal Land Trust, the Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society, Lu'ma Native Housing Society, and RainCity Housing.

Visit us online at vahs.life



**Vancouver Aboriginal
Health Society**



Ready to contribute? Want to learn more? Give us a call today.

Contact Barry Seymour, Executive Director at 604-254-9949, ext. 223 or ed@vahs.life