

The **Pathways Home** project is a comprehensive, culturally based skills development and engagement program designed by NIFCS to **engage and empower children and youth** through the teachings of Tsimshian and Haisla Cultural Practitioners, Elders and Indigenous Artists.



# PATHWAYS HOME

## PURPOSE

To provide a continuum of culturally appropriate seasonal programming that enhances self identity, lifelong learning and leadership qualities in children and youth and strengthens their connections to the cultural practices and teachings of their clan and nation.

## VISION

To offer children and youth culturally based programs that support the transfer of traditional knowledge, and teach skills that create opportunities for children and youth to reconnect with their community and clan.

## PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Create cultural programming for children and youth
- Strengthen cultural identity
- Offer programming based on Tsimshian and Haisla cultural values
- Impart essential work and job retention skills for youth transitioning to independent living
- Generate Traditional Use Knowledge through active cultural practice
- Create safe environments to grow and learn
- Promote the transfer of traditional skills
- Provide outreach activities to children and youth in the seven Tsimshian communities served by NIFCS

The **Pathways Home** project offers several different programs throughout the year in the seven communities it serves.

The **Pathways Home** project offers several different programs throughout the year in the seven communities it serves. Specifically designed for **children and youth in care, or at risk**, these services are provided by NIFCS as well as regular programs offered in urban areas of Prince Rupert and Terrace.

From the classroom to the harvesting grounds, participants take part in seasonal activities and cultural practices in various settings. Participants will also take part in short format, nontraditional work skills training throughout the year.

Activities offered during the Cultural Camp component include: cultural teachings through the Talking Circle, Indigenous Arts, Cultural Protocol, Language Engagement, Cultural Harvesting and Field Trips within the traditional territory of the Tsimshian and Haisla.

Participants will learn how to pick seaweed, smoke salmon, identify and harvest medicinal plants, harvest cedar for weaving, carve masks, and everything in between.

Blending the old with the new, older participants will obtain valuable nontraditional life and job retention skills depending on their areas of interest.



## SEASONAL PROGRAMMING

Over the course of four seasons, participants will interact with Cultural Practitioners, Elders and Indigenous Artisans to learn and celebrate the following cultural protocols and practices:

### Indigenous Arts

- Carving
- Regalia Making
- Cedar harvesting & weaving
- Drum Making

### Cultural Practices

- Sing, Drum and Dance
- Participate in Elders' "Talking Circle" and self-identification activities
- Immerse in traditional languages with Elders
- Learn and partake in cultural protocol activities
- Engage in traditional harvesting gathering and preserving
- Take part in cultural field trips
- Reconnect with clans and home community

The program also teaches nontraditional skills including, but not limited to:

- Basic First Aid
- Food Safety
- Drivers Exam
- Boat Operations SVOP
- Cash Register Training
- Frontline Reception
- Essential life skills

**Skills obtained in the project may count as elective credits towards their high school curriculum.**

---

## WINTER: SEASON OF TEACHING

**Months:** November–March

**Key Teaching:** Knowledge and Skills

**Key Events:** Indigenous Knowledge Building, Indigenous Skills, Cultural Practice, Indigenous Arts, Indigenous Language, Cultural Protocol and nontraditional work skills

---

## SPRING: SEASON OF CULTURAL PRACTICE

**Months:** April–June

**Key Teaching:** Cultural Practices and Traditional Use Knowledge

**Key Events:** Cultural Teachings, Indigenous Cultural Practice, Indigenous Skills and Field Trips

---

## SUMMER: SEASON FOR EXPLORING

**Months:** July–August

**Key Teaching:** Cultural Practice

**Key Events:** Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous Skills, Language Enhancement, Cultural Practice and Field Trips

---

## FALL: SEASON FOR LEARNING

**Months:** September–October

**Key Teachings:** Traditional and nontraditional skills.

**Key Events:** Nontraditional Skills Development, Indigenous Skills Development, Cultural Protocol and Cultural Practice

**For more information on seasonal activities, please refer to the individual brochures on individual seasonal topics and activities.**

**TERRACE** – Head Office  
4562 Queensway Drive, Terrace, BC V8G 3X6  
Kitselas IR#6

Telephone: 250.638.0451  
Fax: 250.638.8930

**PRINCE RUPERT** – Sub Office  
#3–222 3rd Avenue West  
Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L1

Telephone: 250.622.2514  
Fax: 250.622.2614

Toll Free to Terrace and Prince Rupert office:  
1.888.310.3311



*May you learn the teachings of our ways on sea, on land and in the classroom and one day, when we are long gone you too will pass on our ways and teachings guided by the echo of our voices.*



**NORTHWEST INTER-NATION  
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY  
SERVICES SOCIETY**