

# VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL HEALTH SOCIETY HOSTS THE THIRD ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY POW WOW HONOURING SACRED FATHERHOOD, JUNE 14 - 15, 2025

Featuring the Grammy-nominated Black Lodge Singers led by Kenny ScabbyRobe of the Blackfeet Nation

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia, June 5, 2025** - Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society (VAHS) invites the public to join a powerful weekend of song, dance, and healing at the annual Father's Day Pow Wow on June 14-15, 2025, at the Britannia Community Centre Soccer Field in Vancouver. This free and inclusive event celebrates the vital role of fathers, grandfathers, sons, and all caregivers while reclaiming traditional Indigenous family systems, culture, and identity.

Headlining the celebration are the Grammy-nominated Black Lodge Singers from White Swan, Washington. Led by Kenny ScabbyRobe of the Blackfeet Nation, the Black Lodge Singers will perform throughout the weekend. Festivities begin at noon each day and run through 9:00 pm.

More than a cultural celebration, this Pow Wow is part of VAHS's commitment to culturally grounded healing. Weekly regalia-making workshops, held in the lead-up to the event, have engaged clients in reconnecting with their heritage and building community. The regalia created during these sessions will be worn during the "Coming Out" Ceremony at 1:00 pm on Saturday, June 14.

"As we move forward in the journey of truth and reconciliation, it's essential to create space for our people to reclaim cultural knowledge and pass it on to the next generations," says Carrie Humchitt, Executive Director of VAHS. "For 75 years, the Indian Act suppressed ceremonies like Pow Wows. Hosting this celebration is not only an act of cultural resurgence, but also an invitation for everyone, including families, friends, and allies, to honour fatherhood and experience the power of Indigenous culture. It's a chance to reconnect, celebrate our resilience, and heal from the deep and lasting impacts of colonialism."

Since 1991, VAHS has been a source of health and wellness services for Vancouver's urban Indigenous community. What began as an after-hours clinic has evolved into a comprehensive provider of medical, dental, cultural, and social services. VAHS integrates traditional Indigenous practices, Elder guidance, and trauma-informed care to support the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being of the community.

#### **MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES**

### 1) Pre-Event Media Preview & Interviews

WHAT: VAHS Regalia-Making Workshop – Meet VAHS community members preparing

regalia and personal stories of healing and cultural reconnection

WHEN: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 - 10:00 AM

WHERE: Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society, 449 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC

## 2) 2) On-Site Media Access at the Father's Day Pow Wow

WHAT: Father's Day Pow Wow hosted by VAHS featuring the "Coming Out" Dance

WHEN: Saturday, June 14, 2025 - Coming Out Ceremony at 1:00 PM

WHERE: Britannia Community Centre Soccer Field, 1661 Napier Street, Vancouver, BC

For more information, visit the Father's Day Pow Wow Facebook page or www.vahs.life.

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\*\*\*Images available for <a href="mailto:download">download</a>\*\*\*

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