



Ranch Ehrlo Society

developmentally focused

family involved

relationship based

trauma informed

competence centred

ecologically oriented

ER opens in Prince Albert

Ranch Ehrlo’s Northern Emergency Receiving (ER) program has recently relocated to better serve the children and youth in its care. Previously based at Ranch Ehrlo’s Buckland campus, the program provides emergency care services to children and youth who need temporary housing while the Ministry of Social Services determines their long-term care plans.

CEO Natalie Huber explained that moving the program into the City of Prince Albert was in the best interest of the children. The new location offers easier access to essential services within the city, and the updated facilities provide a more comfortable and functional living environment.

“This Emergency Receiving program began in 2018 in Flegel House on the Buckland campus, and while the property initially met the six-bed capacity

requirements, we found shortcomings in the overall layout and functionality of the home,” Huber said during the program’s official opening.

The official opening of the new program was held on June 19th. The home was blessed and smudged by Elders Liz Settee and Curtis Breaton. The duo also held a pipe ceremony earlier in the year, prior to the first child entering the program. Program manager Sean Bader who had the role of MC, introduced CEO Natalie Huber, and former director Kevin Mugford who welcomed guest of honour Alan Fraser and his family.



Left to right: Barclay Batiuk (Ranch Ehrlo northern director), Kevin Mugford, Barb Fraser, Alan Fraser, Elder Liz Settee, Natalie Huber (Ranch Ehrlo CEO), and Elder Curtis Breaton

The new program will be named Fraser House, paying homage to former board member Alan Fraser and honouring Ranch Ehrlo's tradition of bestowing new buildings with the names of former board members. Alan is the program's namesake in recognition of the contributions he made to the board from 2013 to 2016. He also chaired the audit committee of the board from 2014 to 2016 and remains an active community leader and friend to Ranch Ehrlo Society, attending many events and activities over the years.

"I am deeply humbled and at the same time excited and honoured that Ranch Ehrlo has chosen my name for this house," he said. "This is an honour that my family and I will forever treasure."

Fraser House will provide nine spaces for emergency care services to children ages zero through 11 years old. The home is the fourth ER program operated by Ranch Ehrlo, complementing two like programs in Pilot Butte and the recently opened Samson House in Corman Park.

A night of talent and generosity

The third annual Sunset Country Music Festival (SCMF), held on August 9th, at the Stumpf family farm near MacDowell, was a great success, blending music and community spirit. The event was organized by Mercy Glover and Josh Stumpf. The latter is the son of long-time Ranch Ehrlo employee Rachelle Lavoie-Stumpf and a strong supporter of local causes. The event showcased emerging talent, including Morgan Desjardins, Brett Down, Aiden Edwards & East Side of Second, and headliners Stumpf and The Boys Downtown.

Each performer brought energy and enthusiasm to the stage, with highlights including Stumpf's engaging set, featuring his chart-topping hit "Drink Me a Lullaby."

The festival attracted over 450 attendees and raised funds to provide musical instruments and lesson booklets for Ranch Ehrlo programs in Prince Albert.

"Prince Albert is home and has always been good to us, so this festival is our small way of paying things forward to our community," said Glover.

This year's SCMF was not just about music—it was about giving back. Stumpf and Glover's efforts brought the community together for a memorable night in support of a meaningful cause. Congratulations to everyone involved, and here's to many more successful festivals in the future.

Former youth becomes staff



Orion accepting the President's Trophy, 2016.

Orion Marcinkiw arrived at Ranch Ehrlo as a troubled 14-year-old after multiple foster placements. In 2014, he moved to Jewison House on the Pilot Butte campus and later to MacKay, where he lived for two years. Having experienced an abusive home, Marcinkiw found relief in Ranch Ehrlo, though the transition was challenging.

Supportive staff and new friendships at the Ranch gave Marcinkiw the hope and stability he needed. "It was the first time in a long time that people had my back," he recalls.

His time at the Ranch was marked by achievements like MCing the southern Awards Night, winning the President's Trophy, and excelling in the annual Three Mile Race.

Now, Marcinkiw has returned to Ranch Ehrlo as a youth care worker, determined to give back. For the past two years, he's shared his story with the youth, showing them that they too can overcome challenges and succeed. He has completed a certificate in youth care work and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in social work.

"This job is everything I expected it to be, and more," Marcinkiw says. He finds fulfillment in helping the next generation and witnessing their growth and successes.

Knowledge keeper shares with youth

Ranch Ehrlo Society is highlighting the local elders and kobkums who are working with participants to provide cultural connection to our programs, sharing teachings, and contributing to cultural preservation and revitalization.

Kohkum Valerie Ironchild has made a meaningful impact on more than a dozen youth, offering a listening ear and being a trusted confidante. She visits group homes in Regina, sharing her life experiences and teachings, which she finds fulfilling for both herself and the participants.

Ironchild meets with up to 10 youth at a time, using the Seven Teachings and the 15 Tipi Pole Teachings to provide guidance. She emphasizes values like discipline, respect, and love, encouraging the youth to reflect on who they are and what they want to become.

Ironchild, who learned about her culture through her mother and elders, now understands the importance of positive role models. She hopes her visits help the youth find strength and confidence through smudging, prayer, and embracing these teachings.

Third annual slow pitch game for FTP

The Family Treatment Program (FTP) held its third annual parent and staff slow-pitch game at Regina's Central Park, bringing together more than two dozen parents, staff, and children for a day of fun and bonding on June 24th.

Brett Miller, FTP educational liaison, highlighted the importance of this event, noting it has become a cherished tradition. "It's a great opportunity for staff and parents to interact in a fun way and build positive relationships," he said. The game helps parents relax and reveals their true personalities, which strengthens the connection between staff and families.

While the event is all about fun, the parents have won every year, leaving everyone with smiles and sore muscles. The day is always a hit, with participants eagerly anticipating the next game.

Embracing authenticity

At Ranch Ehrlo Society, we champion individuality and self-expression. We believe adolescence is a time for exploring personal identity and encourage our youth to feel confident being themselves.

Sydney Campbell, a clinical caseworker, emphasizes the importance of autonomy. "Allowing youth to be themselves helps them fit in with their peers and feel accepted, rather than being labeled as a Ranch kid." Campbell, who has extensive experience with diverse youth, notes the supportive environment at Ranch Ehrlo.

"We welcome all forms of self-expression—whether through clothing, hairstyles, or pronouns—without judgment," she says. "A youth identifying as they/them receives unconditional support from both caregivers and peers."

Youth at Ranch Ehrlo receive a monthly allowance to spend as they wish, helping them express themselves through purchases like new clothes or piercings, with parental consent. This freedom to choose is a significant and empowering experience for many.

Encouraging individuality not only builds confidence but also fosters connections between youth and staff. Campbell highlights the positive impact of shared activities like shopping, which help youth discover their unique styles and strengthen bonds with staff.

Exploring culture through drum making

Ranch Ehrlo's Northern programs held a drum-making workshop led by Métis artist Leah Marie Dorion and Métis youth Richard Louis Lafferty.

Dorion, a renowned Métis artist, and Lafferty, an interdisciplinary artist from the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, guided the six-week workshop.

"Dorion's passion for mentoring and her creativity made her ideal for teaching about the drum's deep connection to Mother Earth and spiritual practices," says Brianna Hill, the workshop organizer.

The workshop aimed to help youth, many of whom have faced significant trauma, manage their emotions and build a sense of identity through the drum-making process. Participants had the chance to either create drums or observe and learn from the process, gaining foundational knowledge about this cultural art form.

Jamie Lerat, Indigenous advisor at Ranch Ehrlo said, "Such cultural activities promote understanding and respect for Indigenous traditions, helping to bridge gaps and challenge stereotypes."

Hill hopes the workshop will foster a deeper cultural connection and a sense of belonging among the youth, allowing them to recognize and share their own stories and heritage.

Powwow another success

Our 7th Annual Powwow was a wonderful success on August 29th at our Pilot Butte campus. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dancers, drummers, volunteers, and special guests who made this community event truly remarkable. A special thank you to our sponsors—your support makes it possible for our community to come together in a meaningful way, celebrating inclusivity, culture, and tradition. This memorable event wouldn't be the same without your generosity. Thank you for helping us create something truly special.



THANK YOU

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Therapeutic camping



The youth and adults that live in our group living programs spent their summer break partaking in canoe trips, road trips, and recreational camping throughout the province and western Canada. These adventures promote self-efficacy and empowerment offering them the opportunity to have new experiences and build new skills.

International stage



Ranch Ehrlo's director of Ehrlo Early Learning Centre (EELC), Karin Duff, recently took to an international stage to share inspiration and information on issues impacting children and families. She presented at the World Forum on Early Care and Education

No ordinary flip



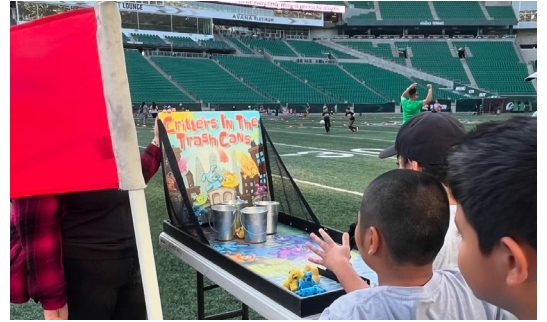
The Ehrlo Housing team unveils its first renovated apartment at Lakeshore Village, providing affordable homes for low-income families. The project reflects Ranch Ehrlo's commitment to creating safe, comfortable living spaces, with plans to refurbish the remaining 43 units over the next two years.

Ranch at Mosaic



Ranch Ehrlo staff and participants volunteered at the Indigenous Peoples Pavilion at the 54th Mosaic – Festival of Cultures. Our Sweet Grass Café, operated by young adults with differing abilities, prepared and contributed the menu's dessert items.

Community Play Day



Ehrlo Sport Venture joined forces with the City of Regina and the Regina Exhibition Association Limited (REAL) to present Community Plays Days at Mosaic Stadium throughout the summer. The events featuring free sports activities and play opportunities for children and families.

