



developmentally focused	family involved	relationship based	trauma informed	competence centred	ecologically oriented
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New dads' group

The Family Treatment Program (FTP) has a new group where fathers can learn and heal with other dads in a safe space.

FTP aims to improve family safety, family functioning, and child well-being so families can remain together. Families have a therapist assigned to them and a team of treatment workers. There are also individualized groups that provide additional treatment for families.

There are several different groups offered to parents weekly and that list continues to grow. The new dads' group was created by Donna Balkwill, a family preservation therapist.

Balkwill based her idea for the group on research she had done while receiving her master's degree. The research focused on understanding the unique needs of young dads and how they are connected to the wellbeing of their children and families. She also reviewed the curriculum of the 24:7 Dad group, which was introduced to the FTP in 2014.

She said that social issues have changed since the earlier group was created and felt it was time to revise the group.

The group is an Indigenous-focused group and co-led by the dads. They can talk about the difficult parts of parenting, single parenting, or navigating separate co-parenting.

The dads identified a need to smudge before sessions began, be outside whenever possible, use storytelling, and incorporate practices on the land.

While the group is currently made up of dads who are Indigenous, it's open to everyone.

"The dads do a beautiful job storytelling and responding to each other and they have



Participants in Corman Park displayed orange shirts and teddy bears to remember the 215 Indigenous children whose remains were recently discovered in B.C.



Fathers in the group

created the most beautiful safe space for each other to share without judgment,” Balkwill said.

The importance of having a safe space for fathers to share and develop skills cannot be understated but is often overlooked.

“When speaking of First Nations dads we have to consider the colonial history element that effectively dismantled the Indigenous family structure. Looking at residential school history and the ‘60s scoop, parents never had the opportunity to parent and children never had the opportunity to be parented by their families,” Balkwill explained.

“Many First Nations dads are faced with stigma. By way of all these things, when we have professional support in place that assesses risk and ensures the safety of families, oftentimes dads are looked at to how much risk they pose to their families versus what assets they have that can bring to strengthen their families.”

She said when dads can be safely and actively involved in their children’s lives, children’s development is greatly improved.

The response to the group has been positive. Participants have expressed that what they are learning in the program and from each other, it is helping to keep their families safer.

New vice-president of finance and administration

Please join us in welcoming Shelley Reddekopp as our new term vice-president of finance and administration.

Reddekopp comes to the agency with

significant corporate, leadership, and finance experience. During her 20-year career with the Government of Saskatchewan, she has held several positions including Assistant Deputy Minister.

Reddekopp is a Chartered Professional Accountant, Certified Management Accountant, and also holds a Fellowship in Risk Management. She is also certified in change and project management. In her most recent role, Reddekopp has led the budget development, planning, performance management, process improvement, and policy functions for a division.



Shelley Reddekopp

“Shelley believes in building teams and relationships that are inclusive and foster innovation,” said Natalie Huber, Ranch Ehrlo CEO. “I am confident that Shelley’s significant experience and collaborative approach, combined with her commitment to helping people in need achieve a better quality of life, will serve the agency well.”

New Garven House



Generally, after a new facility is built, Ranch Ehrlo hosts an open house inviting participants, family, staff, board members, and neighbours for a tour and to enjoy some snacks and great conversation.

Given all the changes during the pandemic, it is probably no surprise that we could not do that after our new Garven Home was constructed. Instead, we created a virtual open house so you could still tour the amazing space. We hope to offer a in-person event in the fall.

Garven House is being built for participants in our Supported Living Program (SLP). Participants are often long-term Ranch Ehrlo residents – some have been here for decades. So, when we’re looking at how to help them best achieve success, moving them to a space that best suits their needs, is a great move forward.

“In our Supported Living Program, we strive to provide person-centred, strength-based care,” explained vice-president of residential services Pam Dmytriw. “This means looking at each individual and creating programming, or in this case, space, based on what they need specifically, instead of looking at the group as a whole.”

In continuation of the idea that the design of a home should best suit the needs of a participant, a brand-new home was designed with significant input from Ranch Ehrlo staff and is being built to house five participants who currently reside in our older Jillings Home.

The new building is a bungalow with all the spaces participants need to access (bedrooms, living room, kitchen, etc.) on one floor. The home also



features a sensory space.

The design of the new build came from a functional assessment of the old spaces, as well as a layout exercise where pieces of the potential new home were moved until the ideal layout – based on client need - was achieved.

“Looking at the construction of Garven House, we can see the CARE ecologically orientated principle playing out. We understand that our participants are individuals with different needs, and for our long-term participants, in particular, it makes sense to look specifically at those needs while designing a new space. As the needs of our participants evolve, we strive to provide spaces to provide for those needs,” said James Westerman, Ranch Ehrlo director of property management.

Because it’s also next door to Dalla House, there’s great potential for synergy and using the joint space between the homes.



Laurel Garven

Garven House was named after Laurel Garven, who was the chair of our board and joined the board in 2012. She is the vice-president of business strategy at Information Services Corporation (ISC), a TSX-listed company focused on the delivery of registry and information services to governments and the private sector.

Helping hands for the community fridge



Take what you need, leave what you can – that is the idea behind the concept known as the community fridge. They are a 24-hour free food resource offering everything from fresh produce to canned products for people in need, no questions asked.

Christal Gerrard, a caseworker at Kruzeniski House, along with youth Sarah* recently decided to help their neighbours by collecting non-perishables and donating them to one of the community fridges in the city.

“I was working with Sarah on some empathy skills and development and we were discussing how to help others in our neighbourhood. I

asked her if she would like to help collect donations for the community fridge and how it may directly help someone in need in our area,” explained Gerrard. “She was very eager and willing to participate.”

Sarah made a poster to ask staff to make donations. After a week, the pair took the items collected and placed them in the fridge for their neighbours in need to access.

Sarah said she felt really good helping out and would like to continue to collect and make donations monthly if possible. Other youth at the home have also expressed interest in wanting to help.

“I had good feelings because I did a good deed and there are people out there that don’t have any food and need food to survive,” she said.

Gerrard said it’s important for the kids to be involved in these projects because it shows how small acts of kindness can make a big difference, particularly now given the COVID-19 pandemic.

*name changed for privacy

Farewells

It is with mixed emotions that we’re announcing two of our directors are leaving the agency.

Trevor Gates has been offered an exciting position at another agency that supports youth and adults. His work at the Ranch has been extremely valuable and appreciated.



Trevor Gates

“The work and contribution, including many extended hours of dedication, have been appreciated by all who work closely with him,” said Pam Dmytriw, vice-president of residential treatment. “We will miss Trevor’s professionalism, empathy and strength, asking tough questions and helping me and others see things in a different light. I wish him all the best in his future endeavours.”



Tim South

After a decades long career at the agency, Tim South will be retiring at the end of July.

South was first hired in May 1988 as a child care worker trainee at Wilson House after hearing about the Ranch in the

community.

“I was working as a carpenter at the upgrader and I kept hearing about this place called Ranch Ehrlo where you work with young people and are involved in lots of different activities, so I thought that was something I would like to try,” South stated.

South was promoted to a youth services worker in 1990, unit manger in 1990, and became a director in 2007.

“What kept me at the Ranch was the philosophy and the basic conceptual supports that if you developed relationships with young people, if you maintained a safe and predictable environment, if you had lots of fun activities, the kids would settle and be happy. I thought it was a perfect formula for working with young people and it still stands the test of time today,” South stated.

2021 AGM

This year's Ranch Ehrlo Society AGM will be held virtually on Wednesday, September 22, 2020, at 9 a.m. using Microsoft Teams Live Event software. All staff, board, and senate members are members of the society and invited to "attend" the event. The event is also open to the public.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to ranchehrlo.agm@ranchehrlo.ca so that we can track attendance and send you the link.

This year we are excited to announce guest speaker Janice Colquhoun. Janice is the executive director of Indigenous Services, Child and Family Programs, MSS. She is responsible for working with First Nations to develop legislation to enable these communities to assume control of their own child and family services.

We will be sending the AGM meeting package and meeting link out closer to the date.

Bracelets dedicated to the 215 children



A youth at Ranch Ehrlo decided to bead 215 bracelets to honour the 215 children whose remains were recently discovered in B.C.

The youth undertook this project following a discussion with the class about the tragic news, residential schools, treaties and reconciliation.

Teacher Terry Burgess said even though these discussions are hard to have, they are important. In her experience, youth relate and want to talk about it. There were lots of questions after the discussion and Burgess made sure everyone felt OK after completing the lesson.

Powwow canceled



Given the ongoing uncertainty and continued COVID-19 restrictions, the Ranch decided to cancel this year's powwow. Our hope is that the powwow can resume in the fall 2022 either as it was pre-COVID or with some safety protocols in place. We know everyone looks forward to this event, and we want to thank you for your understanding and patience. We are very much looking forward to when we'll be able to get together in person again.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Ranch board member Dave Hedlund for receiving the sovereign medal for national volunteer week! For more than two decades, Hedlund has been contributing to Regina's music scene through his work with the Regina Symphony Orchestra (RSO) and the South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra. Most recently, he conducted historical research that will help preserve the legacy of the RSO for future generations.

Flags at half mast



Ranch Ehrlo lowered the flags to half mast at our campuses to mourn the loss of the 215 Indigenous children whose remains were recently discovered.

3-mile race



We want to give a shout out to everyone who participated in our agency's annual 3-Mile Run (socially distanced) this year. A job well done.

Awards Night



Due to COVID-19, our Annual Awards Night ceremonies were once again held individually in the program homes. But that didn't stop the fun and the ability to congratulate all our deserving winners!