

2026



**HEART OF
EAST VAN**

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CAMPAIGN

CONTRIBUTORS PACKAGE



JOIN US

In the early 1970's, our eastside neighbourhoods suffered from a lack of social development and recreational infrastructure. This conscious and systemic exclusion had real impacts on our families and their success. The community mobilized, worked together, and demanded action. Britannia Centre was formed to help.

Britannia was created through a unique partnership between the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver School Board, and the Britannia Community Services Centre Society. Nothing like it had existed before—and it remains the only centre of its kind in our region today.

Britannia is truly the community's community centre. While most centres in Vancouver are operated by the Park Board, Britannia is directly operated by the community itself.

The Centre is run by the Britannia Community Services Centre Society, a not-for-profit, guided by a volunteer Board of Directors drawn from the community and elected by the community. The Society is supported by a network of advisory committees made up of dedicated community volunteers who help shape programs, priorities, and services.

This community-led model is at the heart of Britannia. It brings together a large and diverse fellowship of local volunteers who contribute tremendous time, energy, and expertise—amplifying the resources we receive and helping them go much further.

Our community-driven approach allows us to identify and respond to neighbourhood needs in real time. By partnering with local grassroots organizations, we deliver programs and services that truly reflect the people who live here.

Over the past fifty years, this approach has built deep roots in our community and created meaningful improvements in the well-being of those we serve. That strong foundation continues to guide us today.

As we mark this important milestone, reflecting on 50 years of community building while looking ahead to the next 50, we invite you to be part of what comes next. With your partnership and support, we can continue strengthening our neighbourhood, expanding opportunities, and ensuring Britannia remains a vibrant gathering place for generations to come.

Join us in shaping the future of Britannia.



HELP US TO CELEBRATE AND INVEST IN COMMUNITY

Britannia Community Services Centre has spent 50 years deepening our connections with our community. We've seen the results that come from genuine engagement and uplifting people to create the world they need.

To celebrate our 50th year of operations, we are launching a Golden Anniversary Fundraising campaign as an opportunity for our valued partners and supporters to celebrate and stand with us in recognition of our decades of service to the community.

Our goal is to enhance our existing endowment funds to enable us to do some essential work that we know we need, but simply can't afford without your help.

Three key initiatives that we hope to support with our endowment fund are:

Belonging & Culture

We are walking forward hand-in-hand with our Indigenous community. One valuable facet of Reconciliation is sharing time together learning from each other's cultures. We want to create an endowment to allow us to host more intercultural sharing circles between our Indigenous and settler community members.

Swim to Survive

Many families in our community can't afford swimming lessons. In a waterfront city, this leaves children in a very perilous position. We want to create a fund to ensure that all of our children can learn basic water survival and be safe and confident at the water's edge.

Food Security for Families in Need

In these challenging times, food is not always there when people are hungry. Nothing is more foundational than fresh healthy food. We want to build a fund to support our program of redistribution of surplus food from local grocery stores to vulnerable families and to provide food education to our community.

When you stand with us to help build the endowment we need to support our community into the future, the people of Britannia will know that you value them and walk with them toward a stronger tomorrow.

As we all gather to mark our first 50 years together, you will be celebrated as a founding part of our march toward 100 years of community building.

Please take the time to join us in deepening our impact.



BELONGING & CULTURE



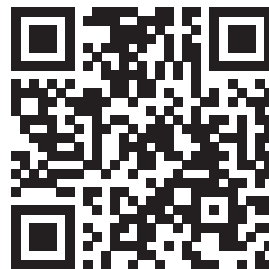
We aspire to create a culture of belonging where everyone feels welcome, included, supported and connected, particularly for Indigenous residents of the community. Learning and adapting Indigenous knowledge, world views, values and beliefs is about acknowledging the past, establishing and maintaining respectful relationships for a healthier community for all.

Indigenous residents make up almost 15% of the residents in Grandview Woodlands and Strathcona. Our community centre provides cultural, social, recreational and emotional support to community members through a broad range of activities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants. This program offers inclusive, innovative programs that promote health, wellness, and social justice. We create accountable, accessible, barrier-free spaces where residents can engage in meaningful dialogue, address local issues, and participate in cultural exchanges.

Our holistic approach to well-being integrates recreation, education, and social interaction, recognizing the diverse needs of our community. We are dedicated to sustainability, accountability,

and continuous innovation, ensuring our programs remain relevant and impactful while actively collaborating with partners to maximize resources and drive positive social change. To be in partnership with Indigenous peoples, is to let them lead which includes critically analysis and decolonizing of existing recreation systems that have not served Indigenous communities.

We are asking for funds to support Indigenous led activities such as the Britannia Elders Sharing Together, FitNations Aquafit, Cultural workshops and sharing circles.



Scan the QR code to watch about our cultural programming.



We are part of the Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Network and host a number of community food security programs such as the Britannia Bulk Buy Food Club, community food rescue and redistribution, community kitchens, community meals, food and garden workshops, and school gardens and food literacy programs at Britannia Community Elementary, Britannia Secondary, and Łuuqinak'uuh Grandview Elementary School. We also support Indigenous Food Systems through šxʷqʷeləwən ct gardens, fish smoking, elk smoking, plant syrups and fish canning.

In 2025, the Bulk Buy Food Club served 219 households 2,046 veggie bags over 47 weeks, we rescued 9,000 lbs of food to distribute to community, hosted 11 workshops & community kitchens for 135 people, supported 456 students in the school gardens and served 1,500 meals at community events. Britannia youth prepared and served 150 low-cost meals to community in our OFF THE GRILL pilot.

OFF THE GRILL supports at-risk youth that spend time at the Teen Centre to cook meals for community. Youth build knowledge and experience in preparing food for up to 50 people each meal, they connect with community and build relationships and provide low cost healthy (and yummy) meals for community. The youth gain experience in food preparation, food service, set-up, clean-up, and customer service.

The **Britannia Bulk Buy Food Club** connects low-income households with fresh, healthy, and affordable food at wholesale prices to save upwards of 45% off retail costs, by buying together with their neighbours. There is a focus on dignified food access, not charity but a form of reciprocity.

We are asking for funds to support our food security programs, including the Britannia Bulk Buy Food Club, OFF THE GRILL, and our school and community gardens programs.



Scan the QR code to watch the 'Britannia Bulk Buy Food Program' video.



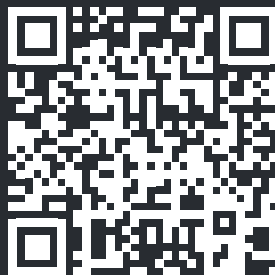
FOOD SECURITY

SWIM TO SURVIVE

In 2025, we provided **Swim to Survive** lessons to over 200 students from Britannia, X'pey, Strathcona and Łuuqinak'uuh Grandview Elementary Schools. The program teaches critical life-saving swimming skills and ensures that every child has access to water safety education. These activities also engage children and their families to build comfort around water, gradual exposure to swimming, positive reinforcement and safety techniques. It is the most important step towards swimming competency introducing families to swim lessons at the Britannia pool and even supporting interested youth to access sponsored life guard training courses at Britannia for a career in life guarding. At Britannia, financial barriers are minimized and many are able to participate with fully subsidized swim lessons.

Swim lessons are fairly easy to access if families have access to resources such as financial ability to pay, a computer, a credit card and familiarity with swimming culture. There are also circumstances that make swimming a challenge if there is a history of trauma and in some cases lack of basics such as access to laundry. And yet as a coastal urban centre, swimming is a life skill, it is also activity for life-long health and wellness and a potential for paid employment that can support continuing education.

We are asking for funds to provide Swim to Survive lessons to over 1,000 students over the next 2 years, this includes certified instructors, water safety engagement with schools and families, supplies and supports that address barriers to participation such as transportation, appropriate swim wear, trauma informed training for staff and laundry costs.



Scan the QR code to watch the 'Swim to Survive' video.



DONATE NOW

As Britannia celebrates 50 years in the heart of East Van, we invite you to help sustain the programs, services, and spaces our community depends on. Your contribution to the Heart of East Van 50th Anniversary Celebration Campaign supports vital work in belonging and culture, food security, and Swim to Survive.

Help us raise \$50,000 for our next 50 years.



Scan the QR code to donate online.

Thinking of a larger gift or a gift of securities?

Please contact us for information how to save on processing costs so your full donation is received.

Every contribution over \$20 will receive a charitable donation receipt for the full amount.



CONTACT US



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