

Strengthening Social Cohesion:



MAPLE RIDGE
PITT MEADOWS
KATZIE ●●●



The Power of Peer Educators and Community Collaboration in Supporting Migrant Workers

Territorial acknowledgement

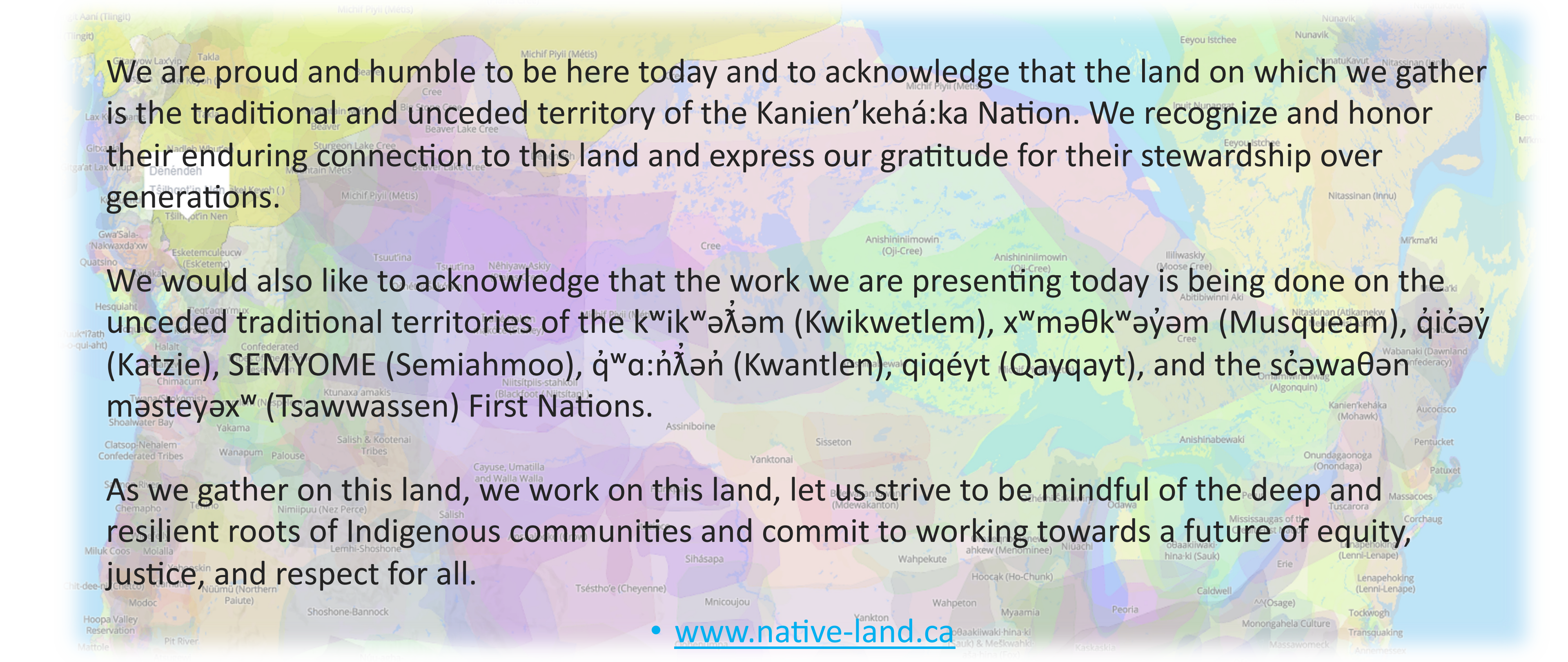


We are proud and humble to be here today and to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional and unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation. We recognize and honor their enduring connection to this land and express our gratitude for their stewardship over generations.

We would also like to acknowledge that the work we are presenting today is being done on the unceded traditional territories of the k^wik^wəłəm (Kwkwetlem), x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), qⁱcəy (Katzie), SEMYOME (Semiahmoo), q^wɑ:ńłəń (Kwantlen), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), and the s^cəwaθən məsteyəx^w (Tsawwassen) First Nations.

As we gather on this land, we work on this land, let us strive to be mindful of the deep and resilient roots of Indigenous communities and commit to working towards a future of equity, justice, and respect for all.

• www.native-land.ca





Stronger together with...



The Power of Peer Educators

C.A.R.E. for Migrant Workers Program

- 18-month project
- Federally funded by Employment & Social Development Canada (ESDC)
- One of two fundings awarded in BC (DIVERSEcity Community Resources & MOSAIC)



Even stronger together with...



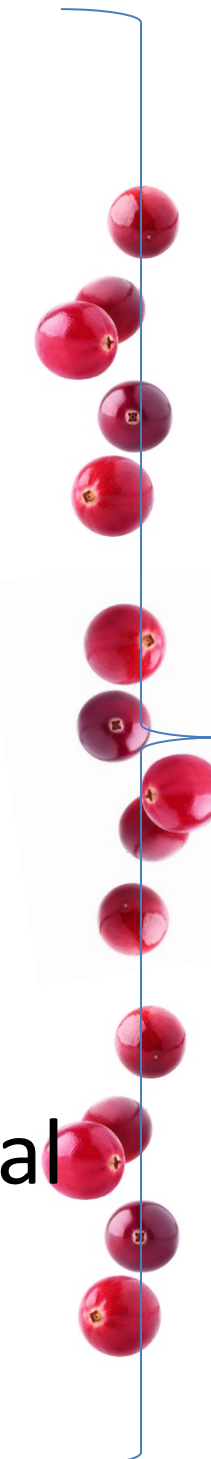
C.A.R.E. for Migrant Workers Program - > Agreements with 11 SAHs to support migrant workers



Peer-to-Peer Model- Explained



- **Peer-to-peer support**: given by a person who belongs to the same group or shares the same experience (Mead, 2003)
 - Differs from mentorship – help is provided by an expert
- **Support includes**:
 - Sharing knowledge or experience
 - Providing emotional and social support
 - Giving practical advice (Solomon, 2004)
- Demonstrated as a **powerful therapeutic method** to deal with stress, depression and burnout as well as prevent these problems (Ali et al., 2015; Pfeiffer et al., 2011)



Turkey: Peer-to-peer psychological intervention for Syrian refugees to reduce psychological distress

USA : peer-to-peer parenting group to help build protective factors against adverse childhood experiences at the individual, family, and community levels

Advantages of Peer-to-Peer model



- Language specific (local, indigenous dialects that may not be common)
- Trust relationship already there
- Know the needs of peers (as they are living them)
- Lived experience
- Allows self-sufficient ways to access information

- Increased engagement and interest
- Culturally-sensitive perspective and approach
- Empowers Peer educators
- Information goes wherever they go
(Could help spread the information to hard to access or reluctant individuals)

Challenges of Peer-to-Peer model



- **Working hours**
- **Conflicting schedules**
- **Transportation**
- **Wages**
- **Trust**
- **Duty to Report**

Peer trainings with



Putting safety first

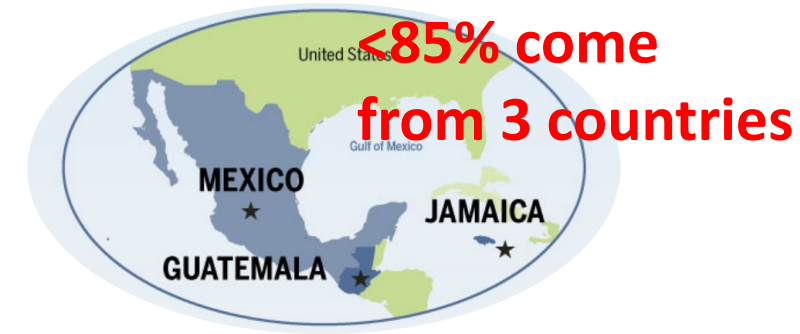
- First aid training
- Mental Health first aid
- Food safe training
- Health & Safety training
- Migrant workers' rights overview
- Conflict resolution training
- Communication & facilitation skills



How did we come together?



Temporary foreign workers (TFW) are an important part of the workforce on Canadian farms.



Statistics Canada.

Lower-skilled temporary foreign workers have much higher rate of transitioning to permanent residents.

10-year cumulative transition rate
2005 to 2009

Lower skill workers
40.3%

Higher Skill workers
28.4%

Statistics Canada.

Bigger part of the workers work in inhumane conditions... Imagine living without any of those:

- **NO** Canadian ID
- **NO** proper clothing and gear
- **NO** access to any services including health services
- **NO** ways of transportation
- **NO** way to access their money
- **NO** social life, no community





Who are we?



Carolina Echeverri Marin is a passionate Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator and Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee Medal 2022 recipient, dedicated to empowering immigrant communities and fostering social integration.



Thelma Rodriguez is the outreach support for Ridge Meadows. Originally coming from Mexico, a native Spanish speaker, she is helping by providing translation and access to services for the Migrant workers.

Steve Nicklen is a long time Maple Ridge resident and raised his family in the Hammond area. He works in technology and is a part-time bike mechanic. Since 2018, Steve has repaired over 500 bicycles for migrant farm workers.

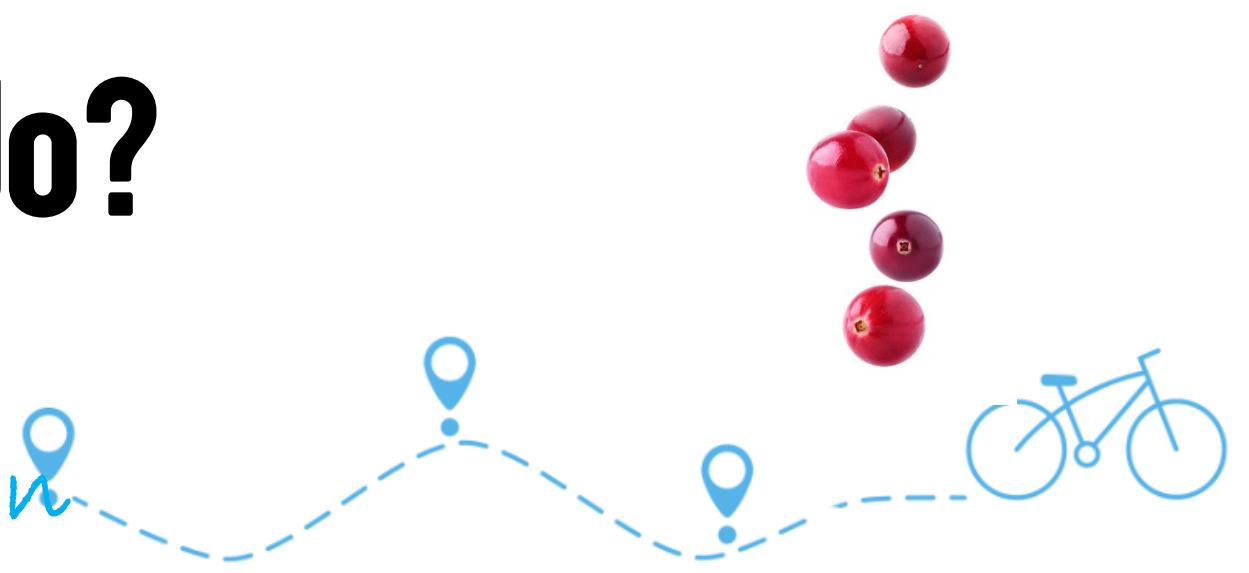
Wayne is a long time Maple Ridge resident who values the migrant workers and appreciates all they do for our economy. He found his way of helping by gathering the donated bicycles and bringing them to Steve's repair shop.



What do we do?



Helping with transportation



- Giving them bikes
- Servicing and fixing the bikes
- Providing a safety workshop with the BCFED Health and Safety Center to ensure safer riding



What do we do?



Helping with Services



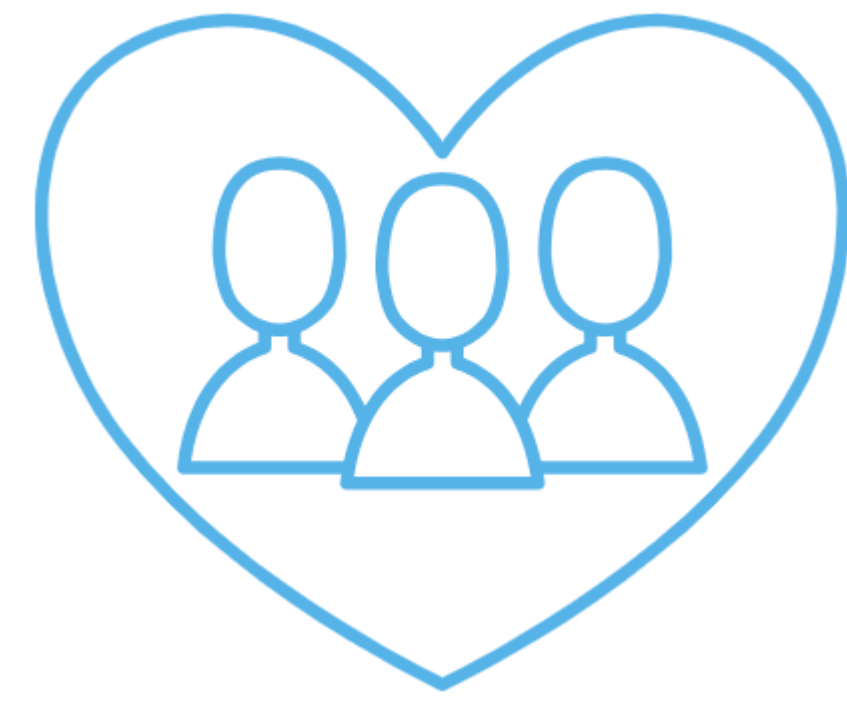
- Supporting them to get an appointment at Service BC and get a BC ID
- Taking them to the doctor
- Helping them open bank accounts
- Gathering donations and providing them with weatherproof clothing



What do we do?



Creating a community



- Christmas dinner
- Health fair – 175 migrant workers
- Tamales – 100 migrant workers



What more can be done?



- Find those community champions who help out of the goodness of their hearts and support them
- Combine resources from service providers because most of the help is advocating for those people
- What else can be done?

Something to remember before the discussion:

- Those are good, hard-working people that deserve respect, good working conditions and community to talk to and to celebrate their holidays with
- Those are the people doing the job nobody wants to and this is the work that actually brings our food to the table
- 40% of those people will be your next neighbors some day

Discussion:



1. Understanding Perspectives:

1. What are some common misconceptions or stereotypes about migrant workers in our community, and how can we work together to challenge and change these perceptions?
2. How can we foster a greater understanding of the challenges faced by temporary foreign workers among the local community?

2. Community Engagement:

1. How can we encourage open dialogue and collaboration between the migrant worker community and the local community to build trust and understanding?

3. Cultural Integration:

1. How can we create spaces that facilitate cultural exchange and foster a sense of belonging for both migrant workers and the local community?

4. Community Champion Models:

1. What are some successful examples of community champion models in other contexts, and how might they be adapted to support migrant workers in our community?

5. Sustainable Solutions:

1. How can we ensure that the strategies discussed today are sustainable in the long term and continue to evolve with the changing needs of migrant workers?
2. What are some potential challenges to sustainability, and how can we proactively address them as a community?





Thank you, Merci, Gracias for all that you will do for the Temporary Migrant Workers in Canada!



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