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As many of you are aware, we have been undertaking an application to obtain registration as a Native Friendship Center. We are in the final stages of this two year process and will hear in the New Year, if our application has obtained final approval. In preparation for this, one of the things we will require is an identified and registered list of our members and those who attend and support the Center in its activities.

Friendship Center status will open up new opportunities to reclaim and celebrate our culture and some much needed financial support. Belonging to the Friendship Center Family will also give us the opportunity to network with other Centers and Elders. You will find below the fees and some frequently asked questions about Friendship Centers. We ask that you please support us in this initiative which will benefit all our communities.

Membership types:

Individual members \$ 5.00 per year or \$ 20.00 for five (5) year membership

Youth Membership up to 18 free

Benefits of being a member for those over the age of 19:

- You will receive notice of any regular meetings and the Annual General Assembly
- During election year, you will have the ability to run for the Board of Directors
- You will be issued a membership card
- You will have a say in what happens at the Center
- You will become part of the Friendship Center Family
- You will receive first opportunity to apply for events such as crafting, beading, drum making etc. (These events may or may not have a fee attached for materials and instructor)
- You will be notified of any special events such as National Aboriginal Day, Pre-powwow gathering, Sweat lodge, pipe ceremonies or other events that happen throughout the year.
- You will receive an annual newsletter which will highlight the year's activities and report on the Annual General Assembly.

Benefits of being a member for those under 19:

- You will receive a membership card
- During an election year anyone aged 14 and up will have the ability to run for youth members on the Center's Board of Directors.
- You will become part of the Friendship Center Family.
- You will be able to take part in any events for youth such as the yearly summer program. (This is funding pending) or the Annual Christmas Party.
- You will have the opportunity to gain valuable volunteer hours which meet high school requirements.
- You will be notified of all age appropriate events taking place at the Center.

If you are interested in becoming a member, applications are available at the following locations:

In person at the Bay St. George Cultural Circle in St. George's on any Tuesday night.

In person at the Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network's office in Stephenville.

Via email at odellepike@gmail.com

Payment of fees:

In person at the Bay St. George Cultural Circle in St. George's on any Tuesday night.

Via email transfer at culturalcenterbsg@gmail.com

By regular mail at: BSG Cultural Circle, 329 Main Street, St. Georges, A0N1Z0

If you have any questions please contact us at (709) 721-0195

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Friendship Centre?

A Friendship Centre is a not-for-profit urban and rural Aboriginal service delivery infrastructure that provides cultural based Aboriginal programs and services to an Aboriginal population. Although our focus is on delivering cultural based Aboriginal programs and services, we operate under a status-blind policy which means anyone regardless of Aboriginal status can make use of our services and programs.

What is the Friendship Centre Movement?

The Friendship Centre Movement can be defined as the evolution and expansion of Friendship Centres. From their humble beginnings as drop-in centres, today's Friendship Centres have grown into well established and organized social networks.

Do I have to be Aboriginal?

As previously mentioned, Friendship Centres operate under a status-blind policy. Friendship Centres can provide a large number of programs and services in a culturally appropriate manner regardless of race, religion, income or nationality.

How do I become a member of my Friendship Centre?

Contact your local Friendship Centre for more on membership, membership applications, and membership benefits. Each centre is unique in a sense that they offer programs and services appropriate to the area it is situated in.

What types of programs and services can be offered by the Friendship Centres?

Friendship Centres can offer programming in education and training, employment opportunities and counseling, health programs, children and youth programs, recreation programs and economic development. They can also offer language training, skills development, computer training, work-site placements, nutrition programs, healing circles, alcohol and drug counseling, summer and winter camps, day care centres, youth peer counseling, youth drop-in centres, organized sports and leagues, wilderness training and facility rentals. The list is continuously growing and Friendship Centres are adding more programs and services every year.

Can I volunteer at my Friendship Centre?

Absolutely! Friendship Centres' foundation was built on volunteers and community support. Volunteers are the backbone to Friendship Centres and play a pivotal role in providing culturally appropriate programs and services. Without them, we would not be where we are today.