

# ABORIGINAL PATIENTS' LODGE

Aboriginal\* Patient Advocates at hospitals in the GVRD are constantly asked by patients and their families about places to stay where they can feel at home among other Aboriginal families. When in Vancouver for medical treatment, our families and patients often feel isolated and fear being in a large city. Hotels may seem impersonal and sometimes we don't like asking for help with our family medical crisis.

Based on this desperate need, advocates for Aboriginal women, children and their families at BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre looked to Native housing providers to find a suitable partner to create such a unique refuge. Lu'ma Native Housing Society immediately recognized the necessity of a housing facility that married the urban Aboriginal community with Aboriginal families in medical crisis from across BC.

Lu'ma Native Housing Society (Lu'ma is Coast Salish for 'new beginnngs') envisioned an integrated housing facility made up with both permanent residents and patients' families. Patrick Stewart, a reknowned Aboriginal architect set about to design a building that reflected Indigenous architecture with a contemporary functionality that this project demanded. Mr. Stewart succeeded in capturing the greatness of Aboriginal Nations, which can now truly be appreciated.

\* The term Aboriginal includes First Nations, Metis and Inuit persons

In June, 2003, construction began of 22 self-contained living units, each with generous quarters, each with a balcony atop great log pedestals reminiscent of Long Houses and Totems. Seven units (three are wheelchair accessable) are dedicated to the Aboriginal Patients' Lodge. A children's Home Daycare, Laundry and an Amenity Room are facilities that are a part of the Lodge, available to both patients' families and to permanent residents to share. Both the concept and the architecture of this project stand as a completely unique best practice for Aboriginal people in Canada.

## OUR ROOMS

It was Lu'ma's wish that the accommodations would be warm and hospitable to its weary guests who have travelled so far under stressful medical conditions. All rooms have their own washroom, furnished dining room, living room and a fully equipped kitchen. We welcome you to our home away from home!

- \*There are 5 one-bedroom suites available (two are wheelchair accessable). Maximum occupancy in the one-bedroom is four people.
- \*There is 1 two-bedroom suite that is wheelchair accessable. The maximum occupancy of the two-bedroom is six people.
- \*A three-bedroom is available on the second floor. The maximum occupancy of the three-bedroom is five people.

## OUR RATES

The Lodge has a high season from May 15th to September 30th and a low season from October 1st to May 14th. The daily rates are the same, whether you plan to stay 5 days or 3 months with us. If the patient comes with more than one escort, there is no charge for extra family members.

	High Season	Low Season
One-Bedroom.....	\$ 89.....	\$ 70.....
Two-Bedroom.....	\$109.....	\$ 90.....
Three-Bedroom.....	\$119.....	\$100.....

## AMENITIES

Towels, linens and toiletries will be provided. Each room has a telephone that is restricted for local calls only and long distance calls can be made if you bring your calling card from home or purchase a Talk & Surf card from the Lodge office. A Laundry room is available on the main floor. The Amenity Room is furnished with sofas and chairs, entertainment area, a kiddy area and computers with internet. There is a Home Daycare on-site for childcare and you can call to make arrangements, based on availability. Cost for child care is not included in the room rate.

## PATIENT ADVOCACY

Patient advocacy is coordinated at the Lodge office through local Aboriginal organizations to support patients and their families .