

# SKOOKUM LAB



## About Skookum:

Skookum is a word used in many cultures. In British Columbia, some Indigenous communities understand "Skookum" to mean strong or brave.

The Skookum Lab was created to honour the strength and wisdom of Indigenous communities and to make innovative changes within the city of Surrey.

We are inviting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Surrey to embark on a journey of understanding: **What would make Surrey a great place for Indigenous children and youth?**



## Our Guiding Principles:

- ◆ Centering Indigenous wisdom;
- ◆ Interventions that change systems;
- ◆ Community-based problem definition and solutions;
- ◆ Building community;
- ◆ Strategic application of resources and effort;
- ◆ Take risks for the purpose of learning; and
- ◆ Seeking opportunities to learn and scale.

**While applying our *Guiding Principles*, Community Animators will facilitate fun art and culture based activities.**



**We invite you to participate in the Skookum Lab!**

## Why we are doing this:

- ◆ Almost 14,000 Indigenous people call Surrey home. This is one of the largest urban Indigenous populations in Metro Vancouver.
- ◆ Surrey's Indigenous community is young, diverse, and growing quickly.
- ◆ Many Indigenous families are thriving in our city. However, too many Indigenous children and youth are living in poverty in Surrey. In fact, Surrey has one of the highest urban Indigenous child and youth poverty rates in Canada.

**The Skookum Lab focuses on how together, we can make Surrey a great place for Indigenous children and youth.**

## What we will do:

Community Animators are doing fun art and culture-based activities in the community.

Our engagement activities are centring Indigenous wisdom, to discover how we can address the root causes of Indigenous child and youth poverty in Surrey.

From there, we will work together with the Indigenous community to design and then test initiatives to make our dreams become a Skookum reality.

Skookum Lab is a social innovation project led by the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee (SUILC). In 2015, the SUILC came together to be the collective voice of the urban Indigenous population in Surrey.

#### SUILC Member List:

Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS)

City of Surrey

Cwenengitel Aboriginal Society

First Nations Health Authority

Fraser Health Aboriginal Health

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre

Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society (Xyolhemeylh)

Kekinow Native Housing Society

Metis Family Services

Métis Nation of British Columbia

Ministry of Children and Family Development Circle 5

Nova Métis Heritage Association

RCMP

Simon Fraser University

Surrey School District

Land-based First Nation governments with a historic and current connection to territory that now includes the City of Surrey have a standing invitation to participate in any and all meetings of the SUILC.

### Please contact us for more information:

Jeska Slater

Community Animator

Phone: 778-323-6957

SUILC:

IndigenousLeadership@Surrey.ca

[www.surrey.ca/indigenous](http://www.surrey.ca/indigenous)

 Skookum Lab

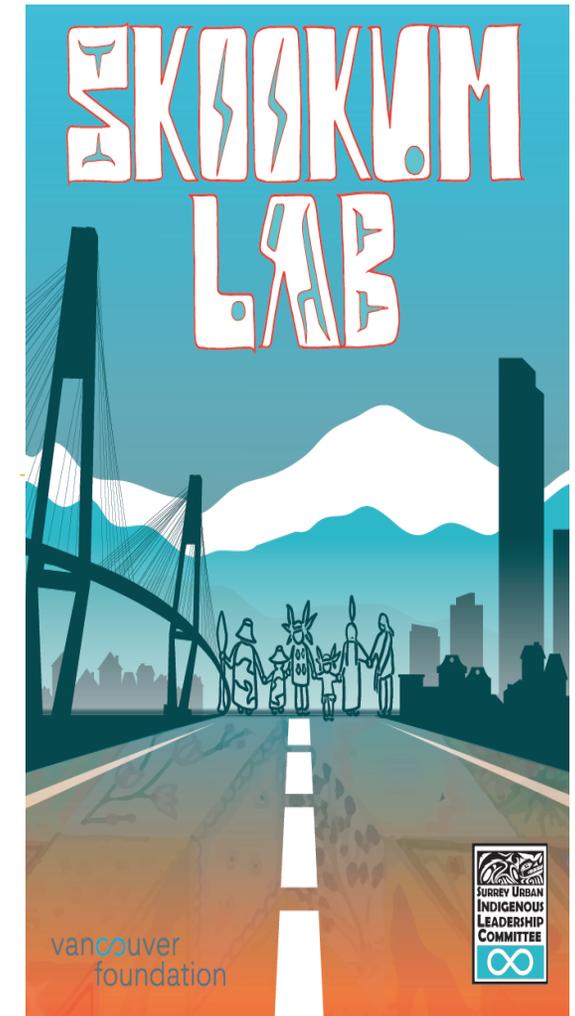
 skookum.lab

#skookumlab



Skookum Lab is funded by:

vancouver  
foundation



**Making Surrey a  
great place for  
Indigenous children  
and youth**

**A Project of the Surrey Urban  
Indigenous Leadership Committee**