

Community
INCLUSION
Awards

March 19, 2026

We acknowledge holding our gathering
on the ancestral territory of the
Tsimshian people

As an organization, we recognize our shared
responsibility to advance reconciliation and
equity in all that we do.

Skeena
Diversity
Society

Established in 2000



VISION & MISSION



VISION

Skeena Diversity believes in the strength and creativity of a diverse, inclusive, racism-free community.

MISSION

Skeena Diversity provides leadership in building a vibrant community by developing partnerships amongst diverse groups, based on mutual respect and equality.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

DIRECT SERVICES: providing settlement services to newcomers arriving in Terrace, help them settle and be successful: **Language classes, information sessions, employment supports, community connections, etc.**

INDIRECT SERVICES: building community partnerships for a more welcoming and inclusive community: strengthening the **Greater Terrace Welcoming Network Local Immigration Partnership**



Greater Terrace
Welcoming Network
Local Immigration
Partnership (LIP)

Established in 2022



Greater Terrace Welcoming Network Local Immigration Partnership (LIP)

VISION

We believe in a Greater Terrace that is a welcoming and diverse community, accepting of all peoples, and respectful of cultural differences as valuable contributions to a vibrant community. We believe in a sharing and caring community that is free from racism and discrimination, and that learns from, understands, and supports newcomers as full and active members in the community.

MISSION

The Greater Terrace Welcoming Network is a voluntary collaboration of community organizations which strives to foster diversity and social inclusion of newcomers by

- improving coordination of services and forging community connections;
- engaging and supporting newcomers to thrive as members of the community; and
- facilitating awareness and understanding through research, sharing, and public education.

- City of Terrace
- Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
- WorkBC Terrace
- Terrace Public Library
- TDCSS
- Terrace & District Chamber of Commerce
- Northern Health
- Coast Mountain College
- Kermode Friendship Society
- Volunteer Terrace
- Northern Health
- Skeena Diversity Society



LIP Members



AWARD CATEGORIES

- Inclusive Volunteer Group/Club of the Year
- Youth Inclusion Ambassador of the Year
- Inclusive Organization of the Year
- Inclusive Champion of the Year
- Inclusive Business of the Year
- Lifetime Inclusion Achievement
- Lifetime Inclusion Community Builder

Inclusive Volunteer Group or Club of the Year Award

This award honours a volunteer-led group or club, such as community groups, cultural associations, service or sports clubs. They have led initiatives, programs, or events that strengthened diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Their contributions have helped create a more welcoming and supportive environments, making it easier for everyone in the community to participate and belong.

Terrace Pickleball Club

Inclusive Volunteer Group/Club: **Winner**



This club actively breaks down barriers to ensure pickleball is a sport for everyone in the community.

Removes Financial Barriers: Provides free beginner coaching and lends equipment (paddles/balls) so anyone can participate regardless of ability to pay.

Champions True Inclusion: Boasts a near-perfect gender balance (72/74) and an age range from 19 to over 80, creating a welcoming space for intergenerational and mixed-play connection.

Reflects Community Diversity: Membership naturally represents the cultural diversity of Terrace, united by a shared love of the sport.

Expands Community Access: Advocated for new public courts and hosted a "Welcome to the Courts" event to ensure neighbours and new players felt invited and able to participate.

Indo-Canadian Volleyball Club

Inclusive Volunteer Group/Club: *Emerging Inclusion Award*



Intentional Inclusion: Expanded their roster to actively welcome Filipino-Canadian athletes, international students, and members of the broader community.

Regional Connection: Hosting signature tournaments for the region, creating new opportunities for rural athletes.

Cultural Exchange: Encouraging networking, sharing meals and building connections amongst teams

Team Unity: Demonstrated their strong bond during recent travel to Prince George with a cross-cultural team – a great opportunity to learn from each other and support one another to work as a team.

The Club has begun broadening its reach, moving from a community-specific focus to actively including athletes from other cultural communities.

Youth Inclusion Ambassador Award

This award celebrates young leaders (up to 30 years of age) who have made significant contributions to the community.

Whether they've stood up to bullying, started a club or initiative at school, organized an event to bring people together, or simply advocated for equity, this young people has been champions for creating a culture of belonging.

Their actions have made a meaningful and lasting impact in the community, demonstrating leadership and a commitment to making sure everyone feels valued and included.

Christopher Peal

Youth Inclusion Ambassador: **Winner**



On a Path to Become an Educator: Chris has taken the first steps toward becoming an educator by working with youth from daycare to elementary level, ensuring all children—regardless of race or identity—have the opportunity to experience the culture that this land belongs to.

Gitlaxdax ADD Youth Association: Through work with the Gitlaxdax A.D.D Youth Association, helps create substance-free, inclusive spaces for youth (15-30) to build healthy relationships, embodying the principle of *Sayt Kilim Goothl* (coming together as one heart).

Cross-Cultural Learning: Embraced opportunities to travel with FNHA and AHSABC, gaining invaluable perspective by listening to and learning from diverse cultures and communities across the province.

We believe in Sayt Kilim Goothl, to come together as one heart it takes all kinds of people



Chisom Princess Nicholas

Youth Inclusion Ambassador: **Winner**



Chisom's journey is one of courage, creativity, and cultural rediscovery. From the moment she arrived in Canada, she committed to making a difference.

Early Community Spirit: Began volunteering shortly after immigrating—despite the initial challenges—and was quickly recognized for her dedication and positive impact.

Artistic Confidence: Showcased her talent and poise on stage, performing in major theatrical productions both in Canada (*Urinetown*) and in Italy (*Beauty and the Beast*).

Cultural Reconnection: Embraced her identity by exploring her African heritage and actively participating in community events, including the Black History Gala.



Lily Truong

Youth Inclusion Ambassador: **Winner**



Overcame Personal Barriers: Despite an initial fear of being in the public eye, found the courage to put herself out there and build meaningful connections in Terrace.

Shared Journey Through Music: Has proudly used music as a medium for self-discovery, allowing her to express and explore her identity.

Cultural Representation: Actively participated in numerous community events, proudly sharing her culture and heritage with others.

Lily has used music as a bridge – both to find her own voice and to connect with the wider community.



Sumitha Muthukumar

Youth Inclusion Ambassador: **Winner**



Welcomes Newcomers: Understood firsthand the importance of settlement support, so began volunteering with Skeena Diversity Society and at her school to help other newcomers feel at home.

Recognized for Service: Received multiple certificates of recognition from both Skeena Diversity and from Caledonia Secondary School for her dedication and positive contributions.

Shares Culture Through Dance: Celebrated diversity by performing at numerous cultural events, using dance to connect with and enrich the broader community.



Sumitha turned her own experience as an immigrant into a passion for welcoming others, making an immediate impact through service and celebration.

Inclusive Organization of the Year Award

This award honours organizations, such as non-profit society, agency, or educational institution with staff and formal leadership. They lead initiatives, programs, and/or projects that strengthened diversity, equity, and inclusion. Their contributions have helped create a more welcoming and supportive environment for everyone in the community.

To be eligible, the organization must have been operating in our community for at least one year.

Volunteer Terrace

Inclusive Organization: *Winner*



For over three decades, Volunteer Terrace has understood that to serve the community effectively, they must reflect it. Inclusion isn't a program for them—it's the foundation of everything they do.

Community-First Philosophy: Believes that to be successful, the organization—from staff to the board of directors—must reflect the diversity of the people they serve.

Evolving with the Community: Since 1992, has continuously adapted its services based on changing community needs, ensuring equitable support for all residents.

Advocacy Through Action: Demonstrates a commitment to inclusion daily through their work, and actively partners with organizations like Skeena Diversity Society to strengthen their impact across the entire community.

Tourism Terrace

Inclusive Organization: *Honorable Mention*



Tourism Terrace is committed to ensuring every visitor and community member feels safe, welcome, and supported while exploring the area.

Safe Space Program: Provides businesses with stickers signifying they are a safe place for anyone to seek help, whether calling 911, connecting with police, or arranging a cab.

Accessible Exploration: Offers a free altering wheelchair to anyone who needs it, removing barriers and ensuring mobility needs don't limit access to Terrace.

GreenStep Certified: Recognized for following environmentally and socially responsible practices, demonstrating a commitment to sustainability and ethical tourism.



Terrace Peaks Gymnastics Club

Inclusive Organization: ***Honorable Mention***



This club is building inclusivity from the inside out—supporting their staff so they can better support the community.

Supports Staff Diversity: Improved wages and benefits while allowing staff to bring their children to work, reducing childcare barriers and supporting working families.

Removes Financial Barriers: Partners with the City, Engage Sport, and iSPARC to offer free or low-cost programming for seniors, young children, and Indigenous community members, while actively assisting families with subsidy access.

Expands Access to New Sport:

Partnered with the Skeena Climbing Society to build a new bouldering wall, broadening recreational options and creating more opportunities for physical literacy development.



Inclusion Champion of the Year Award

This award recognizes outstanding individuals who have been dedicated advocates for equity and inclusion.

Through their work in policy, leadership, workplace culture, or community-building, they lead impactful initiatives that promote fairness and opportunities for all.

Their efforts inspire positive change by breaking down barriers and championing a more inclusive society.

Lyle Adams

Inclusive Champion: **Winner**



Lyle is rooted in a deep love for his culture and community, creating spaces for youth to be heard and for Nisga'a traditions to thrive, welcoming all to learn and experience the culture.



Gave Youth a Voice: Created two youth groups at Holy Trinity Church in Gitlaxtaamiks, providing safe spaces for young people to discuss community issues, share their perspectives, and feel heard.

Keeps Culture Alive: Has dedicated years to preserving and sharing Nisga'a culture through dance—from the Tsamiks Nisga'a Dancers in Vancouver to now directing the Gitlaxdax Sayt Kilim Goothl Nisga'a, ensuring traditions remain strong for future generations.

Built Community Through Wellness: Founded the Trinity Trekkers running and walking group through I-SPARC, expanding from youth to include all ages, training together, and fundraising to participate in major events like the Vancouver Sun Run.

Sharon Bandstra

Inclusive Champion: *Winner*



Co-Founded The Garage Community Space: Helped create a place where volunteers, businesses, and agencies come together with the shared purpose of caring for struggling community members, proving that collective care can spark real hope.

Launched Outreach Thursday: Welcomes everyone—regardless of housing status, income, or background—to a space of true belonging, run alongside volunteers and social service workers who meet people where they are.

Built Dignity Through Downtown Cleanup: Provides an opportunity for individuals facing difficult circumstances to contribute to the community, feel valued, and be part of something positive alongside local businesses and the City.

Sharon's volunteer work is a testament to the power of community. She didn't just create programs—her and her husband created the space where everyone, especially the most vulnerable, is welcomed and valued.

Taylor Bachrach

Inclusive Champion: *Winner*



Taylor has spent years turning advocacy into action—building bridges between communities, fighting for safety, and champion the rights of newcomers at every level of government.

Deepening Reconciliation: As mayor, played a leadership role in the Shared Histories project, resulting in a book on First Nations-settler relations and a 32-kilometer community walk to Witset, strengthening relationships with the Wet'suwet'en.

Advocate for Safety: Worked for seven years to improve transit along the Highway of Tears, and later as MP, pushed for a Red Dress Alert to protect women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people in the region.

Champion of Newcomer Rights: Partnered with settlement organizations to advocate for temporary workers and international students, pushing for federal reforms that create fairer, more predictable pathways for newcomers.

Inclusive Business of the Year Award

This award recognizes businesses that actively foster inclusive and welcoming workplaces. Their efforts demonstrate a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion through policies, practices, or initiatives.

They have created a supportive environments where employees, customers, and the broader community feel valued and respected.

To be eligible, the business must have been operating in our community for at least one year.

My Mountain Co-Op – Shames Mountain Inclusive Business: *Winner*

Purposeful Celebration: Deliberately hosts an Annual Pride and Diversity Weekend and a Multicultural Week, creating meaningful opportunities to celebrate diversity while ensuring skiing is accessible to all.

Intentional Barrier Removal: Made a conscious decision to offer a 50% discount on lessons, rentals, and lift tickets for indigenous people, actively working to reconcile access to the mountain.

Cultivates an Inclusive Workplace: Provides mandatory EDI training for all new staff, ensuring their ethnically diverse team of local and international employees feels supported, respected, and able to thrive.

Shames Mountain is remarkably intentional about inclusion—embedding it into their celebrations, their pricing, and their workforce culture.



Mr. Singh Cars and Tyres Inc.

Inclusive Business: *Honorable Mention*



This business is guided by a philosophy of coexistence—believing that strong communities grow when businesses support one another.

Removes Barriers to Automotive Care: Creates a welcoming space for students, families, and workers of all backgrounds, with honest pricing and respectful service.

Champions Women in Sport: Sponsors WOMEN IN RACING, an all-women team at Terrace Speedway, actively supporting gender inclusion.

Builds an Inclusive Workplace: Fosters fairness, mentorship, and skill-building, ensuring diverse employees feel valued.

Goes Above and Beyond: Provides free emergency help to those in need—like the MCFD worker stranded in a snowstorm—proving their commitment extends far beyond business hours.



Lifetime Inclusion Achievement Award

This prestigious award honours individuals whose life-long dedication to inclusion, equity, and diversity has left a profound and lasting impact on the community.

Through their leadership, advocacy, and unwavering commitment, they have helped shape a more inclusive society, inspiring generations to continue fostering equity and belonging for all.

Their legacy serves as a beacon of hope and progress, ensuring that the values of inclusion endure for years to come.

Laudo Botelho

Lifetime Inclusion Achievement

Celebrated Cultural Diversity: Organized the "Circle of Culture" at REM Lee Theatre, bringing together Punjabi, Latin, Indigenous, and Filipino communities to share dance and traditions, fostering unity and mutual respect.

Championed Seniors' Independence: Led fundraising through Skeena Valley Rotary to purchase a \$40,000 bus for Terrace View Lodge, providing seniors with vital transportation for shopping and appointments.

Created Spaces for Youth and Remembrance: Supported the watersplash park and junior skating programs for local youth, while helping manage Poppy Fund resources through the Legion to support veterans and community events like Riverboat Days.

Laudo has spent decades quietly weaving connection across generations and cultures, ensuring community members of all ages feel seen, supported, and celebrated.



Peggy Julseth

Lifetime Inclusion Achievement

Built Food Sovereignty at Ksan Place: As Coordinator, created programs from garden harvests to seed swaps, ensuring everyone—regardless of circumstance—had access to food and belonging. Raised beds accommodated those with disabilities, and volunteers included newcomers, Indigenous families, and seniors, all of whom took harvest home.

Developed Housing for Vulnerable Populations: From Haida Gwaii to Burns Lake, secured funding and guided construction of seniors' supportive housing, transition houses, and mental health centres, ensuring marginalized populations could age in place and access safety.

Taught Independence Through Driving: As owner of Peggy's Driving School, traveled to remote communities including Kitimaat Village and the Nass Valley, teaching women, Indigenous peoples, and new Canadians to drive—providing skills that unlocked employment, connection, and independence.



Peggy has spent a lifetime ensuring marginalized community members have access to food, housing, and independence—always lifting others up through partnership and kindness.

Tracey Davidson

Lifetime Inclusion Achievement

Raised with Respect: Grew up in a diverse Lower Mainland community in the 60s and 70s, learning from parents to value and honour people of all cultures and ethnicities.

Built Lasting Community Infrastructure: Recruited over 500 volunteers for the 2010 Legacy Now project, helping create the Spirit Trail—a fully accessible pathway connecting Deep Cove to Horseshoe Bay for people of all abilities.

Brings People Together for Good: Whether through guiding youth programs, facilitating restorative justice, or volunteering across sectors, has consistently brought diverse people together—proving that collectively, we can create lasting, meaningful change.

Tracey's commitment to inclusion was shaped in childhood and has been expressed through a lifetime of volunteerism, always ensuring everyone—regardless of background or ability—has a place.



Lifetime Inclusion Community Builder Award

This award recognizes a business or organization that has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to building an inclusive and welcoming community. Over many years of service, their efforts have reflected a deep dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion through meaningful actions, partnerships, and initiatives. They have played a vital role in fostering a sense of belonging where individuals, families, and diverse groups feel valued and respected.

The business or organization must have been operating in our community for a significant period of time and must have consistently demonstrated their commitment to inclusion and community building throughout their years of service.

Terrace Little Theatre

Lifetime Inclusion Community Builder



Rooted in Community since 1954: Incorporated in 1975, continues striving to increase membership diversity and build community relationships.

Creates Access: Runs youth programs (ages 6-18) welcoming members with diverse abilities and diverse backgrounds.

Renovated the playhouse with an accessible washroom and moved concessions to the stage level.

Amplifies Diverse Voices: Produces plays featuring cast and crew of different cultures and abilities.

Partners with organizations like Skeena Diversity, SIMA Festival and local musicians.

For over 70 years, Terrace Little Theatre has opened its stage—and its doors—to everyone, actively working to remove barriers and reflect the diversity of the community.

Red Raven Art Gallery

Lifetime Inclusion Community Builder



Showcases Diverse Local Artists: Since 1992, has provided an opportunity for artists from all backgrounds and mediums to display their work—currently featuring 91 local artists.

Sustained by Collective Volunteer Spirit: Operates entirely on volunteer time and artist contributions, yet remains open seven days a week, ensuring art is always accessible to the community.

Gives Back Generously: Regularly donates to local causes, including supporting youth hockey teams and creating gift baskets for special occasions like Mother's Day.

For over three decades, Red Raven Art Gallery has quietly championed local artists and strengthened community through art and generosity.

Misty River Books

Lifetime Inclusion Community Builder

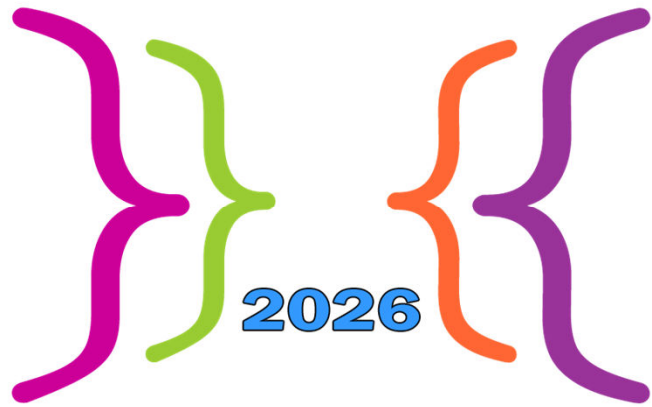


A Safe and Welcoming Space for All: Proudly ensures everyone—regardless of who they are—feels comfortable walking through the door, whether to find a book, ask for information, or simply be pointed in the right direction.

Brings People Together: Despite challenges from big box competitors, continues to offer a unique experience by throwing community events that gather people and foster connection.

A True Independent Feat: Reaching 38 years as an independent bookstore is a testament to their dedication to community over corporate convenience.

Celebrating 38 years in business, Misty River Books has become a beloved community hub through consistency, welcome, and connection.



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Thank you!