

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Wednesday, June 18, 2014**



## **National Aboriginal Day celebrated at Our Place**

### ***Esquimalt Drummers & Dancers highlight day's festivities***

**VICTORIA, B.C.** – The courtyard at Our Place will be transformed into a stage as the Esquimalt Drummers & Dancers help celebrate National Aboriginal Day.

Around one-third of the 600-800 people who access meals, programs and services at Our Place identify as First Nations. Our Place acknowledges and honours our Island's aboriginal roots. First Nations' elders visit on a regular basis, local artists have added their unique touch to our pillars and walls, and aboriginal teachers offer classes in traditional culture, rules and rights.

For National Aboriginal Day, Our Place is celebrating with freshly caught Sockeye salmon, First Nations blessing, and a spirited performance by the Esquimalt Drummers & Dancers.

"Our First Nations members form such a strong core of the Our Place family that we're excited to host, and participate in, this cultural celebration," says Don Evans, executive director of Our Place. "The sense of pride that this important tribal connection brings to our family members is palpable."

**Event:** National Aboriginal Day

**When:** Friday, June 20, 2014, 11:30am – 2:00pm (1:00pm Esquimalt Drummers & Dancers)

**Where:** Our Place Society, 919 Pandora Ave, Victoria

**Website:** [www.ourplacesociety.com](http://www.ourplacesociety.com)

Our Place is an inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria's most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide the majority of financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides 45 transitional housing units, over 1,200 meals per day, hot showers, free clothing, counseling and outreach services. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

-30-

**For further information, please contact:**

Grant McKenzie

Director of Communications

T: 250-388-7112 ext. 225

Cell: 250-217-2406

Email: [grantm@ourplacesociety.com](mailto:grantm@ourplacesociety.com)

Don Evans, Executive Director

Our Place Society

T: 250-388-7112 ext. 239

Cell: 778-977-4921

Email: [don@ourplacesociety.com](mailto:don@ourplacesociety.com)