

SPRING 2021

# Update



**GREATworks**  
Gender Responsive Employment Action Training



With the official arrival of spring it often feels like the start of new things, and this year new shoots are blossoming at EFry, with new projects, partnerships and news which we would love to share with you!

## Introducing GREATworks

We are constantly seeking knowledge and wisdom to open new doors that lead to new opportunities for our clients, and we are excited to share our new employment program for women in which we will be hiring three new EFry staff. The Gender Responsive Employment and Action Training works program (GREATworks) provides women with a criminal record the pre-employment counselling, short duration training, and volunteer or practicum placements necessary to find and keep employment. EFry staff will provide specialized employment services with the aim to develop personal plans for each client to support her reaching her goals, and addressing barriers inclusive of job search and job placement services.

For more information on the role and program visit our [opportunities](https://www.elizabethfry.com/job-opportunities) page at <https://www.elizabethfry.com/job-opportunities>.

## Moving On Up

EFry's five-storey centre for women and children in Surrey is on the up as we are now building our way to our second floor! Spanning 57,000 square feet, the centre now under construction (photo above) will bring together affordable housing, a multi-disciplinary health centre, JustKids programming, a wellness hub and office space. We look forward to opening our doors in Spring 2022.

**EFry**  
Elizabeth Fry Society  
of Greater Vancouver



Megan Newman shown at right

## Congratulations to Our EFry-ette!

We are proud to announce that our very own EFry-ette, Megan Newman, who is studying criminology at Douglas College and works in EFry's Hotels to Homes crisis shelter program, was one of three Indigenous students awarded a \$5000 bursary in the name of Michelle Pockey — who was a prominent lawyer and community activist dedicated to making a positive difference in the world. Megan's goal is to be a voice of change and become a lawyer who can represent Indigenous people who lack legal support. Congratulations Megan!

## NOW Project

EFry and Battered Women's Support Services have partnered to support women exiting trafficking, with the aim of building a wider network of collaborations and exiting pathways for women within Vancouver, Surrey and Abbotsford. Through educating and working with community partners and enhanced case management studies, women in EFry's NOW (New Opportunity Waiting) Project will be supported to improve their health, well-being, safety, connection to communities and resources, and self-sufficiency within one year of entering the program.



## Prison Staff Pitch in for Storybook Program

COVID-19 closed a vital link for children to their parents. EFry's Storybook has restarted with prison staff volunteering to help, bringing parents and children together through the power of reading. We provide books and inmate parents are recorded reading them aloud. Children look forward to receiving books in the mail, with the voice of their parent and messages of love before sitting down to the joy of learning a new story — reading along again and again — before another arrives. Storybook is a gift in all ways that count.

We are so grateful to you for making all these initiatives happen which drives our ability to transform and protect the lives of our women and children we serve — thank you for all that you do.

With *Gratitude*,  
Team EFry

