

## History - 1960s-1970s

- **1965:** Friendship Centre Appoints a Director.
- **1966:** The Friendship Centre “A home away from home”.
- **1967:** New Manager is picked (as recorded in the Daily Herald Tribune) 1970s.
- **1970:** Dr. Arnold Murray presents first scholarship to Native Student Doug Bulldog.
- **April 1971:** Grande Prairie Friendship Centre has 235 members, averages 39 visitors/day and has a total annual attendance of 11,121.
- **September 1971:** National Association of Friendship Centre is formed during a conference, which includes representatives from 30 centres in Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia.
- **June 1972:** Secretary of State Gerard Pelletier announces a 5-year, \$25 million federal program to reinforce the network of friendship centres.
- January 1974: A native information center is launched to assist natives in finding accommodation, employment and dealing with social and private agencies.
- **May 1978:** Buffy Saint-Marie visit the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre to talk about “The Longest Walk” in the United States, for which she is the national coordinator. This is being done to protest legislation that would abolish native treaty rights.

## History - 1980s-1990s

- **October 1982:** The Grande Prairie Friendship Centre moves to 10105-97 Avenue.
- **1982:** The first-class graduates from the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre’s Native Education Awareness Training (NEAT) program. NEAT is a 14-week life skills training and academic update program with four weeks of job experience at the end.
- **April 10, 1985:** The Grande Prairie Friendship Centre expands, as 2500 square feet are added to the Program Centre 10105-97 Avenue.
- **June 1, 1985:** The Grande Prairie Friendship Centre holds and open house to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- **May 12, 1986:** The lower floor of the Program Centre on 97<sup>th</sup> Avenue is purchased.
- **December 1986:** The Grande Prairie Friendship Centre’s \$110,000 mortgage is retired.
- **January 9, 1988:** The first-class graduates from a 40 Native Counselling Training Program.
- **1993:** The United Nations declares 1993 the Year of the World’s Indigenous People.
- **February 19 – March 4, 1995:** The XV Canada Games are held in Grande Prairie. The games cultural portion includes the “Aboriginal Experience” presentation at the Friendship Centre.
- **August 25, 1995:** The Grande Prairie Friendship Centre celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- **June 21, 1997:** National Aboriginal Day is celebrated at Muskoseepi Park.
- **March 13, 1999:** The Grande Prairie Friendship Centre retires the bingo hall mortgage.

## History - 2000s

- **2000:** Finance Minister Paul Martin visits the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre to promote the Aboriginal Head Start Program.
- **March 2000:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spirit Seekers Youth Conference is held.
- **September 15, 2000:** The Grande Prairie Friendship Centres Campus Outreach Centre opens officially.
- The GPFC 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and hosting of the Provincial Annual General Meeting of Friendship Centres.
- Susan Aglukark performs at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Spirit Seekers Conference.
- Aboriginal Head Start celebrates 10 Year Reunion for the children and their families who have attended the program over the years.
- Renovations to the Babies’ Best Start Program include a kitchen facility.
- The Centre’s membership is over 500 and over 30, 000 visits occur each year at the Drop In Centre.