

AFTERCARE FOR DAVIS INLET CHILDREN AT POUNDMAKER

WEEK OF AUGUST 16TH:

The children will have a field trip through parts of Alberta including West Edmonton Mall, Calgary Zoo, Drumheller area and a trip to the mountains. During the last week of August they will be at the wilderness camp and Saddle Lake for reflection and preparation for their return. They will land at Goose Bay on September 1st.

LAST TWO WEEKS OF AUGUST:

The Director of the wilderness camp and an Alberta Elder will spend two weeks in Davis Inlet to prepare parents, families and community members for the children's return. The success of the Poundmaker program requires that those who complete the intense and comprehensive healing exercises be supported by families and others in their home community.

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:

As a transitional measure to reunite the children with parents and families, a camp will be set up at Sango Bay (inland from Davis Inlet) where aftercare will be directed by six Poundmaker counsellors and four Alberta Elders. The camp will be designed to bring the children back to functioning family units. Over this period, the role of the Albert counsellors and Elders will decrease in the everyday lives of the children to be replaced by parents, families and Innu elders.

A review of the children's condition and the parents' preparedness will be done at the end of September. If the camp is to be continued, it will be done under the direction of the Innu parents and elders.

It is anticipated that the program of emergency services to upgrade housing, water supply and sanitation combined with training sessions for improvement of life skills (parenting, leadership, community interaction and addictions treatment) will be underway by the time of the children's return to the village and will serve as a symbol of hope for them.

Poundmaker counsellors recommend a one-week follow-up session every three months with the children and their parents in Davis Inlet.