



## Legacy Funding Helping to Nurture Local Culture and Food Sustainability

The Young Rainbow Warrior Society, is a non-profit society based outside of Burns Lake and is establishing a food garden in the forest to promote self-sustainability for northern communities. With the creation of a multifunctional space in the forest, the Society is seeking to fulfill their mission to create jobs, entrepreneurship, learning and recreational opportunities and programs which encompass traditional teachings and sustainability.

CNC Research Forest was pleased to award The Young Rainbow Warriors Society with the Legacy Fund in 2020. Dawn Belcourt, an active member of the society reports, "With funding received from the CNC Research Forest Society the Young Rainbow Warrior Society was able to have one of its most productive and successful seasons, since its inception in 2014."

The Society has developed a site called The Raven's Nest located outside of Burns Lake. The Raven's Nest comprises of a hexagon-shaped log structure for learning and gathering, garden areas which support multiple food plants, with plans to build two seasonal greenhouses, as well as prepare land for future cereal crops<sup>1</sup>.

Despite a year full of challenges, the Young Rainbow Warrior Society, was able to accomplish a lot with the funding they received from the CNC Research Forest Society in March of 2020. This included purchasing a backhoe excavator; pigs to clear, till and fertilize land; and a new wood cook stove for heating and food preparation purposes. As well as construct outbuildings for work areas; storage and animal husbandry; expand outdoor garden beds; build additional greenhouses; and plant citrus trees and pollinator species.



Belcourt, 2020

The Society is looking forward to accomplishing future goals of constructing a new rock garden, planting the newly prepared ground with cereal crops; constructing a year-round greenhouse; installing pollinator habitat; producing food to supply to local markets; and facilitating workshops and programs for teaching and learning traditional culture and self-sustainability to the community and beyond.

"We felt blessed beyond our wildest expectations when we received half the grant awarded by the College of New Caledonia Forest Research Society's (CNCFRS) Legacy Fund in celebration of their 10th year. From this most generous donation, our community members will be able to enjoy fresh local produce from our garden in 2021 that will be affordable as well as nutritious, organic, and sustainably grown. The funding we received from this grant has also significantly contributed to - and will continue to - creating and maintaining a sustainable model of food grown in a northern climate." – Dawn Belcourt, member of The Young Rainbow Warrior Society.

1. Belcourt, D. (2021, March 31). Personal email communication.