



I work with foster parents and community partners that work with Aboriginal youth in foster care. A typical day involves fielding phone calls from social workers looking for placements for Aboriginal children in need of safe and nurturing care in a foster home.

I might also talk to foster parents about the care they provide and I might problem-solve with them around the challenges they face in caring for the children. I also work with community partners and non-profit agencies that provide youth services to our children and youth.

Our clients are Aboriginal families and Aboriginal communities in and around Vancouver. We all know they have a long history of marginalization. The work we do is in direct service to them. It's critical to the Aboriginal community.

I get personal satisfaction from helping out, helping the community in some small way and trying to make up for some significant hardships Aboriginal families have been through. I also get satisfaction from being witness to personal and community change.

Demian Young has been a social worker with Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society for four years.

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