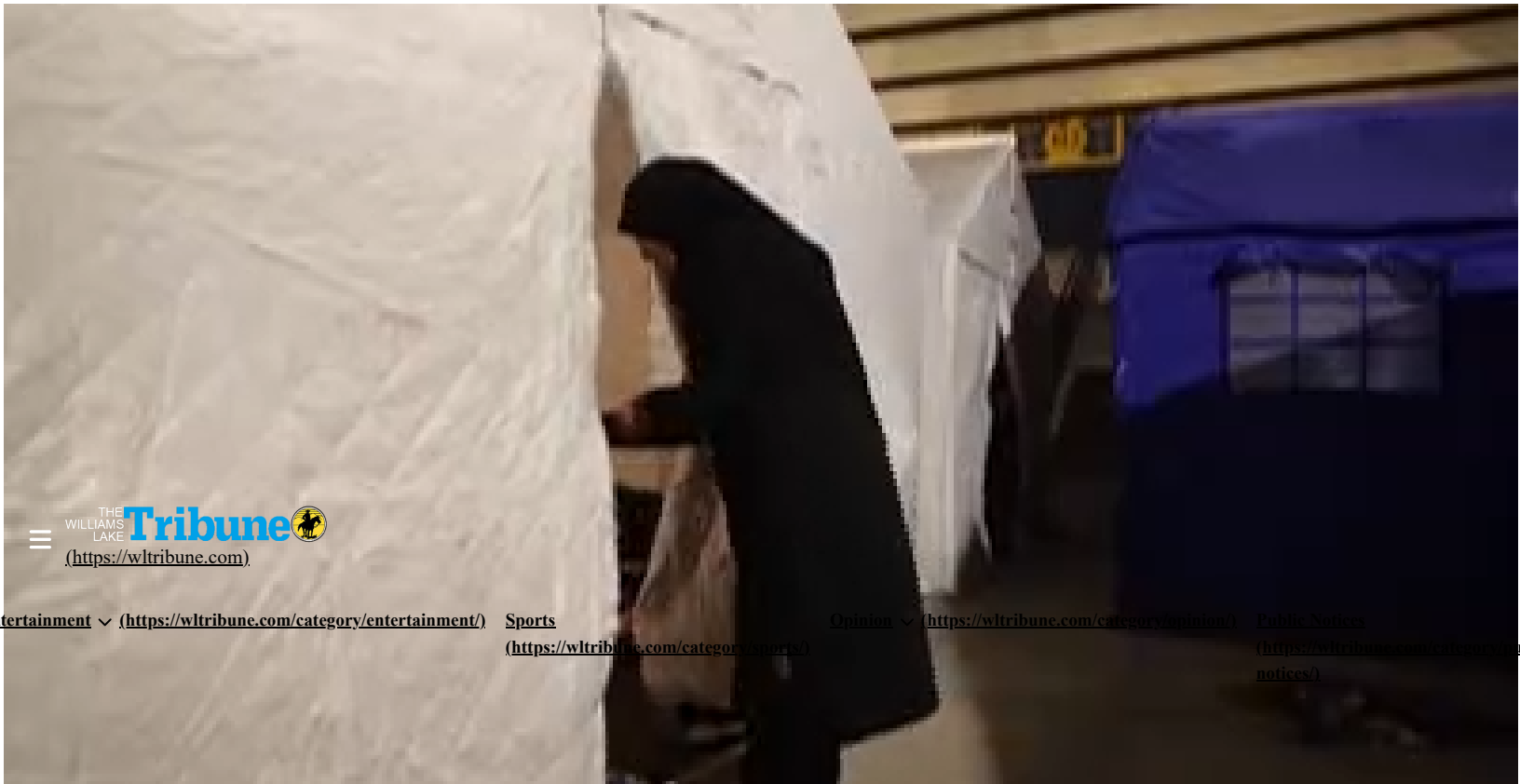


Risking airstrikes to break a Ramadan fast in Lebanon



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### New society aims to fill gaps on substance use recovery in Williams Lake

Published 2:30 pm Friday, February 6, 2026  
By Rebecca Dyok



Darren Van Es and Greg Jeannotte are with the R.I.S.E. Society. (Rebecca Dyok/Williams Lake Tribune)

A group of Williams Lake residents have banded together in the hopes of building a nature-based space that will provide people the supports they need to stay on the road to recovery from substance use.

The R.I.S.E. Society, whose mission is to restore lives through recovery, integrity, support and empowerment was recently formed by Darren Van Es, Greg Jeannotte and Ben Shoults.

Van Es and Jeannotte shared more about themselves at a Feb. 3. committee of whole council meeting in which they asked Williams Lake city council for a letter of support for the proposed centre, which would be located outside city limits.

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(<https://w1tribune.com/2026/03/17/motorist-dead-after-logging-truck-crash-on-highway-97-near-prince-george/>)

### **Early morning fire destroys home north of Williams Lake**

(<https://w1tribune.com/2026/03/16/early-morning-fire-destroys-home-north-of-williams-lake/>)

“People often have to leave the community to receive treatment and once they’re stable, they come back to very limited resources,” Van Es said. “There is often a lack of low-barrier community based support that helps people reintegrate, stay connected and continue building a stable life here.”

The non-profit organization is currently in the early stages of exploring land opportunities for the proposed centre which would provide supports, connections and sense of purpose for people returning home to the area after having completed treatment or are continuing long-term recovery.

At the Feb. 3 meeting, Jeannotte and Van Es confirmed the society had applied for land use that was denied by FrontCounter BC. under a section of the B.C. Land Act which restricts designated land use from further development.

They said they would be participating in a Feb. 6 land sharing workshop by Young Agrarians to further understand appropriate pathways and partnerships moving forward.

“We’re exploring new options,” Jeannotte said. “We’re seeing what else we can do. So if anybody has any guidance with something like that, we’re always open to suggestions because we are in the early stages of forming this.”

Van Es said the proposed centre would serve as a recovery clubhouse hosting a variety of workshops and meetings, with some of the eventual hopes of also having farm animals and providing shuttle service to and from local shelters.

## Trending

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(<https://w1tribune.com/2026/03/17/williams-lake-city-council-approve-of-reserves-to-cover-financial-plan-shortfall/>)

### **83 U.S. healthcare professionals attracted to Interior Health since 2025**

(<https://w1tribune.com/2026/03/17/83-u-s-healthcare-professionals-attracted-to-interior-health-since-2025/>)

On his own recovery journey, Van Es struggled with substance use for more than 20 years and was homeless.

It was last year he went for a 60-day treatment in Maple Ridge after which he said he initially wanted to return to Williams Lake but was talked out of it by his sponsor.

“I realized yeah, I’m not ready at all,” Van Es said. “What am I going to do? Yeah, there’s AA meetings but you need more than that.”

Van Es extended his stay to 167 days.

“We believe that when people are supported as they return home the entire community benefits,” Van Es said, noting there is a large need for ongoing recovery resources and supports in Williams Lake.

Williams Lake mayor and council expressed overall support for the R.I.S.E. Society and their request for a letter of support, recommending Van Es and Jeannotte’s delegation be received for information and referred to other agencies encouraging them to also provide letters of support.

More information about the R.I.S.E. Society can be found on their Facebook page.

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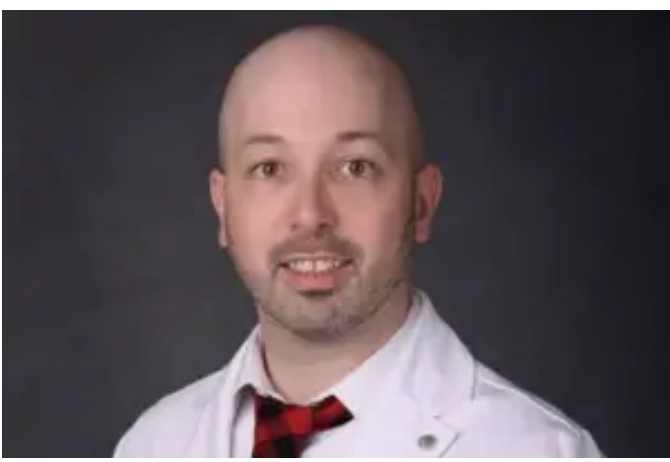
(<https://w1tribune.com/2026/03/18/firefighters-tackle-blaze-at-hungry-hiker-cafe-in-clearwater/>)



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