

Youth Development Strategy Report Year Two 2017

Saanich

Youth who were meaningfully engaged in activities were less likely to report extreme despair in the past month and less likely to report self-harm, suicidal ideation, and suicidal attempt in the past year.

- BC Adolescent Health Survey McCreary Foundation



Increase Participation



- New and affordable entry level activities. For example new Youth Skate Lessons at Pearkes, Food Skills program at Gordon Head, and a Toastmasters for Youth program at SCP.
- Decreasing barriers to participation for youth in Saanich. For example 300+ youth take advantage of new FREE weightroom orientation.
- Youth perspective captured in initial conversations toward regional LIFE review

Collaboration



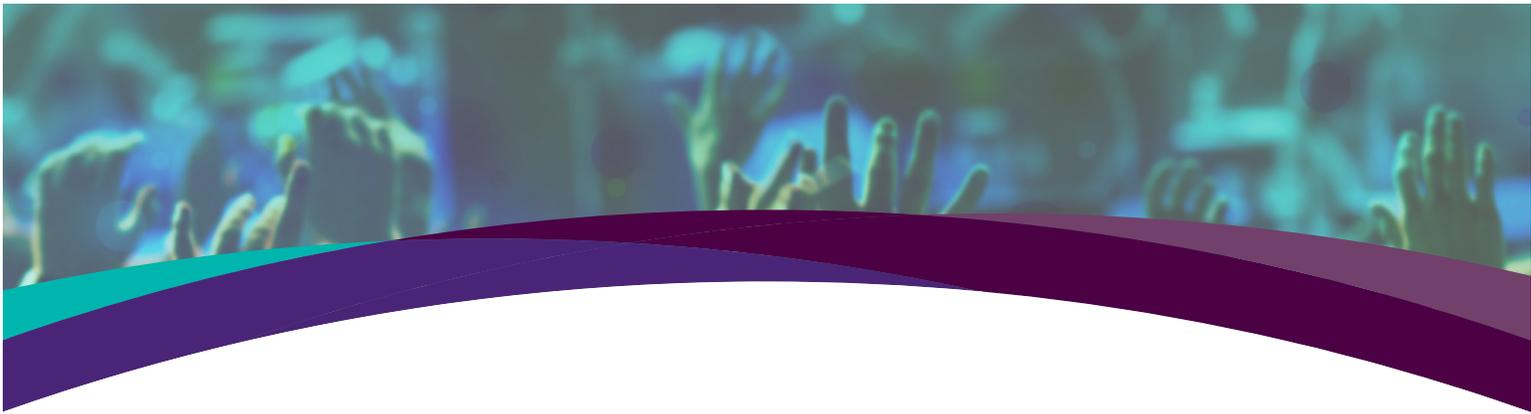
- Increase and strengthened our school based partnership with SD61 & 63 through more programs and services offered to students. Of note is the work done with Spectrum Secondary (new crafters lunchtime program), Colquitz Middle School (disc golf program), Shoreline Middle School (Indigenous paddling program), Cedar Hill Middle School (eco restoration program), Royal Oak Middle School (lunch hour boys and girls groups) and Reynolds Secondary (leadership group).
- New relationships with local schools have been forged through the work of our new Youth Leader II in the Cedar Hill family of schools area.
- \$2000 in Start Up Funds delivered to youth groups. For example funding the Love is Love Conference at Lambrick Secondary, Victoria Friendship Centre for a paddle creation program and Adrenaline leadership program, as well as supporting the successful initiation of a Punk Rock Show at the Upside Teen Centre.

Risk and Outdoor Play



- Enhance our partnership with Saanich Parks. For example continued support of Parks planning youth engagement in the Haro Woods and McMinn projects.
- Support of the School-Park Stewardship Initiative at Arbutus Global Middle School.
- Continued support of the Saanich Neighbourhood Playground Program where we push the boundaries of what risky play can be. For example the successful implementation of the Horner Adventures outdoor camp.





Social Wellbeing



- Ongoing emphasis placed on our partnerships, programs and services which support the increasing needs of this vulnerable and underserved demographic. This has occurred in the form of new staff training, parent education, and drop in programs such as the Wednesday dinner program for LGBTQ2+ youth at Gordon Head.
- New efforts towards providing healthy food options in all our Teen Centre drop in programs towards establishing positive lifestyle habits..

Communication



- Collaborated with SD 61 and 63, as well as Camosun College through engagements focused on communicating with youth. Outcomes from these engagements all pointed to the need for change in the way we communicate with youth. Of note is a need to focus on relevant streams, i.e. social media, when building awareness of programs, services and events targeting youth.
- Piloted a youth internship dedicated towards achieving more relevant and effective messaging to Saanich youth. We learned that we need to push the boundaries of our conventional messaging methods and strategies if we desire a better response from youth..

Youth Spaces



- Continue to employ the Youth Program Quality Initiative Assessment method to determine the efficacy and appropriateness of our programs and services offered out of our teen centres and youth spaces.
- Focus on outreach to the Cedar Hill Neighbourhood in the form of joint programming with Cedar Hill Middle School, visits to art classes by our Youth Leader II, connection with current Cedar Hill Recreation programs (eg. Art Hive), and hosting special events (eg. Open Mic Nights).



By the Numbers

400+ youth and families attend new Open Mic Nights at Cedar Hill Rec Centre, including 100+ youth performers.



250 Families supported through new Gender Spectacular Family Support Group



1st ever Pride Prom during Pride week at the Upside Teen Centre

90 Drop In passes provided to Girls on Fire program in partnership with SD61



1,000+ visits to new Girls and Boys Group programs at Royal Oak Middle School



27 interns hosted in 2017, including new school year internship model



50 youth register for new intro skate lessons at Pearkes Rec Centre

100+ youth attend professional development programming

20 Lambrick High School GSA meetings held at Backdoor Teen Centre at the Gordon Head Recreation Centre



10,000+

youth drop in's in our 4 teen centres

