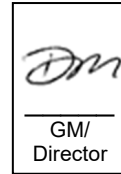
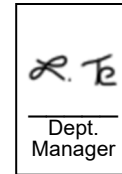


AGENDA INFORMATION	
☒ Regular Meeting	Date: April 27, 2026
☐ Other:	Date: _____



The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

April 9, 2026

AUTHOR: Eirikka Brandson, Community Planner

SUBJECT: Building Safer Communities Fund – Youth Friendly North Shore Final Report

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT staff are directed to work with the City of North Vancouver and the District of West Vancouver to review and update the municipal youth services policy framework to reflect current evidence-based practices and emerging youth needs, and report back to Council with proposed updates;

AND THAT staff are directed to engage community service providers and partners in the municipal youth services policy review process to ensure alignment with current service delivery models;

AND THAT DNV and North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission (NVRC) staff collaborate to support coordinated youth service delivery across service areas (Capilano, Lynn Valley, Seymour);

AND THAT staff and NVRC work with community partners to explore opportunities to sustain and coordinate late-night recreation programming under a shared Youth Friendly North Shore banner;

AND THAT staff continue to explore opportunities to sustain the Youth Services Community of Practice in partnership with community organizations; and

THAT staff review and bring back to Council for approval District grant program criteria to identify opportunities to better support youth-led initiatives.

REASON FOR REPORT:

This report provides a summary of activities delivered under the “Youth Friendly North Shore” work plan, funded through Public Safety Canada’s [Building Safer Communities Fund](#). It also outlines opportunities to strengthen and sustain youth services across the North Shore, including potential updates to municipal policies and programs.

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SUMMARY:

This report outlines the implementation and outcomes of the Building Safer Communities Fund initiative, through which the District received \$1.78 million to develop and deliver a three-year youth safety, wellness, and crime prevention plan in partnership with City of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, Squamish Nation, Tseil-Waututh Nation, and the RCMP. The plan was informed by stakeholder engagement and evidence-based research and focused on two streams: creating youth friendly spaces and strengthening the system of care for youth. Implementation occurred from 2023 to 2026 and evolved through an adaptive approach, enabling additional activities and partnerships.

Key outcomes included increased youth inclusion, with more youth attending and actively participating in community spaces, as well as youth being directly involved in assessing and informing those spaces. Additional outcomes included expanded youth-led initiatives, enhanced coordination among service providers, and the development of new tools and resources to support effective youth services. The initiative also identified the need for sustained programming, improved awareness of services, and updated municipal policies. The report highlights next steps to build on this work, including strengthening partnerships, sustaining successful initiatives, and modernizing the municipal youth services policy framework to better align with current practices and emerging youth needs across the North Shore.

BACKGROUND:

On March 16, 2022, the Minister of Public Safety Canada (PSC), announced \$250 million through the Building Safer Communities Fund to address youth crime nationwide. The North Shore has relatively low level of youth-related crime, in part due to a number of organizations that provide services to promote child and youth well-being. However, as criminal and gang-related activity increases in the Metro Vancouver area more broadly, it was prudent to take steps to prevent a potential increase in youth-related crime locally.

The District was selected to participate, receiving \$1,779,951 to develop and implement a three-year youth crime prevention plan. While the District was the funding recipient, staff received approval from PSC for a North Shore wide effort in collaboration with the City of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, Squamish Nation, Tseil Waututh Nation, and the RCMP. The project was guided by a DNV joint management team and an intergovernmental staff group representing each North Shore jurisdiction.

Phase 1 – Development of the Plan (January 1 to June 30, 2023; \$269,500)

The first phase focused on stakeholder engagement and an evidence review across four areas:

1. Youth pathways, risks, and protective factors – this area examines the developmental trajectories of youth and the factors that influence their outcomes over time. Evidence is used to identify key leverage points for early intervention and prevention.
2. Effective prevention and intervention program elements – areas that have been demonstrated to effectively prevent or respond to youth-related risks.

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3. Community based prevention and intervention efforts –these recognize the importance of local context, social networks and access to services in shaping youth outcomes and enhancing community resilience.
4. Program implementation and evaluation –. emphasis on continuous improvement through data collection, performance monitoring and evidence-informed decision-making.

Engagement followed the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) framework and six guiding principles: youth-focused, strengths-based, resilience oriented, sustainable, equitable, and culturally appropriate.

In early 2023, a diverse group of North Shore organizations were invited to share insights. Stakeholders included representatives from K–12 education, sports and recreation, health and crisis support, police and justice, and service agencies. These local insights, combined with academic research, shaped the plan.

The plan builds on existing community strengths and emphasizes two streams:

- Stream 1 – creating youth friendly spaces on the North Shore; and
- Stream 2 – enhancing the system of care for North Shore youth.

The plan was presented to the North Shore staff government partners in May 2023, and to stakeholders in June. Full details on the plan’s development can be found in the [Stakeholder Engagement Report](#) and review of the [Evidence Report](#).

Phase 2 – Implementation of the plan (July 1, 2023 to March 31, 2026; \$1,510,451)

Implementation focused on activities aligned with the two streams noted above, evolving over time through learning and adaptation. This iterative approach enabled additional activities beyond those initially planned. The analysis section summarizes outcomes, lessons learned, challenges, adjustments, and remaining gaps.

On September 9, 2024, a [report](#) was presented to Council outlining a one-time grant opportunity through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General’s Collaborative Public Safety Programs. Council passed the following resolution:

THAT the establishment of a North Shore Situation Table for youth and North Shore Situation Table for adults is supported; and

THAT an application for grant funding from relevant sources and senior levels of government for these initiatives is supported.

The grant application was approved, providing \$100,000 to establish the two tables.

EXISTING POLICY:

The District’s approach to youth services is guided by a combination of corporate priorities, land use policy, and established municipal youth services policies.

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Corporate Plan (2023-2026)

- Goal: Foster Community Wellbeing, Culture, and Safety
 - Objective: Improve multi-agency response with respect to mental health issues in community.

Official Community Plan (2011)

- Social Well-Being objective – to foster a safe, socially inclusive and supportive community that enhances the health and well-being of its residents.
 - Policy 6.3 Community Services, Programs, and Facilities – to provide, facilitate and support a range of community programs and social services that meet the needs of the community.

Municipal Youth Services Policies (2008)

The City and District of North Vancouver jointly adopted a set of Municipal Youth Services Policies to guide the planning, delivery, and funding of youth services. These policies are supported by a shared vision:

“To create relationships and opportunities that enable the development of youth to become meaningfully involved in the life of the municipality and to be healthy, engaged and valued members of the community.”

Together, the policies (described further, below) provide a comprehensive framework that includes:

- strategic direction and coordination (“Policy 1”);
- operational service delivery and funding structure (“Policy 2”); and
- targeted, sustained support for at-risk youth (“Policy 3”).

[City and District of North Vancouver Municipal Youth Policy – Youth Services](#)

Policy 1 – Strategic Direction

Establishes the overall vision, principles, and collaborative approach to youth services.

- Supports coordinated, inter-agency service delivery across municipalities and community partners;
- Emphasizes inclusive opportunities that support youth development across social, emotional, and physical domains; and
- Prioritizes preventative, community-based services and municipal collaboration.

[City and District of North Vancouver Funding Policy: Outreach Youth Services](#)

Policy 2 – Implementation Framework

Provides direction on service delivery, partnerships, and funding processes.

- Commits to a coordinated system of community-based youth services supported by municipal funding;
- Defines the role of the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission (NVRC) in delivering recreational, social, and wellness programming; and
- Establishes principles, guidelines, and application criteria to ensure accountability and alignment with community needs.

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District of North Vancouver Outreach Youth Services – Core Funding Policy

Policy 3 – Targeted support for at-risk youth

Enables ongoing core funding for services supporting youth who are at-risk or potentially at risk.

- Provides a streamlined application and review process; and
- Supports the stability and continuity of essential youth services.

Across the policies, common elements include a focus on youth well-being and holistic development, a community-based and partnership-driven approach, an emphasis on prevention and early intervention, and recognition of the municipal role in coordinating and supporting youth services.

ANALYSIS:

Youth Friendly North Shore (YFNS) is the name used for the three-year work plan funded through the Building Safer Communities Fund. The name was adopted to better reflect the local partnership, community focus, and preventative nature of the work.

The three-year initiative aimed to support the development of healthy communities where youth aged 12–18 could thrive and to reduce the risk of involvement in gangs or organized criminal activity. Through targeted prevention and intervention activities, YFNS focused on reducing risk factors, such as negative influences, limited positive role models, and weak community connection. Such activities would also strengthen protective factors including belonging, social connection, hope for the future, and access to social, recreational, and cultural opportunities.

A total of 11 activities were undertaken through YFNS, organized under two streams: Youth Friendly Spaces and Strengthening the System of Care. **Table 1** outlines the activities within each stream. Detailed descriptions and District specific outcomes are provided in **Attachment 1**.

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Table 1: Youth Friendly North Shore Activities

Stream 1 Youth Friendly Spaces	Stream 2 Strengthening the System of Care
1. WelcoMe – Youth Inclusion in Spaces	5. Youth Services Community of Practice
2. Youth Action Grants	6. North Shore Youth Situation Table
3. Late Night Recreation Pilot Events	7. Evaluation of Municipally Funded Youth Services
4. Exploratory Activities:	8. Youth Online Trends and Website Audits
a. Indigenous Youth Space	9. HR Training Videos
b. School Spaces Partnership	10. Stock Photo Image Bank
c. First Responders – Youth Recreation Activities League	11. Review of Municipal Youth Policies

In summary, the YFNS initiative demonstrated the value of coordinated, prevention-focused approaches to supporting youth. Activities improved access to inclusive spaces, strengthened collaboration among service providers, and enhanced organizational capacity through shared tools and training. Youth-led initiatives, including WelcoME Youth Action Teams and Youth Action Grants, supported meaningful participation and leadership, while pilot programs expanded access to safe and responsive programming.

The final report (**Attachment 2**), which was prepared by the project consultant Bunyaad Public Affairs, provides recommendations on how local governments, First Nations, school districts, recreational and community services providers and other community partners can continue to build on the positive outcomes achieved as part of the three-year initiative. It includes links to all resources and reports produced during the grant period, as well as forward looking considerations related to policy, programs, capacity building and youth participation. This information is also available on the District's [website](#).

Policy Considerations

The policy review identified opportunities to modernize existing municipal youth policies to better reflect current service delivery practices and evolving youth needs. Greater alignment across the North Shore, including a coordinated or complementary approach among the City and District of North Vancouver and the District of West Vancouver¹, would support consistency in standards and continuity in service delivery, particularly as youth access services across municipal boundaries.

¹ The District of West Vancouver is scheduled to present to their Council on April 27, 2026, to introduce a new youth policy and recommend updates to its youth strategy based on findings from the Youth Friendly North Shore project.

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Program Considerations

There is an opportunity to continue collaborative, low-barrier programming, including late-night recreation, under a shared YFNS banner. The [North Shore Youth Services Directory](#) is a centralized resource that provides information on available youth programs, services, and supports across the North Shore, helping youth and families easily access and navigate local offerings. Enhancements to the directory could improve awareness and better align with youth communication preferences. Ongoing coordination among municipalities and service providers may also help ensure equitable geographic access to programs as community needs evolve.

Capacity Building Considerations

One of the key activities held during Youth Friendly North Shore was regular Community of Practice (COP) sessions. The COP provided an opportunity for front-line youth workers and others to discuss and learn about current and emerging topics. Nine sessions were held, attended by 120 staff from over 30 organizations with 30% of attendees returning for more than one session. Continued collaboration among community partners could support regular COP sessions, with future topics informed by emerging data from the Youth Situation Table. This would strengthen sector capacity and support ongoing knowledge sharing and service improvement.

Youth Participation Considerations

Sustained support for youth-led initiatives through flexible funding opportunities would help maintain youth engagement and leadership. Additional, dedicated approaches are needed to support the participation of Indigenous youth, who may face distinct barriers to engagement. Strengthened collaboration with Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation partners may help build trust, improve access, and ensure participation opportunities are culturally relevant, responsive and inclusive.

The final report highlights the importance of sustaining and aligning the above noted efforts across sectors and jurisdictions. The recommended actions outlined in this report respond to these findings, with a focus on municipal responsibility. The recommendations for Council's consideration would advance policy modernization and alignment, strengthen collaboration with service providers, and support coordinated service delivery through partnerships. They also enhance opportunities for youth participation through potential updates to District grant program criteria, such as consideration of the [Community Building Fund](#) criteria where appropriate. In addition, they sustain successful program models such as late-night recreation under a shared YFNS banner and continue capacity-building efforts through the Youth Services Community of Practice.

Together, these actions build on the successes of YFNS and position the District and its partners to maintain momentum, improve coordination, and respond to the evolving needs of youth across the North Shore.

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Timing/Approval Process:

The District signed an updated Contribution Agreement with the federal government for \$1,779,951.41 on June 28, 2023, following the development of the Youth Friendly North Shore work plan. Funding was reimbursed biannually each fiscal year upon completion of required reporting, including non-financial reports, cash flow statements, and general ledger sampling.

On March 31, 2026, the District signed a no-cost extension to extend the agreement to March 31, 2027. This extension may help streamline access to any future funding increases, should Public Safety Canada have the authority to provide additional funding.

Concurrence:

The RCMP, Finance Department and NVRC have reviewed and concurred to this report.

Financial Impacts:

There is no current request for additional funding. Staff will bring forward funding requests as needed and continue to pursue grant opportunities to support youth initiatives in the District in collaboration with NVRC and other community partners.

Additional funding may also become available through Public Safety Canada, subject to federal approvals.

Social Policy Implications:

The Youth Friendly North Shore project has supported the District's broader social policy objectives by strengthening coordinated, community-based approaches to youth wellbeing. The initiatives outlined in this report contribute to improved access to services, earlier identification of at-risk youth, and enhanced collaboration among service providers across sectors. Together, these efforts help advance inclusive, preventative, and evidence-based strategies that promote positive youth development and overall community wellbeing.

Conclusion:

The initiatives and activities delivered under the Youth Friendly North Shore project have been successful in advancing the intended objectives of improving youth safety and wellness and reducing the risk of youth involvement in crime. Two streams of work were undertaken: Stream 1: creating youth friendly spaces on the North Shore; and Stream 2: enhancing the system of care for North Shore youth.

Over the course of three years, eleven specific initiatives were implemented, strengthening youth services across the North Shore. Particular emphasis was placed on identifying and supporting elements that are sustainable over time within both streams, including legacy components such as established partnerships, collaborative structures, and shared practices. These enduring outcomes position the District and its partners to continue building on the progress achieved and to maintain coordinated, community-based support for youth into the future.

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Options:

1. THAT staff are directed to work with the City of North Vancouver and the District of West Vancouver to review and update the municipal youth services policy framework to reflect current evidence-based practices and emerging youth needs, and report back to Council with proposed updates;

AND THAT staff are directed to engage community service providers and partners in the municipal youth services policy review process to ensure alignment with current service delivery models;

AND THAT DNV and North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission (NVRC) staff collaborate to support coordinated youth service delivery across service areas (Capilano, Lynn Valley, Seymour);

AND THAT staff and NVRC work with community partners to explore opportunities to sustain and coordinate late-night recreation programming under a shared Youth Friendly North Shore banner;

AND THAT staff continue to explore opportunities to sustain the Youth Services Community of Practice in partnership with community organizations; and

THAT staff review and bring back to Council for approval District grant program criteria to identify opportunities to better support youth-led initiatives.

OR

2. Council provides alternate direction.

Respectfully submitted,



Eirikka Brandson
Community Planner

Attachment 1: Youth Friendly North Shore Activities

Attachment 2: Youth Friendly North Shore Final Report

Attachment 3: Staff Presentation

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REVIEWED WITH:			
☐ Business and Economic	_____	☒ Finance	<u>SJ</u>
☐ Bylaw Services	_____	☐ Fire Services	_____
☐ Clerk's Office	_____	☐ GIS	_____
☐ Climate and Biodiversity	_____	☐ Human Resources	_____
☐ Communications	_____	☐ Integrated Planning	_____
☐ Community Planning	_____	☐ Housing	<u>TA</u>
☐ Development Engineering	_____	☐ ITS	_____
☐ Development Planning	_____	☐ Parks	_____
☐ Engineering Operations	_____	☐ Real Estate	_____
☐ Environment	_____	☐ Review and Compliance	_____
☐ Facilities	_____	☐ Solicitor	_____
	_____	☐ Utilities	_____
External Agencies:			
		☐ Library Board	_____
		☐ Museum and Archives	_____
		☐ NSEM	_____
		☐ NS Health	_____
		☒ NVRC	<u>HT</u>
		☒ RCMP	<u>DP</u>
		☐ Other:	_____

Youth-Friendly North Shore Activities

Stream 1: Youth Friendly Spaces

1. WelcoMe – Youth Inclusion in Spaces

WelcoMe Youth Action Teams were recruited annually (2023-2026), engaging youth aged 12–18 to assess public and agency spaces through “welcome audits” and to develop recommendations aimed at improving inclusion and belonging.

The initiative followed an iterative approach, with each cohort building on previous findings to refine the audit process and expand the scope of recommendations. A recruitment video supported ongoing youth engagement, and three summary reports captured key outcomes. The audit tool and consolidated recommendations remain available on the [District’s website](#) as a continued community resource.

Findings indicate that youth experiences are significantly influenced by their interactions with staff and peers. Negative interactions with staff were identified as a key barrier to youth returning to spaces and services. In response, a series of short HR training videos was developed for local organizations to help foster more welcoming and inclusive environments (see Section 9).

2. Youth Action Grants

Seven Youth Action Grants, totalling approximately \$10,000, were awarded to support youth-led initiatives identified through WelcoMe. The grants enabled youth to partner with community organizations and responsible adults to advance projects focused on well-being through arts, culture, sports, and recreation. Detailed descriptions of each grant are included in the final report.

These grants demonstrate that small flexible funding can have meaningful impact when paired with youth leadership and community mentorship. To support ongoing opportunities, youth could be encouraged to apply to the District’s Community Building Fund. Updating the program criteria to explicitly include the support of youth-led initiatives could also be considered.

3. Late Night Recreation Pilot Events

A working group consisting of NVRC and local non-profit youth service providers, was established to explore a late-night informal play pilot. The pilot offered low-barrier activities on weekend evenings (7–11 pm) during the winter months, creating safe spaces for at-risk youth.

The pilot responded to the youth services evaluation (see Section 7) that identified limited after-hours recreation, including few late-night public spaces and no Sunday

programming. Six organizations collaborated to deliver activities from November 2025 to March 2026 under a common YFNS banner, with site-specific adaptations.

The pilot demonstrated demand for evening programming and served as a proof of concept, while also testing outreach and marketing approaches. Existing funding and in-kind space supported implementation.

Next steps may include working with service providers to continue coordinated programming under a shared YFNS banner, with the aim of improving visibility and access for youth, and considering branding and partnership approaches across jurisdictions, subject to direction from Council.

4. Exploratory Activities

The evidence review indicated that both school-based and community-based programs demonstrate effective approaches to prevention and intervention. Three additional opportunities were explored that could increase access to low barrier recreation spaces for different youth populations:

a. Indigenous Youth Space

Discussions identified a need for a dedicated, culturally appropriate space for Indigenous youth rather than a shared or multi-use space. Sustained funding would be required to support both programming and ongoing operations. Given the constraints of the current grant, establishing such a space was not feasible within this period. Municipal staff would remain open to continued discussions with Indigenous partners to further define needs and opportunities should partners wish to pursue this initiative off reserve and in a manner led by local Indigenous communities.

b. School Spaces Partnership

A midnight basketball drop-in program was initially explored as part of the grant and later expanded to consider other school-based opportunities. While potential space was identified, staffing and funding constraints limited the ability to pilot programming. Starting a program with short-term grant funding, without a clear path to longer-term sustainability was not considered appropriate to support meaningfully and sustained youth outcomes. This highlighted the importance of confirming operational capacity and resources when considering the use of school facilities.

c. First Responders – Youth Recreation Activities League

Discussions with organizations operating similar programs in other jurisdictions identified key requirements for successful implementation, including a dedicated community champion, stable long-term funding and access to appropriate space. Without these foundational elements, establishing the program was not feasible within the project timeframe.

First Responders were unable to serve as the program lead due to operational demands associated with being “on call”. In addition, community and school-based partners did not have the capacity to take on additional responsibilities within existing workloads. As a result, there was no feasible lead or delivery structure identified to support implementation of the program.

Stream 2: Strengthening the System of Care

5. Youth Services Community of Practice

The YFNS Community of Practice (CoP) provided a quarterly forum to address knowledge, capacity and relationships gaps identified during early engagement. Designed for professionals supporting youth aged 12 to 18 years, the CoP offered practical resources and evidence-based guidance on topics aimed at improving the delivery of community-based programs that promote positive youth development on the North Shore.

Nine sessions were held, attended by 120 staff from over 30 organizations. (Approximately 30% of attendees returned for more than one session). The CoP enabled frontline staff to network across agencies, strengthened relationships and improved referrals. Resource materials from each session were compiled and remain available on the District’s [website](#).

These low-cost sessions could serve as a lasting legacy of the grant, with participants noting their value for sharing resources and connecting across roles that often experience high turnover. Agencies have expressed interest in continuing CoP sessions on an ongoing basis, with future topics informed by data from the Youth Situation Table (see Section 6.).

6. North Shore Youth Situation Table

Situation tables bring together frontline workers from health, social services, public safety, and education to quickly identify and connect at-risk individuals with the support they need. The North Shore received provincial funding to establish two tables: a youth table, led by the North Vancouver School District, and an adult table, led by the RCMP. Participants are currently (as of March 2026) completing onboarding training for the youth table, with the adult table to follow.

Situation tables focus on individuals at acutely elevated risk, meaning:

- significant community interest is at stake;
- there is high likelihood of harm;
- the situation is very serious; and
- the risk involves many different factors and areas of expertise.

The youth table's data dashboard will help municipalities and service providers understand evolving risk trends and guide the adaptation of programs and services. The Youth Situation Table is anticipated to launch in April 2026. Additional information is available in the previous [staff report](#) to Council that secured provincial funding.

7. Evaluation of Municipally Funded Youth Services

Initial stakeholder engagement identified gaps in service delivery and the continuum of care, as providers struggle to engage certain at-risk youth and there was a lack of overarching leadership and strategy. The evidence review also showed that a continuum of care—a coordinated approach to supporting youth across prevention, early intervention, and intensive services—is critical for effective support.

To assess youth services across the North Shore, a new evaluation tool was developed and piloted with eight organizations offering outreach, social, cultural, and recreational programs. The tool is grounded in research-informed practice, including the Positive Youth Development Framework¹. It uses a strengths-based assessment scale that focuses on identifying and building on the existing assets, skills, and potential of organizations and youth to highlight areas for improvement.

The evaluation produced customized reports for each participating organization and a cumulative [report](#) for municipal funders. Several recommendations from the cumulative report have already been implemented. Learnings from the evaluation have also been incorporated into annual reporting for the District's Social Services Core-Funded agencies, ensuring a strengths-based approach and demonstrating that municipal investments are supporting effective youth services. This evaluation represents a legacy of the grant, providing a sustainable resource with long-term impact.

8. Youth Online Trends and Website Audits

Youth feedback from WelcoMe (see Section 1) and the youth services evaluation (see Section 7) highlighted the need to improve awareness of programs and services through better online experiences. Research on youth online use trends informed an audit of 21 municipally funded websites. Participating organizations received both general and site-specific reports, and the District received a consolidated [Youth Online Trends and Website Audit report](#).

Effective communication with youth requires clear, up-to-date content and inclusive, engaging design. While youth increasingly use social media platforms such as YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram, mobile-friendly, well-optimized websites remain essential for credibility and community engagement.

¹ Positive Youth Development (PYD) is a research-based approach that focuses on creating supportive environments, relationships, and opportunities that enable young people to reach their potential. Rather than targeting individual behaviour change, PYD emphasizes how communities, organizations, and adults work in partnership with youth to co-create conditions that support healthy development and positive outcomes.

The audit identified over 20 recommendations to improve youth engagement online. Common recommendations included fixing broken links, adding subtitles, promoting free programs, and listing roles rather than individual names for contacts. These improvements support more effective connections with youth and help ensure online platforms are accessible, inclusive and informative.

9. HR training videos

The youth services evaluation (see Section 7) recommended establishing a standard of practice for municipally funded services that support youth. This standard of practice provides guidance on consistent approaches and expectations for engaging with youth safely and effectively. In response, a series of HR training videos was developed to help organizations train staff on engaging with youth in public spaces and program settings. The videos were rolled out through two “train-the-trainer” sessions held between January and March 2025.

This training package, which includes five videos and accompanying worksheets, is available on the District’s [website](#) and can be used regularly for onboarding new staff, making it a lasting legacy resource for organizations.

10. Stock photo image bank

Youth feedback and evaluation activities identified a need to develop a library of authentic stock photos that reflect the diversity, spirit and lived experiences of North Shore youth. Youth models were recruited for photo shoots in locations across the North Shore. These images are available to government partners and participating North Shore organizations for non-commercial use until 2036.

Several organizations have already expressed interest in updating their websites with images that better reflect their communities. The image below provides an example of this work.



11. Review of Municipal Youth Policies

The City and District of North Vancouver's joint Municipal Youth Policy was last updated in November 2008. The District of West Vancouver does not currently have a Council-adopted youth services policy.

Following completion of the youth services evaluation and discussions with the intergovernmental table, staff reviewed the existing policies and identified several opportunities for alignment and modernization:

- expand the policy to include the District of West Vancouver and establish a tri-municipal youth policy;
- update policy language to align with current evidence-based practices, including the Positive Youth Development Framework; and
- maintain and update the [North Shore Youth Services Directory](#).

The City and District of North Vancouver's Outreach Youth Services – Core Funding Policy was also last updated in November 2008. It is recommended that municipalities engage service delivery organizations to update this policy to reflect current programming, service delivery models, and emerging needs identified through the youth services evaluation (see Section 7.).

Youth-Friendly North Shore

Final Report

April
2026



The Youth-Friendly North Shore initiative is led by the District of North Vancouver in collaboration with the City of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

The initiative is funded by Public Safety Canada through the Building Safer Communities Fund and supported by the North Vancouver RCMP. Prepared by Bunyaad Public Affairs for the Youth-Friendly North Shore initiative.



Public Safety
Canada

Sécurité publique
Canada



Skwxwú7mesh
Úxwumixw
Squamish Nation



Tsleil-Waututh Nation
PEOPLE OF THE INLET



We respectfully acknowledge the original Peoples of the lands and waters that situate and surround us wherever we work. We honour the səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), on whose territories we work, play and live.

We extend our gratitude and raise up their ongoing relationship with land they have stewarded since time immemorial. As well, we recognize Métis Nation BC, Inuit and urban Indigenous Peoples who have deeply rooted relationships with the land we all call home.

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What was YFNS?

Youth-Friendly North Shore (YFNS) was a three-year initiative to help build healthy communities where youth aged 12 to 18 thrive, reducing the risk of involvement in gang or organized criminal activity. Through targeted prevention and intervention activities, YFNS aimed to reduce risk factors—such as negative influences, limited positive role models and a lack of community attachment—while enhancing protective factors, including a sense of belonging, social connections, hope for the future, and access to social, recreational and cultural services.

The initiative was led by the District of North Vancouver in collaboration with the City of North Vancouver, the District of West Vancouver, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. It was funded by Public Safety Canada through the Building Safer Communities Fund and supported by the North Vancouver RCMP. Bunyaad Public Affairs was selected to develop and implement YFNS, with youth-facing program support provided by McCreary Centre Society.



All photographs in this report are original images captured during the Youth-Friendly North Shore initiative. They feature youth who are residents of the North Shore. Permission was received to use these photos.

Guiding Approach and Values

Guided by an asset-based community development approach focused on building youth resilience, Youth-Friendly North Shore leveraged a defined funding opportunity to create meaningful and lasting change for youth across the North Shore. The collective vision of the District of North Vancouver and the North Vancouver RCMP grounded this work in the guiding values of sustainability, equity, cultural appreciation, youth resilience and community connectedness.

Recognizing that youth are not a monolithic group and often live, study and play across municipal boundaries, collaboration with the City of North Vancouver, the District of West Vancouver, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation enabled a coordinated approach to supporting youth well-being as communities moved forward from an unprecedented global pandemic.

Youth-Friendly North Shore Legacy

Activities and approaches that could be maintained beyond the funding period were intentionally prioritized, recognizing that new initiatives without a path for continuation may have limited impact.

This included strengthening relationships between organizations, developing resources for ongoing use, building community capacity, establishing a Situation Table, and supporting changes to municipal youth policy and funding processes.

A comprehensive needs assessment informed the development of activities addressing the most urgent gaps, with a focus on sustainability and enabling solutions to be maintained within the community.

Tools developed through this initiative remain publicly available to all youth-serving organizations. They include:

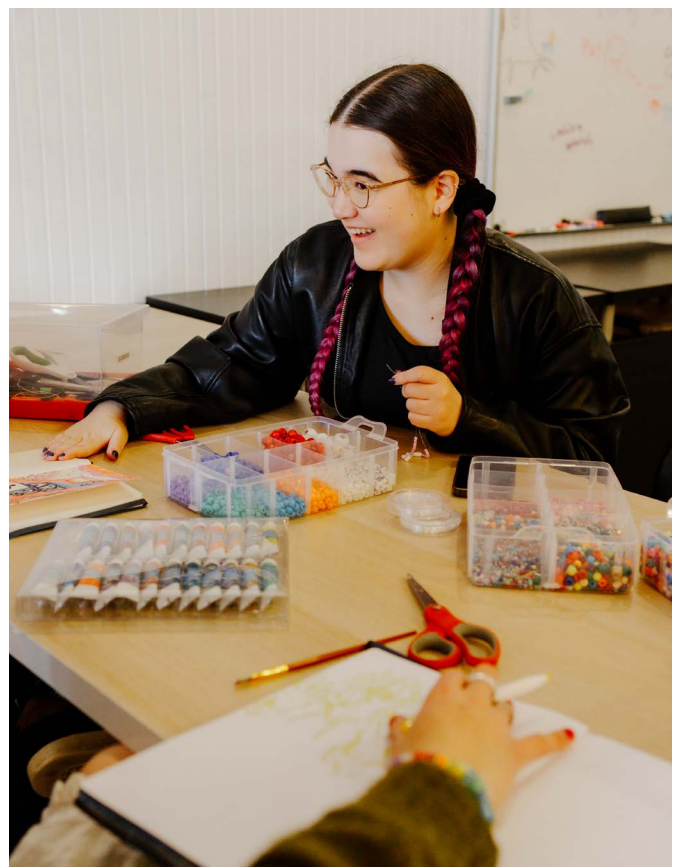
- Our Place—a placemaking tool adapted by youth to create youth-friendly spaces
- Self-evaluation tool for youth services
- Digital communications audit tool
- Youth stock photos for non-commercial use
- Human resources training videos for creating youth-friendly organizations

YFNS elevated the voices of youth and created opportunities for them to exercise their agency. The initiative provided valuable insights to local leaders through the lens of positive youth development and highlighted broader community risks that emerge when those needs go unmet.

The needs of some “at-risk” groups were identified but not addressed, as readiness for the required solutions was not yet in place.

“[VCH used to have] a youth coalition that would bring together community organizations similar to this... and then that sort of fell off. And so I do think that this has kind of started that again, and I do hope that we can continue to come together somehow to share with one another so that we can support the youth on the North Shore.”

Public Health Nurse



Community Engagement

A range of North Shore youth-serving organizations were invited in early 2023 to share their insights to inform the development of a three-year public safety and youth crime prevention plan. Stakeholders included representatives from K–12 education, sports and recreation, health and crisis support, policing and justice, and service agencies. The plan was developed by incorporating these local insights and reviewing relevant academic literature. During the implementation phase, partners and stakeholders continued to be engaged through an intergovernmental leadership table and semi-annual stakeholder gatherings.



The background features a complex geometric pattern of thin red lines. These lines form a grid of squares and rectangles, with some squares containing diagonal lines. Large semi-circles are also integrated into the design, some spanning across the grid lines. The overall effect is a modern, minimalist aesthetic with a monochromatic red and white color scheme.

Initiative at a Glance

Building on the existing strengths in the plan focused on two key areas:

Stream 1

Creating a youth-friendly North Shore by engaging youth and creating more welcoming spaces for youth

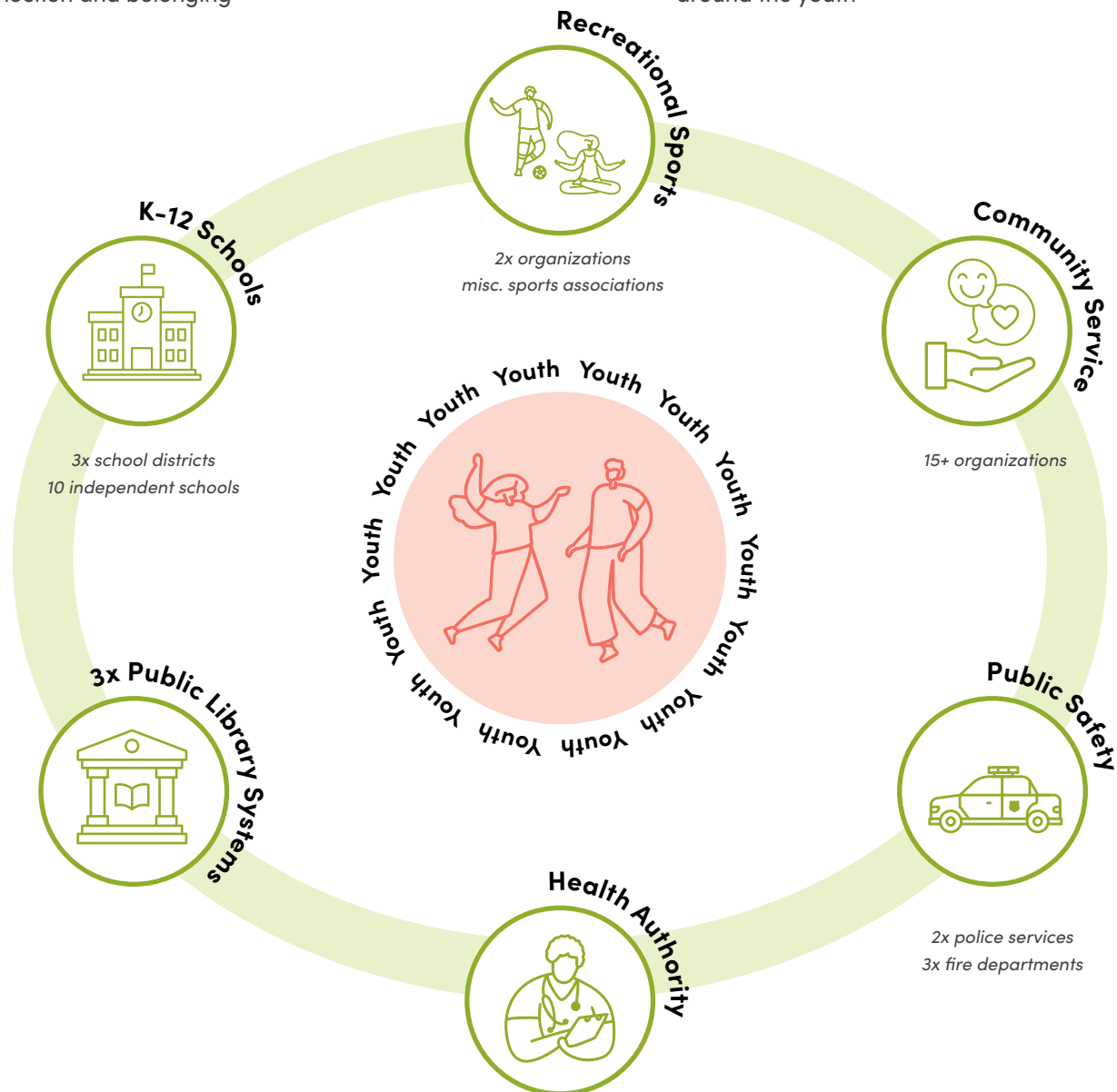
Stream 2

Improving the system of care for North Shore youth



Stream 1 focused on inner the circle – focus is on engaging youth and creating spaces for youth connection and belonging

Stream 2 focused on the outer circle – focus is on the adults running the services and systems around the youth



Stream 1 Youth Friendly Spaces

1. WelcoME – Youth Inclusion in Spaces
2. Youth Action Grants
3. Late night recreation pilot events
4. Exploratory activities:
 - a. Indigenous Youth Spaces
 - b. School spaces partnership
 - c. First Responders – Youth Recreation Activities League

Stream 2 Improved System of Care

1. Youth Services Community of Practice
2. North Shore Youth Situation Table
3. Evaluation of Municipally Funded Youth Services
4. Youth Online Use and Website Audits
5. HR training videos
6. Stock Photo Image Bank
7. Review of Municipal Youth Policies

Youth Context in BC, 2023

The BC Adolescent Health Survey (BC AHS) is a province-wide survey administered to youth in Grade 7 to 12 since 1992. The survey gives an evidence base of youth health trends, emerging issues, and risk and protective factors for healthy development. The data below is from this survey and provides context for this initiative.

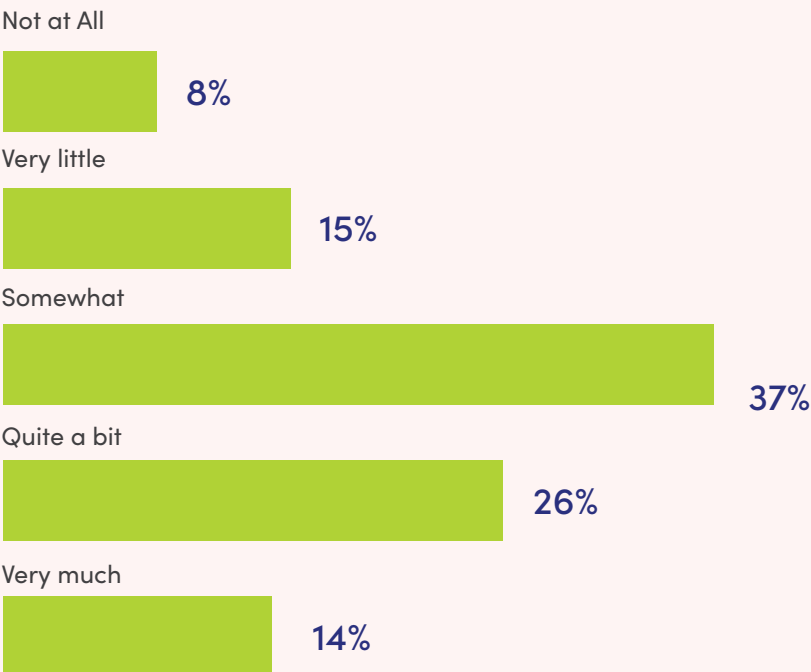
Community Connection Matters

While most youth (92%) felt at least a little connected to their community, survey data showed that their sense of connection decreased as they moved through adolescence. 54% of Grade 7s felt quite or very connected compared to 34% of Grade 12s.

Sense of Safety in Neighbourhood

Youth were more likely to often or always feel safe in their neighbourhood during the day (90%) than at night (65%). Among youth who used transit, 54% often or always felt safe doing so (with no grade differences), and around 1 in 6 (17%) rarely or never felt safe on transit.

How much students felt like a part of their community



Data source: 2023 Adolescent Health Survey

Stream 1

ACTIVITIES

Stream 1 focused on creating more youth-friendly spaces by directly engaging youth and creating opportunities for youth to shape places and activities they engage in the community.

WelcoME

The WelcoME Youth Action Teams were established between November and February each year to better understand youth needs and improve their sense of belonging and ownership of public spaces. In each round, we established one or more groups of youth to conduct a “welcome” audit of public and agency spaces that serve youth and to develop recommendations on how these spaces can be more welcoming for all youth. Youth aged 12 to 18 who live or study on the North Shore were recruited through a multi-agency effort and compensated for their participation.

- /// [Watch the Round 1 WelcoME Video](#)
- /// [Link to Reports: Round 1, Round 2, Round 3](#)
- /// [“Our Place” place-making tool](#)
- /// [Principles of Meaningful Youth Engagements](#)
- /// [Combined youth recommendations from all three rounds](#)



1. Dedicated Youth Spaces
2. Dedicated Youth Programs
3. Promote community connections
4. Ensure Inclusion & Accessibility
5. Create a safer physical space
6. Ensure clear navigation & wayfinding
7. Youth-friendly & WELCOMING adults
8. ADVERTISE Youth programs & spaces
9. Maintain community spaces
10. Encourage Youth Voice
11. Design youth friendly digital spaces

Youth Action Grants

These one-time grants offered youth opportunities to work with a responsible adult in their lives or with a community organization to advance youth well-being and build capacity through arts, culture, sports or recreation activities. Several youth-led projects were funded to connect youth with one another through activities that support their well-being and sense of belonging.

“The Youth Action Grant was instrumental in spurring our youth council to pursue this project. Thank you for all of the support and engagement from YFNS over the past few years. It has really meant a lot to have the advocacy on behalf of teens in our community!”

Partner Community Organization

MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS - OCT 2024

Youth wanted to improve access to mental health education and crisis response training to feel more confident in supporting their peers in distress. They requested funding to conduct two workshops in collaboration with Parkgate Community Services Society.

- **Crisis Centre “It’s Ok To Not Be Ok”** workshop on February 20th; 13 attendees
- **Children of the Street Safer Space** workshop on March 14th, 50 attendees

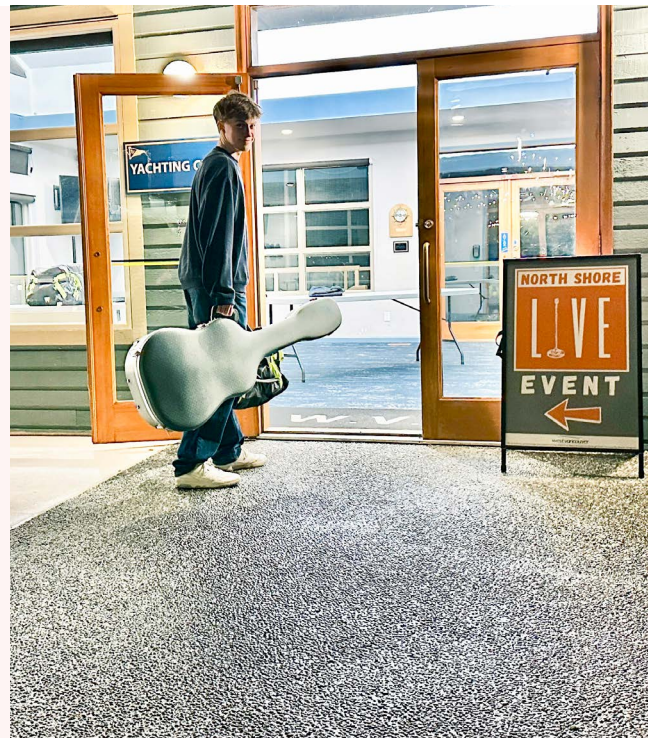


OPEN MIC AND JAM NIGHT - OCT 2024

Youth reported feeling socially isolated and wanted to organize an open mic and jam night. This session was led by a youth band, North Shore Live, on Dec. 13, 2024, and was attended by 14 youth.

"I think this project improved community connectedness, belonging and wellness by getting some kids to come out and do this who usually don't go out and socialize or express themselves creatively."

Youth leader



TRAVEL TO QUEER PROM - JUN 2025

Youth identified a fear of judgment on public transit as a barrier to attending the prom event and therefore requested funding to hire a private bus.

The grant supported transportation for 17 youth associated with Parkgate Community Services to attend the Lonsdale Queer Prom.



BRIGHT CHARGE SOLAR PANELS - DEC 2025

Youth were supported in installing solar-powered phone charging stations at the North Vancouver City Library, addressing a community need for reliable access to charging. Supported by Metro Vancouver's Youth4Action CHAMP program, the project promoted sustainable energy through educational posters and fostered a sense of safety and belonging by removing financial barriers and improving access to charging options. Youth leads managed funding, developed educational materials, and liaised with library staff to implement the project.

"We learned how there is truly no harm in just reaching out to different community spaces.... teaching us to be less scared and stressed about just trying.

We learned how supportive the community is of youth-led initiatives. Working with the library, we personally saw how different managers and employees were excited to help us, especially considering we were youth who wanted to create a change for our community."

Youth leader

INTERGENERATIONAL GAMING EVENT - DEC 2025

An intergenerational gaming event that paired youth and seniors for shared experiences was funded to foster mutual learning and community connection. The North Vancouver City Library's Teen Advisory Council (TAC) curated accessible games, including Braille Scrabble and large-print cards.

"I've learnt that I can always learn more from others while teaching them as well. With this new opportunity I've grown an understanding that everyone has new and unique knowledge they can share. We can teach about tech knowledge while they can teach us about life and its experiences."

Youth leader



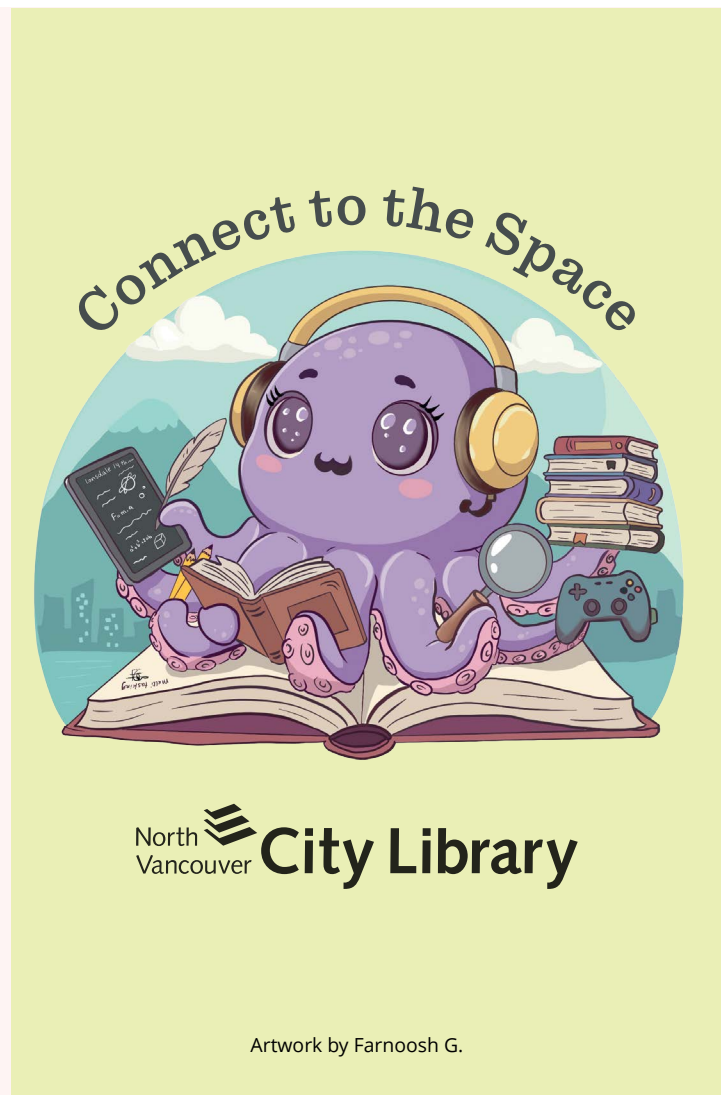
TEEN MASCOT DESIGN COMPETITION - DEC 2025

Grant funding enabled the North Vancouver City Library's Teen Advisory Council (TAC) to host a design contest (Dec. 2025 to Jan. 2026) to create visible, youth-friendly objects. The winning "Octopus" design, selected by 78 teens, was produced as plush mascots, banners and desktop flags to create a more welcoming, youth-friendly library space.

"My mascot design conveys youth friendliness by combining a cute, approachable octopus character with elements that reflect how teens actually learn and relax today. The octopus's soft shapes, big expressive eyes, and calm, welcoming posture make it feel friendly and non-intimidating, which helps the library feel like a comfortable and safe space for teens.

The eight arms represent curiosity and creativity, showing that the library supports many different interests at once, such as reading, technology, gaming, and creativity. By including modern and familiar objects, the mascot connects the library to teens' everyday lives, showing that the library is not just about books, but also a place to explore, discover, and express yourself."

Winner, Mascot Competition



"I think I learned a lot about myself through this project. I learned that I'm a little more reliable than I give myself credit for. I don't usually take on leadership roles, but trying it out, it felt fun. I also learned that a lot of teens in my community actually do engage with the voting."

Youth leader

YOUTH WELLNESS CONFERENCE - FEB 2026

We supported “Tools for Tomorrow,” a free, youth-led wellness conference organized by the District of West Vancouver’s Youth Advisory Committee in partnership with the Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise. The event benefited approximately 50 youth by providing a supportive space to explore mental wellness, resilience and life transitions through peer-led workshops, interactive panels sharing lived experiences, and practical training on mindfulness and support strategies. It fostered a strong sense of belonging among diverse youth, including 2SLGBTQIA+, Indigenous and neurodiverse participants.

Activities included a facilitated panel of young adults sharing lived experiences and practical insights; small-group discussions that allowed youth to reflect and connect with peers; and a facilitator-led training session by the Crisis Centre titled “It’s OK to Not Be OK!”—among other learning opportunities. While the project achieved significant leadership growth for its youth planners, it also provided valuable resources to the broader youth community.



“[The workshop] was a great opportunity to understand how to care for myself.”

“I liked hearing others’ real experiences and also thinking about [mental health] stigma. Some people don’t even know they have it.”

“Vibes were truly immaculate!”

Attendees from Tools for Tomorrow,
Youth Wellness Conference

Exploratory Activities

A number of ideas to increase access to low-barrier recreation spaces for diverse youth populations were explored through this project. These included:

- **Exploring school spaces to support local access to low-barrier recreation.** While a space was identified, barriers related to staffing and funding made it difficult to pilot.
- **An Indigenous youth space to connect urban Indigenous youth with culture.** Discussions revealed that this work requires a dedicated space, rather than a multi-use space, as well as sustained funding.
- **A First Responders – Youth Recreation Activities League to build relationships between trusted adults and vulnerable youth in the community.** Discussions with other community organizations running similar programs identified the need for a community champion, sustained funding and dedicated space to establish such an initiative.

Late Night Recreation Pilot

Both youth and stakeholders identified a lack of low-barrier, after-hours activities. The evaluation of youth services showed that few public spaces are open late on weekends and that no youth services were offered on Sundays. Discussions with six key organizations resulted in a series of pilot activities held between Nov. 2025 and March 2026.

Marketed as “The Spot,” the pilot events offered different activities at varying times and locations. On average, each event was attended by 21 youth and cost \$1,250. A total of 247 youth attended, and feedback indicated that these events helped youth build confidence, character, competencies and a sense of connection and belonging.

For more details, refer to the [full report](#).



Stream 2

ACTIVITIES

Stream 2 focused on building capacity, strengthening relationships and improving service delivery by supporting the work of adult professionals in community organizations that serve youth across the North Shore.

Community of Practice

The YFNS Community of Practice (CoP) was a quarterly opportunity to address knowledge, capacity and relationship gaps identified during early engagement. Designed for professionals who support youth aged 12 to 18, the CoP offered practical resources and evidence-based guidance on a range of current topics to improve the delivery of community-based programs and services that promote positive youth development on the North Shore.

Nine sessions were held between 2023 and 2026. These were attended by 154 staff from more than 30 organizations. Many of these individuals attended multiple sessions. The CoP format enabled frontline staff to network across agencies, strengthening relationships and improving referrals among service organizations.

Resource materials from each session were compiled and can be accessed by clicking on the topics below:

- /// [Addressing Youth Substance Use](#)
- /// [Reducing Barriers to Access](#)
- /// [Approaches for Youth who may be Gang-Involved](#)
- /// [Culturally Inclusive Service Delivery](#)
- /// [Sexual Harassment and Gender-based Violence](#)
- /// [Online Exploitation and Safety](#)
- /// [Human Trafficking 101 Certification Training](#)

“Something that I learned here is that those really specific resources that I wish there were for my youth in really specific situations, do exist. Making these connections and being at these places teaches them to me so I can teach them to others.”

Youth Worker

“I get to leave today, sending off referrals, and I think that’s a really big part.”

Youth Worker



North Shore Youth Situation Table

Situation tables bring together frontline workers from health, social services, public safety and education to quickly identify and connect at-risk individuals with the support they need. The North Shore situation table for youth received startup funding from the Province of British Columbia [\[press release\]](#), and participants are currently receiving onboarding training. The establishment of a North Shore-wide youth situation table was a recommendation of the evidence review. Data from this table will help North Shore municipalities and service organizations better understand the evolving risk profile of youth in the community.

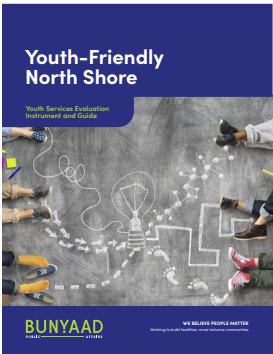
Evaluation of Youth Services

Rationale: Gaps were identified in service delivery and the continuum of care, as service providers struggle to engage particular groups of at-risk youth, and there was an overall absence of leadership and strategy for the care continuum. The evidence review shows that a continuum of care is critical to supporting at-risk youth.

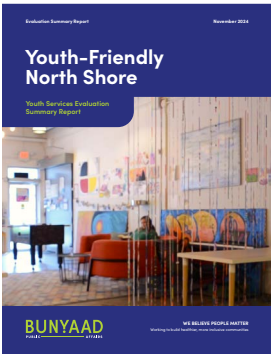
In summer 2024, a new evaluation tool was developed and piloted to assess youth services offered across the North Shore. The tool is grounded in research-informed practice (e.g., the Positive Youth Development framework), and its strengths-based assessment scale allows organizations to identify how they can improve their practices in each area of their work. The evaluation tool is publicly available for use.

“Making an online referral form rather than just a PDF. Makes it really simple for youth to refer themselves or parents for further use or counsellors to refer youth as well.”
Pilot community organization

The tool was piloted with eight organizations that offer youth outreach, culture and recreation services in community settings. The evaluation provided customized reports to all participating organizations, as well as a cumulative report for municipal funders. Several recommendations from the cumulative evaluation report were implemented, and a summary report is available here.



✓ [The evaluation tool](#) is publicly available.



✓ Several recommendations in the cumulative evaluation report were implemented and a [summary report](#) is publicly available.

Municipal Youth Policy Update

The City and District of North Vancouver's joint Municipal Youth Policy was last updated in November 2008. The current policy was reviewed after the completion of the youth services evaluation and discussions with the Intergovernmental Table. It was recommended that:

- Inclusion of the District of West Vancouver to create a tri-council municipal youth policy.
- Modernize language to align with evidence-based research (i.e., Positive Youth Development Framework)
- Maintain North Shore Youth Services Directory

The City and District of North Vancouver's Outreach Youth Services – Core Funding Policy was also last updated in November 2008. It was strongly recommended that the municipalities engage their service delivery organizations to update the policy based on current day programming and needs, as identified through the youth services evaluation in Summer 2024.

Lastly, the District of West Vancouver does not have a council policy on youth services. It was recommended that they adopt a policy that reflects a Positive Youth Development Framework, similar to the CNV and DNV policy. This will ensure that the current program delivery has long-term continuity and is aligned with the standards in adjacent municipalities. This is important as youth move across the North Shore and may be accessing services in either of the three municipalities.

HR training videos

The evaluation of youth services recommended the need to establish a standard of practice for all municipally-funded services that support youth. A series of HR training videos were developed to support organizations to train their staff on how to engage with youth in the public spaces that they manage or deliver services in. This was rolled out with hybrid Train-the-Trainer sessions in January 2026.

The training package, including the videos and accompanying worksheets, recorded webinar, facilitation guide and supporting deck, and training certificate, are available on the DNV YFNS page.

✓ [Training package](#), including the videos and accompanying worksheets



Youth Online Use and Website Audits

Youth in multiple WelcoME rounds and the youth services evaluation identified the need to increase awareness of youth services and programs by enhancing the youth user experience on organizational websites. To support organizations in doing so, we compiled research on current trends in youth online use. This informed the development of an audit tool, which was used to review the websites of 21 municipally funded, youth-serving organizations.

- ✓ [The Youth Online Trends and Website Audit report](#)
- ✓ [Website Audit Tool](#)

Key findings from the audit were shared with organizations in a presentation in fall 2025, along with written reports outlining overall findings and site-specific results. In a follow-up survey completed three months later by 71 per cent of organizations, we found:

- 100 per cent of respondents confirmed they had received and read the general and site-specific website audit reports
- 100 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the report was informative
- 86 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the report was interesting
- 67 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the report was helpful
- 40 per cent of respondents had started implementing recommendations, while another 40 per cent were still considering options or intended to implement them (but had not yet started)
- 62 per cent of respondents faced barriers to implementing recommendations because staff time was allocated to other priorities, while 39 per cent indicated not having the budget to hire the external expertise required to make the recommended changes

"I'm really grateful for both the site specific audits that our library received... They are so specific and thorough... Having such specific feedback and so much care that went into those reports was really valuable for me."

Teen librarian

"We got a full audit using research backed knowledge to change our website, and just make it more current, more up to date, and lower barrier."

Youth Services Manager

Stock Photo Image Bank

Youth feedback and evaluation activities revealed a need to develop a library of authentic stock photos that reflect the diversity, spirit and lived experiences of North Shore youth. Youth models were recruited for photo shoots in locations across the North Shore. These images are available to North Shore organizations for **non-commercial** use until 2036.

- ✓ [Access the YFNS image bank](#)

Looking Ahead

Building on the successes of this initiative, continued collaboration among local governments, recreation providers, youth-serving organizations, school districts, healthy authority and other community partners will be important to advance youth well-being. The following suggested next steps are intended to support collective efforts to strengthen youth development across the North Shore.

POLICY

- Opportunities exist for municipal partners to modernize youth policies to better align with current standards for service delivery and the evolving needs of youth. Alignment across the North Shore, including consideration of a shared or complementary approach among the City and District of North Vancouver and the District of West Vancouver, may help support continuity in program delivery and consistency in standards across municipalities. This is particularly important as youth move across the North Shore and access services in multiple jurisdictions.

PROGRAMS

- There is an opportunity for municipalities and service providers to continue collaborating on low-barrier, late-evening programming under a common youth-friendly brand.
- Enhancements to the North Shore Youth Services Directory could further strengthen program awareness and better meet the digital communication needs of youth.
- Ongoing coordination among municipalities and youth-serving organizations to ensure equitable geographic availability of programs and services as the population demographics change across the North Shore.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Ongoing collaboration among community partners could support quarterly Communities of Practice sessions, with future topics informed by emerging data from the youth situation table.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

- Continued support for youth-led initiatives through small, flexible funding opportunities would help sustain youth engagement. This may be advanced through existing community grant programs or by adapting current criteria to better enable youth participation and leadership.
- Strengthened collaboration between municipalities, youth-serving organizations and Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nation partners may help reduce barriers to access for Indigenous youth on the North Shore.

Acknowledgements

This work was funded by the Building Safer Communities Fund through Public Safety Canada. We are grateful for their generous support.

This community-wide initiative would not have been possible without the leadership of the Intergovernmental Table. We thank each of the members for their tireless efforts in supporting this work.

District of North Vancouver
City of North Vancouver
District of West Vancouver
Tsleil-Waututh Nation
Squamish Nation

This initiative was designed and implemented by Bunyaad Public Affairs.

We appreciate the insight and expertise of staff at all participating organizations and thank them for their ongoing work in supporting youth across our community.

André Piolat K-12 School
Bodwell School
Bowen Island RCMP Detachment
Boys and Girls Club of South Coast BC
Brockton School
Capilano Community Services Society
Capilano University
CMHA North and West Vancouver
Collingwood School
Cousteau School
DNV Fire and Rescue
Family Services of the North Shore
First Nations Health Authority
Foundry North Shore
Harvest Project
Hollyburn Community Services Society
Hollyburn Country Club
Hollyburn Family Services Society
Impact North Shore
Intellectual Disabilities Society (formerly North Shore ConneXions)
Kenneth Gordon Maplewood
Lions Gate Christian Academy

Lookout Housing and Health Society
Lynn Valley Services Society
Ministry of Child and Family Development
Mulgrave School
North Shore Basketball Academy
North Shore Community Resources
North Shore Community Services
North Shore Crisis Services Society
North Shore Disability Resource Centre
North Shore Girls Soccer Club
North Shore Minor Lacrosse
North Shore Neighbourhood House
North Shore Restorative Justice Society
North Shore Women's Centre
North Vancouver City Fire Department
North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
North Vancouver City Library
North Vancouver District Public Library
North Vancouver Football Club
North Vancouver Minor Hockey Association
North Vancouver Recreation and Culture

North Vancouver RCMP
North Vancouver School District
Norvan Boys and Girls Club
Parkgate Community Services Society
Pathways Serious Mental Illness Society
PLEA Community Services
Spectrum Skateboard Society
St Alcuin College
St John Ambulance Youth Brigade
St Thomas Aquinas
St. Alcuin College for the Liberal Arts
Vancouver Waldorf School
Vancouver Coastal Health
West Van Chamber of Commerce
West Vancouver Fire & Rescue
West Vancouver Memorial Library
West Vancouver Police
West Vancouver School District
YWCA (North Van)



HELLO@BUNYAAD.CA
BUNYAAD.CA

A photograph of a forest stream with large logs and ferns, creating a misty atmosphere.

Youth Friendly North Shore FINAL REPORT

Regular Council
April 27, 2026

Building Safer Communities Fund



- Funded by Public Safety Canada
- 3-year, community-based, partnership driven initiative
- Building safer, more inclusive communities for youth

“Youth Friendly North Shore”



- **Two streams of work:**
 - Youth Friendly Spaces
 - Strengthening the System of Care
- **Eleven activities focused on:**
 - Youth inclusion and belonging
 - Access to safe, welcoming spaces
 - Stronger, coordinated youth services

Youth Inclusion in Spaces (WelcoMe)

- Youth led audits
- Barriers identified
- Staff interactions key influence
- Led to HR training resources



Youth Action Grants



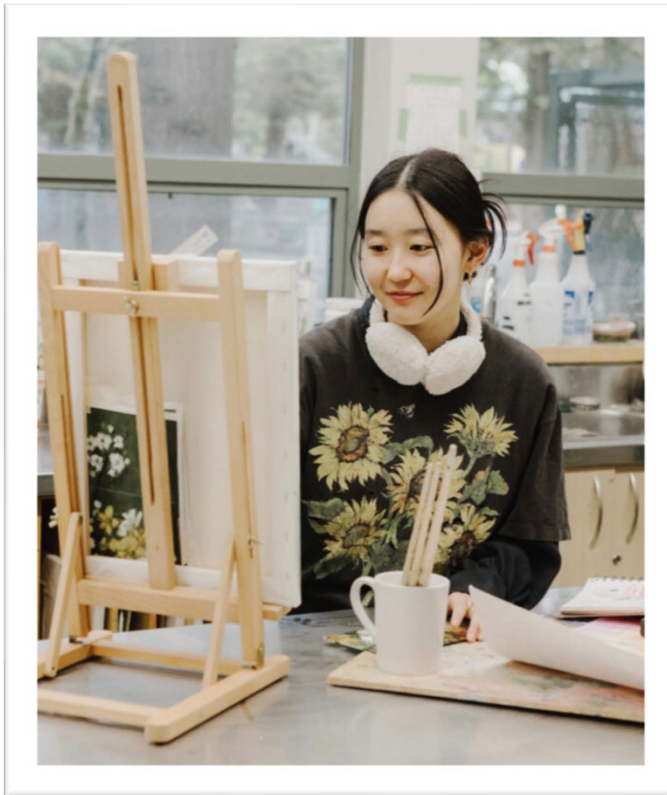
- Youth leadership and decision making strengthened
- Impact of small, flexible funding

Late Night Recreation Pilot

- Access to low barrier evening spaces
- Gaps in after-hours programming
- Organizations under a shared model
- Proof of concept for future expansion



Exploratory Initiatives – Key Learnings



- Sustainable programming requires:
 - long term funding
 - dedicated leadership
 - operational capacity

Community of Practice (CoP)



- 120 staff across 30+ organizations
- Cross-sector relationships & referrals
- Built staff knowledge and capacity
- Low-cost collaborative model
- Shared tools and resource library

Youth Situation Table



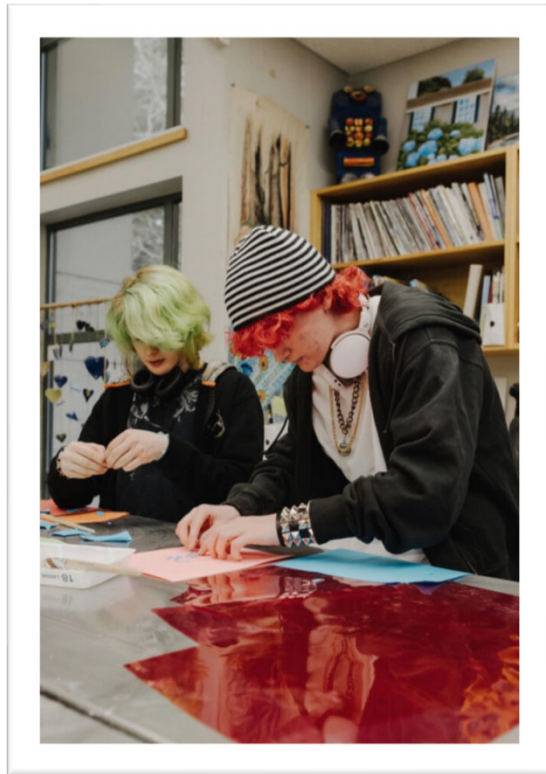
- Approach to support high-risk youth
- Multi-agency collaboration
- Rapid response to complex cases
- Data to inform planning and policy

Youth Services Evaluation

- Piloted a new evaluation tool
- Identified system gaps and opportunities for improvement
- Informed service delivery improvements
- Long-term evaluation resource

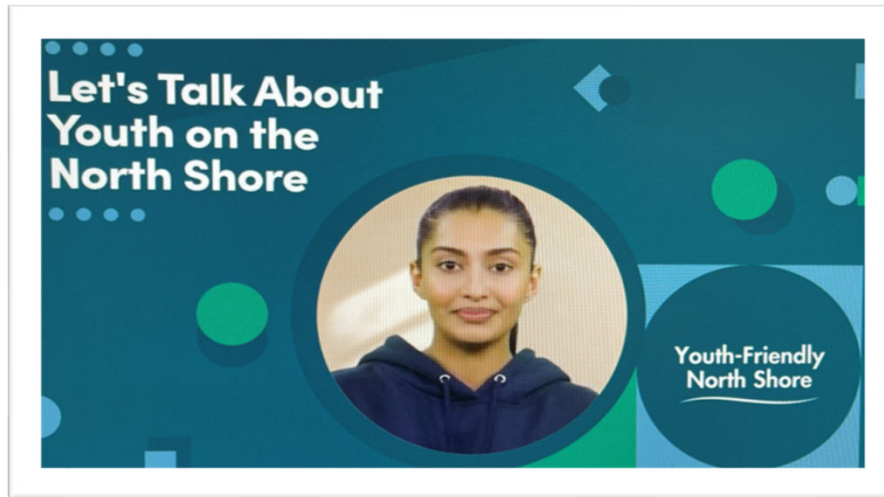


Youth Online Trends & Website Audits



- Evaluated 21 youth serving websites
- 20+ improvements to increase accessibility and engagement
- Mobile-friendly design, up-to-date information & digital communication

Resources



HR Training Videos



Youth Image Bank

Municipal Youth Policies Review



- Ideas to modernize and align youth policies
- Apply evidence-based practices (Positive Youth Development)
- Improve coordination of youth services across North Shore

Overall Impact

- Increased **youth inclusion**
- Expanded **access** to safe, welcoming and programs
- Strengthened **coordination** across youth-serving organizations
- Built sustainable **tools, resources, and frameworks**
- Improved **system capacity** to support youth safety and wellbeing



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