

# Welco**ME** Youth Action Team

Consolidated  
Recommendations  
from 2024 - 2026



Prepared by BUNYAAD Public Affairs and McCreary Centre Society for the Youth-Friendly North Shore initiative.

The initiative's work 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.

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Public Safety  
Canada

Sécurité publique  
Canada



Skwxwú7mesh  
Úxwumixw  
Squamish Nation



Tsleil-Waututh Nation  
PEOPLE OF THE INLET



We thank all the youth who shared their perspectives in this year's WelcoME activities, and for their interest in helping to shape a more youth-friendly North Shore.

We are also grateful to the North Vancouver School District and West Vancouver School District for supporting student engagement in WelcoME.

We respectfully acknowledge the original Peoples of the lands and waters that situate and surround us wherever we work. We honour the səliilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (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.

Between 2024 to 2026, the WelcoME Youth Action Team (YAT) engaged 102 diverse youth aged 12–18 across the North Shore. Through structured engagement sessions, focus groups, and community design activities, youth shared their experiences of the North Shore and developed recommendations for how to make it more welcoming, safe, and inclusive for all youth.

The youth perspectives from each round of WelcoME are summarized in reports that can be found [here](#). Below is a collective summary of their recommendations.

## 1 | Getting to and from

- Improving transit accessibility and especially for late night and in-frequent buses.
- Provide free transit for youth, with student identification accepted as proof of eligibility.
- Install bus shelters and seating at all bus stops, with priority on routes with long wait times.
- Add real-time bus arrival information at bus stops across the North Shore.
- Improve safety and cleanliness on public transit and at bus stops.
- Provide training for bus drivers on respectful, non-discriminatory engagement with youth passengers, as well as non-violent crisis intervention.
- Access to clean public washrooms near transit hubs like Phibbs Exchange.

## 2 | Outdoor Physical Spaces

- Improvements to outdoor infrastructure such as improved lighting in skateparks and removal of hostile architecture and more inclusive design that supports gathering
- Added seating at outdoor recreational facilities, such as basketball and tennis courts.
- More covered outdoor spaces and sheltered areas so youth can gather in all weather.
- Improved safety and cleanliness at Lonsdale Quay.
- Increase in cleanups, including community events, and more garbage/recycling bins.
- Infrastructure for active transportation (bike racks, trails, skateboarding paths).

## 3 | Indoor Physical Space

- Provide dedicated youth spaces, located near schools and transit.
- Youth-centred infrastructure such as free Wi-Fi, charging outlets, quiet workstations, comfortable seating, and warm lighting.
- Variety of need-based space (for quiet study, gaming rooms, sound proof rooms and multi-use space).
- Inclusive display materials (youth-created art, pride flags, Indigenous items).
- Have youth-friendly and welcoming adults
- Expand access to youth-centred, low-barrier spaces, especially for youth in West Vancouver, Bowen Island, and other communities further from North Vancouver.
- Ensure clear navigation and wayfinding

## 4 | Programs and Activities

- Offer youth-only programming, including social and recreational activities, creative and cultural programs as well as skill-building and education. Examples include:
  - Employment training and entry-level employment opportunities for youth without prior work experience
  - Late evenings (7 pm to midnight) on Friday/Saturday nights, and developmentally appropriate program times for younger (13–15) and older (16–18) youth.
- Encourage youth voice
- Provide free or discounted pricing for youth for recreational activities, including mountain passes and community recreation programs.
- Ensure information about youth programs is easy to find, accessible, and available on youth-friendly digital platforms.
- Increase outreach and advertising for programs that already exist, including through schools and community centres.
- Increase accessible, visible, and youth-specific mental health and substance use supports across the North Shore, especially for youth in West Vancouver, Bowen Island, and other communities further from North Vancouver.

## 5 | Design Youth-Friendly Digital Spaces and Advertise Youth Programs and Spaces

Youth recommend sharing information about existing programs or spaces through:

- Real social media content (not advertisements) that is funny, eye-catching, trendy, and relatable for youth on (Instagram, TikTok) and in-person school visits.
- QR codes on posters to link to event sign-ups or more information
- Events to introduce and tour youth around youth spaces (e.g., a 'welcome house' event)
- Youth-run social media accounts for North Shore youth activities and opportunities
- A North Shore Youth website to show upcoming youth events, mental health supports, and community resources
- Monthly newsletters in schools with upcoming programs and space hours (digital or printed)
- Posters and pamphlets in high traffic public areas, like transit shelters and community centres
- community programs could organize presentations in schools and host open houses and drop-in "get to know you" events to attract youth to visit the space.
- Youth-friendly design- inviting colours, bright images and icons, using small amounts of text in an easy-to-read font, providing only essential information, and ensuring its ease of navigation for quick access to the information youth needed.
- Ensuring information about youth programs is easy to find, accessible, and available on youth-friendly digital platforms.
- Increase in outreach and advertising for programs that already exist, including through schools and community centres.

## 6 | Sense of Belonging

- Create a safer physical space
- More youth- and community-led efforts to address the negative beliefs about youth and youth behaviour on the North Shore, including video campaigns (e.g., showcasing 'a day in the life of a youth') and opportunities for youth and adults to have open, non-judgemental dialogue about beliefs and assumptions
- Opportunities for intergenerational dialogue to improve community connections
- Education and training opportunities for parents, business owners, and security staff about adolescent development and appropriate engagement.
- Addressing discriminatory treatment of youth by police and security.
- Incorporating Indigenous cultural elements (art, language) and staff programs with adults from Indigenous communities.
- Ensure inclusion and accessibility by prioritizing, designing or adapting to meet diverse needs, including youth with physical and sensory disabilities, culturally diverse youth, 2SLGBTQ+ youth, and youth with diverse learning and participation needs.
- Train all reception and program staff in adolescent development and inclusive, youth-friendly engagement.



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