

ABBOTSFORD YOUTH COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Intentional Connection

Lasting Impact



est. 1991

ABOUT THE AYC

The Abbotsford Youth Commission (AYC) is a non-profit organization that has been providing programs and services for youth ages 12–18 since 1991. Our vision is an Abbotsford where every youth feels included, safe, valued, empowered, and connected. Through safe spaces, caring youth workers, and activities that build mental health and resiliency, we focus on creating connection and belonging which are key protective factors for youth success. We offer a multitude of programs every year including youth centres, leadership programs, and community events. The AYC is a place where all youth are welcomed and celebrated. As our youth written diversity statement asserts, at the AYC, “everyone belongs.”

STRATEGIC PLAN

Because Youth Matter

Youth are our first priority. Youth will feel included, safe, valued, empowered, and connected.

People are our Strength

Our people will have the skill, attitude and enthusiasm to positively impact Abbotsford youth.

Resources are Key

Our finances will be managed responsibly with transparency and stewardship

Leadership is the Foundation

Board Members will represent our community and be focused on promoting healthy youth development.

VISION STATEMENT

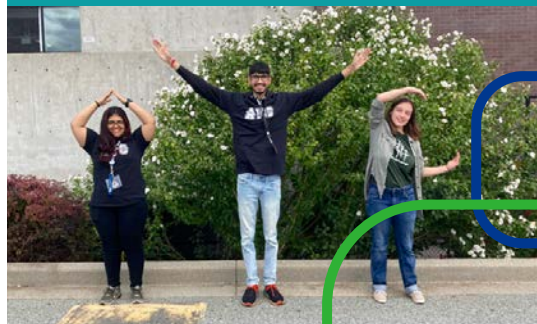
Abbotsford is a city where every youth feels included, safe, valued, empowered and connected.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Abbotsford Youth Commission exists to identify, promote, improve, increase, and provide services and programs for youth in Abbotsford.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The AYC celebrates all forms of diversity. We accept and welcome youth of every race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. Here we embrace people with different religions, values, and beliefs. Everyone belongs.

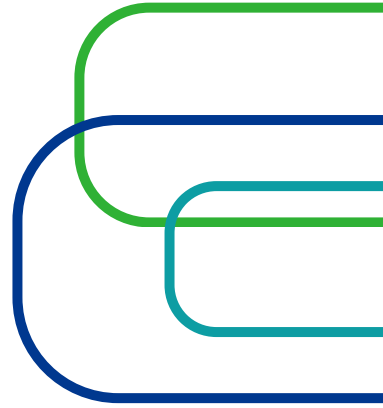


THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

20,415 ↑ **2.8%**
Youth Entrances Increase

2500+ Youth Served

1888 Volunteer Hours worth \$37,760



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

2024

1130
YOUTH

BEST
YEAR
YET!

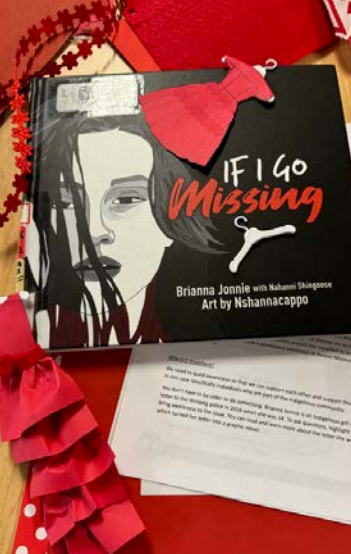


Youth Week 2024 was an incredible celebration of youth, community, and connection. We hosted a variety of fun & engaging events, with standout highlights like our record-breaking Laser Tag event with 115 youth, the epic Police vs. Fire Dodgeball showdown drawing over 400 students, and the hugely successful Skate Jam, which welcomed 150 participants. Throughout the week, youth enjoyed games, live music, sports, creative activities, and opportunities to connect with their community. Thanks to our amazing staff, volunteers, partners, and sponsors the week ran smoothly and we're already looking forward to making Youth Week 2025 bigger and better than ever!



PINK SHIRT DAY

The theme for this year's Pink Shirt Day was kindness, and we celebrated across schools and youth centres with creativity and connection. At Fraser Middle and Gordie Howe Middle Schools, students took part in school-wide art projects, writing ways to show kindness around a white rainbow with BE KIND in the center. Our Drop-In Centres hosted engaging events led by our Youth Council. ARC Youth Centre held a Pink Shirt Fair with kind word posters, popcorn, and photos, while MRC Youth Centre offered T-shirt decorating, karaoke, and cookies. In total, 589 youth participated, spreading kindness throughout our community.



RED DRESS DAY

For Red Dress Day, the AYC created a meaningful, multi-part event to raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, and Gender Diverse People (MMIWG2S+). Staff first engaged in training to understand the significance of the day and the activity youth would take part in. At our youth centres, participants learned about MMIWG2S+ and created miniature red paper dresses, inspired by Métis artist Jaime Black's REDress Project. These dresses were then placed outside our centres, left open to the elements as a symbolic reflection of the vulnerability and loss experienced by Indigenous communities.



FUSE | FLEX | FOCUS

This year, we made an intentional effort to revamp our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programming and expand our reach, with the ability to deliver a variety of SEL programs within local middle schools. Through these programs, we've helped students build and strengthen their mental health, develop resilience, and connect with the resources and support they need. Our commitment to helping youth feel seen and connected has allowed us to expand into more schools and collaborate to support student well-being. By year's end, we proudly developed a multi-level SEL program for schools and students in our community:

FUSE: a lunchtime games program that sparks conversations, creates connection, and ignites fun.

FLEX: an eight session group which covers topics such as self-esteem, stress, friendship settling differences and helps young people develop and practice key life skills.

FOCUS: a seven session small group that addresses mental health, resilience, and coping strategies such as setting boundaries and managing anxiety.



FUSE



FLEX



FOCUS

IMPACT

Something I really enjoy is helping with the dinner meals that we do every month. I enjoy giving and serving the other teens the food that we made.

AYC made a difference for me because it's somewhere I can go if I need help with anything and they're always there for me.

The AYC program gives me as a parent the confidence knowing that my child is in a safe, inclusive and engaging environment. New connections with others are made while allowing my child to be themselves and to encourage others to be themselves. This program supports the youth to grow and be a positive part of the community while learning new skills.

I feel like AYC is a place that I can come and be myself. I like connecting with the workers because they are fun to hangout with and are also good listeners.

AYC has helped me to make long lasting friends. It is not only a good place to be, but it is fun, chill and inclusive.

The AYC has been a great and positive part of our lives over the last couple of years. They have provided a variety of programs that have met the needs of my teens. It is so hard to find somewhere fun, relevant AND affordable for them to take part in programming, and the AYC has delivered on many accounts.



I AM ONE OF THE 926 YOUTH WHO ATTENDED THE AYC'S FREE DROP IN YOUTH CENTRES



I AM ONE OF THE 124 YOUTH WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE YOUTH NIGHT PROGRAM



I AM A YOUTH WHO HAS ENJOYED MANY OF THE OVER 11,500 HEALTHY SNACKS AT THE AYC YOUTH CENTRES

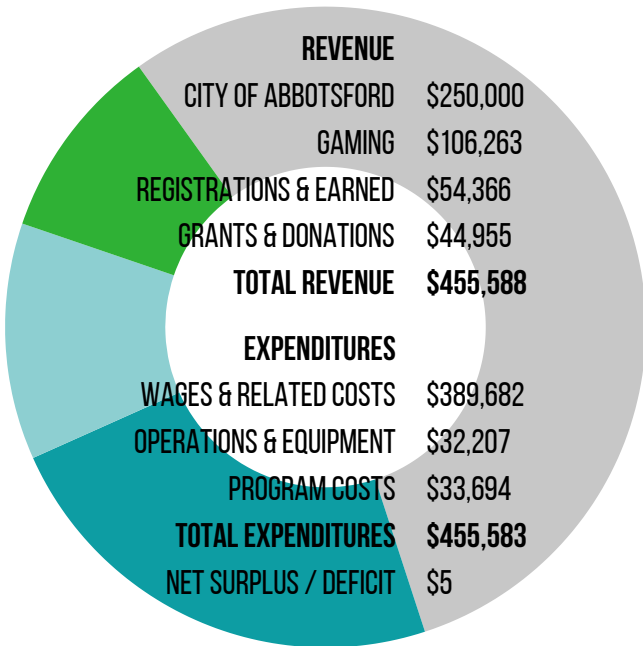


I AM ONE OF THE 188 YOUTH WHO BENEFITED FROM THE FUSE / FLEX / FOCUS PROGRAMS



I AM ONE OF THE 102 YOUTH WHO TOOK PART IN AYC LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2024



THANK YOU TO OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

- CITY OF ABBOTSFORD
- GAMING
- REGISTRATIONS & EARNED
- GRANTS & DONATIONS:
 - UNITED WAY FRASER VALLEY FOOD SECURITY
 - ABBOTSFORD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
 - COMMUNITY PROSPERITY FUND
 - KIWANIS CLUB OF CLEARBROOK
 - SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ABBOTSFORD MISSION
 - ABBOTSFORD HOSPICE & GRIEF SUPPORT SOCIETY
 - COMMUNITY FUTURES SOUTH FRASER
 - SMILES THROUGH SEVA FOUNDATION
 - WORKSAFE
 - INDIVIDUAL DONORS

YOUTH COUNCIL / CITY COUNCIL CONNECT



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERESA PIPPUS

HARLEEN BHANDAL

JENN CUSICK

STAN PETERSEN

PREET DHALIWAL

HERSIMER DHALIWAL

GURMEEN BANIPAL

INDER RAI

RACHEL NA

NIMRAT AULAKH

THE AYC TEAM IS THE BEST!
#80'S DAY



HOW TO FIND US

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