



because youth matter



Annual Report
2017

Message from the Executive Director

because youth matter

We asked youth what the AYC means to them and this is what one of them said, “The AYC means a lot to me. Every staff here is really kind and helpful, they always make me feel safe. It’s a place where everyone comes to hangout and it’s really enjoyable and we can always be ourselves here and everyone is friends.” At the AYC, we advocate on behalf of youth; develop and implement programs and services for youth; and share youth information and resources with the community. The Abbotsford Youth Commission exists because youth matter.

A significant change for the AYC in 2017 was the move from our offices at City Hall to the Sweeney Neighbourhood Centre. The move posed some key challenges but the old adage that, “a change is as good as a rest” seems to be true. Changing the way that we work, host meetings, welcome the public, register our programs, and function in the office has created the opportunity for growth and has also encouraged stronger community partnerships.

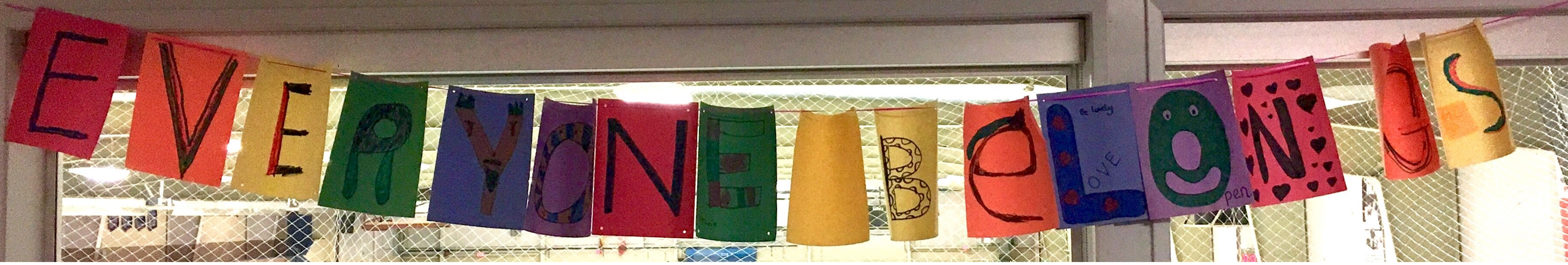
In 2017 we took our Character Project to new heights with Different Shoes / New Views, an event focused on increasing empathy. 127 people participated in the activities designed and developed by the Youth Leadership Team who created the project from the ground up.

We were also pleased that the LIFE program we piloted last year flourished in 2017. With the support of the Envision Financial Community Endowment we were able to engage youth in life skills building activities over the summer and with the support of the Ted Rogers Scholarship Fund we were able to continue for the rest of the year. Believe it or not – youth are enjoying learning life skills at our youth centres! This is due in part to the snacks and prizes we are able to provide, but it is also because our amazing team knows how to get youth interested and excited about learning.

Perhaps the greatest highlight of 2017 is that we increased our total entrances by 9% over 2016 with a year-end total of 20,947!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners; our generous funders and donors; our Board of Directors; our practicum students and volunteers; and our staff. The AYC functions in a community environment and without this valuable support we would not succeed.

Bev Olfert, Executive Director



20,947

Total number of youth entrances



3,831

Total number of volunteer hours

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

Everyone Belongs

because youth matter | everyone belongs





The AYC will advocate on behalf of youth in our community by developing a positive profile for youth; providing opportunities for community involvement and encouraging community investment in youth.

Character

January to June

Different Shoes / New Views was an event developed and led by youth. This event encouraged 127 people to think about and experience empathy in a new way. Youth engagement in this project was the key to its success.

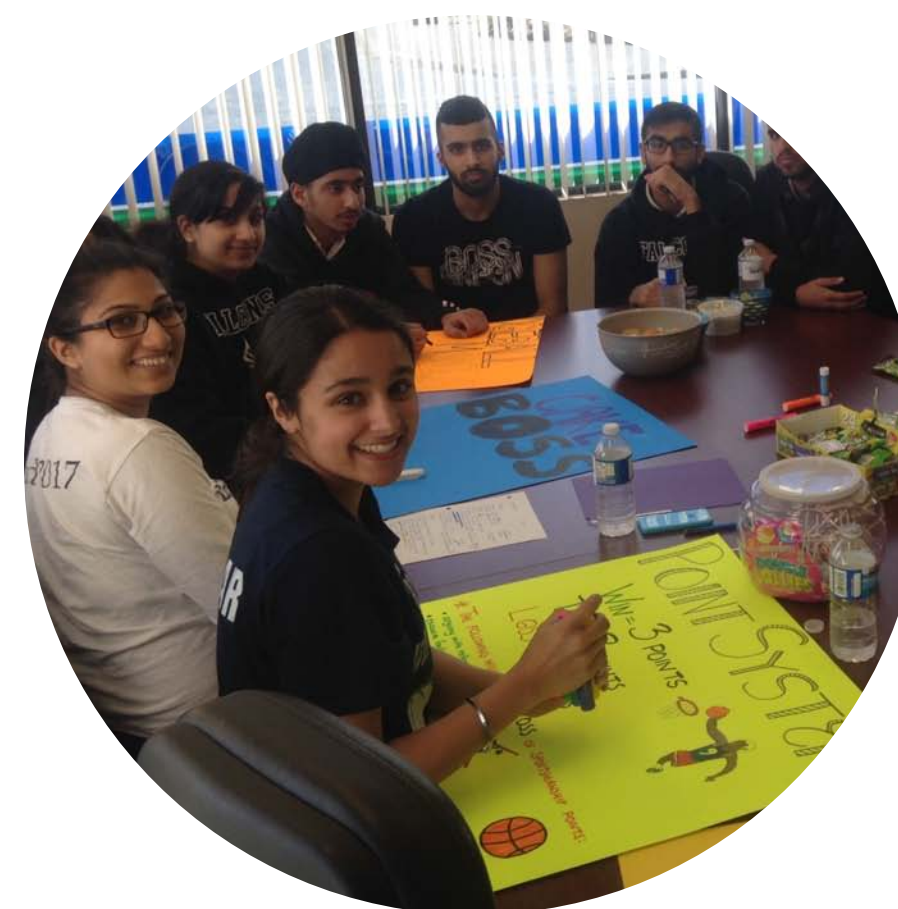


July to December

Our focus turned to respect and promoting our diversity statement - **Everyone Belongs**. In our youth centres we worked with the youth to develop their own ideas of how to ensure that everyone felt included. Youth also reflected on how their differences made them unique and yet somehow similar at the same time. In November, youth wrote thank you letters to the APD and in December made small gifts for the patrons of the seniors centre – both activities focused on respect.

LEAD

Thirteen students from four different high schools participated in **LEAD** in 2017. LEAD is offered to youth in grades 9-12 who are interested in learning how to plan, prepare and deliver a special event during BC Youth Week.



The youth chose to focus on planning a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament and a Cake Boss Challenge. They also created baskets of goodies with inspirational tags to thank our first responders in an Acts of Kindness event. Youth delivered baskets to the Abbotsford Police Department Main Office, Community Police Office, Fire Department, Paramedic Station and the Emergency Room at Abbotsford Regional Hospital. Twenty five youth participated and more than 250 first responders were impacted.

Youth Week and Special Events

Youth Week is a provincial celebration of youth held annually during the first week of May. It is a week of fun, interaction and celebration intended to build a strong connection between young people and their communities and to profile the issues, accomplishments and diversity of youth across the province. In 2017 we hosted: a Cake Boss competition - 35 youth participated; our annual URoc Awards where we gave out 10 awards and 110 people attended; a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament with 7 teams; a WorkSafe BC event where youth learned about their rights; Floor Hockey with the APD with 7 APD and 24 youth; Dodgeball Mania during our open and gym; and countless number of youth took part in the \$2 skate and swim offered by the City. Here at the AYC, Youth Week is a huge priority and we are proud to host events for all of Abbotsford's youth.

Highlights of **Special Events** in 2017 include:



MarioKart
Tournament with
Banana Splits



Summer Kick-Off
BBQ

Grilled Cheese
Creation
Challenge



Halloween
Make-Up
Challenge

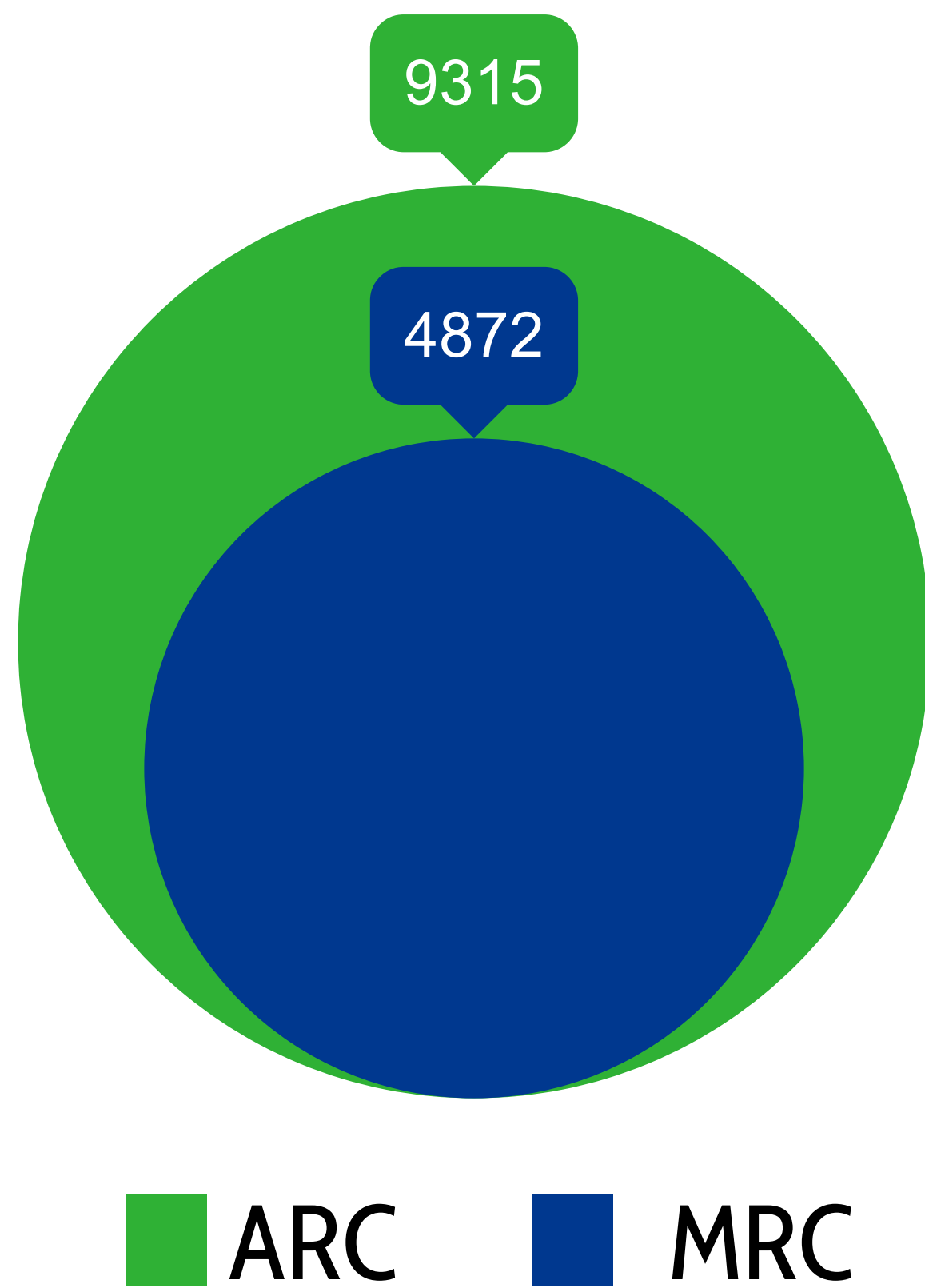


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The AYC will provide and improve leadership training, preventative recreation, and volunteer experiences for youth in our community



Total 2017 Youth Centre Entrances: 14,187



Total number of youth served: 1,710

<p>AYC Youth Centre at ARC</p> <p>Average: 35 youth per day</p> <p>Open: 266 days</p>	<p>AYC Youth Centre at MRC</p> <p>Average: 28 youth per day</p> <p>Open: 177 days</p>	<p>Open Gym at ARC</p> <p>Average: 38 youth per session</p> <p>Open: 97 days</p>
<p>Drop-in Basketball</p> <p>Entrances: 448</p> <p>Average: 14 youth per session</p>	<p>Drop-in Floor Hockey</p> <p>Entrances: 317</p> <p>Average: 9 youth per session</p>	<p>Noon Hour Games</p> <p>Entrances: 883</p> <p>Average: 15 youth per session</p>

At the AYC we offer more than 48 hours of free drop-in programming each and every week. We have multiple sports / activity drop-ins across the city as well as drop-in centres located at MRC and ARC. Our drop-in centres are more than just a location - they are places that youth go to find adult mentorship, life skills learning, and a whole lot of fun productive activity.

Drop-in programs are open during Spring Break / Summer Break / Winter Break providing enhanced programming during these less structured times of the year.

Life Skills Programs

Our **Life Skills Programs** offer youth an opportunity to have fun, learn new skills and try new activities. In 2017, the AYC offered 30 Life Skills Programs with 323 program registrations and 596 entrances. Programs offered were all of an introductory nature and fell under the following categories: cooking, baking, leadership, babysitters training, employment readiness, FoodSafe, recreation, art and sport.



Youth Focus

Youth Focus gives participants at each youth centre the opportunity to talk about issues facing youth in Abbotsford, develop their leadership skills and increase their teamwork abilities. The groups meet once a week after the youth centres close to work through AYC youth leadership priorities, to prep and plan events and much more all in a fun environment. In 2017, this emerging leaders program had 465 entrances.



(IN)volved

(IN)volved connects youth with community organizations who are seeking volunteers. It gives youth the chance to make a positive impact and gain experience that can help with future employment. At the same time, it gives organizations access to youth volunteers. In 2017, 31 youth signed up to participate in the program. We now have a total of 89 youth volunteers and we have promoted opportunities for 12 different organizations.



The AYC will encourage healthy youth and families; create avenues for youth involvement in social and political action; and focus on awareness and prevention of identified youth social issues



LIFE

LIFE or Learning is for Everyone, started as a program to engage youth with life skill learning over the summer but this year we were able to continue through the fall. Thanks to our amazing funders we are able to offer youth great incentives for actively participating in this program. Some of the topics we have covered in 2017 include employment, leadership, social media, physical health, emotional health, nutrition, financial literacy, service, friendship, hygiene, and cyber safety. The youth loved participating in the LIFE project because the staff were able to make learning life skills interesting and fun.

Nutrition

The **Nutrition Program** includes healthy after school snacks each day and family style sit down dinners twice a month. In 2017, we served 590 dinners exceeding our goal by 90 youth served. The after school snack program continues to be extremely popular and we know that we could serve two to three times the amount of nutritious snacks if we had the resources to do so. Youth in our programs are eating at least one additional serving of fruit or vegetables each weekday all thanks to the Abbotsford Community Foundation.

Youth Council

Youth Council is a leadership program for youth in grades 10-12 with members representing each high school in Abbotsford. The Youth Council comes together to work on youth initiated projects each year - working to make a positive impact in their community. Notable events include the leadership retreat, Beyond the Hurt Facilitators training, and receiving the Ted Rogers Scholarship Fund to further enhance Youth Council. The highlight of the year is the City Council Shadow Project which matches youth with Mayor and Council to learn from each other. This year the project included a World Café on City Issues, an exciting Egg Drop Challenge and youth participation in a Council Meeting.



Girls | Guys | Youth Night

Girls Night is a non-competitive social recreational program designed to encourage girls to try new activities at their own pace in a fun and supportive environment. In 2017, 48 girls participated in fun and challenging physical activities through this program.

The **Guys Night** program gives boys an opportunity to try a new activity or sport while teaching them the values of teamwork and active living. In 2017, 61 boys participated in the program participating in activities such as: archery, tchoukball, rock climbing, fishing, and a trip to the trampoline park.

Youth Night, a Healthy Living Program for both boys and girls, was added in 2016. This year, 50 youth participated in the program trying out activities such as laser tag, martial arts, bowling and parkour.

Just For Girls / Guys Alive

Just for Girls is a program for grade seven girls designed to prevent harmful emotional issues such as low self-esteem and eating disorders. In 2017, 199 girls in 10 schools completed the program, with 1124 entrances.

In 2017, 132 boys completed **Guys Alive** - a program for grade seven boys offered at local schools during the lunch hour. The objective of the program is to educate boys on peer pressure, bullying, relationships, healthy living and teamwork. This past year the program was offered in 10 schools with 1095 entrances which is 220 more than last year.



Whatz Up

@ The Abbotsford Youth Commission

The AYC will develop, revise and share youth information and resources; and promote our organization as a resource for youth, parents and the community

Community Development

At the AYC we advocate for youth and endeavor to amplify their voice. We chair, host and attend numerous committee meetings every month in an effort to ensure that youth in our city are not 'falling through the cracks'. Highlights from this year's community development work include participation in Character Abbotsford, Abbotsford Community Action Team against the sexual exploitation of children and youth, and the BC Youth Week Committee. Finally, our Youth Table initiative has seen significant growth this year with renewed energy around training and connection.

For a complete list of community partnerships and committee work, please visit our website at www.abbyouth.com.



Continue to utilize social media to promote programs

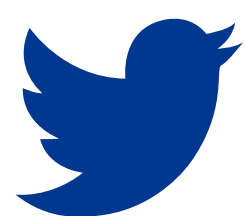
Looking for ways to include more youth photos in our social media feeds

Attend local community events and meetings and share about our programs

Hosted tables at the Youth Forum, Fraser Valley Pride and AbbyFest; presented at DPAC meeting

Deliver program materials throughout the community in print and via email

Printed materials distributed in schools and community organizations; advertised online on local media sites and shared in monthly e-newsletters



2017 Financial Overview



Thank you to
our financial
supporters

City of Abbotsford

Gaming

Ted Rogers Scholarship Fund
Service Canada
Envision Financial Community Endowment Fund
Abbotsford Community Foundation
Soroptomist International of Abbotsford Mission
Kiwanis Club of Clearbrook
Canadian Tire Jumpstart
Abbotsford Social Activity Association
Participation
WorkSafeBC
Individual Donors

Receipts

City of Abbotsford	\$207,697
Gaming	\$86,300
Donations and Grants	\$55,131
Program Registrations & Events	\$25,141
Interest	\$21

Total Receipts \$374,290

Disbursements

Wages and Related Costs	\$289,998
Office Operations & Equipment	\$35,966
Program Costs	\$48,797

Total Disbursements \$374,761

Net Surplus / Deficit from Operations (\$471)

In 2017, the AYC received in kind support from:
City of Abbotsford; Abbotsford Parks, Recreation and Culture;
Abbotsford School District; University of the Fraser Valley;
Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, Abbotsford Community
Services, Abbotsford News, Abbotsford Police Department,
HSBC Bank Canada, United Way of the Fraser Valley


Abbotsford Youth Commission Board of Directors 2017

Stan Petersen	President
Cheryl Unger	Vice President
Karl Olfert	Secretary
Rob Senft	Treasurer
Scott Hill	Director/City of Abbotsford Representative
Patricia Ross	Director/ City Council Representative
Teresa Pippus	Director
Raman Dosanjh	Director
Carol Powell	Director/APD Representative
Cindy Schafer	Director/School Board Representative
Kathleen Robinson	Director
Cindy Rammage	Director
Egon Shin	Director/Youth Council Representative
Reetu Khattar	Director/Youth Council Representative

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