

ABBOTSFORD YOUTH COMMISSION

Annual Report 2018 | more than just a place to go

What We've
Achieved this year



est. 1991

Increased
Youth
Engagement

NEW
Community
Partnerships

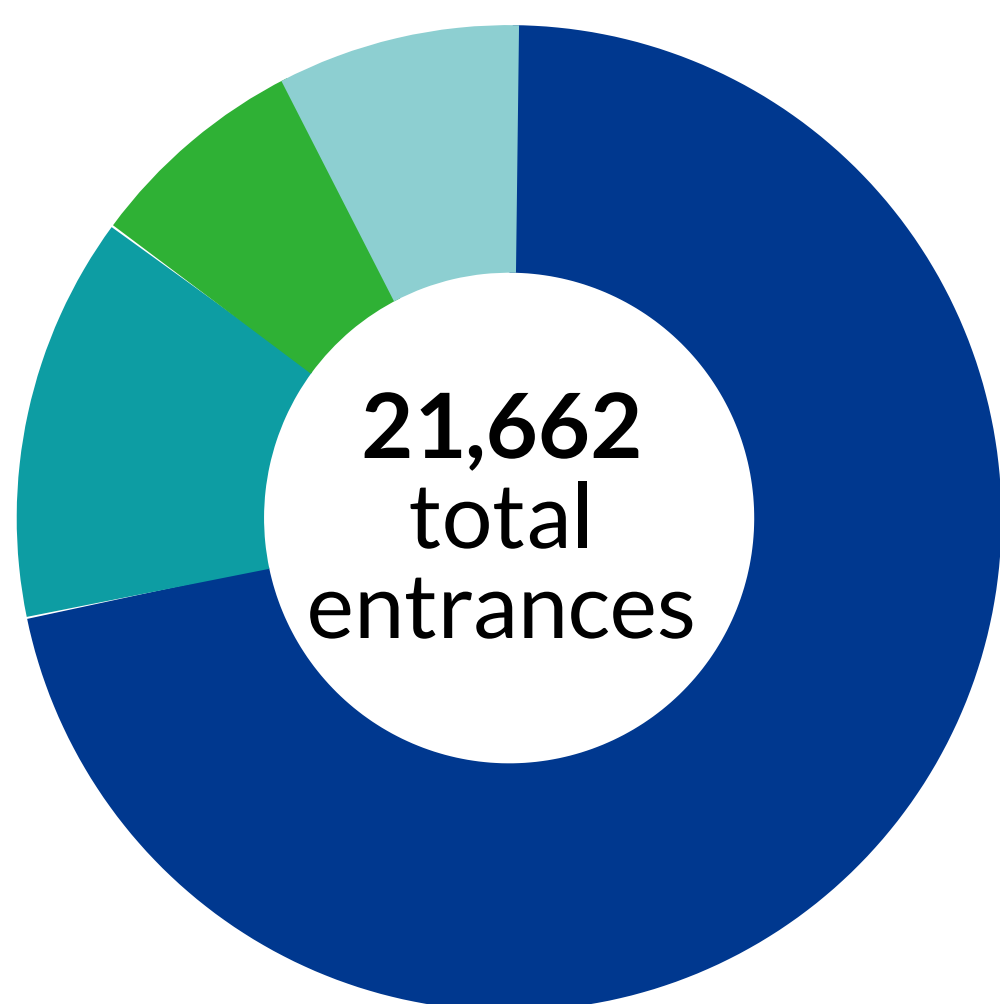


message from our executive director

"The AYC is a place where you can grow and challenge yourself - it is also a place where you can have a lot of fun!" (Youth, age 15). As per usual, the youth know how to say it the best! This is exactly what we strive to accomplish each and every day at the Abbotsford Youth Commission in all of our programs. Reflecting on the year, the things that stand out are: new community partnerships, increased youth engagement and steady growth.

The AYC functions in a community environment and receives many benefits from the involvement of our community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partners, generous funders and donors, Board of Directors, practicum students, volunteers and staff. Without their valuable support we would not succeed. Thank you, Bev Olfert

2019 PROGRAM ENTRANCES



15,613
1,551

Drop In
Youth Centres
Drop-in Sports
Noon Hour Games

Leadership
Youth Council
LEAD
Youth Focus
Character Project

2,823
1,675

Self Esteem
Just For Girls
Guys Alive

Life Skills | Healthy Living
Babysitter's Training
FoodSafe
Employment Readiness
Girls | Guys | Youth Nights

"With my social anxiety, it's hard going places sometimes. I don't get anxiety when I go to the Youth Centre because the staff allow me to be myself and they do a great job making us all feel comfortable" Youth, age 13

MORE than just a place to go

Impacting Youth and Families

“ I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Abbotsford Youth Commission for all the help we have received for our grandson, Jason. We reached out to AYC looking for support as Jason struggles with various challenges which impacts the entire family. While he was unsure about going to the Youth Centre at first, he is now excited to head to the drop in each day. He is making new friends and having a fun time.

The stress level for all of us has gone way down since Jason has found something he enjoys, and is able to stay out of trouble. A young man that honestly, at times, was difficult, has become a fun kid to hang around with. He has proven himself to be very smart, as well as handy with tools, and has a fantastic sense of humour.

We'd like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU TO THE ABBOTSFORD YOUTH COMMISSION for all you do. Words can't begin to express just how much we appreciate what you have done for Jason and the rest of the family. Life is good!

Sincerely, Jason's Grandma



58 volunteers, 3792 hours



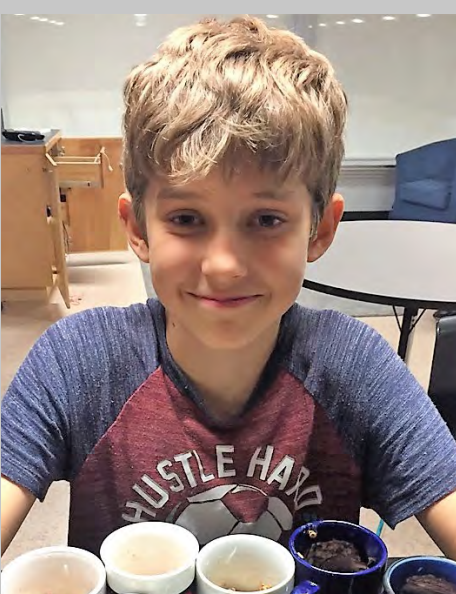
JASPER
I am one of 1,600 youth who attended AYC's free Youth Drop-in Centres.



EMILY
I am one of 141 youth who participated in Girls, Guys, and Youth Nights.



JJ
I am a youth who has enjoyed many of the over 11,500 healthy snacks at the AYC Youth Centres.



LINDSAY
I am one of the almost 700 youth who took part in AYC Youth Leadership Programs.



SAM
I am one of over 600 youth who attended drop-in sports at AYC.



Everyone Belongs ... *in Action*

This year the Team Lead at our youth centre at MRC painted pride flags on artist canvases with the youth who attend the centre. It took her almost a month to complete this project because she waited for youth who she knew self-identified with each of the different symbols to come in and take the lead in painting their flags.

So far we have gay, asexual, pansexual, transgender, lesbian and bi-sexual pride flags up on the youth centre wall. Having these symbols prominently displayed lets youth know that everyone is indeed welcome at the youth centre and that we are committed to ensuring that every person who attends one of our programs will be treated with respect.

*"Values such as inclusion, empathy, and integrity are all vital parts of the AYC. Because of the AYC, I have become a better student, son, and citizen."
Youth, age 17*

Culture Fest Culture Feast



In 2018 we celebrated Canadian Multiculturalism Day with Culture Fest / Culture Feast, a youth planned and led event. Youth selected six cultures to celebrate based on their personal experiences - Mexican, Indigenous Peoples, Indian, Chinese, Turkish, and Syrian Culture.

Highlights included handmade flags representing each culture, youth trying new foods for the very first time, and bhangra dancing. Culture Fest / Culture Feast was a huge success from an event standpoint, but even more successful when we look at the months of planning and discussion about acceptance, belonging and celebrating diversity.

#Acceptance #Diversity #Belonging



"MRC Family Tree"



"Everyone Fits Here"



"Diversity Flags"

Vision

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

Mission

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

Youth Empowerment

Our Youth Empowerment Project expanded in 2018. Our Youth Council were trained in the Red Cross Beyond the Hurt program. This gave them the opportunity to take their healthy relationship presentations to local middle schools, where they interacted with younger youth tackling tough topics such as bullying, communication and conflict resolution. This initiative has been very well received by the middle school students and has made a big impact on the Youth Council leaders as well.

*"It is a fantastic feeling to make a change in the lives of many youth through the activities that I helped plan and run."
Youth, age 16*



#Resilience #Leadership



Building Bridges

The Youth Centre at MRC has been working all year long to build a stronger relationship with the Seniors Centre. Several times during the year, the youth delivered small gifts and treats. The year ended with the youth treating the Seniors to a Traditional English Christmas Dinner.

Cultural Connection

Members of our Youth Leadership team chose to learn more about the Diwali festival and culture and share this with others. They created and delivered gift bags containing hand decorated 'blinged out' Diya's and tea light candles to the community.




Giving Back

Youth who attend our Drop In Centres wanted to help other youth in our community. During the holiday season, they organized a fundraiser, selling hot chocolate and candy. All money earned was donated to Autumn House, a semi-independent living program for youth.

Eat Right Future Bright

11,500
snacks
provided

Food prep
skills
gained

New
foods
discovered

638
dinners
served

Every day at our Youth Centres, as part of our Eat Right, Future Bright program, our staff and volunteers actively engaged youth in preparing healthy snacks for their peers. We also continued to host two dinner nights every month. To extend the reach of this program into the community, we started the 'Chef of the Month' initiative, with one youth from each Centre given a full 'chef's home cooking kit' to recreate that month's meal at home with their families.



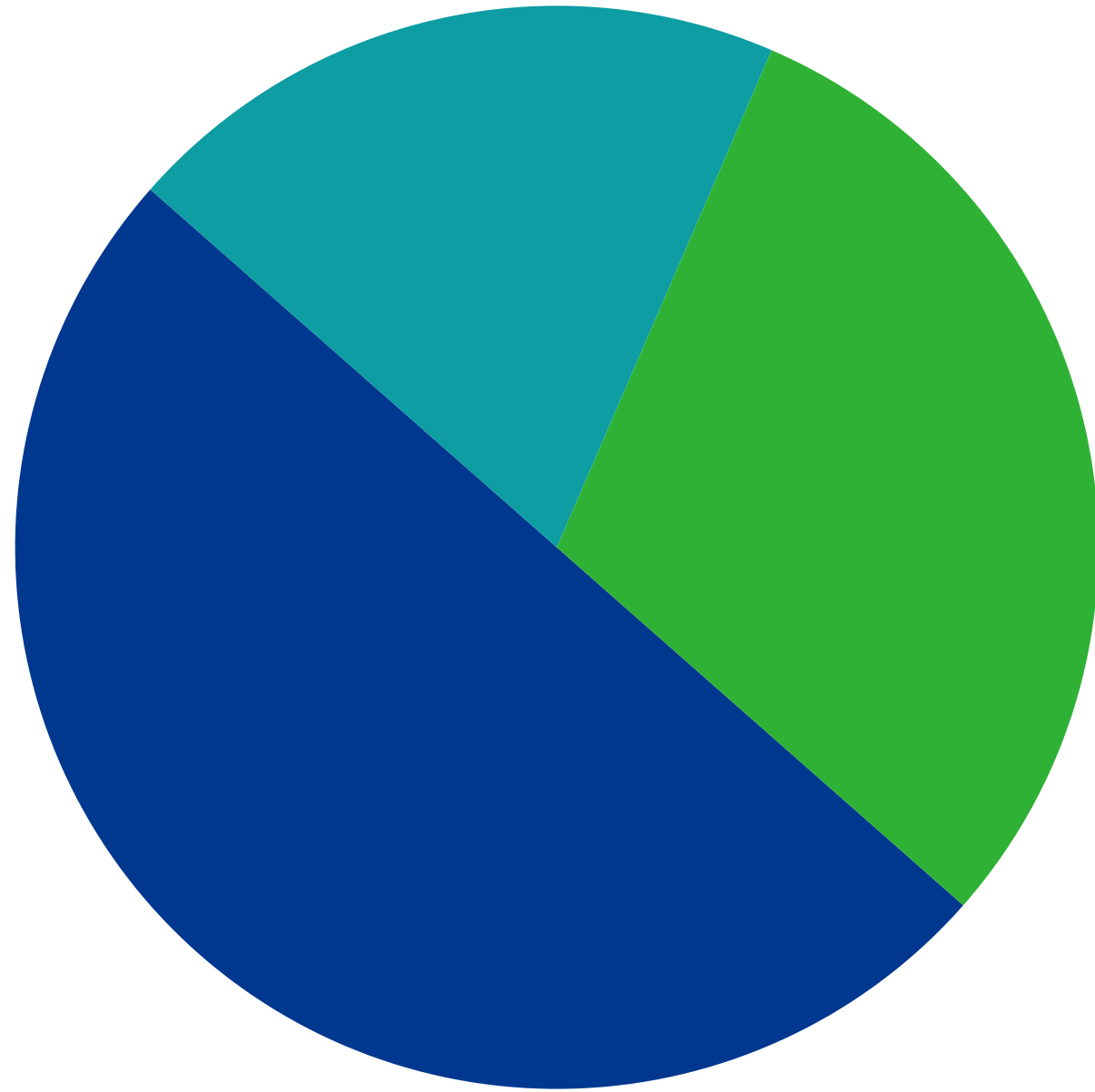
Youth Council | City Council Shadow Project



URoc Awards 2018



Business Excellence
Award Nominee



Thank you to our financial supporters

City of Abbotsford

Province of British Columbia

Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce
 Abbotsford Community Foundation
 Canadian Heritage
 Canadian Tire Jumpstart Program
 Individual Donors
 Kiwanis Club of Clearbrook
 President's Choice Children's Charity
 Service Canada
 Soroptomist International of Abbotsford Mission
 Ted Rogers Community Grant
 Telus
 Walmart Canada

2018 Financial Overview

Receipts

City of Abbotsford	\$211,823
Gaming	\$100,000
Donations and Grants	\$46,960
Program Registrations & Events	\$41,330
Interest	\$25

Total Receipts \$400,138

Disbursements

Wages and Related Costs	\$311,885
Office Operations & Equipment	\$37,261
Program Costs	\$51,226

Total Disbursements \$400,372

Net Surplus / Deficit from Operations \$(234)

In 2018, the AYC received in kind support from:

City of Abbotsford; Abbotsford Basketball Association; Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce; The Abbotsford News; Abbotsford Parks, Recreation and Culture; Abbotsford Police Department; Abbotsford School District; Fraser Valley Now; HSBC Bank Canada; Little Tree Agency, Inc.; The Patrika; United Way Fraser Valley; University of the Fraser Valley; What's On Abbotsford

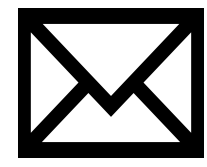
2018 Board Of Directors

Stan Petersen	President
Rob Senft	Vice President
Kathleen Robinson	Treasurer
Teresa Pippus	Director
Cindy Rammage	Director
Raman Dosanjh	Director
Anshdeep Sharda	Director, Youth Council Representative
Aashwan Dhaliwal	Director, Youth Council Representative
Scott Hill	Liaison, Parks, Recreation & Culture
Patricia Ross	Liaison, City of Abbotsford
Rhonda Pauls	Liaison, Abbotsford School District





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because
YOUTH
matter

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