

City of Victoria Youth Council 2018/19 Report



Introduction

The 2018/19 cohort of City of Victoria Youth Council first met on November 1st, 2018 and since then have had a tremendous impact on their community. From meeting with community members to hosting community events, organizing projects, their impact will be felt across Victoria for years to come.

This report includes information on our council members, our community engagement events, our projects, a budget breakdown, and guests we had meet with City of Victoria Youth Council.

“I want to give back to my community. I believe City of Victoria Youth Council is an excellent platform for me to make a difference in my city.”

-Melody Cheng, 2018/19
CVYC Member



Council Members

Alex Kuhn

Age: 23

Pronouns: She/Her

Hi! My name is Alex and I am a recent Environmental Studies graduate from the University of Windsor. I moved to beautiful Victoria, BC last September and am excited to make strong connections and help to make positive changes within our community. I love everything outdoors – hiking, kayaking, biking, etc. You can always find me collecting sea glass down at the beach along Dallas Road. I am an active member of the Youth Food Network and love volunteering with the Victoria Green Team and Sierra Club BC!

Emma-Jane Burian

Age: 16

Pronouns: She/Her

My name is Emma-Jane and I joined CVYC because I want to explore my newfound passion for politics and learn more about working in my community. I have a huge passion for physics and education. I want to make science, education and politics my career someday. Anything to do with the universe excites me! I am currently a Grade 11 student with SelfDesign Learning Community, a BC online independent school. I want to foster awareness around environmental issues in my community and give youth more opportunities to get involved in science.

Finn Kreischer

Age: 15

Pronouns: He/Him

My name is Finn Kreischer and I've been lucky enough to call Victoria home all my life. I'm 15 years old and a student at the Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry in downtown Victoria. I'm very passionate about climate change, sustainability, veganism, and related issues. I'm an avid urbanist, cycling expert, and I recently volunteered on the campaign to re-elect Lisa Helps as Mayor. I've also volunteered and protested with the Sierra Club regarding various issues.

This is my second year on the CVYC; last year I enjoyed learning about various topics and meeting other like-minded youth. I worked on a project to educate youth on cycling in Victoria. The project never came to fruition but I'd like to do another cycling or urbanism-related project this year. Being on the CVYC last year was a fun experience that expanded my knowledge and horizons. I'm looking forward to another year.

Josh Lin

Age: 18

Pronouns: He/Him

Josh Lin is a grade 12 student at Mount Douglas Secondary School and this is his first year on CVYC. In school, he leads the Model United Nations Club, is involved in the leadership program and runs cross country. He is an avid backpacker who enjoys travelling through Coachsurfing.com. Josh hopes to bring more tech opportunities to the students of Victoria and equip the future generation with skills in the rapidly changing world. In the future, Josh is interested in studying Business, mathematics, and studio art.

Mackie Forrest

Age: 17

Pronouns: She/Her

My name is Maclaren Forrest, and I am a 12th-grade student at Oak Bay High School. I joined CVYC because I am interested in social justice and community work, especially in regard to helping homeless citizens. I have created projects that connect individuals from different parts of society and fostered initiatives that give opportunities for other youth. I look forward to my second year with CVYC and continuing my community work!

Matthew Geng

Age: 16

Pronouns: He/Him

Matthew is a keen student-athlete who is passionate about making a change. He has played both basketball and chess at a national level and wishes to reintroduce a cross-school chess tournament. His overall goal is to provide others with new opportunities, and he hopes to accomplish his goals through the youth council.

Melody Cheng

Age: 16

Pronouns: She/Her

Melody is currently a grade 11 student at Glenlyon Norfolk School (GNS), this is her second year in the City of Victoria Youth Council. She came to Canada four years ago from Taiwan with a passion for STEM and international relations. Melody is an advocate for STEM education in Victoria with the goal of empowering the younger generation to pursue the fields. You can also find Melody sharing her favourite cultural dishes while coordinating model United Nations conferences at GNS. Outside of the

school, She loves immersing herself in a science lab working on projects and also enjoys meeting new people. After school, Melody enjoys volunteering at the Victoria Immigrants and Refugee Centre assisting children with their homework. Ultimately, Melody can't wait to challenges herself every day and make a positive impact in Victoria.

Rohan Gupta

Age: 15

Pronouns: He/Him

My name is Rohan Gupta and I am a grade 11 student at Oak Bay High. I joined CVYC in order to advocate on behalf of young people and have a say on the important issues facing my generation. Furthermore, I am motivated to help with the mental problems facing youth today, as I see these issues not being dealt with on a daily basis. This organization will allow the voice of youth to be heard, allowing us to achieve desired goals, communication, and teamwork skills.

Sophie Collins

Age: 17

Pronouns: She/Her

Sophie Collins is a grade 12 student at Mount Douglas Secondary, and this is her first year on the CVYC. She is a gymnast, an avid hiker and skier, and a member of her school's student council. She enjoys volunteering, and decided to join CVYC as a way of learning more about issues in the community and ways to solve them, as well as a means to meet like-minded people. Sophie is passionate about sustainability and human and animal rights, and hopes to pursue a career in wildlife conservation and veterinary sciences.

Stefanie Chen

Age: 15

Pronouns: She/Her

Hi! My name is Stefanie and I am from Taiwan. I go to Glenlyon Norfolk School. I am passion about Chinese folk dance, which I have been learning for ten years, traveling, and table tennis. I joined CVYC because I would like to meet different people, collaborate with others to contribute to the society, and create a unique experience. I am looking forward to the team work and accomplishments!



Year in Review

November 2018

- City of Victoria Youth Council meets as a group for the first time
- CVYC meets their Neighbourhoods Liaison, Gary Pemberton
- CVYC meets their Council Liaison, Sharmarke Dubow
- CVYC develops and finalizes their Terms of Reference, Group values, and 2018/19 cohort Vision

December 2018

- City of Victoria Youth Council assists Victoria Council with their strategic plan giving advice and adjusting the plan to be more youth-friendly and accessible
- City of Victoria Youth Council meets Council and Mayor Helps
- CVYC organizes and hosts their first community engagement event: Free Soup Night

January 2019

- City of Victoria Youth Council finalizes involvement in Strategic Plan adjusting, attends Strategic Planning Day
- City of Victoria Youth Council welcomes Mayor Helps to a meeting

February 2019

- City of Victoria Youth Council starts their project process, brainstorming possible projects
- CVYC presents possible projects to council members
- CVYC narrows down proposed projects down to 6
- 3 final projects are selected: Food Poster Project, Student Sustainability Guide, and Cultural Day
- CVYC creates Instagram account

March 2019

- City of Victoria Youth Council meets with Rebecca Nelems regarding thesis project
- CVYC continues to work on their 3 selected projects
- CVYC launches “Get to Know CVYC” initiative on Twitter and Instagram

April 2019

- City of Victoria Youth Council meets with community members Alex Harned and Josie Hjermstad
- CVYC continues to work on their 3 selected projects
- City of Victoria Youth Council members Emma-Jane Burian and Finn Kreischer invited to be interviewed on a ShawTV Series

May 2019

- City of Victoria Youth Council Instagram hits 150 followers
- May 25th- Cultural Day Event
- Jody Wilson-Raybould tweets at City of Victoria Youth Council

June 2019

- Food Poster Launch- over 4,500 people reached on Facebook
- CVYC attends Veedub Skateboard Contest
- Student Sustainability Guide release- sent out to all schools on Lower Vancouver Island
- Student Sustainability Guide- collaborated with 2 students from Belmont Secondary School: Alma Perrault and Olivia DeFehr
- Student Sustainability Guide gained interest from businesses such as Sitka, The Good Planet Company, etc.
- City of Victoria Youth Council year-end party



Community Engagement

City of Victoria Youth Council believes that a strong, connected, community is the most important piece in creating a healthy environment. Throughout the year we organized and hosted community engagement events in the hopes of creating a strong community.

The most notable event we organized was the Free Soup Night on December 18th, 2018. We made chicken and veggie broth and purchased Cobbs Bread buns and set up out in Centennial Square on a very cold night to hand out soup to our community. We handed out over 100 bowls of warm soup and gave out countless amounts of hugs. We hope to host the same event during the 19/20 cohort.



Stefanie Chen (left), Melody Cheng, Rohan Gupta, Josh Lin, Matthew Geng, Emma-jane Burian and Sophie Collins hand out free turkey soup and buns at Centennial Square Tuesday night as part of a City of Victoria Youth Council initiative. (Keri Coles/News staff)

Victoria Youth Council warms hearts and stomachs with free soup in the square

Youth-driven, grassroots program works to create positive impact in Victoria

Council Members (left to right): Stefanie Chen, Melody Cheng, Rohan Gupta, Josh Lin, Matthew Geng, Emma-Jane Burian, Sophie Collins

Project Breakdowns

The 2018/19 CVYC cohort selected 3 projects to organize: Cultural Day, Food Action Poster, and Student Sustainability Guide. Each project, before any received grants, had a max budget of \$500. If any group needed more funds, they would propose an increase in budget to the rest of CVYC and an unanimous approval would be required. Fortunately, each group did not need an increase in funds. **Cultural Day** group received a \$250 grant from Wolf's Den.

Cultural Day

Members: Melody, Stefanie, Emma-Jane

Date: May 25th, 2019

Location: Victoria City Hall, Centennial Square

Ages: Everyone

Admission: Free

This project is about creating a social gathering of cultures and arts in the community to celebrate multiculturalism. It's an opportunity to showcase cultural performances and to enjoy traditional food from different cultures and religious backgrounds. Our vision is to initiate an annual event to allow people in Victoria to embrace the diversity of backgrounds and to promote a stigma-free community.



Food Action Poster

Members: Sophie, Rohan, Josh, Finn

This project is about creating a poster showcasing where free youth meals are across Victoria. It will include the 3 meals of the day as well as addresses and ways to get to the free meals.

FREE MEALS FOR YOUTH

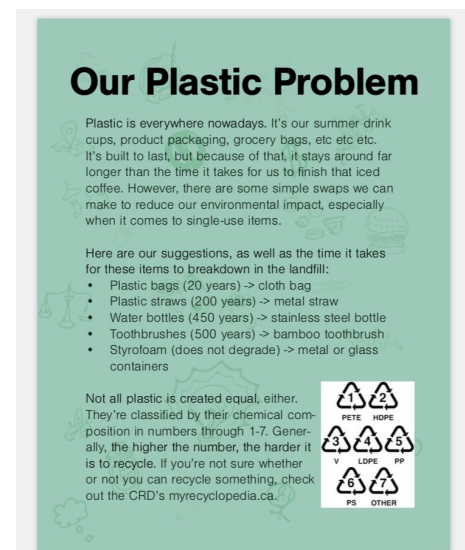
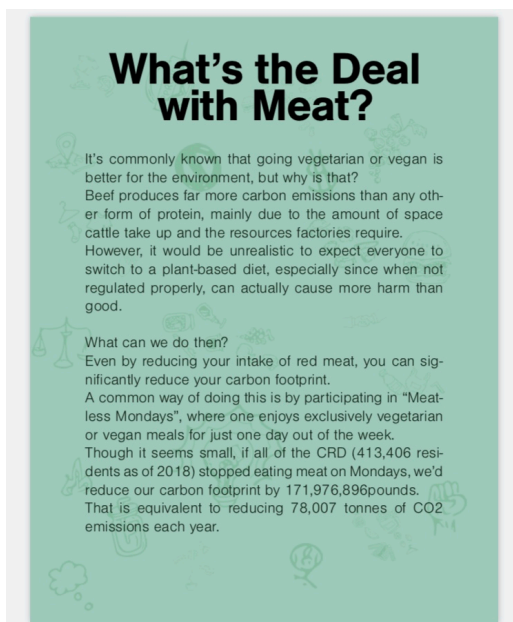
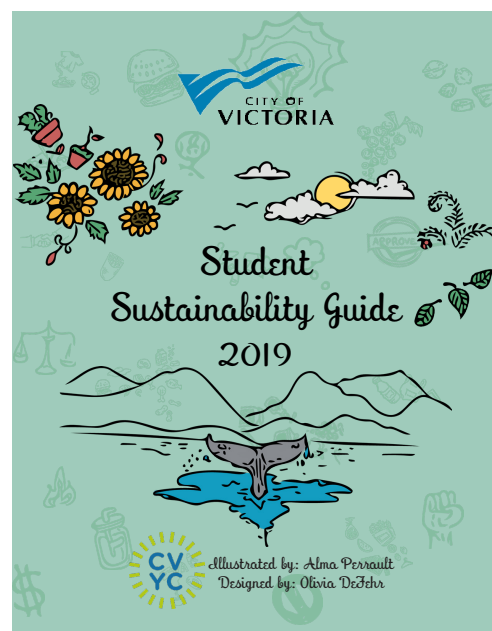
Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Our Place 919 Pandora Ave. 19+ (250)388-7112 Mon-Fri: 7am-8am	Our Place 919 Pandora Ave. 19+ (250)388-7112 Mon-Fri: 12pm-1pm	Our Place 919 Pandora Ave. 19+ (250)383-7112 Mon-Fri: 5pm-6pm
Rainbow Kitchen 500 Admirals Rd. Families (250)384-2069 Mon-Fri: 8:30am (Not shown on map)	Rainbow Kitchen 500 Admirals Rd. Families (250)384-2069 Mon-Fri: 12pm-12:30pm (Not shown on map)	Alliance Club 533 Yates St. Youth Only (13-19) (250)361-3923 Mon-Thurs: 5pm-6pm
The Soup Kitchen 740 View Street Families (778)440-7687 Mon-Fri: 8am-10am	Sandy Merriman House 809 Burdett Ave. Women Only (19+) (250)480-1408 Mon-Sun: 11:30am-2pm (Not shown on map)	Church of Our Lord Basement 626 Blanshard St. Youth Only (13-19) (250)383-8915 Fri-Sun: 3:30pm-4pm (Not shown on map)
St. Andrews Kirk Hall 608 Courtney St. Families (250)384-5734 Sat: 8:00am, 8:15am	Anawim House 973 Caledonia Ave. 19+ (20 people max) (250)382-0283 Mon-Fri: 11:30pm 10-11 signup	
Anawim House 973 Caledonia Ave. 19+ (20 people max) (250)382-0283 10-11 signup Mon-Sat (no Wed): 10:00am 10-11 signup	Salvation Army ARC 525 Johnson St. All Welcome (250)384-3396 Mon, Wed, Fri: 11:45am-12:30pm	


CITY OF VICTORIA
YOUTH COUNCIL
INFO@CVYC.CA

Student Sustainability Guide

Members: Matthew, Alex, Christine, Mackie

This project is about creating a plastic awareness campaign to create understanding and awareness about the negative effects that plastic has on our environment. This project includes creating information posters and hosting educational beach clean-ups around Victoria as well as starting the conversation on being plastic-aware. On top of that, we plan to advocate for proper recycling programs within schools.



Budget Breakdown

City of Victoria Youth Council had a total budget of \$2000 to spend. We used this money to fund our community engagement events, our projects, our clothing, and any other necessities.

We are hoping for an increase in funding for future cohorts so we can have more community engagement events, larger projects, and more flexibility in regards to advertising.

Item	Cost	Grant Received	
Free Soup Night Event		\$150 n/a	Ingredients for soup, disposable bowls, cutlery
Cultural Day	Approx. \$500	\$250	Stage, booth rental, tent rental
Food Action Poster		\$500 n/a	Paper, printing, advertising
Student Sustainability Guide		\$500 n/a	Paper, printing, advertising, honorariums for graphic designer and artist
CVYC Shirts	Approx. \$200	n/a	T-Shirts for CVYC members to wear at events

Social Media

CVYC realizes the importance of connecting to our community through social media. This year, we added *Instagram* to our toolbelt, and had lots of engagement!

Social Media Platform	Username	Followers	Difference from Sept 2018
Twitter	vicyouthcouncil	262	30
Instagram	cvyouthcouncil	222	+222 *created in February 2019*
Facebook	victoriayouth	525	75



City of Victoria Youth Council
@VicYouthCouncil

“Hey, yeah sorry gotta cancel on dinner.
@Puglaas just responded to my tweet and I
need time to emotionally recover”

Jody Wilson-Raybould @Puglaas

Hey City of Victoria Youth Council — thx for kind invitation to the 1st annual Culture Day, May 25th! So wish I could join-in but will be across the Salish Sea in YVR that day. Much success to you & congrats on your imp. advocacy 4 +ve social change & youth empowerment. #Bravo 🙌🏻 [twitter.com/VicYouthCouncil...](https://twitter.com/VicYouthCouncil)

5:33 PM - 17 May 2019 from [Victoria, British Columbia](#)

2 Retweets 11 Likes



2



11



City of Victoria Youth Council @VicYouthCouncil · May 2
#CVYC Member Profile: Christine Camaso (@christineeca)

Favourite food: Avocado toast
Favourite quote: “Say what you mean, mean what you say, and do what you said you were going to do.”
Favourite place in Victoria: The Beacon Drive-In



christine 🌱🌿🌻



**Inaccurate
information from the
internet**

**CVYC Sustainability
Guide**

Guests

CVYC was lucky enough to host many guests during our cohort year. Mayor Helps, our liaisons Gary and Sharmarke, Rebecca Nelems, Alex Harned, Josie Hjermstad, Olivia DeFehr, Alma Perrault, and many others!

