

# CITY OF VICTORIA YOUTH COUNCIL 2019/20 YEAR END REPORT



PREPARED BY: EJ WESTON, CITY OF VICTORIA YOUTH COUNCIL COORDINATOR

## SUMMARY

This report will detail the activities and initiatives organized and delivered by City of Victoria Youth Council members and partners as well as give an overview of the 2019/20 cohort year.

## MEMBERS

The 2019/20 CVYC cohort was composed of 19 members, a 90% increase in members compared to last year's CVYC cohort.

Grace Sinats (she/her)  
Emma-Jane Burian (she/her)  
Alex Li (she/her)  
Alyssa Korol (she/her)  
Anna-belle Tian (she/her)  
Aza Bryson (she/her)  
Ben Fyfe (he/him)  
Chester Chau (he/him)  
Ella Lee (she/her)  
Emily Hiser (she/her)  
Jolina Lee (she/her)  
Leon Chen (he/him)  
Lucy Coburn (she/her)  
Monique Sekhon (she/her)  
Raine Guitierrez (she/her)  
Shae-linn Davies (she/her)  
Shreya Sivakumar (she/her)  
Stefanie Chen (she/her)  
Talía Fay (she/her)

EJ Weston, Coordinator (they/them)  
Milo the French Bulldog, CVYC honorary member

## PROJECTS

City of Victoria Youth Council members decided on three (3) projects for the 2019/20 year:

- *School Dog Therapy Days*
  - Council members would collaborate with SD61 and SD63 schools to organize therapy dog days for the students to reduce stress levels
- *2nd Annual Cultural Day Festival*
  - Cultural Day Festival is a cultural celebration that brings together the many different cultures that exist in Victoria

- The festival hosts cultural dances, art, poetry as well as invitees cultural organizations and food trucks
- *Affordable Eco-Friendly Sustainable Products Project*
  - This project's idea was to provide affordable eco-friendly products to at-risk youth and youth living in poverty
  - While sustainable products are great for the environment, they're not always affordable. CVYC members wanted to remove the financial barrier behind these products and provide them to at-risk youth and youth living in poverty
- *Youth Open Mic Night*
  - City of Victoria Youth Council wanted to organize a youth open mic night to bring together the community and give youth an opportunity to share their passions and talents.

## OTHER INITIATIVES

On top of organizing projects, CVYC also organized many other smaller projects.

Each week, City of Victoria Youth Council would post on social media youth job and volunteer opportunities as well as email the opportunities out to local youth organizations, youth groups, and school districts. These postings were very popular and helped many youth get jobs and access opportunities in their community.

In November 2019, CVYC hosted the 'Budget Town Hall Youth Engagement Night' in collaboration with the City of Victoria. Youth were guided through activities on budgeting and budgeting processes as well as given an opportunity to directly ask Council questions related to the 2020 budget. Youth were given an opportunity to ask council questions. The questions submitted were:

- Submitted in advance:
  - What topics highlighted in the climate leadership category in the budget will contribute to climate adaptation?
  - What money, other than CVYC funding, are you allocating to youth initiatives and services in the City of Victoria? How many of these are for at-risk or marginalized youth?
- Submitted during event:
  - 950 Kings Road is an integral part of the Quadra Village Community, being a host space for several youth programs and events such as the Halloween dance that saw over 300 youth attend. Right now, the future of this space is in jeopardy with the possibility of it turning into a seniors centre. What are you doing to save 950 Kings for our at-risk and marginalized youth?
  - When Victoria is collecting property tax from unceded territories, will any of this profit be directed towards those indigenous communities?

The City's Youth Strategy Assistant, EJ Weston, facilitated the development of the two questions during the event as well as a budget activity. Three groups of participants were provided time to learn about four City budget categories and then prioritize the

allocation of \$1,000. Each group then received an additional \$400 to allocate. All three groups placed “Environment” as the highest priority, each allotting \$400 of their \$1,200 budget. Coming in a close second was “Community Well-being”, followed by “Safe and Livable City” and “Sustainable Transportation”. Each group divided its budget in units of \$400 and \$300.

Budget Activity Summary:

Environment: \$400, \$400, \$400

Community Well-being: \$400, \$300, \$400

Safe and Livable City: \$300, \$400, \$300

Sustainable Transportation: \$300, \$300, \$300

Also in November 2019, CVYC had a ‘meet and greet’ session with Victoria Council answering any questions and inquiries that Council had.

In December 2019, City of Victoria Youth Council hosted their 2nd annual Community Soup Night in Centennial Square. Council members had made homemade fresh chicken noodle soup and hot chocolate and handed it out in Centennial Square from 6 - 8 p.m.

City of Victoria Youth Council also worked with the City’s Youth Poet Laureate and hosted many community workers and organizations during meetings.

As a response to COVID-19, City of Victoria Youth Council created and shared a youth resource toolkit for students and youth to access.

While COVID-19 had cancelled CVYC’s events and projects, members were still able to advise the City on projects for the remainder of the 2019/20 cohort. Recently, City of Victoria Youth Council assisted Rhiannon Moore, Zero Waste Engagement Strategist, with a Zero Waste Youth Engagement event which connected the City’s Zero Waste team with over 14 youth who advised on sustainability and zero waste.

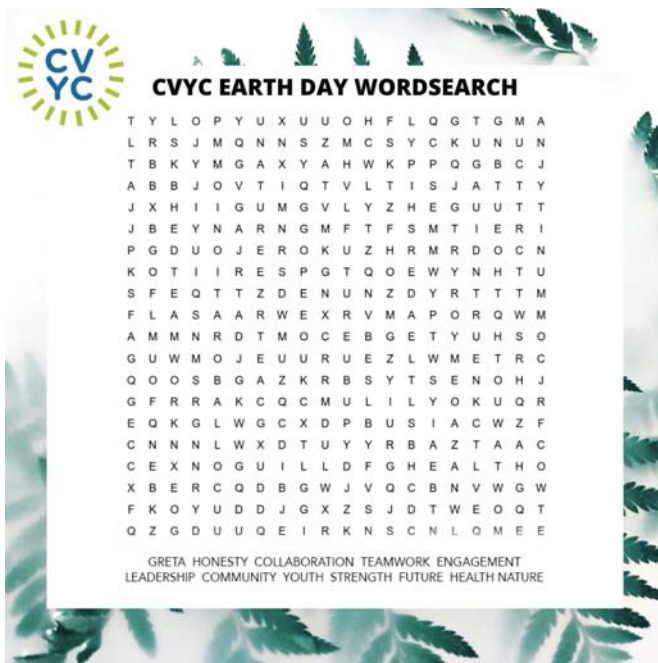
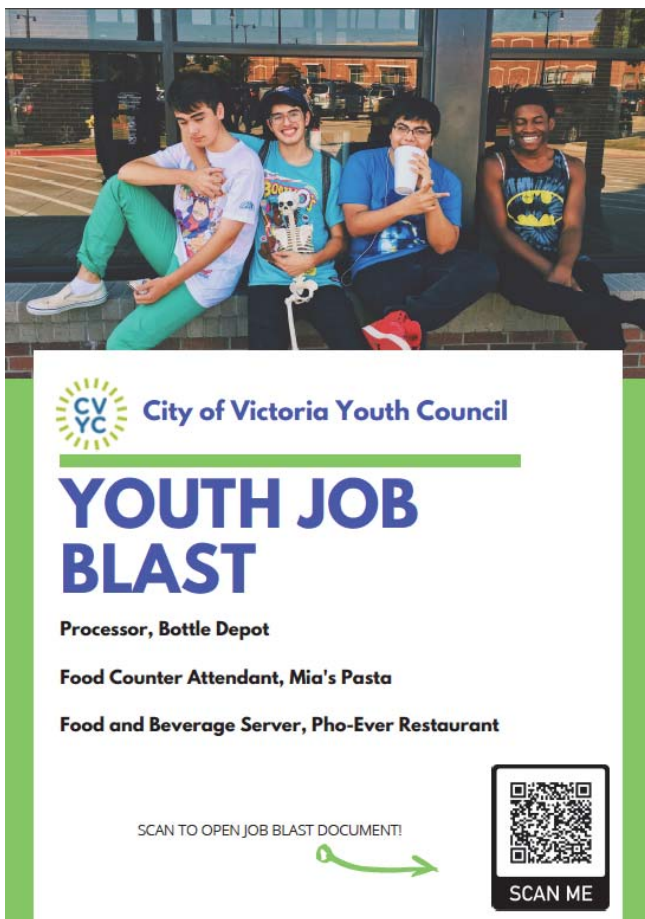
## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Twitter:

- The council’s Twitter following grew from 262 followers in September 2019 to 401 in September 2020, a 54% increase

Instagram:

- The council’s Instagram following grew from 222 followers in September 2019 to 521 in September 2020, a 135% increase



Word search made for Earth Day, April 2020



Graphic made for National Dinosaur Day, June 2020