



City of Victoria Youth Advisory Council

Empowering Victoria's Youth

Speakers for 2024 Victoria City Council Open House:

Anisha Kapoor - Program Coordinator (Volunteer Victoria)

Walker Sproule - Vice President

Beatrice Sharpe - Public Relations Specialist

Sarah Masse - Community Engagement Vetter & Minute Taker

Avery Williamson - Member

Rachel Bae - Member

Agenda

- Purpose
- Growth
- Members
- Allocation of Funds
- Consultation Work & Training
- Notable Projects
- Current Projects
- Success Stories
- Call to Action for City Council



Purpose

- To be a platform for youth engagement in civic processes, local governance, and policy development
- Empower youth as leaders, advocates, and contributors to the community
- Align efforts with local youth needs
- Reduce isolation by fostering meaningful connections amongst youth



The City of Victoria Youth Council is a youth-driven, grassroots program funded by the City of Victoria and hosted by Volunteer Victoria. The Youth Council offers opportunities for young people to be leaders in their community. This is a passionate group that takes action and raises awareness about important issues in the community, while also sharing youth perspectives and experiences with Victoria's City Council, staff, and citizens.

Growth

- 7 to 23 members in 10 months
- Cap of 25 youth ensures balance of inclusivity and impact while staying within our budget
- Waitlist of interested youth
- Each candidate is interviewed by the President and Vice President, with all interviews carefully documented



Members

CVYC Roles 2024-25	
Facilitator/Engagement Leader	Krissa Silva
President	Bella Zhou
Vice President	Walker Sproule
Public Relations Specialist	Beatrice Sharpe
Marketing Lead	Lucy Liang
Marketing Specialists	Lily Maloney, Angel Guan
Admin Coordinator	Isabelle Wu
Community Engagement Vetter	Sarah Masse
Treasurer	Jessie Swan
Logistics Coordinator	Crystal Cai
News Reporter	George Crowther

More Members

Andrea Sterlinko
Avery Williamson
Guntaj Johar
Hayeong Lee
JT Chulaluck
Luc Denux
Manon Denux
Meda Judeike
Rachel Bae
Rio Robbins
Roy Park



Roles

President

- Guides the overall vision and strategy
- Sets the agenda for meetings

Vice President

- Assists with meeting facilitation, project oversight, and taking on special tasks as needed

Facilitator/Engagement Leader

- Runs icebreakers
- Supports the youth with their initiatives by providing resources and setting deadlines

Public Relations Specialist

- Manages the council's public image
- Strengthens the council's relationships with stakeholders

Marketing Team

- Promotes council's initiatives and events
- Enhances the council's visibility in the community
- Manages online presence

Logistics Coordinator

- Ensures all logistical needs are met for council meetings and events

Admin Coordinator

- Organizes and maintains priority documentation (attendance, emergency contacts, and consent forms)

Community Engagement Vetter

- Screens potential projects to ensure alignment with the council's mission and values

Minute Taker

- Accurately documents discussions, decisions, and action items
- Makes minutes accessible to council members

Treasurer

- Manages the budget, expenses, and financial accountability
- Assists in budget planning for initiatives

News Reporter

- Keeps the council informed on local and global issues/trends that may impact or inspire council initiatives

Minutes

YAC MEETING MINUTES + UPCOMING EVENTS

Date: Nov 06, 2024

Time: 6:05 – 8:00 PM

Facilitators: Bella, Walker, Iris, Taylor, Ally

Youth Advisory Council members in attendance: Sarah, Jessie, Holly, JT, Lucy, Roy, Isabelle, Crystal, Rachel, Avery

Volunteer Victoria: Anisha, Krissa

■ = Completed/Points/Info, ▮ = In progress with no set dates/Ongoing,

⏰ = In progress with set dates, 🗓 = Volunteer Victoria events

ACTIVITIES ☺

- Asked if you'd rather be 10-15 min late, or over an hour early every time

REPORTING BY GEORGE ☺

- NDP Party now had majority government
 - o Ballot box was somehow misplaced
- Trump won

NALOXONE TRAINING ▮

- Looking at a two hour slot on **Dec 4th or 11th**

BUSINESS CARD ☺



- They're here!!!
- Looking out for places to share
 - o Be a contact in your school?
 - Give to career counselors, classes, etc.

BC TRANSIT ☺

- Work for the youth program at BC Transit (BusReady)
 - o Founded 2021
 - o Founded 12 and under free on BC Transit
- Teaching youth to ride buses
- Asking us for information about Middle School Programs and potentially High School
- Bus drivers have training for helping youth and for 911/First Responder access
- Main issues: feeling unsafe, inability to talk to drivers, trip planning
- Want to improve/encourage youths/middle schoolers being safe

MURAL ▮

- All but one side is done
 - o VERY big redesign, because they denied it

DIRECTORY ▮

- Waiting to hear back from Sarah Mackenzie
- Unsure how to print/publish it
- Need to do some small editing/final lookover things
- Want to include "For Youth by Youth"
- Way for youth to add suggestions

Allocation of Funds

\$26,000 grant supports diverse programs enhancing youth engagement, leadership development, and community integration.

While these categories represent our priorities, adjustments are made as needed to ensure the council remains responsive and adaptive to emerging needs or opportunities.

Expenses	Budget
Direct Participant and Program Supplies - food, event costs, stationary, workshops, etc.	\$2,000.00
Administration Costs - rent, insurance, audit, utilities	\$2,337.44
Merchandise	\$400.00
Program Promotion - business cards, posters, social media ads	\$390.00
Travel, parking, and mileage for youth and staff	\$350.00
Website domain	\$250.00
Wages and Benefits of CVYC Coordinator (59.50 hr/month @ \$26.04/hr x 12 months)	\$18,592.56
Wages and Benefits of Manager (3.5 hr/month @ \$40/hr x 12 months)	\$1,680.00

Thank You, City of Victoria!
We are very grateful.

Consultation Work



July
2023

A new sticker on City facility doors features “Welcome” and the Intersex Inclusive Progress Pride flag in a heart, signaling that these spaces are welcoming, safe, and inclusive for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and allies. The design was created in consultation with the CVYC.

Consultation Work



October 2023	CVYC collaborated with the City of Victoria on redesigning Topaz Park, focusing on seating, accessibility, and youth engagement. Another consultation is set for November 2024, with the park's completion planned for Spring 2025.
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Consultation Work

August 2024	CVYC provided input on Victoria's 2025 budget priorities, which has been presented to Council, shared with City departments, and posted online.
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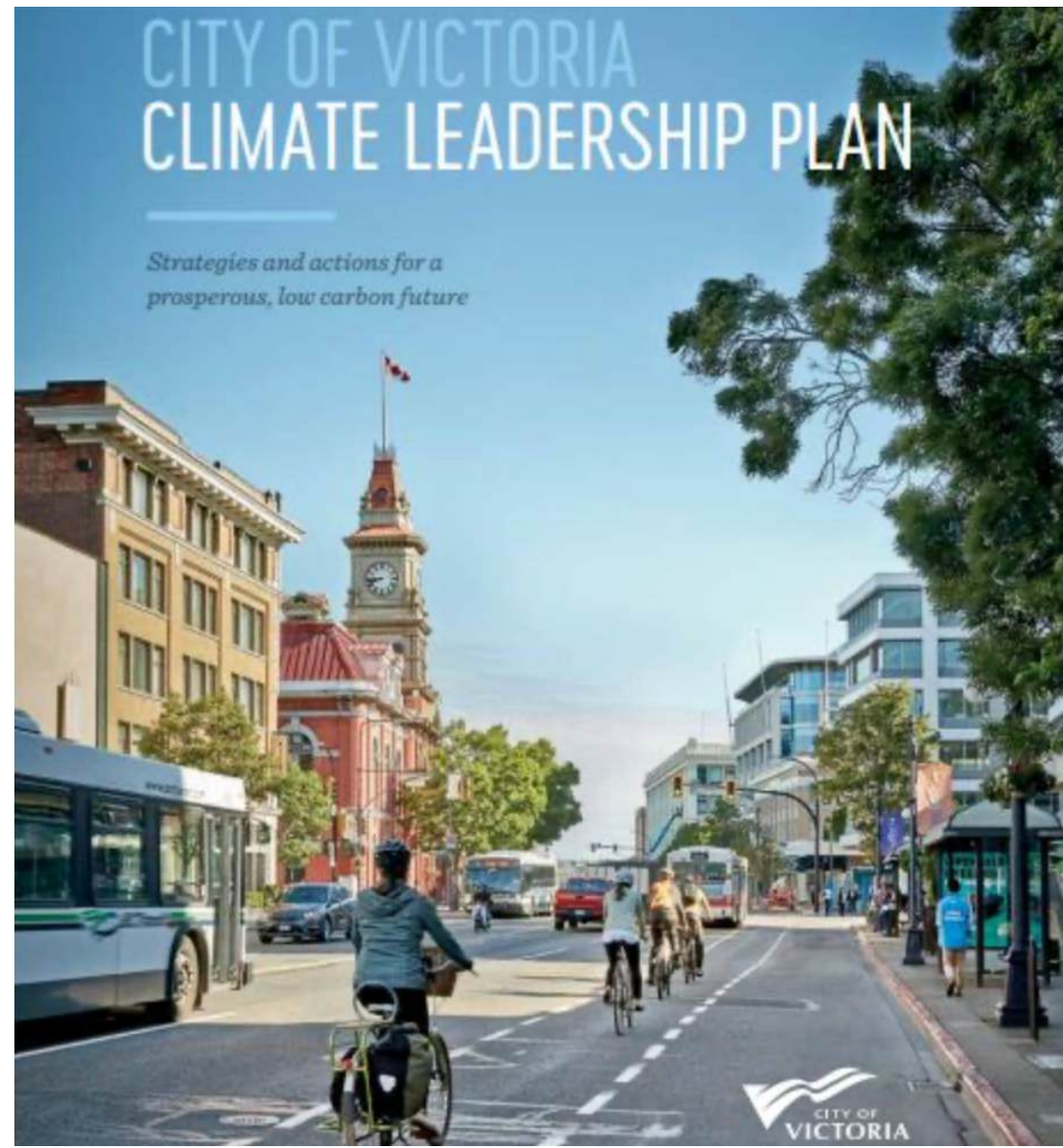
Budget Community Conversation Series Notes (Attachment C)

- **Arts and Culture:** More community art projects
- **Climate Action:** Incentives for green buildings
- **Education:** Improved public outreach through school visits, life skills workshops (taxes, budgeting, etc.), and youth ambassadors promoting city programs
- **Housing:** More affordable, low-barrier housing
- **Mental Health and Wellness:** Shorter waitlists for mental health and substance use treatments, more accessible detox centers, increased youth workers, and City-provided mental health workshops and free counselling
- **Safety:** No street sweeps, increased naloxone access, and more safe consumption sites
- **Transportation:** More electric buses and improved routes
- **Youth and Politics:** Easier voting access for youth, with City-hosted mock elections in schools and the community



More Consultation Work & Training

March 2024	Ammar Mahimwalla, Senior Cultural Planner, presented mural requirements to the CVYC and provided a physical toolkit.
March 2024	Victoria Police Foundation board members presented their mission and sought feedback on their programs.
April 2024	The City of Victoria's Community Planning Team consulted the CVYC on the Official Community Plan.
May 2024	Sarah MacKenzie led Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility training at City Hall.
June 2024	CVYC Public Relations Specialist Beatrice Sharpe joined a jury to review public art applications and participated in a scoring meeting to reach a consensus.
July 2024	The CVYC consulted on the City of Victoria's upcoming accessibility app, BlindSquare, for blind and partially sighted individuals.
September 2024	CVYC consulted with the City's Arts, Culture, & Events team on the \$100,000 'Our DWTN' grant. CVYC President Bella Zhou applied on behalf of her organization, HEARTH.
September 2024	The CVYC consulted with the City of Victoria's Climate Action Team.
October 2024	Presentation by the founder of Vote16 and advocate for free youth bus passes.
October 2024	Poetry workshop by Victoria's Youth Poet Laureate.
October 2024	Presentation by the ETHOS Team on Skills Quest Young Adults and QWORKS programs.
November 2024	Consultation with BC Transit on enhancing youth safety and accessibility.



Upcoming Consultation Work & Training

November 2024	This year, the City launched an inclusive internship program called IMPACT (Inclusive Municipal Program of Advancing Careers & Training). Members will visit the CVYC to share their experiences and consult with youth.
November 2024	BC Epilepsy Society will lead a workshop to raise awareness and understanding of epilepsy.
December 2024	CVYC will participate in a 2-hour Naloxone training by AVI Health and Community Services, focusing on overdose prevention and response.



AVI Health and Community Services
where harm reduction works

Notable Projects



April -
May
2024

Beach clean-ups at Clover Point
Park and Cadboro-Gyro Park



Notable Projects



February 2024	CVYC raised \$807.50 for the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser for Our Place Society, including a bake sale at St. Michael's University School, ranking #28 of 61 teams.
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More Notable Projects

February 2024	Jeffrey Gibbs, Founder of Global Activators, traveled from Vancouver to speak with the council about projects on environmental restoration and Indigenous rights, with future collaborations planned.
April 2024	Visit to Shelmarie Rest Home (Island Health mental health site) for an Arts & Crafts session with hot chocolate and treats.



Current Projects



CVYC will paint a shed at Quadra Village Community Garden, collaborating with gardeners on the design. The goal is to feature artwork in most community gardens in Victoria.

Current Projects



Current Projects



Mental Health

- Child & Youth Mental Health Intake Clinics
- Foundry
- Here2Talk



Physical Health

- Island Sexual Health
- Victoria Youth Clinic

Rec Centre & Youth Groups

- Oak Bay Recreation Centre
- Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
- Vikes Recreation Youth

Athletics

- PISE Youth
- Victoria Volleyball
- Flight Basketball
- Saanich Fusion Football Club
- Softball BC

Housing & Shelters

- Threshold Housing Society
- Covenant House
- Victoria Cool Aid Society
- Victoria Homelessness



Volunteering



- Volunteer Victoria
- Camosun College Volunteer
- UVIC Volunteer
- Victoria Homelessness
- Youth Empowerment Society
- Center for Youth and Society

Education Support

- Victoria Literacy Connection
- The Learning Curve
- Greater Victoria Public Library

Food Banks

- Mustard Seed
- Victoria Homelessness
- Salvation Army
- Rainbow Kitchen



Youth Employment

- Work BC
- Beacons Community Service
- VNFC Youth
- Victoria Pride Society
- Naloxone Training

Youth Spaces

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Pacific Center Family Services Association
- Island Health



More Information

Scan the QR code for links to each service.



This 'For Youth, By Youth' directory will be shared in schools and youth spaces. The QR-linked online document will be regularly updated, with community youth able to contribute (with approval).

Current Projects

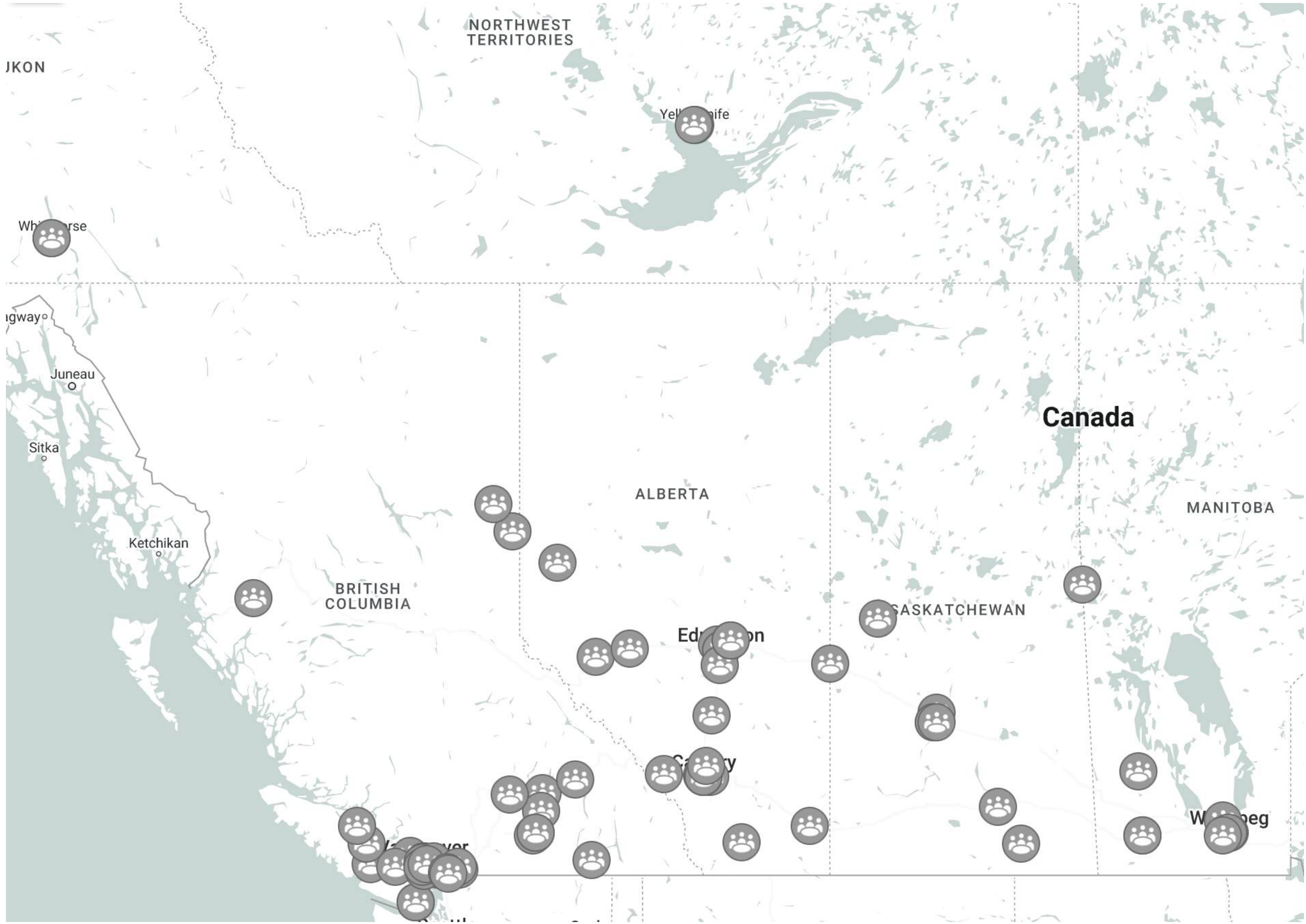


An Open Mic Night Fundraiser is set for December 19, with proceeds going to the Mental Health Society of Greater Victoria. The goal is to host multiple annual fundraisers for meaningful causes.



**MENTAL HEALTH SOCIETY
OF GREATER VICTORIA**

Current Projects



CVYC is connecting with other councils in the Youth Council Coalition of Canada to broaden its reach. Plans include hosting Youth Leadership Summits to share initiatives and collaborate on promoting change.



Success Stories

High school senior wants to reignite Vancouver Island's climate movement

Climate activism ahead of B.C. election aims to give youth more say in decision-making

Jake Romphf
Oct 5, 2024 8:00 AM



1 / 3 Victoria high schooler Beatrice Sharpe has been involved in organizing youth-led climate demonstrations as she looks to revive the large marches that took place before the pandemic. | (Courtesy of Beatrice Sharpe)



Listen to this article
00:03:27

With pre-COVID memories of thousands calling for more action on quelling climate change as they marched through the streets of Victoria, Beatrice Sharpe was recently called on to help organize a protest outside the B.C. legislature.

Portrait of a Youth Volunteer

Youth volunteer, Turquoise Chiang, is a powerhouse in our community and is hoping other youth follow in her helpful footsteps. Here is her fascinating story:

Please let us know a bit about yourself—age, school and what you like to do.

I am 17 years old and in grade 12 at Esquimalt High school. I really enjoy reading: some of my favourite authors are Donna Tartt, Mona Awad and J.D. Salinger. I love to paint and draw, as well as go on walks and hikes throughout the island.



How did you get started with volunteering? How old were you?

Because of the pandemic, I didn't get involved with volunteering as early as I would have liked. Nonetheless, the first time I volunteered was when I was 14 years old. It was a super positive experience at Vic West Community Centre. They were holding a holiday event that I heard about through my school,

so some friends and I decided to sign up. It was very relaxed, we set up decorations, played with little kids and handed out hot chocolate.

Do you volunteer with friends? family?

Yes! Throughout my life, my dad has always volunteered so much of his time to coach both mine and my sister's sports teams. When I was in grade 10, I helped him as an assistant coach for Lansdowne Middle School's girls volleyball team. It was really neat because I was able to help younger kids build foundational skills for the game as well as develop a strong sense of sportsmanship.

Please list the places you have volunteered with and are currently with.

I have volunteered at Capital City Comic Con, Vic West Community Centre and Lansdowne Middle School. I am currently volunteering weekly with the City of Victoria Youth Council.

Do you have an awesome or unique experience while volunteering that you can share?

Recently with The City of Victoria Youth Council, we fundraised for and participated in the Coldest Night of the Year walk which is self-described as "a winterrific family-friendly 2 or 5 km fundraising walk in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness." It was a wonderful experience, we listened to some excellent stories and speeches, warmed up with some upbeat music and went on a really beautiful walk throughout the city. It was impactful seeing how many people participated and came together for the more vulnerable members of our community.

What do you think is the best way to get other youth involved with volunteering?

I think more organizations need to cater to youth if that is the demographic they are hoping to attract. There are so many of my peers who simply do not know about all the volunteering opportunities out there. Promoting in meaningful ways as well as sincerely valuing our time goes a long way.

What do you like to see (training, leadership, management, etc) when you start volunteering at a new place?

When volunteering at a new place, it can feel daunting. It is really important for the people in management to be friendly and approachable. It is also critical to have regimented training and resources you can rely on to gain the knowledge and experience to be effective.

What is your favourite part about volunteering?

My favourite part of volunteering is all the amazing connections you form. I have met so many new people, made so many friends and been exposed to so many things I otherwise would not have been if it wasn't for my volunteer work. That is one of the reasons I encourage everyone to get involved in volunteering; it opens up your whole world.

Is there anything else you would like to share about your experiences, or any further advice regarding volunteering?

I encourage anyone with the ability to volunteer to get involved. There are so many different opportunities that there really is something for everyone. Volunteering is extremely important for thriving communities and it is so rewarding!

Bella (she/her) is a poet and filmmaker from Vancouver, Canada. She is the Editor-in-Chief of The Greyhound Journal and leads the HEARTH Initiative in Victoria, B.C. Her work can be found on *Jet Fuel Review*, *GASHER*, and *Polyphony Lit*. She has been recognized by The Poetry Project Victoria, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, the New York Times, and the John Locke Institute. Her interests lie in history, anti-oppressive studies, and the opioid crisis.

Success Stories

References have been provided by Anisha, CVYC Coordinator, for:

- District Authority Scholarship for Community Service
- Harbourside Rotary Scholarship
- Loran Scholars Foundation
- Scholarship Partners Canada
- The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award
- United World College
- University of Toronto Master of Education (MEd) program
- York University

The youth are making strides and driving positive change in communities across Canada!

Vision

CVYC wishes to:

- Actively shape the future of the City of Victoria.
- Set the standard for youth councils nationwide through impactful leadership, collaboration, and innovation.
- Foster a diverse and collaborative network of youth for the purpose of sharing ideas, and contributing to sustainable and equitable community growth.

We're excited to continue working with the City of Victoria to bring our vision to life!



Get in Touch with Us!



YOUTH ARE THE FUTURE
AND WE ARE POWERFUL

City of Victoria Youth Council

CONTACT US:

www.youthcouncilvictoria.ca
cityofvictoriayac@outlook.com
(250) 386-2269

 City of Victoria Youth Council
 @cvyouthcouncil

Get involved in your community!

