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DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
750 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER BC V7V 3T3

COUNCIL REPORT

Date:	April 9, 2026
From:	Lenna Nakamura, Aquatics and Youth Services Manager
Subject:	Annual Report from Youth-Driven Committees and Update on BC Youth Week

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the April 9, 2026 report from the Aquatics and Youth Services Manager titled Annual Report from Youth-Driven Committees and Update on BC Youth Week be received for information.

1.0 Purpose

To inform Council about the four youth leadership committees in the District of West Vancouver (District) and the outstanding work that three of the four committees were able to achieve during the past year; and to update Council on the activities planned for BC Youth Week in early May.

2.0 Legislation/Bylaw/Policy

There is no current applicable legislation.

3.0 Council Strategic Objective(s)/Official Community Plan

Council's Strategic Plan 2024 – 2026

Council's Strategic Plan supports youth-driven committees as set out under Strategic Goal 6: enhance the social well-being of our community.

Official Community Plan

The District's Official Community Plan has policies that support the social well-being and the demographic and cultural diversity of youth in the District through the following policies:

- Policy 2.8.3: Improve access to services and resources for youth, seniors and persons with disabilities, including consideration for improved walking, cycling and transit connections and shuttle services.
- Policy 2.8.5: Provide services, programs and facilities to support children youth and families in meeting their diverse needs and foster their sense of belonging.

Policy 2.8.11: Support the continual provision of community hubs (e.g. Child and Family Hub and Youth Services Hub) and explore the potential for neighbourhood hubs based on community partnerships.

4.0 Financial Implications

No additional financial resources are requested or required.

5.0 Background

Municipal recreation services for youth have been delivered out of the District's various community centres and facilities through the Parks, Culture, and Community Services Division for decades. The Youth Services team works with and supports youth leadership committees that are the voice for youth and advocate for youth programs and services in the community.

5.1 History

The Youth Services team supports four committees, each one responsible for different aspects of work in the community. Only three of the four committees have been active in the past year. Staff are hopeful that all four committees will be active in September for the 2026/2027 school year.

1. Intergenerational Youth Committee (IYC)

IYC was formed in the fall of 2022 and is for students in Grades 8 to 12. Working closely with seniors and staff from the Seniors' Activity Centre (SAC), this committee aims to plan and participate in fun intergenerational activities designed to encourage stronger connections between youth, seniors, and community members of all ages.

2. Preteen Advisory Committee (PTAC)

PTAC was formed in 2016 and is for students in Grades 6 and 7. This committee aims to teach preteen youth valuable leadership skills and to assist with the development of programs and events for preteens in West Vancouver. The committee was paused in 2020 due to COVID-19 and restarted in early 2024; however, it was paused again later that year due to staff vacancies and a lack of youth interest, and it has not restarted since due to continued low youth engagement.

3. Whatever Youth Committee (WYC)

WYC was formed in 2014 and is for students in Grades 8 to 12. This committee creates an inclusive and safe space for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and their allies, plans and promotes activities and events, and helps raise community awareness.

4. Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

YAC was formed in 1995 and is for students in Grades 8 to 12. This committee focuses on municipal youth issues and initiatives, and assists with policy, program, and event development as it relates to youth.

6.0 Analysis

6.1 Discussion

Annual Report from Youth-Driven Committees

The main goal of the youth committees is to build a community of young people who are connected, aware, and informed. Any youth who is interested in leadership opportunities in the community is eligible to apply and become a committee member.

Each of the committees typically meets twice a month to discuss ideas and then develop plans to initiate youth involvement in programs, community events, or related topic areas of importance to each committee. Members of each committee work closely together to execute the plans over the committees' term which aligns with the school calendar year (September to June).

Synopsis of Achievements

IYC:

- supported the SAC's Feed the Need initiative by participating in the SAC's Traditional Holiday Market where the youth sold donated items from local businesses, raffle tickets, hand-made cards, and origami decorations
- recognized the need to have seniors' input in upcoming IYC-hosted events and promoted the opportunity to join the committee at the SAC resulting in senior representation on the committee
- engaged in community outreach by attending some of the Thursday night SAC dinners to promote the committee's upcoming workshops and activities
- planned and executed IYC's annual "Speed Convos with Seniors and Teens" event, where youth engaged in meaningful conversations with seniors at the SAC providing opportunities for new connections
- planning two upcoming IYC events for youth and seniors: one involving building connection across generations via fun and engaging recreation opportunities, and one developing a collaborative art project
- collaborated with staff at the SAC to offer Intergenerational Billiards Workshops this coming spring and summer

WYC:

- planned and executed a variety of free and fun group activities and out-trips for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth over the year
- worked with the Youth Services team to promote and host the annual holiday dinner event for youth, their families, and community partners just before the holiday season
- planned outdoor recreation programs in partnership with local outdoor recreation professionals, including ziplining at Grouse Mountain
- hosted four 2SLGBTQIA+ rec nights at the West Vancouver Community Centre (WVCC) (fully funded by Enhance West Van) to provide safe, inclusive access at the Aquatic Centre, Gymnastic Centre, and the Sports Gym; with more events planned for later in 2026

YAC:

- worked in partnership with the Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise to host a Youth Wellness Conference called “Tools for Tomorrow”; youth supported one another through connecting and learning about mental wellness and resilience through facilitator-led conversations and activities, a panel presentation, and other fun, youth-led games and interactive opportunities
- worked with the Youth Services team to promote and host the annual holiday dinner event for youth, their families, and community partners just before the holiday season
- participated in reviewing and adjudicating youth grant applications made to the Local to Global Youth Initiatives Fund and providing recommendations to the Community Grants Committee
- planned all aspects of the upcoming Youth Council and Youth Appreciation Awards event for BC Youth Week

Update on BC Youth Week, May 1 to 7, 2026

BC Youth Week is a 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 accomplishments and diversity of youth.

- **Preteen Spring BBQ**

May 1, 2026 | 3 to 5 p.m. | Youth Lounge, WVCC

Youth are invited to join the District’s Youth Services team for a free BBQ and all the fun games and activities at the WVCC’s Youth Lounge. Youth can bring their friends, enjoy a hot dog and other treats, enter the door prize draw, and spend a lively afternoon socializing with their peers.

- **Youth Rec Night!**
May 1, 2026 | 6 to 10 p.m. | West Vancouver Civic Site
The District's Youth Services team, in partnership with the Aquatics and Gymnastics teams, will host a variety of free recreation opportunities for youth. The evening begins with a free BBQ in the Youth Lounge and then free access to the Aquatic Centre, the fitness centre, gymnastics, basketball in the Sports Gym, and more. It will also include a Youth Week door prize draw at the end of the night for a chance to win fun prizes.
- **Youth Council Meeting**
May 5, 2026 | 6 to 7 p.m. | Municipal Hall
YAC members, Mayor and Council, interested family and friends, and staff are invited to the annual Youth Council meeting. YAC members will prepare and deliver a mock Council meeting and address a topic of importance to West Vancouver youth followed by an opportunity for Mayor and Council to ask questions and provide feedback and comments at the end of the meeting.
- **Youth Appreciation Awards Reception**
May 5, 2026 | 7 to 8:15 p.m. | Municipal Hall
Celebrated each year in conjunction with BC Youth Week, this event recognizes exceptional youth who exemplify a strong commitment to giving back to their local and global communities. Youth award recipients, Mayor and Council, and family and friends are invited to join staff at Municipal Hall to celebrate the youth's outstanding achievements. Certificates are awarded under three categories: Youth Recognition, Community Enhancement, and Outstanding Youth Team. Staff are proud to celebrate these local youth and their significant achievements through this program each year.
- **Slay Your Drag-on**
May 7, 2026 | 6 to 9 p.m. | Youth Hub
The WYC invites all 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and allies to come down to Ye Olde' Youth Hub for a fantasy themed Drag Night complete with a drag performance, clothing swap, make-up, games, prizes, photobooth, and great food. This Medieval Fantasy Themed Drag night fuses empowerment with enchantment, fun with fantasy, and drag with dragon. Youth are encouraged to don their fantasy looks and enjoy the magic of the night.
- **Karaoke and Open Mic Night**
May 22, 2026 | 7 to 9 p.m. | Youth Hub
Youth are invited to showcase their musical talents or singing at the Karaoke and Open Mic Night. All skill levels welcome.

- **Intergenerational Intro to Billiards Workshop**

May 23, 2026 | 12:30 to 3 p.m. | Seniors' Activity Centre

Youth and seniors are invited to this beginner friendly workshop that is designed to introduce participants to the fundamentals of cue sports in a relaxed and supportive environment. Basic rules, game play, and etiquette will be covered. This workshop is for those looking to try something new, develop their skills and/or build new friendships in this intergenerational environment. Lunch will be provided.

- **Grade 6/7 Dance**

May 29, 2026 | 7 to 9 p.m. | Gleneagles Community Centre

Youth are invited to dance to their favourite tunes and enjoy this popular event. These pre-teen dances are safe, fun, and supervised.

7.0 Options

7.1 Recommended Option

THAT the April 9, 2026 report from the Aquatics and Youth Services Manager titled Annual Report from Youth-Driven Committees and Update on BC Youth Week be received for information.

7.2 Considered Options

THAT the proposed recommendations described in the April 9, 2026 report titled Annual Report from Youth-Driven Committees and Update on BC Youth Week from the Aquatics and Youth Services Manager not be approved.

OR

THAT staff provide further information on the proposed recommendations as directed by Council.

8.0 Conclusion

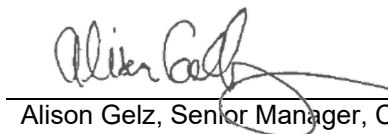
The report is provided to Council to share the achievements of youth committees in the District of West Vancouver and the positive impacts and outcomes they provide for youth in the community; and to provide an update on the activities planned for BC Youth Week in early May 2026.

Author:



Lenna Nakamura, Aquatics and Youth Services Manager

Concurrence:



Alison Gelz, Senior Manager, Community Services