

<i>COUNCIL AGENDA</i>	
Date: <u>April 14, 2025</u>	Item: <u>5.</u>



5.

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

## COUNCIL REPORT

Date:	March 31, 2025
From:	Lenna Nakamura, Aquatics & Youth Services Manager
Subject:	Annual Report from Youth-Driven Committees and Update on BC Youth Week
File:	3024-01

### RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled Annual Report from Youth-Driven Committees and Update on BC Youth Week from the Aquatics & Youth Services Manager dated March 31, 2025, 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 – 2025

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 & 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 2025/2026 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 and seniors. IYC provides opportunities to share ideas and experiences across generations, and establishes relationships that build self-esteem, contributing to positive physical and mental health for youth and seniors. IYC also prioritizes supporting the Feed the Need initiative by volunteering at fundraising events.

#### 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 was paused shortly after due to staff vacancies.

#### 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 and program 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 Feed the Need by participating in SAC's Winter Market where the youth sold donated items from local businesses, raffle tickets, hand-made cards, and origami decorations
- 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
- engaged in community outreach by attending some of the Thursday night SAC dinners to promote the committee's upcoming workshops and activities
- planned another "Speed Convos with Seniors & Teens" event, where youth engaged in meaningful conversations with seniors at the SAC providing opportunities for new connections

##### **WYC:**

- planned and executed a variety of free and fun group activities and out-trips for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth over the year including a special themed event for Halloween
- 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 a day snow tubing at Cypress Mountain and a hike at Whistler Blackcomb
- hosted two 2SLGBTQIA+ rec nights at the West Vancouver Community Centre (fully funded by Enhance West Van) to provide safe, inclusive access to the Aquatic Centre, Gymnastic Centre, Art Studio, and the Sports Gym; and two more events are planned for the rest of the 2024-2025 school year

#### **YAC:**

- worked in partnership with the Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise and the Rockridge Interact Club to host a Youth Wellness Conference that encouraged youth to support one another through connecting and learning about mental wellness and resilience through facilitator led conversations and activities
- 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 Advisory Panel
- 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, 2025**

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.

- **Open Mic Night**  
April 25, 2025 | 7 to 9 p.m. | Youth Hub  
Youth are invited to share their musical talents playing or singing at the Open Mic Night, which is organized by a group of youth from Rockridge Secondary School.
- **Shine Bright: Youth Drag Night**  
May 1, 2025 | 6 to 9 p.m. | Youth Hub  
The WYC invites all 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and allies to come down to learn about how to express themselves, gain confidence, get creative, and share some food in partnership with North Shore Pride Alliance, with a special performance from a local drag performer.

- **Youth Rec Night!**  
May 2, 2025 | 3 to 9 p.m. | West Vancouver Civic Site  
The District's Youth Services team will host a variety of free recreation opportunities for preteens and youth this evening. Activities offered will include free swimming at the Aquatic Centre, free access to the weight room, as well as food and socializing in the Youth Lounge.
- **Gaming Tournament!**  
May 3, 2025 | 12 to 3:30 p.m. | West Vancouver Community Centre  
Youth are invited to a gaming tournament series featuring board games and video games. All gaming abilities are welcome to enjoy the fun. There will be plenty of great prizes to giveaway, pizza, snacks, and more.
- **Youth Council Meeting**  
May 6, 2025 | 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/ comments at the end of the meeting.
- **Youth Appreciation Awards Reception**  
May 6, 2025 | 7 to 8 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 interested 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.
- **3-on-3 Basketball Tournament**  
May 10, 2025 | 5 – 10 p.m. | West Vancouver Community Centre  
Youth will be invited to sign up and play in a 3-on-3 basketball tournament for chances to win prizes and bragging rights.

## 7.0 Options

### 7.1 Recommended Option

THAT the report titled Annual Report from Youth-Driven Committees and Update on BC Youth Week from the Aquatics & Youth Services Manager dated March 31, 2025, be received for information.

### 7.2 Considered Options

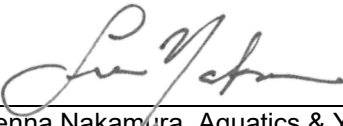
Council may:

1. request further information; and/or
2. provide further direction.

## 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 2025.

Author:

  
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Lenna Nakamura, Aquatics & Youth Services Manager

Concurrence:

  
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Alison Gelz, Senior Manager of Community Services