

access youth outreach services

2024 - 2025

ANNUAL REPORT



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2024–2025 Annual Report

Message from the Executive Director



Established in 1993, Access Youth Outreach Services Society has navigated many highs and lows in its history—and the 2024–2025 fiscal year was no exception. The past year brought transformative change, new challenges, and fresh opportunities.

The departure of Interim Executive Director Jennifer Blatherwick marked a pivotal moment for our organization. Jennifer played an instrumental role in stabilizing Access Youth, guiding it out of the pandemic, and rebuilding both our team and funding structure. Her transition to provincial politics as an MLA is a loss for us but a gain for the broader community.

I had the privilege of joining Access Youth as Executive Director in August 2024, and it has been an honour to carry forward the mission Jennifer and so many before her worked hard to strengthen. Despite economic headwinds and operational challenges, our commitment to youth ages 12–23 in the Tri-Cities remains unwavering. We’ve streamlined programs, enhanced financial oversight, and redoubled our focus on connection and impact.

Some highlights from the year include:

- Expanded partnerships with SD43, SHARE, Poco Community Foundation, Community Action Initiative, CKNW Kids’ Fund, Home Depot, Canadian Tire, G&F Financial, the Province of British Columbia, viaSport, United Way, YWCA/WorkBC, Backpack Buddies, Food Bank on Wheels, St. John the Apostle, and more
- Recruited a new cohort of staff across various programs
- Volunteers contributed 1,682 hours, representing an in-kind donation value of \$64,970
- Continued to utilize the \$75,000 grant from the AGF Group Foundation
- Secured a three-year \$75,000 Community Prosperity Fund grant from the Port Coquitlam Community Foundation for operational costs
- Secured \$54,500 through Provincial Community Gaming Grants
- Received \$30,000 from the CKNW Kids’ Fund to support Youth Empowerment Worker
- Received a \$15,000 capital grant from the AMES Family Foundation
- Reconfirmed our charitable status with the CRA
- Relaunched Project ReachOut (PRO) with a renewed focus on youth-led outreach, festivals, and events
- Assumed the Lead Financial Agency role for the Tri-Cities Community Action Team
- Strengthened Youth GourMade (YGM), Art Journaling Group (AJG), and Youth Empowerment Worker (YEW) programs
- Relaunched YEW Running Start into YEW Running Start and Beyond

We made strong strides across all four of our core programs. Our flagship PRO Bus connected with over 1,700 youth, meeting them where they are with vital outreach and support. Our YEW Family Strengthening Worker provided individualized guidance to youth facing immense barriers. Art Journaling expanded into more than 17 schools, engaging students in creative expression and important conversations. Meanwhile, Youth GourMade delivered weekly meal kits to approximately 200 youth and family members across the region. This translated into 1,678 meal kits and 7,399 meals made over the course of the fiscal year.

Looking back, I am proud to be part of the Access Youth family. We worked hard to focus our efforts, streamline processes, and deepen our impact so that we may better serve the youth who rely on us.

To our funders, staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters—thank you. We couldn't do this without you.

With gratitude,



Steve Kim

Executive Director, Access Youth Outreach Services Society



Access Youth Outreach Services Society Overview

Following a strong fiscal year in 2023–2024, Access Youth entered 2024–2025 facing new financial and operational challenges. This period tested the organization’s resilience and adaptability but also provided a vital opportunity to realign priorities and reinforce our commitment to youth support across the Tri-Cities.

Strategic Planning

Building on foundational planning work from the previous year, our Board of Directors—with facilitation support from former board member Jennifer Wilke—initiated a strategic planning process in March 2025. The sessions helped us clarify and prioritize key directions for the organization:

- Renew Access Youth’s mission and vision
- Diversify and expand funding sources to stabilize operations
- Strengthen partnerships to improve service delivery

This strategic planning process remains in progress, with final outcomes and actions to be shared in the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

2024 – 2025 Board of Directors

We are grateful to our dedicated board members who have contributed their time, expertise, and leadership to Access Youth throughout the year. Introducing the 2024 – 2025 Board of Directors. They are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Catherine Polonio, Co-Chair | • Corrie Archer, Member at Large |
| • Cathy Painter, Co-Chair | • Dianna Winslow, Member at Large |
| • Tanya Elias, Treasurer | • Hanna Bowen, Member at Large |
| • Taylor Vincent, Secretary | • Justin Kim (Appointed post-AGM) |
| • Ami Goshalia, Member at Large | |

Board of Director Updates

We bid farewell to Jennifer Blatherwick (former Interim Executive Director) – There is no question the legacy left behind by Jennifer will have a lasting impact on our organization. All organizations would feel the impact of a leader such as Jennifer leaving, but she built a core team of people to push forward on the mission of the organization.

Annual General Meeting – October 29th, 2024

Hosted at the Coquitlam Public Library (City Centre Branch), we were pleased to welcome members, both new and old, to the meeting. Sponsors and Donors such as Coquitlam Florist were also in attendance. We thank our staff members, Debbie, Roxanne, and Aisha for speaking. Plus, thank you to our Jr. Employee, GB, who also talked to the impact Access Youth has had on his life.

We presented the audited financial statements to the members, received their approval, and elected new members of the board for 2025-2026, while saying goodbye to old members.

Audit Overview

We are proud to report that Access Youth successfully completed its fifth consecutive financial audit in 2024–2025 with **Viola CPA Inc.** (formerly Hay & Watson). During the first number of years, previous auditor, Hay & Watson provided in-kind services, however, last fiscal year, we began paying for their services. We thank the Jan and his team at Viola CPA Inc. for their service over the years.

Executive and Administration

This past year marked a leadership transition at Access Youth. We welcomed Steve Kim as our new Executive Director following the departure of Interim Executive Director Jennifer Blatherwick. Steve has taken up the torch with energy, empathy, and a deep connection to the Tri-Cities community.

Behind the scenes, Program Administrator and Coordinator, Alison Truelove, continues to play a vital role. Her ability to problem-solve and adapt to complex situations has been invaluable during this period of change.

We are currently operating without a dedicated Communications Specialist or Donor Management staff. Despite this gap, our small team continues to manage a large scope of services thanks to resourcefulness and strong collaboration.

Marni Winterbottom remains our accountant, continuing to ensure the integrity and accuracy of our financial records.

Practicum Students

We did not engage any practicum students during the 2024–2025 year. This will be reassessed in the coming year as we look for new opportunities to support student learning and organizational capacity.

Volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Access Youth. In 2024–2025, volunteers supported nearly every aspect of our organization—from delivering meal kits to assisting with outreach and administrative tasks.

Over the year, volunteers contributed **1,682 hours**, representing an in-kind donation value of **\$64,970**.

Administration and Governance Volunteering

Position	Hours	Rate	Donation in Kind Value
Board of Directors	240	\$50	\$12,000
Executive Director			
- Jennifer Blatherwick	693 (until July 2024)	\$50	\$34,650
- Steve Kim	90 (August 2024 and after)	\$50	\$4,500
Total Value of In-kind Volunteer	1,033		\$51,150

Board of Directors

The serving board dedicated up to three hours per meeting 10 times per year, in addition to attending events. Over the last year, this included strategic planning sessions, staff recognition, volunteer fairs and booths at community events.

Executive Director

The majority of volunteer hours for this position were incurred during Jennifer Blatherwick's time at the organization. The current executive director, Steve Kim, allocates a conservative estimate of 10 hours of volunteer time per month, for a total of 90 hours over the course of his time.

Youth GourMade Program

In the YGM program, we had some youth volunteers who worked with us for delivery throughout the year. This includes Laura DuPont, Ryan Uliana, Owen Gibbins, Calvin Gibbins, and Stone Malott. Mother-daughter team, Andrea and Nicole MacDonald (of Asbestos Busters) delivered one-half of the deliveries every second week until September 2024.

Position	Hours	Rate	Donation in Kind Value
Delivery	280	\$20	\$6,600
Packing	50		
Total Value of In-kind Volunteer	330		\$6,600

Project Outreach Bus and Community Outreach

Through 2024 and 2025, we had some dedicated volunteers that took on the role of drivers, outreach staff, and volunteers at our booths and events. Additionally, we had groups of students, including 25 hours for French speaking students at Festival Du Bois, and organizations that helped coordinate different packages for us to hand out – medical supplies, menstrual health kits, and hygiene kits. At our events, we had volunteers, including board members, who came out to give their time to educate about Access Youth.

Position	Hours	Rate	Donation in Kind Value
Outreach Driver	128	\$25	\$3,200
Outreach Staff	16	\$20	\$320
Youth Volunteers	60	\$20	\$1,200
Volunteer Staffing at Booths/Events/Parades	125 (includes 25 hours for French Students)	\$20	\$2,500
Total Value of In-kind Volunteer	329		\$7,220

Reconciliation

At Access Youth, reconciliation is more than a land acknowledgment—it is a commitment to learning, relationship-building, and action.

In 2024–2025, we continued our efforts by deepening engagement with Indigenous communities, youth, and partners. Our land acknowledgment was developed in consultation with Indigenous staff and community members, and it reflects our shared responsibility to decolonize our work.

Inside the Spirit of the Children and Access Youth Office:



We increased participation in Indigenous-focused initiatives, including:

- Co-locating with the **Spirit of the Children Society** at the ᓃᓂᓄᓐᓴᓴᓄᓐᓴᓴᓄᓐ Youth Hub
- Hosting and attending community events such as:
 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
 - National Indigenous Peoples Day
 - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Event
- Facilitating a collaborative Art Journaling session with the Spirit of the Children Youth Hub

We remain committed to this work and understand it requires continued listening, humility, and long-term dedication.

Financial Statements - Audited 2024 -25 Financials

Statement of Financial Position

In the 2024–2025 fiscal year, Access Youth recorded a deficiency of receipts over expenditures totaling \$25,549. While current assets increased slightly from \$245,892 in 2024 to \$254,518 in 2025. Current liabilities increased from \$212,329 in 2024 to \$238,248 in 2025—\$24,919 higher than the previous year. Notably, we reduced our Grants Repayable balance from \$41,826 to zero, a key milestone in improving our financial standing.

Statement of Operations

Access Youth recorded \$568,384 in revenues in 2025, which was \$7,381 lower than the previous year of \$575,76. However, expenditures increased to \$593,933 in 2025, which is \$65,310 higher than the \$528,623 recorded in 2024. The rise was primarily due to:

- **During 2024 – 25, Access Youth had an annual spike in salaries.** Salaries increased \$69,678 over the previous year due to two main reasons: 1) Access Youth hired a paid Executive Director; and 2) Access Youth had a full-time communications member and an additional full-time Youth Empowerment Worker (YEW).
 1. The previous Executive Director volunteered her time, which had a net positive impact on Salaries. As such, the hiring of a new Executive Director increased salaries.
 2. Access Youth also had funding for two full-time roles (Communications and YEW), which ended in August/September of 2024 due to the completion of grant funding.
- **From in-kind office space to an all-in-one paid location.** During the course of the year, Access Youth moved our office space into Spirit of the Children in Port Coquitlam. This allowed our team and programs to consolidate under one roof, which resulted in many cultural and operational benefits. However, due to this move, we no longer received an in-kind rent donation valued at \$20,000. **We thank Asbestos Busters (formerly Ethical Waste) for their incredible support over the years.**
- **The inflationary pressures from IT.** Over the course of the year, the cost of our IT provider continued to increase. Although the cost of their services were in line with industry standards, we decided to

transition this work to another IT provider that offered donated services in January 2025. This move will save us over \$9,500 per year.

- **The cost of Audit Services.** As part of our agreement with our Auditor, **Hay & Watson**, we paid for the 2023 – 2024 Audit. We thank them for their years of Pro Bono work prior to last year.

Despite the year-end deficit, we made critical investments in leadership, service delivery, and infrastructure to support long-term sustainability. See Appendix A for detailed Audited financial statements.

For complete 2024 – 2025 Audited financials, please refer to Appendix A.

Office

Our relocation to the **Spirit of the Children Youth Hub** has been a game-changer for organizational stability. This low-cost office arrangement has offered:

- A consistent base for staff to collaborate
- Reliable space for storing and packing Youth GourMade meal kits
- Greater integration with the community we serve

Although we still lack a dedicated parking facility for the PRO Bus, the **City of Port Coquitlam** generously allows us to use a public lot nearby, just a few blocks from our new office.

We also thank the **Coquitlam Firefighters at Burke Mountain Fire Hall** for their support in providing parking access for the Bus throughout the year.

Technology

Thanks to a \$10,000 capital technology grant from G&F Financial, we upgraded critical equipment and systems this year—including new phones and computers for our team.

We also transitioned our IT service providers, moving from Leap Cloud to J3 Solutions. This change was seamless and resulted in an annual savings of \$9,500—without compromising on security or service quality.

We are grateful to the team at Leap Cloud for their professionalism, and we warmly welcome J3 Solutions to the Access Youth community.

Grants, Fundraising & Donations

Our Grant funding partners are the backbone to our operations. We are fortunate to have secured numerous grants from key funders and partners of the years. We will continue to nurture our relationships and ensure our applications keep to our vision and mandate and have the strongest impact possible for the youth in our community. Some key Grants include:

Key Grants:

- Building Safer Communities Fund – Public Service Canada via City of Coquitlam (Continued to receive year two or three for AJG funding)
- Canada Summer Jobs Grant (for a Communications staff member)
- Provincial Gaming Grant (Received \$54,500, with new funding for \$12,500 for YEW)
- PoCo Community Foundation (Received \$75,000 - 3-year Community Prosperity Grant)
- SD43 – Feeding Futures Grant (Received \$60,000 for YGM food program)
- CKNW Kids' Fund (Received \$30,000 grant for YEW with Family Strengthening)
- viaSport (Received \$16,200 for YEW Running Start)
- Canadian Tire (Received \$10,000 for YEW Running Start)
- Chris Spencer Foundation (Received \$9,600 for YGM)
- Starbucks Foundation Neighbourhood (Received \$4,050)
- Home Depot (Received \$3,666.10 as part of their Orange Door Campaign)
- Hamber Foundation (Received \$2,000)
- Port Moody Arts Culture and Heritage (Received \$1,790 for AJG)
- Vancouver Foundation - Amanda Todd Legacy (Received \$1,500)
- United Way (Received \$6,000 grant for YGM staff and operational expenses)
- Provincial Civil Forfeiture Office Grant (Finished 2023 work; set to re-apply in next round)
- Via TC CAT – Community Action Initiative (Received \$75,000 grant on behalf of TCCAT)

Key Donors:

On the heels of a significant donation from the AGF Group Foundation, Access Youth is actively developing a long-term donor engagement and fundraising strategy. With both private and community support, our capacity to serve youth continues to grow.

- The AGF Group Foundation's remaining \$75,000 donation from the previous year
- The AMES Family Foundation continued their annual \$10,000 gift. Plus committed to an additional \$15,000 capital gift for next year
- G & F Charitable Impact Foundation for \$10,000 grant for tech upgrades
- Pasta Polo for discounted meat and cheese for YGM
- Great Canadian Casino Corp. for \$2,800
- St. John The Apostle for their on-going support totalling \$2,500 for the year
- Rotary Club of Coquitlam Sunrise for \$1,000

- Pomme’s annual giving provided \$791.35 for Access Youth
- Centennial Youth Club for \$1,000
- Terry Fox Student Leadership for \$90.90
- Benevity for \$500
- Western Sky Books for \$170 for TCCAT

Access Youth also recognizes **Coquitlam Florist** and **Cranky Old Fork** for additional support over the year. Looking ahead, we also set up new ways to donate to our organization. Now, you can donate your empty bottles to our organization.

To donate your recycling at **ReturnIt Depots**, please enter the number: 604-525-1888.

We also thank our small, but mighty group of monthly donors, who contribute to us through Canada Helps, or who make regular cash or cheque donations. Every penny counts, so thank you to our incredible community of supporters.

Fundraisers:

Access Youth realizes the economic climate has shifted, with many non-profits and charities struggling to fund their programs and operations. As such, we are working to create unique fundraising experiences that engage and grow our community throughout the year. Some examples include:

- In December 2024, Coquitlam Florist held a Christmas Centrepiece Fundraiser for Access Youth at Patina Brewery. The event was sold out and Catherine Polonio and her team engaged the participants in the process. The event raised over \$1,700 for the organization.
- Dr. Charles Best and Centennials students held fundraisers for our organization.

Partnerships & Strategic Collaborations

Access Youth continues to build and strengthen values-aligned partnerships that expand our reach and deepen our impact across the Tri-Cities. In 2024–2025, we focused on leveraging these collaborations to enhance programming, streamline operations, and respond to youth needs more effectively.

Key Partnerships and Initiatives

- School District 43 (SD43): Provided ongoing funding and referrals to support the expansion of Art Journaling and Youth GourMade programs in Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam
- City of Coquitlam: Partnered on youth-focused initiatives and administered support through the Building Safer Communities Fund
- City of Port Coquitlam: Collaborated on food security and community programming
- Port Coquitlam Community Foundation: Multi-year operational funding support via the Community Prosperity Fund
- Amanda Todd Memorial Fund: Provides on-going support for our organization and programming
- Coquitlam Florist: Provides weekly access to their delivery van, which includes gas and maintenance

- Spirit of the Children's Society: Shared space and programming at the ʔáḥwʔáləqʷaʔ Youth Hub, enhancing access for Indigenous youth
- SHARE Family & Community Services: Ongoing partnership through the United Way Food Security Hub and youth-focused services; a member of the Foundry Leadership Advisory Table
- YWCA/WorkBC: Partnered to promote inclusive employment opportunities for youth in the Tri-Cities
- Community Action Initiative: Signed agreement to act as Lead Financial Agency for TCCAT
- Coquitlam Express: Provided a community table at games such as Pride Night
- Cranky Old Fork: Provides hot meals to students in the Art Journaling Program
- Backpack Buddies: Provided 50 backpacks per week for Youth GourMade
- Food Bank on Wheels: Provided various items per week for Youth GourMade
- Pasta Polo: Community vendor supporting Youth GourMade through reduced costs and supplies
- Coquitlam Centre: Partnered with Art Journaling Team to showcase creative expressions in the summer of 2024
- Tri-Cities Community Tables: Active member of the Youth Table, Healthy Communities Partnership, and Homeless & Housing Task Force
- Community Events: Represented at Festival du Bois, Coquitlam Express Pride Game, May Day Parade, Port Moody Youth Table, and other local events

These partnerships enable us to extend services, build trust with youth and families, and operate more efficiently—especially during periods of financial or staffing strain.

Change in Program Funding and Partnerships with Other Agencies

Tri-Cities Community Action Team (TCCAT)

Over the past few years, Access Youth has collaborated with the **Tri-Cities Community Action Team (TCCAT)** and **SHARE Family and Community Services** to support and manage the operations for the organization.

At the beginning of 2025, following the departure of SHARE's lead representative, SHARE invited Access Youth to assume the role of **Lead Financial Agency (LFA)** for TCCAT and its primary funder, the **Community Action Initiative (CAI)**.

As the new LFA, Access Youth now oversees the financial and administrative components of TCCAT, including banking, insurance, and grant reporting. This transition has helped streamline TCCAT's operations while reinforcing our commitment to regional collaboration and youth-centered advocacy.

Project ReachOut (PRO)

Project ReachOut (PRO) remained a cornerstone of our outreach strategy throughout 2024–2025, with a renewed emphasis on safety, youth engagement, and evidence-informed harm reduction.

The PRO Bus operated on Friday and Saturday evenings for most of the year, making regular stops at youth gathering areas, including 3030 Gordon, Lincoln SkyTrain Station, and the field behind Planet Ice. These locations allowed our team to meet youth and vulnerable adults where they were—providing food, clothing, hygiene items, and harm reduction supplies.

The PRO Bus getting ready for outreach:



However, as adult interactions began to increase, we began to move outside our intended youth-focused mandate. By November 2024, we paused PRO operations to review our mission, safety protocols, team training, and insurance coverage.

The pause allowed us to work with our PRO team to restructure the program. Our 2025 relaunch will emphasize youth-centered outreach, team safety, and meaningful impact.

Despite the review process, the PRO Bus made 1,718 contacts from June 2024 to March 2025.

The gender statistics are not perfectly reflective of the community, as we don't ask the youth about their gender orientation and sexual identity during our conversations, and wait for the information to be volunteered. This leads to an under-representation of the queer youth we encounter.

In terms of harm reduction, we received materials free of cost to our organization. Each Naloxone kit represents about \$80 – and we have passed out to the community more than 50 kits. All of these supplies in the community mean that the person who directly receives them is safer, and so is everyone around them, as it reduces risk and transmission amongst the entire community.

The PRO Team (Aliya, Jack and Mike) at the Coquitlam Express Home Opener:



2024/2025 Data for Bus Outreach
Demographics of Contacts
Gender Presentation (by percentage)

Male	Female	Non-Bi	Trans	Two-Spirit
69.88%	30.00%	0%	0%	0.006%

Ethnicity (by numbers)

Caucasian	Indigenous	BIPOC	South/East Asian	Middle Eastern	Other
866	317	201	205	58	4
52.45%	19.20%	12.17%	12.42%	3.51%	0.20%

Age Range (by number)

12 & Under	13 – 14	15 – 16	17 – 18	19 – 23	23+
78	98	158	86	75	1149
4.74%	5.96%	9.61%	5.23%	4.56%	69.89%

Supply and Literature Distribution (by number)

Drug Ed.	Sex Ed	Access Program	Clothing	Food/Water	Community
0	0	229	278	2362	11

Contact By Month

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
220	289	219	365	219	299	45	0	0	0	0	62
12.8%	16.8%	12.7%	21.5%	12.7%	17.4%	2.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3.6%

Despite the pause in late 2024, PRO continues to be a vital part of our identity—and its relaunch will reflect the values and safety our youth deserve.

Community Outreach

This year, Access Youth expanded its **presence at community decision-making tables** and public events to increase visibility, build relationships, and raise awareness about our services.

We know that not every youth or family needs us right away—but when they do, they should already know where to turn. Our outreach strategy is grounded in building trust and visibility across the Tri-Cities.

PRO Bus Team (Cassandra and Roxanne) out at Coquitlam Pride:



Community Tables Participation

Co-operation with other Tri-Cities non-profits, government bodies, and agencies allows us to bring a voice for youth into the conversation. The connections make it possible for us to co-operate with other agencies in making sure we are aware of emerging situations in the community, stay up-to-date on the programs available to youth, and co-ordinate with other agencies. Many of our self-referrals from youth or families come from the meetings at community outreach events.

- Tri-Cities Community Action Team
- Healthy Communities Partnership
- Tri-Cities Community Youth Table
- Tri-Cities Homelessness and Housing Task Force
- Foundry Discussion Group
- Coquitlam FAST Table

Community Events and Festivals

We participated in many festivals and events over the last year, distributing information, supplies, and connections to services out in the community. Our PRO Bus is our main line for awareness of our programs and services. It is critical for our PRO Bus team to be out there and engaging with the youth in our community so they know where and when to turn to in moments of need. Below is the list of events for our team.

2024 – 2025 Access Youth Community Outreach Events

- May 5 – May Day Parade
- June 8 – Pride in the Park – Maple Ridge
- June 23 – National Indigenous Peoples Day in New West
- July 19 – Coquitlam Show and Shine
- July 20 - Coquitlam Pride
- June 18 – Moved YGM from St. John the Apostle Church to Spirit of the Children Youth HUB
- June 20 – Firefighter First Aid and Opioid Response Training
- August 10 – BC Dumpling Festival
- August 10 – Poco Skateboard Competition at Railside Park
- August 31 – United Way Movie Night at Blue Mountain Park
- September 7 – United Way Mackin Park Skate Jam
- September 15 – Art Journaling Group at Coquitlam Centre
- September 19 – St. Laurence Church Men's Group Presentation
- September 20 – Training - CNIB Sigh Loss Awareness Presentation
- September 20 – Coquitlam Express Home Opener
- September 26, AGF AGM
- September 29 – TCCAT IOAD
- September 30 – Truth and Reconciliation Day in New West
- October 17 – Training Session - Stress and Stigma 101 with Starlines
- October 29 – Access Youth AGM
- November 16 – Hollydaze in Austin Heights
- November 19 – CKNW Kids Fund Pledge Day
- November 21 – Youth Exploitation and Trafficking
- November 21 – Downtown Poco Christmas Tree Festival
- December 1 – Design and Dine Fundraiser at Patina Bew Pub
- December 14 – City of Port Coquitlam Parade of Lights
- February 26 – Dr. Charles Best Health Fair
- March 1 – Homeless Count
- March 1 - Express Pride Night Game
- March 7 to 9 – Festival du Bois

After-School Programs

Access Youth offers two core after-school programs: the **Art Journaling Group (AJG)** and **Youth GourMade (YGM)**. These programs provide creative and practical support for youth and mental health, while building relationships with families, schools, and community partners.

**art journaling
group**

Art Journaling Group

The *Art Journaling Group* is an after-school program that was created in response to the initial COVID-19 lockdown in 2020 when we recognized how much the pandemic was impacting our youths' mental health. The Art Journaling Group (AJG) is a strength-based after-school program that provides youth with opportunities to explore and discuss hard to talk about and socially relevant topics of conversation at their level of understanding and communication.

Art Journaling Group has expanded to new schools across Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam. During the Fall 2024 and Winter 2025 sessions, we continued to see significant positive impacts on the youth participating in our program. A total of 61 youths participated in the program, with 24 participating in the Fall 2024 sessions and 37 participating in the Winter 2025 sessions. Overall, the program ran in the 15 locations as an after-school program in Coquitlam, and an additional 2 programs in Port Coquitlam.

The program continues to offer a trauma-informed, creative space for youth to explore challenging topics through art and guided conversation.

In 2024-2025, we were in the second year of our three-year grant from the City of Coquitlam, through the Building Safer Communities Fund, to run this program in schools for youth in Coquitlam. We also received funding from the Provincial Gaming Grant. The school district continues to fund programming that runs in Port Coquitlam schools.

Facilitator Reflections

Fostering Connection and Growth

"Our recent art session revealed the powerful impact of creative connection. Two boys, once casual acquaintances, formed a deep bond through a shared love for large-scale art and intricate doodles. Their collaboration brought their book covers to life and their friendship grew alongside their art. Even after a break, both returned eagerly, reflecting the program's importance in their lives. As they connected more with others, their confidence blossomed. One boy's solo experience in the second week allowed for deeper self-exploration, while the other's return, prompted by his mother, showed a lasting positive effect. This program fosters not just artistic growth, but meaningful social and emotional development. Each youth reveals new layers of identity,

connection, and confidence—we're honored to witness their journey unfold." - Roxanne Saxon (Art Journaling Co-Lead)

Long-Term Impact and Unexpected Connections

"Over the past year, we've witnessed a particularly moving example of the program's lasting impact. A group of Mandarin-speaking youth, initially quiet and seemingly unconnected, gradually discovered their shared language and culture. This revelation sparked an incredible transformation. From hesitant participants, they blossomed into a tight-knit group of friends, becoming an unstoppable force within the program. Their shared journey of self-discovery and connection has been a testament to the program's ability to foster unexpected bonds and bring youth out of their shells, both individually and collectively. It has been a joy to witness their growth alongside the other members of the group." - Aisha Havyarimana (Art Journaling Co-Lead)

Note: Sample student art pieces and consented photos can be added in the final design version.

Examples of Art from Students:





Youth GourMade

Youth GourMade remains one of our most impactful and in-demand programs. Through meal kit deliveries, food education, and community collaboration, YGM addresses both food insecurity and life skill development among youth and their families.

In 2024–2025, we expanded our reach thanks to support from the **Community Gaming Grant**, **United Way Food Hub with SHARE**, and **Feeding Futures funding** from School District 43. We delivered 50 meal kits weekly for 39 weeks over the course of the year. This equated to 7,399 meals for the year.

Youth GourMade from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025:

Number of Hampers	Number of Meals	Volunteer Hours	Backpack Buddies Packages and Food Bank on Wheels
1,678	7,399	330	1,760 Backpack Buddies 875 Food Bank on Wheels

The number of hampers is the individual packages delivered to each home every week. Some packages are larger than others, as families with more members receive a large amount of food, and so the number of meals is not directly proportional to the number of families participating in the program. Some families have as little as two members, and some are as large as nine.

Co-operation with Other Organizations

During this last year, we co-operated with other organizations to add more food to our weekly hampers.

Through Food Bank on Wheels and Backpack Buddies, we were able to add some pastries, breads and packaged items. Food Bank on Wheels recovers food from a variety of grocery stores, picking up items that are nearing their Best Before date, but still safe to eat. Their redistribution to their own clients through their hamper programs prevents thousands of pounds of food from going into the landfill.

We also began working with new partners, including **Kinsight** and **École des Pionniers**, to offer meal kits to youth not enrolled in SD43 schools.

Additionally, **180 youth participated** in **Youth GourMade Live**, a hands-on cooking session held at Port Coquitlam Community Centre.

On-the-Ground Reflections

“This is a family that absolutely loves this program. The older son did the program before now the younger brother participates. They are usually waiting at the door for us to see what they are making. We usually chat with mom for a bit,” Janet Burns, Youth Gour-made Coordinator.

Photo Consent: Brody, consent given by mother C.M



Youth Empowerment / Family Strengthening Worker

The **Youth Empowerment / Family Strengthening Worker (YEW)** program is the cornerstone of our 1:1 case management support for youth. It serves young people who are outside of—or underserved by—the traditional system. Many of these youth face significant barriers related to housing instability, mental health, trauma, and lack of access to services.

The YEW program ensures that each youth is at the center of their own care plan, while also involving families and support systems to foster long-term outcomes. Our Family Strengthening Worker connects youth to counselling, housing, education, employment services, and community resources.

In 2024–2025, Access Youth continued to experience a high volume of referrals, reflecting the growing need for individualized, relationship-based support. The program operates on a **quality over quantity** model, maintaining manageable caseloads to ensure each youth receives deep and meaningful support.

Building a stronger foundation of support

Over the past three years, we have focused YEW on quality over quantity. Although we maintained a similar number of spaces on our caseload, we have worked to increase our number of cases and reduce our waitlist.

Last year we were able to support 28 cases, but this year with the increased need per case we were able to responsibly support 32. Similar to last year, each youth takes up more time on our caseload, as we are unable to refer them to other services. We continue to work with any and all organizations to ensure that youth get the best, most appropriate, in-time care, but the increase of youth in need across the sector will require us to work even harder.

Over the past year, our cases ranged from supporting LGBTQIA2S+ youth managing the experiences of coming out and/or addressing homo/transphobia in their families, youth caught in the criminal justice system, youth deeply depressed and anxious from the pandemic, youth being trafficked, special needs youth seeking opportunities, youth seeking employment support, and youth who are simply alone and need someone to talk to.

Program Statistics

**Case(s) From 2024-04-01 to 2025-03-31 Youth Empowerment - Worker
Stats Summary**

No. of Cases	24-Apr	24-May	24-Jun	24-Jul	24-Aug	24-Sep	24-Oct	24-Nov	24-Dec	25-Jan	25-Feb	25-Mar	Total
1. In Program	23	20	24	25	26	26	20	21	20	20	21	21	32
2. Referred	1	1	2	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	11
3. Removed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Opened	4	0	4	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	13
5. Discharged	3	0	0	0	1	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	11
Average Monthly Number of Case(s): 22.25 Average Age at Referral: 16.44 Average Age at Open: 16.5													
Avg Days in Program: 89.09 (11 Cases) Avg Days Wait: 52.62 (13 Cases Opened)													

Through 2024 to 2025, the YEW program supported 32 youth, including 11 referrals, 13 opened cases, and 11 discharges. This is very close to the 28 cases we maintained last year. The average monthly number of cases was 22.25, up from 13.33 in the previous year.

The average age of referral was 16.44. The average number of days in our program was 89.09, while the waitlist, although smaller, still took about 52.62 days, with 13 new cases opened.

Moving into the 2025 – 2026 year, our aim is to maintain support levels, with a quality over quantity approach.

YEW Biographical Data

During this last year, the numbers of youth supported in our one-to-one program included female youth (53.12%) and male youth (37.50%). This is the inverse of the statistics we see in our Bus program, which connects with more male youth. Non-Binary youth made up 9.38% this past year.




Our Case Management program only tracks Indigenous vs. non-Indigenous youth at this time, showing that 21.88% of the youth on our YEW caseload are Metis, Inuit, First Nations, or Indigenous. This is down from 25% the year before.

Referrals for older youth are predominantly self-referral (46.88%) however this is down over 10.00% from the previous year (57.14%). For younger youth, we received an increase of referrals by a professional (28.12%) from last year (21.43%), and a family member (25.00%), which is also up from the previous year (17.86%).




These figures suggest more youth are being connected to the program through trusted adults and professionals, which speaks to the program’s growing presence and credibility in the community.

Biological Data from CAMS

☒ include in print

Gender 	#	%	A%	Indigenous 	#	%	A%	Referral Type 	#	%	A%
Male	12	37.50	37.50	Indigenous	7	21.88	21.88	Self	15	46.88	46.88
Female	17	53.12	53.12	Non-Indigenous	25	78.12	78.12	Professional	9	28.12	28.12
Non Binary / LGBTQ2S+	3	9.38	9.38					Family	8	25.00	25.00
Total	32	100.00	100.00	Total	32	100.00	100.00	Total	32	100.00	100.00

☒ include in print

Age at Referral 	#	%	A%	Age at Open 	#	%	A%	Current Age 	#	%	A%
12	2	6.25	6.25	12	1	3.12	3.12	12	1	3.12	3.12
13	4	12.50	12.50	13	4	12.50	12.50	13	3	9.38	9.38
14	3	9.38	9.38	14	4	12.50	12.50	14	5	15.62	15.62
15	5	15.62	15.62	15	5	15.62	15.62	15	3	9.38	9.38
16	5	15.62	15.62	16	5	15.62	15.62	16	4	12.50	12.50
17	2	6.25	6.25	17	2	6.25	6.25	17	1	3.12	3.12
18	6	18.75	18.75	18	6	18.75	18.75	18	6	18.75	18.75
19	1	3.12	3.12	19	1	3.12	3.12	19	3	9.38	9.38
20	1	3.12	3.12	20	1	3.12	3.12	20	2	6.25	6.25
23	2	6.25	6.25	23	2	6.25	6.25	22	1	3.12	3.12
26	1	3.12	3.12	26	1	3.12	3.12	23	2	6.25	6.25
								26	1	3.12	3.12
Total	32	100.00	100.00	Total	32	100.00	100.00	Total			100.00

☒ include in print

YEW Running Start and Beyond

To support youth mental health and well-being through physical activity, Access Youth piloted YEW Running in partnership with the Coquitlam Cheetahs. This initiative was supported by funding from Canadian Tire’s Jumpstart Program and viaSport.

The initial summer pilot encountered challenges related to timing and engagement, but still produced a meaningful outcome: one youth with social anxiety was able to progress from 1-on-1 training to joining the Cheetahs independently—an incredible step forward in confidence and connection.

In Fall 2024, we transitioned the program into YEW Running Start and Beyond, expanding its focus to include a broader range of physical activities beyond running. We also added a food security component to ensure that youth are nourished and ready to participate. This program continues to evolve based on youth input, accessibility, and interest. It reflects our belief that wellness isn’t just about mental health—it includes nutrition, physical activity, and social belonging.

Media Coverage & Social Media

In 2024–2025, Access Youth received a notable increase in visibility through local news coverage and media appearances, especially around leadership transitions and key program highlights.

Media Highlights Include:

- Tri-City News / Vancouver Is Awesome (August 2024):
Featured the appointment of Executive Director Steve Kim, highlighting his continued role as Coquitlam City Councillor and his vision for Access Youth.
- [Coquitlam Coun. Steve Kim named new Access Youth executive director - Vancouver Is Awesome](#)
- Tri-City News (October 2024):
Covered former ED Jennifer Blatherwick’s campaign for MLA, showcasing her longstanding contributions to youth advocacy.
- [Questionnaire for Coquitlam-Maillardville candidate Jennifer Blatherwick - Tri-City News](#)
- CKNW / Global BC – Kids Fund Pledge Day (November 2024):
Executive Director Steve Kim appeared on-stage with Global anchors Chris Gailus and Sophie Lui to speak about Access Youth’s Youth Empowerment Program.
 - CKNW Kids’ Fund contributed \$30,000 to support YEW services.
 - [CKNW Kids’ Fund Annual Pledge Day broadcasting from Vancouver hotel | Watch News Videos Online](#)
- CBC Radio – “On the Coast” with Gloria Macarenko (November 2024):
Thanks to SHARE Family & Community Services, Access Youth was invited to participate in the annual Make the Season Kind campaign to promote food security and discuss Youth GourMade.
- Tri-Cities Community TV (December 2024):
Featured Steve Kim on *Face to Face*, discussing his leadership at Access Youth and the need for continued investment in youth resilience and safe spaces.
- [Navigating Leadership: Steve Kim’s Vision for Access Youth](#)

These opportunities significantly increased community awareness and helped position Access Youth as a trusted, responsive service provider.

Social Media

Access Youth maintains a social media presence across several platforms to connect with youth, families, donors, and community stakeholders.

- **Facebook**
Main page for Access Youth Outreach Services, and secondary pages for PRO Bus, Art Journaling and Youth GourMade
- **Instagram:** Main page for Access Youth, and another account for PRO Bus and Youth GourMade
- **LinkedIn:** Main page used primarily for board and staff recruitment.

Social media Views and Reach over Facebook and Instagram for April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Facebook



Instagram



Overall, the social media interactions across Facebook rose, with a 65.5% increase in reach. Our spending on advertising this year was negligible, and so this reach is organic, and due in part by a large number of shares from people who like our page.

Our Instagram reach dropped by 32%, highlighting a key area for improvement. This is a clear reminder that to stay visible, we need to consistently feed the algorithm with video content. While static images and text still

perform well on Facebook, Instagram is driven by Reels—short videos under two minutes. In the year ahead, we'll work with staff to ensure they know how to create and post Reels about our programs, and we'll reinforce the importance of tagging sponsors and donors.

Moving forward, we aim to strengthen our digital presence by:

- Training staff on creating short-form video content
- Tagging donors and sponsors to increase visibility
- Using event promotion strategies (e.g., press releases and media invites)

Our social media strategy continues to evolve in alignment with our outreach priorities and audience engagement goals.

PRO Bus Driver, Phil:



APPENDIX A:

2024 – 2025 Audited Financial Statements

Access Youth Outreach Services Society

Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	\$ 192,425	\$ 198,227
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	62,093	47,665
	254,518	245,892
Capital assets (Note 4)	12,793	22,718
	\$ 267,311	\$ 268,610
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5)	\$ 36,263	\$ 27,696
Grants repayable	-	41,826
Deferred contributions (Note 6)	201,985	142,807
	238,248	212,329
Deferred capital asset contributions (Note 7)	7,581	9,250
	245,829	221,579
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	11,124	19,380
Unrestricted	10,358	27,651
	21,482	47,031
	\$ 267,311	\$ 268,610

Operations (Note 1)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director

Director

Access Youth Outreach Services Society

Statement of Operations
Year Ended March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
REVENUES		
Contributions – government	\$ 238,655	\$ 286,121
Contributions – community organizations	88,825	36,410
Contributions – corporate	67,267	43,884
Program revenues	136,266	152,933
Donations (Note 8)	33,051	48,177
Other revenues	4,320	8,240
	568,384	575,765
EXPENDITURES		
Advertising and promotion	1,947	5,469
Amortization	11,727	10,491
Bad debt expense	385	4,927
Consulting	-	1,500
Insurance	5,973	5,634
Interest and bank charges	354	675
Motor vehicle expenses	11,969	11,921
Office expenses	20,281	16,097
Professional fees	26,429	13,874
Program and event costs	45,109	52,804
Rent	19,042	23,244
Salaries and wages	443,687	374,009
Telephone	4,858	4,804
Travel	2,172	3,174
	593,933	528,623
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ (25,549)	\$ 47,142

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.