

25 STORIES OF 2025

ABBOTSFORD YOUTH COMMISSION

COLLABORATION IN ACTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



est. 1991

1. 21,805 MOMENTS

In 2025, we recorded 21,805 entrances to youth programs at AYC. Behind that number are more than 2,500 young people who walked through our doors and found a safe place to land, caring adults, supportive friendships, a space where they felt valued, and most importantly, a place to belong.



2. KINDNESS IN ACTION

On Pink Shirt Day, 551 youth took part in activities at our youth centres and at local middle schools spreading kindness and inclusion. Youth Council members led activities at our drop-in centres, and school-wide art projects titled "Let Kindness Grow" turned schools into colorful messages of hope and connection.



3. A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Friday Dinner Nights at the Youth Centres brought more than 400 youth to the table. These dinners were about more than food. Youth helped plan the menu, cook, serve, and clean up, turning dinner into a shared experience for our youth. Friday Dinners were a welcome end to the week bringing a place to laugh, connect, and be together.



4. SAFE AND SUPPORTED

Parent Feedback: "The AYC has played a huge role in my daughter's life. She is special needs and I am a single parent working full time. She goes to the AYC after school almost daily and loves the staff, activities, and has made friends. I feel great with her there because I know the staff is engaged and fun yet professional with important rules. As a mom I am so very grateful, she is happy, safe, and socializing when I have to be at work. The staff is engaged with the kids! You can tell they genuinely care. The AYC has not only helped my daughter but has helped me as a parent. I am less stressed as a single parent knowing she has a great place to be where she feels valued and important!"



5. PAWSITIVE VIBES

Therapy dog visits brought calm and comfort to our centres. Youth feeling anxious or overwhelmed found quiet support in gentle interactions sitting and talking with the dogs. These visits not only soothed individuals but lifted the mood of the entire centre, showing the power of emotional safety.

6. BC YOUTH WEEK

BC Youth Week brought 1,189 youth together for a city-wide celebration of fun, connection, and service. From Laser Tag and Skate Jam to Dodgeball with Abby Fire and APD, karaoke, cultural events, and volunteer activities, youth were active participants and leaders. Each event buzzed with energy, creativity, and community spirit, supported by staff and volunteers who made the week fun and memorable.



**CARES ABOUT
YOUTH MENTAL
HEALTH**

7. SMALL SUPPORTS

AYC marked Child & Youth Mental Health Day by sharing a wellness infographic and giving out 380 fidget tools to youth and community partners. These small supports sparked meaningful conversations about coping, connection, and the importance of mental health.

8. THE COURAGE TO TRY

Youth Night offered teens a fun, non-competitive space to stay active and try something new. Across 783 visits, 125 youth explored activities like ringette, boxing, jiu jitsu, and even historical sword fighting alongside favourites like bowling and laser tag - building confidence, friendships, and great stories to bring home.



9. TASTE THE WORLD

This year we launched "A Taste of the World", a series of immersive cultural events exploring six global regions. Through shared food, music, and activities, youth discovered traditions from around the world while asking questions, sharing their own experiences, and celebrating the diversity in our community.





10. YOUTH GET INVOLVED

In 2025, we were excited to launch Involved, a new program connecting youth with meaningful volunteer opportunities across Abbotsford. Youth contributed 1,299 volunteer hours and over \$23,000 in community value. With 400+ subscribed to the volunteer newsletter, youth are discovering the power of giving back.

11. BUILDING RESILIENCE

AYC delivered 20 Social Emotional Learning programs across schools and community spaces, reaching 1,613 youth entrances through FUSE, FLEX, FOCUS, and Heroes in Training. Youth shared that they valued “being able to share and have everyone listen without judgment.” Strong school partnerships set the stage for continued growth.



12. A WARM WELCOME



Welcome Day at Mill Lake Park brought 356 community members, including many newcomer families, together for a vibrant celebration. We are grateful to our funder, Doane Grant Thornton, as well as our youth volunteers and strong partners: Archway Community Services, who helped connect newcomers to the event, and Reply Board Shop, Banter Ice Cream, Pastry Portal, McDonald’s, and Starbucks, all of whom made the day possible. AYC Board members served a free BBQ, and a visit from the Mayor added excitement. Laughter, creativity, and teamwork created a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere celebrating community and connection.

13. THE GREEN TEAM

Twenty-eight youth joined Tourism Abbotsford as the Canada Day Green Team, helping with waste sorting and event operations. Their efforts contributed to a successful celebration, while youth built skills, connections, and earned recognition for making a meaningful contribution to their community.





14. FOOD & FRIENDSHIP

Youth had daily access to nutritious snacks, with over 12,000 snacks served at our youth centres this year. For some, it was the first food they'd eaten all day, but beyond addressing hunger, the program created daily touchpoints for care, conversation, and connection, with offerings reflecting a variety of cultural celebrations throughout the year.

15. EVERYONE BELONGS

This year, our youth centres made cultural inclusion part of everyday life. Youth shared their backgrounds to guide programming, while activities, games, music, and snacks reflected cultures from around the world. From Eid and Diwali to Pride and Indigenous History Month, youth felt represented, welcomed, and able to see belonging in action.



16. WILLING TO LISTEN

Youth Feedback: "I like coming to the youth center because the staff here are so nice, welcoming, and always willing to listen to me. When something happens at school or home I know that I can go to the AYC and someone will listen to me. Having the AYC makes me feel safe. I've been coming for 5 years, and I look forward to it. I'm grateful for relationships I've built here."

17. CAMPY CONNECTIONS

Summer at AYC offered daily drop-ins, eight themed camps, and free snacks, keeping youth active, engaged, and connected. Across 38 days, 481 youth participated, joining leadership camps, creative activities, games, and challenges like Summer Streaks. Youth built friendships, explored new skills, and had fun, while strong partnerships and sponsors helped make the summer accessible for all.



18. GIVING BACK

To give back to our community, the AYC gathered thirty youth who baked cookies, crafted appreciation cards, and assembled gift packages for local businesses, youth centre neighbours and seniors. They also practiced their communication skills, learned how to challenge stereotypes, and built their confidence as young leaders.

19. A PLACE TO BELONG

At the heart of the Abbotsford Youth Commission are our two youth centres. Welcoming spaces where youth can show up exactly as they are. Every day after school, youth walk through our doors looking for connection, encouragement, and a place to belong. In 2025, our drop-in centres recorded 14,924 visits, with more than 1,000 youth accessing programs, mentorship, and recreation. Behind every entrance is a moment of connection, a conversation with a youth worker, a game with friends, and a safe space to decompress after a challenging day.



20. EVERYDAY IMPACT

The real impact happens in the relationships built inside the centres. AYC youth workers support teens as they navigate friendships, manage conflict, and build confidence. Sometimes it is advice after a tough day. Other times it is simply listening. These everyday moments add up. With consistent support and positive role models, youth feel respected, supported, and empowered.



21. BOWLS OF HOPE

This year, 42 youth volunteered at the Fraser Valley Gleaners, including a session alongside the Mayor and City Councillors. Together, they helped prepare ingredients that produced over 12,000 bowls of soup for children in need worldwide. Their energy, teamwork, and dedication showed how local teens can make an impact.

22. YOUTH COUNCIL

AYC Youth Council members gave young people a voice in the community. They presented youth-led research to the Mayor and City Council, helped lead BC Youth Week events, and organized Pink Shirt Day activities promoting kindness and inclusion. Through teamwork and leadership, members built confidence, practiced real civic engagement, and created meaningful change in their community.



23. YOUTH-LED IMPACT

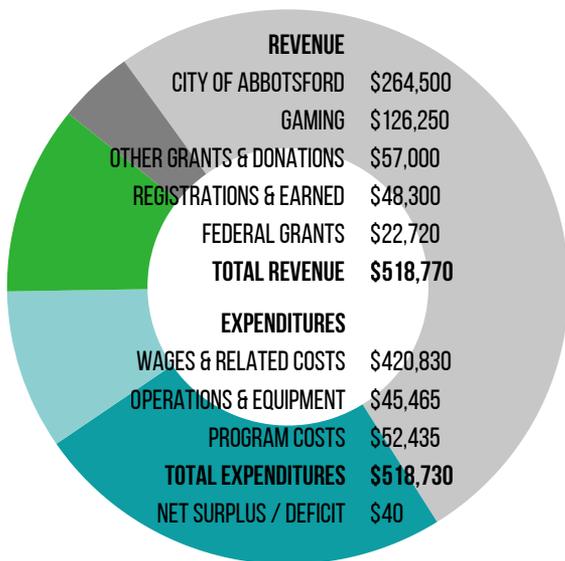


At AYC, youth are at the heart of everything we do. Our Youth Council, Youth Centre Leadership Team, and two youth serving on the Board of Directors ensure programs reflect what teens actually need. We listen, respond, and co-create experiences, from drop-in activities to city-wide initiatives, so youth feel heard, valued, and empowered to shape their community. By centering youth voice, we build programs that are inclusive, relevant, and meaningful while helping young leaders develop confidence, teamwork, and real-life leadership skills.

24. POWERED BY COMMUNITY

Thanks to the generosity of our community and the confidence of our funders, 2025 was a year of financial growth. With a 13.75% increase in revenue, we were able to reach more youth, strengthen programs, and deepen the impact of our work. This support ensured that more young people had access to connection, mentorship, and opportunities to succeed.

THANK YOU TO OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS



CITY OF ABBOTSFORD
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
GAMING
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GRANTS & DONATIONS: CANUCKS FOR KIDS FUND DOANE GRANT THORNTON FOUNDATION ENVISION FINANCIAL COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FIRST WEST FOUNDATION ABBOTSFORD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION COMMUNITY PROSPERITY FUND UNITED WAY FRASER VALLEY FOOD SECURITY PROSPERA CREDIT UNION THE HAMBER FOUNDATION KIWANIS CLUB OF CLEARBROOK SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ABBOTSFORD MISSION UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY KLASSEN GROUP INDIVIDUAL DONORS

25. COLLABORATION IN ACTION

None of this happens alone. Donors, volunteers, partners, and local businesses strengthened every program and every moment of connection at AYC in 2025. Together, our community helped ensure Abbotsford youth felt included, safe, valued, empowered, and connected.



Abbotsford YOUTH COMMISSION

VISION STATEMENT

Abbotsford is a city where every youth feels included, safe, valued, empowered and connected.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Abbotsford Youth Commission exists to identify, promote, improve, increase, and provide services and programs for youth in Abbotsford.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The AYC celebrates all forms of diversity. We accept and welcome youth of every race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. Here we embrace people with different religions, values, and beliefs.
Everyone belongs.

The Abbotsford Youth Commission (AYC) is a non-profit organization that has been serving youth ages 12–18 since 1991. Through safe spaces, caring youth workers, and activities that build mental health and resiliency, we focus on creating connection and belonging which are key protective factors for youth success. We offer a multitude of programs every year including youth centres, leadership programs, and community events. The AYC is a place where all youth are welcomed and celebrated. As our youth written diversity statement asserts, at the AYC, “everyone belongs.”

HOW TO FIND US

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