



Because Youth Matter



Abbotsford
YOUTH
COMMISSION

Annual Report
2023

Message from the Executive Director



Our vision at the AYC is that Abbotsford is a city where every youth feels included, safe, valued, empowered and connected. Our incredible team works to accomplish this vision by providing safe places where youth can engage with adult mentors and programs where youth can grow and develop. In short, the AYC exists, **because youth matter**.

A youth recently told us, "The AYC staff have been supportive to me and they create a safe environment which is REALLY important to me! The AYC is a place where I know I can be myself." This is the highest praise as it is our goal to provide an environment where everyone belongs.

Our word of the year was, "strengthening" with the goal of building back up our staff team, programs and services. We are thrilled to report that we were able to return to full service delivery in 2023. In fact, we increased our total youth entrances by 25% over the previous year with a year-end total of 19,855!

Another highlight of the year was celebrating my 25th Anniversary at the AYC. It continues to be an honour to serve as the AYC Executive Director.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners; our generous funders and donors; our Board of Directors; our practicum students and volunteers; and last but certainly not least, our dedicated staff team. The AYC functions in a community environment and without this valuable support we would not succeed.



"The AYC is a place where I know I can be myself"
- Youth age 16

Bev Olfert

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

Everyone Belongs



because youth matter | everyone belongs

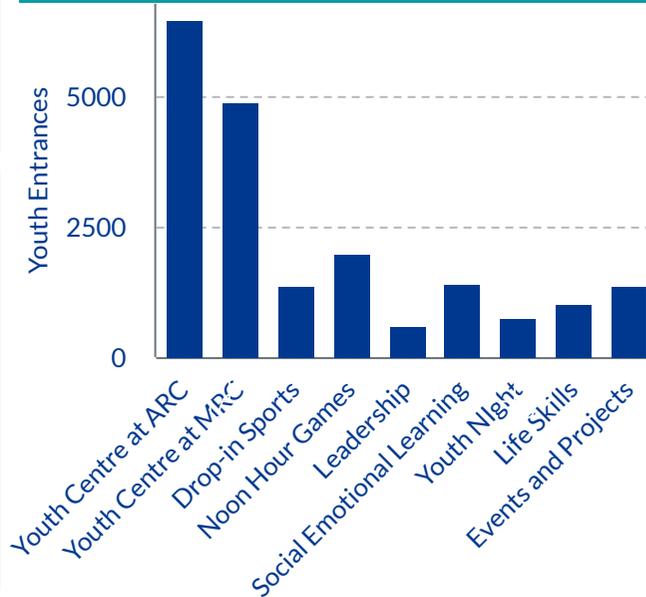
Because Youth Matter

Youth are our first priority. Youth will feel included, safe, valued, empowered and connected

- Ensure relevant and quality programs for Abbotsford Youth
- Extend our reach through effective marketing of our programs

PARENT FEEDBACK

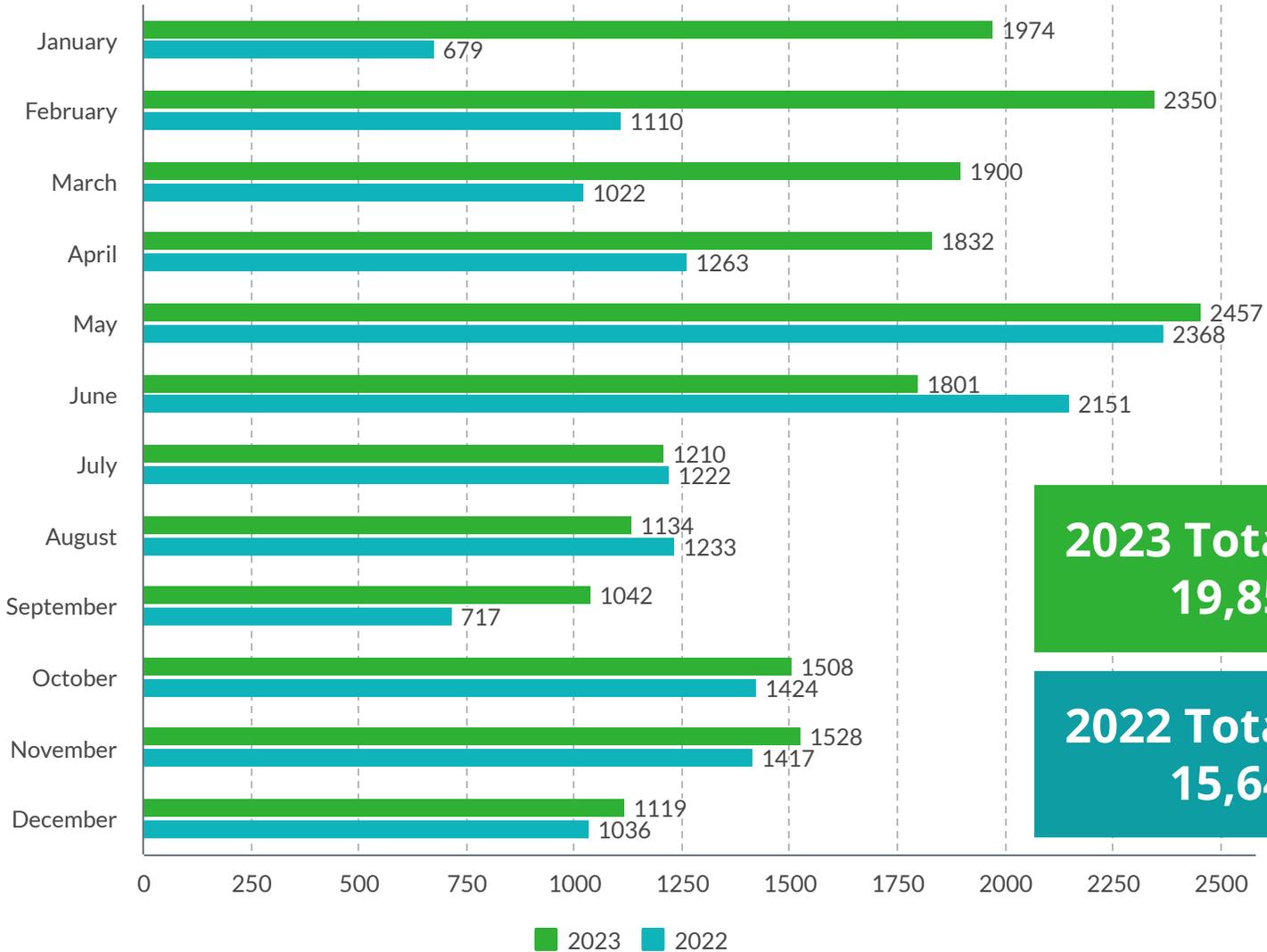
This is a much needed program in Abbotsford. My child would not be prospering socially without the AYC, and it has helped him get out of the house when he was really depressed, struggling to make friends, and in a vulnerable place. The AYC gave him a place with no expectations, just to bring himself and be welcomed for who he is. As a parent, I cannot describe how valuable this is to have a place for a struggling teen to go to. The AYC is making a huge impact on the future of teens in this town, as it seems to give a place to those who are lost. Lost teens need a beacon of light, to save them from the dark, and to our family, the AYC has been that light.



 **19,855**

Total number of youth entrances

Youth Entrances 2022 / 2023



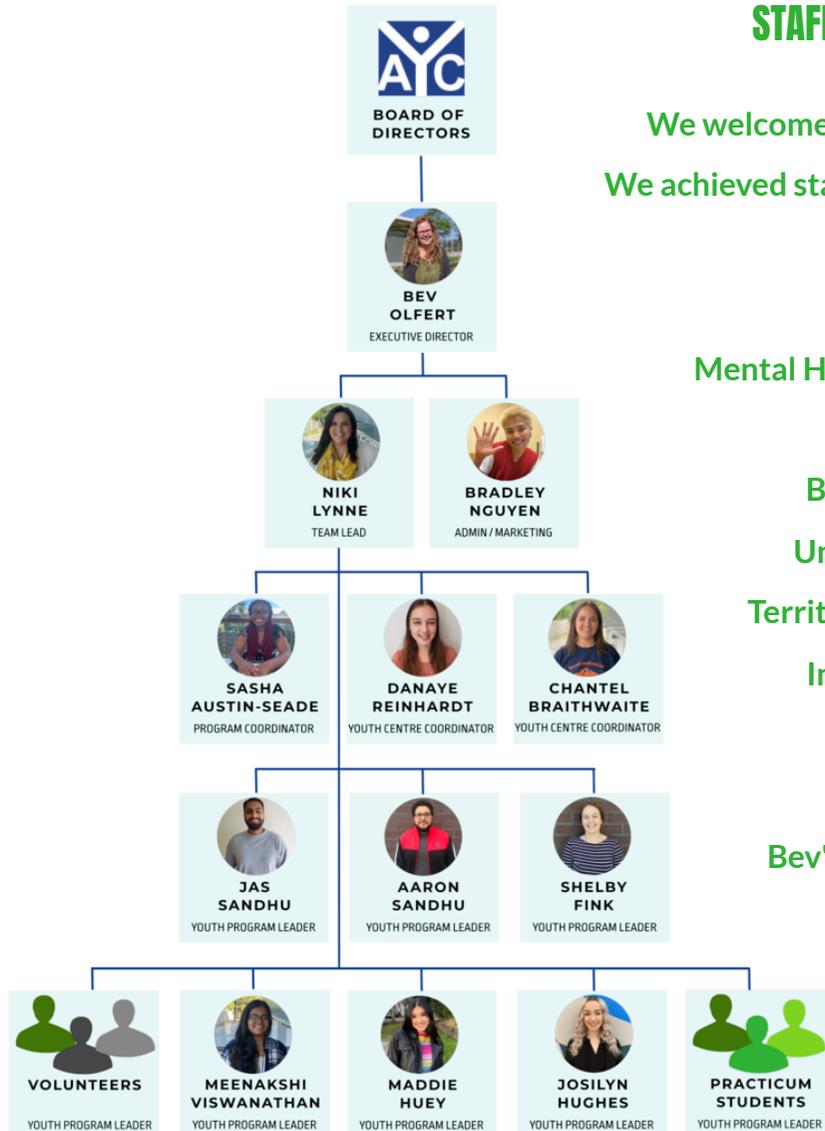
because youth matter | everyone belongs

AYC STRATEGIC PLAN

People are our Strength

Our people will have the skill, attitude, and enthusiasm to positively impact Abbotsford youth

- Hire and retain quality staff members
- Focus on workplace culture



STAFFING 2023

We welcomed 6 new team members
We achieved staffing stability by March

Staff Training :

Mental Health Group Facilitation

Youth Worker 101

Building Bridges through

Understanding the Village

Territorial Acknowledgments

Intro to Gender Diversity

Staff Celebrations:

Bev's 25th AYC Anniversary

Summer Smore's Social

Winter Social

Volunteers Hours per Program 2023

40
VOLUNTEERS

1317
HOURS

\$26,340
VALUE



■ Drop In Programs (53.82%) ■ Leadership (33.41%) ■ Youth Night (7.67%)
■ Nutrition (2.94%) ■ SEL (2.16%)

because youth matter | everyone belongs

Resources are Key

Our finances will be managed responsibly with transparency and stewardship

- Develop an annual budget that supports our strategic plan
- Manage our finances with exceptional care

In 2023, the AYC received financial support from:
City of Abbotsford
Province of British Columbia
Service Canada
Kiwaniis Club of Clearbrook
Canadian Tire Jumpstart
Individual Donors
Fraser Valley Indo-Canadian Business Association
Soroptomist International of Abbotsford Mission

In 2023, the AYC received in-kind support from:
City of Abbotsford
Abbotsford School District
Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce
K& L Photography
United Way of the Fraser Valley
University of the Fraser Valley



"The AYC makes a difference in our lives, and we are grateful for your service and your donors."

Thank you isn't enough to express our gratitude"

- parent of 14 year old

2023 Financial Overview

Revenue

City of Abbotsford \$250,000

Gaming \$121,965

Registration & Earned Revenue \$73,603

Federal Grants \$26,446

Donations & Grants \$3,350

Total Revenue \$475,364

Expenditures

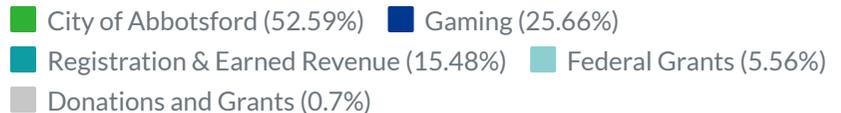
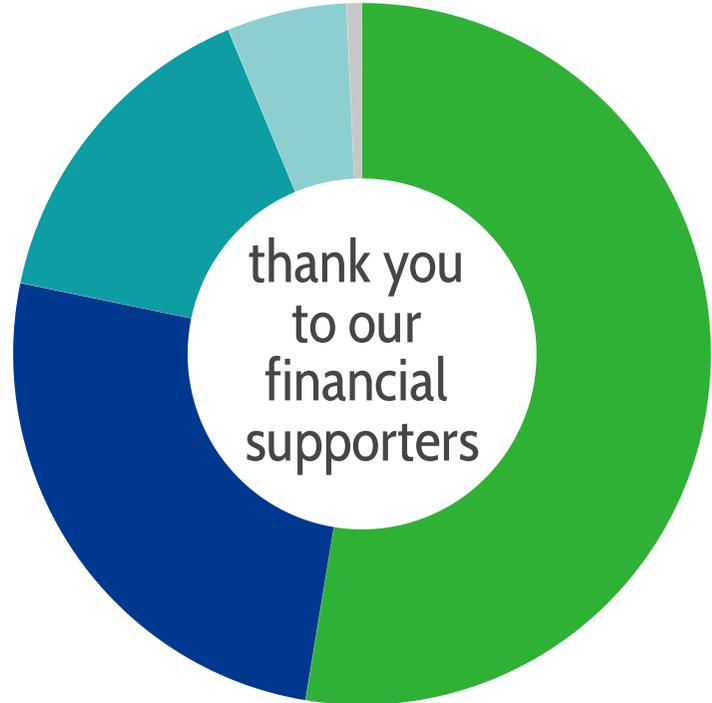
Wages and Related Costs \$389,001

Office Operations & Equipment \$40,974

Program Costs \$45,389

Total Expenditures \$475,364

Net Surplus / Deficit \$0



Leadership is the Foundation

Board Members will represent our community and be focused on promoting healthy youth development

- Secure skilled and engaged Board Members
- Ensure policies and practices are aligned with the bylaws and strategic plan



AYC Board Members 2023:

Teresa Pippus
Stan Petersen
Gurmeen Banipal
Preet Dhaliwal
Harleen Bhandal
Cindy Rammage
Inder Rai
Nimrat Aulakh
Karl Gecalao
Nola Stenstrom Moser

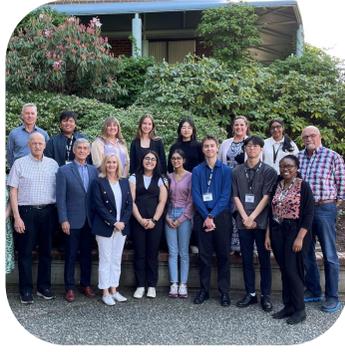


HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023



PINK SHIRT DAY

On Pink Shirt Day our staff invited youth at Howe and Fraser Middle schools to share one way that they could "build each other up" on a collective art piece based on a Maya Angelou quote. The pieces were then displayed in the front hall of the schools. 441 youth participated in the project



CITY COUNCIL COLLABORATION

Our Youth Council Leadership Group, made up of youth representing every high school in Abbotsford hosted the City Council at a 'World Cafe' in May at which the group discussed the topics of "opportunities for youth in Abbotsford" / "climate change and sustainability" / and "Why Abbotsford?"



BC YOUTH WEEK

BC Youth Week was a big success again in 2023 with more than 300 youth participating in the 18 events that we hosted May 1 - 7. Events included: Laser Tag, AYC Murder Mystery, Ice Skating, Art in the Park, Jedi Mind Tricks, Dodge This, Music Bingo, What do you Meme?, and so much more.



EVERYONE BELONGS

In 2023, we worked on bringing our diversity statement, "everyone belongs" to life for the youth with whom we work. To do this we used the theme, "Here & Now; history is being created all around us." We shared books, music, film, food, games, stories, art and music to help make culture come alive.



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