



COMMUNITY
SERVICES

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Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows Youth Services Annual Program Report 2022-23

About us

Our Youth Services provide an integrated network of outreach services that are tailored to meet the unique strengths, needs and circumstances of each youth (12 -18 years of age) and family referred.

These services are provided to youth residing in Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, and the Katzie First Nation. Services are funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), with whom we are co-located.

Although this report is organized to reflect the variety of services we offer, it is important to recognize that our staff delivers services in a fully integrated manner. For example, our Family Counsellor provides family mediation and reunification services through a mixed caseload that includes counselling, family support, parent-teen mediation. We have been providing these services since 2004.

The aim of the services we provide varies according to each youth's individual goals. However, common areas of focus include reconnecting with family, improving individual skills, accessing stable housing, finding employment, engaging in school, complying with court orders, and connecting with other community resources and supports.

Who we served...

Profile	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
# of cases [†]	188	221	232
# of youth served	155	164	182
% young women	46	49	44
% young men	44	42	48
% self-identified as transgender	10	9	8
% self-identified as Indigenous	32	35	36
Average age when cases were opened	16	16	16
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	403 (N=90)	413 (N=114)	348 (N=115)
Average monthly caseload	110	117	132
Average # of days on the waitlist by opened cases (N = # of opened)	66 (N=81)	76 (N=104)	28 (N=108)

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The number of youth we serve in the Ridge Meadows area has decreased along with the number of days in program. This reflects the staffing challenges we faced due to leaves and departures. Caseload numbers were increased as staff helped support youth that were left without a worker. The waitlist has grown over the year especially for female participants.

How we did...service delivery

Youth Development

Youth Development Services are provided on a one-to-one outreach basis. Our workers support youth with reconnecting to educational programs, being successful in school and graduating. They assist youth with accessing employment programs and securing jobs. Finally, they encourage youth to participate in social and recreational activities, creating opportunities for them to participate in events that provide positive and mutual peer support.

Profile	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
# of cases	65	68	77
# of youth served	64	68	77
% young women	40	40	35
% young men	48	51	56
% self-identified as transgender	12	9	9
% self-identified as Indigenous	45	38	38
Average age when cases were opened	15	15	15
Average # of cases per month	45	44	46
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	612 (N=25)	579 (N=19)	366 (N=32)
Average # of days on the waitlist by opened cases (N = # of opened cases)	60 (N=16)	77 (N=23)	26 (N=32)

The number of youth served remained consistent and the number of days in program increased slightly. This reflects the longer term service needs but we are also working to expedite files sooner.

Our services also assist young people on **Youth Agreements** to meet their identified goals, which can include securing safe and stable housing, participating in educational programs and/or meaningful employment, managing their day-to-day responsibilities, and connecting to resources and supports.

Profile	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
# of cases	14	21	21
# of youth served	14	21	20
% young women	50	62	57
% young men	36	28	38
% self-identified as transgender	14	10	5
% self-identified as Indigenous	43	29	29
Average age when cases were opened	17	17	17
Average # of cases per month	8	11	14
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	452 (N=6)	589 (N=10)	426 (N=10)
Average # of days on the waitlist by opened cases (N = # of opened cases)	18 (N=3)	16 (N=10)	14 (N=9)

Youth agreement participants numbers have decreased as the MCFD are scaling back financial support for youth. The number of days in program decreased significantly as many youth have aged out and moved on to other financial supports. The number of young men and Indigenous youth have also increased this year.

Youth Justice

Our **Intensive Support and Supervision Program** is a community-based one-to-one service for youth who are medium- to high-risk, and who have been sentenced to a court order. The program is an alternative to custody. Our workers provide intensive support and supervision, which complements the case management and supervision provided by the referring youth probation officer.

Profile	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
# of cases	5	10	15
# of youth served	5	9	15
% young women	40	10	13
% young men	60	90	87
% self-identified as transgender	-	-	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	-	20	27
Average age when cases were opened	16	16	16

The number of ISSP participants has decreased again as overall youth justice numbers trend downward.

Community Work Service (CWS) includes developing, in consultation with probation officers, reconciliatory placements for youth to complete their Community Work Service hours. A range of placements with not-for-profit organizations is maintained that provide meaningful experiences for the youth, enhance their sense of contribution to the community and engage the community in assisting them. We assess the suitability of placements for youth, and support and monitor the completion of the work.

Profile	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
# of cases	10	5	9
# of youth served	10	5	9
% young women	-	60	56
% young men	100	40	44
% self-identified as transgender	-	-	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	10	20	44
Average age when cases were opened	16	17	16
Average # of cases per month	3	1	3
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	90 (N=7)	123 (N=4)	138 (N=7)
Community Work Service hours completed	126	45	167

The number of CWS participants has doubled this year as youth justice orders are featuring community hours as a common condition.

We also provide comprehensive **Curfew Monitoring** services. The primary goal is to minimize the use of youth custody by effectively monitoring youths' compliance with their court orders, and to ensure that they return to court for their scheduled appearances. Curfew checks are conducted 7 days per week at varying hours (depending on the probation orders) by phone or in person.

Profile	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
# of cases	7	8	13
# of youth served	7	8	12
% young women	-	-	8
% young men	7	100	92
% self-identified as transgender	-	-	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	30	50	46
Average age when cases were opened	16	16	16
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	530 (N=2)	392 (N=5)	197 (N=7)

The number of Curfew Monitoring participants has remained consistent; however, the number of days in program increased significantly. Additionally, we continue to provide services for a few Tri-Cities referrals as requested by Youth Probation.

School Program

Connex is an alternate school program provided through a partnership between School District #42, MCFD and PLEA. Our worker provides comprehensive support services to youth who are referred by their probation officers. The program includes academic curriculum, life skills, and recreational activities. Youth can access our support services after regular school hours and during the summer.

Profile	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
# of cases	-	-	2	6	4
# of youth served	-	-	2	6	4
% young women	-	-	-	17	-
% young men	-	-	100	83	100
% self-identified as transgender	-	-	-	-	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	-	-	50	50	50
Average age when cases were opened	-	-	15	15	15
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	-	-	433 (N=2)	384 (N=4)	82 (N=1)

The number of participants in the PLEA/Connex Program remained at zero as youth justice numbers overall declined. Despite extending the services to all alternate school programs in SD42, there were no referrals from probation.

North Fraser Youth Outreach Program

NFO Ridge Meadows

Profile	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
# of cases	10	7	9
# of youth served	10	7	9
% young women	60	57	56
% young men	40	29	22
% self-identified as transgender	0	14	22
% self-identified as Indigenous	50	29	22

Average age when cases were opened	16	16	15
Average # of cases per month	4	4	5
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	240 (N=3)	521 (N=4)	294 (N=5)
Average # of days on the waitlist by opened cases (N = # of opened cases)	35 (N=7)	2 (N=3)	27 (N=5)

The number of participants in the NFYO Program increased slightly and the average days in program decreased significantly.

NFO Indigenous

Profile	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
# of cases ¹	7	5.5	5
# of youth served	6	5.5	5
% young women	50	36	40
% young men	50	64	60
% self-identified as transgender	-	-	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	100	100	100
Average age when cases were opened	15	15	15
Average # of cases per month	5	7	3
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	248 (N=3)	141 (N=7)	202 (N=5)
Average # of days on the waitlist by opened cases (N = # of opened cases)	21 (N=10)	17 (N=6)	16 (N=6)

All indicators of the NFO Indigenous Program remained consistent, except for the average days in program which increased.

Counselling

We provide **Counselling** services to youth, families and caregivers in their own homes except where their needs require a more neutral venue. The goal is to reduce the multiple risk factors that contribute to antisocial behaviour, family breakdown and out-of-home placements. These services are designed to address family functioning and sessions are inclusive of youth and the family members who are willing to engage. We work collaboratively with other services to ensure that youth and their families can access the additional supports they require and that these are coordinated and timely. These services are intended to be short term, generally no more than 6 months.

Profile	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
# of cases	27	43	34
# of youth served	26	41	33
% young women	67	65	59
% young men	30	26	32
% self-identified as transgender	3	9	9
% self-identified as Indigenous	22	26	15
Average age when cases were opened	17	17	16
Average # of cases per month	11	15	14
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	179 (N=23)	170 (N=33)	207 (N=20)

¹ The data for # of cases and # of youth served are split in half with TC and RM

The PLEA counselling program numbers decreased significantly while the waitlist grew slightly. This reflects staffing challenges and wait times.

Safe Care Supports

Onyx provides voluntary support services to young people who are, or are at risk of being sexually exploited, with the objective of assisting them to leave sexually exploitive situations and relationships. We provide an immediate response to the youth who contact us and work with them to access the practical support and resources they need including health services, a safe place to live, detox or treatment for substance misuse, and one-to-one support. Youth may access our services through self-referral, MCFD, the police or any other youth serving agencies. We have been providing these services since 2006.

Profile	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
# of cases	17	14	14
# of youth served	17	13	13
% young women	76	86	93
% young men	6	7	-
% self-identified as transgender	18	7	7
% self-identified as Indigenous	12	29	36
Average age when cases were opened	15	15	15
Average # of cases per month	12	8	8
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	265 (N=7)	600 (N=4)	488 (N=7)

Overall, most indicators for the Onyx Program have remained the same. The most significant change was the number of days in program which decreased by more than half. This was a result of staff changes and a leave.

Mentoring

KidStart is a one-to-one volunteer mentoring program for youth aged 13 – 18 facing challenges at home, at school, in the community or with transitioning to independence. It is funded by MCFD. We recruit, screen, and support adult volunteers to mentor these young people, all of whom are referred to us by a social worker or probation officer.

At its heart, KidStart is a prevention and diversion program. Its aim is to help youth who are at-risk make good choices under challenging circumstances. Our volunteer mentors developing supportive relationships with the young person they are assigned to, serve as a consistent and positive role model in their lives and provide them with opportunities to connect to the community, and experience success and achievement. We believe the best way for these important relationships to develop is for the participants and their mentors to spend time together regularly (about once a week for about 3 hours), and for this time to be spent simply having fun. KidStart relationships last at least one year, with many remaining active for much longer.

Profile	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
# of cases	25	26	20
# of youth served	24	23	20
% young women	44	50	55
% young men	36	31	25
% self-identified as transgender	20	19	20
% self-identified as Indigenous	16	27	45
Average age when cases were opened	14	15	14
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = number of discharged cases)	473 (N=9)	669 (N=11)	372 (N=9)
# of total volunteer hours	950.75 (N=21)	1039.50 (N=21)	459.75 (N=15)
Average # of days wait for a mentor (N = # of opened cases)	188 (N=10)	120 (N=15)	71 (N=8)

Average monthly active caseload	16	15	15
% of relationships lasting for more than 1 year	54	38	55

The number of participants in the KidStart Mentoring Program has remained consistent. The average number of days in program has decreased even though the percentage of relationships lasting more than a year has increased.

Kinnections provides volunteer mentors to young people who are transitioning to independence from MCFD guardianships or are currently on a Youth Agreement. It is designed to provide ongoing support to these youth on a one-to-one basis to ease this difficult transition. This program is based on our very successful KidStart model and is funded by MCFD.

Profile	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
# of cases	3	5	7
# of youth	3	5	7
% young women	-	20	29
% young men	100	80	71
% self-identified as transgender	-	-	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	-	20	14
Average age when cases were opened	18	19	18
# of total volunteer hours	42 (N=2)	110 (N=5)	136.25 (N=5)
Average # of days wait for a mentor (N = # of opened cases)	0 (N=0)	1 (N=1)	0 (N=0)
Average monthly active caseload	2	4	5
% of relationships lasting for more than 1 year	-	80	100

The number of participants in the Kinnections Program has decreased slightly.

Community Capacity Development

Community Capacity Development includes initiatives that promote youth development interests among employers, landlords and other members of the community. We build and maintain relationships in the community to better serve the participants we work with. We foster a variety of relationships across the entire community including positive connections with schools, community agencies and resources, law enforcement, local businesses, municipal officials, financial institutions, and event organizers. By attending various meetings, events, workshops, and gatherings; we stay connected to the community, respond to trends and shifts in demographics, and help promote the overall strengths-based work that PLEA provides across our service region.

How we did...against last year's goals

- i. *Further develop a provincially approved life skills program which will prepare youth for transition to adulthood and independence. Build on existing resources for life skills curriculum, housing, and financial stability.*

This goal has not been pursued much due to staffing challenges and a focus on re-establishing services that were scaled back during the pandemic.

- ii. *Create a program manual to guide services and establish action items.*

A Program Manual has been developed and is reviewed annually for adjustments.

- iii. *Increase referrals for the Connex Alternate School Program, working closely with SD42 and Youth Probation.*

The number of referrals to the Connex Program has not increased and remains at zero. Youth Justice caseloads are small, and our services have not been utilized.

- iv. *For PLEA Ridge Meadows groups to return to in person meetings in a safe and appropriate manner: Night Hoops, Gen Out, Trans Support, Gardening, Photography and FLY Squad.*

PLEA RM groups have re-established themselves with the exception of Night Hoops which had its support removed by the host organization. Gen Out, Trans Support and the other in-person groups have returned, and locations have been sorted. Gardening and Photography had sporadic attendance, so we are looking to reframe those groups. Participation is strong and we will continue to build these groups in the community.

- v. *Explore new office space opportunities that would allow for activity space and sharing with programs such as UTurn/ULink and Lighthouse.*

Office space is still a concern for the program and viable options are being explored.

- vi. *Enhance cultural connections with the Katzie First Nation, Fraser River Indigenous Society (FRIS) and work in conjunction with PLEA's Cultural Connections Worker to build relationships and partner on community events.*

PLEA RM has been directly involved in Truth & Reconciliation Day, Indigenous People's Day and overall relationships with Katzie First Nation. The Program Manager has attended all these events and built strong connections with FRIS and Katzie elders. The PLEA Cultural Connections Worker has also been a part of the work and has been a guest at the Trans Groups and an RM team meeting.

Other selected accomplishments...

- i. A new multi-media group was initiated by a Youth Development Worker to offer opportunities to youth looking to build their skillsets and pursue interests with technology and media. The group has worked on a variety of projects including a movie trailer, stop motion animation, music, editing, photography, and videography.
- ii. The PLEA RM team has hosted several guests during team meetings to build our community connections and learn about local resources. We have welcomed guests including Coast Mental Health, Astra Drug & Alcohol Counsellor, Cornerstone Landing Housing, Foundry, Children of the Street, MCFD.
- iii. Putting on the Glitz returned as a full event at Thomas Haney Secondary School and over 40 youth participated. The annual grad program featured vendors such as photographers, makeup artists, hairdressers and professional photography. The success of this event continues with the dedication and leadership of the KidStart Coordinator and community volunteers.
- iv. Fundraising/Donations - PLEA received several donations throughout the year that were put directly towards supporting youth. The Maple Ridge Community Foundation contributed another \$1500 for Putting on the Glitz and \$1300 for the Gen Out Youth Drop-In Group and Trinity United Church donated \$1500 for the Adulthood program and Pride in the Park event. The Holiday Hamper campaign also received an annual \$500 donation from a local realtor.
- v. The Trans Support Groups returned to in person format and saw an increase in participants predominantly on the parent/caregiver side. A decision was also made to keep one virtual session available per month for

those that preferred that platform. A new youth group facilitator started in June 2022, and they have fit in very well. All groups in New Westminster, Tri Cities and Maple Ridge are well attended.

Selected stories²...

The youth we work with experience both large and small successes. The following stories illustrate the kind of growth and development that can occur for youth with the support and guidance of our teams. Names and certain details have been changed to protect the privacy and confidentiality of our clients.

Nate's Story

Nate was referred to the YDW Program in 2018, has been receptive to services and met with his YDW weekly. Nate was open to sharing about his family relationships and involvement with the Ministry of Children and Family Development. The Social Worker and Foster Parent outlined some of the reason for involvement with MCFD which included inadequate prenatal care, lack of affordable quality childcare facilities, and Stressed Parenting. The YDW Program was made to try new activities in the community and Nate would benefit from having someone support him through the process of aging out of MCFD care.

YDW quickly identified Nate's need to belong. Nate's strengths include resiliency despite being through a lot of neglect and a desire to pursue a better life. Nate lives in a society where social services exist to make sure he is cared for despite the breakdown of his nuclear family. Nate was attending high school full time.

YDW supported Nate with adjusting to new caregiving situation since his former caregivers retired. Nate excelled in engaging with extra-curricular activities at school and in the community including badminton and volleyball clubs which YDW helped facilitate by applying for funds so that he could travel to Edmonton for a national competition. Nate gained work experience through part time work, and he was eager to be employed at a job long term. Nate took on more responsibilities as he prepared for independent living including managing some of his bills, medical appointments, and completing courses such as RentSmart. Nate graduated from high school in 2022 and successfully passed his ICBC Knowledge Exam; he also started driving lessons. YDW and Nate worked with his SW to secure him a unit in a subsidized housing complex in Maple Ridge where he continues to live to date.

Hani's Story

Hani's initial referral was very minimal, however she and YDW were able to adapt the service plan based on her needs as she moved through the YDW, Onyx and YAG programs. Hani was engaged in all programs, and she was receptive to services offered to her. YDW was able to liaise with MCFD, school and Hani's parents to create a plan that was realistic, and goal based with Hani's best interests in mind.

Hani initially started with the worker in the YDW program but was later referred to Onyx when she began working underage in a hookah lounge and there was concern that she was being exploited. Eventually, she quit that job and the concerns of exploitation resolved. She was soon after approved for a YAG and was referred to the YAG program. Hani was able to maintain the same workers throughout her time with PLEA programming, which was positive as she built strong relationships with them.

Hani's service plan evolved greatly as she went through programming as she accomplished certain goals and moved on to new ones. Hani indicated from the beginning of service that she wanted a YAG, and with YDW's

² Names have been changes to protect participant privacy and confidentiality

help, she was able to achieve all the tasks set forward to reach that ultimate goal. Hani was engaged with YDW throughout her time in the programs and attended each meeting ready to get tasks done.

During her time with PLEA, Hani grew more confident and less confrontational. At the end of service, she was able to articulate what she wanted and how she was going to achieve it. She was planning to attend Douglas College and had completed her application to pursue a career in Youth Work.

Unfortunately, Hani's discharge from the program was abrupt and unsupported. She had been living in Surrey with the support of YDW and the Ridge Meadows MCFD office. There had been previous discussions about moving her to the Surrey MCFD office, however YDW was able to strongly advocate for her to stay in Ridge Meadows as that is where she was well connected to services. Hani's Social Worker and YDW both went on leave in quick succession and the file was ultimately moved to Surrey and her Ridge Meadows supports were discontinued. In follow up with Hani, she said she felt let down by the move and frustrated that she was not able to stay with her support system. Currently, she is still working but had no plans to engage in post secondary education because she was concerned that she did not have the support system to be successful.

Glen's Story

Glen was referred to the RM ISSP Program as he was on probation for assault with a weapon. One of Glen's conditions was to meet with an ISSP Worker on a weekly basis. Glen needed a role model to support with healthy lifestyle choices and to understand what healthy relationships looked like. The assessment information was brief, but worker was able to gain more information from Glen when completing the Service plan. The previously written interpretative summary gave a good description of Glen's background history and worker found that Glen presented himself very well.

Worker supported Glen with attending his forensic counselling, and probation appointments. Glen was always punctual and able to remember his future appointment dates. Worker supported Glen with attending the gym on a weekly basis, as he wanted to learn more about weight training and body composition. Worker also provided Glen with opportunities to learn independent living skills such as budgeting, banking, grocery shopping to prepare him for adulthood.

Soon after starting with the ISSP Program, Glen's mother passed away. Despite this event, Glen worked through his emotions and accessed his resources regularly. His ISSP Worker was readily available to support Glen with nature walks, conversations about grief, and facilitating some of the after life planning.

Glen was living with the Lighthouse Program which was a supportive living environment that had a structured routine which he was not used to before. There were days where Glen would not respond to worker but over time, Glen maintained regular communication and finished his probation order. Although it was Glen's choice if he would like to continue to receive service from the Youth Development Worker Program on a voluntary basis, he ultimately said he would like to continue to meet with writer.

After Glen moved out on independent living, he needed a lot more support as he wasn't living at Lighthouse with all the support team.

Glen has overcome a lot in the past two years. Glen graduated from the Outreach Program at Maple Ridge Secondary. Glen is currently working full-time and knows how to grocery shop and work his monthly finances. Glen is in better headspace with hanging out with friends that benefit him long-term. Glen makes the effort to say that he is actively working out on his days off.

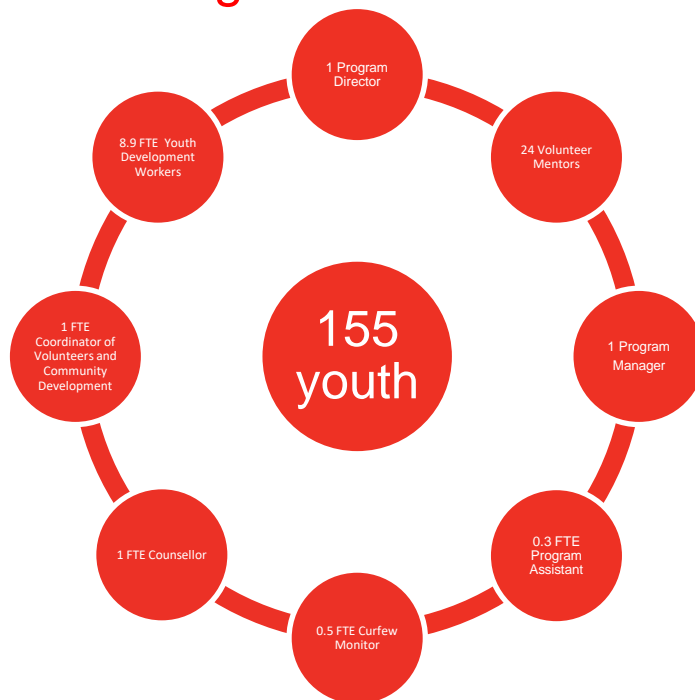
Pati's Story

Pati is a single mom with four kids, one of whom is a mentee with the KidStart Mentoring Program. Pati is in university and has just been accepted into the Masters Degree program for the fall. She has been so grateful to have a KidStart mentor for one of her youth; another one of her children is in the waitlist for a mentor. The KidStart Mentoring Program has provided her with family with holiday food hampers and spring and summer camp for her four children. Pati stated to me that hopefully when she graduates with her Masters Degree and gets a job working with youth, that she will be able to give back and help the way that we have helped support her during this time. She has been so appreciative of the support KidStart and PLEA for everything they have given to her family. Pati informed worker that with all of the support, especially the mentorship, it has allowed her to be able to focus more on her studies and is getting mostly A's in all her classes.

Biggest challenges...

- i. Staffing challenges arose again this year as a number of team members took leaves of absences, one person moved to another program and two staff resigned to pursue other opportunities. While these positions were eventually filled, other staff worked hard to cover caseloads in the meantime.
- ii. Office space has become challenging as the Ridge Meadows team only has one communal room in the MCFD office to complete computer work and meet with participants.
- iii. Caseload numbers, staffing challenges and demands for service pushed staff to capacity limits. The waitlist also grew as there were no caseload spaces available. Fortunately, some of these issues are being alleviated with new hires and expediting files that no longer need support.

Our team...staffing



Our team...learning undertaken

PLEA employees have completed the following training/workshops throughout the past year:

- San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training
- MCFD Privacy Training
- Mandt ® De-escalation Training.
- First Aid Level 1
- Occupational Health & Safety – Labour Code Risk Assessment Training
- LivingWorks Start - Suicide Prevention
- Naloxone Administration training
- Gangs & Guns Training Symposium
- Cyber Security
- Gender Pronoun Training
- Preventing Communicable Diseases

Four staff also utilized training/education funds; two for their Bachelor of Child & Youth Care degree programs at Douglas College and two for Masters programs at other institutions. The Program Manager also spoke to the University of Fraser Valley – Child & Youth Care Degree Program cohort about PLEA and the type of work we do.

Our team...new relationships

PLEA Ridge Meadows has partnered with the Katzie First Nation and Fraser River Indigenous Society to facilitate community events for Truth & Reconciliation Day and Orange Shirt Day. The events were tremendous, and the lasting relationships make for exciting opportunities to collaborate in the future. Over 1000 people attended the Orange Shirt Day at Memorial Peace Park in June 2022.

The team continues to participate in many committee meetings including the Teen Resource Committee, Youth Planning Table, Fraser River Indigenous Society, Community Network, Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows Aboriginal Services Providers, Opioid Overdose Working Group, Ridge Meadows Housing Table, RM Community Action Table, STORM (Stop The Overdose Ridge Meadows), City of Maple Ridge – Accessibility & Inclusiveness, Maple Ridge Functional Assertive Situation Table (FAST), and the Maple Ridge Literacy Committee. The responsibility for attending these meetings has been shared across the team, as youth workers are involved in committees and community plans that pertain to youth.

The Program Manager has also been a participant at the City of Maple Ridge table for the BC Summer Games 2024. A small handful of community representatives work with the City of Maple Ridge Mayor and Council and the BC Summer Games staff to nominate the President, Vice President, and Directors for the games.

Next year's goals...

- i. Start a provincially approved life skills program which will prepare youth for transition to adulthood and independence. Build on existing resources for life skills curriculum, housing and financial stability. Create a program manual to guide services and establish action items.
- ii. Initiate a 'girls group' for female youth that want a safe space to discuss biology, hygiene, healthy relationships and support.
- iii. Increase referrals for the Connex Alternate School Program, working closely with SD42 and Youth Probation.
- iv. Explore new office space opportunities that would allow for activity space and sharing with programs or other community resources.

- v. A full staff cohort with a focus on retention. Narrow the hiring gaps and prepare staff for coverages as needed.
- vi. Reduce the waitlist for services and expedite files where services are not needed or can be reduced.

For more information...

Contact Wilf Leung, Program Manager at 604-476-2822 or email wleung@plea.bc.ca.