



COMMUNITY
SERVICES

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Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows Youth Services Annual Program Report 2025-26

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 Youth Development Workers can provide support services through a mixed caseload that includes to Youth Agreement, Youth Justice, and Youth Development participants. 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	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
# of cases	163	179	170	188
# of youth served	150	151	166	155
% young women	53	53	50	46
% young men	43	41	42	44
% self-identified as transgender	4	6	8	10
% self-identified as Indigenous	36	39	42	32
Average age when cases were opened	15	15	15	16
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	483 (N=71)	484 (N=77)	371 (N=78)	403 (N=90)
Average monthly caseload	86	106	102	110
Average # of days on the waitlist by opened cases (N = # of opened)	47 (N=71)	105 (N=81)	58 (N=76)	66 (N=81)

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Charitable Registration
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The number of cases we served in the Ridge Meadows area has decreased slightly while the number of youth served remained consistent from the previous year. This difference points to youth that have participated in different programs and the number of re-referrals to services which has decreased this year. This past year we hired an additional temporary YDW to supplement hiring gaps and reduce the wait for services. Our average monthly caseload numbers have decreased as we are receiving less referrals to our programs and had a full contingent of staff available for a period. The Program Manager has regular meetings with MCFD Team Leaders to review active caseloads and waitlists, and to encourage more referrals overall.

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	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
# of cases	81	64	69	65
# of youth served	78	62	66	64
% young women	49	48	45	40
% young men	46	48	44	48
% self-identified as transgender	5	4	11	12
% self-identified as Indigenous	40	55	55	45
Average age when cases were opened	15	15	15	15
Average # of cases per month	46	47	47	45
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	689 (N=33)	524 (N=24)	524 (N=24)	612 (N=25)
Average # of days on the waitlist by opened cases (N = # of opened cases)	39 (N=32)	99 (N=29)	99 (N=29)	60 (N=16)

The number of participants in Youth Development Services increased significantly from years previous. We have reduced waitlist times with the help of an additional temporary worker. This reflects the need for more support at longer periods of time, especially when preparing youth for or independence and young adulthood.

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	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
# of cases	9	9	12	14
# of youth served	9	9	12	14
% young women	78	78	67	50
% young men	22	-	25	36
% self-identified as transgender	0	22	8	14
% self-identified as Indigenous	22	33	42	43
Average age when cases were opened	17	16	17	17
Average # of cases per month	5	6	7	8
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	235 (N=6)	798 (N=5)	291 (N=7)	452 (N=6)

Average # of days on the waitlist by opened cases (N = # of opened cases)	16 (N=5)	19 (N=4)	22 (N=4)	18 (N=3)
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Youth Agreement participant numbers have remained the same this past year while the number of days in program decreasing significantly. This is an indicator of youth aging out of services and fewer youth being placed on Youth Agreements. Additionally, long term files have been discharged and youth that reach adulthood can receive support from the (Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment) SAJE program which has replaced the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) Program that supports youth exiting MCFD care. Young adults can access supports from a SAJE navigator up to the age of 27 who can assist with transition planning, educational resources, housing support, and financial planning.

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	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
# of cases	13	10	10	5
# of youth served	13	9	9	5
% young women	31	40	50	40
% young men	69	60	50	60
% self-identified as transgender	-	-	-	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	23	30	20	-
Average age when cases were opened	16	16	16	16

The number of ISSP participants increased slightly and the number of youth identifying as Indigenous slightly decreased. We are working to adjust services to provide more culturally specific support and have been training staff on Indigenous equity-based practices including building long term relationships, culturally safe approaches, and self-determination - ensuring initiatives are nation-based and community-driven. Probation caseloads are slowly increasing with referrals to the ISSP program following suit.

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	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
# of cases	11	8	11	10
# of youth served	11	8	11	10
% young women	55	25	45	-
% young men	45	75	55	100
% self-identified as transgender	-	-	-	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	9	-	18	10
Average age when cases were opened	16	16	15	16
Average # of cases per month	4	2	4	3
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	160 (N=7)	153 (N=6)	84 (N=8)	90 (N=7)
Community Work Service hours completed	140	127	267	126

The number of CWS participants has increased slightly and the gender of participants was more balanced than the previous year. There are very few options for CWS placements as many places are not willing to take on additional volunteers due to age restrictions, inability to supervise, and liability concerns. The Coordinator has been able to access some placements at community festivals and celebrations where organizers need help with set up and tear down.

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	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
# of cases	5	9	14	7
# of youth served	5	9	14	7
% young women	40	56	29	-
% young men	60	44	71	100
% self-identified as transgender	-	-	-	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	20	44	21	30
Average age when cases were opened	15	15	15	16
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	551 (N=4)	360 (N=4)	231 (N=9)	530 (N=2)

The number of Curfew Monitoring participants decreased again this past year with very low numbers for the end of the reporting period, despite accepting some Tri-Cities referrals as requested by Youth Probation. Fewer youth are being charged and not receiving specific curfew conditions on their probation orders. And the high-risk youth that do have curfew conditions often receive police checks as their risk to the community is very high.

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 are able to access our support services after regular school hours and during the summer.

Profile	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
# of cases	5	4	-	-
# of youth served	5	4	-	-
% young women	-	-	-	-
% young men	100	100	-	-
% self-identified as transgender	-	-	-	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	40	25	-	-
Average age when cases were opened	16	16	-	-
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	198 (N=4)	-	-	-

The PLEA/Connex School Program numbers remained consistent but overall low again this year. Even though our services have been extended to all alternate programs of the local school district, Youth Probation numbers are still low and do not result in many referrals.

North Fraser Youth Outreach Program

The North Fraser Youth Outreach Program (NFYO) was implemented in 2017 and is intended to meet the needs of high-risk youth across the entire North Fraser Service Delivery area. It is a collaborative effort between PLEA, Purpose Society and St. Leonard's to provide a coordinated response in reaching out to these youth in their communities. One innovative component with this Program is the increased flexibility for agency staff to work together and share resources across geographic areas. Youth Workers can travel across the North Fraser Region and into other Metro Vancouver communities to connect with youth on their caseloads and/or to attend relevant case management meetings in order to provide comprehensive and uninterrupted services to youth.

NFO Ridge Meadows

Profile	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
# of cases	4	7	9	10
# of youth served	4	7	9	10
% young women	50	29	44	60
% young men	50	71	56	40
% self-identified as transgender	-	-	-	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	50	57	67	50
Average age when cases were opened	15	14	15	16
Average # of cases per month	3	4	4	4
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	951 (N=1)	362 (N=4)	364 (N=4)	240 (N=3)
Average # of days on the waitlist by opened cases (N = # of opened cases)	7 (N=1)	4 (N=2)	13 (N=2)	35 (N=7)

The number of participants in the NFYO Program reduced and have been trending lower each year. Youth involved in this program continue to receive support long term, but we are not receiving many new referrals.

NFO Indigenous

Profile	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
# of cases ¹	2	6	7	7
# of youth served	2	6	7	6
% young women	100	17	14	50
% young men	-	83	72	50
% self-identified as transgender	-	-	14	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	100	100	100	100
Average age when cases were opened	16	15	14	15
Average # of cases per month	2	2	3	5
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	201 (N=3)	204 (N=5)	169 (N=3)	248 (N=3)
Average # of days on the waitlist by opened cases (N = # of opened cases)	11 (N=3)	61 (N=2)	42 (N=6)	21 (N=10)

The number of participants in the NFYO Indigenous Program reduced similarly to the NFYO program overall. Both participants identified as female and spent very little time on the wait list.

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

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	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
# of cases	15	18	19	17
# of youth served	15	18	18	17
% young women	93	89	90	76
% young men	7	5	5	6
% self-identified as transgender	-	6	5	18
% self-identified as Indigenous	53	22	32	12
Average age when cases were opened	15	14	14	15
Average # of cases per month	9	10	12	12
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = # of discharged cases)	526 (N=7)	464 (N=9)	465 (N=8)	265 (N=7)

Overall, the numbers for the Onyx Program have remained the same compared to the previous year. Those that identified as Indigenous increased to just over 50% and the length of time in the program increased as these youth required ongoing support. Service have been ranging from supporting youth involved in the sex trade to online exploitation to unhealthy relationships with older partners. Staff have also accessed Children of the Street Program services to educate two youth on the dangers of social media and grooming techniques from perpetrators.

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	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
# of cases	11	14	16	25
# of youth served	11	13	16	24
% young women	73	50	44	44
% young men	17	29	44	36
% self-identified as transgender	-	21	12	20
% self-identified as Indigenous	9	7	6	16
Average age when cases were opened	14	14	14	14
Average # of days in program by discharged cases (N = number of discharged cases)	319 (N=5)	494 (N=8)	408 (N=10)	473 (N=9)
# of total volunteer hours (N = # of clients receiving service)	198 (N=9)	182 (N=9)	454 (N=14)	950.75 (N=21)

Average # of days wait for a mentor (N = # of opened cases)	235 (N=5)	394 (N=8)	225 (N=2)	188 (N=10)
Average monthly active caseload	6	6	10	16
% of relationships lasting for more than 1 year	36	43	94	54

The number of participants in the KidStart Mentoring program has decreased slightly for the fourth consecutive year. Unfortunately, this reflects the challenges of recruiting volunteers in the community and the resulting waitlist times. Although the number of youth participating decreased slightly, the overall number of volunteer hours increased which translates to mentors spending more time with their mentees.

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	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
# of cases	5	3	3	3
# of youth	5	3	3	3
% young women	80	33	34	-
% young men	-	33	34	100
% self-identified as transgender	20	34	32	-
% self-identified as Indigenous	80	67	33	-
Average age when cases were opened	19	16	16	18
# of total volunteer hours (N = # of clients receiving service)	86.25 (N=3)	40.5 (N=3)	97 (N=3)	42 (N=2)
Average # of days wait for a mentor (N = # of opened cases)	1 (N=3)	44 (N=1)	93 (N=1)	0 (N=0)
Average monthly active caseload	3	3	3	2
% of relationships lasting for more than 1 year	67	67	67	-

The number of participants in the Kinnections Program has increased slightly. Additionally, the number of volunteer hours more than doubled, indicating that the mentors are actively supporting the young people.

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.

Trans & Gender Exploring Group

The Trans & Gender Exploring (TGE) Group provides support services for youth exploring the 'trans' journey and their parents/caregivers. Staff facilitators host two sessions per month in each of the following communities: Maple Ridge, Port Coquitlam, and Burnaby/New Westminster. This past year we hired two new facilitators and worked hard to reintroduce ourselves to the communities being served. Although participation has been low, we are encouraged to see interest pick up in recent months, as well as the connections we have made with Three Bridges Community Health, Fraser Health – Community Engagement, Burnaby Public Library, Fraser Valley Public Library, and School Districts 41 (Burnaby) and 42 (Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows).

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

1. **Increase referrals and direct service hours to youth. Work closely with MCFD to generate a steady stream of referrals and subsequent wait list reviews – *NOT COMPLETED*.**

Referrals to the Youth Programs decreased slightly but direct service hours were significantly under the targets. There has been some staff turnover to consider, but overall, the direct time with youth needs to increase this coming year. Staff have been challenged with limited budgets but also need to be more creative in their work. MCFD has smaller caseloads as well but are still relying on YDW's to meet with support their youth regularly. The PLEA Program Manager and MCFD Team Leaders have monthly meetings to review the waitlist and those currently receiving support.

2. **Develop cultural knowledge sessions that include information sharing, and food. Bring in youth for opportunities to learn and share their own experiences – *IN PROGRESS*.**

Participant feedback identified a need to offer cultural support more regularly as part of their service. Staff have received cultural safety training but are being encouraged to expand their consideration of culture to include familial, community, and spiritual support. Our program will look to develop more opportunities individually and as groups to share, learn and celebrate culture in all forms.

3. **Provide an opportunity for a summer student position to increase staffing levels and support post-secondary students that are hoping to work in the field once their studies are completed – *PARTIALLY ACHIEVED*.**

The summer student application was not successful, although we did provide a practicum placement for a 3rd year Social Work Program student from Douglas College. This was a 6 month placement and the student spent her time with the Tri Cities and Ridge Meadows Youth Services Programs. She was able to job shadow several different workers, meet professionals in her field of interest, attend PLEA trainings and events, and also supported both programs with administrative tasks. Her final evaluation was extremely positive and was communicated back to the practicum supervisor.

4. **Complete Outcomes Measurement training and incorporate the learning into service delivery reports and implement program indicators – *ACHIEVED*.**

The Outcomes Measurement project is ready for implementation in April 2026. Along the way, staff have had training, discussion, and many back and forth conversations about how and what to ask in a meaningful way. It is our goal to capture important data that will reflect the journeys of participants through our programs. The RM Youth Services Program will implement outcomes surveys at intake, every six months, and at discharge.

Other selected accomplishments...

1. This year we hosted a **summer student placement**, as well as a practicum placement from Douglas College – School of Social Work (3rd year student). Both students were successful and made valuable connections within PLEA and throughout the community. The summer student was successful in acquiring a temporary position with the PLEA Ridge Meadows team near the end of their placement and has since obtained a permanent position with the Vancouver ISSP team. We are excited to continue providing these learning opportunities as they both serve as potential landing spots for graduating student.
2. Our annual **Youth Holiday Dinner** was at the Greg Moore Youth Centre in December 2025. This year we collaborated with the Foundry, the Seniors Network and Greg Moore Youth Centre to welcome over 120 youth and seniors to a holiday feast. Attendees were provided with a turkey dinner, crafts and a visit from Santa! Funding was provided by Maple Ridge Parks & Leisure and the Federations of BC Youth In Care Network.
3. The PLEA RM team participated in a collaborative **Youth Services Community “Meet & Greet”** which allowed us to meet face to face and learn about each other's services. Attendees included the YES

Shelter, Greg Moore Youth Centre, FYRST, RCMP, SD42, ICY, and PLEA. This meeting was well received and there are plans to continue this event annually.

4. The **16th annual Putting on the Glitz** was held at Thomas Haney Secondary School and 50 youth participated (a new record!). The annual grad program featured vendors such as photographers, makeup artists, hairdressers, and professional photography. This event is a staple in the local community and is invaluable to the youth of SD42. This year was organized by the Program Manager, PLEA Events Planner, and Kiwanis Club of Golden Ears. Financially, the Kiwanis Club contributed \$1500 in funds to directly support the event. The event was a tremendous success, and we look forward to continuing the tradition next year.
5. **Fundraising/Donations** - Putting on the Glitz received \$1500 from Kiwanis and \$1500 from the Maple Ridge Community Foundation to support the March 2026 event. The Holiday Hamper campaign also received an annual \$500 donation from a local realtor. These donations were put directly towards each respective program.
6. The PLEA Youth Outreach programs coordinated a training day for staff featuring presentation on **Response Based Practice, and Having Difficult Conversations**. Both presentations were very well received by the staff that 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.

Jeb's Story

Jeb contacted the **Putting on the Glitz** organizers to inquire if she could volunteer for the event and bring her sister as a participant. Jeb informed us that she had attended Putting on the Glitz in 2014 as a participant herself and found the experience so positive and uplifting that she wanted to give back and support her sister as well.

"I was fortunate to be one of the students who had the opportunity to pick my beautiful gown from the Glitz. It was the best experience I ever had and it has always been in my mind. There might not be much I could do but I do want to be a little part of those girls' big day like I used to have."

"I would like to sincerely thank you for the opportunity for my sister and the girls to experience this amazing event. They truly appreciated it and haven't stopped talking about how wonderful it was. I'm sure it will be a memory they cherish for a long time—just as I will. I'm very grateful to have been a part of it. Thank you for including us, even on such short notice. I've already marked it on my calendar for next year!"

Saj's Story

Saj was originally part of the **Youth Development Worker program** from September 2017 to August 2021. During her time in the program, she showed resilience and growth while navigating the challenges of adolescence. Now 23, Saj recently reached out with an unexpected text message to her former YDW. Saj shared that she is applying for post-secondary school and is interested in pursuing youth work as a career and hoping to support others in the same way she once felt supported.

"I want to get into youth working to do basically what you do since you helped me so much growing up."

Her message is a meaningful reminder that the impact of youth work doesn't end at discharge. The relationships that have been built and the support that was offered can stay with young people for years, shaping the paths they choose. Saj's story reflects the lasting impact of investing in youth and how that support can come full circle in powerful ways.

² Names have been changed to protect participant privacy and confidentiality.

Bre's Story

Kinnections volunteer mentor, Bre has been a great support for her youth since they turned nineteen. Bre has helped facilitate treatment options, helped facilitate connection with the SAJE (Strengthening Abilities & Journeys of Empowerment) Worker, provided her with information on medical and dental coverage, helped her manage sexual exploitation concerns, and assisted her with booking the test to get her Learner's driver's license.

This exceptional work has all been initiated by Bre and she continues to do an incredible job in supporting her mentee as they navigate young adulthood.

Jay's Story

Jay was involved in the **PLEA YDW Program** since May 2022 and was initially referred because of major depressive disorder, unspecified anxiety disorder, learning disorder, low motivation and poor physical health. Jay's parents were also separated, unemployed, and going through a divorce process. Jay was rarely attending school, and he would often stay up playing video games all night, and he did not associate with many friends.

YDW would meet with Jay regularly and found that Jay's routine was to get up sometime in the afternoon and he would rarely leave home. Jay would often go out with his YDW for hikes and work outs at the community centre. YDW also assisted Jay with his employment search efforts and had him apply to the employment programs at Triangle Resources and with the Pathfinder Youth Society. Jay managed to find employment at the Keg Restaurant as a dishwasher but quit that job due to the late work hours and because he was never promoted there. YDW resumed the employment search with Jay and despite having a good chance of being hired with a few other employers, Jay could not commit to taking the jobs offered.

Jay has expressed an interest in plumbing and HVAC trades, but he is not able to commit to a job or a training program as he is focusing on improving his mental health. Jay has also reconnected with his mother and spends time visiting her in Chilliwack for extended periods of time; he has also spent some time visiting friends in the United States. Jay also attended the Youth Holiday Dinner hosted by PLEA and the Greg Moore Youth Centre and made a connection with the Cultural Knowledge Keeper who knew his uncle from when he lived in the Northwest Territories.

Jay's mental health has improved significantly. He no longer stays up late playing video games anymore and he has become much more active physically. Jay has developed a new passion for rock climbing, and he has been going to a climbing gym several times per week over the past two years. Jay intends to continue with his climbing and he has checked out several outdoor climbing venues with his YDW.

Biggest challenges...

1. **Staffing challenges** arose again this year as we had some positions turn over for various reasons. Some individuals were successful in obtaining permanent positions elsewhere in PLEA. Another person continues to be extended on leave for union business.
2. A **decrease in referrals from MCFD** along with instability in staffing has contributed to deliverables that are below target. Notably, the Youth Justice component has seen a considerable dip in participant numbers. These numbers have increased slightly towards the end of this reporting period but overall, there is still a significant gap in deliverables compared to targets.
3. The **Trans & Gender Exploring group** has been slowly resurfacing with two new facilitators hired last year and a new site for New Westminster that will begin in April 2026. Attendance has been slowly increasing and we are continuously working on raising awareness in the community.
4. **Participant survey returns** were very low and subsequently, the results were also low. Our focus this year will be a significantly stronger return on survey completions, and a more positive result in satisfaction. Implementing the Outcomes Measurement tools will assist us with data collection and an increased frequency of measures.

Our team...staffing



Our team...learning undertaken

Our team 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
- Response Based Practice
- LivingWorks Start - Suicide Prevention
- Naloxone Administration training
- Gender Diversity Training
- Intensive Support & Supervision Training
- Online Training of the Youth Criminal Justice Act
- SAJE (Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment) Program
- Having Difficult Conversations
- Cyber Security Training
- Social-Emotional Learning Skills / Brain Behavioural Relationships
- The Zones of Regulation
- Reclaiming Justice for Indigenous Youth
- Anxiety in Children and Youth Practical Intervention Strategies
- St. Mary's Residential School Tour
- Outcomes Measurement Training

Two staff also utilized training/education funds for courses in their Masters in Counselling Psychology programs and another completed their Bachelor's Degree in Child & Youth Care.

Our team...new relationships

Our team welcomes new programs and resources to the community by inviting them to team meetings. This year we continued with annual visits from MCFD and the Foundry. We also participated in a collaborative meeting with other youth services from the community including, YES Shelter, Greg Moore Youth Centre, FYRST, ICY, Astra, and RCMP.

We have staff that also participate in many committee meetings including the Youth Planning Table, Community Network, Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows Aboriginal Services Providers, Foundry Community Connections, SD42 Youth Counsellor Introductory Meeting, Ridge Meadows Housing Table, STORM (Stop The Overdose Ridge Meadows), 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.

Next year's goals...

1. Increase referrals and direct service hours to youth. Work closely with MCFD to generate a steady stream of referrals and subsequent wait list reviews.
2. Stabilization of staffing. This past year we faced some challenges with staff leaving for a variety of reasons. Focus on staff retention and satisfaction to reduce the number of potential changes. Apply for a Summer Student grant or Practicum Placement to maintain relationships with institutions that have potential staff.
3. Increase recruitment of volunteer mentors for KidStart/Kinnections.

4. Continue to offer the FLY Squad youth group which is the local chapter of the Federation of BC Youth In Care Network (FBCYICN) has informed us that funding for the group will be significantly reduced this next fiscal year. This group has enjoyed the opportunity to provide youth in care with opportunities to participate in activities with peers. Access grants and donations to fund the program, specifically the Youth Holiday Dinner.
5. Launch outcomes measurement surveys to participants at intake, 6 months and discharge in the program and measure effectiveness of our programs.

For more information...

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