



# Youth Initiative Committee

What We Heard Report  
Setting priorities for youth 12-18 in  
Revelstoke

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# Executive Summary

The Youth Initiative Committee (YIC) in Revelstoke was established in 2010 as a response to the Community Substance Use Strategy, with a focus on supporting youth through upstream prevention, resilience building, and empowerment.

Since its inception, the YIC has successfully implemented several key initiatives, including the development of the Youth Action Plan, the establishment of the Stoke Youth Network (SYN) and the Youth Liaison position. These initiatives receive direct oversight by the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). Now, the YIC has evolved to focus on youth-related progress and establishing priorities for youth aged 12-18 in Revelstoke.

In 2023, an engagement process was conducted, gathering insights from both youth and community stakeholders. In January 2024, an open YIC meeting was held, and stakeholders explored current successes within Revelstoke, such as strong community collaborations, a variety of youth-based activities, and leadership and volunteer opportunities. Some of the challenges included youth-friendly spaces and facilities, limited staffing capacity, and connecting youth to programs.

Through an evaluation process, stakeholders identified the top 5 of the 12 priorities that were identified throughout the 2023 engagement process.

1. Volunteer, Leadership, and Employment Opportunities
2. Remove Financial Barriers
3. Mental Health Supports
4. Arts Programming
5. Consent and Healthy Relationships

The top 5 priorities were explored in depth, identifying areas that are going well, gaps, barriers, and possible solutions.

This document serves as a comprehensive overview of the YIC's progress and future directions, outlining the needs of youth in Revelstoke. By addressing the identified priorities, stakeholders can guide efforts to better support and empower the community's young population, fostering a thriving environment for their development.

# OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES

**2010** The Youth Initiative Committee (YIC) originally formed in 2010 after the completion of the Revelstoke Community Substance Use strategy. 'Supporting Youth' became a high priority for Revelstoke Social Development Committee which looked at upstream prevention, building protective factors, and supporting good choices. In addition, Revelstoke's Literacy Action Committee had identified a need to support youth more actively in our community.

Initially, the YIC was developed as a formal committee through the City of Revelstoke. The mandate aimed to work collaboratively to build community capacity to:

- Value youth as citizens and masters of their own experience
- Strengthen the resilience of youth in the face of societal risk factors
- Enable all young people to meet the basic needs associated with a successful transition to adulthood

**2011** Okanagan College secured funding through Service Canada to put together a Youth Action Plan. The Youth Action Plan was created by youth for youth and serves as a community assessment tool for mapping landmarks and seeing success. The YIC oversaw the creation of the Youth Action Plan, serving as the steering committee.

**2012** The Community Foundation sponsored Columbia Basin Trust's (CBT) Community Directed Youth Funds application which provided 4 years of funding and a new position in Revelstoke, the Youth Liaison. A work plan was developed for this position and the Stoke Youth Network (SYN) was formed. SYN was designed by youth for youth, focused on increasing opportunities for meaningful youth engagement in Revelstoke.

**2013** The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) was formed to oversee the Youth liaison contract. This committee meets 3 times per year to provide direct, accountable oversight. The formal structure was created to increase funding opportunities.

**2014** The YIC met, now led by the Youth Liaison, to review progress and identify priorities as a community moving forward.

**2016** The CBT Basin Youth Network was formed which increased funding and hours for the Youth Liaison position. This provided a secure funding base to leverage additional supports. In addition, CBT provides connections, support, and initiatives for youth across the basin.

**2019** CBT renewed the Basin Youth Network contract and another 3 years of funding were awarded to SYN. The YIC met once again to review youth-related progress in Revelstoke and set priorities for the future.

**2022** CBT renewed the Basin Youth Network contract and another 3 years of funding were awarded to SYN.

## Present Day

Revelstoke's support for youth developed dramatically from 2010 onwards. Presently, the role of SYN's Youth Liaison with oversight from YAC provides ongoing support and engagement for youth in our community.

The YIC is now a committee that meets when needed to set priorities for all youth 12-18 in Revelstoke. The committee is open to all stakeholders, including youth, parents, and youth-serving organizations.

The current objectives of the YIC are to:

- Review youth-related progress
- Explore challenges and successes
- Set priorities for youth 12-18 in Revelstoke to guide efforts
- Create community collaboration for youth in Revelstoke

## Engagement Process

Input was gathered from youth and stakeholders to identify priorities arising for youth in Revelstoke.

## Basin Youth Network Engagement Session April 18th, 2023 6 Youth Attended

- Advertising from April 6 - 18 2023
- Multiple posts on Stoke Youth Network social media
- Announcements at Revelstoke Secondary School (RSS)
- Posters at RSS
- Poster and write up on SYN sandwich board at RSS
- Face to face communication with youth groups: Environmental Action Team, Leadership Group, and Rainbows & Allies
- Collaborated with RSS leadership teacher for the input session
- Pizza provided for youth attendees



### Overall Themes:

#### Question #1: What are priorities for youth?

- Youth are looking for more employment opportunities
- Youth want to see more outdoor green spaces where they can spend time, including outdoor covered areas
- Youth are seeking indoor spaces free of cost to hangout in our community
- Youth would like to see more inclusive initiatives to support social diversity
- Transportation is a barrier to participating in activities
- Increased mental health supports are needed
- Youth are seeking more environmental education
- Youth are looking for more opportunities and programs to be involved in
- Increased art opportunities within our community.

#### Question #2: What do you like about where you live?

- Youth appreciate the arts and culture that exists in Revelstoke, including the character of our architecture.

- The trails and green spaces create easier transportation and places for youth to exist.
- Youth feel safe within our town
- Youth enjoy outdoor activities and easy access to nature within our community

### Question #3: What would you like to see in our future?

- Increased access to local food
- Growth of local businesses
- Affordable living and housing options
- Revelstoke continues to value its history and architecture
- Indoor and outdoor spaces for youth, including park pavilions and indoor space with couches and Wi-Fi

## Youth Input Survey September 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 291 Surveys Completed

- Youth Liaison presented on Stoke Youth Network and distributed surveys during homeroom blocks to grades 8-12
- On Tuesday September 12th grade 8, 9 & 10 completed the survey. There were 138 participants total.
- On Tuesday September 19th grade 11 & 12 completed the survey. There were 291 participants total.

**STOKE YOUTH NETWORK** Youth Input Survey

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

What lunch program/s would you attend?

☐ Drop In Sports ☐ Rainbows & Allies ☐ None

☐ Environmental Action ☐ Games Group ☐ Other Idea? (Please specify)

Team \_\_\_\_\_

What afterschool/weekend opportunities would you like to have? Provide specific examples on the line.

☐ Outdoor/Sports \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Arts \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Games \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Tech \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Leadership \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Job Readiness/Experience \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like about being a youth in Revelstoke?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is missing for youth in Revelstoke?

\_\_\_\_\_

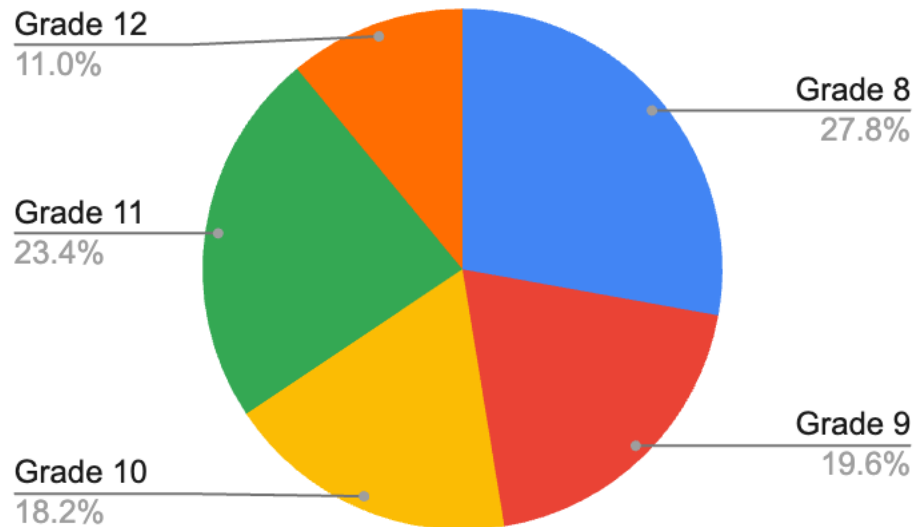
What challenges are there for you as a youth in Revelstoke? (Transportation, affordability, youth-friendly space, employment, activities, gender-specific challenges, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your input!  
Stay in touch with school and community events through the Stoke Youth Networks' social media.

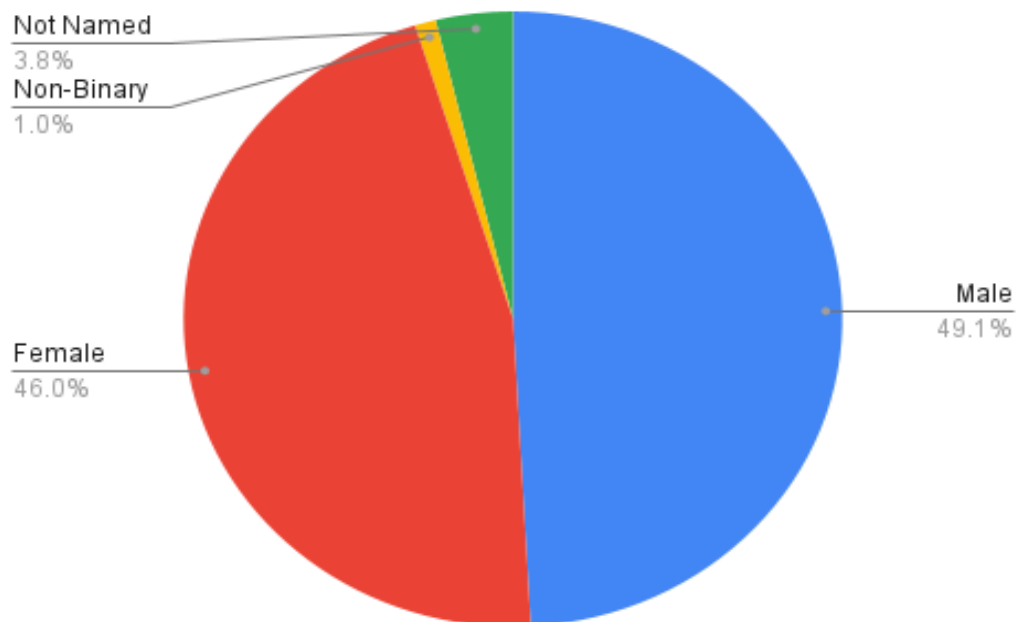
### Question 1: What grade are you in?

#### Participants



### Question 2: What is your gender?

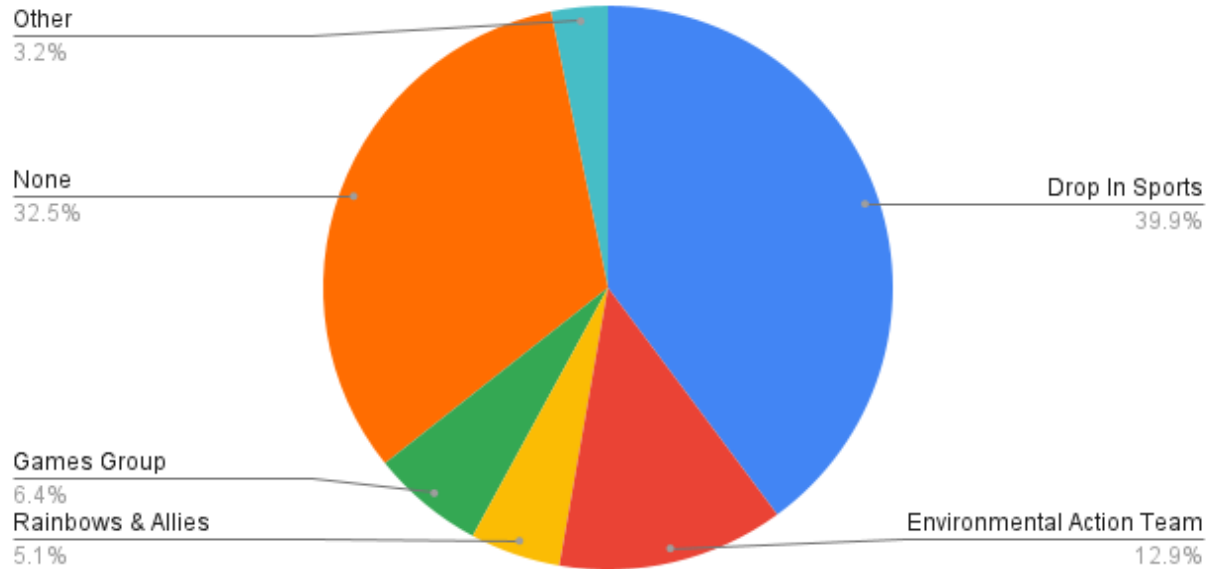
#### Participants



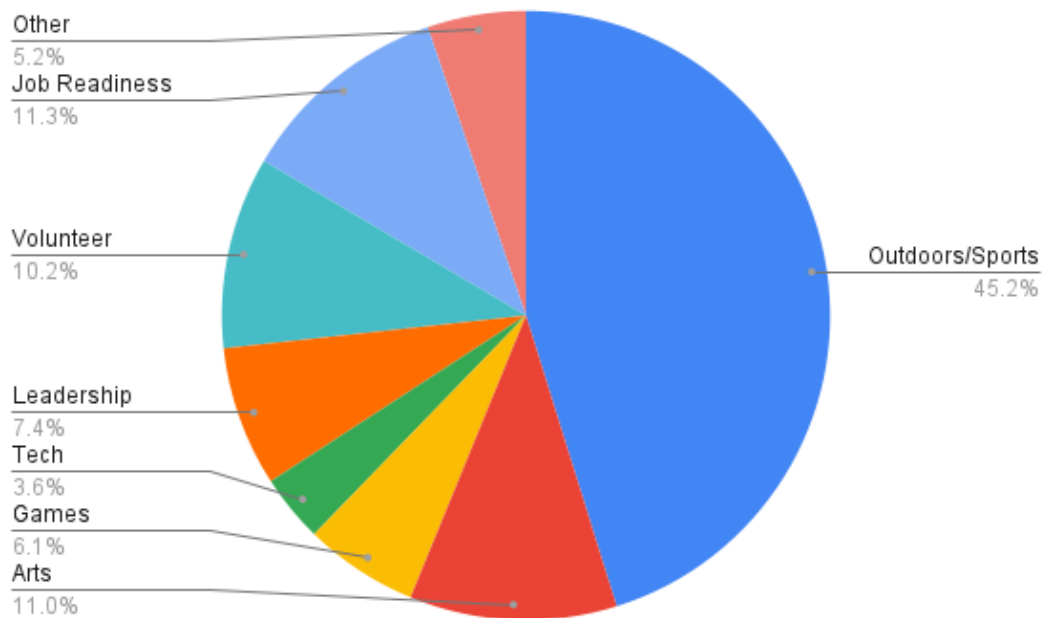


### Question #3: What lunch programs would you attend?

#### Votes



### Question #4: What afterschool/weekend opportunities would you like to have?



**Question #5: What do you like about being a youth in Revelstoke:**

- Outdoor activities such as skiing, biking, hiking, etc.
- School and community sports
- Access to nature and the outdoors, such as the lake
- Biking and walking accessibility
- Feeling safe
- The sense of community
- Having increased independence and freedom

**Question #6: What is missing for youth in Revelstoke?**

- Increased outdoor activities and specific sports, such as football and softball
- Increased art activities such as painting, drawing and photography
- Facilities, such as an arcade, bowling, pumptrack and a mall

**Questions #7: What challenges do you have as a youth in Revelstoke?**

- Many youth stated that they do not have challenges living in Revelstoke
- Transportation is a challenge for youth to get around, especially in the winter when they cannot ride bikes. Transportation to areas such as upper arrow heights, airport way and the ski hill were named as challenging. Youth would like to see free bus passes or a public bike/scooter share.
- Affordability including food, clothes, transport, and costs associated with activities are a challenge for youth
- Receiving timely and affordable mental health support
- Restrictions to volunteer as a youth
- Opportunities to develop skill set for diverse employment options
- Connecting to peers and making friends

**Stakeholder Input****January 15th – January 30th, 2024**

The Youth Initiative Committee was set for January 30th 2024, inviting youth stakeholders to set priorities for youth 12-18 in Revelstoke.

- An email invitation was sent to you a list of community members, created by YAC, inviting them to the YIC meeting on January 30th and requesting input. More specifically, community members were asked to provide a maximum of 3 priorities that they have identified for youth in Revelstoke, including existing priorities, or gaps in programming, resources, and support.
- YIC posters were posted in various locations around the community, including the Community Center, Save On and RSS.
- Multiple social media posts were made on SYN social media, sharing the event with the community.
- Announcements were made at RSS to encourage youth to attend.
- Youth from the RSS Leadership Team, Environmental Action Team and YAC were invited to attend.



## Youth Advisory Committee January 29th, 2024

On January 29th YAC met for their regular meeting. During this meeting, the committee reviewed the priorities identified by youth and community members to consolidate the list for the YIC meeting.

Priorities identified:

- Remove financial barriers
- Transportation
- Sports and outdoor programming
- Art programming
- Youth-friendly spaces
- Youth Centre
- Mental health supports
- Volunteer and employment

- Leadership opportunities
- Food accessibility
- Collaboration of youth sports organization
- Increased recreation facilities
- Volunteers and staff for youth programming
- Environmental initiatives
- Inclusion Initiatives
- Consent and healthy relationships
- Opportunities to experience life outside of Revelstoke

# What We Heard

## **Youth Initiative Committee Meeting January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 8:30am-10:30am**

18 people attended the YIC meeting, including 1 youth and 17 youth stakeholders. The objective of the meeting was to:

- Review youth-related progress
- Explore challenges and successes
- Set priorities for youth 12-18 in Revelstoke to guide efforts
- Create community collaboration for youth in Revelstoke



## Highlights from Stoke Youth Network 2019-2024

### Community Collaboration

Partnerships with businesses and organizations in town allow us to offer diverse programming out of different spaces. We reach a variety of kids with differing interests! Office hours at RSS foster space for relationship building, connection, and outreach.

### Afterschool & Weekend Programming

These youth-led initiatives range from learning to snowboard to spending a day canoeing on the Columbia River! We listen to what youth are missing and create connections to try and make it happen.

Our Take Off Snowboard Camp is a prime example. Youth and their families \ shared that the cost to participate in snow sports was too high and an increasing number of young people were unable to participate. Partnering with Revelstoke Mountain Resort, the Snowboard Club and community donors, we were able to supply youth with gear, lessons, and vertical passes so they could have the opportunity to snowboard.



### Increased Arts Programming

Revelstoke has a plethora of outdoor activities, however, we are hearing that youth are looking for more arts-based options. Partnerships with Arts Revelstoke, the Visual Arts Centre, the Idea Factory and Revelstoke Secondary



School have allowed us to offer programs such as a Digital Art Workshop, Musical Chair Project, Youth Art Nights, and one of most popular programs, Pottery Club.

### Leadership Opportunities

Youth have requested more leadership opportunities. The Leadership Journey, the Youth Advisory Committee, the Environmental Action Team, capstone projects, and partnerships with the RSS Leadership Class are all avenues that SYN is supporting youth making a difference in their school and community.

### Educational Opportunities and Skill Development

Providing educational opportunities to develop skills is a priority for young people. Partnering with Okanagan College, we've offered Youth First Aid courses at a more affordable rate to limit barriers to getting certified. Another popular course for youth is the Avalanche Skills Training so youth can experience the outdoors safely. This has been ran in partnership with various agencies, including Selkirk Tangiers, CAPOW, Open Mountains, and Revelstoke Mountain Resort.



### Youth Access Fund

The Youth Access Fund was established in 2014 and provides financial support to youth 6-19 so they can participate in sports, recreation, arts, and cultural activities of their choice. The demand for the fund continues to increase annually, supporting 92 youth in 2023 and dispersing over \$16, 000.

## **Successes and Challenges**

During the YIC meeting, the group was asked to reflect on successes and challenges for youth in Revelstoke OR as stakeholder who works or interacts with youth. This was an opportunity to share experiences on what is working and identify the current challenges.



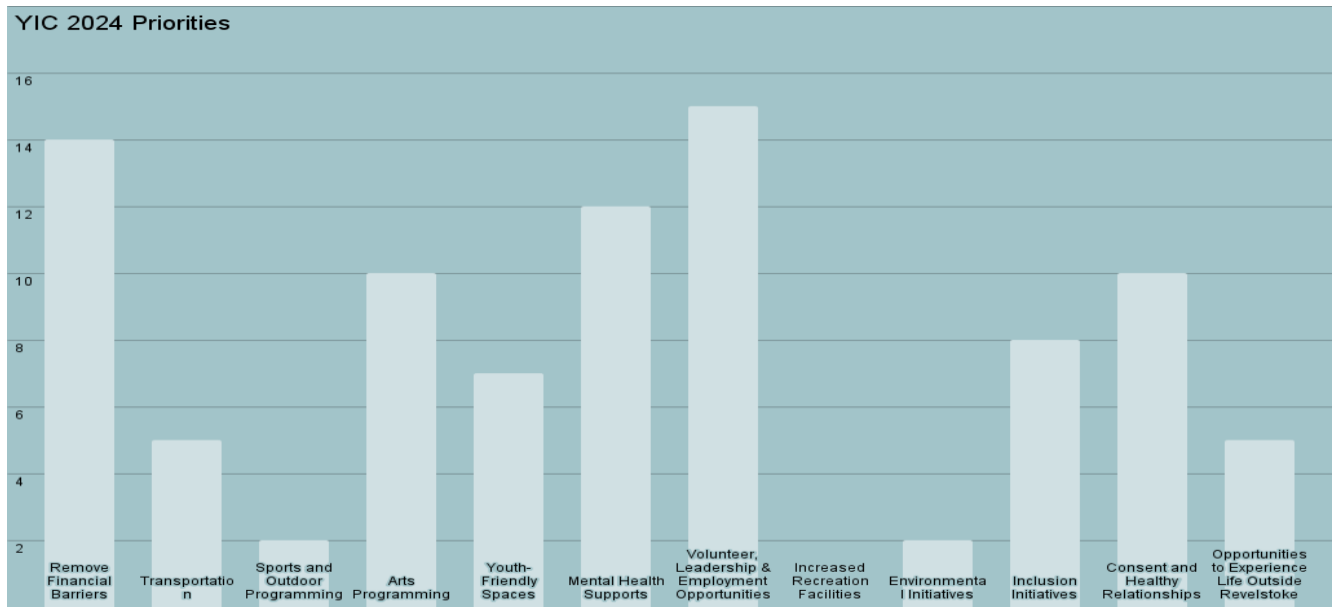
## Setting Priorities

To narrow down the priorities identified by youth and stakeholders, an activity called “Narrowing the Scope” was used to identify the impact versus effort. Using a numeric scale of 1-5 each member was asked to rank each priority on potential impact and amount of effort, including cost. This created an impact/effort scale that could be used to guide votes. Each member was then able to vote on their top 5 priorities.

Below are the top priorities identified from highest to lowest. When votes were tied, the impact-effort scale was used to rank the priorities.

| RANK      | PRIORITY  | VOTES     | IMPACT/EFFORT SCORE |
|-----------|---|-----------|---------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>VOLUNTEER, LEADERSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>136</b>          |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>REMOVE FINANCIAL BARRIERS</b>                          | <b>14</b> | <b>129</b>          |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS</b>                             | <b>12</b> | <b>123</b>          |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>ARTS PROGRAMMING</b>                                   | <b>10</b> | <b>132</b>          |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>CONSENT AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS</b>                  | <b>10</b> | <b>129</b>          |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>INCLUSION INITIATIVES</b>                              | <b>8</b>  | <b>135.5</b>        |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES</b>                              | <b>7</b>  | <b>125</b>          |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>TRANSPORTATION</b>                                     | <b>5</b>  | <b>113</b>          |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE OUTSIDE REVELSTOKE</b>          | <b>5</b>  | <b>104</b>          |
| <b>10</b> | <b>SPORTS AND OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING</b>                     | <b>2</b>  | <b>136</b>          |
| <b>11</b> | <b>ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES</b>                          | <b>2</b>  | <b>121</b>          |
| <b>12</b> | <b>INCREASED RECREATION FACILITIES</b>                    | <b>0</b>  | <b>97</b>           |

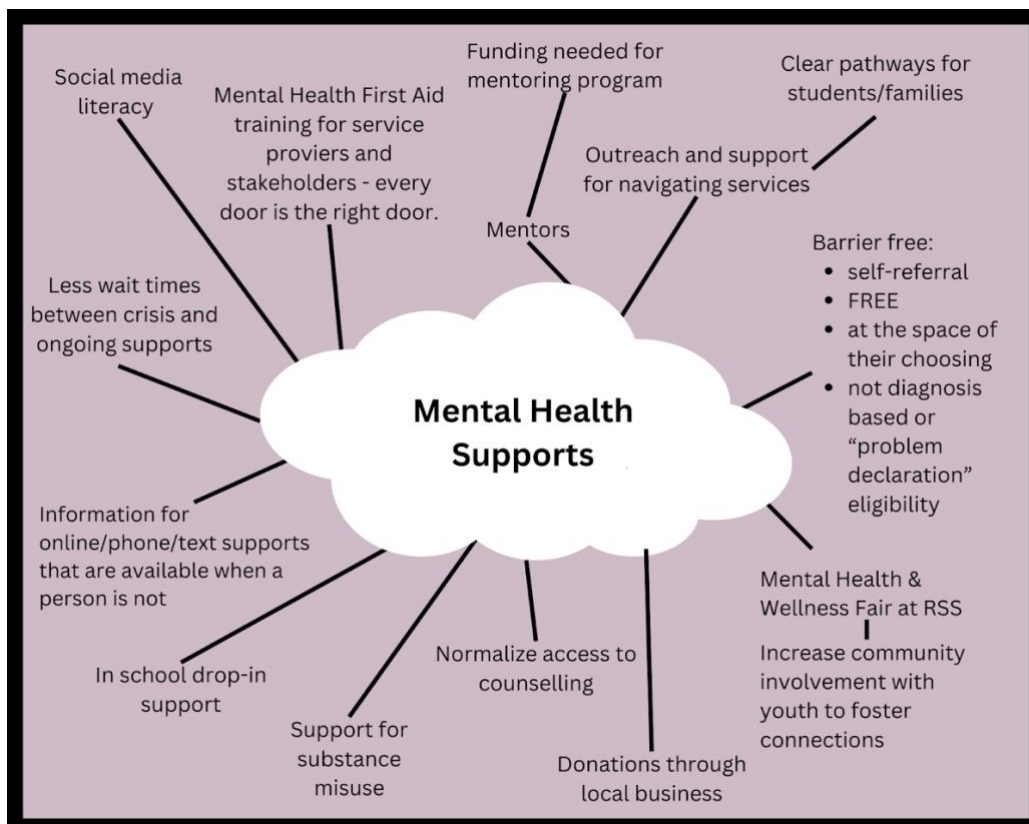
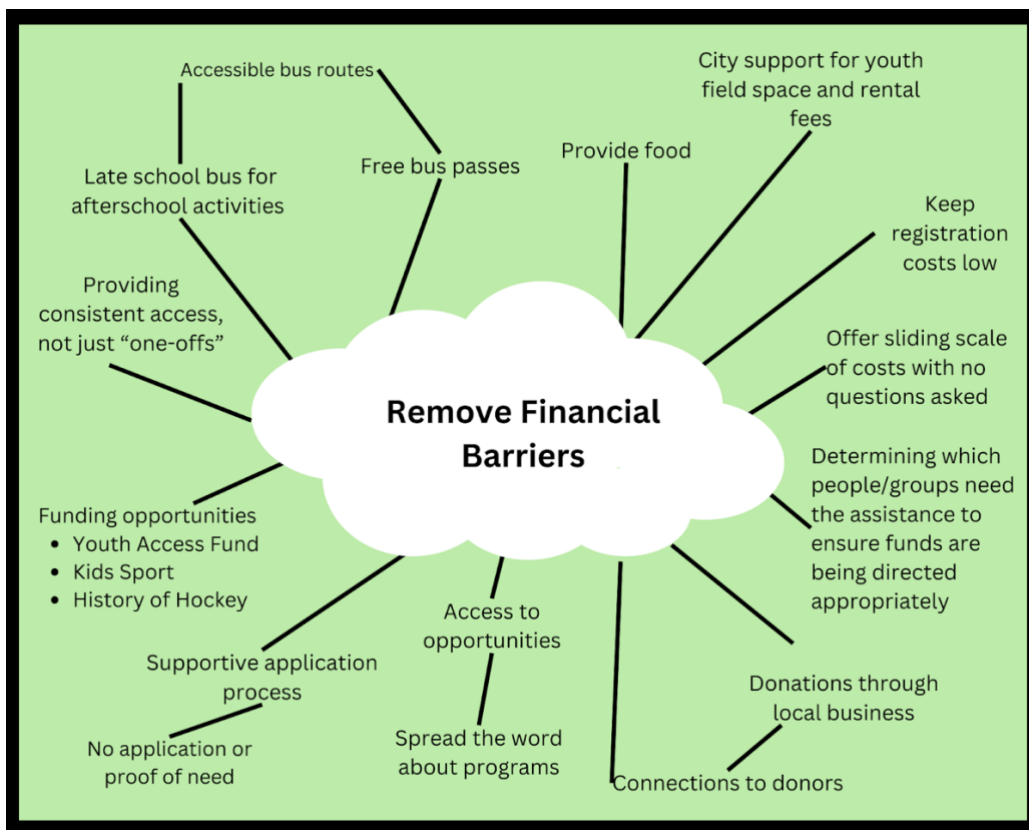


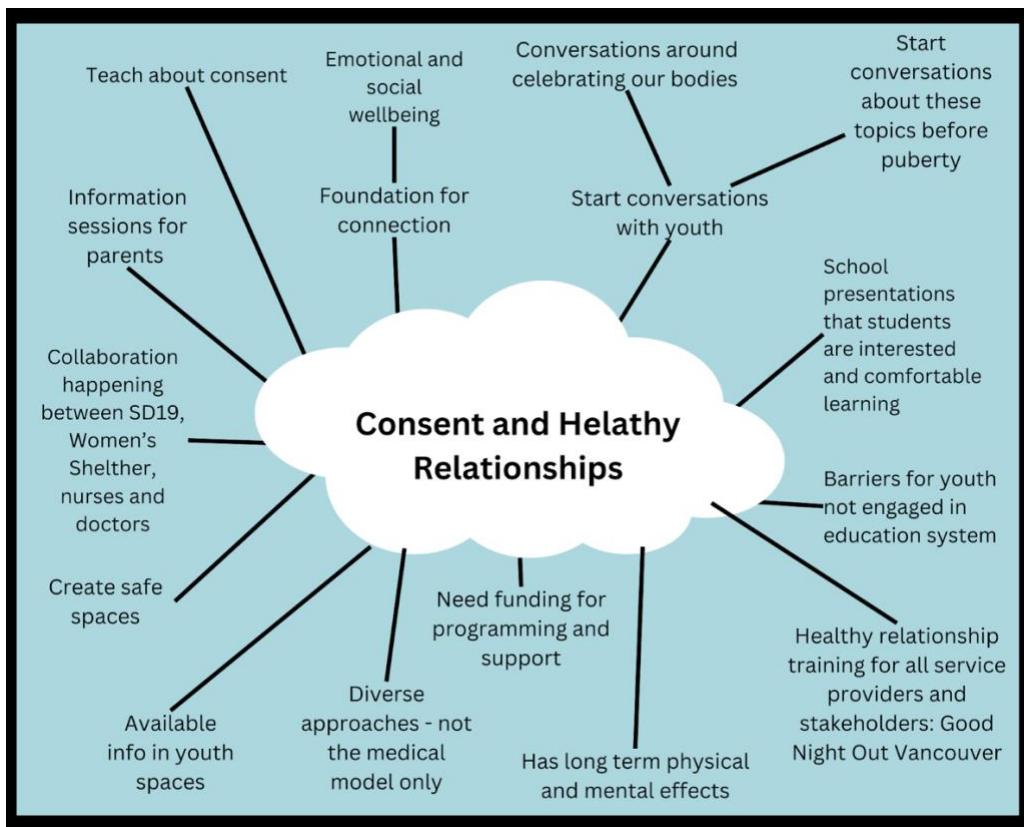
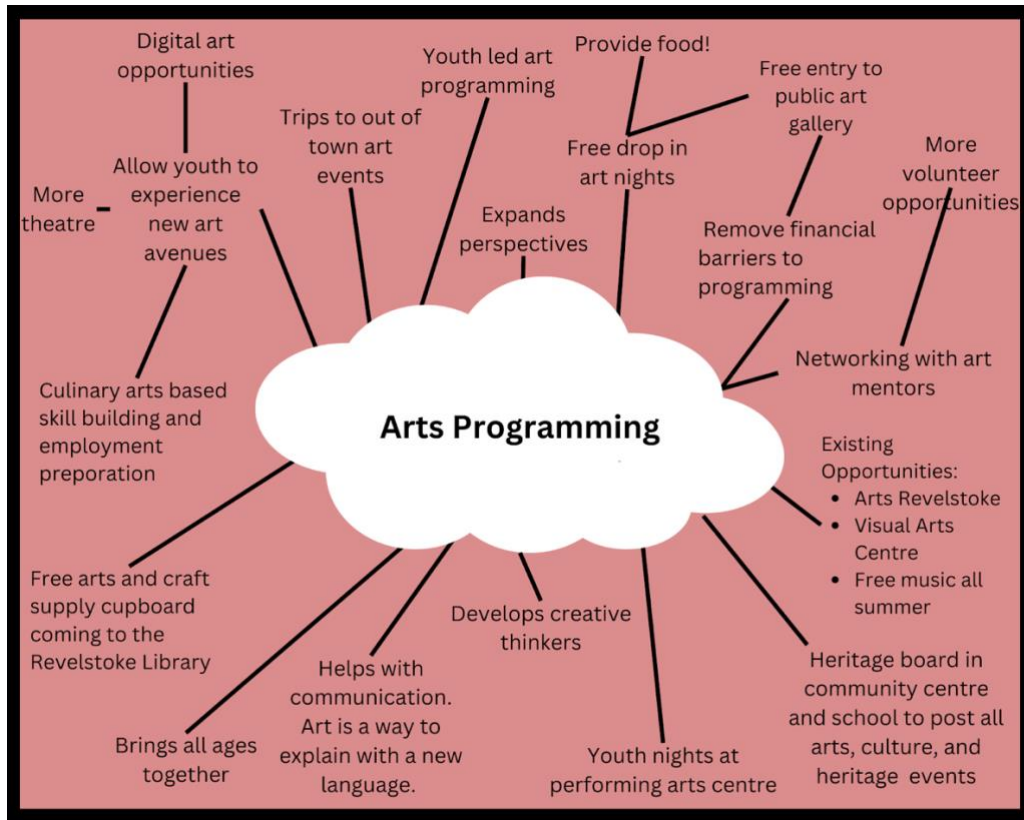


## Putting Priorities into Actions

The top 5 priorities identified were explored in depth with the group. Everyone was asked to identify things that are going well, gaps and barriers, and possible solutions.







# Next Steps

This document can be used to review priorities for youth 12-18 in Revelstoke. Outlining our top priorities can assist stakeholders in determining what youth are asking for and how to best guide our efforts to support them. Stakeholders can refer to this document for areas of action and to review future progress.

This document can be shared with the community to outline the needs of our young people to create better support for the youth of Revelstoke.

