

Youth Services Review

August 20, 2025

Regular Council Meeting

What we currently do:

- 1 FT and 1 PT staff member
- Community Youth Room @ Chemainus Secondary
- Summer drop in program @ Crofton
- Various recreation programming @ CAC & FLA
- Skill building workshops

History

- Prior to 2010- contract with CVRD
- 2010 – MNC focus on youth outreach vs programs
- 2015 – partnership with SD79
- 2023 – Crofton Community Centre summer centre

Why a review?

- Environmental scan of youth services in MNC & Cowichan Valley - what are the needs?
 - *Anecdotal vs. evidence based*
- Proactive/strategic approach to service delivery
- Opportunity to enhance existing services & where possible

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Post COVID – are we still meeting the needs

What we did:

- 2 phase approach
 - *Phase 1: Data Collection (Oct .23-Apr. 24)*
 - *Phase 2: Engagement (May – Nov. 24)*

Integrated Findings – research & engagement input:

- Validation of existing youth service gaps
- Limited services in Crofton
- Need for Indigenous Focused Programs
- Youth services unevenly distributed geographically
- Poor extracurricular engagement
- Technology access and economic barriers
- Desire for a youth centre

Recommendations

1. Feasibility for a Youth Centre Model
 1. *Permanent, mobile, integrated youth network*
2. Enhance culturally relevant and inclusive programming
3. Improve transportation options for youth

Next Steps:

- Report to Council (information only) Aug. 20, 2025
- Build service enhancements into 2026 Business Planning