



youth project

Annual Report 2017/2018



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2017/18 Chairperson Report



The Youth Project would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq Wəlastəkwiyyik (Maliseet), and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

Welcome, everyone, to the Youth Project's 2018 Annual General Meeting. While it's hard to believe another year has passed us by, it's wonderful to be able to take a moment and reflect on the busy and impactful year that the YP has had within communities across Nova Scotia. Today, the Board of Directors is thrilled to honour and recognize the dedicated work done by staff, youth and volunteers. The deep sense of community that exists within the YP – and extends across this province – would not exist without any of you.

Our dedicated 2017/2018 volunteer board consists of Lyle Quinn (Chair), Steven Butler (Vice-Chair), Donna McLean (Treasurer), Kirk Furlotte (Secretary), Emily Comeau (Youth Board Co-Chair), Caden Hebb (Youth Board Co-Chair), Alice Kitz, Rosie Porter, Jordan Zarvie, Kym Sweeney and Michael McGinnis. We would like to sincerely thank outgoing board member Michael McGinnis, and past board member Marion Brown, for their dedication, enthusiasm and passion over the course of their time with the YP. We would also like to recognize the engaging work that the Youth Board has accomplished over the course of the last year, and will no doubt continue as we move into our local Pride season.

The board would like to recognize the many donors and partners who, through their generosity, allow us to fulfill our mandate to the LGBTQ2I+ youth of Nova Scotia. Generous donations and partnerships allowed for us to host another wildly successful auction and brunch in November 2017 (our largest fundraising event of the year), providing funding for our two camps this summer and related programs. This is one of many examples of how donors and partners have a direct and positive effect on queer youth in our province.

Moving forward as an organization, I believe that our future is bright. As we continue to celebrate our 25th anniversary in 2018, we remain focused on the continued growth of the Youth Project, supporting all staff, and reaching additional queer youth in rural areas who are struggling with issues around sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I would like to again thank all youth, staff, volunteers, donors and community members – without you all, the YP would not be able to reach (and exceed!) its goals. The incoming board looks forward to building off of the momentum from this past year.

Yours in solidarity,

Lyle Quinn

Chairperson, Youth Project

(on behalf of the Youth Project Board of Directors)

Youth Board Report 2017-18

Hello everyone! We've had a busy year as a Youth Board with lots of events, changes in structure and new faces! For the second year in a row, we have been running continuously at full member capacity! In the past few months we have been taking a critical look at our programming to ensure we are supporting our youth as best we can and our events are meeting the needs of the youth that we support.

As usual, the Youth Project had an eventful summer full of events for Pride and with our youth camps! We kicked off last summer with a very cool 50s sock hop theme for Queer Prom. As one of our most anticipated events of the year, the dance floor was packed with youth! There was an amazing turn out and a great time was had by all.

Pride, as usual, was jam packed with a multitude of events! We kicked off the festival with a youth dance on the Garrison Grounds. As a change up to the usual structure, the Pride Parade was held on the first Saturday of the festival. Our float theme this year was "Queer has always been here" and many youth showed up to help decorate the float and march with the Youth Project. The float showcased some of the history of the queer community to compliment our 50s sock hop prom theme. On July 26th there was the Halifax Trans March, attended by many Youth Project youth and staff, as well as members of the community. There were concerts and drag shows and so much fun and positive energy! Members of the Youth Board and YP staff also walked in the Truro Pride Parade.



Camp Seahorse and Camp Coyote last summer were both successes! Our camps are always filled to capacity with a mix of new youth and youth who attend year after year as it is the highlight of their summer. We did lots of arts and crafts, went swimming, had a talent show, and did many other awesome activities together. Goodbyes were difficult but anticipation was already high for the summer 2018 camps.



In October we participated in Nocturne for the first time, hosting an art display, showcasing the talents of queer youth artists.

In honor of the Trans Day of Remembrance in November, every year roughly ten new tiles are added to our trans mosaic wall to honor and thank members of the community as well as well-known advocates for their contributions to making the world a safer and more

accepting place for transgender people. This year, we opened the vote to all Youth Project Youth instead of just the board, and received an overwhelming response. On November 29th, we unveiled the following new additions to the mosaic: Oliver Oldfield, Dr. Mokashi, Erin Poirier, GC2B, Sammi Gegan, Laura Shepherd, Stef Sanjati, Tom Phelan, Caden Hebb, and Hope Salmonson. More information about these nominees can be found on the Youth Project's website!

Once again, we had a booth at Hal-Con! We were asked by the organizers to design all-gender washroom signage for the convention, and we had a blast brainstorming! Our youth were a huge help to the YP staff in selling an assortment of pride buttons! This also gave youth a chance to check out the convention while volunteering!

With November rolling in, we had our annual auction and brunch! We had a solid Youth Board presence in attendance to help out. The Youth Board helped set the tables, show off the auction items, and clean up after the event. As usual, Neville MacKay was a fantastic auctioneer and got

participants exciting for all the awesome auction items. It was a very successful afternoon and the money we raised at the event will go to running this year's summer camps for our youth.

In March we had our annual Youth Board Retreat at Brigadoon Village. This is a dedicated time for the YB to plan out events for the next year and beyond. The retreat also featured our annual tradition of an Escape Room exercise created by the staff for the Youth Board to facilitate teamwork and strategic thinking. We had the pleasure of having the company of staff member Madonna from the Cape Breton Youth Project, and Dylan, one of the youth, who stayed with us for the weekend. We talked about the programming we would like to see for youth in the upcoming year and what kind of role the YB should be having in organizing and facilitating those events. All in all, it was a very successful and fun weekend!



Our annual GSA conference was a hit as usual! For the third year in a row, the conference was held at Dalhousie University. We were (and still are!) so enthused that Lush had chosen to sponsor the conference. Our keynote speaker was Rae Spoon, a non-binary singer-songwriter from Alberta. The conference was well-attended and featured many educational panels as well as a drag show. As usual, fun was had by all, thanks to Lush, our staff, volunteers, and youth.



On behalf of the Youth Board, we would like to take a moment to thank all of you for your continued support and dedication to this wonderful organization that we call home. Without your commitment and belief in us, we would not be able to support queer youth province-wide or continue to advocate for the rights of LGBTQIAP2+ folks.

Thank you and all the best,

Emily and Caden

Youth Board Co-chairs

Executive Directors Report



It has been an exciting year for the Youth Project. We have seen major expansions in our services and have been reaching more queer and trans youth than ever before, as well as reaching record numbers of students through our education services.

Over the last two years we have had a focus on better serving youth in rural communities and smaller centres around the province and we have seen significant success in this area.

A highlight for the year was the opening of our Cape Breton location, with a physical space in Sydney and our full time staff person Madonna Doucette. This is a region with a great need for our services, so we are excited to have been able to expand the services we are providing to youth in the region.

It was a huge year for GSAs with Bria MacKinnon leading our GSA support efforts. We supported a major rebound in GSAs this year with numerous school visits, nine mini conferences and a full GSA Conference, as GSAs recovered from the challenges of the teachers labour dispute last year, when many GSAs were unable to operate. We also delivered queer focussed healthy relationship training through GSAs, designed and delivered by Leigh Heide.

It was also a record year for our education team of Hari Eswaran, Kate Macdonald, Gabriel Enxuga, Zane Sylliboy and Maddox Greene delivering hundreds of classroom workshops and professional development sessions, reaching thousands of people. Our education program is changing attitudes and in the long term we believe this is helping to create a more welcoming, affirming and just society.

Our support services led by Sheena Jamieson, were accessed by youth throughout the province in large numbers. Our individual support work is on the front lines of the huge growth in youth coming out as transgender or non-binary and looking for support, guidance or connection to the health system.

We have had extensive youth programming and events, both in Halifax and expanding throughout the province, with Skye Cross doing much of the organizing. The volunteer facilitated Valley YP saw record numbers and had to revisit programming and move locations, our Cape Breton expansion has allowed for greatly expanded programming in that region, and our Lunenburg drop-in with Leigh, is well established. Record numbers of youth attended camps and prom this year, and we had strong youth programming around Pride.

We have an exceptional team of knowledgeable and passionate people delivering this work, who go to extremes to make a difference for queer and trans youth. The large growth we have seen over the last year or two also brings challenges. The demands on staff have been extreme as we work to manage the growth, respond to the huge demand for our services and develop the appropriate structure and size of the team. In the work we do staff are constantly encountering and combatting homophobia, biphobia and transphobia, as well as racism. This is intensely impactful and draining for our staff, who are part of the community and are personally impacted. Despite the challenges staff have really stepped up and done an amazing job in delivering services and working towards our mission. **Thank you to all our staff for the challenging work you take on every day and the dedication you show in supporting our youth.**

Two of our staff, Maddox and Skye left for great opportunities during the year and we thank them for their contribution and wish them the very best. We also thank Kat Buchi, our summer student for her contribution.

Over the last year our Youth Board have been at capacity, with youth who want to be involved and help make us better and stay relevant. They have been invaluable in guiding our programming, including the addition of new programming for older youth and revamping some of our existing programming. **Thank you to our Youth Board for keeping us relevant and focused!**

We could not deliver the volume and quality of services that we provide without our dedicated team of volunteers who help in so much of what we do, facilitating youth groups, chaperoning prom, helping run camps, drag performances and so much more. Their willingness to provide their time, energy and fabulousness makes us a much better organization. **Thank you to all of our volunteers!**

To our funding partners and donors, thank you for seeing the huge value and the impact in the work we do, and for your faith in us to deliver on the important outcomes while providing value in our services.

And finally, **thank you to our Board**, for your work in supporting the organization.

Kate Shewan,
Executive Director

What we are seeing in the community:

Identity

- Huge growth in the number of youth coming out as transgender or non-binary.
 - Many are incorporating a medical component, such as hormone therapies or surgeries in their transition.
 - Local growth matches international reports of exponential growth in the numbers of trans youth accessing services.
- Around sexual orientation, youth are increasingly identifying outside of the gay/straight binary.
 - Higher numbers of youth identifying using labels such as bisexual or pansexual.
- Increasing numbers of youth are identifying somewhere on the asexual spectrum.
- We are seeing youth coming out at younger ages, and are receiving many support calls for younger queer and trans youth.

Challenges.

- Homophobia, biphobia and transphobia remain a daily experience in the lives of most queer and trans youth, particularly those in school settings.
- Homophobic slurs in common usage in most schools.
 - Commonly ignored by teachers who are uncertain how to respond.
 - Harassment of queer and trans students, sadly remains a common issue in schools.
- Schools generally don't recognize homophobia / biphobia / transphobia as a systemic issue and don't deal with it appropriately.
- Youth in rural communities face additional barriers from unsupportive community and a lack of knowledge.
 - Often school administration in rural communities are less supportive, fearing a backlash from their communities.
- We have seen issues around religious dogma, including parents who are unsupportive due to religion.
 - Currently dealing with a religious group bringing in "ex-gay" speakers talking about "overcoming homosexuality" through religion.
 - Conversely, we also see many welcoming and affirming faith organizations.

Youth Leadership

Queer and trans youth have overcome challenges and taken on leadership roles within their community

- GSA's such as ABMHS in Eskasoni are changing their schools and their communities.
- Youth are taking leadership roles in bringing Pride recognition to rural towns.
- Youth are taking on speaking and educating roles within their schools
- Our Youth Board is at capacity and is engaged, providing input, programming recommendations and organizing events.
- Youth speakers providing youth perspectives at multiple events
 - Department of Education consultations
 - Launch of the Trans youth health survey report
 - Training sessions for medical professionals providing transition readiness assessments.
 - Hosting workshops at GSA conference
- Youth Board members winning human rights award.

School Environment

- High level of knowledge around sexual orientation and gender identity amongst youth, particularly in urban schools.
- High demand for our education services. There is an awareness within schools that they need to educate in this area, but this does not necessarily translate into buy-in and support.
- There is still resistance around discussing sexual orientation and gender identity in some schools even when the topics are included in the required curriculum.
 - Some schools still sending home permission slips and we have seen parents pull their children from class when we are presenting.
- GSAs are a vitally important support for LGBTQ2+ students in schools.
 - Strong recovery in GSAs this year, following last year when the labour dispute and work to rule saw many GSAs collapse. There has been particularly strong growth in GSAs in rural areas, which is a very positive change.
- Other supports within schools is often lacking.
 - Guidance counsellors often lack the knowledge of support structures that could help youth, and lack knowledge around system navigation, when youth are accessing the health system.
- Poor understanding of policies around supporting trans youth, which can lead to incorrect decisions being made and un-necessary stress for youth.
- Lack of training of teachers.
 - Most teachers not comfortable discussing sexual orientation or gender identity.
 - Still seen as a separate lesson, and is not something that is reflected and embedded throughout the lessons.

Health issues

- Queer and trans youth tend to have higher than average experiences of mental health concerns, such as anxiety, depression etc.
 - Not surprising given the experience of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. We would certainly like to see improved services in this area.
- Access issues for LGBTQ2+ healthcare.
 - Long waitlists for trans youth accessing medical transition.
 - Challenges accessing testing for sexually transmitted and bloodborne illnesses (STBBI's), and in accessing preventative healthcare such as PrEP.
- School health nurses are an important health service for LGBTQ2+ students, however staffing issues in this area has reduced availability of these services.



Report on services. (How we are working towards our mission of making Nova Scotia a safer happier healthier place for LGBTQ2+ youth)

Youth Social Support Programming and events

Youth programming is one of our core offerings, and with our focus on reaching youth in smaller centres and rural communities, we have expanded the programming to multiple locations in the province. The Youth Board provides key input into the programming that we undertake, to keep us relevant and meeting the needs of youth, over the last year with their input, we have discontinued programming which was no longer popular and introduced new programming, such as our older youth program. We are excited to currently be recruiting for a position which will be focused on our youth programming, with the intention of refocusing, revitalizing and bringing a coordinated approach to our programming offerings and program volunteer coordination.

Currently we are offering the following monthly youth programming:

Halifax: Brunswick Street location.

- Drop-in nights. Activities and hang-out space, Often themed and often with food.
- Transformers. Discussion group for trans and non-binary youth.
- Older youth drop-in. Group for 19-25 year olds.
- Games nights
- Fitness programming (Until the end of June)
- Parent and family group. Support for parents and adult family members.

Connect the Dots: Drop-in and discussion group in partnership with Libraries

- Sackville
- Woodlawn (Dartmouth)
- Spryfield
- Keshan Goodman (Clayton Park)
- Musquodoboit Harbour (On hold due to renovations)
- Truro – New

Cape Breton – Sydney Location

- Drop-in
- Transformers
- Parent and family group

Valley Y.P. New Minas

- Drop-in (twice a month), see VYP report.

Lunenburg

- Drop-in (Bi-weekly)

Special Events

In addition to our monthly programming we offer a number of special events, including Camps, Queer Prom and multiple events around Pride.

Our camps are possibly the programming that we hear the best feedback with regards to impact, increasing confidence, building social networks and having fun! This year camps were open to youth aged 13 to 20. Both Camp Seahorse (for LGBTQ2+ youth and allies) and Camp Coyote were at capacity. Between the two camps we had 89 campers. Thanks again to Camp volunteers for creating an amazing experience.

Queer Prom moved to a larger venue and hosted over 400 youth who gathered, connected and danced in a space where they felt comfortable, welcomed and affirmed. They were able to dress the way they wanted and bring the partner they wanted and feel like part of a community connecting with hundreds of other youth. We are already into Prom season for 2018, and will be featuring three Queer Proms (Halifax, Sydney and Lunenburg)

Pride events are always a highlight, and every year we are privileged to see youth experiencing their first pride. The Youth Project provides youth events in a drug and alcohol free space, which is a vital part of the Pride festival, since many other events do not happen in spaces accessible to youth.

Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) update.

This year we saw a major rebound in GSAs, after many had faltered due to the work to rule last year. Many GSAs were looking for support in re-establishing themselves and we spent 112 hours in schools meeting with GSAs to support them, share ideas and best practices. The need for GSAs in school is evident with the enthusiasm in which youth have been working to restart their most treasured club. This is especially true of rural GSAs who really shined in the Safer Schools Initiative program. This is also supported by research that clearly finds that GSAs improve the school environment for all students.



GSA Safer Schools Initiative.

A major project this year was our GSA Safer Schools initiative, led by Bria MacKinnon, and supported by the Canadian Women's foundation. Thirty schools took part with over 150 youth participating in nine mini-conferences (two of which happened in the new fiscal year) across the province. These conferences set out to give support to GSAs and a chance to network with other schools, share ideas, build connections and develop programs together.

The program was a huge success, with extremely good feedback from participating schools. We believe we hit our mark with a youth dance taking part in Yarmouth with three schools attending and a pride week in Wolfville and Kings County Academy schools where students from other schools attended. We have also heard of poster campaigns and education for youth by youth come out of the brainstorming activities. From this program we have learned that the greatest benefit to rural schools is to feel connected, where urban schools are more in need of action ideas and planning help. We hope to continue this program next year focusing more heavily on the rural schools.

The 8th Nova Scotia Gender and Sexuality Alliance Conference: UNITY

Our annual provincial Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) conference, UNITY had 300 attendees. This was our biggest conference yet! Our keynote speaker was, author and musician, Rae Spoon. Rae spoke and shared their musical talent with our very excited youth. Over the course of the day we saw youth and advisors learning about Queer History, Intersectionality, Tie Dyeing, Two-Spirit identity, Poetry, and YMCA Immigrant Services.



Bria MacKinnon
Community Engagement
Coordinator



Support Services Report

Navigating Systems, Strategizing and Advocacy

We have received consistent requests all year from youth with unsupportive parents or home environment. Many youth find their parents, guardians or family think of their identity as a phase or attention-seeking, and dismiss any requests they have for support.

An additional element of support this year has been assisting incarceration spaces with their new housing policies re: gender identity, including jails and prisons. The parameters for remanding someone are now inclusive of gender identity, with the potential for transgender women held in women's facilities (at this time we're not aware of any transgender men within men's facilities). We have been working alongside colleagues from non-profit organizations helping those in conflict with the law, like the Elizabeth Fry Society, so transgender women in prisons can access items they need and options for support. There is also a relationship between their offenses and the need to fund a transition, cope with transphobia, or do what they can with limited resources available to them. The role of poverty and transphobia becomes clear quickly.

We hear from youth within the "less common" population groups within the LGBTQ community, who are looking for strategies on how to explain the language better to others. This includes asexual, pansexual, genderqueer and non-binary folks who cannot find resources or examples to point to in helping others understand their experiences. We've added discussion groups at the GSA Conference for these communities to better connect them together.

Persistent and targeted bullying of LGBTQ2+ youth continues to be a part of youth's lives on a consistent basis. Homophobic and transphobic slurs are a common, sometimes daily, experience.

Our Gender Affirming Items program is going strong, with approximately 7-10 new requests per week for chest binders and gaffs, and over 150 requests fulfilled this year. Most are sent through the mail, and are the only point of access most youth have for these items. More than once I have visited a school or community location to fit someone for a binder, and experience a youth cry from happiness at finally having access.

System navigation is also a common part of my role, but this year I've been providing lots of information and strategy to teachers, health nurses and healthcare practitioners. We have more allies within Health, Education and Justice systems who are keen to support and help, but are not sure of what pathways to follow to get there. This includes things like hormone therapy assessments, surgical referral letters, details around chest binders and more.

COMING OUT! Forever a common topic, coming out continues to be a milestone in the lives of LGBTQ youth. I explore it in almost every support session, and get to talk about strategy, planning, communication, and self-esteem with youth who are planning on coming out. Often these are not youth who expect positive reactions, and need support in telling others.

Sheena Jamieson, Support Services Coordinator



Education Services Report.

Education is one of the primary services offered by the Youth Project. In the past year we have worked to streamline our education program which has allowed us to extend our reach further than ever. The classroom workshops and professional development sessions we provide help foster safer school, work, and community environments for LGBTQ2+ youth while also bridging the generational knowledge gap around conversations to do with gender and sexuality. We have a team of passionate and creative educators who have been developing customized workshops and education sessions that meet the specific needs of a wide range of community members. In particular, this past year we have made a targeted effort to reach rural communities and provide support to LGBTQ2+ youth across Nova Scotia.

Classroom Workshops

The aim of our classroom workshops is to facilitate a shift towards more positive and affirming school environments. In our classroom work with students we provide workshops that are customized according to grade level and the socio-political realities of each school. We work to create affirming and non-judgemental spaces that provide a sense of safety, growth, and self-reflection. Our approach to



conversations about gender and sexuality is one that insists these conversations cannot be relegated only to queer community spaces but must be taken up by everyone. We discuss terminology, share queer histories, and also work to provide tools for empathy building in order to foster a sense of shared struggle and create school communities where anti-homophobia and anti-transphobia are built into the fabric of the classroom environment.

Professional Development in Schools

Alongside classroom workshops for students we also provide professional development sessions to school staff and administrators. This is a vital part of shifting school environments to be more supportive and affirming spaces for LGBTQ2+ youth as much of the day to day support and navigation is done within the school environment. Much of this work consists of demystifying conversations around gender and sexuality and making them accessible to people very new to these concepts and discussions. Our workshops offer tangible tools to help them better support students and foster safer learning spaces, help them address particular issues or concerns at the school, offer scenario based training, and also offer resources that meet the specific needs of each staff team.

This year our program has been able to expand due to support and funding from the Department of Education. We have worked with the department of education on a number of different projects, including consultation on training manuals for early childhood educators, navigating changes to power school, providing gender neutral washrooms in schools, as well as offering training to Student Support Workers and RCH Coordinators.

Completed Workshops

In the year 2017-2018 the Youth Project has completed a total of 505 hours of classroom workshops, 52 hours of professional development within schools, and 95 hours of community professional development. This brings the total number of education hours provided by the Youth Project staff to 758 hours, reaching over 16,000 people over the course of the year.

The staff at the Youth Project have worked tirelessly over the past year and we want to extend our thanks to their hard work as well as to the work of the youth, school administrators and community members who have worked with us to make it happen. We look forward to another exceptional year!

Hari Eswaran
Education Coordinator

Consultation and advocacy

The Youth Project has continued to be a trusted and sought after voice around LGBTQ2+ issues. Over the last year we have been involved in significant consultations with the Department of Education, including providing input for updates for early childhood education teacher manuals. This year we are also seeing the results of prior year consultations around gender inclusive washroom and change room designs, with a number of new schools or remodels incorporating the design changes.

We have been a sounding board for many organizations running camps, programs or services for youth who have a specific scenario they need help with, or are thinking into the future about how to make their spaces friendly and safe for LGBTQ2+ youth. This includes rethinking gendered spaces or programs, gender neutral washrooms, protecting confidentiality, positive LGBTQ2+ representation and more.

We ran a project to connect with LGBTQ2+ youth encountering homelessness and created a report documenting their experiences. We hope to leverage this information to work towards solutions to improving their experiences.

We have consulted with a number of shelter organizations as they work to make their spaces more welcoming and inclusive.

We have consulted with Human Rights Commissions at the Provincial and Federal level around changes to gender markers on I.D. documents and are awaiting results of this.



At the national level, our Executive Director served as a member of the Apology Advisory Council, which provided advice and counsel regarding content and wording of the Prime Ministers apology to the LGBTQ2+ community, which was delivered in November 2017.

We were delighted to host visits at the Youth Project from the Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, Marie-Claude Landry and from Randy Boissonnault, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on LGBTQ2 issues. On both visits our youth were able to discuss current issues with our influential guests.



We are currently participating as members of the Pride Health advisory committee and the East Hants Schools Plus advisory committee.

In the 2018/19 year we are currently involved in advocating for the cancellation of a Seventh Day Adventist church event involving “ex-gay” speakers who speak about how they “overcame homosexuality” through their faith. We are extremely concerned about the potential harm to youth from having these presenters speak.

Cape Breton report

We have been working in Cape Breton since the beginning of the 2017/18 fiscal year. The year began with Madonna, our Cape Breton Coordinator working from home with a focus on school visits, supporting GSAs and providing classroom workshops.

We were extremely excited to find a physical location in December, and celebrated with a grand opening in January. The opening was attended by many local organizations who were excited to have The Youth Project in Cape Breton. There was also positive media coverage of the event, and many excited youth!



Following the opening of the Cape Breton location, we have created three monthly social support type programs. A youth drop-in, Transformers, a discussion group for trans and non-binary youth and a Parent and Family group.



School based GSA support, classroom workshops and community education has also continued, with around 70 hours of classroom workshops, 25 hours of GSA support work and 30 hours of community education and support workshops.



A highlight in Cape Breton was the partnership with the Allison Bernard Memorial High School GSA in Eskasoni. We collaborated to support and build the GSA, and the GSA went on to great success in changing the culture in the school and the community, eventually winning the Lieutenant Governors Respectful Citizenship award. In the 2018 year we have already partnered with the GSA to run an indigenous GSA conference.

Madonna Doucette, Cape Breton Coordinator



Valley Youth Project Report

Drop In:

The Fall of 2017 saw a steady increase in the number of participants attending the Drop In sessions. The number of participants reached 36 per Drop In. We attribute this to the availability of free transportation, and an increased awareness of the Drop In amongst Valley youth, especially Middle and High School level students. The increased number of participants was taxing the space we were originally allocated at the Louis Millet Community Complex. To accommodate the increased numbers, the LMCC offered a second meeting room for our Drop In. Unfortunately this did not alleviate all the concerns due to the numbers of participants. At the December 6 Drop In, we facilitated an exercise to gauge the participants feelings about Drop In. We subsequently decided we required a different space configuration to accommodate the participants. Drop In was suspended until an appropriate location was secured. Drop In returned March 21, in the cafeteria of the NSCC Kentville campus, with a different format. No longer was a specific activity scheduled. Youth were invited to use any of the games and craft supplies, and socialize freely, still following the established Guiding Principles. Drop In continues to run the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, with a Summer hiatus from mid-June to mid- September. Drop In currently attracts 30-35 participants per session. Transportation to Drop In was provided for about 100 participants, plus transportation to the Queer Prom in Halifax, in the fiscal year.

Education:

VYP Volunteers continued to offer education workshops and presentations to schools, employers, and community groups. Over 200 participants attended education sessions. Sessions are itemized in the report.

VYP Team: Krista, Mylène and Tim

YOUTH PROJECT 2017-18

By the numbers...

505 HOURS

of classroom workshops:

136hrs Elementary

241hrs Junior High

128hrs High School

Reaching **12834**
students!

School PD Workshops:

52 hours

690 students

**Community
PD Workshops:**

95 hours

959 students

Total education:

758 hours

16,446 attendees

1144 students at

112 in-school GSA
support meetings

2017 GSA

Conference:

250 attendees

257 students at

7 GSA Mini-
Conferences

Queer Prom 2017:

420 Attendees

2017 Summer Camps:

89 Attendees

14 Monthly Youth Programs
with **189** avg.
monthly attendees

Financial Report & Statements

The following is an extract of the financial statements of The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Youth Project Society. Full sets of the audited financial statements are available as a separate package.

Financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNPO") as issued by the Canadian Accounting Standards Board.

For the 2017/18 fiscal year, The Youth Project reported revenues of \$462K and expenses of \$459K, achieving a small surplus of \$3K.

Revenues for the year showed an increase of \$110K, which was the result of increased grant funding. The increase was related to grants received for the Cape Breton expansion, increased education funding (part of which had been deferred from the prior year due to the work to rule) and project based funding from the sexual violence prevention strategy and the Canadian Women's Foundation.

The increase in revenue was utilized in additional salaries and benefits, primarily from the hiring of new education staff, and Cape Breton Staff. Additional travel costs were incurred as we executed on our plans to reach and serve youth in a larger geographic area of the province. Additional operating costs for the Cape Breton location were also incurred.

Financial statements are audited by PriceWaterhouseCooper(PWC). The audit report is attached to the full set of statements.



The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Youth Project Society
Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	347,537	198,667
Accounts receivable (note 4)	10,803	53,388
Prepaid expenses	5,936	7,270
	<u>364,276</u>	<u>259,325</u>
Property, plant and equipment (note 5)	<u>130,725</u>	<u>132,845</u>
	<u>495,001</u>	<u>392,170</u>
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	35,393	29,147
Deferred revenue (note 7)	278,513	181,761
	<u>313,906</u>	<u>210,908</u>
Deferred capital contribution (note 8)	<u>110,279</u>	<u>113,624</u>
	<u>424,185</u>	<u>324,532</u>
Net assets	<u>70,816</u>	<u>67,638</u>
	<u>495,001</u>	<u>392,170</u>
Commitments (note 11)		

Approved by the Board of Members

Director _____ Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these audited financial statements.

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Youth Project Society

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Revenue		
Grants – Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection		
Operation	90,000	90,000
United Way	65,470	59,200
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada	3,388	3,590
Grants- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	70,000	37,500
Other grants	155,449	82,000
Donations and other revenue	30,091	28,346
Auction	22,929	23,593
Pride events	1,782	2,845
Amortization of deferred capital contribution	3,345	3,484
Youth board fund raising	8,113	6,919
Workshops	11,784	14,769
	<u>462,351</u>	<u>352,246</u>
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	313,625	231,828
Youth services (note 9)	38,134	37,389
Fundraising	8,740	7,713
Bursary	500	500
General and administrative expenses		
Advertising and promotions	5,830	6,350
Board insurance	3,738	3,724
Materials and office supplies	4,941	4,925
Photocopying	4,674	3,410
Accounting and legal	3,201	3,199
Telephone, bank charges and interest	5,935	3,985
Staff development	4,240	4,660
Car rental and travel	25,276	11,870
Amortization of furniture and fixtures	855	–
Building (note 10)	39,484	33,417
	<u>459,173</u>	<u>352,950</u>
Excess revenue over expenses (expenses over revenue) for the year	3,178	(704)
Net assets – Beginning of year	67,638	68,342
Net assets – End of year	70,816	67,638

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these audited financial statements.

Thank You to our Funders and Supporters.

We believe the work we are doing at the Youth Project is critically important to the lives of LGBTQ2+ youth in Nova Scotia. This work would not be possible without the financial backing and shared commitment from our funders, supporters and our community. We are grateful for their shared commitment to supporting LGBTQ2+ youth.

Grant Funders



Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness



Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.



United Way
Halifax



United Way
Cape Breton



Prevention Innovation Grants. N.S.
Department of Community Services,
Sexual Violence Strategy.



2017 Brunch/Auction Fundraiser supporters.



Rosie Porter,
Royal LePage
Atlantic



