

**HALIFAX**

**Multi Service  
Centre for Youth  
Sackville**

Community Planning & Economic  
Development Committee

February 15, 2018

# Origins

February 23, 2017 motion of the Community Planning and Economic Development Committee:

THAT the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee waive the rules of order with respect to notice of motion and request a staff report outlining the benefits, opportunities and challenges of establishing a multi services youth Centre in Sackville that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Removal of barriers of access around mental and physical health (Goal 1.1)
  - Provision and implementation of various drop in programs (Goal 2.3)
  - Creation of youth services that are inclusive for all youth (Goal 2.2)
  - Design of physical spaces that are open and welcoming to youth (Goal 3.1)
  - Policies and best practices for service delivery of youth programs (Goal 3.3)
  - Use of partnerships to deliver on non-HRM programs and services
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- January 17, 2018 Regional Council Budget Committee - Motion approved to place \$65,000 in the parking lot for the Sackville Youth Centre pilot program

## Trends & Best Practices

- The delivery of programs and service for youth is moving to a decentralized collaborative model that is adaptable to fiscal and resource constraints.
- Youth program/service models and modes of delivery are by design, more flexible to allow for adaptations over the medium and long term.
- Several youth serving organizations across HRM and Nova Scotia, are reaching out to youth “where they are” and delivering services, when and how they are needed, in satellite locations, typically in schools or community centres or via technology.

## **Stakeholder Groups**

- Boys and Girls Club
- IWK Community Health Team
- Sackville Library
- The YMCA
- Laing House
- Parks and Recreation

# What Youth in Sackville Said

Reasons given for attending / participating in their chosen programs/activity, included:

- they were fed (all youth identified food as a reason for attending a program)
- they could hang out with their friends
- it was free

Reasons for not participating in a program included:

- no access to transportation
- age restrictions
- did not like or feel safe in the space or location
- too much was expected of them
- criteria for participation was too restrictive

Programs that the youth felt were lacking in Sackville included:

- cooking programs
- employment programs
- tutoring
- mental health awareness

## Youth Centred Approach

Notably, neither youth consulted for the Youth Services Plan or those consulted for this report, identified a need for a multi service centre for youth, rather they spoke of the need for existing facilities and spaces to be more youth friendly. In this area, there is an alignment between the priorities identified by youth in the Youth Services Plan, and with the CFMP2 requirement that “consideration be given to existing, potential, planned and current facilities”.

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the Community Planning & Economic Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1) Subject to approval of funds in the 2018/19 budget, approve a one-year pilot project to establish a collaborative multi agency, multi service Youth Centre at Acadia School in Sackville, to be developed in three phases as outlined in the discussion section of this report.
- 2) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include:
  - An allocation of \$30,000 in the 2018/19 operating budget for Parks and Recreation to fund a 25 hour per week Project Coordinator position to oversee the pilot program;
  - A one time allocation of \$35,000 in the 2018/19 operating budget for Parks & Recreation for renovations and fit up costs.
  - An allocation of \$10,000 in the Building Operations budget for Corporate & Customer Services to fund janitorial services for the additional square footage.
- 3) Should funding for the pilot program be approved, direct the CAO to return to CPED with an evaluation report to determine future scope and funding for the program.
- 4) Direct the CAO to continue to seek opportunities to establish multi services youth centres in other areas of the municipality.

# Pilot Components

## Phase 1 (first 3 months)

### Development & building of the program

- Develop terms of reference for the Youth Centre Stakeholder Group.
- Complete renovations and fit up costs for expanded kitchen area, painting and floor repairs.
- Outline the expectations of the group as well as the role that the Stakeholder Group, will play in decision making process.
- Recruit youth to advise the Stakeholder Group
- Develop the program materials, resources, communication strategy, promotional materials
- Develop a youth outreach program
- Establish key performance indicators, refine and confirm evaluation protocol, including the collection process for quantitative and qualitative information
- Develop the program schedule for the pilot year

# Pilot Components

## Phase Two (over 9 months)

### Implementation Phase

- To involve youth in creating a youth friendly space, as well as a youth led-staff supported program to supplement / enhance programs and services offered through the stakeholder group
- Stakeholders to deliver core programs and services

## Phase Three (last 3 months)

### Evaluation and Report

- Evaluation and data collection
- Report findings

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**Thank You**