

Re: Item No. 11.1.6

# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Update for April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020



HALIFAX

# Youth Services Plan Update

- The Youth Services Plan (YSP) was created in 2016 for youth by youth.
- Successful Friendly Faces, Friendly Spaces training.
  - The interactive workshop provided practical skills on how to create youth friendly cultures and climates, within recreation facilities.
  - 105 Parks and Recreation staff participated in the training.
- The 3 year plan is due to be completed in 2020.
- Outreach and consultation has started for the next YSP.

# Parks & Recreation: Youth Program Section

- **The Power House Youth Centre**
  - Started drop in and leadership based programs in June 2019.
  - Successful programs offered were: free First Aid training, Dungeons & Dragons Night and Learn to Play guitar sessions.
- **Adventure Earth Centre**
  - The H.E.A.T. Youth Action Team collected over 17kg of food for Feed Nova Scotia
  - 20 past and current youth leaders participated in a planning session to ensure the high quality and magic of the earth education programs are maintained



# Parks & Recreation: Youth Program Section

- The Youth Live Program and the Youth Advocate Program developed special recruitment videos to directly target at-risk youth.
- Videos can be found on the municipality's YouTube channel.



# Youth Program Showcase

## Highlighted programs offered within the municipality:

- **Parks and Recreation:** Youth Leadership Program had over 500 youth participate during summer 2019.
- **Halifax Public Libraries:** Offered over 718 youth programs and have been providing welcoming spaces for youth.
- **Civic Events:** Hopscotch Festival brought together youth to celebrate the municipalities diverse music and youth community.
- **Halifax Regional Police:** Youth Program had 25 youth participate in the program in 2019.
- **Public Safety Strategy:** Twenty-nine actions in the Public Safety Strategy directly or indirectly, target youth.

# Youth Program Showcase

- **RCMP:** In 2019, 19 youth participated in the Stetsons & Spurs program.
- **Energy & Environment (Planning & Development):** In the creation of the municipalities climate action plan, HalifACT 2050, youth were identified as one of the key stakeholders for engagement.
- **Municipal Clerks Office:** Youth Advisory Council (YAC) held its first meeting March 21, 2019.
- **Partner Facilities:** Zatzman Sportsplex Teen Takeover program had an average of 250 youth showed up to each event.

# Multi-Service Youth Centre

- Multi Service Youth Centre pilot project named “The Den” by the youth, opened on December 3, 2018.
- To date, 188 individual youth have been regular participants at the centre, with an average drop in rate per day of 35.
- The Den participants ranged in age from 13 to 17 years old.
- A report on the pilot project will be coming to Regional Council in Fall 2020.

*“I like coming to The Den because the staff are supportive, I can be myself, laugh and have fun.”  
– Youth Participant.*



## Next Steps

1. Continue to provide an annual information report to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee (CPED) regarding trends, issues, best practices, and actions taken with respect to youth programming.
2. Begin to work on the second version of the Youth Services Plan, engaging multiple business units and youth during its creation.
3. Review the data collection process that informs this report and implement changes to make reporting more consistent across business units and within Parks and Recreation.
4. Present the Multi-Service Youth Centre report to Regional Council in Fall 2020



Thank you.

