
THE YOUTH EXCELLENCE SOCIETY

www.theyes.ca / 604-960-1377 / info@theyes.ca

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We acknowledge with gratitude that The YES operates on the unceded lands of the Ts'uubaa-asatx Nation, Lkwungen and WSÁNEĆ homelands as well as the Coast Salish Peoples homelands, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

2022 marked a return to normal for The YES and we were thrilled to be able to run six summer camps with the highest number of registrations since 2016. We hosted over 300 youth from across 85 BC communities at our site on Lake Cowichan. We build strong and transformative communities based on care, respect and cooperation, and youth went home with full hearts, new skills and new friends. We're looking forward to an even bigger summer in 2023 with seven camps, and the return of our Grad Camp for grade 12s. None of this could have been possible without the continued support of the co-op and credit union sector in BC who fuel all of the positive impacts we're able to make.

With the help of Co-operators, 2022 saw the expansion of The YES' newest program, called Media Club under the umbrella of The YES Leadership Academy. The Academy offers levels 1, 2 and 3 Leadership Certificates to honour the skill development, education and service projects completed by our YES program graduates through camps, Media Club programs, and other future offerings.

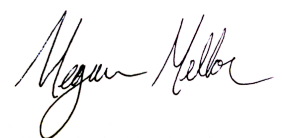
Once again, The YES was able to provide a number of school programs including leadership retreats for St Michaels University School, the Vancouver District School Board youth leadership cohort, Victoria Montessori School Graduates, and Claremont Secondary.

In 2023 we're looking forward to expanding our school and winter programs, and continuing to offer excellence in cooperative leadership training for youth. We continue to put the wellness and resiliency of BC's teens at the centre of our vision for a world where: *all teens belong to communities of care and respect that nurture their capacity for excellence.*

With excitement and gratitude,



Chelsea Lake
Executive Director



Megan Millar
Board Chair

THE YOUTH EXCELLENCE SOCIETY

The Youth Excellence Society (YES) is a charitable organization that provides exceptional leadership training to British Columbia's youth through the support of the province's co-operative and credit union movement. For over 45 years, the YES has been providing a unique learning experience for over 15,000 youth across BC. The YES creates communities where collective-care, inclusion, mental health, resiliency, and growth are supported and encouraged. Our largest program is our week-long summer camps, where skills training is offered to diverse teenagers in the areas of self-awareness, co-operation, communication, global awareness, environmental sustainability, inclusion and leadership. We also offer school workshops and courses through online and in-person facilitation.

Vision

All teens belong to communities of care and respect that nurture their capacity for excellence.

Mission

Through the development of cooperative leadership and self-worth, the YES builds inclusive communities where all youth thrive.



PROGRAM DELIVERY

In 2022, we offered programming to 565 teenagers and educators, with 313 teens attending our summer camp programs on Cowichan Lake on Vancouver Island. In our programs, youth are given an opportunity to bond with a loving community through talent shows, hikes and small group reflections. Youth can also expect to build co-operative leadership skills through transformational education, spend time in nature, and create life-changing and long-lasting friendships.

“ I didn't know that one week could change how I live and how I see the world. I found so many friends that gave me so much love and helped remind me that I am deserving of that love. This week I felt so many emotions and camp helped me let out everything that I've been holding in. I really am so happy I came here. ”
 - *Roots Participant, 2022*

85

BC COMMUNITIES

Teens from 85 different BC communities were able to attend The YES Camp. 31% of our participants self-identified as Black, Indigenous or as people of colour, 48% as LGBTQ2S+, and 53% as living with depression or anxiety. After completing our program, it was reported that:

- 86% of participants significantly improved their sense of self-worth
- 84% of participants significantly improved their communication skills
- 83% of participants improved their knowledge and understanding of how to be more inclusive



VOLUNTEER STAFF TEAM

Time and time again, our organization's strongest and most creative asset is our volunteer staff team. Our volunteers range in age, background, and experience. They are highly representative of the youth we serve, as many identify as BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ folks, and are leaders who understand anxiety, depression, and empathy from their own lived experience. With authentic role models, youth are able to see themselves easily as leaders and strive for excellence in values, relationships, and fundamental life skills.

Many of our volunteers return yearly to offer youth the same life-changing experience they themselves enjoyed. In 2022, The YES benefitted from 2555 volunteer hours, with an approximate value of \$45,990.

86%

OF STAFF ARE YES ALUMNI

- 16% are BC Teachers
- 27% work in schools
- 50% work with youth



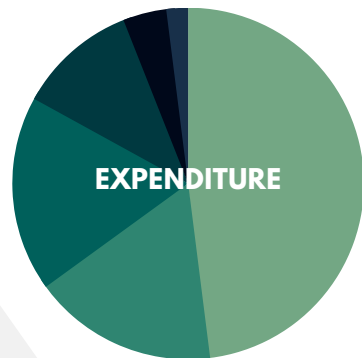
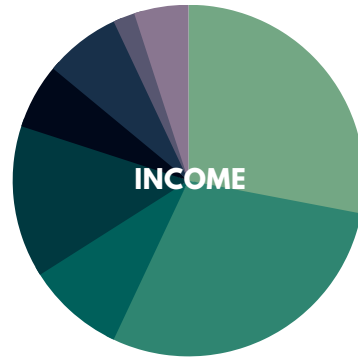
Learn about volunteer staff opportunities, including paid positions, lifeguarding and more!



FINANCIAL PROFILE

In 2022, The YES had its biggest summer since 2016. Alongside this achievement, we hosted and facilitated multiple school workshops, online programs, student retreats, and staff trainings. We also used funding to enhance our social media presence with video production and website updates to reach as many teens and families in BC as possible.

As a non-profit, we rely greatly on funding from credit unions and co-ops to subsidize program costs for families. A huge thank you to all the organizations in BC who are dedicated to making a difference for the youth in their communities.



- PROGRAM FEES - SPONSORED 28%
- PROGRAM FEES - PAID BY PARENTS 29%
- GRANTS 9%
- GOVERNMENT GRANTS 14%
- COVID GOV'T SUPPORTS 6%
- CREDIT UNION LEVY 7%
- MERCHANDISE SALES 2%
- SCHOOL PROGRAMS 5%

- PROGRAM EXPENSES 48%
- ADMINISTRATION WAGES 17%
- PROGRAM DELIVERY WAGES 18%
- ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES 11%
- VOLUNTEER EXPENSES 4%
- SCHOOL PROGRAM EXPENSES 2%



2022 SPONSORS

- Alberni District Co-operative Association
- Ashcroft Senior Secondary School
- Armstrong Regional Cooperative
- CCEC Credit Union
- Co-operative Housing Federation of BC
- Co-operators
- Coastal Community Credit Union
- Community Futures Development North Okanagan
- Decosmos Village Housing Co-op
- Dundee Court Housing Co-operative
- East Kootenay Credit Union
- First Credit Union
- Four Rivers Co-operative
- Grand Forks District Savings Credit Union
- GVC Credit Union
- Hornby Island Co-op
- Huntington Place Housing Co-op
- Kootenay Savings Credit Union
- Ladysmith & District Credit Union
- Laura Jamieson Housing Co-op
- Marine Court Housing Co-op
- Mid Island Consumer Services Co-operative
- Nelson and District Credit Union
- North Peace Savings Credit Union
- Northern Savings Credit Union
- Otter Farm & Home Co-operative
- Peninsula Co-op
- PLEA Community Services Society of BC
- Power To Be
- Revelstoke Credit Union
- Rotary Club - Ashcroft
- Salmon Arm Savings and Credit Union
- Squamish Savings Credit Union
- Sunshine Coast Credit Union
- Tofino Consumers Co-operative Association
- Ucluelet Consumers Co-operative Association
- Vancity Savings Credit Union
- Vancouver East Housing Co-op
- Williams Lake & District Credit Union

More than 60% of teens access our program through full or partial sponsorship through credit unions, co-ops and schools across BC. If you're interested in sponsoring teens in your community please send us a message at info@theyes.ca.



THE YOUTH EXCELLENCE SOCIETY

www.theyes.ca / 604-960-1377 / info@theyes.ca

"This week I had the amazing opportunity to attend The YES Camp. I was able to learn about communication and leadership, as well as make new friends and try new activities. I had lots of fun swimming and listening to songs sung by the incredible staff. They create such a wonderful environment where everyone feels safe and included. I practiced taking risks and stepping out of my comfort zone. I am so grateful to have been able to attend and highly look forward to returning. I really hope so many other youth get granted this opportunity and get to experience The YES" – YES Participant, 2022

