

2023

ALBERTA YOUTH COUNCILS REPORT

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Introduction

Across Alberta there are many Youth Councils that provide a structure for youth to create change in their communities and represent the voice of youth across Alberta. The purpose of this report is to showcase the work that is being done by Youth Councils across the province. This report also shares information on each program's unique structure, mission, and initiatives which can be used for benchmarking purposes and/or adapting best practices within individual programs.

Interactive Map

Take a look at a map of Youth Councils across Alberta [here!](#)

Youth Councils

Airdrie Board of Youth Affairs

The Airdrie Board of Youth Affairs serves as a bridge between City Council, youth, and the community by acting as a voice for Airdrie youth through support and consultation.

Website: <https://www.abya.ca/>

Contact: jessica.dudek@airdrie.ca

Current Initiatives

- Vaping campaign
- Mayor for a Day Challenge
- City and community consultation

Members/Structure

- 7 current members with a maximum of 11
- 2 leadership positions; Chair and Vice Chair

Program Year: September – June

Target Audience: Youth aged 12-24

Alberta Aboriginal Youth Council

The Alberta Aboriginal Youth Council empowers youth in the province of Alberta to reach their fullest potential. The AAYC discusses and identifies youth priority issues which are developed into Youth Initiatives.

Website: <https://anfca.com/alberta-aboriginal-youth-council/>

Contact: <https://anfca.com/contact/>

Current Initiatives

- Traditional Advice Leads to Knowledge (TALK)
- Aboriginal Youth Leadership Initiative (AYLI)
- Aboriginal Youth Multimedia Initiative
- AAYC Youth Engagement Strategy (YES)

Alberta Children's Hospital Child and Youth Advisory Council

CAYAC brings a youth perspective to current and future child health programs and services. We provide suggestions or new ideas to improve the quality of health services and the healthcare experience for children and youth.

Website: <http://fcrc.albertahealthservices.ca/youth/cayac/>

Contact: CAYAC@ahs.ca

Current Initiatives

- At each meeting we consult on specific policies, programs and services at the Alberta Children's Hospital or provincial AHS work.
- Recent examples include:
 - AHS nursing orientation;
 - Rehabilitation education for youth;

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- Playground updates;
 - Transition clinic name;
 - Electronic health records proxy access

Members/Structure

- 25-30 members
- Shared leadership model with rotating meeting chairs along with other leadership opportunities

Program year: September – April

Targeted Audience: To contribute to the quality of healthcare by providing the youth voice for healthcare improvements.

Banff Youth Council

Banff Youth Council cultivates valuable leadership schools through youth-led community services, advocacy, and activism initiatives.

Website: <https://www.banfftrailcommunity.ca/events/youth-council>

Contact: btacommunications@banfftrailcommunity.ca

Calgary Mayor's Youth Council

The Calgary Mayor's Youth Council is a program of Youth Central that provides youth an opportunity to effect change, represent youth in regards to issues that matter to them and help to create a city where the unique youth perspective contributes to a strong and sustainable community.

Website: youthcentral.com

Contact: mycyyc@youthcentral.com

Current Initiatives

- Town Hall Series

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- Mayor for a Day
 - Career Day
 - Shadow-a-professor
 - Free. Period.
 - Art of Awareness Contest

Members/Structure

- 21 Members;
- 3 subcommittees: Civic Engagement, Careers & Opportunities, Current Issues;
- 6 Co-chair positions (2 on each subcommittee)

Program Year: September – June

Target Audience: Youth aged 12-18

Canmore Youth Council

Canmore Youth Council aims to connect youth with each other, to encourage all aspects in the community to respect and value youth perspectives.

Website: fcssadmin@canmore.ca

Contact:

<https://canmore.ca/residents/family-community-services/emotional-support/youth>

Current Initiatives

- Hosting a teen movie night with a focus on managing mental health

Members/Structure

- 4 members

Target Audience: Community

Cold Lake Youth Council

The Cold Lake Youth Council is a youth-led, volunteer-based organization that acts as peer advocates on civic and social issues. The CLYC represents a community investing in its youth, who are engaged and feel valued in our community.

Website: <https://coldlake.com/en/live/youth-council.aspx>

Contact: youthcouncil@coldlake.com

Current Initiatives

- Safe space for LGBTQ2S+
- Working of a survey to release to the youth of Cold Lake
- Volunteer opportunities within Cold Lake
- No smoking signs

City of Grande Prairie Youth Advisory Council

Provides perspective to the City of Grande Prairie City Council, connects with local organizations and agencies, promotes youth perspectives and opportunities.

Website: <https://www.cityofgp.com/city-government/youth-advisory-council>

Contact: youth@cityofgp.com and nhornett@cityofgp.com

Current Initiatives

- Community Connections and providing feedback via the City of Grande Prairie's Engage opportunities (surveys, public engagements, focus groups, etc.)

Members/Structure

- 8 members;
- 4 in leadership position

Program Year: October – September

Target audience: City Council, youth (ages 14-24), youth-serving organizations

Edmonton Youth Council

The Edmonton Youth Council provides information and advice to City Council in relation to issues involving or affecting youth.

Website: <https://www.ceyc.ca/>

Contact: youthcouncil@edmonton.ca

Current Initiatives

- Food Waste and Security
- Youth Tackling Covid-19 Webinar
- Paths For People Workforce
- School Visits Presentations

Members/Structure

- 20 members
- 2 subcommittees, made up of Youth Councillors and "Youth-at-Large" members

Program Year: September 1 – August 31

Edson Youth Council

The purpose of Youth Council is to provide Youth with a platform to let their voices be heard and to have a positive impact. It will provide Youth with better opportunities to become connected and meaningfully involved in their community.

Website: <https://www.edson.ca/town/town-council/youth-council>

Contact: krystas@edson.ca

Current Initiatives

- Earth Week activities

Members/Structure

-
- Up to 12 members; work closely with the Mayor, Two Town Councillors, and have administrative support from a Community Development Coordinator

Fort Saskatchewan Youth Council

The purpose of the Youth Council is to educate and empower youth to provide information and recommendations to Council in relation to issues that impact or involve youth.

Website: <https://www.footsask.ca/en/your-city-hall/youth-council.aspx>

Contact: YouthCouncil@footsask.ca

Members/structure:

- 4 members; 1 chair

Current Initiatives

- Youth Community Safety

Program Year: September - September

Target audience: Youth 12-24 years of age

High River's Youth Advisory Committee

This is a group with youth and for youth. Members of the Youth Advisory Committee share their priorities, help to make change in the community and advocate for youth in High River.

Website:

<https://highriver.ca/community/community-support-services/youth-advisory-committee>

Contact: aking@highriver.ca

Hinton Youth Advisory Council

The Hinton Youth Advisory Council (HYAC) operates through a partnership between the Town of Hinton and the Northern Rockies Museum of Culture and Heritage with the purpose of engaging youth by providing them with mentorship opportunities and a platform to provide input into municipal processes.

Website: <https://www.hinton.ca/1138/Hinton-Youth-Advisory-Council-HYAC>

Contact: youthcentre@hinton.ca

Current Initiatives

- Social media awareness

Members/Structure

- 6 members; 2 co-chairs

Leduc Youth Council

Leduc Youth Council provides the opportunity for young people to participate in local government by researching, advising, proposing and planning actions in the community to Leduc City Council.

Website: <https://www.leduc.ca/boards-committees/youth-council>

Contact: ajohnson@leduc.ca

Current Initiatives

- Youth Ambassador program
- Youth Week in Leduc
- Youth Talent Showcase
- Youth Wellness Symposium

Members/Structure

- 11 members; 2 co-chairs

Program Year: Annual recruitment takes place each October to appoint a new youth council for January.

Lethbridge Youth Advisory Council

The Lethbridge Youth Advisory Council aims to advise Council on youth priorities and initiatives within the city of Lethbridge, to engage with the youth of the community to help inform themselves of youth priorities and initiatives, to assist youth with accessing key services within the city via lethbridge.ca website.

Website:

<https://www.lethbridge.ca/council-administration-governance/boards-commissions-and-committees/youth-advisory-council/>

Contact: yaclethbridge@gmail.com

Current Initiatives

- A youth survey focusing on youth engagement and updating the priorities and initiatives for the youth advisory council's strategic plan

Members/Structure

- Up to 10 members;
- 2 members in leadership positions

Program Year: January-December

Target Audience: Youth in the city of Lethbridge 14-25

Lloydminster Youth Council

The vision of the Lloydminster Youth Council is to build a community of future leaders by facilitating youth involvement within the City of Lloydminster.

Website: <https://lloydyouthcouncil.com/>

Contact: jmann@lcsd.ca; youthchair@lloydyouthcouncil.com; info@lloydyouthcouncil.com

Current Initiatives

- Water Wonderland and Pool Parties
- Public Service Announcements
- Pecha Kucha
- Paint the Town Positive
- Special Events (Drive in movie, Drug/Alcohol Awareness, Run Run Rudolph, Border Idol, Valentine's Day Skate, Santa Skate)

Members/Structure

- 21 members;
- 4 members on leadership team

Program Year: October – September

Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth

The Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth's mission is to empower and engage youth in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo both actively and inclusively to make a significant difference in their community.

Website:

<https://www.rmwb.ca/en/community-events-and-involvement/mayors-advisory-council-on-youth.aspx>

Contact: nicole.martyn-dickinson@rmwb.ca

Current Initiatives

- Top 20 Under 20 Awards
- Downtown Revitalization, Transit Master Plan, Cyberbullying Workshop
- Social Equity: Community Non-profit Fair and motivational messages to nurses.
- Health & Wellness: Online fireside Chat Event
- Engagement and Outreach: University Youth Speaker Series (completed) and Adulting Workshop Series

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- Arts and Culture: Paint Your World
 - Regional Planning: YMCA renovation
 - Youth Needs Assessment (completed)
 - Prayer rooms in all schools (completed)
 - Art on the Street (completed)

Members/Structure

- 40 youth members ages grade 9-12, 5 groups, 2 mentors per group

Program Year: September to June

Minister Youth Council of Alberta

The Minister's Youth Council gives students opportunities to share input and perspectives on provincial programs and initiatives.

Website: <https://www.alberta.ca/student-engagement.aspx>

Contact: edc.studentengagement@gov.ab.ca

Current Initiatives

- Empower students as leaders of their learning
- Provide opportunities to build positive working relationships with education partners
- Engage students as leaders of change in their communities
- Support leadership development for students at school and community levels
- Honour the capability and capacity of students to engage as authentic education partners

Members/Structure

- 40 members; 2 mentors per group

Program Year: September to June

Nakoda Youth Council

Nakoda Youth Council's goal is to be revitalizing our culture and bridging the gap between our youth and elders. Our group was formally made to guide, encourage and show the youth that they have a voice to also be heard. Making a change not only for us, but for the next generation.

Website: <https://nakodayouthcouncil.wixsite.com/mysite>

Okotoks Youth Advisory Committee

Website:

<https://www.okotoks.ca/your-community/community-support/youth-services-initiatives>

Olds Youth Advisory Council

The Olds Youth Advisory Council is an inclusive committee of community minded youth volunteers, who advocate on behalf of all youth in Olds. They will work with existing organizations to encourage and develop new opportunities for our youth to achieve leadership and social skills, as well as mental health wellness.

Website: <https://www.olds.ca/yac-app>

Contact: admin@olds.ca

Current Initiatives

- Provide information and advice to the community relating to issues affecting youth in the Town of Olds
- Create and coordinate community events for local youth (Should focus on youth week in the spring)
- Develop relationships with various organizations or individuals addressing issues of concern involving local youth
- Work with the Town of Olds on various events throughout the year

Members/structure: 10-12 members

Penhold Youth Advisory Committee

Please note this information was compiled based on information found on each Youth Council's website. If you would like to change or add information to your listing, please contact Youth Central at myc@youthcentral.com.

Penhold Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) provides an opportunity to hang out with friends and peers, engage youth in their community by planning and organizing youth focus events/workshops, volunteering opportunities and of course have fun!

Website: http://w.townofpenhold.ca/Comm_YAC.php

Contact: info@townofpenhold.ca

Current Initiatives

- Community events
- Trips and conferences
- Guest speakers and workshops for teens
- Mentoring opportunities

Program Year: October – June

Spruce Grove Youth Advisory Committee

Spruce Grove Youth Advisory Committee Provides an opportunity for youth to engage in the community to accurately represent a youth perspective on a variety of municipal issues and provide recommendations to Council on these issues. The committee is responsible for coordinating youth specific initiatives that profile local youth issues, develop relationships with stakeholders addressing youth issues, provide recommendations to Council on matters that directly impact the youth, offer a youth lens on youth-oriented City programs and services, and consult with Administration to support youth initiatives.

Website:

<https://www.sprucegrove.org/government/city-council/boards-and-committees/youth-advisory-committee/>

Current Initiatives

- Top 20 Under 20 Awards
- Downtown Revitalization, Transit Master Plan, Cyberbullying Workshop
- Social Equity: Community Non-profit Fair and motivational messages to nurses.

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- Health & Wellness: Online fireside Chat Event
 - Engagement and Outreach: University Youth Speaker Series (completed) and Adulthood Workshop Series
 - Arts and Culture: Paint Your World
 - Regional Planning: YMCA renovation
 - Youth Needs Assessment (completed)
 - Prayer rooms in all schools (completed)
 - Art on the Street (completed)

Members/Structure

- 11 members

St. Albert Youth Council

The City of St. Albert Youth Advisory Committee provides input to the City Council from the unique perspective of youth.

Website: <https://stalbert.ca/cosa/leadership/committees/yc/>

St. Paul Youth Council

The St. Paul Youth Council is a volunteer group composed of youth from grades 7-12 that plan and host events for the community of St. Paul. Youth Council is a great way to develop new skills, explore new career options, give back to your community and connect with other youth that are interested in providing opportunities for the community of St. Paul.

Website: <https://www.stpaulfcss.ca/spyc>