
2008 CVYC Final Report

Prepared for: Kimberly Stratford, City of Victoria Staff Liaison for the CVYC

Prepared by: Katie Shaw, Linley Faulkner and Joseph Boutilier

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CC'd: CVYC members, Kezia Cowtan, Linda Geggie, Grant Bolton and Sonya Chandler



City of Victoria Youth Council ~ 2008 Final Report

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CVYC Accomplishments Snapshot – 2008

The City of Victoria Youth Council was very busy during 2008. Since the presentation in January 2008 to the Committee of The Whole the Youth Council has been busy implementing the strategic plan. Based on the strategic action plan developed by the Council here are the highlighted outcomes from 2008:

Objective & Outcomes	Outcome Descriptions
<p><u>2 Youth Forums</u></p> <p>Total number of youth engaged: 285</p> <p>Total number of adults engaged: 15</p>	<p>(1) So Hammered: Binge Drinking Forum & Additional Outcome: Education Series on Binge Drinking in the High Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binge Drinking – Including a youth forum in February 08 and three educational presentations in high schools within the City of Victoria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 75 youth and adults in attendance at the forum ○ Reached over 150 youth in the educational presentations (created and presented by Youth Council members) <p>(2) Youth & Justice Issues –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed 4 youth discussion groups on the topic, and an adult stakeholders consultation with over 15 adults working in the justice system with youth present. • An adult stakeholder meeting was facilitated by the CVYC and brought together over 15 front line and management workers from the Justice system and policing field (including community police liaisons, youth parole people, community front line workers etc.) • The consultation and the discussion groups led to the creation of a Youth Legal Literacy subcommittee of the CVYC that continues to work closely with the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser on creating tools and educational opportunities for youth to learn about their rights and responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Over 60 youth participated in the forums / consultations ○ 15 adults at the stakeholders consultation
<p><u>5 Youth Discussion Groups</u></p> <p>Completed: 4 regarding Youth Health Issues –</p>	<p>Completed 4 presentations to high school classrooms re: health determinants for youth and engagement strategies, including highlighting opportunities for involvement with the CVYC.</p>

<p>Total number of youth: 150</p> <p>Uncompleted: 1 on Youth Racism and Discrimination</p>	<p>Presentations took place at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alternative schools ▪ High Schools ▪ After school youth programs (YM/YWCA and Boys and Girls Club)
<p>Establishment of an Multi-Sectoral Adult Advisory Committee for the CVYC</p> <p>Completed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A panel of 20 community stakeholders were assembled in January to create the first ever CVYC Advisory Committee • The committee included an eclectic mix of past CVYC executive members, community and business stakeholders and seasoned youth support workers from the City of Victoria • The committee met bi-monthly until the end of August • After the transition to a new coordinator in September the advisory was not re-ignited due to time constraints during the coordinator transition • Instead a list of adult allies were identified by the CVYC to work in tandem on the group’s main fall focus: the Stoked to Vote campaign • The past coordinator, Katie Shaw, delivered a recommendations report for the future which included information on developing a working advisory with special projects in the future versus a general advisory for the committee • While very interesting and important for the CVYC to be able to mobilize the quality and stature of the advisory members involved, it was extremely time consuming for the CVYC coordinator to administer, support and liaise with the CVYC executive – a stronger emphasis on a youth-adult working group for support with CVYC projects is recommended for the future
<p>Provided training and capacity building opportunities for all 11 members of the CVYC Executive –</p> <p>Note: Other organizations were invited to have their youth leaders involved in the training processes when applicable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in Anti-Oppressive practices and engagement strategies • Project Planning and Implementation • Communications and Community building workshop • Participatory Budgeting and report writing • Grant proposal writing (including the success accomplishment of co-writing the Coast Capital Savings Grant receiving \$15,000.00 for core funding and the Stoked to Vote Campaign project and most recently \$3000.00 to implement their work on the Legal Literacy / Youth Rights and Responsibilities project) • Campaign creation, implementation and evaluation skills for their Stoked to Vote municipal election initiative • First Aid Certification • Food Safe Certification

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation training • Workshop development
<p>Participated in a University of Victoria & Simon Fraser University Study re: Civic & Legal Literacy</p> <p>Completed – and ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ongoing work on Legal Rights and responsibilities for youth continues with a budding relationship with the University of Victoria • During 08, a working group of CVYC executive members participated in this subcommittee and completed a conference presentation in Vancouver for the • The group wrote their own grant application to develop outcomes materials (posters, brochures and digital information to be hosted on the CVYC's website) – they received \$3000.00 for the 2009 fiscal to implement this project
<p>Relationship Building with City of Victoria Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented a comprehensive overview of the 2008 action plan to the Department Managers at the City of Victoria in January of 2008 – the opportunity was terrific, and allowed the youth to gain insight into opportunities for the CVYC to get more involved in the City's work and link their efforts more cohesively • The coordinator was also consulted in a meeting regarding the development or initial thoughts around creating a Youth Strategy for the City of Victoria and having the CVYC take a leadership role in this; we have not heard back from the City regarding any movement on this • The CVYC presented their 2008 action plan to the Committee of the Whole in January and gained feedback on their action plans as well • Finally, during the development of the Sustainability Plan and the community consultation the Coordinator was contacted to reflect on some youth-friendly information gathering tools; unfortunately the CVYC was not offered to play a leadership role in this information gathering process
<p>Launched new www.CVYC.net website</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domain name: www.cvyc.net • Interactive features including administrative access by the youth themselves a news page, project pages etc. • Currently receives 200 hits a week on the site with 14 different page views per hit
Additional Outcomes	Descriptions
<p>STOKED To VOTE Municipal Youth Election Campaign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed youth-created and youth-facilitated civic literacy campaign that was organized by 15 youth and engaged directly with over 100 youth through canvassing efforts • Completed youth-led Mayoral All Candidates Debate with over 45 people in attendance and partnered with the City of Victoria and the University of Victoria's Undergraduate Student Society.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged in visioning for future CVYC structure and projects around municipal elections with a 2 day retreat to plan and organize the campaign; presentations on youth engagement, organizing campaigns and mobilizing resources around youth were explored
Created and Delivered new FINDING YOUR VOICE workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop creation and presentation at the February 2008 Transforming Communities Symposium at the University of Victoria; the workshop was called: Finding Your Voice. The workshop explored the effects of oppression, gaining insight in the disempowerment of being silenced and looking at our society's communication strategies. There were 5 youth and 10 adults in attendance and a new member joined from this presentation.
Relationship Building with Victoria Native Friendship Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CVYC did a full day relationship building and cultural learning day with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre's Youth Council in 2008 The day was wonderful and included leadership and relationship building games at the Boys and Girls Metchosin leadership camp The CVYC looks forward to working with the VNFC in the future as much as possible connecting urban Aboriginal Youth voice to the City of Victoria is an important opportunity that should be further explored

General Notes and Contexts in 2008

Coordinator(s) and Role:

During 2008 there was a changer over in the Coordinator for the Youth Council. The process proved to be quite detrimental to the cohesiveness of the CVYC team and the relationships that were established. It is evident that a yearly contract per the terms of the CVYC (i.e. September to September, or January to January) be established each term and that a consistent leadership structure is required to ensure the relationship between both the CVYC members themselves and the CVYC in the community. Katie Shaw left her post as Coordinator in August 2008 and an interim Coordinator, Linley Faulkner was brought on board to complete the Stoked to Vote initiative throughout the fall until the end of December. Although the CVYC is currently without a Coordinator, during the transition and negotiations to a new administrative body Katie Shaw has returned voluntarily to support the CVYC to work together during the transition and to ensure that CVYC members are kept in the loop regarding administrative changes and the development of a new partnership with an organization meant to support, mentor and guide the group as they grow and evolve.

Council Liaison: Sonya Chandler

The Council Liaison responsible for the Youth Portfolio will work as a conduit between staff, council and the CVYC to support open and transparent dialogue and the an ongoing learning exchange between these three partners. A key focus will be to ensure that CVYC is informed of and involved in activities, events and initiatives that come to the council table that either directly or indirectly are of interest to the youth demographic.

The Youth Council Liaison will also work to ensure that Victoria Council and city staff are kept up to date and informed on current projects, concerns, events and interests of the CVYC as they relate to current City or CVYC priorities. The liaison may also help to identify key community partners, or things of interest or opportunity to CVYC and pass these on to the coordinator.

Staff Liaison: Karen Ramsay Cline, City of Victoria

In 2008 the City of Victoria staff liaison took an active role in overseeing and organizing specific elements of the Youth Council's Coordinator position. Specifically, all reporting to the city was sent to the staff liaison and the staff liaison also sat on the Supervisory and Evaluation Committee, which reviewed the Coordinator's work and leadership with the group. Unfortunately this proved to be somewhat time consuming for everyone involved and did not allow for strategic and efficient relationship building with the City. A new outlined relationship both the CVYC and the administrative body for the Staff Liaison would be greatly appreciated.

Administrative Body: Blanshard Community Centre

After three years hosting the CVYC, the Blanshard Community Centre has agreed that another administrative body with more support, time and resources to nurture the council during its next stages of evaluation is required. In 2008 the Blanshard Community Centre supported the CVYC with the donation of space, accounting and monetary oversight with budgeting and fundraising being completed by the Coordinator and also provided direct staff support for the Coordinator when necessary. Blanshard generous support, patience and energy for the CVYC and it's Coordinator is greatly appreciated and their instrumental role in elevating the CVYC to its current community status will be forever remembered and appreciated.

The 2008 CVYC Executive Members: Testimonials

"My participation over the last year has consisted of a variety of different tasks including educational tours, forums and workshops. In joining the City of Victoria Youth Council I was able to share new experiences with other members and gain new skills. I was able to facilitate and mediate a forum on key youth issues and learned much from that experience. I thoroughly enjoyed the educational tours through the school district; this gave me insight into a system I was in from a different perspective. Being a member of the City of Victoria Youth Council I learned from the opportunities to take on a leadership role in youth engagement. As a team we also put on workshops and open discussions which helped to gain new support for our work and it made breakthroughs in the community. This year was a big year for the CVYC as we were able to collaborate with different youth teams in Victoria and learn more about relevant issues in Victoria. A particularly amazing experience is the combined retreat with the Native Friendship Centre which focused on team building and leadership. Another project that I'm particularly proud of is our civic literacy project where we spent many hours organizing.

This project has really piqued my interest in politics as I was in a Law class at school. I was able to see how theory affects the work on the ground and what it takes to get there which was a really enlightening experience for me. I am now seriously considering Law as a career as I recognize how that knowledge would support my work in social justice. I have enjoyed this past year tremendously and have learned new skills which I will use in my future. I'm looking forward to another extraordinary year."

- Genevieve Sneddon

"2008 was an incredibly exciting year with the CVYC. Starting with an incredible team of like-minded youth, a number of exciting projects on our plate and a flood of new community partnership opportunities it would have been hard to go wrong. The discussion series (half a dozen events in total, covering binge drinking, youth justice, civic lit and more) proved a bit of a learning curve for myself and other members of the CVYC as we struggled to strike the balance between youth-friendly and all-inclusive (including coming away with solid objectives that would be accepted and understood by funders and partners). However, these events were also very successful at sparking important questions for the community, genuine youth engagement and local connections we never would have made otherwise. Other internal new-initiatives and ideas, such as total term planning at a single 'retreat' meeting and extended team-building initiatives, helped me understand the group and our overall objectives immensely. Productivity was threatened again during a series of transitions (in members, spaces, coordinator, etc.) and I feel we have yet to get completely back on our feet for the New Year. In the future I would like to see more consistent communication with partners and stakeholders and more external support for projects and advisory-initiatives. But with a host of new opportunities stacked away for another day and so much left to do, I foresee another record-setting year for projects completed in 2009. I, for one, intend to see it happen."

- Joseph Boutilier

"The CVYC never ceases to offer me skills and experiences that are unique, valuable and interesting. I love the group of youth I am working with, and over the last four years I know I have made friendships and forged relationships that will be important to me for the rest of my life. I don't know what the future will hold in regards to my involvement with the council, but I am thankful for every opportunity it has given me, and believe entirely in its goals and purpose."

- Emily Rogers

"The Civic Literacy Campaign, "Stoked to Vote: Your Vote, Your Voice, Your Victoria," was an opportunity for City of Victoria Youth Council members to demonstrate youth leadership through the planning and co-ordination of a Victoria Mayoral Debate. During the Civic Literacy Campaign, CVYC members exhibited exemplary leadership qualities such as commitment to the Youth Council, motivation toward our goal, and encouragement to each other. As the CVYC Youth Co-coordinator for the Civic Literacy Campaign, I found the leadership opportunity personally rewarding."

- Anneliese Sanghara

2009 will be another great year for the City of Victoria Youth Council. Since December another two members have joined the group, while other veterans have decided to move into more advisory roles for the initiative. As 2008 came to a close the Youth Council was in transition in terms of a new administrative body to help nurture, support and provide mentorship for the CVYC members and its Coordinator. This report accompanies a request to change the CVYC over to the LifeCycles Project Society as the administrative body for the CVYC. The CVYC requires a special type of administrative support; in that the group would benefit from a strong alignment with other youth engagement and leadership initiatives in the community which are strongly linked to other youth programs and projects and the adult allies that support these. At LifeCycles there are numerous youth programs including Youth Core, it is the hub for the Youth Service Provider Network, offers the Growing Schools and Skills Link Youth Agriculture initiative. The MOU process with the administrative change will take place within the next few months.

Financial Report: Key Points

Please see attached financial report provided by Grant Bolton from the Blanshard Community Centre.

In an effort to demonstrate ongoing support from the community additional funds were requested from a local funding source: Coast Capital Savings Foundation to help support the implementation of our projects, the resources required to support the coordinator and the additional developments associated with the Stoked to Vote Campaign. Coast Capital was extremely impressed with the CVYC's work and has offered an additional \$2000.00 to the \$15,000.00 received to continue our work into the 2009 term. We are extremely grateful for this opportunity and look forward to nurturing and building this relationship in the future.