

## For Information Only

### Youth Centres Program Review

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, May 05, 2014
Report Date	Wednesday, Apr 23, 2014
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only

### Recommendation

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#### Background

This report outlines a review relating to programming, funding and location of youth centres in the City of Greater Sudbury (CGS).

#### Program Review

Youth Centres are committed to the development of programming that promotes a positive educational environment for youth within the CGS. This is possible through partnerships with youth, parents, volunteers, schools, community groups, local businesses and the CGS. A variety of supervised activities for participants can be found at Youth Centres.

Participants can interact in a safe and non-judgmental environment. Centres assist youth in developing positive friendships and growing up in a healthy and safe environment. Supervisors provide a safe and supervised facility for youth to engage in enriching educational activities, to enjoy sports with peers and explore a variety of leisure activities. Staff understands the importance of including youth in all aspects of the centre from fundraising projects, to community initiatives and in planning regular activities.

#### Benefits

Youth Centres provide a multitude of benefits that further develop youth in terms of spirit, culture, social, physical and psychological benefits. Programs and services include:

- Active programs to increase physical activity levels.
- Involvement in the planning of centre activities and events.
- Promotion of civic engagement and volunteering within community.

#### Signed By

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*Digitally Signed Apr 23, 14*

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- Instruction on resume writing and interview skills to assist with obtaining employment.
- Access to service and referral agencies relevant to the needs of youth.
- Development of partnerships with local businesses and community organizations.

### **Special Needs Youth**

Youth Centres provide services to a diverse population of youth including those with special needs:

- Autism
- Learning Disabilities
- Hearing Impaired
- Physical Disabilities
- High Risk Youth

### **Information on Youth Centres**

CGS operated Youth Centres are located at the following sites:

- Capreol Millennium Resource Centre
- Dowling Civic Leisure Centre
- Onaping Community Centre
- Ryan Heights Playground
- Walden Library/Citizen Service Centre
- Valley East Youth Centre (currently closed)

Youth centres are open 3 to 5 evenings per week from September to June reflecting the school calendar year. The programs at the centres are designed for youth aged 10 to 18.

### **Rayside-Balfour Youth Action Network**

The Rayside-Balfour Youth Action Network is located at Coté Park in Chelmsford and offers programs for youth aged 11 to 17 four evenings per week year round. It is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The CGS owns the facility which houses the program. The centre is supported by funding from Services Canada. This has enabled the centre to offer summer programming for the past six years. The centre receives an annual operating grant of \$40,000 from the CGS in order to assist with the day to day operating costs.

### **Sudbury Action Centre for Youth**

The Sudbury Action Centre for Youth (SACY) is located on Elm Street in Sudbury and operates 6 days per week. The centre offers services and programs to youths ages 16 to 24. SACY receives an annual grant from the CGS in the amount of \$69,120 to assist with the annual operating cost of the Centre. Refer to Appendix A - Operational Details for more information.

### **Summary**

A youth survey was circulated and completed in all secondary schools in the spring of 2013 to determine youth program needs. Approximately 1,100 surveys were completed. One of the top recommendations obtained was the further expansion of Youth Centres in regards to hours and locations.

Youth in the community have expressed an interest in having Youth Centres open year round. Currently, they are not open during Christmas, March Break and summer months.

Statistics indicate that youth are making use of Youth Centres and therefore there is a need for continued support from the CGS both on a financial and a staff support level. More funding is required to move Youth Centres forward and increase the hours of operation. This would increase budgeted amounts to a total of \$216,000 for salaries and benefits from September until June. If summer months were added along with Christmas and March Break, this cost would be \$69,000 to a grand total of \$285,000 for a full year for all youth centres excluding the cost of supplies.

Challenges facing Youth Centres include hours of operation, staff turnover and equipment and supplies available for facilities. Youth Centres often carry a negative image and perhaps a rebranding may provide a new perspective of youth centres within the community.

A proposal will be brought forward to the Community Services Committee for the 2015 budget process to consider additional funds which can help to address operational needs of Youth Centres identified within this report.

## Appendix A – Operational Details

The following is a listing of the City of Greater Sudbury Youth Centre locations, hours of operation, approximate cost in wages/benefits and total attendance to date for the 2013-2014 calendar year.

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Hours (per Week)</b>	<b>Ages</b>	<b>Budgeted Salaries &amp; Benefits (per Year)</b>	<b>Total Attendance (Sept – Feb 2013-14)</b>
<b>Capreol</b>	11.5 hours/week (Open 35 hours/week during summer months)	10-18	\$15,000	713
<b>Dowling</b>	10 hours/week	9-18	\$10,000	416
<b>Levack/Onaping</b>	15 hours/week	9-18	\$22,000	856
<b>Ryan Heights After Four Program</b>	15 hours/week	6-18	\$30,000 (Provincially Sponsored)	2,101
<b>Valley East</b>	24 hours/week (Closed since September 2013. Re-open once new location is found.)	12-18	\$26,000	N/A
<b>Walden</b>	30 hours/week	12-18	\$40,000	2,147
<b>Rayside-Balfour Youth Action Network</b>	20 hours/week (Open 35 hours /week during summer months)	11-17	Program operated by Association. City provides annual grant of \$40,000 for the operation.	3,080
<b>Sudbury Action Centre for Youth (SACY)</b>	62 hours/week (year round)	16-24	Program operated by Association. City provides annual grant of \$69,120 for the operation.	