
THE YOUTH EXCELLENCE SOCIETY

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

www.theyes.ca / [604-960-1877](tel:604-960-1877) / info@theyes.ca

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

We acknowledge with gratitude that The YES operates on the lands of the Lake Cowichan First Nation and on Lkwungen and WSÁNEĆ homelands.

The Youth Excellence Society (YES) has been offering co-operative leadership training to youth for 45 years. We emerged out of BC's co-operative sector in the 1970's and have been working with co-op and credit union partners ever since to provide excellence in education and training to BC's youth. We focus on building the skills necessary for youth to grow into co-operative leaders, able to collaborate and communicate by building and contributing to effective teams. YES programs emphasize the importance of integrity and inclusion through social emotional learning (SEL), and critical and creative thinking. We offer youth the opportunity to build strong communities of care and respect where they can live in good relationship to other individuals, groups, communities and the natural environment.

In 2018 our camp program included youth from over 90 BC communities. These youth were able to attend because of the generosity and dedication of over forty co-op and credit union sponsors throughout the province. More than 70% of youth came with the help of a full or partial sponsorship, allowing us to provide programs to youth from a wide variety of backgrounds. 35% of the youth we serve come from families who struggle to make ends meet, 42% of our youth report struggling with depression or anxiety, and over 45% of our youth are at-risk in at least one category, as specified by Canada's social determinants of health. We're excited to be able to offer services to youth from a diversity of backgrounds and we believe it is one of the many strengths of our program.

Our greatest asset at The YES is our dedicated team of volunteers. Comprised of almost 90% program alumni, our team of 45 volunteers participates in extensive facilitation training with sessions including active listening, crisis counselling, reconciliation, diversity and inclusion, behaviour management, session planning, public speaking, feedback processes and group dynamics. We build strong teams dedicated to each others' success, and through this aspect of our program develop a strong set of youth leaders, many of whom work as teachers and social workers within the province.

Along with our transformational camp programs, we also run school and classroom workshops. In 2018, The YES was excited to see the return of Chelsea Lake to the role of Executive Director. Having completed her Master's of Education in Leadership Studies, Chelsea returned motivated to re-enliven The YES's Change it Up! program and classroom workshops. 2018 included extensive planning for programs that are being executed in 2019. So far in 2019 The YES completed a 6-day Change it Up program with the 560 students at Peter Skene Ogden Secondary School in 100 Mile House BC, and a 2-week tour of BC's Northern Communities sponsored by Northern Savings Credit Union and Bulkley Valley Credit Union. We are now building and scheduling programs for Fall and Winter in the 2019/2020 school year.

With a focus on growth and expansion, The YES is seeking board members with passion for youth leadership development and the co-operative sector to join our team. We're also actively building new strategic partnerships with co-ops, credit unions and like-minded organizations in BC and Canada. We are firmly grounded in the co-operative movement, and educate youth on co-operative principles, philosophy and the importance of engaging in the co-operative economy for the health of local communities, our nation and the wider world.

Every summer we have the opportunity to watch youth transform into more confident, resilient, and skilled individuals, returning to their lives at home with more hope, bigger dreams and the skills and relationships to make their dreams a reality. With your ongoing support we hope to provide this experience for even more youth across British Columbia.

Yours in co-operation,



Chelsea Lake
Executive Director



Megan Millar
Board Chair

The Youth Excellence Society (YES) is a non-partisan, 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 10,000 youth across BC.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

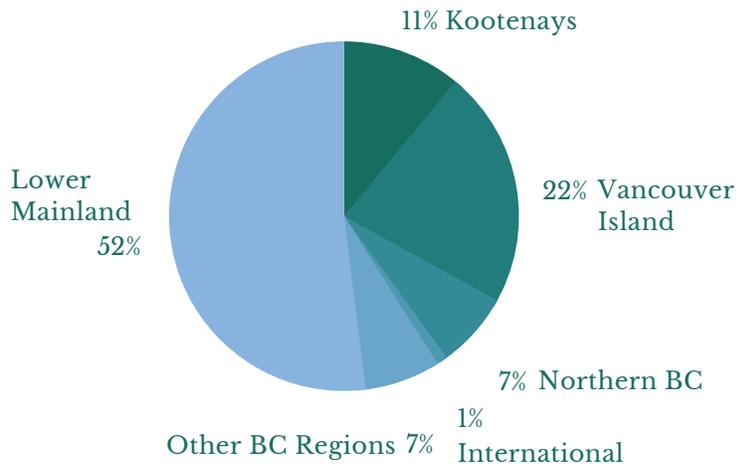
In 2018, we offered six week-long camps and one weekend retreat for 291 teens.

Our **Roots program** (for 14-16 year olds) is a powerful introduction to co-operative youth leadership. With a focus on the values of self-awareness, communication, leadership and co-operation, participants create a strong, supportive, inclusive community.

Our **Pathways program** (for 16-18 year olds) is the next step up from our Roots programs. Participants take on greater responsibility, and are challenged to continue their skill development while expanding their leadership, self-awareness, and team building skills.

"At The YES I was able to be myself without judgement and put myself out there to be a leader. The positive and caring atmosphere that the entire community created is something that I will cherish for years to come."

– Surya, Participant from Victoria, B.C.



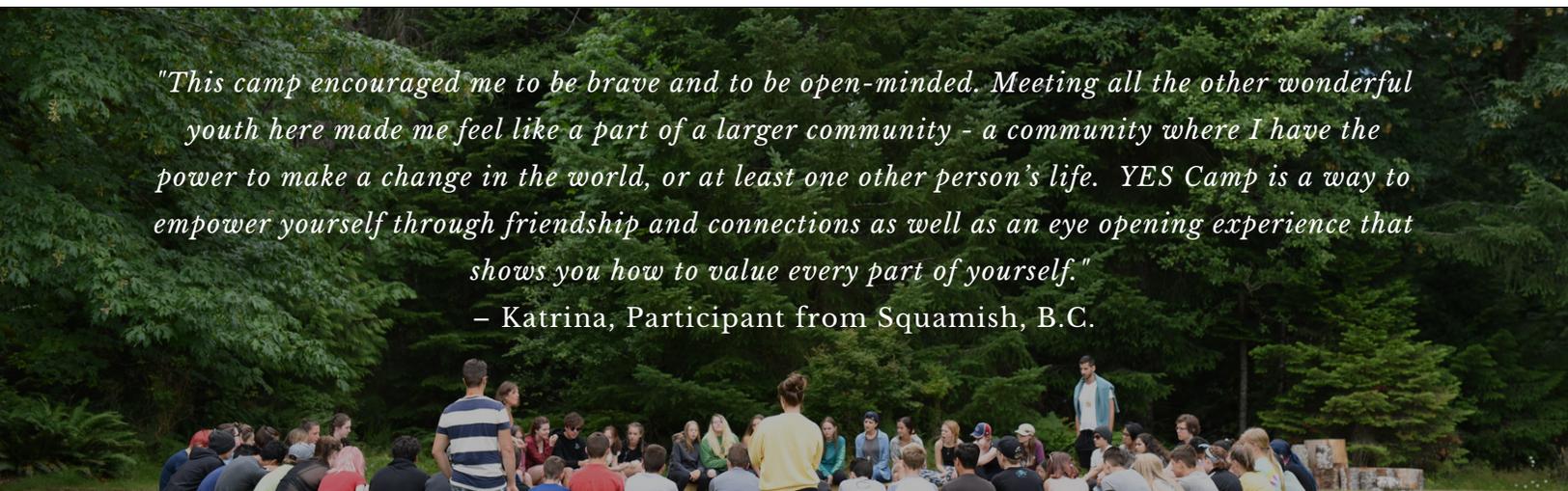
90

BC COMMUNITIES

In 2018, youth from 90 BC communities were able to attend The YES Camp. 26% of our participants self-identified as Indigenous or as people of colour, 24% as LGBTQ2S+, and 43% as living with depression or anxiety.

"This camp encouraged me to be brave and to be open-minded. Meeting all the other wonderful youth here made me feel like a part of a larger community - a community where I have the power to make a change in the world, or at least one other person's life. YES Camp is a way to empower yourself through friendship and connections as well as an eye opening experience that shows you how to value every part of yourself."

– Katrina, Participant from Squamish, B.C.



VOLUNTEER STAFF TEAM

Our programs are facilitated by an incredible team of volunteer staff, ages 18-38.

29%

PEOPLE OF COLOUR

We believe it's important to offer the diverse youth who attend our program, a diverse set of positive role models.

10%

QUALIFIED TEACHERS

Our team comprises a large number of highly trained and skilled educators and social workers.

87%

YES CAMP ALUMNI

Our volunteer staff return each year to offer youth the same life-changing experience they themselves benefitted from. In 2018, The YES benefitted from 3660 volunteer hours.

"Working with The YES helps me remember that education (in its broadest sense) can be transformative and inspiring."

-Lindsey Doehle, YES Volunteer



"I come back to The YES because, throughout the years, the tools, strategies, and outlooks that have brought me the most success and well-being are all core components of The YES curriculum. I just keep on coming back to what I learned as a teen at The YES. The value of these concepts have stood the test of time, proving to be versatile and enduring."

-Ben Mott, YES Volunteer



FINANCIAL PROFILE

2018 Budget: \$324,482

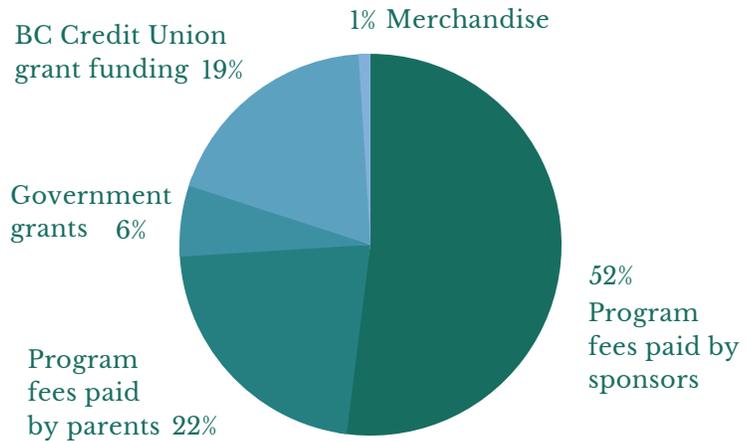
Since 1992 The YES has benefitted from annual funding from BC's Credit Unions through a levy administered by Central 1 Credit Union. The YES relies on this annual funding to cover core costs and subsidize the cost of camp for parents and sponsors.

The YES is dedicated to delivering high quality programming to teens from across the province. 73% of our annual budget goes towards program delivery expenses including facility rentals, transportation, staff and volunteer training, and wages.

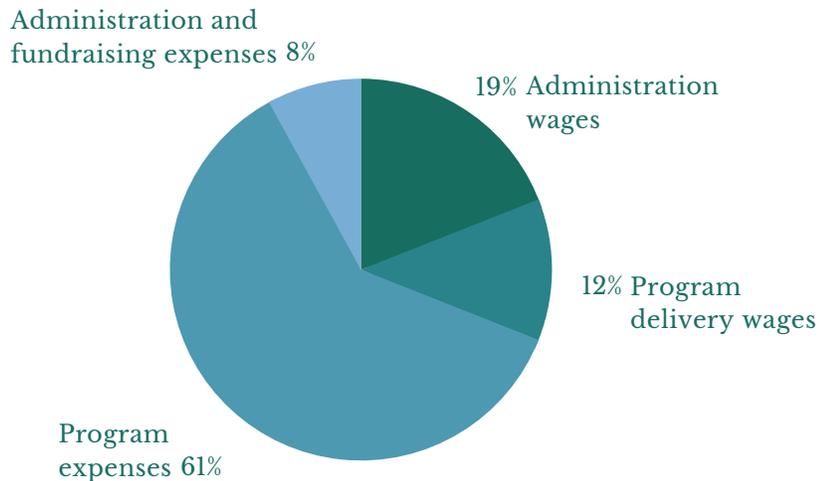
The YES programs benefit youth from all socio-economic classes, urban and rural settings, and diverse identities. We are able to make our programs inclusive because of the huge number of sponsorships and subsidies we receive from co-ops, credit unions and service clubs across the province. A huge thank you to all the organizations in BC who are dedicated to making a difference for the youth in their communities.



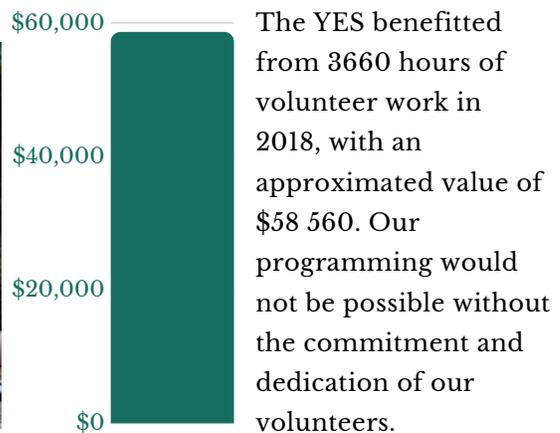
INCOME



EXPENDITURE



IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS



2018 SPONSORS

Alberni District Co-op
 Coastal Community Credit Union
 Community Futures North Okanagan
 Community Savings Credit Union
 Decosmos Village Housing Co-op
 East Kootenay Community Credit Union
 First Credit Union
 Fort St. John Cooperative Association
 Four Rivers Co-operative
 Four Sisters Housing Co-op
 G&F Financial Group
 Grand Forks District Savings Credit Union
 GVC Credit Union
 Hornby Island Co-op Association
 Huntington Place Housing Co-op
 Kinross Creek Housing Co-op
 Kootenay Savings Credit Union
 Ladysmith & District Credit Union
 Mackenzie Consumers Co-op
 Marine Court Housing Co-op
 Mid-Island Consumer Services Co-op
 Nelson and District Credit Union
 North Peace Savings Credit Union
 Northern Savings Credit Union
 Otter Farm & Home Co-operative
 Peninsula Co-op
 Prospera Credit Union
 Revelstoke Credit Union
 Rotary Club of Ashcroft/Cache Creek
 Sharon's Credit Union
 Summerland Credit Union
 Sunshine Coast Credit Union
 Tofino Consumers Co-Op
 The Co-operators
 Tidal Flats Housing Co-op
 Ucluelet Co-op
 Vancity Savings Credit Union
 Williams Lake & District Credit Union

credit unions of BC

70%

OF PARTICIPANTS ARE SPONSORED

We are committed to making sure our programs are accessible to all youth in BC. Through subsidies from BC's Credit Unions, all of our programs are subsidized for BC youth. Roughly 35% of the youth we serve come from families who struggle to make ends meet. Your sponsorship makes a huge difference in the lives of these teens.

All YES programs are generously supported by the credit union levy from the Credit Unions of BC.



SPONSORSHIP MODELS

Youth across BC benefit from many sponsorships and subsidies to attend The YES Camps, but not all sponsorships are handled the same way. Some of our supporters choose to sponsor youth in financial need, some sponsor youth who demonstrate a passion for leadership, while others focus on supporting the children of employees as an investment in their staff team. While many sponsors support us with community investment dollars, others fundraise sponsorship funds through their membership. Often sponsors choose youth themselves, but some rely on The YES to provide sponsorships and subsidies to youth who can benefit from the program. If you are interested in more information on different ways you can support youth in your communities, please let us know and we'd be happy to share information and come up with options that will fit your needs.

JOIN OUR BOARD!

The Youth Excellence Society is looking for new board members to help support our growth and development over the coming years. We're expanding our school programs, marketing and social media campaigns, and building strategic co-operative partnerships. Join us as we develop a new strategic plan, and help us meet our targets for growth while continuing to change the lives of youth through our YES Camp programs.

President and Chair
Megan Millar
 Manager, Core Programs,
 Power To Be

Vice President
Charles Loui-Ying
 VP of Technology,
 Saje Wellness

Treasurer
Balbir Bains
 General Manager,
 GVC Credit Union

Secretary
Eleanor Wong
 Community Investment
 Portfolio Manager,
 Vancity

Jessica Chapelski
 Teacher, Vancouver

Michelle Ernest
 COO, People Footwear

Sara Hyde
 Lead Producer, The Lynda
 Steele Show, CKNW

Tracy Hutton
 VP of Coaching. The
 Marcus Buckingham
 Company





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"Over the course of camp, with the help of the staff and my newfound friends, I began to step out of my comfort zone and really express myself in the ways I've always wanted to. My self-confidence grew within each session and I truly believe the skills I've learned here will take me far into my workplace, school, and my relationships. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

-Emma, YES Camp Participant 2018
