

DATE OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

AUTHORED BY CHRISTY WOOD, SOCIAL PLANNER

SUBJECT NANAIMO YOUTH RESILIENCE GRANTS 2023

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present to the Finance and Audit Committee the recommended Nanaimo Youth Resilience Grant allocations with funds provided by Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Fund for distribution from 2023-OCT-01 to 2026-MAR-31.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve a total of \$1,611,149 of Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Funds to be distributed between 2023-OCT-01 and 2026-MAR-31 as follows:

- a) Big Brothers Big Sisters \$80,000 Project: Mindful Mentoring – Nurturing Resilience in Youth
- b) BGC Central Vancouver Island \$177,386 Project: Nanaimo South Youth Hub
- c) Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society \$177,386 Project: Connections
- d) City of Nanaimo \$201,425
 Project: Parks, Recreation & Culture Youth Initiatives
- e) Nanaimo Foodshare \$84,952 Project: Food for Youth
- f) Nanaimo Hornets Rugby Club \$90,000 Project: RugbyWorks
- g) School District 68 \$500,000
 Project: Uy' Sqwalawun (Good Heart & Mind)
- h) Snuneymuxw First Nation \$300,000 Project: Space for Youth Resiliency & Snawaylth



BACKGROUND

The City of Nanaimo has been allocated \$1.8 million from Public Safety Canada (PSC) through the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSC) until March 2026 to develop and implement a strategic plan to address gun and gang violence. At the 2022-JUL-04 Regular Council meeting, Council accepted the funds from the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) and directed Staff to use Year One funds to build a 3-year strategic plan. At the 2023-MAY-01 Regular Council meeting, Council endorsed the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy (the Strategy) (Attachment C).

The Strategy outlines six focus areas to prevent youth from engaging in gun and gang violence. The six focus areas include:

- Safe Youth Gathering Spaces safe, free youth gathering spaces within existing facilities.
- Youth Outreach to expand youth outreach to provide basic needs.
- Connecting Youth to Land and Water through Snawaylth (Teachings) connections to land and water to strengthen mental, emotional, spiritual, and cultural resilience.
- Youth Mentoring connect youth at risk with diverse role models and significant, caring adults.
- Enhancing Existing Programs improve existing programs by adding new components that fill gaps and build protective factors.
- Media & Communications develop key messaging to highlight successful youth programs and to address discrimination and stigma against youth.

At the 2023-JUN-05 meeting, Council directed Staff to proceed with a 3-year contribution agreement (from 2023-OCT-01 to 2026-MAR-31) with PSC, and to use the BSC funds to implement the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy including the six focus areas.

DISCUSSION

On 2023-JUL-10, the City launched the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Grant application process, including a website, press release, email update to stakeholders, and an information session on 2023-JUL-12. The information session was recorded and posted on the City's website. The closing date for applications was on 2023-AUG-14, and 23 applications were received.

At the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy Steering Committee meeting on 2023-JUN-28, members developed evaluation criteria and a committee to evaluate grant applications received from the community. The grant guidelines and criteria are provided in Attachment A. The Evaluation Committee consisted of Steering Committee members who did not submit grant applications, and sector representatives from Parks, Recreation & Culture, Community Planning, and the business community. Each application was scored based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance (25%)** Does the program reflect the focus areas in the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy and work to address the identified risk factors?
- Accessible and Equitable (25%) Does the program incorporate most of the criteria identified to ensure that children and youth at risk can access programming?
- Impact (25%) What difference will the program make for the intended audience?
- Efficiency (15%) How well are resources utilized?

• **Sustainability (10%)** – Will the benefits for the programs last beyond the funding cycle? A list of all grant applications received is provided in Attachment B. Applications that received the highest scores were selected by the Evaluation Committee and presented to the Steering



Committee on 2023-AUG-23 for consideration. The top-scoring applications addressed the six focus areas and included opportunities for partnerships and coordination of activities. Eight of the applications received were ineligible for funding under the BSC program because they requested funds for ineligible activities or for existing programs without significant enhancements (as listed in the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy).

Based on the evaluations, the Steering Committee is recommending that \$1,611,149 be allocated over the next 3-years (2023-OCT-01 to 2026-MAR-31) to the following initiatives:

Program/Initiative	Agency	Focus Area(s) Addressed	Amount
<i>Mindful Mentoring: Nurturing</i> <i>Resilience in Youth</i> – multifaceted program integrating yoga, mindfulness meditation, and cognitive therapeutic techniques.	Big Brothers Big Sisters	 Youth Outreach Youth Mentoring Enhancing Existing Programs 	\$80,000
Nanaimo South Youth Hub – drop-in youth spaces at Fifth Street and Nanaimo Aquatic Centre providing registration- based options, navigation services, case management, and activities for the most vulnerable youth.	BGC Central Vancouver Island	 Safe Youth Gathering Spaces Youth Outreach Youth Mentoring Enhancing Existing Programs 	\$177,386
Connections – interactive workshops empowering youth to build a sense of belonging and create positive networks and coping strategies.	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	 Youth Mentoring Youth Outreach Enhancing Existing Programs 	\$177,386
Parks, Recreation & Culture Youth Initiatives – City Staff support to a drop-in space with enhanced opportunities for recreational programs targeted to youth at risk.	City of Nanaimo	 Safe Youth Gathering Spaces Youth Outreach Enhancing Existing Programs 	\$201,425
Food for Youth – providing food security, cooking, and growing educational opportunities in safe youth gathering spaces.	Nanaimo Foodshare	 Youth Outreach Enhancing Existing Programs 	\$84,952
RugbyWorks – incorporating mentorship and positive socialization activities by providing a visible presence in neighbourhoods, leveraging social media, and volunteerism.	Nanaimo Hornets Rugby Club	 Youth Outreach Youth Mentoring Enhancing Existing Programs Media & Communications 	\$90,000



Uy' Sqwalawun (Good Heart & Mind) – drop-in youth spaces at Woodlands Secondary, Pleasant Valley Elementary, and Georgia Avenue Community School with opportunities to connect with local Indigenous teachings, art, recreation, music, and caring adult mentors.	School District 68	 Safe Youth Gathering Spaces (3 locations) Connecting Youth to Land & Water Youth Outreach Youth Mentoring Enhancing Existing Programs 	\$500,000
Youth Resiliency & Snawaylth – drop-in space at Snuneymuxw Gym with socio-emotional learning opportunities, life skills, and traditional teachings.	Snuneymuxw First Nation	 Safe Youth Gathering Spaces Youth Outreach Connecting Youth to Land & Water Youth Mentoring 	\$300,000
Total Funds			\$1,611,149

To receive funds, each organization will enter into a service agreement with the City. The funds will be distributed bi-annually starting on 2023-OCT-01. Service agencies will receive funds in advance every six months once reporting requirements for the prior period are received. Reporting requirements will be outlined in the service agreement and will include financial and program performance reports. In addition, where applicable, service agreements will include the requirement to coordinate activities between service providers to ensure the alignment of programs and youth gathering spaces.

OPTIONS

- 1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve a total of \$1,611,149 of Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Funds to be distributed between 2023-OCT-01 and 2026-MAR-31 as follows:
 - a) Big Brothers Big Sisters \$80,000 Project: Mindful Mentoring – Nurturing Resilience in Youth
 - b) BGC Central Vancouver Island \$177,386 Project: Nanaimo South Youth Hub
 - c) Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society \$177,386 Project: Connections
 - d) City of Nanaimo \$201,425
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 - e) Nanaimo Foodshare \$84,952 Project: Food for Youth
 - f) Nanaimo Hornets Rugby Club \$90,000 Project: RugbyWorks



- g) School District 68 \$500,000 Project: Uy' Sqwalawun (Good Heart & Mind)
- h) Snuneymuxw First Nation \$300,000 Project: Space for Youth Resiliency & Snawaylth
 - The advantages of this option: The eight recommended programs and initiatives will implement the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy and will support youth at risk.
 - The disadvantages of this option: A number of organizations who submitted Nanaimo Youth Resilience grant applications that rated lower based on criteria will not receive funding.
 - Financial Implications: The proposed programs and initiatives through the Nanaimo Youth Resilience grants are funded 100% through the Building Safer Communities Fund. The Building Safer Communities fund is provided annually over the next 3-years.
- 2. That Council provide alternative direction to Staff.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The City of Nanaimo has been allocated \$1.8 million from Public Safety Canada through the Building Safer Communities Fund until March 2026 to develop and implement a strategic plan to address gun and gang violence.
- At the 23-MAY-01 Regular Council meeting, Council endorsed the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy, which outlines six focus areas to prevent youth from engaging in gun and gang violence.
- Staff, along with the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy Steering Committee, are recommending that \$1,611,149 be allocated over the next 3-years (2023-OCT-01 to 2026-MAR-31) to the eligible applicants with the highest rated scores.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Nanaimo Youth Resilience Grant Guidelines and Criteria ATTACHMENT B: Nanaimo Youth Resilience Fund Requests ATTACHMENT C: Link to Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy

Submitted by:

Concurrence by:

Lisa Brinkman Manager, Community Planning Laura Mercer Director, Finance

Darcie Osborne Director, Recreation & Culture

Dale Lindsay General Manager, Development Services / Deputy CAO

ATTACHMENT A



Nanaimo Youth Resilience Grant Guidelines & Criteria

Grant Program Summary

The <u>Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy</u> (NYRS) guides the activities and objectives for the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) over the next three years. Non-profit organizations, public sector entities, or government bodies are strongly encouraged to apply for the **Nanaimo Youth Resilience Grant** funded by the BSCF. Successful program applicants will receive funding between October 2023 and March 2026 toward programming that will meaningfully support youth at risk, ages 11-25. Programs must be new or add notable enhancements to existing programs. Additional information may be found on the *Frequently Asked Questions* document.

Completed application packages must be submitted by **noon, Monday, August 14, 2023**. Applications may be submitted by email, mail, or in-person. Please review the application form carefully for submission instructions. Successful applicants will receive written notification of Council's decision by the end of September 2023.

6 Key Focus Areas in the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy

The Nanaimo Youth Resilience Grant is to fund programs that support the focus areas in the NYRS. The programs must be new and/or augment existing efforts in the community that meaningfully connect with and support youth at risk (ages 11-25).

Please read the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy, a copy can be found here.

The focus areas in the NYRS are:

• Safe Youth Gathering Spaces

- To establish safe, free, youth gathering spaces within existing facilities. The City is working to identify two locations for safe youth gathering spaces. The Nanaimo Youth Resilience grant may be used to fund programs in these spaces.
- Youth Outreach
 - To expand street outreach and related programs including service hours and locations to build relationships with youth at risk, and to meet a wide range of their needs such as providing food, harm reduction, engagement in recreation, access to counseling, etc.
- Connecting Youth To Land And Water Through Snawaylth (Teachings)

- Enhance existing and/or create new opportunities to connect youth to the land and water through Snawaylth to strengthen their mental, emotional, spiritual, and cultural resilience.
- Youth Mentoring Program
 - To connect youth, especially youth at risk, with diverse role models and significant/caring adults (e.g. tutors, trades or vocational role models, mentors, teachers, coaches, etc.).

• Enhancing Existing Programs

• To improve existing programs for youth by adding new components that fill gaps and build protective factors for children and youth-at-risk (e.g. sports, culture, education, health and wellness, life skills, socio-emotional learning, volunteering etc.).

• Media & Communications

 To build relationships with media and develop key positive messaging to highlight successful youth programs and initiatives that counter repeated negative media attention that perpetuate discrimination and stigmatization against youth.

Risk Factors of Focus

The NYRS identifies risk factors that are significant for Nanaimo and the recommended focus areas listed above are intended to reduce these risk factors for youth and children. These risk factors are:

- Land & Waters Level
 - Limited or lack of access/availability to healthy lands & waters, including Indigenous sources of foods and medicine

• Societal Level

- Large number of people living in poverty
- Significant prevalence of discrimination, stigmatization, and oppression, such as racism
- Lack of affordable, appropriate, and safe housing
- Lack of adequate services (social, physical health, mental health, addictions, etc.)
- High unemployment

• Community Level

- Presence of organized crime & human trafficking
- Repeated negative media attention
- Availability of street level weapons, including firearms
- Fear of social disorder (e.g. homelessness, public drug use)
- Lack of adequate services (cultural, recreational) »Large number of residents reporting feeling unsafe in their neighbourhood
- Neighbourhoods that show neglect and lack of sense of ownership and pride by residents
- School Level
 - Too few teacher role models

- Lack of attention to bullying (including cyberbullying)
- Negative labelling by teachers
- Access to street level drugs within the school
- Low educational aspirations
- Peer Level
 - Friends who are part of a gang
 - Friends with problematic substance use challenges
 - o Interaction with peers in conflict with the law
 - Lack of meaningful peer connections
- Family Level
 - Intimate partner and family violence
 - Abuse and neglect of children
 - Criminalized or incarcerated parents
 - Lone parent household with limited economic means

Fund Distribution

The City of Nanaimo has access (through the BSCF program) to \$1,156,699 to fund programs under the 6 focus areas. The estimated distribution of the funds available is listed below. Funds under this grant program are available between October 1, 2023, and March 31, 2026. **Programs do not need to run continuously but must occur between the funding timeline and start during the Fall/Winter 2023.**

	Focus Area	Steering Committee Rating 'Impact – Effort'	Proposed % of BSC Program Funds
1.	Safe Youth Gathering Spaces	High Impact – High Effort	30%
2.	Youth Outreach	High Impact – High Effort	25%
3.	Connecting Youth to Land and Water Through Snawaylth	High Impact – Medium Effort	15%
4.	Youth Mentoring Program	High Impact – Medium Effort	10%
5.	Enhancing Existing Programs	High Impact – High Effort	15%
6.	Media & Communications	High Impact – Low Effort	5%

Application Timeline

Applications must be submitted by 12 pm Monday, August 14, 2023.

Applications received after this date will only be considered if there are unused funds. Late requests may be considered in exceptional or unforeseen circumstances. Successful applicants will receive written notification of Council's decision by the end of September 2023.

- July 10, 2023: Applications open.
- July 12, 2023: Online information session.
- August 14, 2023: Applications close at 12 pm
- September 13, 2023: Recommendations for fund distribution presented at the City of Nanaimo Finance and Audit Committee meeting.

- September 25, 2023: Official endorsement of Finance and Audit Committee recommendations at City of Nanaimo Council Meeting.
- September 26 to September 29: Finalize all agreements with successful applicants.
- **October 1:** Provide access to funds to successful applicants.

Application Criteria

The NYRS identifies the focus areas and the risk factors programs should address. In addition, the NYRS lists further criteria to ensure that programs are low barrier, accessible, and equitable. The following criteria were developed to guide the funding distribution. A program should meet most of the following criteria to be selected for funding:

- Focuses on children and youth (ages 11-25) at risk (as per risk factors)
- Fosters positive peer to peer interactions and connections
- Ensures that children and youth living in poverty are included in services and recreation (e.g., arts, culture, sports, and food distribution)
- Increases opportunities for integration of Indigenous and non-Indigenous services
- Includes a focus on anti-discrimination, anti-stigmatization, and anti-oppression (e.g., youth phobia)
- Provides opportunities to connect youth to the land
- Increases socio-emotional learning opportunities
- Offers services during peak hours for youth activity (e.g., 6 PM to 12 AM and weekends)
- Provides opportunities for youth to connect to diverse role models or significant/caring adults (e.g., trades role models, tutors, teachers, coaches)
- o Includes trauma-informed practices and cultural awareness
- Works to remove barriers to access (transportation, costs, etc.)
- Focuses on culture, healthy relationships, and pro-social activities
- o Includes supports for family members of youth participants
- o Advances opportunities for wraparound approaches
- Clearly identifies the recruitment and referral process
- Establishes community partnerships with other service agencies to co-create and implement programs

Applications will be evaluated based on the above listed criteria and will be weighted by the following questions:

- **Relevance (25%)** Does the program reflect the focus areas in the NYRS and work to address the identified risk factors?
- Accessible and Equitable (25%) Does the program incorporate most of the criteria identified to ensure that children and youth at risk can access programming?
- Impact (25%) What difference will the program make for the intended audience?
- Efficiency (15%) How well are resources utilized.
- Sustainability (10%) Will the benefits for the programs last beyond the funding cycle?

To access Public Safety Canada funding through the City of Nanaimo, only the eligible expenditures listed below will be funded:

#	Public Safety Canada Eligible Expenditures
1	Salaries, wages and benefits for temporary professional, clerical, technical and administrative services, and stipends (including expenses for international staff);
2	Professional and consultant costs, not limited to audit and evaluation expenses and professional fees related to the preparation of financial statements
3	Recruitment and Training Costs (e.g. courses, workshops, etc.);
4	Costs associated to conferences, including conference room, virtual conferences, and associated equipment rentals
5	Reasonable Travel, accommodations, and related expenses in accordance with National Joint Council Guidelines as well as bus tickets, tokens, and other reasonable participant related transportation reimbursements;
6	Rent, normal utilities such as electricity, heat, water and telephone, and maintenance of offices and other buildings where the expenses are directly related to the development and implementation of the project
7	Office equipment, supplies, and materials, including computers, printers/scanners, and communications equipment and associated costs
8	Minor renovations to the facility where the interventions are taking place (principally required to enhance security or to ensure program fidelity), where deemed essential for the success of the project. Minor renovations are defined as \$10,000 in total or less, over the course of the project
9	Translation and simultaneous interpretation costs;
10	Meals and/or refreshments for participants in activities and workshops directly related to the project
11	Honoraria, defined as time-limited remuneration for a volunteer service or participation in project delivery that is consistent with, and essential to the attainment of, the project's objectives. This can include, but is not limited to, volunteer services and guest speakers; but cannot be provided for individuals whose participation in a project is already being compensated (e.g., by their employer) or is being accrued as part of an in-kind contribution
12	Culturally appropriate expenditures including gifts (for a maximum of \$100), community feasts, ceremonies and ceremonial meals, gatherings, and circles in accordance with National Joint Council guidelines

#	Public Safety Canada Ineligible Expenditures
1	Goods and services that, in the opinion of the Government of Canada, are normally provided by the First Nation community or by the federal, provincial, territorial or local municipal government
2	Cannot be used to pay for regular or ongoing police services
3	Core or ongoing operating expenses
4	Hospitality, that does not meet the eligible expenses criteria
5	Interest charges or costs of borrowing; and
6	Amortization

Who Can Apply?

Organizations requesting funding will be established non-profit organizations, public sector entities or government bodies with experience working with youth.

Review Process & Appeals

Applications will be received and reviewed by the Steering Committee and City of Nanaimo, and recommendations will be forwarded to Nanaimo City Council for consideration of approval. Successful applicants will receive written notification of Council's decision by the end of September 2023.

For further information, please email: socialplanning@nanaimo.ca

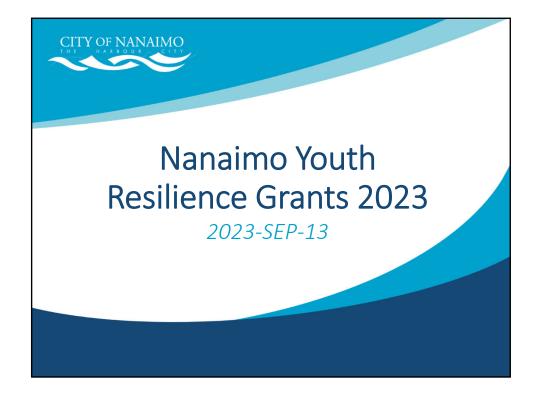
ATTACHMENT B Nanaimo Youth Resilience Fund Requests

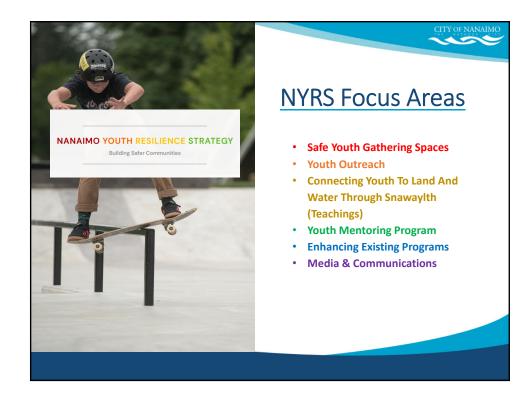
Organization	Program/Initiative	Request	Recommended Allocation
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Mindful Mentoring – Nurturing Resilience in Youth	\$86,200	\$80,000
BGC Central Vancouver Island	Nanaimo South Youth Hub	\$397,687	\$177,386
Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	Connections	\$400,308	\$177,386
City of Nanaimo	Nanaimo Aquatic Centre Youth Space	\$201,425	\$201,425
Connective Support Society Nanaimo	Enhanced Youth Resiliency	\$367,878	\$0
Crimson Coast Dance Society	Trauma-Informed Arts Practice: A Model of Safe Facilitation for Youth Programming	\$59,770	\$0
Kismet Theatre Collective	Telling Stories in Safe Spaces	\$79,470	\$0
Nanaimo Art Gallery	Teen Art Drop-In	\$63,510	\$0
Nanaimo Art Gallery	Nanaimo Art Gallery Off- Site Youth Outreach	\$65,805	\$0
Nanaimo Art Gallery	Youth Art Collective	\$83,080	\$0
Nanaimo Clippers Junior Hockey Society	Nanaimo Clippers Youth Outreach Program	\$29,250	\$0
Nanaimo Foodshare	Food for Youth	\$91,952	\$84,952
Nanaimo Hornets	Nanaimo Hornets Youth Outreach	\$105,000	\$90,000

Nanaimo Youth Services Association	Nanaimo Youth Empowerment Strategy (YES)	\$304,602	\$0
Risebridge	Youth Empowerment	\$255,000	\$0
Risebridge	Youth Outreach	\$175,800	\$0
Risebridge	Youth Urban Art and Music	\$109,200	\$0
School District 68	Uy' Sqwalawun (Good Heart & Mind)	\$518,775	\$500,000
School District 68	Gestures Theatre	\$54,600	\$0
School District 68	Wellington Outdoor Education	\$34,607	\$0
Snuneymuxw First Nation	Space for Youth Resiliency & Snawaylth	\$300,000	\$300,000
Take a Hike Foundation	Development and Implementation of Shared Practices - Take a Hike Nanaimo	\$50,000	\$0
Tillicum Lelum	Dreamcatchers	\$379,799	\$0
Volunteer Nanaimo	Safe Spaces for Youth	\$379,799	\$0
Women of Influence Nanaimo Network	Women of Influence Nanaimo (WIN) Awards	\$30,000	\$0
Total Available/ Recommen	ded*	\$1,611,149	\$1,611,149*
Total Funding Requested		\$4,323,519	

ATTACHMENT C

Link to "Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy": <u>https://www.nanaimo.ca/docs/social-culture-environment/nanaimo-youth-resilience-strategy.pdf</u>





Agency	Program/Initiative Name	Focus Areas	Amount
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Mindful Mentoring: Nurturing Resilience in Youth	 Youth Outreach Youth Mentoring Enhancing Existing Programs 	\$80,000
BGC Central Vancouver Island	Nanaimo South Youth Hub and Navigation Services	 Safe Youth Gathering Spaces (hybrid model – Fifth Street & NAC) Youth Outreach Youth Mentoring Enhancing Existing Programs 	\$177,386
Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	Connections	 Youth Mentoring Youth Outreach Enhancing Existing Programs 	\$177,386
City of Nanaimo Parks, Recreation & Culture	Nanaimo Aquatic Centre (NAC) Youth Space	 Safe Youth Gathering Spaces Youth Outreach Enhancing Existing Programs 	\$201,425
Nanaimo Food Share	Food for Youth	Youth OutreachEnhancing Existing Programs	\$84,952

Agency	Program/Initiative Name	Focus Areas	Amount
Nanaimo Hornets Rugby Club	RugbyWorks	 Youth Outreach Youth Mentoring Enhancing Existing Programs Media & Communications 	\$90,000
School District 68	Uy' Sqwalawun (Good Heart & Mind)	 Safe Youth Gathering Spaces (3 locations – Woodlands Secondary, Pleasant Valley Elementary and Georgia Avenue Community School) Connecting Youth to Land & Water Youth Outreach Youth Mentoring Enhancing Existing Programs 	\$500,000
Snuneymuxw First Nation	Youth Resiliency & Snawaylth	 Safe Youth Gathering Spaces (Snuneymuxw Gym) Youth Outreach Connecting Youth to Land & Water Youth Mentoring 	\$300,000
Total Funds Allocated for Direct Youth Programming			\$1,611,149

