



NANAIMO YOUTH ADISORY COUNCIL
TERMS OF REFERENCE
(adopted 2014-MAY-05)
(amended 2015-AUG-17)

Purpose

The mandate of the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Committee (NYAC) is to provide Mayor and Council with a youth perspective on municipal issues. The NYAC will also provide input and advice to City staff as requested and will seek to involve and inform the young people of Nanaimo on issues that affect them and the community as a whole.

Values

The City of Nanaimo believes that:

- Youth are integral parts of the community and, like all residents, have inherent rights and responsibilities;
- Youth should be encouraged and given the opportunity to take a leading role in issues which affect their lives;
- Youth are able to make positive contributions to their communities; and,
- That an investment in young people is an investment in the future.

Composition of Youth Advisory Council

The NYAC will be comprised of:

- 12 youth between 15 and 24 years of age;
- 2 youth between 15 and 24 years of age from Snuneymuxw First Nation; and,
- 1 member of Nanaimo City Council.

Prospective members will be identified by soliciting applications through advertising in local newspapers and with additional efforts made to create awareness by connecting directly with youth based school groups at the secondary school and University level.

Membership in the NYAC should, where possible, represent the range of diverse individuals that live in and make up the community of Nanaimo. Members must be residents of Nanaimo. All members shall serve without remuneration. The City Council may appoint new voting members at any time to fill vacancies.

Meeting agendas, minutes and reports will be prepared and distributed with the assistance of City staff.

Appointment and Term

The NYAC members will be appointed by Council and will serve a two year term.

Structure

A Chair and Vice Chair are to be selected by the voting members each term.

Meetings

The NYAC will meet monthly, and a minimum of two times each year with Mayor and Council. Additional meetings will be scheduled so as to accommodate the academic calendar and the meeting schedule will be determined in advance for each calendar year in consultation with members and elected officials.

Meetings will be held at City Hall, 411 Dunsmuir at a time appropriate to the scheduling needs of youth members.

A quorum is 7 or more members, excluding staff and elected officials.

In order to be relevant and topical to youth and City Council, members of the NYAC will develop an agenda for their meetings based on items drawn from past or upcoming Nanaimo City Council meetings. In addition, other topics not covered by City Council can be added to the NYAC agenda by youth, elected officials or City staff.

Authority

The NYAC may make recommendations to Council which are non-binding, and may include requests for financial support for specific actions.

See also:

- Terms of Reference for Advisory Committees
- Council Procedure Bylaw