

PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Co-Chairs and Members of the Youth Advisory Committee  
CC: Clerks Office  
FROM: Lee Moore, Parks & Recreation  
DATE: August 27, 2019  
SUBJECT: **Recreation Y.E.S. Camp & YAC Hoodie Order**

Attention Co-Chair and Members of the Youth Advisory Committee;

### **Y.E.S. Camp 2019**

On August 1, 2019, Parks & Recreation hosted its annual Y.E.S. Camp for volunteers ages 13 to 16 years, in the Youth Leadership Program. This camp brings together youth from across the municipality together for a 3-day overnight camp at Camp Mockingee in Windsor, NS. The youth who attend gain leadership experience through games, activities and learning sessions. Approximately 75 youth attend this event.

Staff attended this event and engaged the youth in a learning session to identify and to discuss issues that they are facing in their communities. The feedback from this session is attached to this memo. (Attachment 1)

### **YAC Hoodie Order**

Staff wish to remind the committee to submit your hoodie size to Lee Moore, Manager, Youth Live Program, to take part in this fall's YAC Hoodie order.

## **HRM Youth Engagement Meeting**

### **Youth Leadership – YES CAMP**

**August 7, 2019**

#### **Full Group Feedback**

##### **Why Do We Care and Why Does it Matter?**

It'll just get worse if we don't change it and the people that can change these problems don't even realize that they are problems because they have the accessibility to use better things. It matters because some people don't have the opportunity to use things outside the "public use".

##### **Who Cares?**

Everyone that is forced to use these things care due to their circumstances. Youth care, guardians care.

##### **What's Up/Issues**

- Canada Games Centre
- Recreation centres
  1. No wheelchair accessibility
  2. Old books
- Metro transit
  1. Transit never on time
  2. Dirty/smell
  3. No room
- Library
- Recreation
- Bike lanes/ Sidewalks
- Public gender-neutral bathrooms
  1. There are pretty much none

##### **What Now?**

The youth can come together, we can protest and rally and gather everyone together who believes as much in our cause as we do. Youth don't have people's respect, so they don't have the power to change things by themselves. Now we start talking about the issues we have and get

everyone talking about it. If everyone is talking about it soon someone will do things to change it.

## **Site/Community Specific Feedback**

### **Adventure Earth Centre**

- Transportation
  1. Only one bus goes to the AEC (We still walk 10 minutes)
  2. No sidewalk
  3. A very steep bike ride
  4. Ferry has a small, expensive schedule
  5. Bus stops at 8:30pm
  6. Only comes once per hour
  7. Swimming isn't accessible to everyone
- Attendance Affected
  1. Parents, youth, staff
  2. Hard to be on time/lots of traffic
  3. Hard for people to access our programs
  4. Makes everyone frustrated
  5. We're trying to promote sustainability, but everyone drives to come on time
- Limitations
  1. Write letter to council
  2. No one takes youth seriously
  3. It'd be expensive to add a new bus route or to relocate the AEC

## **Cole Harbour & Musquodoboit Harbour**

### **What Services Do We Need?**

- More crosswalks (Musq)
- Transportation
- Crosswalk flags
- Mental health youth groups
- Shelters for bus stops
- More youth programs (cover more areas)
- Youth counsels in each community

### **Priorities for Youth in Our Community**

- Library
- Water Fountains
- Food
- Welcoming Areas

### **Why Does it Matter**

- Reduce injuries & stay safe
- More transportation/ buses will provide more opportunities

### **How Do You Feel About These Issues?**

- Very strong & passionate

### **Who Cares?**

- We, as youth
- Parents
- HRM Recreation
- RCMP
- Mayor

### **What Are We Going to Do?**

- Send mayor counsellors
- Write YAC to get our issue put on their agenda
- Raise awareness, spread the word
- Write a petition

### **What Limitations?**

- No transit past Porter's Lake

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#### **Parks & Recreation**

Tel: 902.222.9897

Email: moorel@halifax.ca

halifax.ca

- Money
- Cannot drive

### **Where Do We Go from Here?**

- Writing a letter to our Councillor
  1. Ask what needs to be done
- Raise awareness, be enthusiastic about change

### **Fall River/Sackville/Bedford/Hammonds Plains**

#### **What's Up?**

- More accessible basketball courts outdoors (Fall River)
- Workout gyms
- Libraries
- More/better advertising (Age targeted)
- Better public transportation
- Bike lanes (Wider roads)
- Youth night
- Public hangout spaces (Indoor/outdoor)

#### **What About It?**

- Physical and mental health
- Accessibility
- Group hangouts/study areas
- Hangout spots
- Public health education

#### **What Now?**

- More money
- More resources
- More help from older population

## **Dartmouth/Eastern Passage**

### **What's Up?**

- Dedicated youth space
  1. More youth programs through HRM
  2. Diverse programs
  3. Youth space similar to Power House
- Transit
  1. Nowhere for youth to go
  2. Isolated in Eastern Passage
  3. Need bus to go to Dartmouth
  4. Transit in Cow Bay
  5. Connect EP & Caldwell Road
- Food Insecurity
- More Opportunities to learn
  1. Life skills
  2. More scholarships
  3. More youth job opportunities

### **Who Cares?**

- Youth
- Recreation Staff
- Parents
- Teachers
- Community

### **What About It?**

- Why does it matter?
- Provide youth with things to do
- Contact YAC
- Bring issues to community members

### **Limitations**

- Money
- Transportation
- Not knowing how to write a professional/business letter
- Resources
- Not knowing who to contact for problems
- People not caring

### **Where Do We Go from Here?**

- Getting help/ Life skills

## **Halifax-Dixon, Citadel, Needham**

### **What's Up?**

- Lack of Asian representation and support services
  1. To do with exclusion and inclusion
  2. If they are represented better, then the ethic group is more included
  3. Add a designated person to be a representative for Asians specifically
  4. Add support services to support people of Asian descent, Asian only clubs
- Lack of inclusion for youth in some programs
  1. If youth need inclusion workers, that service should be provided
  2. If youth need inclusion and don't have it, they are excluded
  3. Contact disabilities representative
- Youth career counseling
  1. Most youth are clueless and don't know there are jobs out there for them
  2. Some feel like they are not needed in the work force
  3. It also helps up to know what we would like to do when we grow up/what we don't like
  4. The people who chose the youth counselor are the same people that the youth intended to look out for.
  5. Maybe we the youth can have a say on who represents us

### **Additional Opportunities**

- More volunteer opportunities
- More garbage cans
- More recycle bins
- More bathrooms
- More pedestrian streets/limit cars
  1. Bikes only streets
- Garbage cans on buses
- Education on substance use/abuse
  1. Vapes
  2. Weed
  3. Youth are experimenting
  4. Along with legalization of weed, more education
- Advertise reusable cups at restaurants
- Electric charge station
- Continue environmentalism

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