NANAIMO YOUTH SERVICES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

55 Years

Supporting Nanaimo Youth



** people in photos in this document may not be actual clients of NYSA. In order to protect the privacy of our clients and supporters, we use images that provide a context to support our messages and information.*

***Nanaimo Youth Services Association** continues to support young people in their quest for housing that they can afford. We know that they are ready to receive help with getting a job but they must have permanent, safe and secure housing before that can happen.*

This understanding drives the organization to provide the services that it does: housing, and life skills, job readiness, personal development and driver training programs and other life skills support.

OUR MISSION:

Provide learning opportunities and support to youth so that they can succeed on their path to independence, while acknowledging that individuals are affected by their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.



MESSAGE FROM MANAGEMENT

Dear Supporters, Staff and Community Partners,

As the fiscal year-end has passed, we want to take a moment to reflect on our achievements, challenges, and the resilience of our organization. Despite a slight decrease in revenue, our dedicated team effectively managed expenses, resulting in a modest surplus. This surplus is vital as it bolsters our reserve fund, ensuring we are prepared for any unforeseen financial challenges. While there is no indication of significant revenue decline, maintaining a robust reserve is our commitment to prudent financial and risk management.

Housing

In the realm of housing, we continued to operate efficiently, offering over 13,000 room nights of accommodation to young people throughout 2023-2024. Our commitment to providing safe and stable housing remains steadfast. Additionally, we have successfully renewed the mortgage on Rowe House, securing favorable terms that will support our housing efforts at that location for the next five years.

Unfortunately, NYSA's proposal to purchase the property at 6 Commercial Street and develop a mixed-use building with affordable housing did not come to fruition. However, we remain ever vigilant in exploring other opportunities to address the pressing need for affordable accommodation for young people in our area.

Programming Highlights

Our employment readiness training programs continued to make a profound impact in 2023. Our BladeRunners program successfully graduated 70 young people, equipping them with essential skills in construction and career exploration. We are excited to share that this program has been renewed for another three-year term starting April 2024. This ongoing support will allow us to continue providing valuable job training opportunities for youth in our community.

Conversely, our DiverseFutures program, which was supported by an Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) – Youth Employment and Skills Strategy agreement, concluded this year. Despite our best efforts, our proposal to extend this program was declined in June. We are grateful for the support we received during its operation and will seek new opportunities to advance our mission when and wherever possible.

The L2N driver assistance program, in partnership with Snuneymuxw First Nation, continued to operate at full capacity. The demand for driving hours from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth continues to exceed our available resources. This ongoing partnership realizes the critical need for such support services and underscores our dedication to meeting this need.

Lastly, the unexpected closure of the RentSmart program by its developers – a vital resource for youth housing education — was a significant setback for NYSA as we have delivered this program to more than 60 youth over the past few years. However, we responded promptly by developing our own SmartRenter program. In its inaugural year, SmartRenter successfully reached over 25 young individuals, providing them with essential knowledge on tenant rights, budgeting, and effective communication with landlords.

In closing, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to NYSA staff, supporters, and community partners. Your unwavering commitment and collaboration enable us to continue to make a meaningful impact. As we move into the new fiscal year, we remain optimistic and dedicated to our focus on empowering youth and thus, strengthening our community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Keith Wilson
Chief Administrative Officer

Allan Beaudry
President & Chair



2024 AT A GLANCE

TOTAL YOUTH HOUSING ROOM NIGHTS

13,141

TOTAL BLADERUNNER GRADUATES

70

TOTAL DIVERSEFUTURES GRADUATES

40

SMARTRENTER GRADUATES

25

L2N DRIVER GRADUATION RATE

74%

OPERATIONS

OUR PROGRAMS

BladeRunners

BladeRunners is a provincially funded initiative designed to equip young people aged 16 to 30 with essential life skills and job readiness training. The program aims to help participants overcome employment barriers and thrive in the local job market.

SmartRenter

SmartRenter is all about building skills and empowering tenants. While being a good tenant isn't something you're born with, it's a set of skills you can learn: from understanding legal rights and responsibilities to mastering financial management, communication, and maintenance. Graduates walk away with a solid grasp of renting and a valuable reference letter.

L2N

NYSA's L2N program connects aspiring drivers aged 16 to 29 with experienced supervisors to help them log the driving hours needed for their N license. This initiative is a collaborative effort between NYSA and Snuneymuxw First Nation.

Supporting Young Families

The Supporting Young Families program offers guidance and resources for young parents (ages 15 to 30) to support them through pregnancy, childbirth, and the early stages of parenthood. We provide a comprehensive resource guide and a donation room at our Bastion Street location, stocked with diapers, formula, clothing, strollers, and more, available Monday through Friday.

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OPERATIONS

HOUSING

NYSA is proud to offer housing programs designed to meet the diverse needs of youth in Nanaimo, including supportive and affordable living arrangements that provide stability, foster personal growth, and, most importantly, ensure the safety and security of our young residents. This reassurance equips them to transition successfully into adulthood.

Waddington: A Supportive Home for Youth

Waddington offers 21 housing units for youth aged 16 to under-19, including one-bedroom and two-bedroom units that accommodate individual residents and young parents with children. With rent subsidized through BC Housing, Waddington provides private living spaces and communal rooms for shared meals, movie nights, and social events, along with outdoor play areas and on-site laundry facilities.

Youth in this program are prioritized based on their risk of homelessness or housing instability. All residents are expected to be engaged in work, school, or personal development activities, and they receive in-house programming and workshops focused on life skills such as cooking, budgeting, mental health, and tenancy responsibilities. These essential skills help youth prepare for a successful transition to independent living by age 19.

Rowe House: Affordable Housing for Young Adults

Rowe House provides 14 single units for young adults who are employed or attending school full-time. This affordable housing option, with its furnished units and shared facilities, offers a beacon of hope for those seeking safe, communal living arrangements. While rent is not subsidized at Rowe House, the facility provides an affordable option for young people looking to establish long-term, stable housing as they pursue their personal and professional developmental goals.

NYSA's housing programs are not just about providing a place to live; they are about laying the foundation for our youth to build brighter futures. From Waddington's transitional housing to Rowe House's affordable accommodations, these programs are committed to fostering growth, independence, and stability in the young residents.





SPOTLIGHT

STAFF MEMBER: ANTHONY MAKI

For nearly two decades, Anthony has been a steadfast and invaluable member of the NYSA team, serving as both a mentor and guide to countless individuals. Throughout his 19-year career, he has worked as a job coach across NYSA's employment programs, providing hands-on support to youth navigating the complexities of the modern labour market. His unique approach, blending practicality with empathy, has allowed him to successfully adapt his coaching style to meet the evolving needs of both job seekers and the workforce.

One of Anthony's most notable achievements in recent years has been the development of the **L2N driving program**, which, in collaboration with Snuneymuxw First Nation, gives youth the opportunity to gain the driving hours required to obtain their licenses—a critical step toward achieving both personal independence and broader career opportunities. The L2N program is a testament to Anthony's deep commitment to removing the barriers that youth face and his dedication to doing so with innovative solutions.

Anthony's passion for working with youth began many years ago during an unexpected experience at circus camp, where he first discovered the untapped potential that young people carry within them. Since then, he has been driven by a deep sense of purpose to help youth realize their strengths, always recognizing the unique capabilities they may not yet see in themselves.

As NYSA continues to evolve, Anthony remains a constant force of creativity and resilience, always ready to face new challenges and help shape the future of the youth he serves.



FINANCIAL

TOTAL REVENUE IN FISCAL 2024:

$1.90 MILLION

IN 2023-2024, WE RAISED
$1.51 M *for programs*
$0.36 M *for operating expenses*

IN 2023-2024, WE SPENT
$1.2 M *on programming*
$0.45 M *on operating expenses*

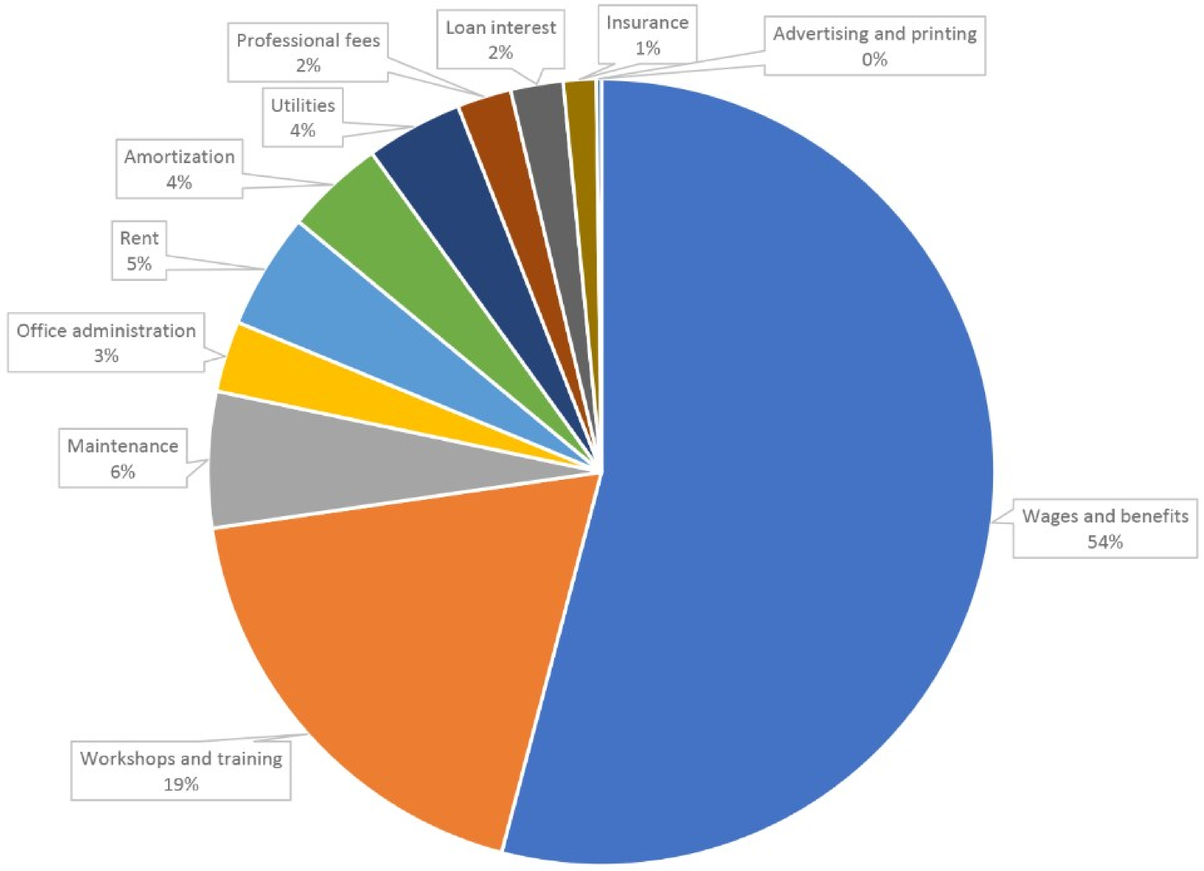
NET ASSETS

$1,455,248 *2024*
$1,202,532 *2023*



FINANCIAL

OPERATIONAL COSTS:



PEOPLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Allan Beaudry, *Chair*

Don Stedeford, *Secretary*

Leana Pellegrin, *Acting Treasurer*

Sheila White, *Director*

STAFF

Chris Lakusta *Director, Housing & Supportive Living*

Amanda Pitts *Outreach Support Worker*

Michelle Ripka *Outreach Support Worker*

Mccalli Franklin *Outreach Support Worker*

Brianna Purdy *Housing Coordinator*

Kourtni Dzugan *Residential Housing Worker*

Jessie Gallant *Residential Housing Worker*

Kim Agnew-Jones *Director, BladeRunners*

Berani Fielding *Director, DiverseFutures*

Anthony Maki *Job Coach & L2N Coordinator*

Les Pangborne-LaHue *L2N Driver Accompanist*

Lindsay Rathjen *Bookkeeper*

Allison Evans *Controller*

Amy Worth *Director, Communications & Development (on leave)*

Keith Wilson *Chief Administrative Officer*



290 Bastion Street
Nanaimo, British Columbia, V9R 3A4
250.754.1989
nysa.bc.ca

YOUTH
NANAIMO YOUTH SERVICES ASSOCIATION