Making More Possible

Together.

NYSA

NANAIMO YOUTH SERVICES ASSOCIATION

2026 Annual Report

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OUR MISSION

NYSA IS CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND **CONNECTING YOUTH WITH THE SUPPORT THEY NEED** TO SUCCEED ON THEIR OWN PATH TO INDEPENDENCE.

OUR MISSION

A Message of Thanks

Every young person who found stability at NYSA this year did so because someone chose to care, and that someone was you. When times are uncertain and needs are growing, your steady commitment to Nanaimo’s youth is what keeps our doors open and our work moving forward.

The year brought higher costs and more young people asking for help, and our community answered. Donations to NYSA grew, which tells us that relationships built on trust and shared purpose can carry us through hard times. We are proud of that result and humbled by it.

Your giving turned into real change. Hundreds of young adults in Nanaimo received support through NYSA's housing, life-skills, and employment programs.

We also looked to the future. Our management team designed a new suite of programs for the lower floor of our headquarters, to be known as Bridge Centre. The space is slated for renovation and upgrading, and it will offer programming that brings youth together with the community and, from time to time, with adults and family members. Work to bring this vision to life was ongoing at fiscal year-end.

None of this happens without our staff. They bring skill, patience, and heart to demanding work every day, and we salute them. Their well-being is a top priority, and we will keep advocating for the resources they need to support the youth they serve.

As we move ahead, our commitment is simple: excellent programs, stronger partnerships, and clear evidence that your investment pays off in healthy young people who help to shape Nanaimo’s future.

With heartfelt thanks,

Allan Beaudry, *President & Chair*
Keith Wilson, *Chief Administrative Officer*
Nanaimo Youth Services Association





2025-26 HIGHLIGHTS

What We Made Possible

12,000+
HOUSING NIGHTS PROVIDED

6,300+
HOURS OF TRAINING DELIVERED

500+
YOUTH SUPPORTED IN NANAIMO

OUR PROGRAMS IN ACTION

Employment & Training

Getting ahead takes more than ambition. It takes skills, connections, and someone willing to open a door.

BladeRunners



Three weeks of hands-on training, industry certifications, and ongoing employment support.

312
CERTIFICATIONS EARNED

100%
GRADUATION RATE

L2N Driver Practice



Supervised driving practice and mentorship for young adults who otherwise lack access.

3,000+
HOURS OF PRACTICE

52
DRIVERS

78%
FIRST-TIME PASS RATE

OUR PROGRAMS IN ACTION

Housing & Supportive Living



Waddington House



Rowe House

Waddington House offers transitional housing for young adults aged 18–19, while Rowe House provides deeply affordable homes for those aged 19–24. Both give young adults something increasingly difficult to find in Nanaimo: a place they can afford while they build their lives.

50
YOUTH HOUSED

14
MOVED INTO INDEPENDENT HOUSING

Supportive Living

NYSA works alongside young adults connected to MCFD and SAJE as they navigate daily responsibilities and greater independence. Support is tailored to their circumstances, goals, and changing needs.

57
YOUTH SUPPORTED

51%
NEW THIS YEAR



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

A Chance Can Change Everything

Growing up in Mexico, Sebastián Ramos learned to be cautious. An orange in the road could conceal nails meant to puncture a tire. A stranger asking the time might be looking for something worth stealing. With little faith in the systems meant to protect people, he found himself asking why people resorted to crime, and what circumstances had brought them there.

Those questions led him to Canada at 20, where he studied criminology at Vancouver Island University. Finding a sense of belonging took longer. It came gradually, through conversations, friendships, and learning from people whose lives were different from his own.

After graduating, he joined NYSA, where he'd hoped to work. Today, as Program Director of BladeRunners, he recognizes something familiar in young adults who have learned to keep their guard up.

“The things that they're carrying and the things that they're dealing with, they don't just stay at the door.”

SEBASTIÁN RAMOS



He knows their experiences don't disappear when they enter the classroom. Rather than judging what he sees, he takes time to understand the person. Over three weeks, NYSA provides training and employment support, but also the opportunity to build trust and connection.

He starts each program by telling his BladeRunners, “I picked you because I believe that you have special abilities.” Then comes his challenge: “Prove me right.”

For Sebastián, the work doesn't end at graduation. It continues in the businesses, workplaces, and neighbourhoods where his BladeRunners will build their lives. And it depends on people willing to offer what he offers from the beginning: a chance.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

A Partnership That Keeps Growing

The strongest partnerships aren’t built around a single project.



The Home Depot Canada Foundation

For over a decade, The Home Depot Canada Foundation’s Orange Door Project has helped NYSA respond to youth homelessness in Nanaimo. Through fundraising campaigns and grants totalling more than $90,000, the partnership has supported practical improvements to youth housing, including work at Rowe House, while helping young adults find greater stability.

It demonstrates what sustained community investment can accomplish: not simply funding a project, but helping NYSA respond as needs change.

It Takes a Community

Home Depot is one part of a much wider network.

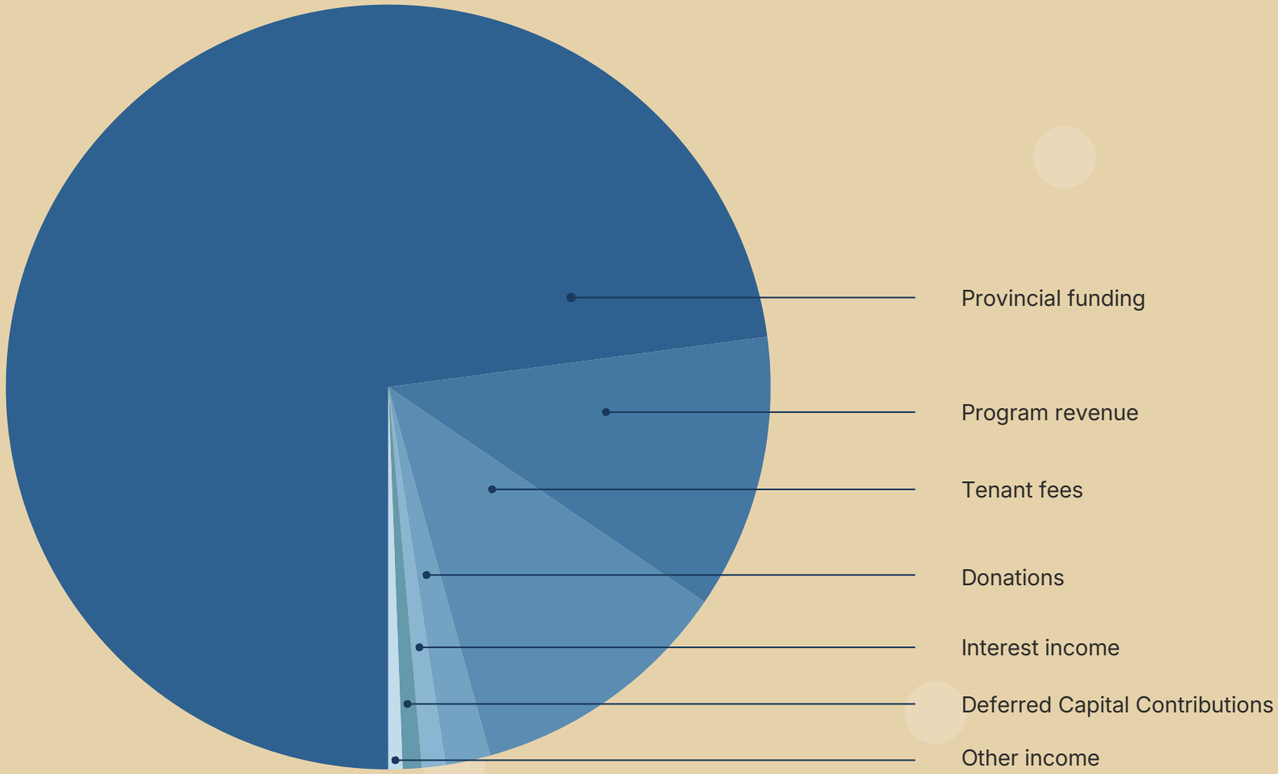
It happens when an employer takes a chance, a volunteer lends a hand, a community partner opens up new experiences, or a donor gives a little every month. Different people, different ways to help, and more becomes possible for Nanaimo’s youth.

Together, we make opportunities real.

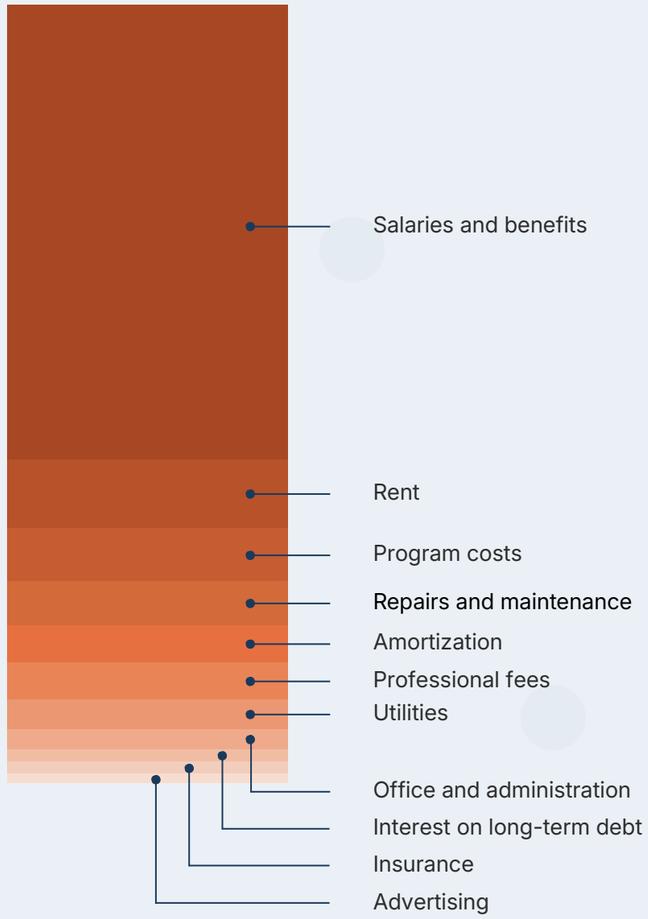
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FY25-26 Financials

REVENUE BY SOURCE



EXPENSES



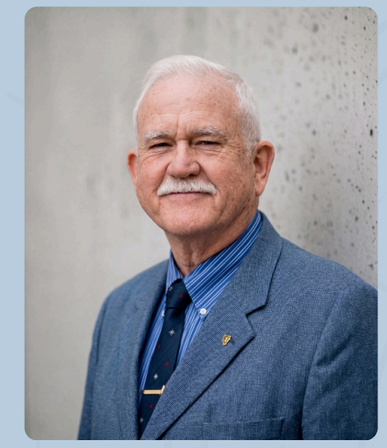
See 2026 audited financial statements for additional details

Our Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Allan Beaudry
President & Chair



Don Stedeford
Corporate Secretary



Leana Pellegrin
Treasurer



Sheila White
Director

MANAGEMENT

Keith Wilson
Chief Administrative Officer

Chris Lakusta
Senior Director, Housing & Supportive Living

Anthony Maki
Senior Director, Workforce Development

Jacqueline Salvino
Director, Partnerships & Communications

STAFF

Kim Agnew-Jones
Bookkeeper

Kourtni Dzugan
Residential Housing Worker

Allison Evans
Controller

Traci Higgins
Volunteer Coordinator

Jessie Gallant
Residential Housing Worker

Savanna Moore
Youth Outreach Worker

Amanda Pitts
Youth Outreach Worker

Sebastián Ramos
Program Director, BladeRunners

Talia Scarpino
Youth Support Worker

Johann Suarez
Residential Housing Worker

Michael Taylor
Driver Accompanist

Cory Treloar
Residential Housing Worker

Imagine What We Can Make Possible, Together.

Adulthood comes with enough challenges. Finding somewhere safe to live, getting a first job, or finding someone who believes in you shouldn't have to be so difficult.

This year, hundreds of young adults in Nanaimo found support, gained skills, and met people who saw what they were capable of and gave them a chance to prove it.

There's more to do. More young adults who need a place to call home, an opportunity to work, or a tether to their community. And there's a part for all of us to play in making that happen.

Join us.

