

# SPEAK UP & LEADERSHIP

Squamish youth are informed and advocate for positive change in their neighborhoods, their communities, and the world.

Authentically engage youth in decisions that affect their future and the future of their neighbourhoods and communities.

Expand youth engagement and leadership opportunities through the establishment of a Youth Advisory Committee.

- Civic Leadership (i.e. budget, climate action, etc.)

Enhance how the District reaches out, communicates with, listens and responds to youth through the use of social media.

Amplify current and traditional information sharing through school announcements, posters, newsletters and most importantly engaging youth where they are and where they are comfortable.

Mainstream in Squamish culture, genuine youth engagement through formal and informal means to maximize youth participation in decision making.

Create youth leadership opportunities through micro grants, UBCM scholarships, volunteerism, and Recreation Academy scholarships.

# SPACES & PLACES

Squamish youth have safe spaces in their neighbourhoods where they can hang-out, play, create and learn without judgement. Places where they can express themselves honestly and authentically. A place where there is a true sense of connectivity to other youth, their neighborhood, their communities and nature.

Create youth friendly spaces that meet the expectation of youth and their needs, while improving the social, mental and physical well-being of youth.

Build a Youth Hub in partnership with youth service providers that includes clinical support and resources for youth physical and mental wellness, as well as, program space for arts & culture, learning, recreation, and for just hanging out.

**Considerations:**

- Foundry Model
- Youth Services' home base
- Programs to the Youth (Value)
- Programs provided by Youth Services, Library, Arts Council, VCH, MCFD, Squamish Nation, Chamber of Commerce, and Recreation Services

Create Neighbourhood Centres in each neighbourhood of Squamish and program for youth in partnership with Youth Services, Library, Arts Council, VCH, MCFD, Squamish Nation, Chamber of Commerce, and Recreation Services.

**Considerations:**

- Programs to the Youth (Value)

Enhance Brennan Park Recreation Centre to create more space for youth and youth programming.

**Considerations:**

- A gymnasium with drop-in sport
- Fitness room
- Hang-out space
- Music and Art Space

Activate parks for youth by adding youth sport facilities, skate/bike parks, and places for youth to hang-out.

Encourage private businesses and community groups to provide youth programming such as movie nights, dances, and youth programs.

# EMERGING ADULTS

Squamish's emerging adults are prepared, engaged and contributing members of the community.

Create programs that will assist youth in their transition from high school into adulthood.

Develop and deliver Adulting 101 programs through the Squamish Chamber, Library, Youth Services, Quest, Recreation Services and other partners with a focus on developing job and life skills.

- Home renters rights and how to find a home
- Financial Independence (budgeting, savings, banking, insurance)
- Finding a job (resumes, job search, interviews)

Advocate and assist Squamish Chamber of Commerce to develop a Youth Chamber and deliver job training to help youth enter the workforce.

- Food Safe
- Serving it Right
- Leadership Skills
- Customer Service Training
- Entrepreneur & Business Skills

Create a Recreation Academy and provide training, volunteer opportunities, and certification to Youth to become Life Guards, Program/Camp Leaders, and Instructors.

Partner with SD48 to provide course credit to Youth for successfully completing job skills courses/certification.

# SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Squamish youth are able to access physical & mental wellness services, and participate in fun, accessible, friendly and inclusive programs in their neighbourhood.

Amplify and expand accessible services and programs, including transportation that have positive impact on the wellbeing and potential of youth in Squamish.

Assist and advocate for partners in securing of resources to support youth in crisis and for accessible health clinics (mental health services, substance abuse programs, sexual health, and other health drop-in clinics.)

Advocate and inform of the importance in youth development to have unstructured creative, social, and play time and for less screen time.

Amplify and expand public transit as an accessible affordable transportation option and add routes to Whistler, West Vancouver, local lakes, and enhance service to Quest.

Bring programs to the youth and deliver programs in schools, Youth Hub, Neighbourhood Centres, Library, Quest, and Recreation Facilities.

Deliver programs through a variety of partners:

- Youth Services
- Library
- Arts Council
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Ministry of Children & Family Development
- Squamish Nation
- Chamber of Commerce
- Recreation Services

Expand drop-in sport and recreational activities such as volleyball, basketball, and group and individual fitness programs.