

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

<b>TO:</b> Shane Bourke, City Manager	<b>DATE:</b> July 14, 2025
<b>FROM:</b> City of Grande Prairie Youth Advisory Council	<b>MEETING:</b> City Council
<b>REPORT WRITER:</b> Melissa Tucker, Acting Social Policy Manager	
<b>SUBJECT:</b> City of Grande Prairie Youth Advisory Council 2024-2025 Annual Term Report	

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council receive this report for information.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL / COMMITTEE DIRECTIONS

At the City Council meeting held on June 1, 2020, the Boards and Committees Bylaw C-1422, was passed establishing the Youth Advisory Council (YAC). The reporting requirements outlined within this bylaw are that “the Committee will report annually to Council.”

### BACKGROUND

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a key voice for young people in Grande Prairie, providing opportunities to influence local issues, policies, and initiatives. YAC connects youth with City Council, municipal boards, and community organizations by:

- Sharing youth perspectives with decision-makers.
- Promoting youth involvement in community events.
- Identifying strengths and areas for improvement in the city.
- Providing input on community projects and initiatives.

Through this work, YAC ensures youth voices help shape a more inclusive, responsive community.

### ANALYSIS

The 2024–2025 cohort included 18 members aged 14 to 24, representing a diverse range of experiences. This term, members welcomed 10 delegations to their meetings and attended 10 local events. They also participated in 4 additional learning tours and activities.

Gaining a deeper understanding of the City—its leadership, departments, venues, services, and processes—is a key part of the foundation for Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) members. Time is

intentionally dedicated to building this knowledge so youth can participate in informed conversations. YAC extends sincere thanks to Councillors Berg and O'Connor, all delegations who attended meetings, and to various City of Grande Prairie departments for their time, informative tours, engaging activities, and meaningful dialogue.

## Youth Advisory Council 2024-2025 Activity Log

Aligning with the YAC mandate, the 2024-2025 term members completed the following activities listed below.

### Term Work

Welcome and Orientation	November 25, 2024
Monthly Meetings in City Council Chambers	January to June 2025
Unconscious Bias Training	January 13, 2025
YAC Member Representation at Community Knowledge Campus Advisory Committee	February to June 2025
Grande Prairie Police Commission Presentation	February 20, 2025
Planning the Youth Career Discovery Engagement Booth	April to May 8, 2025
Delegation to City Council	July 14, 2025

### Delegations

Recovery Alberta	Community Helpers Program
Cool-Aid Society	Phoenix & Gryphon Youth Group
Sunrise House	Special Olympics
Grande Prairie Kickstand	City of Grande Prairie Occupational Health and Safety
SOARing Fund	Grande Prairie Local Immigration Partnership

### Events

National Addictions Awareness Week Skate	Women of Influence
Coldest Night of the Year	State of the City
Christmas Tree Light Up	City Scrub
Thriving in the City at NWP	Youth Career Discovery Expo
An Evening with Grande Prairie	2026 Budget Stakeholders Session

### Learning Tours and Activities

City Hall & City Council Chambers Tour	Mayor and City Council Mixer
Activity and Reception Centre Tour & Badminton	Lawn Bowling and Ice cream at Muskoseepi Park

## Youth Career Discovery Expo Engagement – May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

YAC connected with youth at the Youth Career Discovery Expo to spark conversation and gather ideas to help shape future community priorities. As part of this engagement, youth were asked: *“If you were on City Council, what would you do?”*

Youth shared their thoughts on a range of important topics, including Education, Entertainment, Mental Health, Sports, Substance Use, and Transit. The most common responses from youth were for the following:

1. Increased access to mental health supports specifically designed for youth.
2. To expand the availability of sports and recreation facilities in Grande Prairie, giving youth more opportunities to stay active, healthy, and connected.

### **Relationship to City Council's Areas of Focus / Strategic Priorities**

YAC connects to all of Council's strategic priorities: Quality of Life, Innovative Efficiencies and Economic Readiness, Inclusive and Caring Community, and Engaging Relationships.

### **Environmental Impact**

There is no environmental impact associated with this report.

### **Economic Impact**

While there is no direct economic impact associated with this report, indirect benefits may arise from increased youth engagement within the City of Grande Prairie.

### **Social Impact**

The experiences and insights shared by YAC members and guests are gathered informally and may be used to guide and shape future youth-focused initiatives and broader City projects.

### **Relevant Statutes / Master Plans / City Documents**

Boards and Committees Bylaw C-1422

### **Risk**

There are no risks associated with this report.

## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

### **1. YAC Member Experiences**

Throughout the eight monthly meetings and various engagement events and tours, City administration gathers informal feedback on the experiences of YAC members. By building strong rapport with the youth, administration gains insight into their individual perspectives, experiences, and successes, as well as the group's collective interests and concerns.

### **2. Youth Career Discovery Expo (YCDE)**

Youth Advisory Council (YAC) members volunteered their time at the Youth Career Discovery Expo (YCDE), working in shifts to engage with youth, share information about YAC, and encourage involvement. They also set up an interactive display asking, *"If you were on City Council, what would you do?"* to spark conversation and gather ideas from youth about their community.

### **3. Other Various Events**

YAC and Administration attend various events throughout the year to promote the Youth Advisory Council and gather informal feedback from the community, such as Thriving in the City at Northwestern Polytechnic and the Mighty Peace Teacher Convention.

## **BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget or financial implications associated with this report.

## SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

In summary, the 2024–25 Youth Advisory Council remained highly engaged throughout the term, with 18 dedicated members contributing their time and ideas. Attendance at meetings was consistent, and the group participated in many meaningful and impactful discussions. Administration looks forward to building on this momentum with the next Youth Advisory Council and continuing to support the positive impact youth have within the community.

## ATTACHMENTS

**Attachment 1:** Youth Advisory Council 2024-2025 Annual Report