

# **2024 – 2025** **ANNUAL** **REPORT**







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This report accurately reflects the activities of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for the 2024 term.



# MESSAGE FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

2025 was another successful year for the Youth Advisory Council, whose contributions continue to make a meaningful impact in our community.

YAC is an integral part of our community, connecting local youth voices to local decision-making.

City Council is proud to support YAC, and their alignment with our priority of Inclusive and Caring Community and pursuing opportunities that enhance quality of life from youth to seniors.

Across 2025, YAC demonstrated collaborative leadership and community connection building as they met with leaders and organizations from various sectors through community events and meetings. City Council is especially grateful for the greater connections we built and opportunities we had to work together to learn more about our local youth.

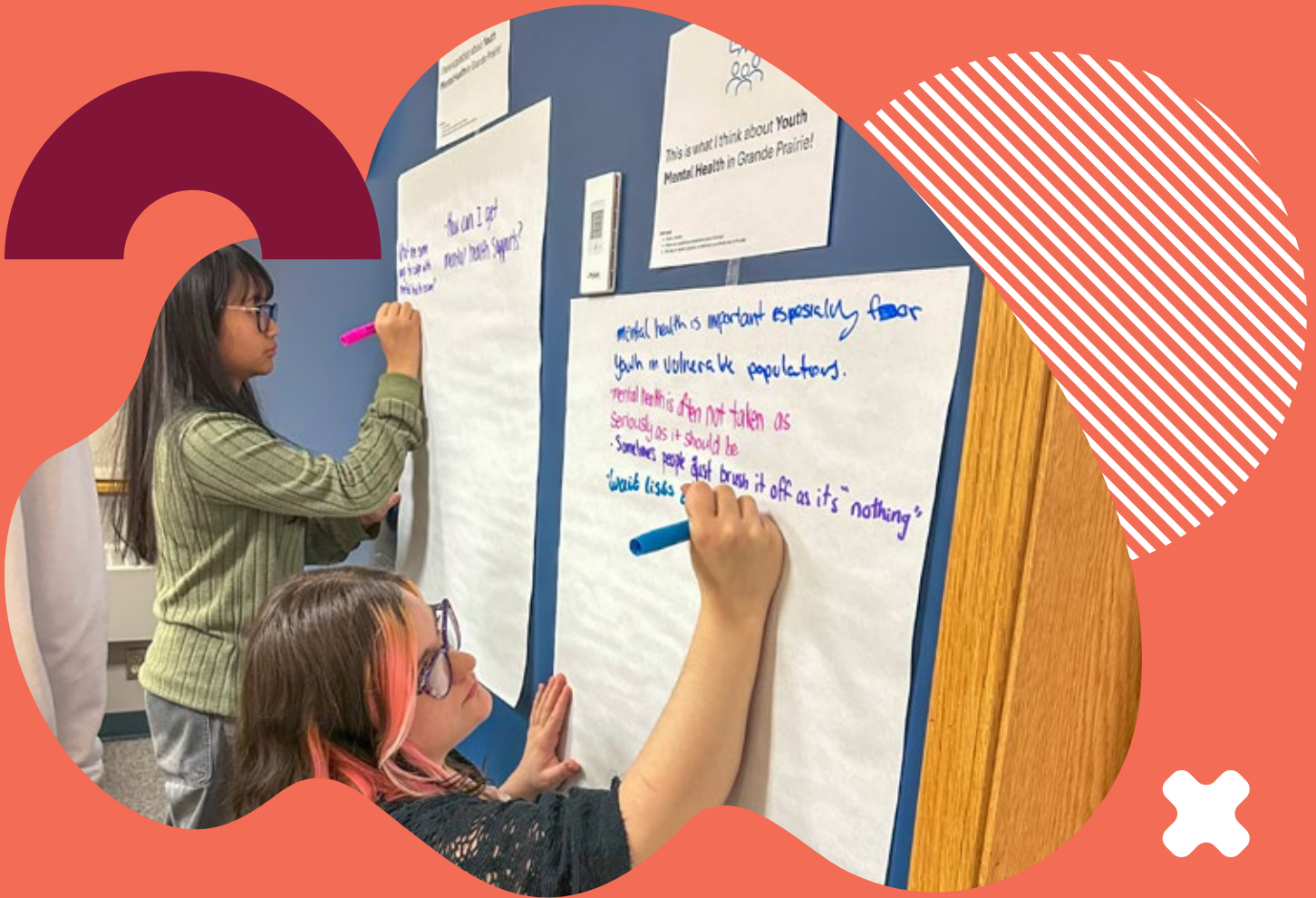
The youth that YAC represents are not only our future, they are our present, and working together to hear what issues matter to them and what they want to see from their community helps us build grander together.

On behalf of City Council, I extend a huge congratulations to YAC for everything they accomplished over the past year and look forward to championing all of their ongoing success in the future.

Sincerely,

**Mayor Jackie Clayton**





# YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MANDATE

To provide an effective link between community boards and committees, City Council, community agencies and Grande Prairie youth.

The Youth Advisory Council provides an opportunity for youth to have input by engaging in community discussions around important events, policies, economic changes, infrastructure and more. Members are encouraged to provide their input and seek opinions from their peers and the youth community on important issues.

More information about the Youth Advisory Council's role can be found in the City's **Boards and Committee Bylaw C-1422**.

# HIGHLIGHTS



**This year, the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) demonstrated exceptional leadership, civic engagement and community involvement. Highlights of this year’s accomplishments include:**



## **Collaborative Leadership in Action**

Youth Advisory Council members held six monthly meetings at City Hall, engaging with 11 delegations to discuss youth issues, exchange ideas and advocate for positive change in our community.



## **Building Community Connections**

The Youth Advisory Council took part in eight community events, including hosting their own information booth at the Youth Career Discovery Expo, connecting with peers and promoting youth engagement.



## **Connecting with City Leaders**

The Youth Advisory Council built strong ties with City Council throughout the year. Members attended a meet and greet with the Mayor and Council, and welcomed Councillor Berg and Councillor O'Connor to regular meetings to help foster dialogue and collaboration.

# YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS, ROLES & TERM WORK

YAC consists of 18 youth members, two non-voting City Council representatives and a member from City Administration.

## 2024–2025 YAC Members

- **Chair:** Daisy Nellis
- **Vice Chair:** Maryam Nazndah
- **Secretary:** Tarandeep Namsot
- **Agenda:** Nabeel Malik
- **Council Members:**
  - Iraj Parashar
  - Rafael Malik
  - Grace Larson
  - Atishay Goel
  - Manya Singhal
  - Emaan Haseeb
  - EJ Igao
  - Emma Dwyer
  - Kennedy Borle
  - Angelie Fe Pedrano
  - Sam Ellwood
  - Kalib Thomas
  - Tanvinder Rupana
  - Emma Shropshire
- **City Council:** Councillor M. O'Connor and Councillor G. Berg
- **City Administration:** Tammy Melom

## 2024–2025 YAC's Term Work

- Welcome and orientation session.
- Monthly meetings at City Hall.
- Unconscious bias training.
- Youth Advisory Council member representation at the Community Knowledge Campus (CKC) Advisory Committee.
- Grande Prairie Police Commission presentation.
- Planning the Youth Career Discovery Expo engagement booth.
- Annual delegation to City Council.







# DELEGATIONS

The Youth Advisory Council welcomed 11 delegations from community organizations and the City of Grande Prairie. Each of the following delegations presented information on their initiatives, answered questions and exchanged ideas with the members:



City of Grande Prairie  
Occupational Health and Safety



Cool-Aid Society



Community Helpers Program



Grande Prairie Kickstand



Grande Prairie Local  
Immigration Partnership



Phoenix and Gryphon Youth Group



Recovery Alberta



SOARing Fund



Special Olympics



Sunrise House



# LEARNING TOURS

Youth Advisory Council members had the chance to explore the City of Grande Prairie, learn more about local parks and facilities and enjoy time together building relationships by attending the following learning tours and activities:



Activity and Reception Centre tour  
and badminton



City Hall and Council Chambers tour



Lawn bowling and ice cream at  
Muskoseepi Park



Mayor and City Council meet and greet



# EVENTS

Youth Advisory Council members attended eight local events during the year. These events gave them a chance to learn, connect with each other and be involved in the community. They attended the following events:



2026 Budget Stakeholders Session



Christmas Tree Light-Up



Coldest Night of the Year



State of the City



Women of Influence Awards



An Evening with Grande Prairie



City Scrub



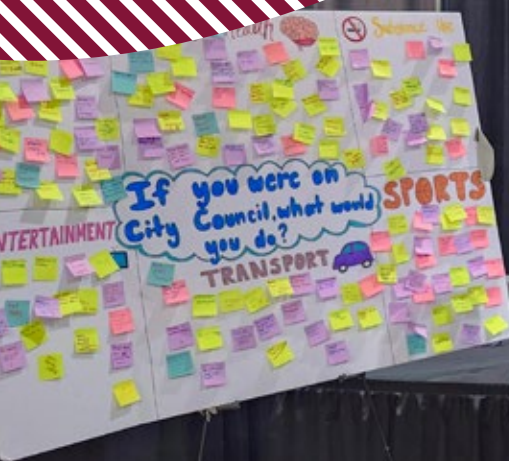
National Addictions Awareness Week Skate



Thriving in the City at Northwestern Polytechnic



Youth Career Discovery Expo



# ENGAGEMENT

At the annual Youth Career Discovery Expo (YCDE), Youth Advisory Council members hosted their own interactive booth, giving them a chance to connect directly with their peers and hear what matters most to local youth.

As part of the booth, visitors were invited to answer the question: "If you were on City Council, what would you do?" Youth shared thoughtful feedback on key topics including:



Education



Entertainment



Mental Health



Sports



Substance Use



Transit

This engagement helped YAC gather meaningful insights and perspectives that can be used to inform future conversations and advocacy efforts.

## What YAC heard from youth at the Youth Career Discovery Expo

### Education:

- Update to the school curriculum to include different ways of learning (#3 overall).
- Wage increases for teachers and staff.
- Would like to have phones permitted back in schools.

### Entertainment:

- Host more free outdoor events.

### Mental Health:

- More access to mental health supports (#1 overall).

### Sports:

- More sports facilities in Grande Prairie (#2 overall).
- More funding for sports teams (especially female teams).

### Substance Use:

- More monitoring in schools for vape usage (especially bathrooms).
- More recovery programs for those who need it.

### Transit:

- More bus routes available.
- Reduced fees for bus passes\*.

\* Please note youth ages 6–17 are eligible for a free youth transit SUPERPASS.





**Stay connected to the City of Grande Prairie Youth Advisory Council and follow us on:**

 [facebook.com/gpYouthCouncil](https://facebook.com/gpYouthCouncil)

**For the latest news, events and opportunities at the City of Grande Prairie Youth Advisory Council contact us at:**

 [youth@cityofgp.com](mailto:youth@cityofgp.com)

 [cityofgp.com/YAC](https://cityofgp.com/YAC)



**The Youth Advisory Council's annual application deadline is October 15. To apply, visit:**

[cityofgp.com/YAC](https://cityofgp.com/YAC)