



# Community Development

Over 60 youth serving organizations have been part of the Greater Victoria YPQI Community since the initiative's pilot in 2012.

Thriving communities are built on a foundation of community members who take collective action and generate solutions to local problems. Community well-being is frequently dependent on grassroots efforts. When community members share responsibilities and work together effectively, the whole community reaps the benefits.<sup>1</sup>

The Greater Victoria Youth Program Quality Initiative (YPQI) is a **regional solution** to address the many challenges facing our youth sector. In a field mired with limited resources, low wages,<sup>2</sup> and

under-appreciation, we are building sector capacity through a **community of practice** to share responsibilities and best practices in youth work across the region.

We have a shared responsibility for the healthy development, resiliency, and success of young people in Greater Victoria.

We are working collectively with municipalities, youth serving organizations, funders, and youth advocates from the City of Victoria and Oak Bay to Saanich and the WestShore to build a better place in which youth can live, grow, and learn.

"True belonging is born of relationships not only to one another but to a place of shared responsibilities and benefits. We love not so much what we have acquired as what we have made and whom we have made it with."

Robert Finch

## Community in Action

“YPQI is one of the best ways to ensure quality programming in our community. It builds team spirit with common goals and language – that in itself improves programs for children and youth.”<sup>3</sup>

Tara Skobel,  
Quadra Village  
Community  
Centre

Greater Victoria YPQI unites management and staff from various organizations with shared standards, tools, and principles for delivering high-quality programs that meaningfully engage youth in our community.

YPQI Youth Work Methods are professional development sessions that provide a common language and understanding of healthy development and the needs of young people. Monthly sessions offer valuable networking opportunities and a space for youth workers to share their successes and challenges with peers. Following the sessions, Coaches support organizations to incorporate the YPQI principles and best practices to improve their youth programming.

Since the pilot phase in 2012, Greater Victoria YPQI has worked with over 60 organizations training 350+ youth workers – making an impact on more than 1,400 young people in our community every year.

## Greater Victoria YPQI in Action

On average for every 1 site the YPQI works with there...

is 1 Executive Director who participates in developing the youth work field



is 1 Site Manager who receives training, leads program assessment and improvement plans



are 5 Youth Workers who receive training, and participate in self-assessments, program & improvement planning



**With an impact to roughly 60 youth per site.**



## For More Information

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**Visit:**

<http://www.communitycouncil.ca/YPQI>

[Home](#)



<sup>1</sup> Frank, F. & Smith, A. (1999). The Community Development Handbook: A Tool to Build Community Capacity. Human Resources Development Canada. <http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/MP33-13-1999E.pdf/>.

<sup>2</sup> WorkBC. (2015). Social and community service workers (NOC 4212). <https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/4212/>.

<sup>3</sup> Magnus, S. (2015). Evaluation of the YPQI: Towards a strategy for greater impact. Community Social Planning Council.