

APPENDIX A: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WITHIN THE CRD SUMMARY

November 2020

The Capital Regional District (CRD) offers many educational programs and outreach events with the public that involve children, families and youth. Below are some examples of various service and program areas within the CRD that engage with youth on an annual and ongoing basis.

Arts & Culture

The suite of [Arts & Culture](#) funding programs benefits the community by supporting the regional arts sector as an ecology. A points-based adjudication process results in the support of organizations producing a broad range of programming that may be aimed at general as well as at niche demographics. The CRD supports 15 organizations that are funded specifically for their youth programming.

Environmental Protection

The CRD offers [registerable education programs](#) such as the [3Rs](#) (K-12), in-class presentations on [water conservation](#) and [harbours & watersheds](#) (K-6), water supply area tours (grade 4 and 5) and [regional parks](#) programs (pre-school to grade 5). Programs are also offered through our partnership with the Compost Education Centre.

Post-secondary programs include conferences such as Ready, Set, Solve. Online resources include videos on sustainability, as well as pollution prevention for automotive shops and the food industry.

Climate Action

For the past number of years, the CRD and other local governments have funded the delivery of [school climate action programming](#) via BCSEA's [Cool It! Climate Leadership program](#), targeting grade 4-5 classes across the region.

Since 2016, the CRD has implemented [Walk and Wheel to School Week](#). This program, supported by Island Health and the CRD Traffic Safety Commission, encourages students to kick-off the school year with active, healthy, safe and low emission travel habits.

[Climate Action to Go kits](#) are available through local libraries and have been promoted to school districts and schools directly for use. Staff are aware of new high school focused climate action programming being led/facilitated by non-profits and will consider opportunities to support and/or embed local knowledge to these in 2021 and beyond.

Regional Parks

In 2019, CRD Regional Parks held 160 [school programs](#) for students from pre-school to grade 5. Over 135 [family-oriented programs](#) were available publicly for all ages, plus 18 special events and 8 outreach community events.

First Nations Relations

The CRD works with Living Lab, a group out of UVic that connects Indigenous youth to science-related curriculum. This partnership educates youth about work in the CRD's water quality lab to enhance understanding of careers in this area of study. Presentations on Harbours & Watersheds at the Songhees Academic Youth Leadership also share the CRD's work with youth.

Governance and Finance Committee – November 4, 2020

Youth Engagement in the Capital Regional District

CRD Regional Parks is developing Indigenous-based curriculum for school groups, and youth groups often visit regional parks to meet with staff and to learn what they're up to in the parks.

Some of the Nations the CRD works with have their own youth groups, or youth advisories that they support, which is a common theme heard from Nations about including youth in decision-making processes. The Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogue has spaces on its steering committee for youth, which is consistent with First Nations worldviews to increase collaboration with youth.

Human Resources

Over the past three years, the CRD has filled a total of 63 summer student positions as part of a Federal grant, mostly in parks and recreation roles. Recruitment strategies have been implemented at the CRD's three recreation centres, all with a focus on youth employment.

The CRD's Human Resources advisors participate in 4-5 career fairs annually with local universities, colleges, First Nations, and intercultural associations, all of which target youth and provide informal two-way engagement opportunities for students to learn more about what we do. The CRD also works with university and college co-op programs and has created a total of 26 opportunities since 2017.

Regional Planning

The CRD coordinates the [Ready Step Roll](#) program, an 18-month active school travel planning program that works to enhance student ability to walk, bike, bus, or roll to and from school. Ready Step Roll partners annually with five selected schools and their respective local government with jurisdictional authority for roads. Through the program, the CRD also partners with community stakeholders, such as Island Health, police forces, ICBC, local business and non-profits to deliver road safety and bike skill education to elementary and middle-school students.

The CRD also participates in an established youth advisory role (under 30) with the [Good Food Network Leadership Group](#).

Recreation Centres

The CRD operates three recreation centres: Panorama Recreation in North Saanich, the SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke and the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre on Salt Spring Island. Each facility offers a variety of recreation and sport programs geared towards youth. These include, but are not limited to, youth fitness classes, teen weight room orientations, junior golf lessons, advanced aquatic programs, home alone and babysitter courses, summer volunteer training, first aid training and more. Work placements are offered for high school students, as well as a Youth Commission Member position at Panorama, and support for local youth engagement initiatives.