



# Youth Matters - Pledge, Guiding Principles, and “Paige’s Story” Report Back

Park Board Committee Meeting  
February 20, 2017





# Purpose

- Provide an update on the Park Board response to recommendations from the BC Representative for Children and Youth report, *“Paige’s Story”*.
- To seek the Board’s endorsement of the *Youth Matters Pledge of Support and Guiding Principles of Community Accountability*





# Background



- Park Board Strategic Framework
  - Improved accessibility and inclusion
  - Enhanced and active community participation
  - Productive collaborations
- Healthy City Strategy
  - A good start for all children and youth
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission “Calls to Action”
  - 360 degree approach to programming



## TO MAKE THINGS BETTER – YOUTH WANT:

MORE SUPPORT  
FROM THE  
ADULTS IN  
THEIR LIVES

EASIER AND  
CHEAPER ACCESS  
TO THINGS THAT  
KEEP THEM  
HEALTHY

TO BE ASKED  
WHAT THEY  
THINK

PRACTICAL  
INFORMATION  
TO MAKE  
REAL-LIFE  
DECISIONS

Children and Youth grow up in communities, not programs

- Vulnerable youth require a network of services to respond
- Aboriginal youth face unique and disproportionate challenges.
- Community centres are hubs for capacity building and social inclusion.





# Community Youth Development

# Community Youth Development



Britannia - Tom



Ray-Cam - Alex



Dunbar - Gogo



Trout Lake - Bernie



West End, Coal Harbour -  
Jodi



Hillcrest - J.J.



Hastings - Eric



Kensington - David



Killarney - Josh



Thunderbird - Matt



Douglas Park - Starla



Mount Pleasant - Rosa



Strathcona - Sally



Renfrew - Lynsey



Marpole-Oakridge - Annty



Roundhouse - Diana



- *To develop the capacity of youth by engaging them in active community participation, using a holistic approach*
  - Place based outreach and engagement
  - Prevention and early intervention
  - Collaborative partnerships and advocacy
  - Youth as partners



## ■ Youth Development Initiative (2015)

- Citywide strategy that prioritizes community youth development
- Focus on leadership development and capacity building
- Enhanced access and inclusion for youth
- Establish and participate in youth service networks

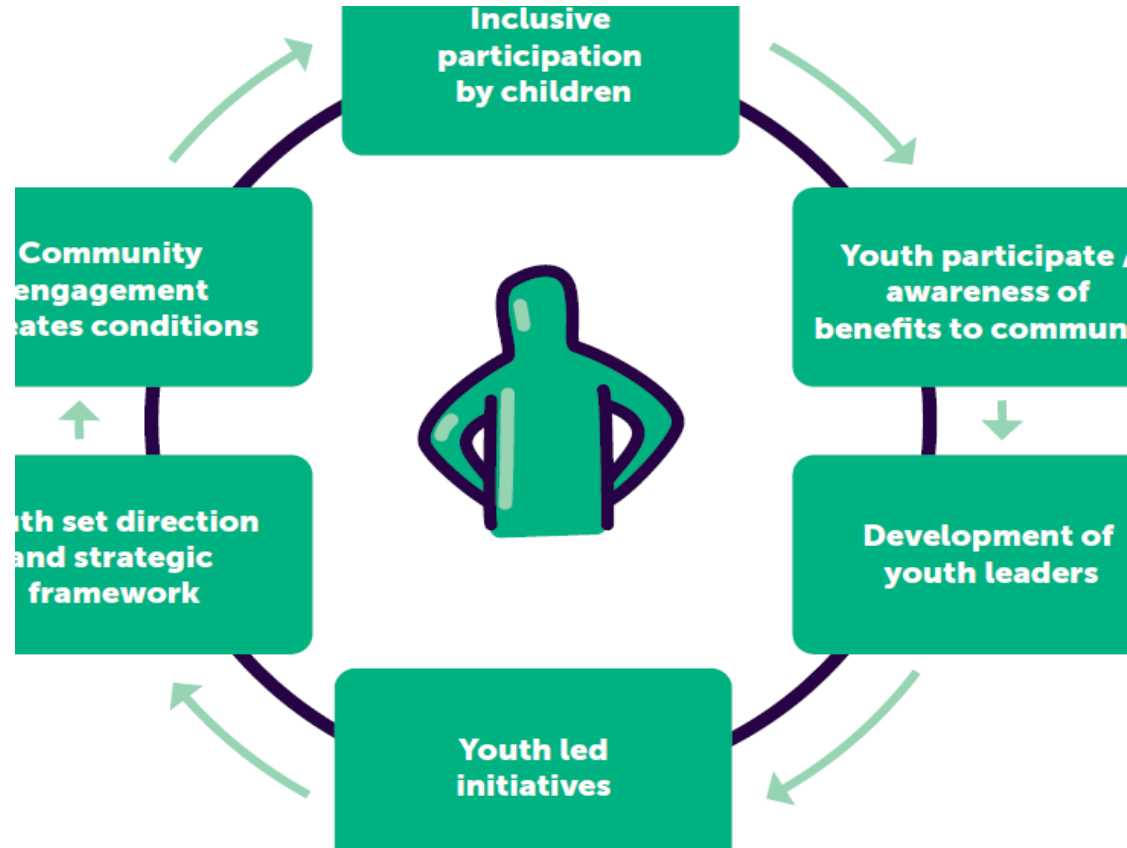




# *Moresports*



Moresports creates, facilitates and promotes recreation, sport and leadership development experiences for children and youth through a city-wide network of community partners.



# Moresports

**1**

## **Increased participation**

- Thousands of children participating in Moresports
- 40.3% of participants were girls

**2**

## **Increased youth leadership**

- 850 volunteer coaches
- 53% of coaches under the age of 19 are girls



**3**

## **City wide network**

- 10 hubs (Vancouver + Coquitlam), 24 neighbourhoods
- 189 programs
- 17 different sports and physical activities

# Responsible Indigenous Strategy for Empowerment (RISE)







- Community Centres are strategic **places** to launch reconciliation efforts; the well-being of individuals is closely tied to where they live and the quality of their neighbourhoods.
- Aboriginal youth leaders can help bridge the gap between Indigenous **People** and others in neighbourhood.
- Partnering in neighborhoods with a reconciliation vision can achieve **collective impact** through building new relationships and a culture of inclusion.



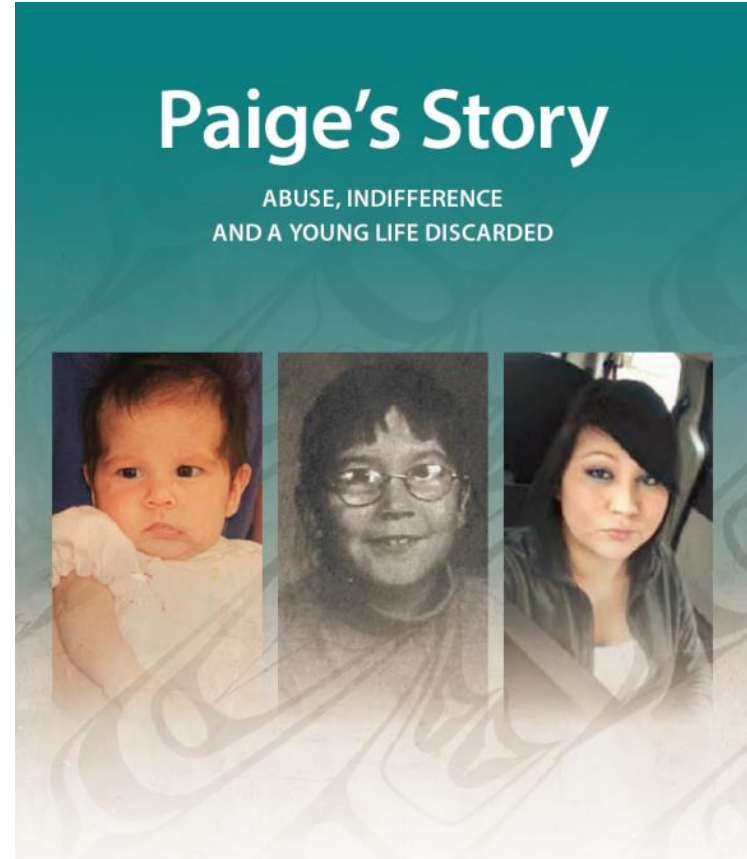
# Paige's Story





*“A drug overdose in April of 2013 was the direct cause of death for Paige, a 19-year-old Aboriginal girl living in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. But it was actually years of abuse and neglect, persistent inaction from front-line professionals and an indifferent social care system that led to this young woman’s demise.”*

BC Representative for Children and Youth



Recommendation	Lead	Park Board Action
<p>Conduct urgent review of current provision of services to vulnerable children in DTES, informed by an accurate picture of their circumstances and the social services in this area.</p>	<p>Province of BC</p>	<p>Participate on three tiered Rapid Response Team (July 2015) to address service gaps and respond to vulnerable children and youth in DTES.</p>
<p>Analyze number of children in care, the needs of these children, and inventory of service providers in DTES and gaps in services.</p> <p>Creation and implementation of action plan, including detailed public reporting on outcomes for children and youth in DTES.</p>	<p>Province of BC</p>	<p>Ongoing participation in review, gap analysis, and action plan development for children who reside in or frequent DTES.</p>
<p>Provide training to staff working with children and youth on Duty to Report (Legal duty to report any suspected or disclosed child abuse or neglect).</p>	<p>COV, VPD, VPL, VFRS, PB</p>	<p>Park Board Community Youth Workers, core staff teams, and day camp staff trained on Duty to Report. CYWs designated site leads for Duty to Report questions or concerns.</p>

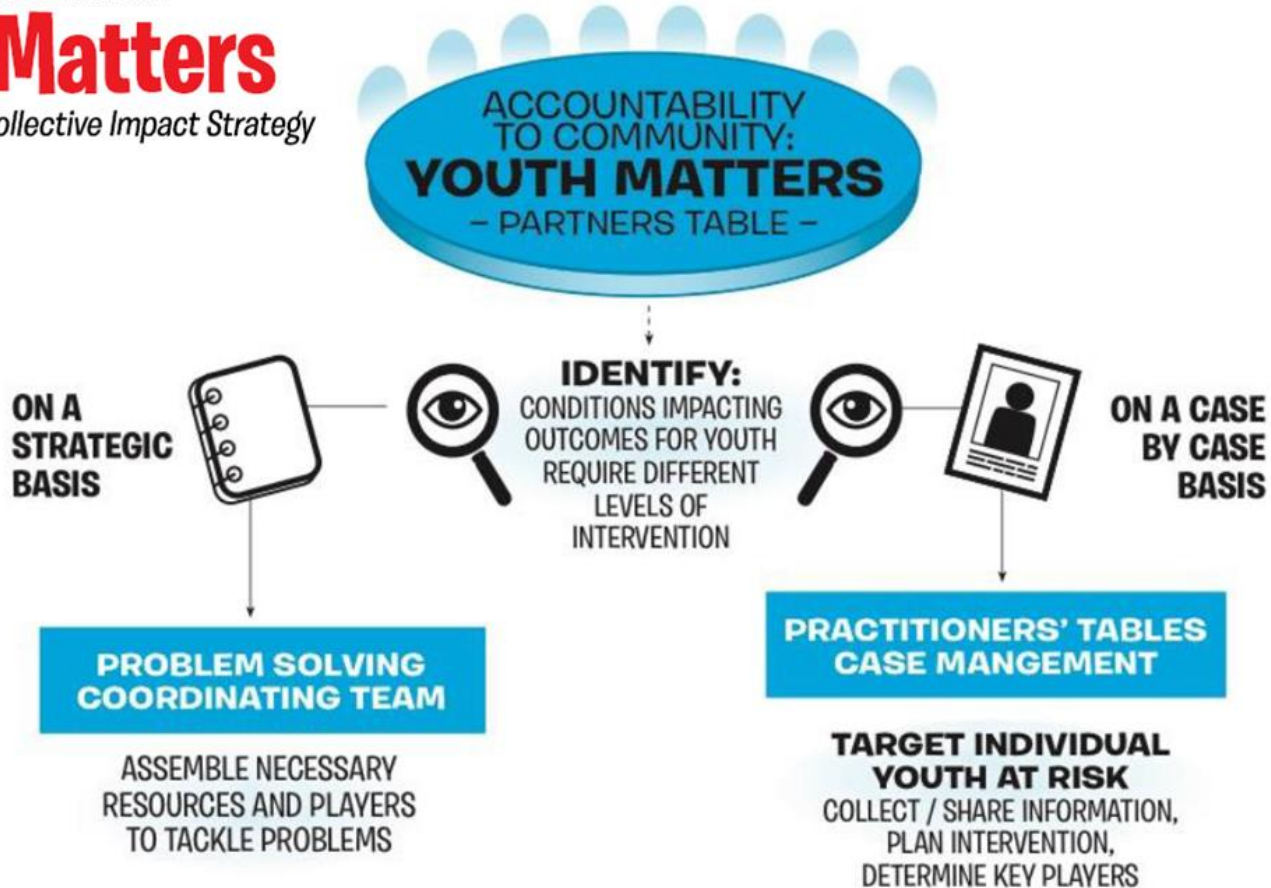


# Youth Matters



# Youth Matters

- A Place Based Collective Impact Strategy



*Excerpt...*

We pledge to support the *Youth Matters Community Accountability Guiding Principles*. We pledge to support the goal of parents, children, elders, and youth to be meaningfully included in decisions about themselves and in their community. We believe that their different perspectives, identities, and experiences must be acknowledged and valued.



*Excerpt...*

As organizations, institutions, professionals, and residents in the city of Vancouver, we believe that children, youth and families in our Inner City have a right to safe, nurturing, and healthy environments that promote optimal growth and development. In concurrence with the Healthy City strategy and the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we support the goal of working together to develop and implement a community accountability process based on the following principles:

- Accountability
- Engagement
- Inclusivity
- Place-based







## Recommendation

**THAT** the Vancouver Park Board

- A. Receive for information staff's report back on the Park Board's progress made on implementing recommendations related to the City of Vancouver from the May 2015 report from the BC Representative for Children and Youth entitled [Paige's Story: Abuse, Indifference and a Young Life Discarded](#).
- B. Endorse the *Youth Matters Pledge of Support and Guiding Principles of Youth Matters Community Accountability* as described in Appendix A.

