



YOUTH
WELLBEING
NETWORK

CONNECT. EMPOWER. THRIVE.

YOUTH *Summit*

COUNCIL CONNECT

2026 REPORT

**Building stronger connections
between young people and local
councils for thriving
communities.**

Hosted April 24, 2026

Shelburne, Yarmouth, & Digby Counties

Report compiled by Denise Vacon & Josie Hatfield



HEARD. VALUED. PART OF THE CHANGE





YOUTH
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TRI-COUNTY YOUTH SUMMIT OVERVIEW - 2026

YOUTH WELLBEING IN FOCUS

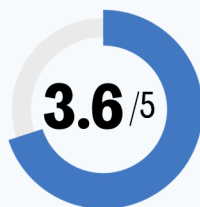
INSIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

ABOUT COUNCIL CONNECT

In April 2026, the Youth Wellbeing Network brought together youth and municipal leaders from across Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties to strengthen dialogue on youth wellbeing. Through five regional engagement sessions and supporting survey data, youth shared what matters most to their wellbeing and future success.

YOUTH WELLBEING SNAPSHOT

Average rating by youth on how well their community is supporting wellbeing.



MODERATE
OVERALL
SUPPORT



HIGHEST RATED
Safety & Security



LOWEST RATED
Places and Spaces
Learning and Growing

Key gaps remain in community spaces and opportunities for youth development.

WHAT YOUTH TOLD US

Across all communities youth identified consistent priorities:



More Safe
Spaces to
Connect



Better
Transportation



More affordable
Recreation &
Activities



Improved
Access to Health
Supports



Opportunities
for Employment
& Life Skills



A More Meaningful
Voice in Decision-
Making



Youth made it clear that engagement works best when it is:



Accessible



Welcoming



Interactive



Ongoing



Connected to
Real Action

5 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

1

CREATE MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Create ongoing, youth-friendly engagement by meeting youth where they are, ensuring voices shape decisions, and turning feedback into visible action.

2

INCREASE ACCESS TO SAFE, WELCOMING SPACES

Expand access to safe inclusive youth spaces by increasing evening and weekend opportunities for recreation, arts, and informal gathering: cafés, study spaces, drop-in

3

IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION & RURAL ACCESS

Reduce access barriers by improving youth transportation options, strengthening safe walking and biking routes and supporting rural outreach.

4

FOSTER GROWTH & LEADERSHIP

Strengthen youth pathways by increasing access to employment, mentorship, life skills development, and leadership opportunities within local communities.

5

STRENGTHEN ACCESS TO WELLBEING SUPPORTS

Improve youth wellbeing by increasing access to mental health supports, health education, basic resources, and stigma-free pathways to care.

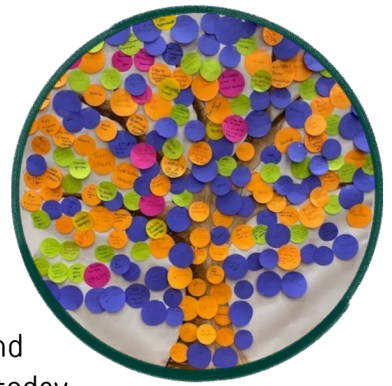
Strong youth wellbeing is the foundation of resilient communities. When adults create safe, inclusive, and supportive environments – where young people feel heard, valued, and connected – they help build the conditions for youth to thrive! Creating resilient communities is a shared responsibility, requiring adults to listen, invest, and act alongside youth to foster belonging, opportunity, and hope for the future.



Council Connect

sharing what matters most to you...

Bringing youth, councillors and decision makers together creates a real chance to build understanding, trust, and teamwork for the future of our community. Youth experience their community differently than adults do — and their voices show what it's really like to grow up, learn, work, and belong here today. When young people are invited into meaningful conversations, they feel heard, valued, and more confident to get involved in their community.



For decision-makers, hearing directly from youth gives real insight into what's working, what's missing, and what needs to change. It helps make sure decisions, programs, and funding reflect what young people actually need. These conversations lead to better choices, more inclusive communities, and a stronger future for everyone.

WHEN YOUTH AND COUNCILLORS CONNECT, COMMUNITIES BECOME STRONGER, MORE INCLUSIVE, AND BETTER PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE.

Five Youth and Councillor Sessions were hosted during the 2026 Summit

- Town of Yarmouth & Wasoqopa'q First Nation
- Municipality of Yarmouth & Municipality of Argyle (English)
- Digby County; Municipality of Digby, Town of Digby
- Shelburne County; Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, Municipality of Barrington, Town of Lockport
- Municipality of Clare and Municipality of Argyle (French)

Conversation Questions:

- What's one thing that helps you feel like you belong in this community?
- What issues do youth and municipal leaders both care about?
- What do you think our community really needs right now?
- What do you care enough about to take action on?
- How can youth voices be included in ways that actually feel meaningful?



KEY REFLECTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

from the session for Elected Officials



Elected Officials were invited to participate in a **Youth Engagement Session** that challenged traditional approaches to consultation and re-centered youth as partners, contributors, and future builders in their communities. Participants discussed practical strategies and engagement methods to ensure youth voice meaningfully informs decisions.

Young people see things differently and have ideas that can make programs, policies, and opportunities better for everyone. When youth voices are included, our community becomes stronger, fairer, and more connected. **Listening to youth helps our community grow!**

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES AND WELLBEING

Research consistently shows that communities are stronger and young people experience better wellbeing, belonging, and connection when youth are meaningfully engaged in decision-making. When young people feel listened to and included, they are more likely to develop stronger community connections, civic participation, leadership skills, and a sense of ownership in their communities. **This session reinforced the value of creating spaces where youth and adults can work alongside one another to shape solutions.**

READINESS TO ENGAGE WITH YOUTH

A key takeaway was the noticeable variation in how councillors approached youth engagement. **Many councillors demonstrated a genuine openness and interest in hearing directly from young people.** They showed this by encouraging follow-up conversations, sharing contact information, and creating a sense of approachability that helped youth feel heard and supported. These actions send an important message to young people that their perspectives are valued and that community leaders are accessible and willing to listen. At the same time, some councillors were more cautious or constrained in their approach, with a stronger focus on established processes, protocols, and formal structures. In these cases, there was less clarity or flexibility around how youth engagement could happen meaningfully within existing systems, resulting in fewer immediate pathways for youth participation.

STARTING POINTS FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT VARY

A key theme was the **wide range of understanding and experience with youth engagement** across the group. Some councillors were surprised by how much youth engagement is already happening through schools and community initiatives. A few were unsure where to begin or what meaningful youth engagement could look like in practice, while others already had experience working directly with young people. Overall, there was interest in engaging youth, but varying levels of understanding and confidence.

PATHWAYS FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The discussion suggested that the primary barrier is not opposition to youth engagement, but rather a lack of clear pathways and intentional opportunities. Councillors expressed a desire to connect with youth but often felt uncertain about how to structure these interactions within their municipal context. For some councillors, **uncertainty about appropriate mechanisms for engagement, concerns about process integrity, and discomfort** navigating informal engagement spaces shaped their response. This resulted in a range of openness, from proactive interest to more constrained or cautious engagement approaches.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION AND SHARED UNDERSTANDING

Despite these differences, the conversation generated concrete signs of momentum. One councillor reflected on their own committee structure during the discussion and committed to including youth voice moving forward. Overall, there was a **shared recognition of the value of youth voice**, even if approaches to achieving it varied. Experiences such as the Youth Summit – Council Connect Session demonstrated the value of creating intentional spaces where youth and adults can collaboratively identify issues and develop solutions. These examples suggest that with shared support and practical opportunities, there is significant potential to strengthen youth engagement over time.

OVERALL TAKEAWAY

The overall sentiment was encouraging: many councillors appeared engaged, interested, and supportive of youth involvement. The opportunity now is to **move from interest to action by building shared understanding, strengthening connections between existing efforts, and creating practical pathways for youth and municipal leaders to work together.**





YOUTH
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TOWN OF DIGBY &
DIGBY COUNTY

YOUTH VOICE: WHAT WE HEARD

KEY THEMES AND PRIOTITIES: Youth Summit 2026

5

TOP

WHAT MATTERS MOST



Activities & Places to Hang Out
(open gyms, arts and culture, arcades, better use of existing buildings)



Substance Use Prevention & Education - positive alternatives!



Transportation & Infrastructure
(better transit, improved roads, cells service and trail connectivity)



Health Care & Basic Needs
(dental care, wellness, food security, support for low income families)



Youth Employment & Future Opportunities

WHAT WE LIKE



Trails,
Beaches,
Wharfs



Free
skating,
open gyms



Search &
Rescue
Youth Nights



Weymouth
Mercantile
& Library



Clean
Public
Spaces



Baseball
fields &
Basketball
Courts

ALSO NOTED AS IMPORTANT



Better promotion of
events and resources



Indoor programs
and activities



More arts, culture, museums,
and local history programming



Increase safety
downtown



School field trips and
experiential learning
opportunities



Affordable housing and
supports for
homelessness

ENGAGEMENT IDEAS FROM YOUTH



KEEP YOUTH IN THE CONVERSATION

Youth emphasized that engagement works best when adults **meet them where they already are** and provide meaningful opportunities to contribute.

- Hold engagement sessions directly in schools - expand Agenda Gap.
- **Create more** clubs, leadership opportunities and youth-led advocacy efforts.
- Recognize that **youth experiences** differ from previous generations.



COMMUNITY FOCUS POINTS

Expand recreation, arts, culture, clubs, and indoor activity options so youth have safe, engaging spaces and meaningful ways to get involved.

Address substance use; youth want more education, awareness, prevention efforts, and positive alternatives that help keep young people engaged and connected to healthy activities.

Enhance transit, sidewalks, trails, safer walking routes, and rural cell service.

Create more employment opportunities and **make better use of community spaces** so young people can build fulfilling futures without needing to leave the region.



NEXT STEPS

Expand Agenda Gap groups and create regular opportunities for youth leadership and advocacy.

Promote local programs & events.

Support for new clubs and extracurricular activities.

Invite councillors into schools for ongoing discussions.

Strengthen substance use education, prevention, and youth engagement.

Explore youth-informed solutions focused on safe gathering spaces, better access to health services, transportation needs and stronger youth voice in decision-making.



YOUTH
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TOWN OF YARMOUTH
& WASOQOPA'Q
FIRST NATION

YOUTH VOICE: WHAT WE HEARD

KEY THEMES AND PRIOTITIES: Youth Summit 2026

5

TOP

WHAT MATTERS MOST



Youth Spaces: open later and for older youth, more open gym time



Life Skills: adulting, budgeting, taxes, help with scholarships and options for the future



Mental Health Supports



Education: conversations on topics that matter, sex education, and different course options



Jobs & Skill Building for Youth

WHAT WE LIKE



Mariner's
on Main



Sports



Student
Supports



Aidaen's
Place



Safety



McDonald's

ALSO NOTED AS IMPORTANT



Transportation
(extend hours,
more routes,
bike rentals,
scooters)



Facility
Access &
Recreation



Resources,
Supports &
Family
Housing



Student
Voice in
Government



More Youth
Friendly
Events



Tourism

ENGAGEMENT IDEAS FROM YOUTH



KEEP YOUTH IN THE CONVERSATION

Meet Youth Where They Are:

Engage with youth in spaces they already use and feel comfortable in.

- Over lunch, after school, cafés, or during youth programming.

Social Media: Active, positive engagement via Instagram and TikTok.



COMMUNITY FOCUS POINTS

- More **places to hang out in the evenings**, like cafés, study spots - especially for older youth.
- More chances to get involved in activities and **experiences outside of school**.
- Help youth learn **how local government works** and why it's important.
- **Share information** about youth programs and supports more often.
- Create more opportunities to build everyday **life skills and make mental health supports** easier to access.



NEXT STEPS

Create late-night spaces where young adults can safely connect, hang out, study, and spend time together.

Bring life skills programs and helpful supports into places where youth already spend their time.

Host more multicultural events that help bring people together.

To thrive, youth need access to quality education, reliable transportation, and affordable housing.



YOUTH
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YARMOUTH CO. &
MUN OF ARGYLE

YOUTH VOICE: WHAT WE HEARD

KEY THEMES AND PRIOTITIES: Youth Summit 2026

5

TOP

WHAT MATTERS MOST



Accessible and Affordable **Recreation and Activities**



Better **Transportation** Options (for getting to town and accessing opportunities independently)



Being **Heard and Involved** in Community Decisions



Feeling **Included, Connected** and Having Safe Spaces to Hang Out



Reducing Financial Barriers to Participation

WHAT WE LIKE



Getting Involved



Supports at YCMHS



Hanging Out with Friends



Easy Access to Hygiene Products

ALSO NOTED AS IMPORTANT



After school and evening activities



Study and gathering spaces outside of school



Information on sexual health



Skill Building Opportunities



Improved access to gyms and recreation spaces



Ensuring youth feel safe

ENGAGEMENT IDEAS FROM YOUTH



KEEP YOUTH IN THE CONVERSATION

- Establish a **Youth Council** that provides ideas and feedback to decision-makers.
- Add youth voices** to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
- Visit school student councils and **create opportunities** for

municipal leaders and elected officials to connect directly with students.



COMMUNITY FOCUS POINTS

Create more **youth-focused evening spaces and activities** beyond school hours including judgement free spaces to hang out and connect.

Cost was identified as a barrier limiting access to recreation, sports, movies, lunches and community.

Youth highlighted **transportation challenges** getting to town and accessing opportunities independently.

Improve access to health resources, including menstrual products and updated sexual health education.

Youth want **meaningful opportunities** to participate, be heard, and be included in shaping their communities.



NEXT STEPS

Develop a **Youth Pass** to improve affordability and access to a variety of community activities.

Explore **transportation solutions** for connecting rural youth to town services and activities.

Create more youth-focused evening spaces like youth cafés, open gym and places to gather and study.

Improve access to **sexual health education** and health resources.

Create opportunities for ongoing youth participation.



YOUTH
WELLBEING
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CONNECT. EMPOWER. THRIVE.

LOCKEPORT
SHELBURNE
& BARRINGTON

YOUTH VOICE: WHAT WE HEARD

KEY THEMES AND PRIOTITIES: Youth Summit 2026

5

TOP

WHAT MATTERS MOST



Youth spaces: safe and fun spaces to hang out, connect and have fun



A community where everyone belongs



More **activities and opportunities** to explore interests and get involved.



Make sure **youth voices** are heard



Improve **transportation** options

WHAT WE LIKE



Beaches & Parks



Music, Theater & Arts



Supports: Our House SchoolPlus



Recreation Facilities & Ball Fields



Feeling Safe



Knowing Neighbours

ALSO NOTED AS IMPORTANT



Focus on the Future



Better Communication



Environmental Health



Jobs for Youth



Understanding and Patience from Adults



More Things To Do Outside of School

ENGAGEMENT IDEAS FROM YOUTH



KEEP YOUTH IN THE CONVERSATION

- Use **Instagram** and improve communication about opportunities and resources
- Offer food and encourage a “bring a friend” option
- Schedule meetings at youth friendly times
- **Make engagement interactive, welcoming, and fun!**



COMMUNITY FOCUS POINTS

Create more safe and fun spaces for youth to **hang out, connect, and have fun**; cafés, arcade spaces, skateparks, recreation spaces.

Value inclusivity, diversity, kindness, and respect! Create spaces where youth **feel welcomed** and adults value youth perspectives.

Increase access to arts, sports, events, clubs, and activities that give youth **more ways to explore interests** and get involved.

Give youth **meaningful opportunities to share ideas**, be included in decisions, and continue conversations with community decision-makers.



NEXT STEPS

Create a Youth Committee and provide honorariums for participation. Listen openly, respect youth perspectives, and remain open to change.

Share more information about groups, supports, and opportunities.

Improve promotion and communication through social media.

Ensure youth are treated as equals and their age does not define the value of their opinions.

Explore transportation solutions



YOUTH
WELLBEING
NETWORK

CLARE ET ARGYLE
(FRANÇAIS)

SE CONNECTER. S’AFFIRMER. S’ÉPANOUIR.

LA VOIX DES JEUNES : CE QU’ON A ENTENDU

THÈMES ET PRIORITÉS CLÉS : SOMMET JEUNESSE 2026

5

TOP

CE QUI COMPTE LE PLUS



Avoir plus d’**activités sociales et de loisirs** pour les jeunes de tous les âges (10–19 et 19+).



Créer des **espaces inclusifs** où les jeunes peuvent **se rencontrer, connecter et participer**.



Être au cœur des décisions: « **par les jeunes, pour les jeunes** ».



Transport public et trottoirs, options pour se déplacer facilement.



Renforcer la **culture acadienne**.

CE QU’ON AIME



Comité
jeunesse,
Jeux de
l’Acadie



Activités
sportives



Festivals,
dances,
Tintamarre



Tims



Emploi,
bénévolat

AUTRES CHOSSES IMPORTANTES



Plus d’activités en
hiver, incluant des
options artistiques et
culturelles.



Mieux communiquer
avec les jeunes,
surtout dans les
écoles.



Offrir plus d’opportunités pour aider
les jeunes à grandir et réussir dans
leur communauté.

CE QUE LES JEUNES PROPOSENT POUR MIEUX LES ENGAGER



GARDER LES JEUNES ENGAGÉS

- Tenir des rencontres régulières dans les écoles et dans **les endroits où les jeunes se rassemblent déjà**.
- Permettre aux jeunes de participer à la **création des programmes**, activités et décisions.
- **Faciliter le partage d’opinions** à travers des sondages et des échanges directs.
- **Appuyer et renforcer** les conseils jeunesse et les conseils étudiants.



POINTS D’ATTENTION

Améliorer le transport et l’accès aux activités, afin de permettre aux jeunes de participer plus facilement aux programmes et services.

Mieux communiquer et promouvoir les activités et services pour les jeunes.

Développer une offre plus large d’**activités sociales, sportives et artistiques** (pendant l’hiver et pour tous les âges; moins de 19 ans et 19+).

Créer des espaces inclusifs où les jeunes peuvent se rencontrer, participer et se sentir connectés à leur communauté (cafés, hangouts)

Assurer une **participation significative** dans les décisions, en favorisant une approche « par les jeunes, pour les jeunes »



PROCHAINES ÉTAPES

Renforcer la communication avec les jeunes, directement dans les écoles.

Créer un mécanisme de participation continue pour que les jeunes soient impliqués dans les décisions.

Développer plus d’activités pour tous les âges, surtout en hiver, en mettant l’accent sur des options créées par les jeunes, pour les jeunes.

Faciliter l’accès aux activités – améliorer le transport et les trottoirs.

Créer des espaces inclusifs où les jeunes peuvent se rassembler pour se rencontrer et socialiser.

FACTORS IMPACTING BELONGING

8 DOMAINS OF WELLBEING



PLACES AND SPACES

Youths' relationship and connection with nature and community. This includes welcoming public places to hang out and gather. Access to clean air and water, exposure to nature, availability of parks and outdoor settings and a balance of screen time.



SAFETY AND SECURITY

Youth have stability and access to the necessities of life, including food, water and shelter. It means youth feel free from emotional and physical harm and have a sense of control over what happens in their surroundings and with the people in their lives.



RELATIONSHIPS

Wellbeing in relationships means youth are able to form and sustain supportive interpersonal connections with peers, family and caring adults. This domain includes youths' sense of trust, ability to communicate needs and manage the influence of peer pressure.



MENTAL WELLNESS

Youths' self-esteem and ability to cope with adversity and manage emotions in a positive way. This domain includes avenues for youth to develop healthy coping skills and use healthy ways to deal with stress.



LEARNING & GROWING

Youths' intellectual potential and engagement in activities that promote growth, curiosity and identity development. This domain includes school participation, management of time and responsibilities, and participation in interests and hobbies.



HEALTHY LIVING

Youth are able to make healthy choices, they understand their physical and sexual health. This domain includes opportunities to move as part of daily life, be active and playful in a community that supports healthy living.



COMMUNITY

Youths' sense of belongingness and connection to the people, cultures, and places in their lives. Communities also offer accessible resources that are relevant to overall wellbeing. Youth are valued as contributing, welcomed members of the community.



PURPOSE

Youths' ability and recognition of their place in the world and connection to something larger than themselves. This domain encompasses a sense of accomplishment, spirituality, leisure, mentorship, career planning and skill development.



2026

RATE YOUR COMMUNITY

Youth were asked to rate how their community was supporting them on each of the 8 domains.

RATING SCALE

IN CRISIS

I don't feel there are any opportunities for me to gain skills in this domain.

JUST SURVIVING

Most of the time I do not feel my community is there to support me in this domain.

DOING OK

Sometimes my community offers opportunities for me to succeed in this domain.

DOING GOOD

Most of the time I can get the support I need to be successful in this domain.

DOING GREAT

My community has everything I need to help me achieve wellbeing in this domain.

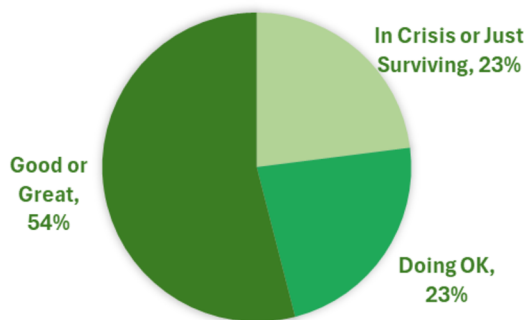
AVG ACROSS DOMAINS

3.6



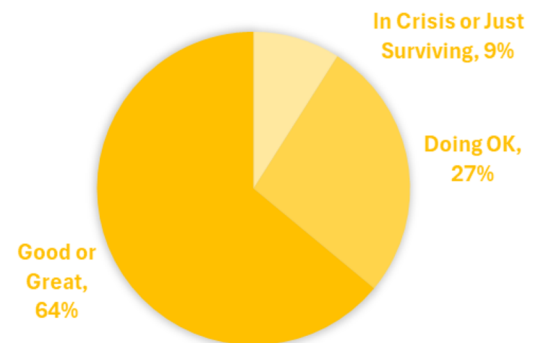
YOUTH SURVEY TRI-COUNTY SUMMARY RESULTS

PLACES AND SPACES



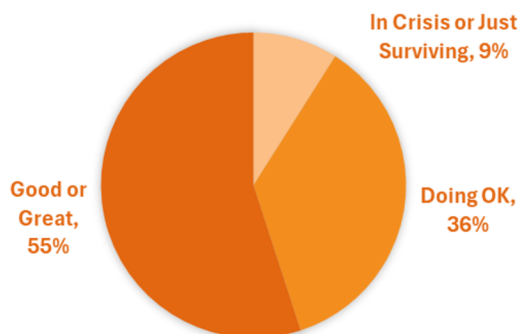
2026 AVG RATING: 3.4/5

SAFETY AND SECURITY



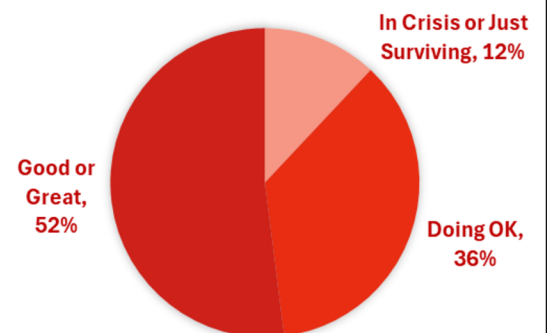
AVERAGE RATING: 3.8/5

RELATIONSHIPS



AVERAGE RATING: 3.6/5

MENTAL WELLNESS



AVERAGE RATING: 3.6/5



In Crisis



Just Surviving



Doing Okay



Doing Good



Doing Great

YOUTH SURVEY TRI-COUNTY RESULTS

2026

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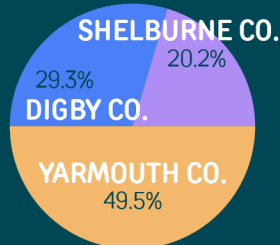
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DOING GOOD

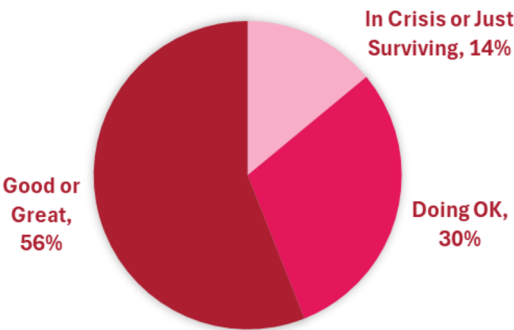
Most of the time I can get the support I need to be successful in this domain.

DOING GREAT

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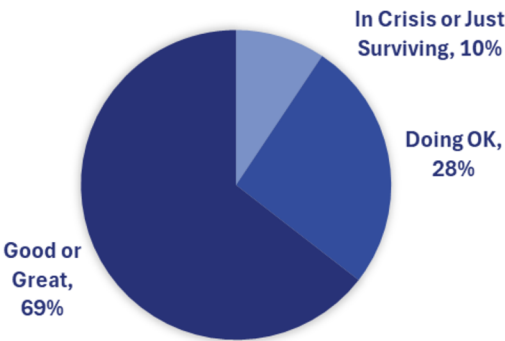


LEARNING AND GROWING



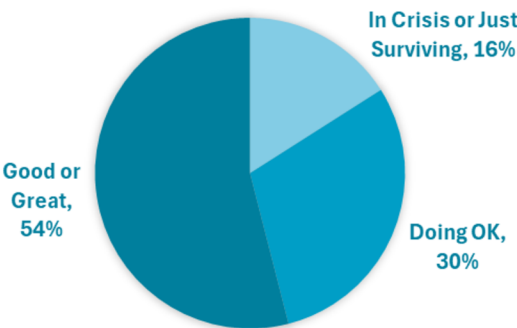
AVERAGE RATING: 3.5/5

HEALTHY LIVING



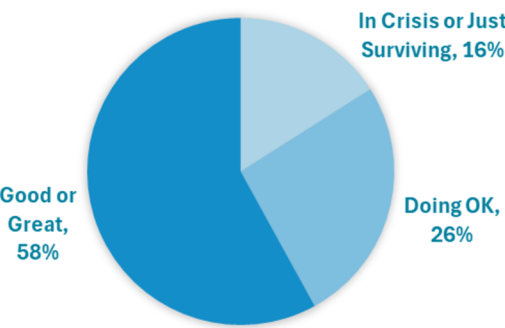
AVERAGE RATING: 3.6/5

PURPOSE



AVERAGE RATING: 3.5/5

COMMUNITY



AVERAGE RATING: 3.5/5

100 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

FEMALE-IDENTIFYING



MALE-IDENTIFYING

7% NON-BINARY / TRANSGENDER

GR 11
42%

GR 12
23%

GR 9
18%

DIVERSITY REPRESENTATION

- 2SLGBTQIA+ 14%
- VISIBLE MINORITY 24%
- FIRST NATIONS 14%
- DISABILITY 10%
- LIVING IN POVERTY 10%

2026

RATE YOUR COMMUNITY

Youth were asked to rate how their community was supporting them on each of the 8 domains.

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AVG ACROSS DOMAINS

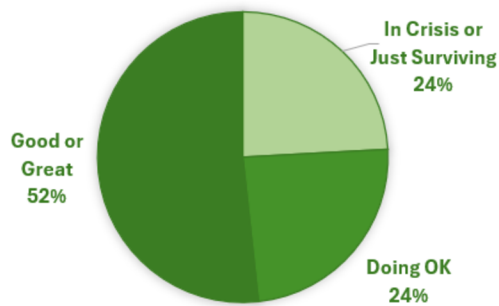
3.6



"I wish there were more things to do for fun, I think that's why so many teens are struggling."

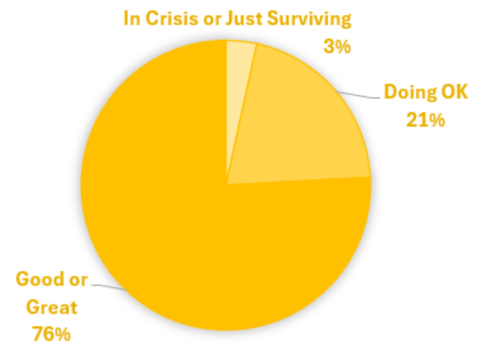
YOUTH SURVEY DIGBY COUNTY

PLACES AND SPACES



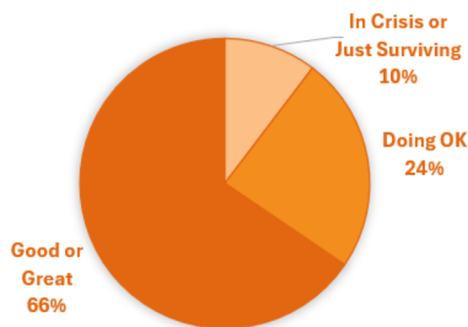
AVERAGE RATING: 3.4/5

SAFETY AND SECURITY



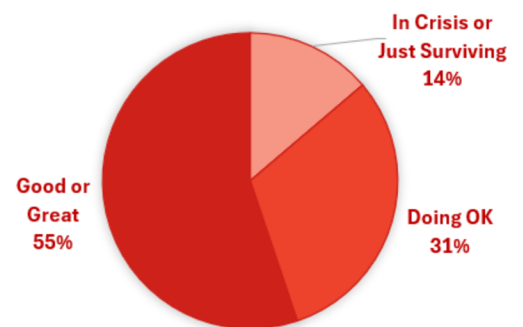
AVERAGE RATING: 3.9/5

RELATIONSHIPS



AVERAGE RATING: 3.7/5

MENTAL WELLNESS



AVERAGE RATING: 3.6/5



In Crisis



Just Surviving



Doing Okay



Doing Good



Doing Great

YOUTH SURVEY DIGBY COUNTY

RATE YOUR COMMUNITY

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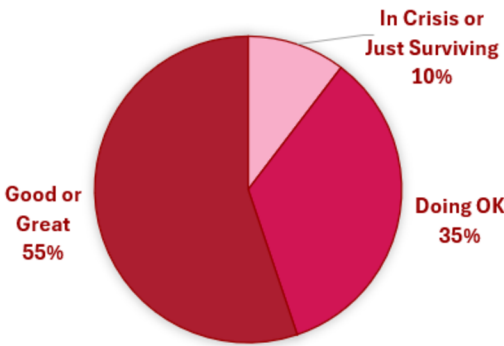
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DOING GREAT

My community has everything I need to help me achieve wellbeing in this domain.

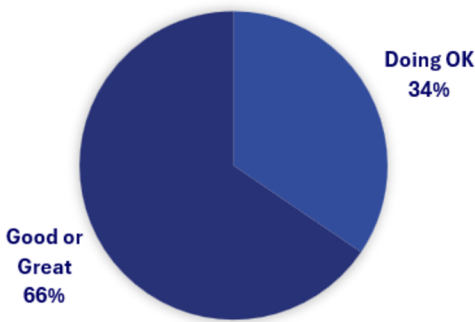


LEARNING AND GROWING



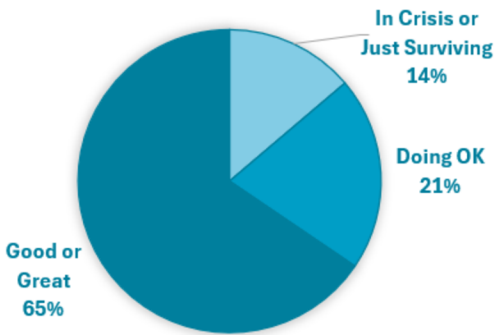
AVERAGE RATING: 3.5/5

HEALTHY LIVING



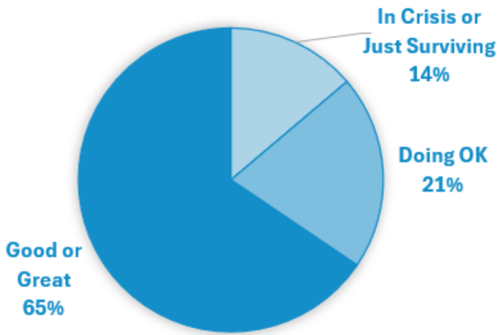
AVERAGE RATING: 3.8/5

PURPOSE



AVERAGE RATING: 3.6/5

COMMUNITY



AVERAGE RATING: 3.7/5



29 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

FEMALE-IDENTIFYING

69%  31% 

MALE-IDENTIFYING

GR 12
10%

GR 11
38%

GR 10
31%

GR 9
21%

DIVERSITY REPRESENTATION

- 2SLGBTQIA+ 10%
- VISIBLE MINORITY 24%
- FIRST NATIONS 21%
- NEWCOMER 7%
- DISABILITY 10%
- LIVING IN POVERTY 5%

2026

RATE YOUR COMMUNITY

Youth were asked to rate how their community was supporting them on each of the 8 domains.

RATING SCALE

IN CRISIS

I don't feel there are any opportunities for me to gain skills in this domain.

JUST SURVIVING

Most of the time I do not feel my community is there to support me in this domain.

DOING OK

Sometimes my community offers opportunities for me to succeed in this domain.

DOING GOOD

Most of the time I can get the support I need to be successful in this domain.

DOING GREAT

My community has everything I need to help me achieve wellbeing in this domain.

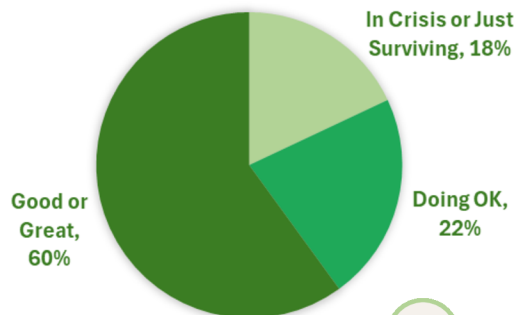
AVG ACROSS DOMAINS

3.7



YOUTH SURVEY YARMOUTH COUNTY

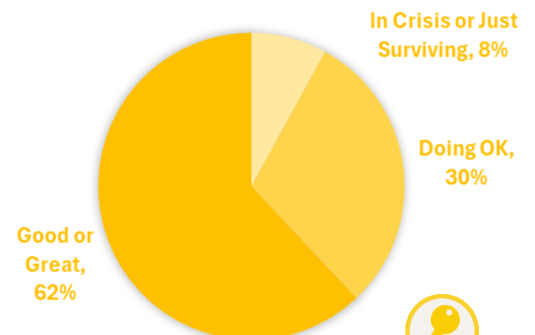
PLACES AND SPACES



AVG RATING:
3.7/5



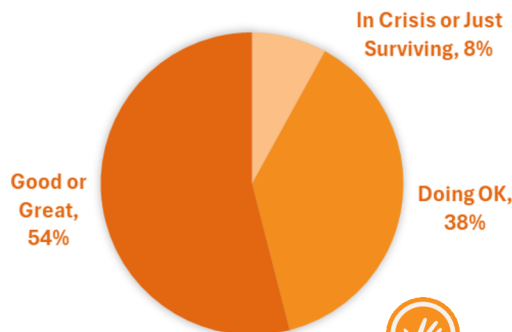
SAFETY AND SECURITY



AVG RATING:
3.8/5



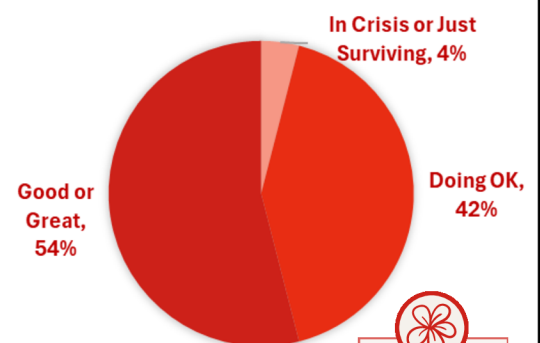
RELATIONSHIPS



AVG RATING:
3.7/5



MENTAL WELLNESS



AVG RATING:
3.7/5



In Crisis



Just Surviving



Doing Okay



Doing Good



Doing Great

* PERCENTAGE POINT INCREASE FOR SATISFACTION SCALE "DOING GOOD & DOING GREAT" FROM 2023 TO 2026

YOUTH SURVEY YARMOUTH COUNTY

RATE YOUR COMMUNITY

Youth were asked to rate how their community was supporting them on each of the 8 domains.

RATING SCALE

IN CRISIS

I don't feel there are any opportunities for me to gain skills in this domain.

JUST SURVIVING

Most of the time I do not feel my community is there to support me in this domain.

DOING OK

Sometimes my community offers opportunities for me to succeed in this domain.

DOING GOOD

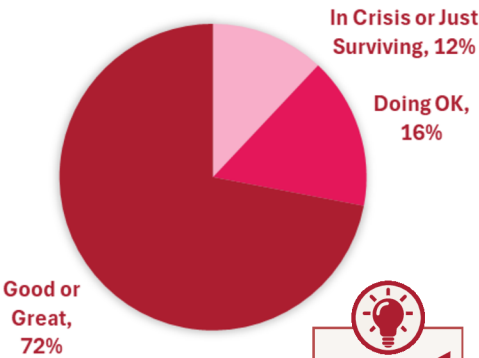
Most of the time I can get the support I need to be successful in this domain.

DOING GREAT

My community has everything I need to help me achieve wellbeing in this domain.



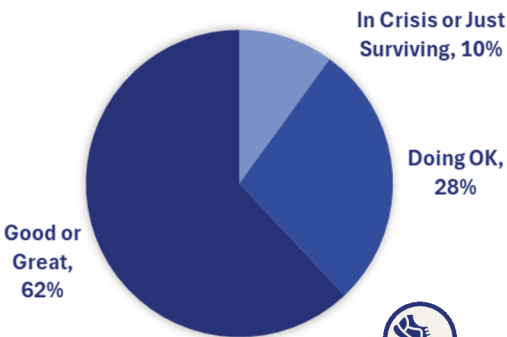
LEARNING AND GROWING



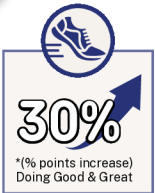
AVG RATING:
3.8/5



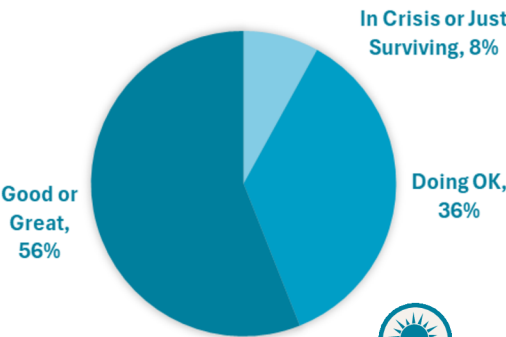
HEALTHY LIVING



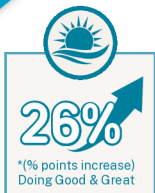
AVG RATING:
3.6/5



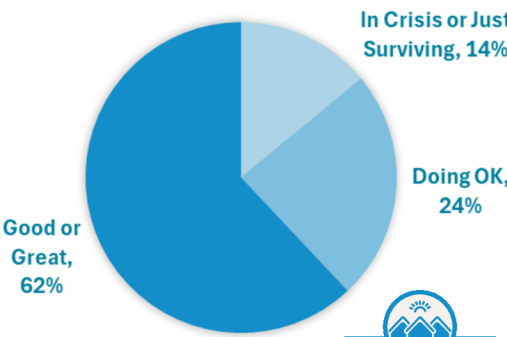
PURPOSE



AVG RATING:
3.7/5



COMMUNITY



AVEG RATING:
3.6/5



2026 SURVEY
50 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

FEMALE-IDENTIFYING



MALE-IDENTIFYING

8% NON-BINARY / TRANSGENDER

GR 11
51%

GR 12
33%

GR 10
14%

DIVERSITY REPRESENTATION

- 2SLGBTQIA+ 22%
- VISIBLE MINORITY 26%
- FIRST NATIONS 12%
- NEWCOMER 8%
- DISABILITY 5%
- LIVING IN POVERTY 5%



2026

RATE YOUR COMMUNITY

Youth were asked to rate how their community was supporting them on each of the 8 domains.

RATING SCALE

IN CRISIS

I don't feel there are any opportunities for me to gain skills in this domain.

JUST SURVIVING

Most of the time I do not feel my community is there to support me in this domain.

DOING OK

Sometimes my community offers opportunities for me to succeed in this domain.

DOING GOOD

Most of the time I can get the support I need to be successful in this domain.

DOING GREAT

My community has everything I need to help me achieve wellbeing in this domain.

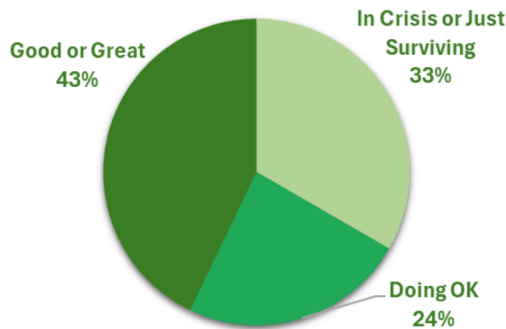
AVG ACROSS DOMAINS

3.2



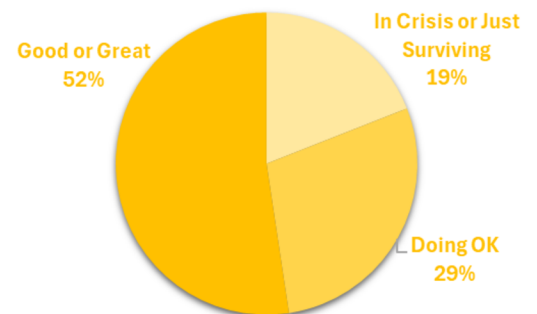
YOUTH SURVEY SHELburne COUNTY

PLACES AND SPACES



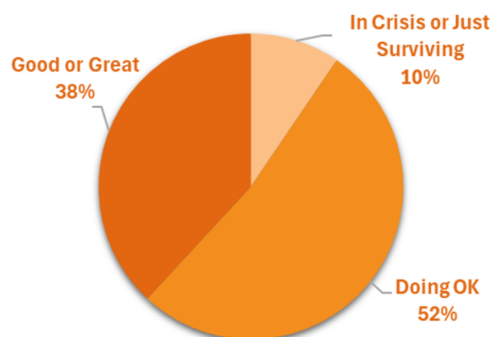
2026 AVG RATING: 3.1/5

SAFETY AND SECURITY



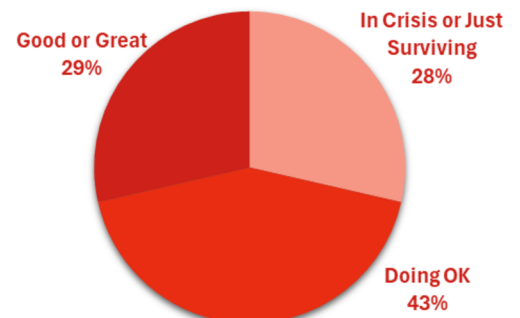
AVERAGE RATING: 3.4/5

RELATIONSHIPS



AVERAGE RATING: 3.3/5

MENTAL WELLNESS



AVERAGE RATING: 3.0/5



In Crisis



Just Surviving



Doing Okay



Doing Good



Doing Great

YOUTH SURVEY
SHELBURNE
COUNTY

RATE YOUR
COMMUNITY

Youth were asked to rate how their community was supporting them on each of the 8 domains.

RATING SCALE

IN CRISIS

I don't feel there are any opportunities for me to gain skills in this domain.

JUST SURVIVING

Most of the time I do not feel my community is there to support me in this domain.

DOING OK

Sometimes my community offers opportunities for me to succeed in this domain.

DOING GOOD

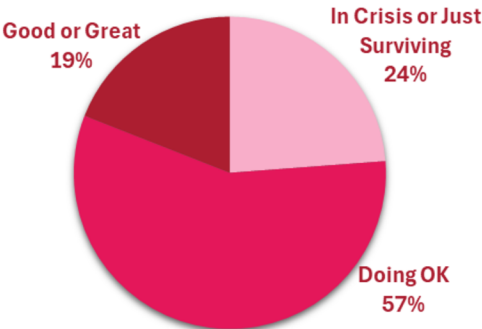
Most of the time I can get the support I need to be successful in this domain.

DOING GREAT

My community has everything I need to help me achieve wellbeing in this domain.

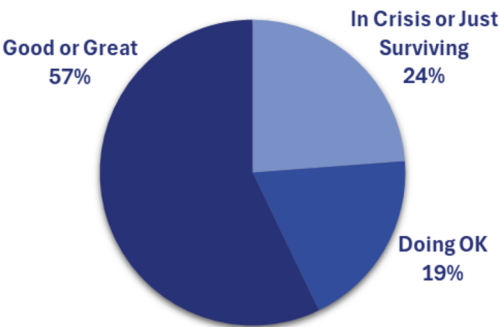


LEARNING AND
GROWING



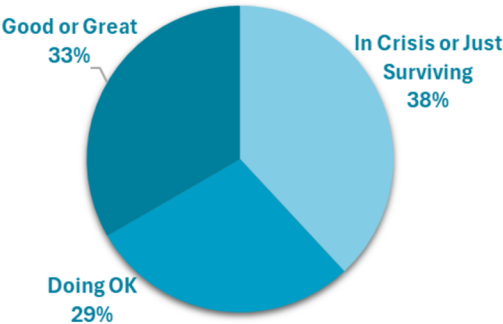
AVERAGE RATING: 2.9/5

HEALTHY LIVING



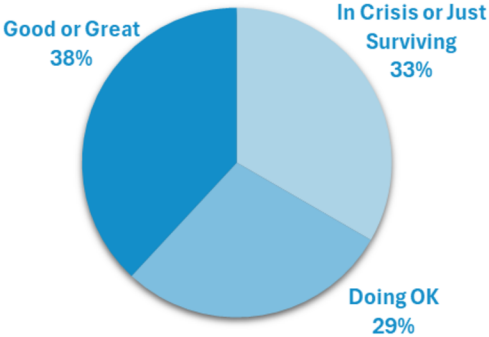
AVERAGE RATING: 3.4/5

PURPOSE



AVERAGE RATING: 3.0/5

COMMUNITY



AVERAGE RATING: 3.1/5

21 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

FEMALE-IDENTIFYING



MALE-IDENTIFYING

10% NON-BINARY / TRANSGENDER

GR 9
52%

GR 11
29%

GR 12
14%

DIVERSITY REPRESENTATION

- 2SLGBTQIA+ 18%
- VISIBLE MINORITY 28%
- FIRST NATIONS 16%
- NEWCOMER 6%
- DISABILITY 9%
- LIVING IN POVERTY 3%





YOUTH WELLBEING NETWORK

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Over the next year, the Youth Wellbeing Network will:

- Share findings with councils and community partners
- Support youth engagement opportunities
- Advance identified priority actions
- Continue measuring impact

RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS



YWN WEBSITE

WWW.YOUTHWELLBEINGNETWORK.COM

QR CODE



YWN HELPING TREE QR CODE



or click on pdf picture links to access



YWN PADLET (expanded helping tree details) QR CODE



YOUTH OUTREACH GET HELP CONNECTING TO SERVICES



SHYFT Youth Services

902-774-2200

Aidean's Place

902-881-3444

Our House

902-875-3337

Youth Health Centers & SchoolsPlus

(located at most high schools)

Kids Help Phone

1-800-668-6868

text CONNECT to
686868

Suicide Crisis

Helpline

text or call - 988

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Josie Hatfield, Youth Wellbeing Network Coordinator
Tri-County Youth Summit Advisory Committee

- Anna Haanstra, Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
- Brigitte Robicheau, ÉcolesPlus
- Denise Vacon, Public Health Services
- Holly Blunden, Tri-County Women's Centre
- Ian Surette, Public Health
- Isabella Sears, SchoolsPlus
- Jacqueline d'Eon, Public Health
- Jennifer Lamrock, Public Health Services
- Kasey Newell, Mental Health and Addictions
- Kelly Hazelton, Elizabeth Fry Society
- Laura Comeau, Public Health Services
- Lori Sigfridson, Tri-County Regional Centre for Education
- Nick Hilton, MLA Yarmouth
- Remi d'Entremont, Mental Health and Addictions
- Sagar Jha, Public Health Services
- Shanna Grant, SHYFT Youth Services
- Shannon Watkins, Tri-County Women's Centre
- Ted Saulnier, Municipality of Argyle
- Tori Comeau, Public Health

Tri-County Youth Summit made possible with help from the following supporters:

