



— 2023 – 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT



# A Note About our Founder

Appointed to the Senate of Canada in 1990, Mr. Ross served almost three years before resigning his seat to begin the task of building Partners for Youth Inc.

A graduate of UNB law in 1965, Mr. Ross also received an honorary doctor of laws degree from UNB in 2007. In 2000, Mr. Ross was awarded the Order of Canada for his work with Partners For Youth where he continues to provide active support and holds the position of Founder and Chairperson Emeritus. In 2009, Mr. Ross was inducted in the New Brunswick Business Hall of Fame. A three-time Rotary Club Paul Harris Award recipient, Jim has always recognized the importance of community involvement. Mr. Ross was also inducted into the Champions of Public Education hall of fame in 2012.



# Report of the Founder and Chairperson Emeritus

This year marked our 30th year of operations and, as an organization dedicated to supporting and helping youth at risk across New Brunswick, we continue to expand our reach. Thousands of youth have been positively impacted by our work during the past 30 years. We have grown from a small regional program to a provincial presence supporting youth in every corner of New Brunswick.

This year we continued to increase our youth engagement approach with youth across New Brunswick. We expanded our middle school program to reach more students. We launched a new project to support youth who are connected to the provincial Rent Bank and we continued to expand our counselling therapy program.

All of this work and so much more could not be accomplished without our dedicated volunteers and staff. They continue to outperform and produce high quality programs for youth and youth at risk and we are so very thankful and grateful for their work. Our board of

directors is a wonderful and committed group of individuals who supports the mission and vision of this dynamic organization. Our board president, Jessica Melanson, has either served as a director or president for several years and has continued to provide great leadership this year.

Founded on principles of adventure based experiential programming and youth engagement we can look back with a sense of accomplishment. We must also look ahead to the challenges that face youth in the future and we must continue to innovate to meet those challenges together. We have much to be thankful for as an organization. Thank you to all of our partners and funders for your support as well, for without you we could not meet the needs of so many youth.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Hon. Jim Ross,**  
Founder and Chairperson Emeritus

# Report of the Executive Director

I have had the honor and privilege of working for PFY for the better part of 19 years and I submit this, my 17th annual report as Executive Director. 1994 was not yesterday. Independent and untethered not for profits don't always survive after the first decade of existence, funding evaporates, leaders change, founders retire and often the energy required to sustain an operation is simply lost. In the case of Partners for Youth, it is easy to reflect on our 30 year history and see where we could have chosen to close the doors and walk away several times but we didn't. We overcame obstacles, refocused our efforts and never lost sight of the opportunity and obligation we have to help kids. When we began 30 years ago we delivered 1 program at a local junior high school and brought a group of youth to camp for a week in the summer. This year we will have worked in 70+ schools with over 2,000 children and youth in a diversified and deep-rooted set of programs.

We have not been scared to take risks and we have not been scared to admit when something is not working and when we have to change direction. Our original mandate and vision of adventure based experiential programming for youth at risk remains strong and we have built a structure around kids whereby their vast needs are met by any number of direct interventions. In this annual report you will read about the vast array of programming we currently deliver across the province and you will see how everything connects to provide a profound and meaningful experience and support system for youth.

Our 30th year of operation was one of growth and visioning. We expanded our staff team and our program delivery across every part of the organization. We also took bold steps to determine the need to move forward on a new program element — the creation and operation of a Child and Youth Advocacy Center to open in 2026. This Child and Youth Advocacy Center will help children and youth overcome abuse and maltreatment and will provide them and their families with support, therapy and a path towards healing.

Our ability to create meaningful programs and interventions for children and youth comes from a youth engagement approach where we take our mandate from the folks we are in existence to help. Youth voice and lived experience guides and directs our program development and delivery. Our board of directors supports this methodology and we are thankful to them for their bold leadership for so many years.

In order to execute our programs, projects and initiatives we have relied on a hard working and dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Our staff are a dynamic and passionate group of individuals who's shared commitment and vision enables us to be successful. We are so very thankful to them for their work this year and for all those over the past 30 years who have called PFY home.

Delivering consistent and long term programming can only happen with predictable and ever increasing funding. Our financial partners are a vast group of foundations,



corporate donors, service clubs, individuals and government departments. We are eternally grateful for their investments in our work and their faith in our ability to deliver strong outcome based programming. Without their support we would not be able to help so many children, youth and families and we could not make the commitment necessary to ensure impact and results.

We are thankful for a very successful year of operations and we look towards the next 30 years with optimism and commitment.

Respectfully Submitted,

**John Sharpe,**  
Executive Director



# Report of the President of the Board of Directors

I am pleased to present this report as President of the Board of Directors for Partners for Youth. I have volunteered with Partners for Youth since 2014, and it is my pleasure to continue to serve this phenomenal organization that makes such an impact on the lives and wellbeing of youth in the province of New Brunswick.

This year, Partners for Youth reached a significant milestone: 30 years of operations. The concept of reaching milestones, of marking significant change and development, has been on my mind frequently as of late. My second daughter was born in August, and those first few months are full of milestones, both for baby and parents. What strikes me, as I watch my daughter hold her head up, chortle so hard milk spills out, or wild swing an arm around in an attempt to roll, is how milestones are almost never achieved individually or in isolation. Milestones also belong to the supporters, contributors, and those that cheer you on as you grow.

This year I would invite you to celebrate Partner for Youth's 30 year milestone with us. You are PFY's supporters, contributors, and this milestone is for you too, and because of you.

Thirty years ago, Partners for Youth started as the nascent dream of Jim Ross. Since then, countless staff, volunteers, and community partners have nurtured this organization as it has grown and developed. Over the years, the organization has developed some of the core programs we continue to deliver to children and youth in the province. Programs such as Making Waves, which helps youth develop healthy relationship skills; and like

Camp Tippy Canoe, which provides the summer camp experience to those children and youth who would not otherwise have it.

In this last year, we have also grown in new ways. At the last AGM, I highlighted in my report a new program called PFY Connect. This program connects youth with mental health services and provides the additional support, such as transportation, to ensure youth can access the services. This year, PFY Connect has doubled the amount of referrals and connections for youth to mental health services in the province.

Other existing programs have also been expanded, building on the work of past years. This includes our Youth Works project. This year we helped support even more youth leaving care in exploring post-secondary education and seeking employment. We also expanded the Sport3 Middle School program to schools in Prince Edward Island. PFY was the first organization in Canada to implement this program that fosters leadership skills through sport and play and we are now working to develop the program in other areas.

2024 also saw the development of new programs and initiatives to support children and youth. Partners for Youth completed a feasibility study to prepare to launch a new Child and Youth Advocacy Centre in 2026. This centre will aim to provide wrap around supports and services for children in the province who are survivors of abuse and neglect. This will include legal, medical, and social services for children and youth. The Centre will also connect survivors with community supports and resources.

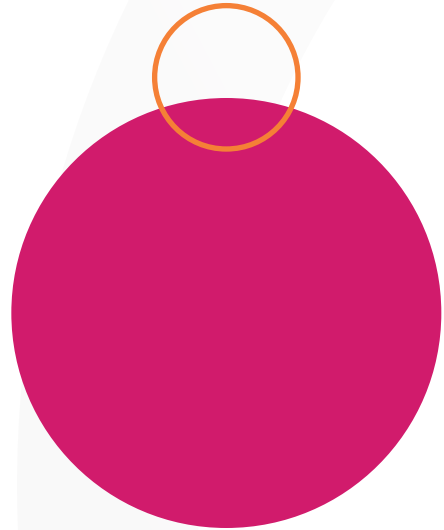


Partners for Youth also focused this year on ways to provide housing support for youth. This has long been an area identified by PFY where there are substantial gaps in services and supports for youth. This year PFY added a new initiative to help youth under the age of 29 seeking support for their rent. PFY has partnered with Housing NB to support applicants to the provincial rent bank. This role will be important going forward as PFY continues to identify and develop wrap around services which can support youth in obtaining and maintaining housing.

In closing my report, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to Partners for Youth and have helped the organization reach this 30 year milestone. I would like to thank all those who have nurtured and supported PFY's work: the staff, the board members, and the volunteers. I would also like to thank John Sharpe, our Executive Director. PFY would not be the organization it is without his vision and dedication over the years. I would also like to thank Jim Ross, who started all this in the first place 30 years ago and has continued to generously support the organization every step along the way. Thank you to all you who support us, contribute to our work, and cheer us on. Partners for Youth could not have reached 30 years without you.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Jessica Melanson,**  
President of the Board of Directors



# Report of the Treasurer

**Dear Community Partners, Financial Supporters,  
Friends and Staff of Partners for Youth.**

I am once again excited to be writing my report as Treasurer of Partners for Youth Inc. (“PFY”) as fiscal year 2023–2024 was another successful year for PFY; the best year yet since I joined the organization as Treasurer! Partners for Youth’s programs are delivering concrete and measurable results, while fielding requests to expand their reach. For example, this year PFY has expanded the number of kids in their summer camps program and continued to expand on their PFY Connect program defying mental health support norms in the province, and they also continue to look for new and incremental ways to deliver impactful programming.

PFY’s continued success is attributed to its extraordinary team and the support from funders, and I would like to thank all that help PFY be so successful each and every year!

At the time of this writing, the financial statements for the past year are being reviewed by the external accountants. Subject to the results of the review, the

statement of operations reports a slight surplus again this year on revenues of approximately \$1.4 million.

As in past years, the predominant items on the statement of financial position are the amounts of contributions received for future operations, temporary investments, real estate and cash. The organization’s current liabilities, including deferred revenue, are approximately \$1.5 million and are covered by current assets. The organization continues to hold cash and temporary investments in excess of the expected expenses over the next 12 months, which allows the team to focus on program delivery.

The full financial statements are available as an attachment to this annual report, providing information on the revenues and expenses of the last 12 months as well as the financial strength of Partners for Youth Inc.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Michel Landry**  
Treasurer



# PFY Connect

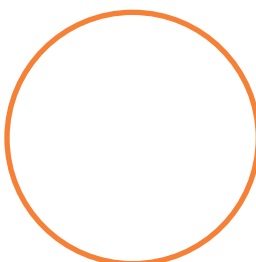
The PFY Connect program was launched in 2022 to help address a significant gap in mental health services for youth in New Brunswick. The program is entering into its third year and is continuing to expand and address social justice issues by providing rapid access to licensed counselling therapy for youth aged 14 to 24 throughout the province.

PFY Connect staff use a person-centered and trauma-informed approach to engage with youth to discuss their mental health goals and specific needs. They collaborate to identify a licensed counselling therapist who best meets those needs. PFY offers support for up to eight sessions of licensed private counselling therapy (and more if needed), addressing barriers to attendance such as wait times, navigation challenges, and transportation issues. Throughout the program, PFY Connect staff provides continuous support, checking in between sessions and developing a personalized transition plan that works for each youth.

Since the program launch in 2022, approximately 300 youth have accessed this program with referrals doubling each year. From September 2023 to August 2024, the program has provided over 700 hours of mental health therapy across various regions of New Brunswick, such as Bathurst, Miramichi, Shediac, Shippagan, Moncton, Dieppe, Riverview, Sackville, Quispamsis, Saint John, Gagetown, Oromocto, Fredericton, St Stephen, St Andrews, Campobello Island, Woodstock and Perth-Andover. In fiscal 2023–2024 we budgeted \$65,000.00 for direct therapy costs which was an increase year over year of 30%. At year end we actually spent approximately \$107,000.00 in direct therapy costs....nobody was turned away.



**“Saturday I had my first therapy session & it went super well! I seriously can’t express how much I already feel connected and it was only my first day there! I can’t believe I’m saying that. I’m not kidding, when I tell you all that I was laughing, talking & joking around with the therapist. This is such an improvement!! I wish I had captured some of the session because I can’t believe this, I did it! I wanted to share that with you all, I didn’t have too but I feel like it’s important for you all as my team to hear, not just about success at my work placement but also things outside of that, like therapy! I cannot explain the amount of weight that has been lifted, now that I have an outside therapist! Finally, a therapist who understands autism & that not everyone is capable of speaking 24/7.”**



# New Brunswick Youth Advisory Council

The New Brunswick Youth Council (NBYC), a collaborative initiative between Partners for Youth (PFY) and the Department of Health, aims to amplify youth voices on social issues. Supported by the Government of New Brunswick, the council addresses youth mental health and the proposed Provincial Stepped Care Model to inform public policy. Over the past year, the NBYC established a structured framework, held regular meetings, and conducted youth surveys to promote positive change.

NBYC empowers youth by fostering engagement on mental health and policy issues, ensuring young people are seen as leaders and experts on matters affecting them. This year, NBYC made key contributions, including creating a report for the Provincial Youth Mental Health Treatment Center and advocating at the Youth Mental Health Symposium including sending six youth to be on a mental health panel. The council is also crafting a Youth Engagement Charter with the Department of Health to guide future collaborations ensuring deeper collaboration.

NBYC launched a new website, created promotional materials, welcomed 16 new members (now totaling 34), and organized its first council elections, where youth members shaped the entire election process. They expanded projects, like supporting suicide prevention training for teachers (in collaboration with EECD) and providing input on Integrated Youth Services (A.K.A Youth Hubs). A Social Media Subcommittee now manages outreach, and bilingual initiatives help members connect with both language communities.

During this year we have hosted 10 online meetings and 2 in-person weekend events, and countless sub committee meetings. We have 34 council members and have hundreds of views on our website each month.

This year marked significant growth and achievements for NBYC, reinforcing its mission to elevate youth perspectives. The council is set to continue advocating, creating connections, and shaping youth-driven policies, laying a strong foundation for future contributions across New Brunswick.



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“The council provides me with the platform and space to share my voice for a greater purpose. There are ways to make change in your community even at a young age.”

“My favorite thing about the youth council is spending time with youth my age that are involved in their communities and share similar interests, and when we make progress on our initiatives.”

“I’ve had my eyes opened to a lot of issues I hadn’t seen before. Struggles that I didn’t realize youth faced. We would like things to advance at a faster pace...”

“I Love the feeling it gives me being apart of something that’s going to make a change and I’m excited for the future of the council and hope it can do great things.”





# Camp Tippy Canoe

Camp Tippy Canoe is located on 35 acres of beautiful New Brunswick wilderness at the head of the St. Croix Waterway. North Lake connects our camp to a series of lakes, rivers and waterways along the border between New Brunswick and Maine. Our summer camp is modeled on an adventure based approach where campers learn to live in the outdoors exploring the terrain through camping, canoeing, and hiking.

Camp preparation and planning launches every year in January, but we begin living outdoors in June. This year we had to adapt to the rough winter conditions, as it took down one of our yurts — staff were up earlier this year repairing the damage. We welcomed our summer staff in June, where we took them through some intensive staff training. They were then ready for the summer of camp programming. This year we left the camp open a little longer for new off season leadership camps.

Over the summer camp programming, we welcomed hundreds of youth from 38 schools across the province. We provided everything they needed for a week at camp, including transportation to and from site. We hosted 2 elementary camps, 8 middle school camps, and 2 leadership camps. Our leadership camps are designed to challenge our older youth, in order to achieve success they have to work together to overcome their obstacles. Our leadership trips head out on longer trips along the St Croix Waterway, some as far as 20 km away from our main camp site!

Camp Tippy Canoe provides a safe and inclusive space for our youth. Staff teams are mainly comprised of post-secondary school students and sometimes we have former campers. This summer our dedicated team made sure campers were supported and engaged, providing a safe and fun environment where youth came to know themselves more and the world around them. It is the simple things at camp for us, we love swimming, canoeing, playing games, and making friends!





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“Our son’s pride in being allowed to attend Camp Tippy is equal to our pride, in telling everyone, of his special Tippy Canoe summer camp experience. Thank you for taking such good care of our child.”

“I’m grateful for getting to have real conversations and not being on the screens and its been nice to get a break.”

“I’m grateful for meeting everyone and have a good time, and the paddle today because it was so pretty and nice.”

“Coming out of my shell, kind of nervous to be in a group with people I didn’t know, but it went well.”





# Making Waves

Making Waves is a successful and evidence based healthy relationships program for youth and is the only program of its kind in New Brunswick. It is delivered within a youth engagement model where the participation of youth as facilitators and participants is key to its success. Youth come together to take part in a series of workshops and activities and then work with support staff to develop an action plan for delivery at their local schools or communities. This peer-based train the trainer program is unique and allows youth to educate and engage their peers on healthy relationships and relationship violence prevention.

Throughout the 2023–2024 year, our delivery of Making Waves has been flexible and varied as we continue with our current project to redesign the Making Waves program to engage youth within Indigenous communities across New Brunswick. A major highlight of this year was our Youth and Elder Weekend in which we welcomed Elders and youth from several Indigenous communities across New Brunswick to learn about the program, review some of our activities and offer insights and feedback on how the program can be enhanced. This

year we delivered the program in 6 different schools/communities and supported approximately 170 youth. This year our program was delivered over multiple visits as we ran sessions once a week for four weeks with each school and community. The Making Waves program thrives within this model as students are able to have a safe space for multiple weeks to both discuss and practice building healthy relationships with each other and with support staff.

As the lead agency in Atlantic Canada for the Canadian Women's Foundation teen healthy relationships Building the Field project we were instrumental in gathering organizations and stakeholders from across Atlantic Canada to share resources, identify best practices and gaps in delivery and determine how to best engage and support youth. This work was several years in the making and culminated in PFY hosting a gathering of Atlantic agencies at our offices in Fredericton. Called the Atlantic Hub, the work of PFY and partner agencies was recognized by the Canadian Women's Foundation as a model from which to build other hubs across the country.



# Youth Works

Youth Works is an innovative career development and employment project for youth connected to the care system. Our Youth Works program begins with self-concepts, getting to know yourself and accepting who you are components in all program delivery. We address the current needs and struggles of youth participants such as poverty, racism, substance abuse disorders, mental illness, drug/sex trades and criminality. All of our programming is youth-lead and participant-centered. Youth Works staff offer resume clinics, social media profiling, information workshops, culturally enriched sessions, individual coaching, one-on-one mentoring, role-modeling and peer supported environments.

An important aspect of the project is the holistic support offered to youth in order to maintain education or employment and success following placement. Youth Works programming also includes a section on employee and employer rights and roles to better equip youth in regards to work ethics and responsibilities.

Exploring careers that match the youth's personality traits, beliefs and values is a key component of the Youth Works programming. Staff include general assessments, career exploration activities, post-secondary education materials/information and narratives from 'successful' adults who love what they do and encourage youth to follow their dreams.

Assisting youth with normalizing situations and communicating concerns with employers as they arise;

Youth Works staff offer mentorship and guidance to address issues within the workplace; youth report that by accepting themselves for who they are, enables them to be a better employee and secure quality employment in their field of interest.

Assistance with education applications and funding resources has been paramount for youth and Youth Works staff. Current opportunities for free tuition to youth who have been in the childcare system is new and hopeful. Youth Works staff assist young adults with navigating forms/applications and connecting them to appropriate departments/organizations. Additionally, Post-Covid-19 employment opportunities have allowed many youths to gain valuable work experience and offered quality employment experiences. Youth have a better understanding of the importance of education when developing a career plan and positive outlook on their futures. Youth see education as a means to a successful future and a better standard of living.

During the last year of the project we have worked with 156 youth. Our Youth Works team have partnered with Neqotkuk First Nation (Tobique), Miramichi Youth Centre, Youth In Transition, Compass Alternative Education, Therapeutic Education Support Site (TESS), Bilik First Nation (Kingsclear), Leo Hayes High School, Sitansisk First Nation (St. Mary's), and many social workers and group homes around the province to deliver the program this year.





# Youth in Action for Mental Health

Youth in Action for Mental Health (YaMH) provides high school students with the opportunity to learn and discuss issues related to mental health. YaMH puts youth voices and ideas into action to facilitate productive conversations around the promotion of positive and critical understandings of mental wellness and illnesses.

This year we delivered YaMH through three, one day summits. We invited schools within the same region to attend a Mental Health Day event where students were guided through several workshops to help bolster mental health awareness, education, destigmatizing and peer to peer support. Afterwards, alongside the school champions and YaMH coordinator, participants continued to work together to design an action plan for a project or campaign related to youth mental health or overall youth wellness in their school or community.

The three Mental Health Summits were held in Miramichi, St. Stephen and Woodstock. Leadership teams of students from the 11 participating High Schools attended one of 3 of the summits and were then engaged in project development during the year. Participating high schools during the 2023–2024 school year were Hartland High,

Carlton North High, Nackawic High, Tobique Narrows School, Woodstock High, St Stephen High, Sir James Dunn Academy, Fundy High, Bonar Law High and Bathurst High.

As part of our work in youth mental health we also took a leadership role and partnered with Anglophone School District East for their mental health summit. 134 students from the following 11 Anglophone East schools participated in the summit. Caledonia Regional High, Tantramar High, Bernice MacNaughton High, Harrison Trimble High, Peticodiac Regional School, Salisbury Regional School, Riverview High, Moncton High, TESS alternate learning site, Riverview Middle School and Lewisville Middle School. PFY staff also joined the youth leadership team at Caledonia Regional High School to deliver a wellness day for the whole school, after the team highlighted a number of issues they felt needed addressing as a whole school through their action planning.

PFY staff were also on the development team for the provincial Mental Health Symposium held in spring 2024 and which had around 200 students from across the province in attendance. In addition to supporting the development of the event, PFY also facilitated a workshop about our Mental Health Journeys with participants.





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“I want to pass along the feedback from our students who participated in yesterday’s Youth for Mental Health event. Upon their return to HCS, without prompting, they shared how much they enjoyed their day. They were smiling, enthusiastic, and motivated. Thank you and your team. Job well done!”

“I really enjoyed when we had different breakout groups and being in the zen den, it felt relaxing.”

“My favorite part was being able to talk about mental health issues and know you’re never alone.”

“Making stress balls and coming up with new ideas and how to improve the school and voicing my opinion where the best parts of the day for me.”



## Ring a Bell

December 2023 was the 13th Anniversary of the Ring A Bell Campaign in partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The goal of the Ring A Bell Campaign is to raise awareness and inspire youth, their families, and communities to take positive actions in support of youth mental health. By taking part in this collaborative process we are recognizing that this campaign is a powerful example of the kind of social innovation necessary to break stigma and support everyone in our community, recognizing that everyone has mental health.

Up to 50,000 elementary and middle school students had the opportunity to participate in lesson plans and utilize additional classroom activities to support open conversations on mental fitness. Participating schools were encouraged to submit videos, poems or songs to show how they support mental wellness.

This year's theme was on Building Your Community of Support. Throughout the campaign, students received resources and tools intended to help them during their formative years.

The Provincial Bell Ringing Ceremony, which symbolizes breaking the silence around mental health, took place at École communautaire Carrefour-Étudiant in Belle-Baie, NB. Over 200 youth in the school and invited community members attended the event.

“Mental health is an ongoing challenge in our schools across the province. Schools, students and parents need guidance and support from the community.” said principle René Doucet. “We definitely need additional programs and resources in order to make a difference for our kids.”



# New Brunswick Youth in Care Network

The New Brunswick Youth in Care network (NBYICN) is a provincial supportive network for current and former youth in care. The NBYICN strives to provide a sense of connection throughout the province among those who are living in the child welfare system.

The Network has several resources and programs that are available to current and former youth in care. The Health and Wellbeing Fund assists with health related needs such as dental, vision, and mental health supports. The Home Based Fund assists with the urgent housing-related needs of young people in the process of leaving the care system and transitioning to independence. The Comfort Kit program delivers a book bag filled with personalized items to assist children or youth with their transition into care. Our partners at the Children's Aid Foundation make these initiatives possible. During 2023–24 the Youth in Care Network distributed 60+ Comfort Kits to children and youth coming into the care system. The kits were sent to all regions within New Brunswick. The responses were overwhelmingly positive from the participating children, youth and partner agencies. We have 2 scholarships available for youth in care. The Ben Bourque scholarship for youth looking to pursue post-secondary education and the Rosemary McCain McMillin scholarship for youth looking to pursue graduate studies. 3 additional programs have a unique focus on youth in care — Youth Works which focuses on employment and career development, PFY Connect which supports timely access to youth mental healthcare and Mindful Kids is a new initiative focusing on the practice of mindfulness and self care.

The NBYICN staff hit the road in the summer of 2024 to connect with current youth in care on the Network's activities for the coming year. Youth across the Province offered suggestions while engaging in a fun, creative activity. Staff met with 65 youth from 15 different areas

in the province. NBYICN staff assembled the information and created a full calendar of events, activities, workshops, panel discussions, friendly competitions, and outdoor adventures for all current and former youth in the care system. During the 2023/24 season our calendar of events included, a bullet journaling workshop, paint night, mindfulness on zoom and a cooking night.

The highlight of our year is always being able to celebrate New Brunswick Youth In Care Day on November 29th. We hosted a cupcake decorating event on zoom for all our members. We also attended the annual social development events hosted in the Fredericton and Bathurst areas. Throughout these engagements children and youth were encouraged to become actively involved with the Youth in Care Network. Ongoing communication with social workers, group home staff, and foster families has increased the number of new Network members. Additionally, Network leadership members are offering their expertise and sharing knowledge with those currently living in the care system.

The Youth in Care Network also focuses on systemic change and this year network members were instrumental in developing and reshaping the new Child in Care Regulations which are connected to the Child and Youth Wellbeing Act. These regulations guide and direct how the new act is implemented and feedback and engagement with Youth in Care Network members had a recognizable impact on how children are cared for within the system.





## Sport3

A nationally recognized Canadian program that brings middle school students together to develop communication, conflict resolution, empathy, and leadership skills through sports and games. The program employs a non-competitive approach that emphasizes fair play, teamwork, respect, and gender equality. Students engage in games paired with guided discussions and reflections, encouraging critical thinking about their interactions. A key feature is the role of a student mediator, who observes, provides feedback, and facilitates fair play, equipping students to self-manage games and resolve conflicts independently. This structure helps participants build essential life skills that extend beyond sports.

Sport3 fosters lasting impacts by enhancing social skills, self-awareness, and positive interactions among students. Participants learn to manage emotions, respect boundaries, and develop healthy relationships. The program emphasizes empathy and active listening, improving students' conflict resolution abilities. With modules covering leadership, social responsibility, and environmental awareness, students gain a comprehensive understanding of their community roles. This holistic skill set enables them to thrive socially, academically, and personally, creating a foundation for responsible behavior and meaningful relationships.

The curriculum focuses on themes such as social well-being, access and stability, diversity, and understanding differences. Each theme is explored through specific modules that facilitate discussions on critical topics. These include Leadership, Gender Equality, Peacebuilding, Environmental Stewardship, Conflict Resolution, and Health. For example, the environmental unit features a game called "Fishing for Chocolates," teaching students about sustainable resource management. This interactive experience fosters awareness of consumption impacts and the interconnectedness of humans and the environment. Sessions conclude with reflections that allow students to apply their learning to real-life situations.

This year, Sport3 was implemented in 25 schools across NB and PEI, with plans for expansion in the 2024/25 school year. We had a total of 333 youth take part in the program and over 100 of these youth accepted a place on our summer camp.

Sport3 equips young people with essential skills for navigating social situations thoughtfully. By emphasizing communication, respect, and empathy, the program offers a supportive environment for developing leadership and self-management. Beyond being a sports initiative, Sport3 is a transformative experience that empowers youth to forge lasting connections and embrace values of inclusivity and stewardship, laying a foundation for a socially conscious future.





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“I enjoyed sharing my story in a safe place and I feel supported and encouraged by everyone.”

“I like how we worked together and didn’t make fun of each other if something goes wrong. I think it’s important to have a positive friend to help you in school, at home, and in life.”

“I like being encouraged after my mistakes instead of feeling like I messed up, I feel like I’m just getting closer to my goal.”

“It’s nice to feel heard and have a chance to change the game so we can make it fair for us”

“I like making friends.”

“I don’t feel like I get judged as much here and I enjoy how intense the game gets but that no one really cares that much about winning.”



# 2023 – 2024 Valued Donors

## \$50,000.00 and Over

Province of  
New Brunswick

Government of Canada

Leacross Foundation

Children's Aid  
Foundation of Canada

Counselling Foundation  
of Canada

Ross Ventures Ltd.

Glenwood Foundation

United Way Central  
New Brunswick

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New Brunswick Children's  
Foundation

Mental Health Foundation  
of Nova Scotia

Stanley Mutual Insurance  
(ANBL) Alcool NB Liquor

Rotary Club of  
Fredericton Sunrise

CIBC Miracle Fund

Fredericton  
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The Lockhart Foundation

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Canadian Women's  
Foundation

Stuart and  
Patricia Morrison

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New Brunswick

Catherine Donnelly  
Foundation

Crabtree Foundation

**A number of  
anonymous donors.**

# 2023 – 2024

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Special Advisor

**John Sharpe**  
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**Amy Ross**

**Folusho Iyaniwura**





As a provincial entity, Partners for Youth acknowledges that it carries out its work on the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq and Peskotomuhkati peoples. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which these nations first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with the surrender of lands and resources, but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. We, the staff and members of the board, pay respect to the elders, past and present, and descendants of this land. We honour the knowledge keepers and seek their guidance as we strive to develop closer relationships with the Indigenous people in New Brunswick.

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