



# 2021 2022

## Annual Report





# A Message From our Founder

In 1994 we had a vision to create a dynamic organization that supports youth at risk here in New Brunswick. Focused on adventure based and experiential programming we knew that youth at risk could reach great heights with the proper support and long term commitment. This year marked our 28<sup>th</sup> year of operations and, as an organization dedicated to supporting and helping youth at risk in New Brunswick, we continue to expand our reach. We continued to increase our youth engagement approach with youth across New Brunswick. We expanded our middle school program with a new initiative called Sport3 in order to reach more students and we launched a new counselling therapy project.

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 our dynamic organization. Our outgoing board president, Mike Joyce, has lead a dynamic and passionate group of board members for the last 4 years and we are very thankful for his leadership and steady guidance. My sincerest thanks to outgoing board member Ross Creelman – Ross has been an invaluable voice for our cause and has contributed greatly to our board for well over a decade and he has provided hundreds of hours of support to Partners for Youth, all of them as a volunteer.

As mentioned, 2022 marked the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Partners for Youth and we have much to be thankful for. 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 submit this, my 16<sup>th</sup> annual report as Executive Director of Partners for Youth Inc. My first day at PFY was December 5, 2005 and when I arrived, I walked into a very different organization than it is today and I realized almost immediately the potential we had if everyone worked together for a common cause. I really had little idea what I had taken on and I had little appreciation for the work that would be required to achieve our mission and fulfill our vision. Hard times teach us a lot, perhaps more than times when everything seems to come easy and without much effort. Those early days always remind me of a quote by Dolly Parton –

**"If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain".**

As I reflect on the last 17 years and specifically on the last year I am thankful for PFY and I am thankful for my colleagues, our partners and funders, our volunteers and our board of directors. As we began to exit out of the pandemic we were able to work towards a more normal operating year and we are all thankful for that. 21 – 22 provided a number of milestones for our organization – we wrapped up our first full summer on our new campsite in North Lake and we finished the renovations on our new headquarters at 487 Brunswick St in Fredericton. Both of these legacy projects were significant undertakings and will position us for continued growth well into the future.

Our core programs continue to grow and even in the middle of a pandemic we continued to operate in order to serve the needs of youth. 1,000 youth were directly involved in a PFY program or project over the last year. Our staff team are to be commended for their wonderful and dedicated work while overcoming so many pandemic related issues.

21 – 22 was also a time of reflection, determination and growth. We faced a significant decision regarding our transitional housing program in Saint John, Youth Unbound. As we came to the end of our 5 year commitment to deliver the initiative we entered into discussions and negotiations with the province on an extension. With a dramatic shift in focus by the province we felt that entering into a new agreement with them would have forced us to compromise our values and in our opinion, it would have placed youth and staff at risk and so we made the choice to bring the program to a close – it was a difficult decision but it was the right decision.

It may be cliché but it is often true that when one door closes, another opens. Recognizing the ongoing gaps in youth mental health treatment access, we started down a path to create PFY Connect – a rapid access counselling therapy project for youth. With an Impact Grant from the Fredericton Community Foundation we researched, designed and launched the project in March 2022. At the time of this report we have



already supported over 30 youth who are now receiving mental health support within 7 days of their request. It is an exciting initiative and our expansion plans are ambitious.

We have also continued on our pathway of reconciliation as we focused considerable efforts on work with Indigenous youth and communities. We are now fortunate to have members of Indigenous communities on our board of directors and as members of our staff team. It is a priority for our organization to forge authentic and trusting relationships and commit to supporting and expanding our work in First Nation communities across the province.

All of our success this year and in the past can only be achieved with financial investment. Our funders are diverse and come from across Canada. A few interesting points on our funding: over 40% comes from outside the province; government funding makes up approximately

50% of our overall budget; we spend less than 10% on administrative costs and in 2021 – 2022 we received funding from over 100 different sources.

As I look towards the next year I remain as committed, motivated and energetic as I have ever been maintaining a clear focus on the needs of at risk youth in our province.

**"Two roads diverged in a wood,  
and I-I took the one less traveled  
by, And that has made all the  
difference."**

- ROBERT FROST

Respectfully Submitted,

**John Sharpe,**

Executive Director

# Report of the President

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

I am pleased to have this opportunity to share with you that Partners for Youth [PFY] has had quite a successful year; and my sincere thanks to our Executive Director John Sharpe and the dedicated staff of Partners for Youth who made this happen. It is at the individual level where youth receive the benefits of the programs provided by each team member; and ultimately where our success as an organization is measured. Although we acknowledge that challenges in program delivery still exist, albeit to a much lesser degree than 2021, John and the PFY team has yet to be confronted with a challenge that cannot be overcome.

On behalf of the Board Directors, I would like to thank you all for your grit, drive, hard work, and commitment to support all of the youth through the programs we provide. Truly an impressive team.

Our current programs Camp Tippy Canoe, Making Waves, NB Youth in Care Network, the Adventure Classroom, Sport3, DOTS NB, the NB Youth Council, Youth in Action for Mental Health and PFY Connect have all experienced success in providing youth with positive growth experiences; and we look forward to continued growth in the services these programs provide. In all, we have engaged with over 1000 youth through 2022; an achievement we are all very proud to share.

This year's success would not be possible without the financial support of our funders.

The continued commitment of our public and private donors is a key pillar supporting PFY's success. We have found that youth continue to rely on services provided by PFY throughout the health restrictions, and without our financial contributors, our program delivery would not have been possible. In fact, we are proud to share that over \$0.90 of every dollar received is allocated to front line program delivery. This is my favorite statistic to highlight as it tells so much: (1) how PFY can operate with a minimal administrative costs; and (2) how focused we are on maximizing the impact of our programs with youth we serve. To all of our supporters, both in kind and in financial contributions, please accept our sincere thanks for your generous support and your continued contributions.

As I conclude my tenure as President, I wanted to share a special thanks with my fellow Board members. I am so grateful for your dedication and willingness to explore new ideas in an environment that welcomes unconventional thinking. With a diverse background of individual experiences, we share our passion for PFY, exchange our ideas through open discussions, and work towards consensus in decision making. I believe this is the basis of a strong board and sustained growth. I have truly enjoyed my last 4 years as President, and this is in large part to working with all of you. I am excited to see what the future holds for PFY.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mike Joyce,**

President



# Report of the Treasurer

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

I am happy to be writing my report as Treasurer of Partners for Youth Inc. ("PFY") as fiscal year 2021 – 2022 was another successful year for PFY. The organization was again rewarded by its strong leadership and exceptional reputation in the community and school system. Partners for Youth's programs are delivering concrete and measurable results, and they continue to field requests to expand their reach.

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!

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.

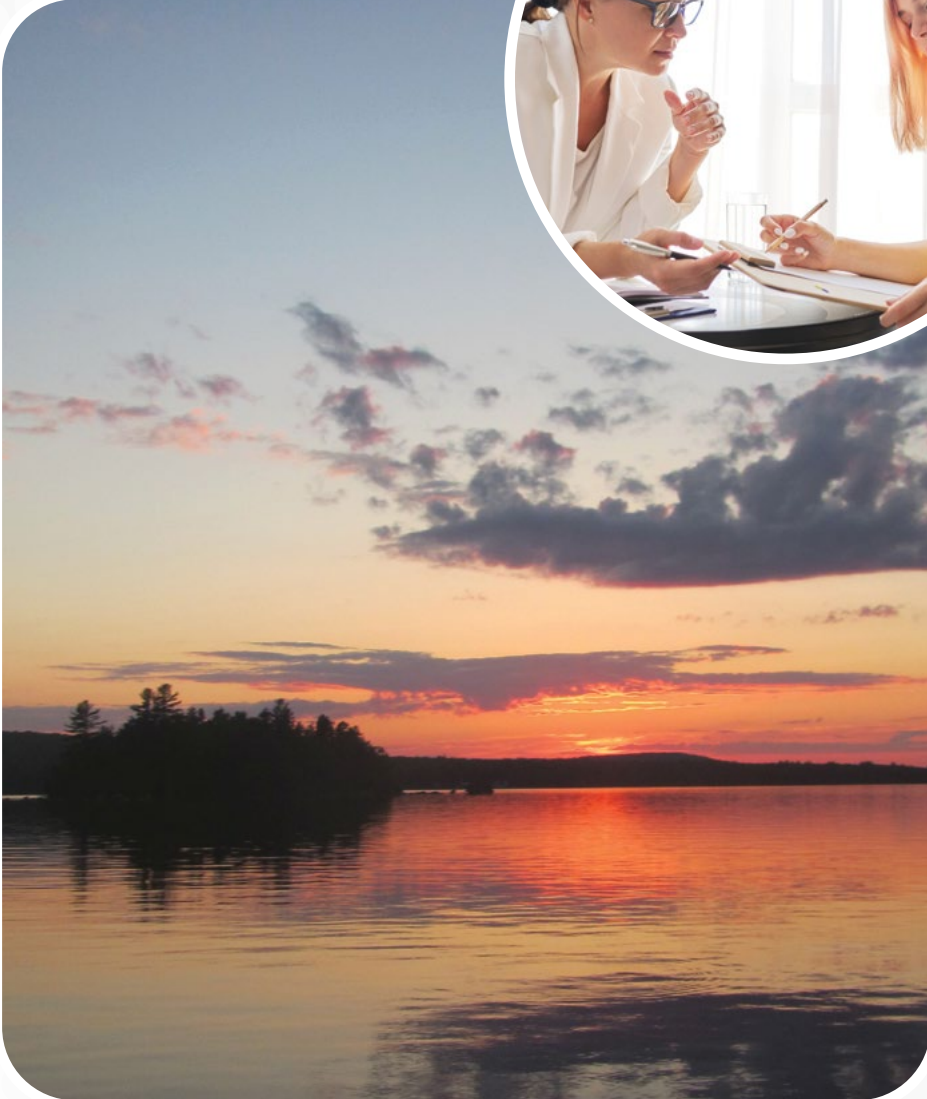
As in past years, the predominant items on the statement of financial position are the amounts of contributions received for future operations, temporary investments and cash. The organization's current liabilities, including deferred revenue, are covered by cash and temporary investments positions. 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

Developed and launched in 21 – 22, PFY Connect is our new province wide rapid access to counselling pilot project which supports youth at risk, current and former youth in care to gain quick access to licensed counselling therapy in their own community.

Through a simple referral process, a youth in need of support will make an initial connection to our designated staff team which includes a social worker. They will then be assessed to ensure the appropriate counselling need is met and then PFY staff will reach out on behalf of the youth to a

licensed counselling therapist and make the first appointment for the consenting youth. All barriers to access are addressed including transportation, cost and scheduling. Staff support youth as they follow up on an ongoing basis to confirm appointments and determine next steps. PFY will support up to 8 sessions of private counselling therapy for each youth. This initiative fills a specific gap in rapid access mental health support for youth reducing the wait time from an average of 6 months to no more than 7 days.

# The New Brunswick Youth Council

The New Brunswick Youth Council is supported by the Government of New Brunswick and is a partnership between Partners for Youth (PFY) & Francophone Youth Federation of New Brunswick (FJFNB). The goal of the council is to amplify youth voices on issues that matter to them. The role of the council is to identify areas of priority and to inform the government on public policy, with a specific focus on youth mental health.

During 21 – 22, engaging and informing youth on the development of the council has been our priority. We hosted 4 youth engagement sessions, 3 in person and 1 online which reached 76 youth directly. We had information sessions at 7 provincial high schools reaching over 250 students and we built relationships with 8 adult ally partners in various communities. We now have a group of diverse youth identified from across New Brunswick who are participating on the council and helping to guide and direct the development.

Our first in-person meeting in May 2022 brought together leadership youth from across the province to our office in Fredericton. The youth had the opportunity to get to know one another, by doing team & relationship building activities. This began the momentum of beginning the formal process of creating the structure of the youth council, by determining roles and responsibilities, as well as identifying areas of priority/focus that are important to young people in the province.





# ADVENTURE Classroom

The Adventure Classroom is one of our longest running programs and focuses on youth at risk in middle school. The program design is based on experiential adventure based learning. Youth are engaged in programming throughout the year in their local schools where they spend 24 hours of learning time in the program. Following the school based portion of the program, all participants are invited for a week of summer camp at our site in North Lake.

In school year 21 – 22, we were able to complete all of our in-person delivery for the first time in 3 years because of Covid19. We overcame restrictions early in the school year which included restrictions and scheduling conflicts all related to the pandemic. We adapted our adventure classroom model to an online session for some groups and in this online format, we

were able to connect with 15 different schools online. The online sessions were met with positive feedback, some teachers commenting that “the activities and discussion prompts were fun, engaging, and accessible to all learning styles and abilities”.

As the pandemic shifted into the winter months we returned to the in school delivery to finish up the school year in the spring. Our in-person visits were focused on leadership and the environment and Leave No Trace (LNT) principles. With a number of our school partners, we explored different parts of New Brunswick during our out-trips. From Cape Jourmain in Bayfield to Anchorage Park in Grand Manan our field trips consisted of experiential activities and programming where youth were able to put their leave no trace principles into practice.



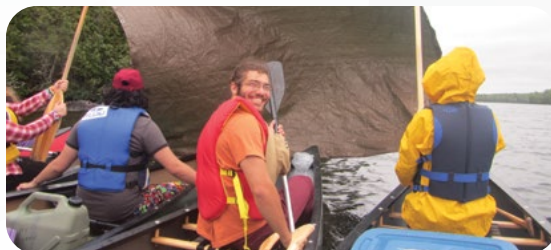
# Camp Tippy Canoe



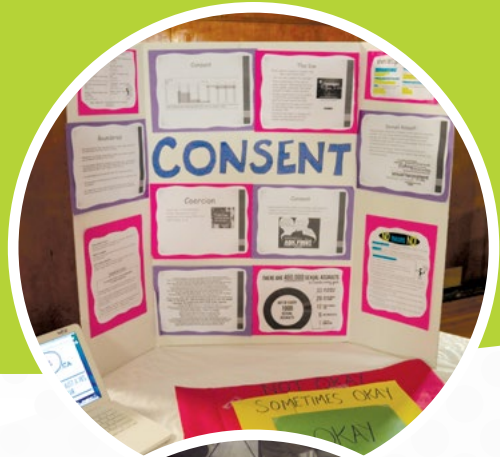
Located on 25 acres of beautiful New Brunswick wilderness on North Lake, Camp Tippy Canoe has been operating for 28 years. Our location on North Lake is situated at the head of the St. Croix International Waterway which connects to a series of lakes, rivers and waterways along the border between New Brunswick and Maine. Our summer camp is modeled on an adventure based approach where campers tent, canoe, live in the outdoors and hike during their time at camp. In summer 2022 we closely returned to our typical pre-pandemic schedule. We operated on site from June until September

which included intensive staff training following by seven weeks of summer camp. Over the summer we welcomed students from 22 schools across the province and we provided everything they needed for a week at camp including transportation to and from the site. We also delivered 2 leadership camps to high school youth – leaderships camps are designed to provide more of a challenge to older youth where in order to achieve success they have to work together to overcome obstacles. Our leadership trips head out on longer trips to campsites along the St. Croix Waterway, some as far as 16km by canoe from our main site.

Camp Tippy Canoe provides a safe and inclusive space for youth. As we are still working on our new site, this summer we completed the installation of a new low ropes challenge course as well as an orienteering course – both really enjoyed by campers and staff alike. Many of our summer staff are post secondary students and some are also former campers. They do an amazing job supporting and engaging our campers in order to provide a safe and fun environment where youth can come to know themselves and the world around them.



# MAKING Waves



Making Waves is the only program of its kind in New Brunswick. Making Waves/ Vague par vague, is a successful and evidence based healthy relationships program for youth. 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.



During the 21 – 22 school year we engaged youth in 8 different communities from around the province. In addition, we delivered a number of online sessions to classroom students with a focus on healthy relationships and violence prevention. By engaging youth face to face in several school visits or full day programming we are able to build deeper relationships with the youth and tailor the curriculum more to meet their needs. In 21 – 22 an important focus has been on adapting materials and redesigning some of the program for Indigenous youth. We have focused on expanding the program into more First Nation communities and we are very pleased with the progress.





# YOUTH Works

Youth Works is an innovative program focused on employment, education and career development for current and former youth in care. The program engages youth where they are at and focuses on difficult topics which youth face. Our approach is non-judgemental, respectful, person-centered and strengths-based. Staff apply a trauma-informed lens which is necessary in order to build trusting relationships and a sense of safety.

During 2021 – 2022, Youth Works offered 34 workshops, 3 resume clinics, and 2 information sessions to community partners. Youth Works reached over 125 youth through group sessions and one-on-one engagement. Staff attended to 1300 calls, emails, texts and meetings throughout the year!

We had Youth Works groups in two local Indigenous communities, Kingsclear and Tobique, reaching over 50 youth. We delivered programming at youth shelters and at alternative education sites. In one alternative education site a Leo Hayes High School we engaged 40 youth in the program.

The program is designed through a youth engagement lens and various areas of employment and career development are addressed such as: Housing options, employment opportunities, post-secondary education, budgeting, available trainings, resumes, interviewing, social media presence, sobriety, work/life balance, driver's education and permits, income assistance, housing retention, physical and mental health, criminal justice, grief and loss, counselling services, sense of safety, trauma, housing, unique style of resume, workplace trainings, growth mindset, LinkedIn profiles, high school diplomas, identifying specific and unique skills, career goals, crime for income versus paid employment, current employment opportunities, drug use in the workplace, ongoing needs assessments including basic needs, as well as employment and education needs, student loans, scholarship applications, university/college applications, various income resources, transportation, safety, nutrition, self-care, physical activity, recreation and leisure – just to name a few!



# Ring A Bell for Youth Mental Health

This past December was the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ring A Bell Campaign in partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Bell Let's Talk. Up to 50,000 elementary and middle school students had the opportunity to participate in lesson plans and utilize additional classroom resources for open discussions on the importance of supporting mental health.

This year, we were pleased to increase the focus on Indigenous children where new resources were made available for in classroom learning as well as take home resources. The Provincial Bell Ringing Ceremony was held at Mah-Sos School in Tobique First Nation (Neqotkuk) where all children in the school took part in a celebration.

As part of the event, PFY delivered virtually to all elementary and middle schools in the province materials needed for each student to come together to make a school wide paper chain. Each chain link was designed with pictures and talking points to prompt mental health conversation before they 'connect' with another student. Schools were asked to share how they support positive mental health in their school communities. Schools shared videos, narratives and songs which were compiled into a montage and shared on Bell Let's Talk Day, January 26, 2022 on social media.





# Youth in Action for Mental Health (YaMH)

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 and activities around the promotion of positive and critical understandings of mental wellness and illnesses. Through a peer-based project development model, YAMH starts with the creation of youth leadership teams in participating schools. Through a series of modules, the YAMH team will participate in facilitated workshops and activities to bolster their understandings of mental health, mental illness and wellness. During the year the teams will work together to design an Action Plan for a project or campaign related to youth mental health or distress.

The 2021 – 22 school year began the same as last year; there were once again restrictions around programming in schools and the need to continue our hybrid in-person and online alternative programming was crucial to this program. 544 students participated in the Youth in Action for Mental Health program (YAMH) in 14 New Brunswick schools during the 21 – 22 school year.

PFY strives to empower youth, family, and community to mobilize community by supporting opportunities for community collaboration to educate and take action on important mental health topics in New Brunswick. In addition to delivering the Youth in Action for Mental Health program, staff participate in mental health initiatives in other schools by delivering single presentations or workshops and participating in community activity days.



# Sport3

Our newest middle school program, Sport3 provides the students with lasting learnings regarding social interactions. Such learnings are complex and often very subtle, so the approach of Sport3 is to use games, pre discussions, and peer debriefing to allow for facilitated conversations which further growth. As part of the game play, a student is assigned as mediator. In such a role, that student observes the game, records positive interactions, and gives constructive feedback to the teams regarding the use of fair play rules. “I really enjoyed breaking down the game and talking about the experience”, stated one of the students. In post-game discussions, students begin to recognize that many differences were experienced in the game, and by sharing, listening and learning they empathize with their peers.

The 21 – 22 school year was the final full year of the pilot project which is being externally evaluated by Dr. William Morrison and Dr. Patricia Peterson. Over the last four years we have been working with a cluster of schools in Anglophone West and East and working with 253 students starting with them in grade 6 until they graduated last year in grade 8. We used games and activities as an avenue to facilitate positive

conversations. At the schools, the staff, students, and members of the community used peer teaching and peer coaching to enable interactive discussions and self-awareness.

For our school visits this year we completed our relationship building, environment, and being at your best modules looking into what positive and healthily friendships and social interactions look like for youth, the concept of self awareness and self worth, and understand concept of stewardship through respecting the physical and natural environment.

“There was growth in maturity and ownership, and they were more respectful, taking time to talk and listen to one another, instead of talking over others”, recalled one Sport3 student.

“I have been pleased with the enthusiasm of our students for this program and the progression that has occurred during each session. In real time, I have watched our students develop their skills to communicate, problem solve, and accomplish their goals together. I am proud to report that they have fully embraced this experience and have done a great job.”, recalled one Sport3 school staff champion.



# The 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 unite young people throughout the province who understand what it's like growing up in the child welfare system in New Brunswick. We help provide young people to belong, to feel connected, to have a voice and to thrive while in and after care. The NBYICN is filled with strong network members and leaders who want to work at building a better system for those who come next.

The network has several resource programs that youth can utilize. The Health & Wellbeing Fund which helps assist with various health needs. The Home Base Fund, which supports emergency home related needs in a short term manner. The Comfort Kit program which is a book bag filled with personal items which help a child or youth feel more comfortable as they enter the care system. Our partners at the Children's Aid foundation of Canada are critical to these important initiatives.

This past year, we wanted to find a way to connect young people throughout the province in and from care together through fun, creative virtual workshops. We started with four cooking workshops where we invited young people through ZOOM to cook a three-course meal that was easy, affordable and healthy. We mailed out a gift card, menu and ingredient list and we spent an hour and half cooking together as a group. The young people had so much fun learning and cooking together. Once COVID restrictions lifted, we had our final cooking workshop held in-person.

Once a month NBYICN hosts a Poetry Slam with Sam one of our network leaders. Sam is a powerhouse when it comes to putting words down on paper and turning them into such a fun and empowering poems. She goes on Facebook live and reads aloud five to six poems each time. The public really took a liking to her poems and powerful insights on what it was like being in care, living with mental health challenges, trauma and difficult life transitions.



We take part in documentaries, projects, research studies, conferences, presentations, events, workshops and much more. Any time people are looking to have a youth in care voice, our network members are always supportive to be that voice. We take pride in speaking and delivering the needed information to better inform, educate and prepare the public on what living in the child welfare system is like for young people. We want to create more supportive, trauma-informed allies to be there for those who come next.

An important aspect of work in the last year was presenting at the public hearings related to Bill 114, the new child welfare legislation currently under development and implementation. Our involvement and presentation to the legislative committee had a tangible impact on the final legislation and helped improve several key areas specific to a child's rights in the care system.



# YOUTH OUTREACH in Saint John

As we wrapped up the delivery of our transitional housing program, Youth Unbound, we shifted our focus to providing additional support and engagement to current and past residents who relied heavily on continued support to maintain housing, secure employment and remain healthy. New youth who are precariously housed or at risk of housing loss are also engaged in the program where they can then become connected to various specific resources.

The program is delivered from a site in uptown Saint John where youth can drop into connect and receive various kinds of support. Our Outreach program has connected with 30 youth assisting with stable housing, food security, employment programming and ongoing education and training support. We also supported 5 youth as they graduated from High School, a great accomplishment. Staff also assisted with the preparation for post- secondary

programs for some of the new graduates and also past graduates as they prepared to begin their educational paths at both University and Community college. Support was provided for several areas including - applications, campus tours, connections to funding /loan programs and needed fees.







# Our Valued Donors

## \$50,000.00 and Over

Province of New Brunswick  
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Ross Ventures Ltd.  
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Stewart McKelvey  
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**A number of anonymous donors.**

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*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.*