

# **COWICHAN REGION PHASE II YOUTH SAFETY DIALOGUES FINAL REPORT**



**Prepared for: CVRD Community Safety Advisory Commission**

**Prepared by: Safer Futures/CWAV Society**

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# Cowichan Region Youth Safety Initiative

CVRD Community Safety Advisory Commission  
Duncan, BC  
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## A Safe Community for Youth

Is rooted in respectful and nurturing connections with family, friends, school, neighbourhood and community.

Is one where all youth are able to be and participate in the community - to be included – without having to experience or worry about violence.

Promotes and encourages diversity, acceptance, and opportunities for youth to participate.

Provides services and outlets for youth who experience or fear violence and discrimination.

Strives to build community environments with youth in mind.

Has a focus on resiliency and protective factors and a commitment to investing.

Understands that youth engagement and voice - particularly the voice of vulnerable youth – in community decisions that affect them is key.

(adapted from the CVRD CSAC Six Principles for a Safe Youth Cowichan)



## **Cowichan Valley Regional District Resolution**

WHEREAS the Community Safety Advisory Commission has a mandate to “advise the Board on community safety issues of regional, sub-regional and interagency importance”;

AND WHEREAS the 2012 Youth Safety Dialogues identified youth involvement as key in addressing youth safety matters;

AND WHEREAS members of Safe Youth Cowichan have agreed to work together as a collective council of youth to identify goals, strategies and activities to address safe communities throughout the Cowichan Region;

AND WHEREAS the Cowichan Valley Regional District supports youth involvement and believes youth input is essential to informing effective and responsive policies and programming development;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cowichan Valley Regional District commits to work together with Safe Youth Cowichan to promote safer communities.

(Cowichan Valley Regional District, December 11, 2013)



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This project would not have been possible without the involvement and contributions of many people.

It began as a partnership effort involving Safer Futures, Community Options Society, the Cowichan Valley Regional District Community Safety Advisory Commission and its members, and Social Planning Cowichan. Many more people were involved and made these dialogues possible.

Thank you to:

- All of the youth from around the Cowichan Region who participated in the dialogues – over 500 in fact!
- The youth of Safe Youth Cowichan who contributed their time, wisdom and passion to build safer communities for youth in the Cowichan Region.

*Leif Early, Chantel George, Jenni Capps, Chelsea George, Patrick Bob, Candice George, Ashley Louie, Belle White, Alyssa Nyberg, Amber Cook, Austin Love, Zoe Sorenson, Alberta Blue Clayton, Shahad Al-Saadoon, Dawson Douglas, Brittney Saywell, Emma Kononowicz, Jessie Mcwha, Amelia Heyward*

- Cowichan Tribes and Social Planning Cowichan for their generosity and partnership in this work.
- The City of Duncan for building and fostering the Junior Youth Council and to the Municipality of North Cowichan for including the voices of youth in its planning processes this year.
- All of the schools who participated in this project, and to the host agencies including Cowichan Lake Community Services and Community Options Society / Gay Straight Alliance. We wish to acknowledge the considerable staff time, organization and contributions of space and food for these events.
- Finally, we wish to acknowledge the Ministry of Justice for their contribution of funding to the Youth Dialogues and Community Engagement for a Regional Youth Strategy Projects.

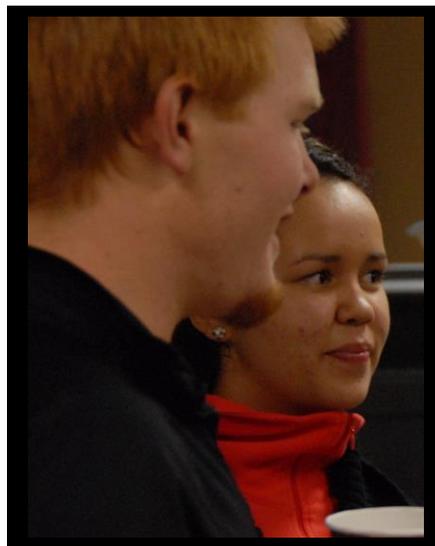


## Safe Youth Cowichan



*Safe Youth Cowichan 2012 facilitators from left to right:*

*Alberta Blue, Shahad, Sarah, Zoe, Alyssa*



*Safe Youth Cowichan 2013 facilitators from left to right clockwise:*

*Selena, Patrick, Brittney, Emma, Chelsea, Christy, Leif, Ashley, and Jenni*



## Youth Projects Team



*Selena Martin  
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## Executive Summary

This is the second and final report on youth dialogues conducted in the Cowichan Region during 2012 and 2013. Our first report covered feedback from over 300 young people and we have since added another 200 voices to achieve a regional representation of views.

The Cowichan Valley Youth Safety Dialogues looked at a range of indicators that tell us about risk and protective factors for youth in the Cowichan Valley and involved over 500 youth in discussions about what safety means to them, why and where they are concerned about their safety, what they do to stay safe and what would help them to feel safer.

The results indicate that many youth in Cowichan are participating and involved in employment, recreation, arts and volunteerism. Yet there are still too many who are not, and there are indicators of risks and stressors that make it difficult for youth to flourish, and to be safe.

These risks and stressors are illustrated by formal data on youth indicators, and also from the voices of youth themselves.

The following is a snapshot on what was learned.

### Who are our youth?

The Youth dialogues involved young women and young men between the ages of 13 - 22 from all walks of life, all cultures, all races, and backgrounds. Amidst the dialogue, youth stressed that they are not all the same - that there are important differences between the genders and ages, cultures, income levels, abilities, sexual orientation, and other aspects, as well as where each individual is situated within his or her community.

### What does safety mean to youth?

Youth safety is related to positive relationships with others, feeling included and accepted, having meaningful cultural connections, connections with family and friends and community networks. Youth also stressed that it is important for them to be who they are, and to be able to use and be part of their community freely, without worry. Youth expressed concerns about reducing violence, victimization, and bullying, and creating outlets for safety where this is occurring. And they appreciate being asked about the issues that affect them.

*The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Canada is a signatory, states that every child has:*

- *the right to survival*
- *the right to develop to the fullest*
- *the right to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation, and*
- *the right to participate fully in family cultural and social life.*

*Article 12 of the Convention further enshrines the right to be heard.*

*(Perry Kendall OBC, MBBS, MSc, FRCPC, Provincial Health Officer)*



### **What makes youth feel unsafe?**

Feelings of 'unsafety' stem from the opposite of positive relationships, acceptance, and freedom to use and be part of community. Feeling unsafe was also attributed to both experiences and knowledge of violence and victimization.

Of particular concern are the accounts of situations and places where youth experience violence and/or where they fear being victimized. Yet youth are working hard to keep themselves safe. They avoid some places, they adopt safety plans, they travel with friends, and they take care while online.

Girls and boys talked about how safety is different between genders; for example, both girls and boys feel vulnerable and act from fear or low self esteem, but their actions differ and their risk of victimization differ.

Girls in particular stressed that they are at higher risk of sexual assault, are likely to be blamed for being a victim, and as a result, feel more vulnerable and take greater precautions. Girls and boys acknowledged that boys may be at more risk to be targeted by gangs.

***"...building protective factors such as family, school and cultural connectedness can assist even the most vulnerable youth to overcome negative experiences, can assist young people to make healthier choices and can contribute to more positive health outcomes for all youth in BC."***

### **What would help to make our communities safer for our young people?**

Youth had some very insightful ideas about how communities could be made safer for them. They asked for their communities to be youth friendly, to have programs that are accessible and affordable to the diversity of youth. They asked to be accepted and valued for their individuality, for adults to watch over and to ensure communities are safe, and to provide outlets for when a situation arises.

Youth spoke strongly to designing our communities with them in mind, often as pedestrians who have to get from one place to another on foot, or transit users. Finally, youth expressed a desire for communities that are cohesive and welcoming, where everyone works together, where there is pro-active and pro-social programming. And they want to be involved.

### **What did we learn?**

The dialogues helped us to understand the diverse views of young people. Safety is different for different youth depending on their gender, age, income, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, abilities and where they live. Safety is dependent on the resources available to youth and whether they can actually access those resources.



The dialogues pointed to the need for addressing safety, health and resiliency through engaging youth in:

1. Designing and promoting youth friendly spaces, programs, facilities, activities, and transportation.
2. Fostering communities that value and include youth in decision-making processes.
3. Developing and implementing action projects for safety and prevention of violence.

### **What has been done so far?**

At the end of Phase I Youth Dialogues, the CVRD Community Safety Advisory Commission put forward Six Principles for a Safe Youth Cowichan and Three Steps to Lay a Foundation including a Regional Youth Strategy and local action projects.

During 2013- 15, Safer Futures and Community Options Society are working in partnership with the CVRD Community Safety Advisory Commission, Social Planning Cowichan, the City of Duncan and District of North Cowichan to build upon these recommendations and undertake action projects in support of youth safety.

### **Next Steps**

At the close of Phase II, we have:

- A regional representation of youth views on their safety.
- A dynamic and engaged Safe Youth Cowichan youth team and a Junior Youth Council (City of Duncan) with an active and inspiring agenda.
- A Youth Lens that will inform local decision makers how they need to incorporate youth views and youth needs.
- A Neighbourhood Action Initiative funded by Status of Women Canada that is addressing safety of young women through education and awareness, a campaign on street harassment, safe streets and safe transportation.
- Engaged and highly supportive local and regional governments, community agencies, schools and planning bodies who are responding enthusiastically to youth recommendations.

Our goals for the remainder of this year are to work with our community partners to build a collaborative and comprehensive strategy for youth safety, to support youth to implement their own projects, and to create a sustainable process for making youth voices part of how we do things as a community.

## Safe Youth Cowichan: Our Vision



**WE ARE A DIVERSE COLLECTIVE OF  
YOUTH LOCATED IN THE COWICHAN  
VALLEY THAT WANT ACTIVE  
INVOLVEMENT OF A YOUTH VOICE.**

**WE WANT TO BE SAFE IN OUR  
NEIGHBOURHOODS THROUGH  
ACCEPTANCE OF DIVERSITY,  
EDUCATION, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT,  
AND YOUTH-FRIENDLY ACCESS TO  
THE PHYSICAL COMMUNITY  
ENVIRONMENT**



## **PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

### **1.1. Introduction**

In response to the murder of a Cowichan community young woman and the subsequent community response in the Take Back the Night Walk in 2011, the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Community Safety Advisory Commission (CSAC) prioritized concerns about youth victimization and crime and prioritized a youth safety review in the region.

During 2011, the CSAC formed a Youth Safety Subcommittee (YSSC) that invited youth to form a regional, youth-led and youth-designed committee - Safe Youth Cowichan (SYC) - to gather input from young people about their safety.

Working together, the SYC, YSSC and Safer Futures (CWAV Society) designed a Cowichan Youth Safety Dialogues initiative.

This initiative has been carried out in two phases. Phase I developed Safe Youth Cowichan and conducted a series of dialogues with youth around the region. At the end of this phase, the CVRD CSAC developed recommendations for a Regional Youth Strategy that included additional dialogues, the development of a Youth Lens for decision makers and local action projects to begin with work of building safer communities for youth.

The Youth Dialogues and Regional Strategy initiative is led by the CVRD CSAC and its Youth Safety Sub-committee. The project is hosted by Safer Futures, Community Options Society (COS), and co-designed with and led by Safe Youth Cowichan.

Project partners include Social Planning Cowichan, , the City of Duncan, District of North Cowichan, RCMP, community agencies, parents and the youth themselves.

This work continues to be guided by the CSAC Youth Safety Subcommittee, governed by CWAVS and COS policies for professional conduct, as well as an ethics framework consisting of specific protocols for youth involvement, engagement and consent.

#### **About this report**

This report outlines the objectives, process and results of the dialogues, and the overarching themes that were presented through background research and youth input.



## 1.2. Youth Safety in the Cowichan Region

### Youth Safety Indicators

Safety is a basic quality of life issue. Violence and fear can have severe implications for the health and well-being of individuals and of the entire community. When people experience their social and physical environments as unsafe, they experience all sorts of barriers to free and full participation in employment, education, community activities, and civic life.

Safety is promoted through prevention of violence and through addressing the physical, social and economic, political inequality that lie at the root of crime, victimization and fear.

Various studies have identified risk and protective factors that affect healthy development for youth.<sup>1</sup>

From a health perspective, protective factors "promote healthy youth development and reduce the risk of harmful behaviours." Conversely, risk factors "are associated with an increased likelihood of risky behaviours that are harmful to youth health and development."<sup>2</sup>

From a community safety perspective, risk and protective factors "suggest why certain individuals or groups are more or less likely to become victims of crime or to become involved in crime."<sup>3</sup>

Risk and protective factors exist at the level of the individual, but also at the family/peer, community/school/workplace and societal levels. There are many possible factors on both sides, and the extent of influence depends on particular situations. In other words, there is no one explanation to fit all circumstances.

For example, the 2004 General Social Survey identified that being young, being single, going to school, being unemployed, earning a low income, living in an urban area and engaging in 30 or more evening activities a month tended to contribute to a person's increased risk of being the target of a violent crime.

**"...protective factors promote healthy youth development and reduce the risk of harmful behaviours. For example, research has shown that youth who feel connected and safe at home with their family, at school, and in the community have better health, take fewer risks, and have higher educational aspirations."**

**(McCreary Centre Society, 2010)**

<sup>1</sup> For example see Smith et. al.; *Measuring Our Health: Domains and Indicators of Youth Health and Well-Being in British Columbia*. (Vancouver: McCreary Centre Society; 2010). Available at: [http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/measuring\\_our\\_health.pdf](http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/measuring_our_health.pdf); Accessed: 10/21/12).

<sup>2</sup> McCreary Centre Society; *Our Vulnerable Youth*. (Vancouver: Author; 2006). Available at: [http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/vulnerable\\_youth\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/vulnerable_youth_report.pdf). Accessed: 10/21/12.

<sup>3</sup> Public Safety Canada; *Risk and Protective Factors*; Available at: [http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/cp/risk-factors-eng.aspx#rap\\_factor](http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/cp/risk-factors-eng.aspx#rap_factor). Accessed 10/21/12.



The 2004 GSS noted that Aboriginal people experienced rates of violent victimization that were three times higher than the non-Aboriginal population and compared to heterosexuals, and the odds of experiencing a violent victimization were nearly 2 times greater for gays and lesbians and 4.5 times greater for bisexuals. <sup>4</sup>

### Youth Risk and Protective Factors

Youth Protective factors (vulnerable youth) <sup>5</sup>	Protective Factors	Risk factors <sup>6</sup>
Family factors School factors Friend factors Involvement in extracurricular activities Volunteering in the past year Feeling very religious or spiritual Feeling you are good at something	Positive attitudes, values or beliefs Conflict resolution skills Good mental, physical, spiritual and emotional health Positive self-esteem Success at school Good parenting skills Parental supervision Strong social supports Community engagement Problem-solving skills Positive adult role models, coaches, mentors Healthy prenatal and early childhood development Participation in traditional healing and cultural activities Good peer group/friends Steady employment Stable housing Availability of services (social, recreational, cultural, etc)	Negative attitudes, values or beliefs Low self-esteem Drug, alcohol or solvent abuse Poverty Children of parents in conflict with the law Homelessness Presence of neighbourhood crime Early and repeated anti-social behaviour Lack of positive role models Children who witness violence Lack of services (social, recreational, cultural, etc) Unemployment/underemployment Family distress Racism Mental or physical illness Low literacy Leaving institutional/government care (hospital, foster care, correctional facility, etc) Family violence

<sup>4</sup> General Social Survey; *Violent Victimization in Canada*. (Ottawa: Statistics Canada; 2008). Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-630-x/89-630-x2008001-eng.pdf>. Accessed: 10/21/12.

<sup>5</sup> McCreary Centre Society. *Our Vulnerable Youth*. (Vancouver: Author; 2010) Available at: [http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/vulnerable\\_youth\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/vulnerable_youth_report.pdf). Accessed: 10/21/12.

<sup>6</sup> These factors suggest why certain individuals or groups are more or less likely to become victims of crime or to become involved in crime. Source: NCPC. *Risk and Protective Factors*. (Ottawa: Public Safety Canada; 2008) Available at: [http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/cp/risk-factors-eng.aspx#rap\\_factor](http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/cp/risk-factors-eng.aspx#rap_factor). Accessed: 10/21/12.

## Cowichan Youth Safety Indicators

The Community Safety Advisory Youth Safety sub-committee (CSAC/YSSC) identified seven indicators for illustrating youth safety and well-being to inform the questions posed in the dialogues.

The rationale for each of these indicators is based on known risk and protective factors related to youth offending and victimization (see Table 1).

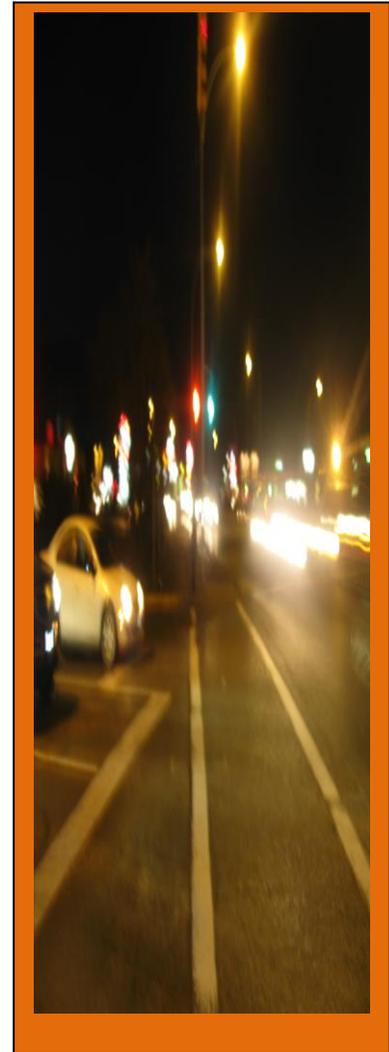
Statistical information on the first four indicators (children in care, income, high school completion and teen pregnancy) was compiled from Regional Socio-economic data and VIHA statistics.

Statistical information on youth who are victims of crime could not be gathered during this phase of work. For the moment we have provided data on child abuse.

To measure participation and volunteerism, nineteen questions were developed and administered by clicker survey at each dialogue session (see Appendix B).

All youth consulted in Phase I participated in the survey; however, only 189 responses could be analyzed.

Of these 189 respondents, 106 (56%) identified as female, 81 (43%) as male and 3 (1%) as third gendered. The majority (77%) were between the ages of 13 - 16; 23% were between the ages of 17-20.)



## Cowichan Region Youth Safety Indicators

### 1. Youth in foster care

Rationale: Youth in care are more likely to have experienced violence and neglect. They are less likely to graduate from high school.

### 2. Youth living below the low income cut off (LICO)

Rationale: Youth living in poverty have more extreme stress in their lives. They are more likely to live in housing that is unsafe and have more health problems.

### 3. Teen pregnancy rates

Rationale: Teen parents are less likely to have social and economic resources and are therefore more likely to live in poverty, and be subject to violence and crime.

### 4. High school completion rates

Rationale: High school graduation is an indicator of literacy and employability, both of which are associated with the ability to increase standard of living and decrease safety risk.

### 5. Youth who are victims of crime

Rationale: children and youth under 18 years of age are more at risk of physical and sexual assault than adults.

### 6. Youth involved in sports, recreational and special interest activities

Rationale: Involvement in sports and hobbies is a resiliency factor for youth.

### 7. Number of youth volunteering

Rationale: Volunteering can aid integration and social cohesion, reduce isolation and help youth to feel included in the community.

## The Dialogues

The Youth Safety Dialogues were designed to gather qualitative information on aspects of safety through providing youth with a variety of ways to talk about and express their views.

The dialogues were interactive with a number of 'hands-on' activity stations.

Each dialogue was designed in collaboration with and under the guidance of the host agency or community in which it was being held. At the same time, the dialogues aimed to ask similar questions to gather consistent information to inform the regional report.

The dialogues were guided by an overarching protocol for participation and informed consent that was implemented with the cooperation of the local host agency or school(s).

Therefore, the format of each session varied but used some or all of the following stations.



## Dialogue stations

**Mapping exercise** – A large, locally relevant map was made for each area specific dialogue. Participants were given a number of large red, yellow and green dots, and asked to place them on the map to identify unsafe places, places where it may be OK to go safely sometimes, with caution, and places where the youth feel safe. Youth also wrote comments on stickers and placed these on the map, such as “I feel safe in Centennial Park during the day, but not at night”.

**Art/collage** – Using a large poster board, youth engaged in collaging, painting, text and other art mediums to depict their thoughts/feelings/opinions about community safety.

**Video interviewing** – This station invited youth to talk about their feelings about safety in their community now, and about what their vision of a safe, inclusive community would look like.

**Survey** – This survey asked youth how they are flourishing in their community. Multiple choice questions (Appendix A) focused on sports/physical activity, volunteerism, and other forms of community participation.

**“Voting” Station** – Not actually voting, this station contained a qualitative survey that youth could fill out addressing questions of how they defined safety, what makes them feel safe or unsafe.

**Facebook** – Safe Youth Cowichan created an interactive Facebook page. On computers, youth were asked to post comments about their community – is it safe, is it not, what their experiences are around feeling safe, etc. (Available at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Safe-Youth-Cowichan/333044893377368#!/pages/Safe-Youth-Cowichan/333044893377368?sk=photos>).

**YouTube/iTunes** – Youth were invited to contribute to a play-list of songs that speak to them in terms of feeling safe, feeling calm, feeling accepted, feeling positively energized, etc.

**Guerilla Blackboard** – Similar to the collage idea, this station was a place where youth could draw or write about what safety means to them.

The dialogues were youth facilitated and took place in schools and community youth centers. In each session, youth participants entered the dialogue area (a large room/auditorium), and were introduced to the event. The guidelines were described, and the youth moved through the stations either in groups or as they chose, interacting with the activities. There were also youth resource guides and community services literature made available.

### **Dialogues completed**

Eleven dialogues involving a total of approximately 340 youth were completed between January and June, 2012. An additional three dialogues involving a total of approximately 200 youth were conducted during 2013 – 14.

Participating schools and groups included: Community Options Society, Island Oak High School, Chemainus Secondary, Koksilah Elementary, Cowichan Valley Open Learning Cooperative,, Francis Kelsey Secondary, Cowichan Tribes, Ladysmith Secondary, Cowichan Lake Community Services. Attendance varied between 20 – 200.



### **Compiling the information**

Information was collected through the various activities and mediums in the stations. Comments from video-taped interviews, Facebook and collages were transcribed, locations identified on maps and corresponding comments were collated. In all, over 2,000 comments were recorded. Statistical information and survey data were compiled and tabulated to provide an overview of youth safety indicators. The information was analyzed with a focus on answering the study questions.

### **Limitations**

The information in this report has not been disaggregated for age, gender or school/community; this limits our full understanding the context of comments and for exploring solutions at this stage.





Cowichan Region Youth Safety Indicators <sup>7</sup>	
Indicator	Details
<p><b>1. The number of youth in care</b>                      Rationale : Youth in care are more likely to have experienced violence and neglect. They are less likely to graduate from high school.</p>	<p>Cowichan LHA: had a higher children in care rate (18.3 per 1,000 aged 0-18) than BC (9.2 per 1,000) or VIHA (13.4 per 1,000).</p> <p>Lake Cowichan LHA: had a higher rate of children in care (11.7 per 1,000) than BC (9.4 per 1,000) but less than VIHA (13.0).</p> <p>Ladysmith LHA: had a higher rate of children in care (19.6 per 1,000 aged 0-18) than BC (9.1 per 1,000) or VIHA (13.5 per 1,000).</p>
<p><b>2. The number of youth living below the low income cut off (LICO)</b>                      Rationale : Youth living in poverty have more extreme stress in their lives. They are more likely to live in housing that is unsafe and have more health problems.</p>	<p>Cowichan LHA: 5.0 percent of children under the age of 19 years of age received income assistance in Cowichan, as compared to 3.5 for B.C and 4.1 percent for VIHA.</p> <p>Cowichan LHA: The female lone-parent income in Cowichan was significantly lower, at \$36, 174 a year, compared to BC (\$43,491) or VIHA(\$40,842).</p> <p>Cowichan LHA: There is a higher proportion of children on income assistance living with a single parent (4.2%) than in BC (3.0%) or VIHA (3.5%).</p> <hr/> <p>Lake Cowichan LHA: 6.2 percent of children under the age of 19 years of age received income assistance in Lake Cowichan, as compared to 3.5 for B.C and 4.1 percent for VIHA.</p> <p>Lake Cowichan: Average family income of female lone-parent economic families in 2005 was \$31,061 as compared to \$43,491 BC and \$40,842 for VIHA.</p> <hr/> <p>Ladysmith LHA: 3.0 percent of children under the age of 19 years of age received income assistance in Ladysmith, as compared to 3.5 for B.C and 4.1 percent for VIHA.</p> <p>Ladysmith LHA: Average family income of female lone-parent economic families in 2005 was \$37,371 as compared to \$43,491 BC and \$40, 842 for VIHA.</p>

<sup>7</sup> Statistical sources:

- Socio economic profile data for the Cowichan Region 2010 (Available at: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/SocialStatistics/SocioEconomicProfilesIndices/Profiles.aspx> )
- Planning and Community Engagement Vancouver Island Health Authority (July 2012). Local Health Area Profiles, 2012 (Available at [http://www.viha.ca/mho/stats/lha\\_profiles.htm](http://www.viha.ca/mho/stats/lha_profiles.htm))



Indicator	Details
<p><b>3. Teen pregnancy rates</b>                      Rationale : Teen parents are less likely to have social and economic resources and are therefore more likely to live in poverty, and be subject to violence and crime.</p>	<p>Cowichan LHA: There was a higher rate of births to teen mothers in Cowichan (67.7 per 1,000 live births) compared to BC (30.9 per 1,000) or VIHA (43.0 per 1,000).</p> <p>Lake Cowichan LHA: There was a higher rate of births to teen mothers in Lake Cowichan (59.7 per 1,000 live births) compared to BC (30.9 per 1,000) and VIHA (43.0 per 1,000).</p> <p>Ladysmith LHA: There was a higher rate of births to teen mothers in Ladysmith (64.4 births per 1,000 live births) compared to BC (30.9 per 1,000) and VIHA (43.0 per 1,000).</p>
<p><b>4. The number of youth who are victims of crime</b>                      Rationale : Children and youth under 18 years of age are more at risk of physical and sexual assault than adults.</p>	<p>Cowichan had a higher rate of children in need of protection (23.3 per 1,000 children aged 0-18) than BC (6.4 per 1,000) or VIHA (12.1 per 1,000).</p> <p>Lake Cowichan LHA: Reported children in need of protection rate per 1,000 children aged 0 to 18 years was 5.6 in Lake Cowichan as compared to 6.4 for BC and 12.1 for VIHA.</p> <p>Ladysmith LHA: had a higher rate of children in need of protection (15.3 per 1,000 children aged 0-18) than BC (6.4 per 1,000) or VIHA (12.1 per 1,000).</p>
<p><b>5. High school completion rates</b>                      Rationale : High school graduation is an indicator of literacy and employability, both of which are associated with the ability to increase standard of living and decrease safety risk.</p>	<p>Cowichan LHA: 76% of 18 year olds graduated from high school as compared to 72.1 for BC and 68.3 for VIHA.</p> <p>Lake Cowichan LHA: 54.4 % of 18 year olds graduated from high school as compared to 72.1 for BC and 68.3 for VIHA.</p> <p>Ladysmith LHA: 70.9 % of 18 year olds graduated from high school as compared to 72.1 for BC and 68.3 for VIHA.</p>
<p><b>6. The number of youth involved in sports, recreational and special interest activities</b>                      Rationale : Involvement in sports and hobbies is a resiliency factor for youth.</p>	<p>2012 Youth Dialogues survey results indicate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 72% play organized sports</li> <li>○ Just under half of youth participate in group activities</li> <li>○ 77% participate in creative arts</li> <li>○ 61% are employed</li> <li>○ Half of youth participate in physical activity most days of the week</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Number of youth volunteering</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 71% participate in volunteerism</li> </ul>

## 2.2. What does safety mean to youth? What makes youth feel safe?

The Youth Dialogues have told us that safety is a multidimensional concept and has different meanings for different people, from an absence of violence and crime, to feeling out of danger, to having basic needs met.

Cowichan youth expressed several dimensions of safety including the absence of violence, but just as importantly, they emphasized inclusion, connection, culture, respect and dignity, warm and accessible environments, and communities that promote safety through devoting resources to prevention and intervention.

For example, in one of the dialogues, youth expressed their vision in which they would see a community where we:

- Listen with our hearts not our ears
- Children and youth are at the center of all decisions
- Are united in purpose
- Think seven generations ahead
- See someone new and say hi
- Include every culture
- Have respect for all relations
- Allow all to be comfortable, expressive and connected
- Learn about each other.
- Appreciation for everyone's talents and gifts



### **Themes associated with feeling safe**

Feeling connected and safe at home with family and familiar surroundings; home, family and culture as a place of comfort, protection, safety and nurturing

Feeling connected, accepted and safe in neighbourhood, community and school

- having and being with friends and other people, and having respectful connections with others
- being able to participate in the community without having to worry about/fear crime, violence, drug use, bullying, strangers, harassment, prejudice, racism

Participating in physical activities, artistic outlets, culture, spirituality and music, connecting with nature

Having places in the community that are youth friendly, safe, and accepting of differences

- places and activities where youth feel accepted and supported for who they are
- places where there are friends and familiar people, where people (including staff) are friendly and supportive, accepting; adults / supervision around, peace and quiet
- places to play sports, public places that are warm, welcoming to youth, and friendly and accessible, e.g., having a bus stop; open areas with visibility

Having outlets for safety and protection

- supportive friends and adults who youth can go to; safety plans and strategies

"A safe community for me is knowing that I can go out wherever and not get hurt or bullied and that my family and friends are always going to be safe."

"... it means having places to go in the community where you can actually just hang out and not have... people go up to you and bug you ..."

"I think it means a lot because you need to be able to feel safe in somewhere you are going to live and go to school and you're going to hang out in ..."

"A safe community means a community that works together to ...support each other... knowing who's in the community and what's going on, just the sense that it's like a family and you take care of each other."

"Acceptance by those around me makes me feel welcome and loved."

"Hanging out with my friends makes me feel safe."

"It doesn't matter what colour you are."

"You should feel safe in your home."

"Equality is important to being able to be yourself."

"...you don't have to constantly check over your shoulder, be scared of people you meet on the street..."

"...if you go out around town you don't feel like you're going to be like raped ...."





## 2.3. What makes youth feel unsafe? Where do youth feel unsafe and why?

Youth described various aspects of their social and community environments that cause them to be concerned. Youth described a range of situations, people and behaviours that they find threatening or intimidating including violence, abuse, harassment, discrimination, threats, racism and substance use.

### Differences

Young women and young men talked about how safety is different between genders; for example it was observed that both girls and boys are vulnerable and act from fear or low self esteem, but their actions differ and their risk of victimization differ.

Girls in particular stressed that they are at higher risk of sexual assault, are likely to be blamed for being a victim, and as a result, feel more vulnerable and take greater precautions. Girls and boys acknowledged that boys may be at more risk to be targeted by gangs.

#### **Themes associated with feeling unsafe in certain places and situations**

Places that are dark, isolated, private and/or closed in; where they don't know anyone; where there is no safety outlet; traffic

Places where there is known crime, drug use, dealing, drinking, smoking, violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment

- where they may face harassment, racism, sexism, discrimination, homophobia, rudeness, aggression or just unfriendly people
- where there are people youth are fearful of who hang out (this included a range of people, ages, and behaviours)
- where they are or may be subject to peer pressure, intimidation/bullying

A few youth indicated wild animals for rural areas.

Youth talked about strangers and about groups of other youth, and expressed fear or worry about their behaviours or being victimized, and of avoiding places and situations where they could be at risk. Youth sometimes used descriptors such as "creepy" or "sketchy" to refer to people they are worried about, and referred to a couple of groups as "gangs" with specific identities.

In each dialogue session youth identified locations on a map and categorized them as safe (blue dot), sometimes safe (yellow dot) and unsafe (red dot). They were invited to place stickers near these locations with comments about that place.

Numerous locations were identified, most receiving both positive and negative comments. In other words, for some youth, certain places in their community feel safe, but for some, these same areas may feel unsafe. Appendix D contains a list of places and associated comments about those places. We have separated out information for Chemainus, Ladysmith and Lake Cowichan, but have combined the remaining information.

It should be noted that participation in Chemainus and Ladysmith was higher than for other areas, thus more information about these locations was collected. That being said, there are a number of areas that received both positive and negative comments, and a few that received a high number of positive or negative comments.



It should be stressed that a thorough analysis of places identified could not be done as part of this project and caution should be exercised in interpretation and conclusions. An in depth local assessment should be done.





"(.....) makes me feel unsafe! I don't like the people who hang out there. Too much vandalizing."

"I don't feel safe on the road because here are a lot of drunks driving around. Especially at night."

"I feel unsafe if I walk alone in the dark because so much has happened to youth in our community in the past four years."

"...people bug me about my skin colour."

".... even walking down the hall here sometimes if you walk past, say a group of people, and they like instantly feel like if you look at them the wrong way or something then they like try to pick fights with you, like if you're a different race or not part of their like gang or whatever."

"Well especially since there has been other instances in the community it's been like troublesome to walk places here even like in the day time ...if you have to walk... things could happen."

## 2.4. What do youth do to keep safe?

Many youth are taking precautions to stay safe both online and in their communities.

### **Themes associated with precautions for safety**

Precautions online include not posting inappropriate material and watching privacy, or personal information that could be linked to their location, blocking people, being respectful, not engaging in behaviours, etc.

Many youth travel with friends or take a pet with them.

Many youth also avoid certain places and situations.

Some youth talked about safety strategies (keeping friends and parents informed, communicating by cell phone, etc. ).

However, a few comments indicated that some youth need to travel places despite safety concerns, and one youth mentioned that he/she listens to music to stay calm.

"Well just try and avoid the places that you know are unsafe and if you need to go through, just go with friend and .... go with your phone ..."

"Have fun and not do any risky things."

"Just stay safe, stay with people. Don't go in anybody's car, strangers, don't talk to strangers."

"To call home once like every few hours. Don't hang out with the wrong kids."

"I just don't go out."

"... if they want to go out into towns they should have a group just in case."

"...to be safe online I always put my security settings on high."

"I am very alert and always have my phone."



## 2.5. What would help youth to be and feel safer in their communities?

Young people had much to say about what would help them to be and feel safer in their communities.

### Themes associated with safer communities for youth

Youth friendly, safe places (including public places and housing); youth friendly activities and programs that are affordable and serve all youth

Having a presence of authority and enforcement of rules (having adults/authority/supervision around, enforcing laws and rules, police, security, neighbourhood watch, curfew, substance reduction) and having safety strategies

Youth friendly environments (lighting, crossing areas, having natural areas and people around, vibrant communities, safety outlets, transportation/transit)

Social solutions (create sense of community, address behaviours, substance use, etc). Employment, cultural training, community events, safety training and awareness

"...being able to have programs where you feel safe and workshops like this and you can go to places to express yourself or hang out with friends or just feel safe around places."

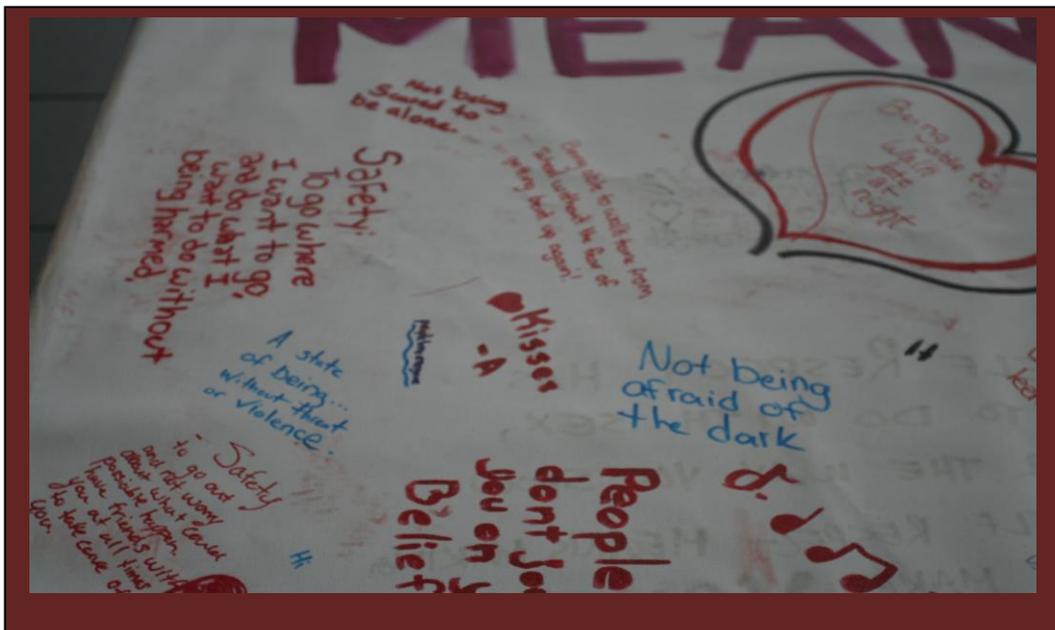
"Have street lights so at night you can feel a lot more safer with where you are going and like no one is going to come at you."

"More facilities so kids have somewhere to go instead of hanging around on the streets ...maybe like a community centre or rec centre where you could go and just hang out."

"More places to go like in the middle of the night if people don't have a place to sleep."

"I think more activities would definitely be better... getting a better pool and ... more sports teams and activities for after school that we can do."

- "... having a place to go if you need help - a house to go if you need help - streetlights around the streets to walk at night."
- "Recreational things for youth to do just to be able to do something other than violence."
- "Something that would be really good for me that I have noticed is like better bus system that buses come at regular times."





## PART 3: REFLECTIONS ON WHAT WAS LEARNED

### 3.1. Discussion and observations

The Cowichan Valley Youth Safety Dialogues looked at a range of indicators and involved approximately 540 youth in discussions about what safety means to them, why and where they are concerned about their safety, what they do to stay safe and what would help them to feel safer.

The dialogues resulted in a large amount of information - over 2000 comments were recorded. This report has synthesized the information around the set of questions to provide common themes and trends around safety among youth aged 12-22 in the Cowichan Valley.

The results indicate that the majority of youth in Cowichan are participating and involved in employment, recreation, arts and volunteerism. Yet there are still too many who are not, and there are indicators of risks and stressors that point to vulnerabilities that can prevent youth from flourishing, and from being safe.

It is noteworthy that much of what youth said around what makes them feel safe corresponds with indicators of youth health, well-being, resiliency and protective factors. Youth safety is related to positive relationships with others, to acceptance, to connections with family and friends and community networks.

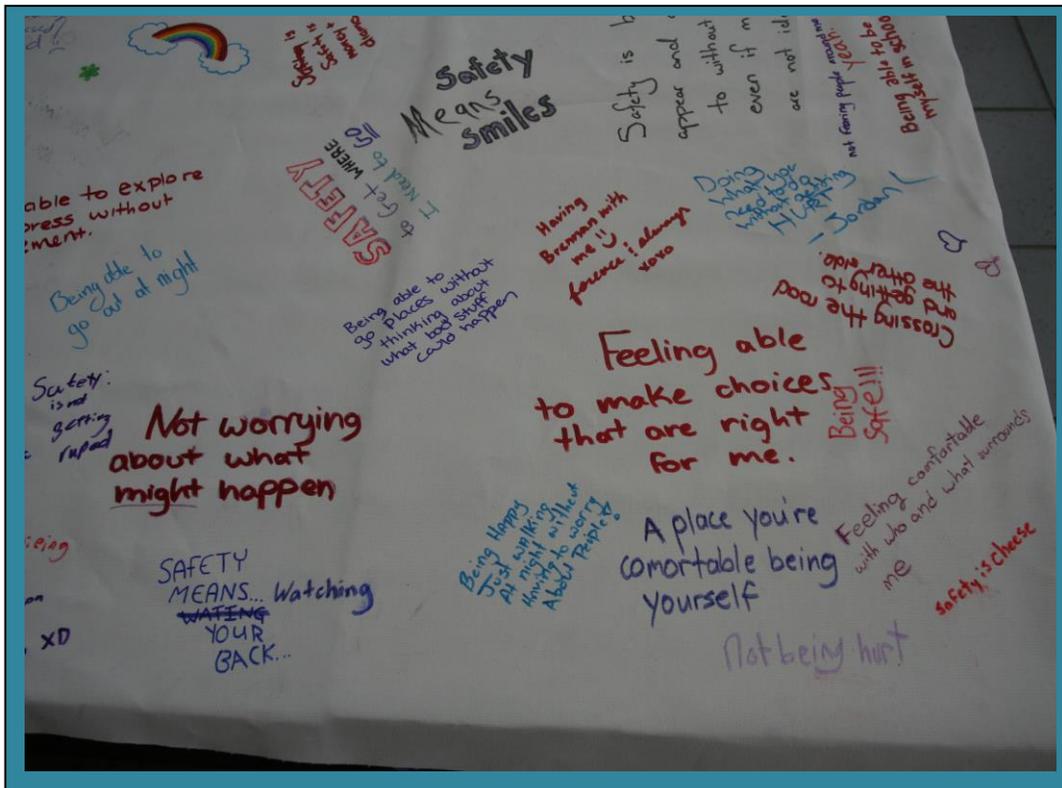
Youth also stressed that it is important for them to be who they are, and to be able to use and be part of their community freely, without worry. Youth expressed concerns about reducing violence, victimization, and bullying, and creating outlets for safety where this is occurring. And they appreciated being asked about the issues that affect them.

Youth also talked about what makes them feel unsafe. Of particular concern are the accounts of situations and places where youth experience violence and/or where they fear being victimized.

They expressed concerns about a wide range of actual or potential threats including harassment, racism, sexism, discrimination, homophobia, and aggression, violence, intimidation and bullying. These concerns were related to strangers, but also to people (including other youth) known to them and to particular places in the community.

"Vulnerable youth are at greater risk for not finishing school, experiencing homelessness, problem substance use, and other health-compromising behaviours. Their difficult life situations and disconnection from meaningful relationships can leave some vulnerable youth at risk for emotional distress and some even attempt suicide."

McCreary Centre Society;  
Our Vulnerable Youth.  
(Vancouver: Author; 2010).



Youth expressed concerns about individuals known to them, and also about groups of youth, sometimes referred to as "gangs" with specific identities, whose activities and behaviours provide particular concerns.

This aspect warrants further attention and will require further investigation to better understand the composition and dynamics that are at play.

Youth are working to keep themselves safe. They avoid some places, they adopt safety plans, they travel with friends, and they take care while online.

But - while we want youth to be careful and to take precautions, it is important that youth do not have to restrict themselves to the point that their development and well-being is limited.



### 3.2. Concluding Comments

Victimization and fear of victimization present a range of potential consequences for the physical and emotional well-being of youth. For example, the 2008 Adolescent Health Survey in BC found that:

- 46% of youth reported they had been bullied, and 17% of youth who had been victimized or bullied at school reported that they had seriously considered suicide in the past year.<sup>8</sup>
- Students who experienced discrimination were more likely to report feeling extremely sad, discouraged or hopeless in the past 30 days, to not like school and to have seriously considered suicide in the past 12 months.<sup>9</sup>
- Students who had been physically attacked at school were over five times more likely to carry a weapon to school compared to students who had not been physically attacked (26% vs. 5%). Similarly, youth who were verbally harassed or excluded from social groups while at school were more likely to carry a weapon to school, than those who did not experience these forms of aggression.<sup>10</sup>

"..studies have shown that victimization during adolescence is more deleterious than at other times in our lives. The victimization of an adolescent can have serious consequences on school performance, physical and mental health, substance abuse, delinquent behavior, and future earning potential."

Madeline Wordes and Michell Nunez; *Our Vulnerable Teenagers: Their Victimization, Its Consequences, and Directions for Prevention and Intervention*. (Oakland: NCCD; 2002): p. ii

Youth had some very insightful ideas about how communities could be made safer for them. They expressed a desire for their communities to be youth friendly, to have programs that are accessible and affordable to the diversity of youth.

They asked to be accepted and valued for their individuality, for adults to watch over and to ensure communities are safe, and to provide outlets when a situation arises. Youth spoke to designing our communities with them in mind, often as pedestrians or transit users.

<sup>8</sup> McCreary Centre Society; *A Picture of Health: Highlights from the 2008 British Columbia Adolescent Health Survey*. (Vancouver: Author; 2009). Available at: [http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/AHSIV\\_APictureOfHealth.pdf](http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/AHSIV_APictureOfHealth.pdf). Accessed: 10/21/12; p 54.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid; p. 44.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid; p. 44.



Finally, youth talked about communities that are cohesive, welcoming and prosperous, where everyone works together, where there is pro-active and pro-social programming. And they want to be involved.

The 2008 Adolescent Health Survey findings showed that "...building protective factors can assist even the most vulnerable youth to overcome negative experiences, can help young people to make healthier choices and can contribute to more positive health outcomes for all youth in BC."<sup>11</sup>

How do we work with youth to build a community that provides adequate protective factors and helps them to be resilient and to flourish? The next section outlines where we have been and where we are going.

### 3.3. Where are we now?

At the end of Phase I Youth Dialogues, the CVRD Community Safety Advisory Commission put forward Six Principles for a Safe Youth Cowichan and Three Steps to Lay a Foundation including a Regional Youth Strategy and local action projects.

#### **At the close of Phase II, we have:**

- A regional representation of youth views on their safety.
- A dynamic and engaged Safe Youth Cowichan youth team and a Junior Youth Council (City of Duncan) with an active and inspiring agenda.
- A Youth Lens that will inform local decision makers how they need to incorporate youth views and youth needs.
- A Neighbourhood Action Initiative funded by Status of Women Canada that is addressing safety of young women through education and awareness, a street harassment campaign, safe streets and safe transportation work.
- Youth voices have been included into the District of North Cowichan's planning processes, and are being welcomed into other local government circles.
- Engaged and highly supportive local and regional governments, community agencies, schools and planning bodies who are responding enthusiastically to youth recommendations.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid.



The City of Duncan Junior Council from left to right: Councilor Chelsea George, Councilor Belle White, Councilor Emma Kononowicz, Mayor Jenni Capps, Councilor Amelia Heyward, Councilor Dawson Douglas (Missing: Councilor Chantel George)



### 3.4. Next Steps

We started with a core group of dedicated young people who reached out to gather and inspire other youth to share their views. These voices have already inspired a City of Duncan Junior Council that is now working to join hands with Cowichan Tribes Youth Council. We are just beginning to see the power of youth coming together....

And from the voices of over 500 young people, we have an understanding of what's needed to see and experience our communities from their perspective. This too will help local governments to include this perspective into all that they do.

Our next steps are to support youth to implement their Neighbourhood Action Projects that are well underway, and to bring all of what has been learned together under a Regional Youth Strategy. This strategy will help us to look at the big picture and bring it all together.

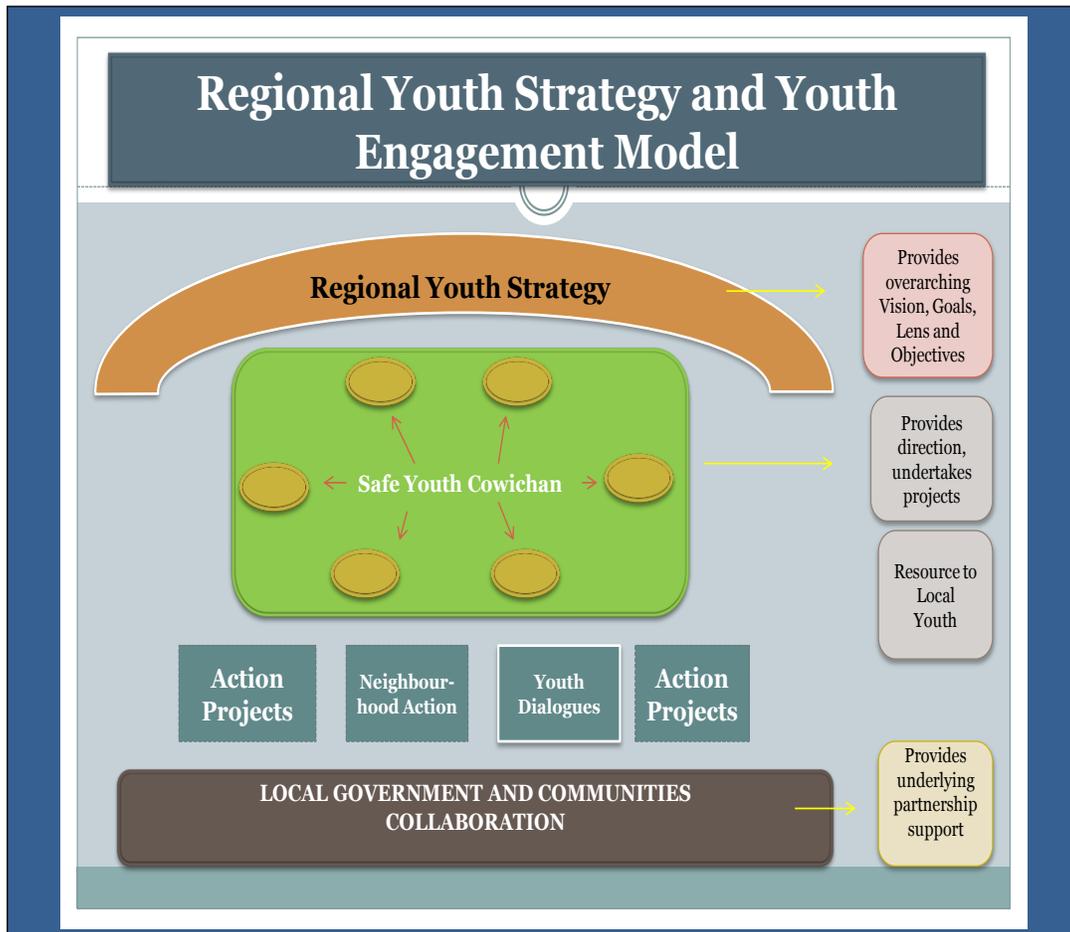
A Cowichan Region Youth Strategy will include:

- A statement of community values and positive assumptions for and about youth
- Regional goals for youth safety and well-being
- An inventory of indicators, assets and gaps
- Advice and best practices on how to create youth friendly places and programs that are accessible to all youth
- Advice on how to engage and include youth voices.

It will be based on a model (see next page) that:

- Puts youth voices in the center
- Engages youth from around the region
- Supports youth to undertake their own initiatives
- Calls upon the whole community to provide an underlying partnership structure.

## Regional Youth Strategy and Engagement Model





## APPENDIX A: CVRD Community Safety Advisory Commission Members

NAME	REPRESENTING
Director Lori Iannidinardo	Area D Cowichan Bay, CVRD
Director Ian Morrison	Area F Cowichan Lake South/ Skutz Falls, CVRD
Councillor Michelle Bell	City of Duncan
Councillor Jayne Ingram	Town of Lake Cowichan
Councillor Jill Dashwood	Town of Ladysmith
Councillor Bill Drysdale ( <i>alternate</i> )	Town of Ladysmith
Councillor John Koury	District Municipality of North Cowichan
Councillor Al Siebring ( <i>alternate</i> )	District Municipality of North Cowichan
Councillor Andy Canute	Cowichan Tribes
Councillor Cindy Daniels ( <i>alternate</i> )	Cowichan Tribes
Corporal Jon Stuart	RCMP, North Cowichan/Duncan
Constable Kelly Rydholm ( <i>alternate</i> )	RCMP, North Cowichan/Duncan
Dr. Frank Groenewold, Registered Clinical Councillor	CAC/Advisory Committee for Corrections Canada, Nanaimo Parole Board
Bruce Avis ( <i>alternate</i> )	CAC/Advisory Committee for Corrections Canada, Nanaimo Parole Board
Candace Spilsbury, Director	Social Planning Cowichan
Carol-Ann Rolls, Manager	Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society
Cheryl Stone, Executive Director, Community Options Society	Member of Public
Tim Hornett	Member of Public
Jane Sterk, Executive Director, Cowichan Women Against Violence	Member of Public



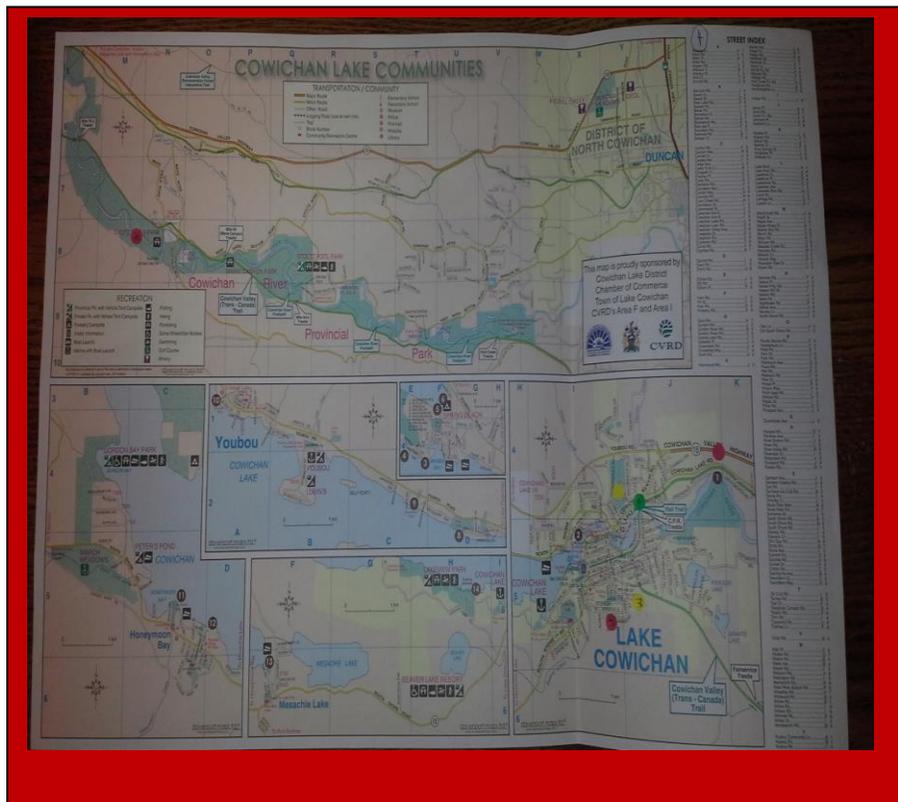
## APPENDIX B: Youth Safety Subcommittee Members

NAME	REPRESENTING
Director Lori Iannidinaro	Area D Cowichan Bay, CVRD
Angela Underwood Community Safety Coordinator	Cowichan Tribes
Councillor Michelle Bell	City of Duncan
Corporal Jon Stuart	RCMP, North Cowichan/Duncan
Dr. Frank Groenewold, Registered Clinical Councillor	CAC/Advisory Committee for Corrections Canada, Nanaimo Parole Board
Candace Spilsbury, Director	Social Planning Cowichan
Cheryl Stone, Executive Director, Community Options Society	Member of Public
Councillor Michelle Staples	City of Duncan



## APPENDIX C: Youth Survey

<p>1. What is your age? 13-14; B. 15-16; C. 17-18; D. 19-20; E. Other</p> <p>2. What is your gender? Female Male Third gendered</p> <p>3. Do you play sports on a team? I play team sports at school I play team sports with a club I play team sports when I feel like it with friends No, I do not play team sports</p> <p>4. Do you get physically active by swimming, skateboarding, dancing or other exercise? I am physically active most days of the week. I am physically active a few days each week I am only physically active sometimes. No, I do not get physically active.</p> <p>5. Why do you do sports or exercise? My mom/dad makes me My friends/ girlfriend/boyfriend does it, so I do, too Because it's important to being healthy. Because it's fun. I don't do sports</p> <p>6. If you do not play team sports, why not? I DO play team sports! I don't like team sports. I/ my family can't afford team sports. I am too busy with other things. I have health reasons for not doing team sports.</p> <p>7. If are not active, why not? I AM physically active! I don't like to exercise. I am too busy with other activities I have health reasons for not being physically active.</p> <p>8. Are you in a group activity such as drama, arts, or other club? I am in one group activity. I am in more than one group activity. I am not in a group activity.</p> <p>9. Why do you do group activities? My mom/dad makes me My friends/ girlfriend/boyfriend does it, so I do, too Because I enjoy it Because it will help me get into college/get a job I don't do group activities.</p> <p>10. If you are not in a group activity, why not? I AM in a group activity! I do not like group activities. I am too busy with other things. I/ my family cannot afford it. I have health problems that prevent it.</p>	<p>11. Do you have an individual creative outlet like music, writing, or art? I have more than one creative outlet. I have a creative activity that I do regularly. I do not have a creative outlet.</p> <p>12. Why do you write, make art, music or do other creative activities? My mom/dad makes me My friends/ girlfriend/boyfriend does it, so I do, too Because I enjoy it Because it will help me get into college/get a job I don't do creative activities.</p> <p>13. If you do not have a creative outlet, why not? I do have a creative outlet! I don't really think of myself as creative. I am too busy with other things.</p> <p>14. Do you do volunteer work? I volunteer through school activities. I volunteer through my church, club or other organization. I volunteer with my family. No, I do not do volunteer work.</p> <p>15. Why do you do volunteer work? My mom/dad makes me My friends/ girlfriend/boyfriend does it, so I do, too Because it's important to be involved in my community Because volunteering is a good step to getting a job I don't do volunteer work.</p> <p>16. If you don't do volunteer work, why not? I DO volunteer work! I don't like to volunteer. I am too busy with other activities I have health reasons for not volunteering.</p> <p>17. Do you have a job? I work 30 hours per week or more. I work part time. I work sometimes to get a bit of extra money. No, I do not work.</p> <p>18. Why do you work? I/ my family need the money for basics like clothes and food. I like to earn extra money for myself to spend on fun things. I am saving up for a car, college, or something else. I don't work.</p> <p>19. If you don't work, why not? I DO work! I don't like to work. I am too busy with other activities I have health reasons for not working.</p>
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## APPENDIX D: Places Identified by Youth

Youth Dialogues Mapping Exercise Locations						
Place	Blue <sup>12</sup>	Yellow	Red	Total	Positive aspects	Negative aspects
Beverly Street / Quamichan School area	0	0	3	3		Neighbourhood aspects. Smoking, violence, discrimination.
Big House	2	0	0	2		
Black Bridge	0	0	15	15		Drinking, drug use, harassment, violence, known sexual assaults.
Boys Road	0	3	5	8	Considered a safe place for some.	Violence, fights and crime.
Cowichan Tribes Gym	6	0	0	6	Indoor gym and outdoor field are great places to play sports and adults are always nearby.	
Centennial Park	5	7	3	15	Nice park, close to school, nice place to hang out on a sunny day.	Smoking, drug use, hanging out.
Chesterfield	9	0	1	10	Open, public space to hang out and do sports.	
Coffee on the Moon	6	0	0	6	Meeting place; comfortable hangout place with friendly staff and a warm environment.	
Cowichan Library	11	1	0	12	Friendly people. Quiet and calm place to spend time.	
CVOLC school	6	0	0	6	Friends and supporting adults. Safe environment for learning.	
Dingwall Street	1	0	4	5		Apartments - crime and violence.
Discovery School	1	0	0	1	School with park. A place for kids to hang out.	
Farmers Market	3	1	0	4	Friendly employees and close to home place to go for groceries.	Strangers
Frances Kelsey	8	2	0	10	Supportive adults, friendly and accepting school for the most part. Integration of ages.	Some youth may feel nervous being in a large school environment.
Friendship Center	5	0	0	5		
Garage on Duncan Street	6	0	0	6	Always full of friendly people and friends. Many students and or their friends or parents work here.	
Beverly and York Road	0	0	2	2		People, behaviours.
Hospital	3	0	1	4	The hospital is a place that can help you in an emergency.	If you're there you're hurt / unsafe.

<sup>12</sup> Blue indicates safe; Yellow indicates sometimes safe; Red indicates unsafe.

Youth Dialogues Mapping Exercise Locations						
Place	Blue <sup>12</sup>	Yellow	Red	Total	Positive aspects	Negative aspects
Island Oak School	10	0	0	10	Comfortable learning environment. School is full of friends and adults who lend their support and help to their students.	
James Street / Cow High area	0	0	11	11		People, behaviours (violence, intimidation).
Kerry Park	3	1	0	4	Active, people around, considered safe fun places to hangout and skateboard.	
Koksilah School	4	0	0	4	Friends and teachers provide support and guidance.	
Mall and surrounding stores	13	6	3	22	Enclosed area inside to hang out. Active and people around.	Harassment, unknown people.
Mcadams Park	0	0	1	1		Alcohol use.
McDonalds	1	0	1	2	Warm and public.	People hanging out unknown.
Mill Bay Shopping Centre	4	1	2	7	Active, people around. A bus stop and library also located here.	People, highway crossing.
Paradise	4	0	0	4	Nice forest and beach. Great place to go swimming and walking.	
Pool (Duncan)	4	0	0	4	Safe. fun, indoor, supervised environment. Good place to meet friends.	
Seven Eleven	1	1	2	4	Convenient to school.	Area known for crime; harassment, violence, drug use.
Shawnigan Village	4	2	0	6	Small community, easy walking distance, lots of streets lights and people around.	Not safe to walk at night. Dark, sketchy people hanging around.
Skate Park	0	1	0	1		Sexual harassment.
Tim Hortons	11	2	0	13	A safe place to hang out with friends.	
Mill Bay Tim Hortons and McDonalds	3	0	0	3	Public, safe, warm places to hang out at lunch.	
Trail along Cowichan Tribes Soccer Field	0	0	4	4		People, drug use, harassment.
Trail from Frances Kelsey School to Mill Bay	1	3	5	9	A nice forest walk from the school to Mill Bay, which is safer then walking along the highway.	Smoking, drug use, violence.
Train Station (Duncan)	0	0	4	4		Alcohol, harassment, drug dealing.



Youth Dialogues Mapping Exercise Locations - Chemainus Area						
PLACE	Blue	Yellow	Red	Total	Positive aspects	Negative aspects
Arena	15	1	0	16	Friends and familiar people. Nice staff. Friendly people, adults around.	
Askew Creek	0	1	3	4		
Askew Park	2	4	11	17	Wide and open area.	Wild animals, smoking and drug use.
Bakery	4	0	0	4	Presence of people. A place to contact others if lost.	
Ball Park	6	1	1	8	Sports, friends.	
Book Nook	3	0	0	3	Supportive adults.	
Chemainus School	33	16	7	56	Having friends and supportive adults.	Bullying, intimidation, peer pressure, lack of supportive outlets.
Co- Op	6	1	0	7	Safe place to go with friends. Food.	Highway access.
Downtown	1	3	2	6	Familiar people and safe places to spend time.	Unfriendly people, negative behaviours. Being with friends enhances safety.
Ferry Landing	11	8	2	21	Close to home for some. Presence of people can provide safety.	Strangers; people who youth feel uncertain about.
Firehall	13	9	6	28	Youth hangout. Supervised. Lots of friends. Safe environment.	Younger grades indicated more concerns re: intimidation.
Fuller Lake	3	3	1	7	Described as a nice place to spend time with friends and be outside; to hang out.	A closed off area.
Golf Course	8	4	0	12	Open space. Familiar faces. Friendly people.	
Gravel Pit	2	1	8	11	A nice hangout for some.	Smoking and drinking. Groups of youth; behaviours. Younger grades indicated more concerns.
Kin Park	4	9	2	15	Nice place to hang out and meet friends.	Dark at night, unfriendly people. Not enough lights.
Mount Brenton	0	1	0	1	Friendly people, safe environment.	Unfamiliar area.
Old Elementary School	4	5	5	14		Smoking, drug use, groups of youth hanging out; behaviours.
St. Joes School	1	1	2	4		
Train Station	3	3	5	11		Trains. People hanging out, alcohol use, people walking through impaired.
Water Wheel Park	4	15	37	56	Fun place to skateboard. A place where friends meet up.	Drug and alcohol use, violence, smoking, harassment, violence / fights. Groups of youth hanging out; intimidation.



Youth Dialogues Mapping Exercise Locations – Cowichan Lake Area				
Location:	Green <sup>13</sup>	Yellow	Red	Comments
AB Greenwell			1	Cougars/Bears around
Beaver Lake		1		Fun but physical dangers like falling on logs
Cowichan Lake Family Services	1			Safe place
Cowichan River		1		Water safety concerns
Cowichan Valley Highway		1	2	Speeding, wildlife, cross walks not safe & no crosswalks
Friendship Forest		1		Wildlife
Grab Bag		1		Alcohol use / people hanging out
Grants Lake		2		Wildlife
Greendale		2		Not much light, wildlife/forest
Holt Creek Trestle		1		Knowledge of suicide attempts
Lake Cowichan Road	1			Safe, cars stop for you
Lake Cowichan Secondary		1		Teachers are nice and supportive. Wildlife concerns.
Lake View		1		Cougars/Bears
Main Road	1			Safe because lots of people around
Mesachie Lake		1		Day good & at night dangerous - dark- wildlife
North Shore Road		1		Wildlife
Palsson Elementary		2		Wildlife
Sandy Pools	1			Park, fun, play
Skutz Falls	1		2	Physical Danger
South Shore Road	1	1		In the middle of town, lights, people
The Slopes	1			Safe
Trails Parkstone park		2		Cougars/Bears
Trans Canada Trail		1		Safe during day / wild life

<sup>13</sup> Green indicates safe; Yellow indicates sometimes safe; Red indicates unsafe.



Youth Dialogues Mapping Exercise Locations - Ladysmith Area				
Location:	Green	Yellow	Red	Comments
7-11/stairs/rear			2	Drug use and does not feel safe at night
Aggie Hall / fields		2		Dark fields, lots of trees, death occurred there
Aggie Hall		1		At night
Brown Drive Park	1	2		
Carlos'	1	1		Sometimes concerns evening hours
Chemainus Road/ Saltair area			1	At night - area with no streetlights
Christie Road		1		Has low light, scary at night
Davis Road		1		Concerns at night
Davis Road School		1		Cigarette butts
Dogwood Ball Field (behind)			1	
Dogwood Dip		2	2	Unpredictable
Dragon City alley behind			1	
First Avenue behind the ball Pk.		1		
First Avenue downtown	1			Generally feels safe because it's always lit and usually there's people around
First Street tunnel			1	Poor visibility at night - scary
Fourth Avenue dip		1		Dark at night
High school	1	1		Mostly safe
Highway tunnel			1	
Holland Creek trail entrance on Methuen and 4th		1		
Intermediate School sidewalk		1		Uneven, many trips
Library (rear of building)		1	1	Concern at night
Logging Road around Hart Lake		1		At night
Logging road by Jim Crom Dr.		1		Little light and teen "hangouts"
Malone Rd / Colonia Dr corner		1		Big hedge blocks view
Primary School		1	1	After dark / at night
Rec Room / Community Centre	1			
Robert Street pizza	1			Unhealthy but safe
Robert Street to Methuen Street below 1st Avenue alleyway			1	"Sketchy" Drugs
Skate park		2	2	Feels unsafe at night
Sportsman Pub			2	Evenings and night
Symonds Street Sidewalk		1		Uneven, many slips
Therres Crescent middle area		1		A streetlight is always out, feels unsafe at night/ people around
Tim Horton's	1			Safe place at night
Transfer Beach		1		