

Youth Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report

May 11, 2021

Background

Purpose

- To provide advice and recommendations on issues and opportunities involving or affecting youth

2020 Membership

- Sydney Courville
- Cody Hanson
- Emilia Housch (Chair)
- John Perozok
- Katherine Prior
- Zachary Stoddard
- Patrick Tonita
- Kiara Vroman (Vice Chair)
- Councillor Dave Anderson (Non-Voting Member)
- Councillor Bill Tonita (Non-Voting Member)

YAC Mandate Alignment

Becoming Canada's most livable community

Strategic Goals

- Goal 1: Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents
- Goal 7: Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

Social Framework Outcomes

- Affordability, Access, Safety, Connectedness and Inclusion

Recreation and Culture Strategy and Transit Master Plan Principles

- Access, Collaboration, Forward Thinking, Viability, Safety, Customer-focused, Reliable, Efficient

YAC Mandate Items

Mandate Letter - 2020 Items

- Youth Engagement Strategies
- Post Secondary Education
- Community Drug Strategy
- Learning from youth focused organizations

Related Requests

- COVID-19 Impacts & Youth Mental Health
- Waste Management Roadmap

Mandate Item:

Youth Engagement Strategies

Activities

- Provided input to Strathcona County's Public Engagement Team about how to best engage youth in Strathcona County



Highlights, Key Learnings and Considerations

Considerations for Youth Engagement:

- Public engagement in schools and sharing public engagement opportunities through schools
- Providing meaningful incentives
- Engagement should be age-appropriate and meaningful
- Using a mix of public engagement tactics
- Having youth in positions of influence
- Ensuring youth feel their input is being used and valued

Mandate Item:

Post Secondary Education

Activities

- Formed a subcommittee with CLAC to explore the connected mandate items
- Submitted questions to the October mixed-topic SCOOP survey about post-secondary access in Strathcona County
- Organized a roundtable discussion in partnership with the Community Living Advisory Committee about opportunities to enhance access to post secondary education in Strathcona County



Highlights, Key Learnings and Considerations

Current barriers for post secondary access include:

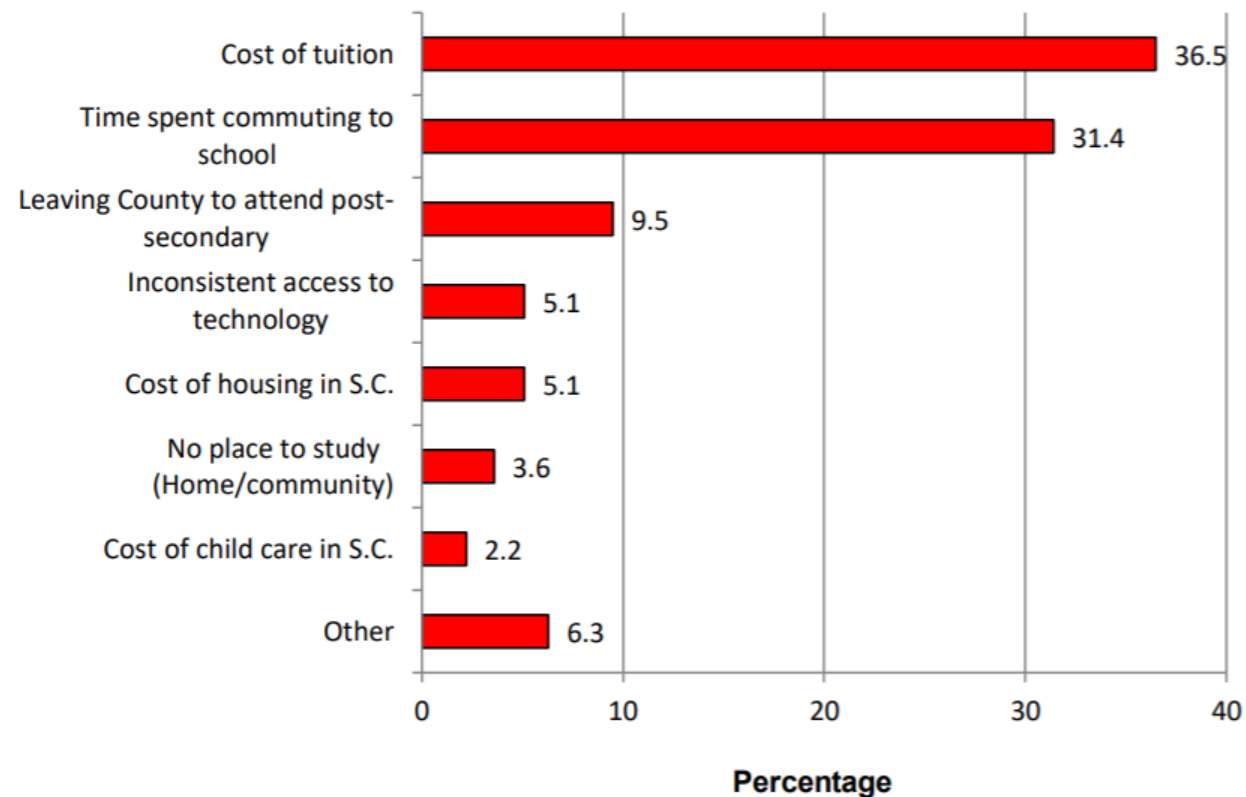
- Affordability
- Transit options
- High-speed internet
- School related tools (technology, textbooks)

Considerations to enhance post-secondary access:

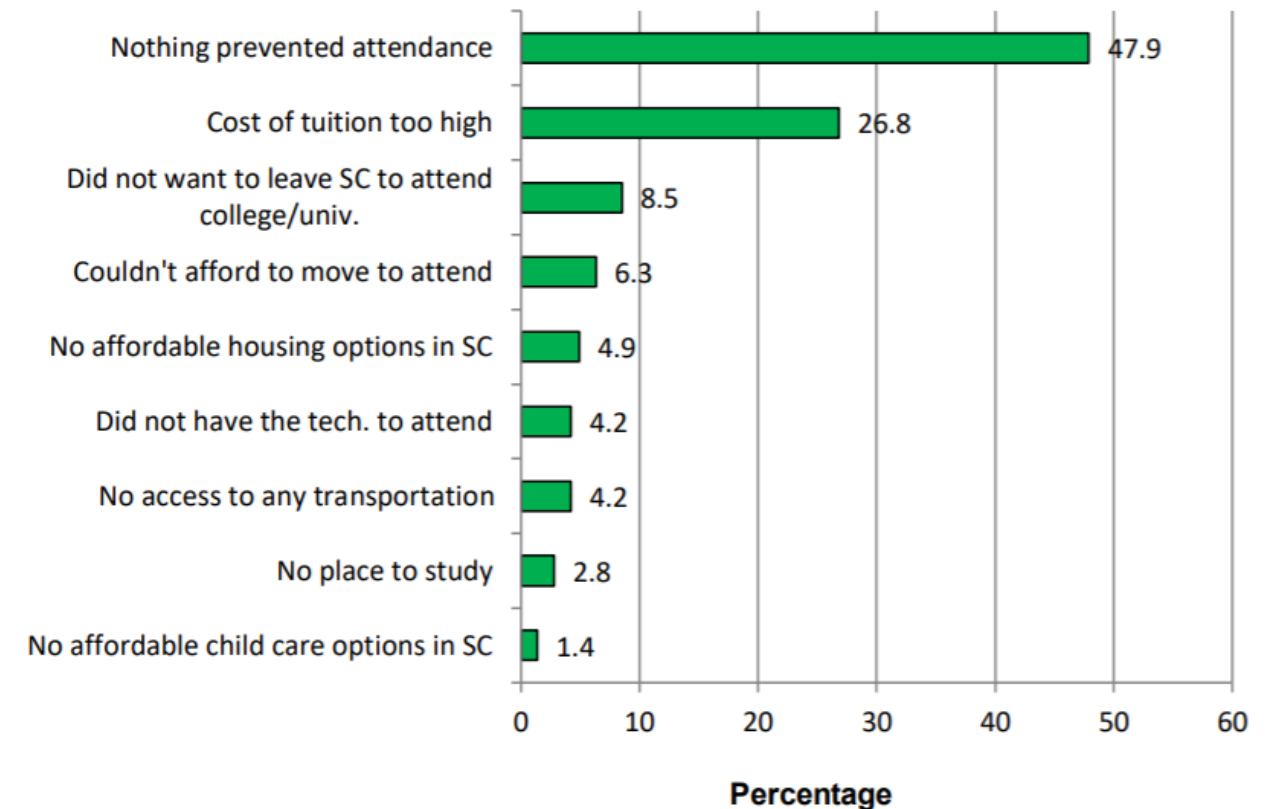
- Enhance transit affordability and availability
- Reducing the ancillary costs for post secondary (i.e., cost of living)
- Enhance access to WIFI

Post Secondary Survey Results

Top issue faced when attending post-secondary school

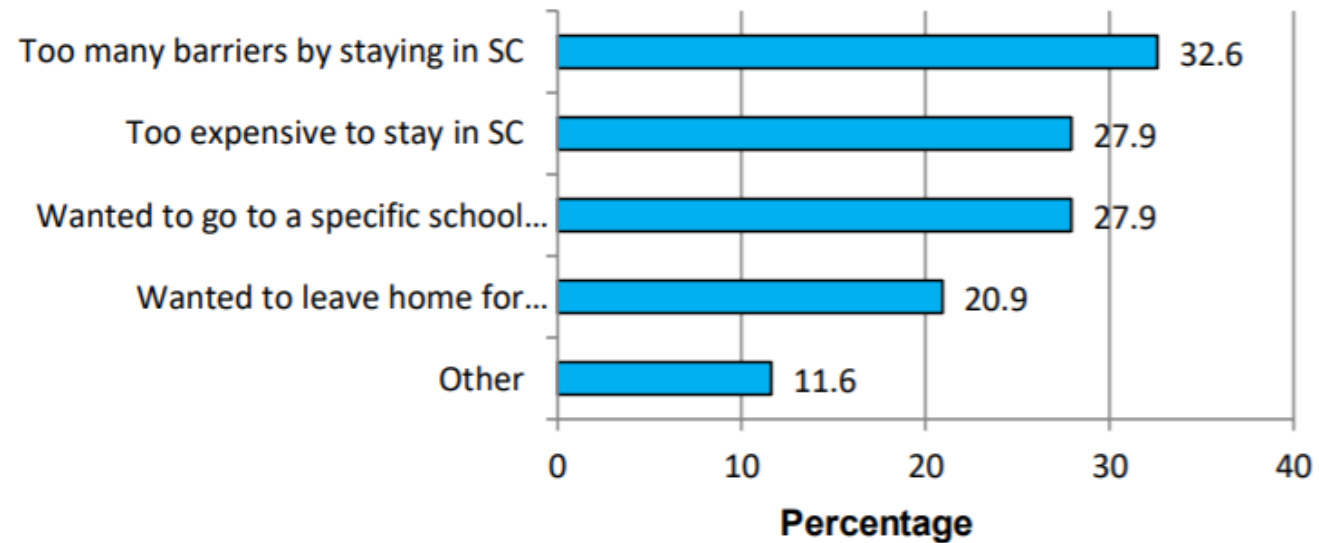


Barriers that prevented college/university attendance

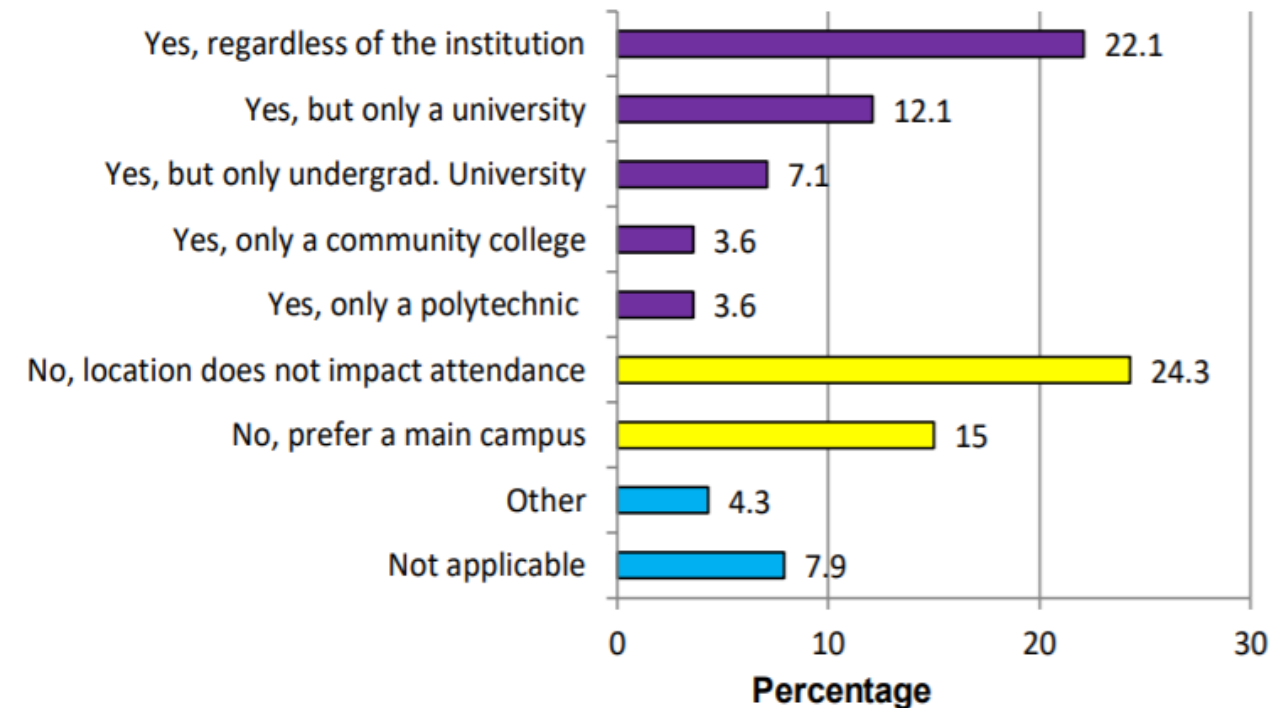


Post Secondary Survey Results

Reasons for leaving Strathcona County to attend college/university



Should a post-secondary campus be located in Strathcona County?



Mandate Item:

Community Drug Strategy

Activities	Highlights, Key Learnings and Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Received information from the Strathcona County Vaping Advisory Committee about the impacts of vaping and actions that can be taken on the issue of vaping	<p>Key Learnings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Youth vaping is risingYouth vaping is associated with adverse health indicatorsSecond-hand vapour<i>Bill 19: the Tobacco and Smoking Amendment Act</i> <p>Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Education about the impacts of vapingChanging social norms around vapingMunicipal policy (i.e., enhanced smoke-free areas and licensing)



Mandate Item:

Learning from Youth Focused Organizations

Activities

- Learned about the Fort Saskatchewan BRIDGE Wellness Hub for youth and the ways they are supporting youth
- Provided input to the Strathcona County Library as part of creating their new Plan of Service



Highlights, Key Learnings and Considerations

Key Learnings

- Interdisciplinary collaboration to support youth and young adult needs
- Many existing youth programs and services in Strathcona County

Considerations

- Highlighting youth and young adult opportunities
- Providing interdisciplinary services where youth are at
- Providing opportunities for safe social interaction and skill development
- Prioritizing diversity and inclusion

Related Request:

COVID-19 Impacts & Mental Health

Activities

- Provided input to Strathcona County's Emergency Social Services team about what impacts youth are facing as a result of COVID-19 and how to best communicate to youth about supports
- Received information about the actions Family and Community Services and its partners are taking to support youth mental health and provided feedback around how to better support and communicate to youth about mental health



Highlights, Key Learnings and Considerations

Highlights and Key Learnings

- Youth experiencing mental health challenges and missed milestones
- Many mental health supports are available in Strathcona County

Considerations

- Advertising and awareness of supports
- Accessibility of supports through transit
- Enhancing informal supports

Related Request: Waste Management Roadmap

Activities

- Provided input and advice to Strathcona County Utilities department about the Strathcona County 2021-2031 Waste Management Roadmap



Highlights, Key Learnings and Considerations

Key Learnings

- 70% of waste is created outside of the home

Considerations

- Waste management is a shared responsibility
- Extended producer responsibility
- Waste diversion opportunities should be present throughout the community
- Continued resident education

... and that's not all!

Activities

- Provided feedback and strategic advice to Strathcona County's Emergency Social Services team about the development of a youth-focused COVID-19 vignette
- Provided feedback about the future of Strathcona County Museum and Archives



Focus for 2021

- Environmental Sustainability
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Gathering Spaces
- Mental Health & Pandemic Impacts
- Community Safety and Well-being
- Communication with youth
- Support youth participation in 2021 Municipal Election

Considerations and Requests for Priorities Committee

Mental Health

- Mental health awareness and training for front line service providers

Transit

- Expanded services to post secondary institutions
- Enhanced transit times that consider youth and young adult schedules

Youth Events and Programs

- Timing and communication of events

Environmental Sustainability

- Expand opportunities for youth involvement in County environmental issues
- Prioritization of environmental issues

Thank You & Questions!

