



Strathcona County Youth Strategy

Update to Priorities Committee
June 22, 2021

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Project Background



Project background

The YNAA explored existing opportunities for youth and young adults in the County between the ages of 14-29, while identifying areas for improvement. The YNAA identified six key themes, including mental health, transportation, collaboration, communication and engagement, affordability, and gathering spaces.



Mental Health



Transportation



Collaboration



**Communication &
Engagement**



Affordability



Gathering Spaces



Overarching Recommendation

“To develop a youth strategy for Strathcona County in partnership with community and youth to address a collective commitment that: Youth feel connected, included and supported and access a range of programs and services that meet their needs without having to leave Strathcona County.”

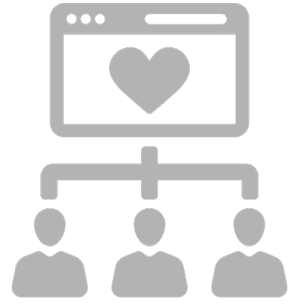




Project Status

Who's Around the Table?

Youth Strategy Community Partners



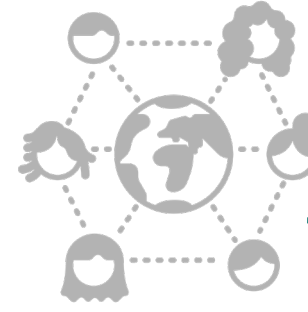
- Heartland Alliance Church
- BGC Strathcona County
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters Strathcona County
- The altView Foundation
- Kings Athletic Club
- Strathcona County Library
- Elk Island Public Schools
- Elk Island Catholic Schools
- Ardrossan Recreation and Agricultural Society
- Strathcona County Family and Community Services
- Strathcona County Transit
- Strathcona County Recreation Parks and Culture
- Strathcona County Economic Development and Tourism



The Youth Strategy Project Journey



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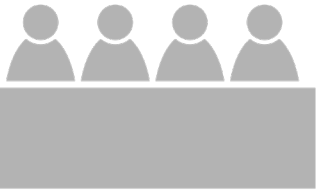
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Next Gen Action Rallies: Overview

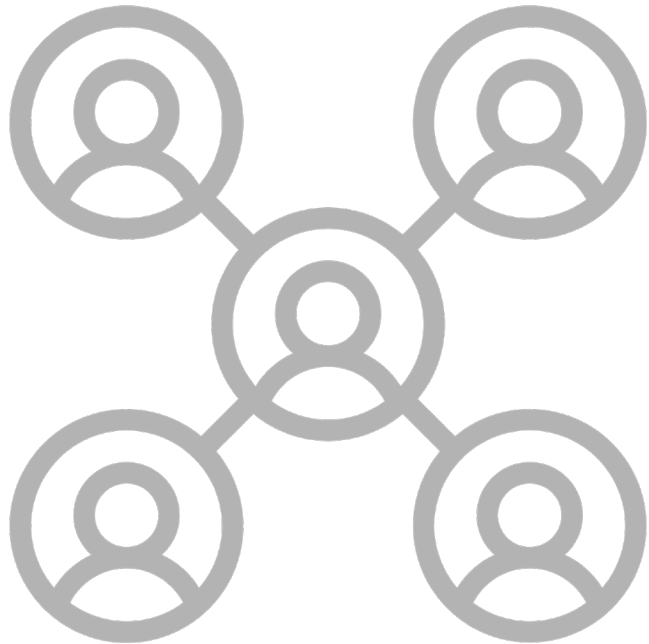


- **Three Rallies:**
 - Gathering Spaces
 - Mental Health
 - Transportation
- **Rally Goals**
 - Share about Next Gen needs
 - Dialogue with community experts
 - Develop a vision for a Next Gen friendly Strathcona County
- **23 Participants**
- **9 Panelists**



What we Heard from Next Gen

Gathering Space Rally



Key Themes:

- Accessibility is a priority for Next Gen and is characterized by multiple dimensions
- Increased communication and diverse modes of communication are needed to inform Next Gen about gathering spaces
- Next Gen want gathering spaces that have flexibility built into them and there are different dimensions to this flexibility
- Next Gen go to gathering spaces to experience a sense of community and build connections

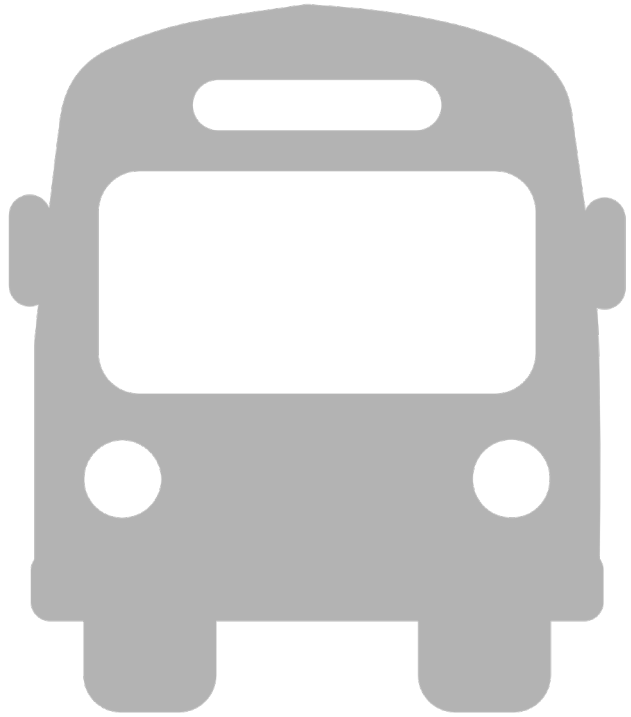
Mental Health Rally



Key Themes:

- Next Gen are asking for increased communication about mental health resources and supports using diverse modes of communication and for supports that are easy to navigate
- A priority for Next Gen is that mental health supports and resources are accessible, inclusive and prioritize autonomy
- Next Gen believe there is a need to destigmatize mental health and support seeking
- Next Gen have identified unique experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic that have impacted their mental health and how they are able to access support
- There is a need to recognize, validate, and respond to the unique experiences of LGBTQ2S+ and BIPOC Next Gen
- Next Gen want opportunities to increase mental health literacy for themselves and others

Transportation Rally



Key Themes:

- Environmentally sustainable transportation options are a priority for Next Gen
- Next Gen need consistent and integrated communication about how to get around Strathcona County
- Next Gen need convenient, safe, and accessible transportation options

Overarching Themes



Key Themes:

- COVID-19 has had significant impacts across all experiences for Next Gen
- Diversity and inclusion are important to Next Gen and are foundational to overall feelings of connectedness and support
- Accessibility is a priority for Next Gen and should be considered across multiple contexts
- Next Gen appreciate and acknowledge that community supports, and services exist but don't always know where to learn about them, or how to navigate them
- Next Gen experience stigma in a variety of settings and contexts
- Community building and opportunities for connection are important to Next Gen

Beyond the Data

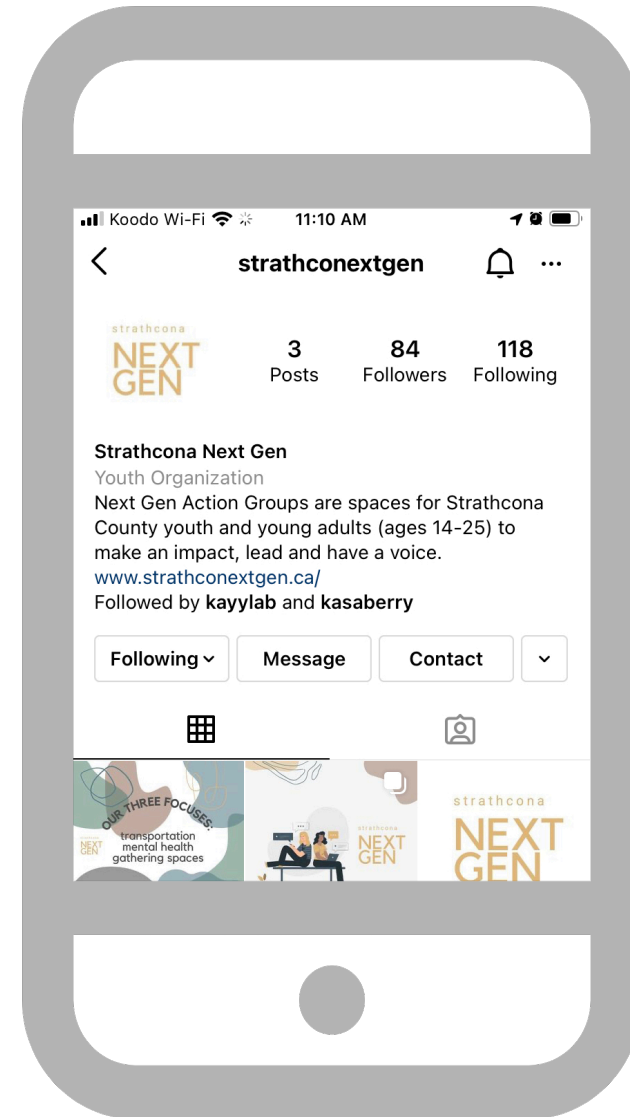
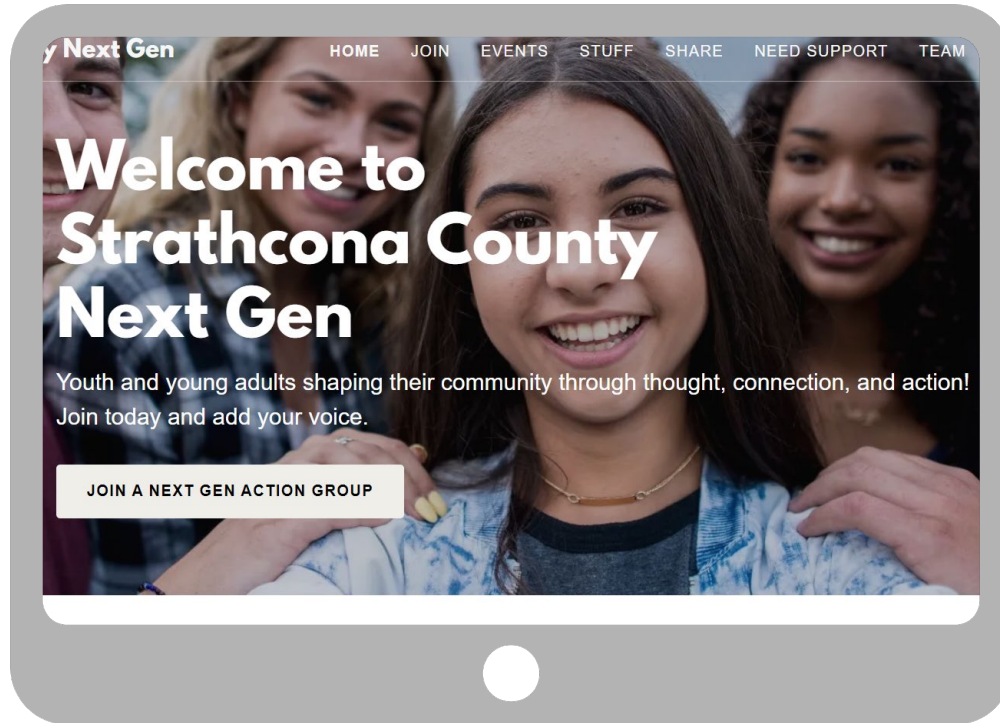


Other Session Outcomes

- Repeat participants and community building
- Appreciation of the opportunity to share their voice and for the safe space to do so
- Participant willingness and excitement to become further involved
- Excitement about the opportunity to create change



Next Gen Website & Social Media





Next Steps for Evaluation Development, Strategy Development & Social Media

Evaluation and Strategy Development



- Developing an evaluation plan
- Extended community outreach
- Digging deeper and sharing findings
- Asking Next Gen and Steering Committee members “What’s Next?”
- Taking action on low hanging fruit
- Drafting a strategy
- Building following on social media
- Future updates to Council



Thank You & Questions