

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_Jun14\_2016**

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**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE****Strathcona County Youth Council Report****Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with the annual update from the Strathcona County Youth Council.

**Council History**

June 16, 2015 - Council received a Report for Information on the 2014-2015 Youth Council and Youth Advisory Committee.

**Strategic Plan Priority Areas**

**Economy:** Enhancing business relationships between youth and local business through the Youth Friendly Business Initiative, which educates the business community on how to be youth-friendly and recognize those who are.

**Governance:** Participation in public engagement on youth and community issues allows the youth to take ownership in shaping the future of Strathcona County.

**Social:** Supports the four guiding principles of the Social Sustainability Framework. Youth Council promotes social inclusion and community connectedness by providing the opportunity for all youth to participate, regardless of circumstance and ability, and through informal and formal process, develops networks of connections. Social responsibility is achieved through voluntary engagement and collective decision making. Health and well-being is supported through a strength-based process where mutual support and maximizing personal potential is fostered.

**Culture:** Demonstrating the youth's involvement in arts and culture in the community through public engagement opportunities and events, such as the High 5 Awards.

**Environment:** N/A

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** N/A

**Legislative/Legal:** N/A

**Interdepartmental:** Strathcona County departments consult with Youth Council members regarding issues and decisions that impact youth in the community, including Planning and Development, Recreation, Parks and Culture, and Strathcona County Transit.

**Summary**

The Strathcona County Youth Council consists of Strathcona County youth in grades seven to twelve and is a project of Family and Community Services. Youth Council was initiated in 1990 and this year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council – making it the longest running Youth Council in the province. Currently, there are thirty-five members who represent diverse interests, experiences, and backgrounds. Members have participated in over 1,100 volunteer hours from September 2015 to May 2016.

**Enclosure**

1 Youth Council Initiatives 2015-2016 Update PowerPoint