

2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT



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wellness
partners for youth
leadership
adventure
making waves
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I submit this, my 11th annual report as CEO, on the work of Partners for Youth Inc. This report is meant to give a glimpse into our day to day programming, a reflection on our financial situation, and a vision for the future. 2015-2016 was our 22nd year of operation, and by all accounts we have had another successful year.

Our services, programs, and projects continued to grow over the past 12 months, and new initiatives were launched focused on human trafficking, youth mental health, homeless youth, and youth in care. We also launched the New Brunswick Youth Engagement Initiative, which will empower youth in all corners of the province to speak up about issues that matter to them and their communities.

All of our current programs experienced growth this year. Our middle school program is offered in more schools than ever before, and our summer camp continues to offer youth at risk a high-level adventure-based experience. Making Waves and the NB Youth in Care Network both now reach more youth than ever before. Our new youth in action for mental health project, is also expanding across New Brunswick.

We have also announced the establishment of a transitional housing program for homeless youth in greater Saint John. This planning began in January 2016 and was finalized several months later, following a number of critical agreements with project partners.

In order to continue to expand, our financial stability is critical, and our financial need is ongoing and ever increasing. This report marks the 10th consecutive year we have balanced our budget and ended the year in a slight surplus position. We have more funders than ever before, and our growth is matched by their generosity and commitment. Without their financial investment, we could not, in any way at all, continue to meet the needs of the youth we serve. We continue to be responsible with our finances and maintain an administrative cost percentage of 7% of our overall expenses.

Our staff and our board of directors continue to work extremely hard to further our mission. Our staff, who work day in and day out at the organization, are some of the most competent, innovative, and passionate individuals you will ever meet. Collectively they form a dynamic and highly skilled team. Our board of directors, led by President Jody Gorham, support our vision and the work of our staff. They are a caring and dedicated group, and we are thankful to have them involved and committed to this work.

As a close my report, I am thankful to be engaged in this work, and I am very mindful of the need to do more as we move forward together.

Respectfully submitted,
John Sharpe, CEO



This year marked out 22nd 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 expanded our middle school program to reach more students. We continued a three year project on human trafficking across New Brunswick. Finally, we expanded our youth in action for mental health project into more high schools across the province.

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 all support the mission and vision of this dynamic organization. Our board president, Jody Gorham, has either served as director or president for several years and continues to provide great leadership. Jody works alongside our staff and CEO and has significantly supported the expansion of the organization over this time. Of note — directors Larry Johnston, Ross Creelman, and Mike Joyce have given a decade of their time to the PFY board, and their continued involvement is appreciated.

Our funders continue to support our commitment to youth and youth at risk, and we are grateful for such wonderful partners in this work.

We have much to be thankful for as an organization, but we must continue to do more to support and engage youth and youth at risk across this great province and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Jim Ross, Founder and Chairperson Emeritus



YEAR END REVIEW



Beyond simple program delivery, our coordinators took the time to engage participants in a review and feedback process to further enhance the Roadmap for future years.

In this way, the program continues to evolve to allow to even greater youth engagement and success.

Our work with the Roadmap project was presented at the national Connexus conference in Ottawa in January 2016.

The PFY Roadmap program seeks to provide career guidance and financial literacy skills to youth at risk.

The program is broken up into eight modules and include work on topics such as post-secondary guidance, how to conduct a job search, professionalism, and wellness.

Originally conceived as a program that focused strictly on financial literacy, the scope and depth of the Roadmap has been enhanced substantially.

In 2015-16, our project coordinators returned to the New Brunswick Youth Centre and Portage Atlantic for the second year in a row.

A total of 12 youth participated between both groups. By all accounts, the results were once again very positive.



NEW BRUNSWICK YOUTH IN CARE NETWORK

Our NBYICN coordinator and the network leadership group were hard at work in 2015-16, developing a number of impactful projects and introducing many new youth in care to the NBYICN and to our organization as a whole.

These projects included two Amazing Races—team-based scavenger and obstacle races that challenge participants to work through a number of fun activities.

These races both took place in large municipal parks—Odell in Fredericton and Centennial in Moncton—and involved the participation of over 50 youth in total.

2015 also marked the 2nd annual Children and Youth in Care Day in New Brunswick. With guidance from our network coordinator, regional groups planned a number of events for youth throughout the province, each aiming to celebrate the strength of our youth in care.

As a way of spearheading the issue, our network coordinator and leaders organized a provincial summit for youth in care in November 2015.

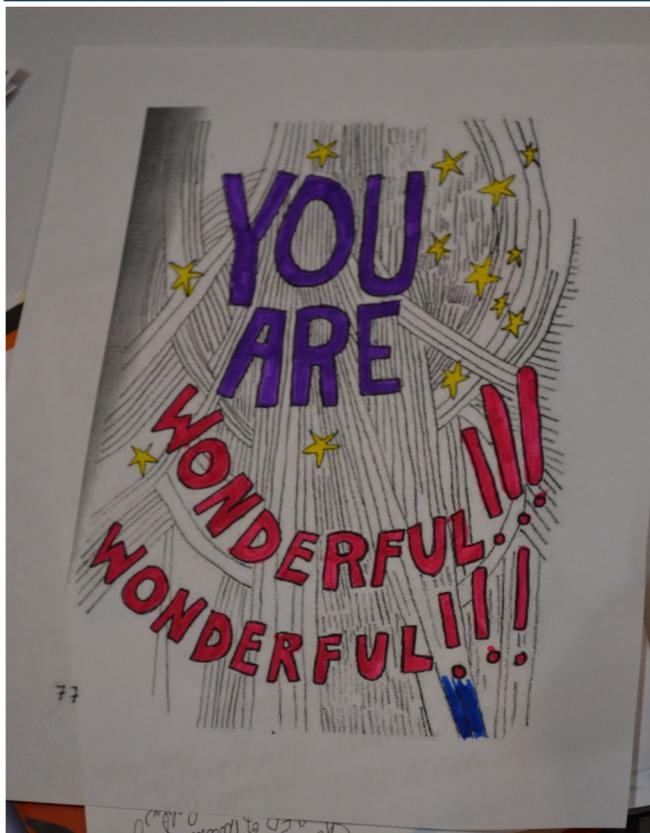
A total of 70 youth attended the event, along with an additional 40 adult supporters. It was an occasion for youth in and from care to meet and take part in a number of fun and engaging activities. It also gave them the chance to talk with stakeholders about their time in care.

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Along these same lines, 2016 saw PFY staff travel the province to as part of a three month consultation process.

By way of a series of activities, these sessions engaged youth in care in a number of impactful discussions on how the care system could be improved. The results of this process were then written into a report for government with specific recommendations for system enhancement going forward.



MAKING WAVES



2015-16 came with a very particular challenge for Making Waves. With our Project Coordinator sidelined for an extended period of time, it was up to other PFY staff to step up and fill the void.

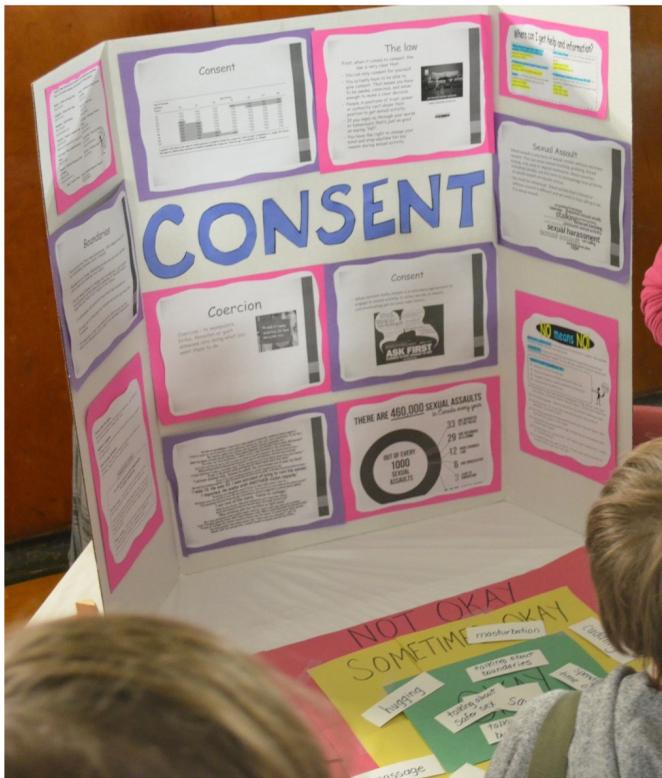
On the backs of this collective effort, the Making Waves program was successful yet again. Three conferences were held, including two in New Brunswick and one on Prince Edward Island.

The first of these conferences took place in the Saint John region. Students from five schools were in attendance, including Belleisle Regional, St. Malachy's Memorial, Saint John High, Hampton High, and Sussex High.

The second New Brunswick conference was especially important, as it was our very first Making Waves event organized specifically for First Nations youth. Aboriginal youth from Elsipogtog and Indian Island were in attendance.

Finally, our second PEI conference took place in 2015. Six island schools were in attendance, including Three Oaks Senior High, Morell Regional, Montague Regional, Kindona Regional, Colonel Gray, and Bluefield High School.

Beyond this, the Making Waves program itself was also reviewed and enhanced to better meet the needs of youth participants. This review process is ongoing and will undoubtedly lead to a much more impactful program going forward.



The logo for DOTS NB features the text "DOTS NB" in white, bold, sans-serif font centered on an orange background. The background is decorated with a white line-art map of New Brunswick and several small white dots scattered around it.

DOTS NB

In the second year since Dots NB became part of the Partners For Youth family, the program has seen substantial enhancements.

The Dots For Kids Day Ring-A-Bell campaign has been a fixture of Dots NB programming for some time. 2015 saw a growth in the campaign, as just under 70,000 students throughout the province were involved in the project.

The Ring-A-Bell campaign enlists the help of teachers and schools throughout New Brunswick and provides them with mental health related classroom curriculum and resources.

These resources cover everything from managing stress, to the importance of cultivating positive mental health, to in depth discussions on mental wellness.

The week-long mental health awareness campaign culminates with participants throughout the province uniting and standing together to ring bells for a full minute. This symbolic gesture is meant to promote discussion and raise awareness on the importance of positive mental health.

This past year, as a way of further enhancing the existing campaign, our Project Coordinator organized for 22 of our provincial MLAs to visit schools throughout the province. In this way, our elected officials were able to speak to young people directly on the importance of this issue.

As a member of the provincial Network of Excellence project committee, we were tasked with developing a province-wide consultation process on the construction of the new youth mental health facility in Campbellton.

Over the course of eight weeks, we delivered 15 such sessions in communities throughout New Brunswick.

Participants in the sessions came from a variety of regions and demographics, including Anglophone, Francophone, and First Nation communities.

In the end, a report was provided with recommendations on how the original plans for the facility could be improved. The feedback noted in this report came directly from participants in the consultation process.

Finally, on May 3rd, 2016, we organized a full day Youth Engagement Summit (YES 2016) that focused specifically on youth mental health.

A total of approximately 150 youth from 41 different communities across the province gathered in Fredericton to participate.

Feedback obtained from conference participants was then included in a report for government. The report elaborates on ten broad recommendations for professionals and officials to consider when formulating plans to enhance mental health services in the province.





YOUTH IN ACTION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Though it is one of our newest programs, Youth in Action for Mental Health (YAMH) managed to find success straight out of the gate.

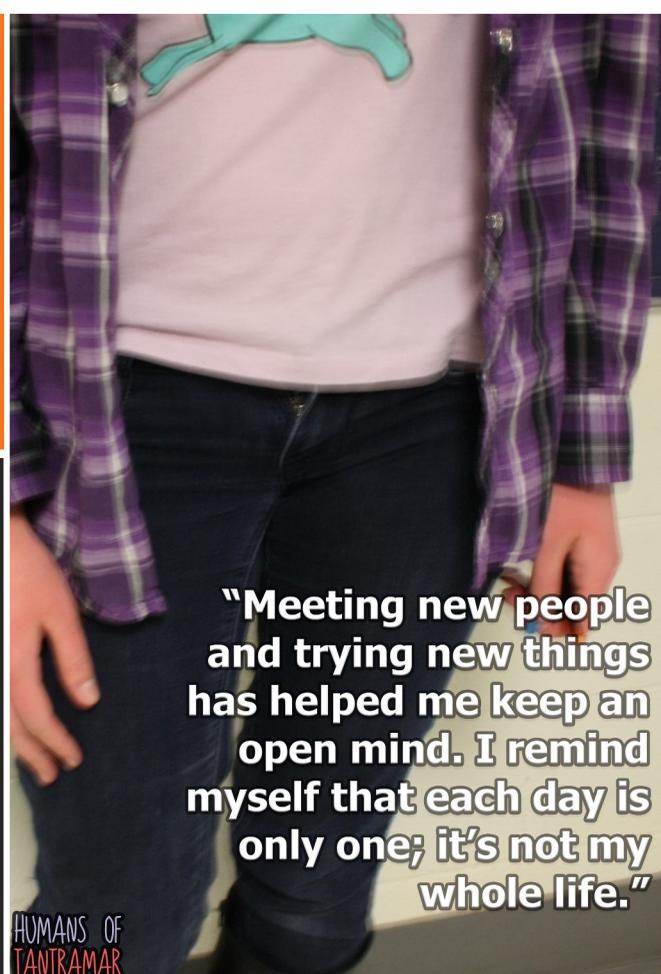
Like many of our programs, YAMH involves the creation of regional youth leadership groups. Once formed, these groups are guided through a planning process to develop their own social action project on topics related to mental health.

A total of five schools participated in 2015-16, with 10-12 students per group. Their projects included a poster campaign entitled Humans of Tantramar, a community radio campaign to raise awareness on mental health topics, a button campaign to challenge stigma and stereotypes, and a word style cafe discussion event.

Given this was the first year of delivery, our Project Coordinator also worked throughout the summer on improving the program for this academic year. These revisions were informed in large part by feedback obtained during project delivery over the first year.

Chief among these improvements made was the introduction of a greater educational component for participants. This element looks to improve participant understanding on the complexities of mental health related subjects prior to the creation of their regional action projects.

YAMH is expanding in 2016-17 to include more schools in more regions throughout NB.



“Meeting new people and trying new things has helped me keep an open mind. I remind myself that each day is only one; it’s not my whole life.”

HUMANS OF TANTRAMAR





THE ADVENTURE CLASSROOM

One of our oldest running programs, the Adventure Classroom leads participants through a series of modules of varying themes; from environmental education, school to farm, mental health, to outdoor pursuits, to positive communications and teamwork skills.

For the most part, participants selected to be part of this program are identified as youth at risk by their respective schools. The program involves a substantial behavioural intervention and socialization component that has been well received by partnering schools over the years.

This year, three new schools were involved in Adventure Classroom programming: Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth, and Stanley Consolidated. Along with the rest of the schools, this meant we had 24 groups from a total of 18 participating schools. In all, over 250 youth from across the province participated in Adventure Classroom in 2015-16.

With guidance from our Project Coordinator, they undertook a number of interesting projects, including making a meal with vegetables gathered from a local farm, and planting raised bed gardens for school agriculture. As with previous years, most of the participants in the Adventure Classroom program were part of our Camp Tippy Canoe program over the summer. In this way, the support we offer continues between school years.



CAMP TIPPY CANOE

In many ways a complement to our Adventure Classroom program, Camp Tippy Canoe serves as the highlight of the program for many participants.

Camp Tippy Canoe is located on the banks of North Lake, NB. The lake itself is part of a series of waterways leading to the St. Croix River, which straddles the border between Canada and the United States.

Once a common place of rest for travelers on the old Maliseet Trail Portage Route, the area now allows us to provide an adventure-based camp program to youth from across the province each year.

This past summer, we ran thirteen such camp programs, including ten middle school groups, one elementary aged one, one camp for youth in care and one leadership camp for high school youth. Approximately 150 youth from throughout New Brunswick came to Camp Tippy Canoe this year.

All of our camps involve substantial outdoor pursuits programming, including hiking, climbing, ropes courses, and canoeing.

Our leadership camp in particular stands out. This year's group were led through the St. Croix tributary waterways for a six day canoe trip that included a stop to watch the Perseid meteor shower in all its celestial glory.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

CKING Project

In 2015, we began work on a new project focused on human trafficking in New Brunswick. Over the following 12 months, our Project Coordinator reached out to a wide-array of people, from individuals with lived experience to members of related law-enforcement agencies.

The ultimate goal was to lay the ground work for a provincial strategy designed to reduce both the current and future impact of human trafficking in the province.

Many kilometres later, our Project Coordinator has delivered with the creation of a substantial needs assessment on the issue. The report provides considerable insight on the topic at hand and how it relates to the experience of women and girls in the province.

The issues raised included:

- ◆ The hidden nature of human trafficking and difficulties in identifying problematic situations.
- ◆ Misunderstandings around the link between human trafficking and sex workers
- ◆ Challenges in breaking down barriers between vulnerable populations and law-enforcement agencies
- ◆ The general lack of programming and support for people involved in human trafficking and other often related circumstances

Resilience



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Over \$50,000

Province of New Brunswick
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Leacross Foundation
Canadian Women's Foundation

\$20,000 to \$49,000

Counselling Foundation of Canada
Partners Foundation Inc.
Rosemary McCain McMillin
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\$10,000 to \$19,999

Harold Crabtree Foundation
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The Brewer Foundation
Freedom 55 Financial
Children's Aid Foundation
100 Women Who Care Fredericton
The Saint John Regional Hospital
Foundation—Mindcare



OUR **2015-16** SPONSORS

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2015-16

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