



QWYC

Quinte West Youth Centre

Committee for Innovative
Thinking for Youth Inc.

2025 Annual Report



About Committee for Innovative Thinking for Youth

Quinte West Youth Centre officially opened in the fall of 2011. Our initial purpose for coming together was to develop strategies to respond to a number of issues facing youth in Quinte West. We were aware that our cooperation, sharing of resources, expertise and coordination would lead to greater accessibility, visibility and success for all youth in the community. We recognized youth in our community needed a place to come for recreational and pro-social leisure activities, but also needed a place to be able to come for resources and supports. QWYC was formed under C.I.T.Y. and C.I.T.Y. began looking at the creation of the centre to provide youth a place of their own; where, programs and activities, are youth driven for youth. QWYC has staff on at all times with a variety of background with the commonality of wanting to support youth in our community. QWYC is overseen by a Board of Directors with the goal to continue finding supports to provide to our youth.

Our Mission

- To be the hub for fun, resources, and skills development for youth in Quinte West.
- All youth will be happy, healthy contributing members of our community.



Our Vision and Values

Youth Focused & Inclusive: We take our lead from the young people who fill our centre; all youth are welcome.

Caring & Compassionate: We treat everyone with respect, dignity and acceptance. Programs and services are conducted in a safe, caring, and non-judgmental manner.

Accountable & Transparent: The staff and board manage the organization efficiently and effectively to foster the community's confidence and trust.

Innovative and Proactive: We work collaboratively with a variety of partners to positively impact young people and the Quinte West community.



2025 Board of Directors

- Donald Lucas (Treasurer)
- Duncan Armstrong
- Josephine Robertson
- Julia Ross
- Lisa Kuypers Schroedter
- Maria Morris
- Olivia Pillai
- Richard Stevens (Chair)
- Shannon Millar



Message from Board Member, Maria Morris

In 2025, while I now serve as Chair, I was proud to be part of the Board during a year that tested the strength and resilience of the Quinte West Youth Centre. We faced significant challenges, including a period in late spring and early summer when the Board was reduced to just four members and the Centre operated without an Executive Director. During this time, our dedicated staff—Gabe and Hailey—alongside remaining Board members, stepped up in extraordinary ways, taking on additional responsibilities to ensure the Centre remained open and continued to support the youth who rely on it. In September, we welcomed Interim Executive Director Nahanni Raney, whose leadership and guidance were instrumental in helping us confront serious financial challenges while also instilling confidence that a sustainable path forward was possible. With her direction, the commitment of our Board, and the support of the United Way, we developed a plan to carry us into 2026. The importance of maintaining a safe, supportive space for young people in Quinte West cannot be overstated—youth centres provide connection, mentorship, and a sense of belonging that is critical to healthy development. Thanks to the collective effort and unwavering belief in our mission, we remain committed to ensuring the Centre continues to serve our community's youth for 2026 and years to come.



Message from Interim Executive Director, Nahanni Ranes

It was a privilege to serve as Interim Executive Director with Quinte West Youth Centre in 2025. During my time with the organization, I was reminded of how important it is for young people to have a place they feel is their own—a place where they are welcomed, connected, and supported. Many youth and their families rely on the Centre every day for after-school support, and the Youth Centre is an important source of consistency, belonging, and connection. I saw the dedication of staff, volunteers, board members, long-term youth members, and community partners who care deeply about the well-being of youth and work together to create opportunities for them to learn, grow, and thrive. While every year brings its own challenges and successes, I remain grateful for the opportunity to have been part of the Centre's story and look forward to seeing its continued impact in the community.



Message from the 2026 Executive Director, Christina Akrong

I was thrilled to join the QWYC in 2026 and to take the lead on preparing this annual report. The vision and commitment of the leaders who came before is evident in every brick that makes up the building, and in the great energy that vibrates inside of it! The Youth Centre's steadfast supporters continue to champion the work that happens here, showing us how important the Centre is to our community. QWYC is truly a youth-led space, and I have really appreciated being shown the ropes by many of the youth when I started here! Last but not least, the dedication and care of the staff working here is unparalleled, and I would like to give a special shout-out to them, because they are the heart of this place.



TESTIMONY

“The staff at the Quinte West Youth Centre genuinely care about the well-being and future of our kids. My child looks forward to every single drop-in night, and I have total peace of mind knowing they are in a positive, supportive environment. This organization is an essential part of our community and safe place for our children to learn and grow.”

- Parent



STATISTICS for 2025

- 182 days open
- 2,639 youth visits
- 14 youth visited per day on average

- 140 unique youth attended the Centre in 2025
- 397 youth who have 'graduated' from our program

- 3,662 meals served
- 7,227 snacks served

Supporters

Thank you to all of the funders, groups, organizations, and individuals who supported the Quinte West Youth Centre in 2025!

- Canadian Tire Jumpstart
- Diamond Electric
- Ecclesiastical Insurance
- Food for Learning, HPE Learning Foundation
- Government of Canada, Canada Summer Jobs
- Harmony Homes
- InkCisive
- Kawartha Credit Union
- Kay Stafford Fund, Trenton Memorial Hospital
- Kinsmen
- Kiwanis
- Klemencic Homes
- McCurdy's
- McDougall Insurance
- Oxygen Beauty Bar
- Robertson's
- Second Spin Thrift
- Thumbs Up Painting & Renovation
- Trenton Fish and Game Club
- Walmart



A Natural Attraction



United Way
Hastings &
Prince Edward

We particularly wish to thank our Major Funders:

- **City of Quinte West**
- **United Way Hastings & Prince Edward**

If you notice anyone missing, please contact us for correction!

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025**

	2025	2024
Revenue	\$	\$
Membership and Program Fees	\$95	\$347
Donations and Grants	\$179,314	\$399,173
Fundraising	\$36,187	\$38,409
Rental	\$1,200	\$2,400
Other	\$1,531	\$4,120
	\$218,327	\$444,449
Expenses		
Advertising	2,196	\$3,786
Bank and Interest Charges	196	\$258
Equipment	-	\$132,294
Food	10,063	\$14,450
Fundraising	7,571	\$5,441
Insurance	2,993	\$2,629
Office Supplies	9,076	\$21,461
Professional Fees	4,600	\$3,350
Program Costs	11,199	\$17,871
Rent	12,000	\$12,000
Repairs and Maintenance	244	\$1,794
Utilities	11,272	\$11,003
Wages and Salaries	159,336	\$252,172
	230,746	\$478,509
	230,746	478,509
Expenditures Over Revenues	(12,419)	(34,060)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	108,635	142,695
Net Earnings Assets - End of Year	96,216	108,635



2025 Team

Executive Director	Jessica Coolen
Interim Executive Director	Nahanni Raney
Child & Youth Worker	Gabe Roseboom
Child & Youth Worker	Hailey Borden
Child & Youth Worker (Summer)	James Kemp
Program Coordinator	Amanda Richardson

Report prepared by Christina Akrong, June 2026