



# Youth Leadership Society of British Columbia

Annual Report 2020

Ravinder Safaya  
January 14, 2021



## An Overview

We had a successful 2020 despite the challenges faced by the community from the Covid-19 pandemic. Our Youth proved to be resilient and adapted to new challenges quickly. They also remained committed to continue serving the community in many ways while following all protocols as announced from time to time when in the field. All our activities are in tandem with our sister organization; registered charity *Steps Together Foundation (STF)*. In March 2020, once the pandemic guidelines were declared, we shifted gears and started focusing more on community-based projects to help those most affected by the pandemic.

As we all experienced, the pandemic brought many social challenges along with it. We realized it also brought many opportunities for the young leaders to engage with the BC community, which we may not have been able to do otherwise. We came out of our comfort zone and sought new ways to serve the community. We are thankful to the Government of Canada and many organizations listed herein, who placed confidence in us and awarded Covid-19 grants to both organizations (YLSBC and STF). It forced us to look deeply within BC and seek the inequalities and difficulties faced by indigenous and many low-income communities. We are again fortunate to have been received with open arms by the Indigenous BC Friendship Centers, School Districts, and other community organizations. Through our in-person engagement, we quickly identified the needs and worked together to bring relief to the most vulnerable among us by concentrating on the following areas: **Food Security; Digital Connectivity; Educational Supplies; and Work Gear and Essential Items for Safe Living**. Our detailed report is as follows.

## Programs, Volunteers and Community Services Projects

Here is a breakdown on the total number of Members and Volunteers of YLSBC.

Members (Past and Present)	
New and Returning Youth Members (2020 – 2021)	67
Youth Members (Since 2014)	216
<b>Total:</b>	<b>283</b>

Volunteers (Current Volunteers)	
Youth Program and Delivery Volunteers	10
Parents Program and Delivery Volunteers	9
Admin Youth Volunteers	2
Community Service Operations Volunteers (Youth and Adults)	60+
Youth and Adult Volunteers Participating	100+
<b>Total:</b>	<b>181+</b>

### 2019 – 2020:

The tables below outline the number of Youth who registered for the programs offered by YLSBC in 2019-2020.

Educational Programs Completed (2019-2020)	
Youth Public Speaking 101	17 Youth
Youth Public Speaking 201	13 Youth
Public Speaking for Digital World	25 Youth
Youth Leadership 201	13 Youth
Youth to Youth Talks	11 Youth
BC Student Leadership Conference	17 Youth
Canadian Youth Leadership Conference	5 Youth
Hot Meals Program (Soup Kitchen)	140 Members
<b>Total:</b>	<b>241</b>

Covid-19 Canceled Events (Potential)	
Youth Leadership Challenge 2020	20 Participants
Youth Public Speaking Contest 2020	16 Participants
Youth Leadership Camp 2020	15 Participants
<b>Total:</b>	<b>51</b>



**2020 – 2021:**

The table below outlines the number of youth who joined the programs offered by YLSBC in 2020-2021.

Educational Programs (2020-2021)	
Youth Public Speaking 101 Program	9 Participants
Youth Public Speaking 201 Program	5 Participants
Community Service Program Projects	65+ Participants
<b>Total:</b>	<b>78+</b>

The following tables below provides a breakdown on the total number of grants completed in 2020 for Covid-19 Community Programs/Projects as well as the grants currently being worked on in 2021.

Covid-19 Community Program Grants (Completed)	
Community Members donation for Front Line Worker Meals	\$3,500
Food Rescue Grant	\$15,000
Good Food Access Fund Grant	\$50,000
Canadian Red Cross Emergency Food Grant	\$99,626
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$168,126</b>

Covid-19 Community Program Grants (In Progress)	
Vancity Grant for Computers/Internet	\$10,000
Community Foundation of Canada (CFC) Grant for Computers/Internet	\$35,000
CFC Grant for Educational Supplies for Indigenous Communities	\$16,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$56,000</b>

Rising Youth Grants	
Completed	\$69,750
Current	\$5,250
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

Canadian Red Cross	
Grant for Preventive Youth Disease Transmission Training and PPE Kits	First Session Completed for 25 Members and Second Just Started

**Community Service Projects Completed During Covid-19 Pandemic**

**Food Security:**

At the onset of Covid-19 pandemic, we served over **2,400** meals to our Frontline workers at six hospitals in Fraser Valley. Subsequently, we reached out to **59** communities across BC including indigenous communities, school districts and local community organizations, and homeless population. We made **106** emergency food deliveries and have brought food security to over **25,000** people so far. This program is continuing, and we are seeking additional grants to continue serving these communities with food security during 2021.

**Digital Connectivity Program:**

**Refurbished computers:**

YLSBC realized the urgent need for digital connectivity by the indigenous communities and students from low-income families to access online education and combat social exclusion affecting mental health. We have partnered with BC





*Technology for Learning Society* and started delivering refurbished computers to students & families across BC. YLSBC will support the cost of computers through Rising Youth, Vancity and CFC grants and distribute them amongst students of communities who cannot afford them. Our target is to deliver **1,500** computers to low income families and students across BC and we have delivered **281** computers so far.

#### Low-cost internet:

With the Rising Youth, Vancity and CFC grants, we will support the cost of internet available through Telus' *Internet for Good* program to ensure students who receive computers have access to the internet to continue their education. We hope to support at least **150** families over two years with internet access and on a sustainable basis.

#### Educational Supplies:

YLSBC and STF are supporting indigenous and low-income students with backpacks containing school supplies. We are also working jointly with one indigenous community to provide access to culturally appropriate educational material and support many indigenous programs this community is running for its youth. To date we have supplied **100** backpacks with school supplies to students.

#### Work Gear and Essential Items for Safe Living:

YLSBC has partnered with *Mark's* to supply indigenous youth work gear, boots and warm clothing which are essential for them to start jobs if offered. Many youth could not begin their employment in Northern BC because they lacked these essential items and could not afford them. *Mark's* is also supporting low-income families with specially priced gear for their safe and respectable living. We have shipped essential work wear and warm clothing to **6** communities already and are in the process of shipping to **4** more communities. We will continue to communicate with the communities we serve and assess their needs to support them on an ongoing basis.

### YouTube Video Links

- 1) YLSBC - Delivering Hot Meals and Lunches to Various Hospitals in the Lower Mainland - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abqd4ppYg2Q>
- 2) YLSBC - Delivering Groceries to Various Communities and Organizations in BC - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFvTngelYLI>
- 3) YLSBC - Bringing Digital Connectivity to Families, Students and Senior Citizens across BC - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1PDfdCLWYg>
- 4) YLSBC - Distributing Sports Equipment and Educational Supplies - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dzWy-fmUOA>
- 5) YLSBC - Supplying Sanitary Products, Winter and Work Wear Essentials - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnUN9B1uy7I>
- 6) YLSBC - Rescued Food and Other Essential Items - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByEoypXDFU4>
- 7) YLSBC - Bonds of Friendship (Trips to Vancouver Island, Okanagan and Northern British Columbia) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bSmPy2wDIQ>





## Our Vision for 2021 and New Goals for BC

In addition to continuing with the above programs for 2021, we have identified additional needs, which we intend to pursue with the same passion, financial, and community support as in 2020.

- Extend our youth-led, online *Public Speaking* and *Leadership* programs to indigenous youth who are recipients of computer and internet support.
- Bring digital connectivity and socially inclusive programs for elders and seniors in indigenous communities; *Seniors Helping Seniors*.
- Create *sustainable food security* programs inclusive of the greenhouse, cold storage, community gardens in remote BC communities.
- Continue reaching out to the remotest communities by road, water or air supporting their emergency needs. Recently with the support from indigenous entrepreneur *Teara Fraser* of *Iskwew Air* in Richmond, BC, we made two drops to Port Hardy, BC just before Christmas bringing joy to the members of those communities. We owe our gratitude to *Iskwew Air* for such support.
- Provide state of the art solution to *Covid-19 surface disinfection* at community offices.
- Provide state of the art community and home-based solutions to *clean drinking water* availability to indigenous communities in BC, which are either on boil water advisory or do not have piped potable water.
- *Liaison* for affordable solutions to indigenous communities or School Districts in northern BC wishing to tackle homelessness in their area.

## Our Partners in this Journey

We strive to make it a shared vision with Indigenous Communities, School Districts, and Community Centers in BC whom we serve.

We would appreciate the continued financial support from our members, friends, and families, Government of Canada through national organizations like *Rising Youth*, *Food Rescue*, Community Food Centers Canada - *Good Food Access Fund*, *Community Foundations*, and *Canadian Red Cross*.

We value support from Cooperative bank *Vancity*, *Telus*, *Mark's* and many other social and commercial organizations who believe in its Corporate Social Responsibility.

Our sincere thanks to local franchisee of *Quiznos* (Coquitlam & Mission), *Subway* (White Rock & Vancouver), Loblaw Organization - *Real Canadian Superstores* & *No Frills stores* (Port Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Abbotsford, and Northern BC) who were instrumental in helping us bring food security to the communities we serve.

Finally, we seek continued partnership and active support from our Youth, their parents, community members, friends, and family to help us realize the shared vision as above.

Thank you all for your support through 2020, and I look forward to 2021 with equal zeal and enthusiasm.

Ravinder Safaya, Coquitlam BC

January 14, 2021





**Organizations that provided Grants**



[Red Cross](#)



[Food Rescue – Second Harvest](#)



[Good Food Access Fund](#)



[Vancity](#)



[Community Foundations of Canada](#)



[Taking IT Global](#)



[Rising Youth](#)



[Rotary Coquitlam Sunrise](#)

**Business that Supplied or Delivered the Products**



[BC Technology for Learning Society](#)



[Telus](#)



[Bargains Group](#)



[Mark's](#)



[ISKWEW AIR](#)

[ISKWEW Air](#)

**Youth Leadership Society of BC**



[YLSBC](#)

**Sister Organization**



[Steps Together Foundation](#)

