

# TOGETHER FOR YOUTH

A Coordinated Youth Services Strategy for  
the City of Brantford and the County of Brant

May 2017







## Contents

About the Youth Strategy	4	Employment & Entrepreneurship	11
Overview of Youth Strategy Process	5	Diversity, Social Inclusion, & Safety	12
Common Themes	6	Strong, Supportive Friends & Family	13
Civic Engagement & Youth Leadership	8	Coordinated & Youth-Friendly Communities	14
Health & Wellness	9	Appendices	15
Education, Training, & Apprenticeships	10		



## City of Brantford



“Brantford will be known as a community with a social conscience – one that supports those in need (including for example, children, youth, seniors, people with disabilities and marginalized populations).”

***City of Brantford’s Community Strategic Plan 2014-2018***

## County of Brant



“The County of Brant... embracing its traditions to achieve a responsible, prosperous and resilient community of communities.”

***County of Brant’s Community Vision Statement May 2013***

# About the Together for Youth Strategy for the County of Brant and City of Brantford

A vibrant, youth-friendly community is a place where youth are engaged; have strong connections with friends, family, and resources; and have diverse opportunities to thrive. In 2015, the City of Brantford and the County of Brant launched a joint planning committee to develop a coordinated youth services strategy for youth.

The intent of the coordinated Together for Youth Strategy is to provide a framework for the two municipalities to continue to collaborate across municipal boundaries to support youth and youth agencies.

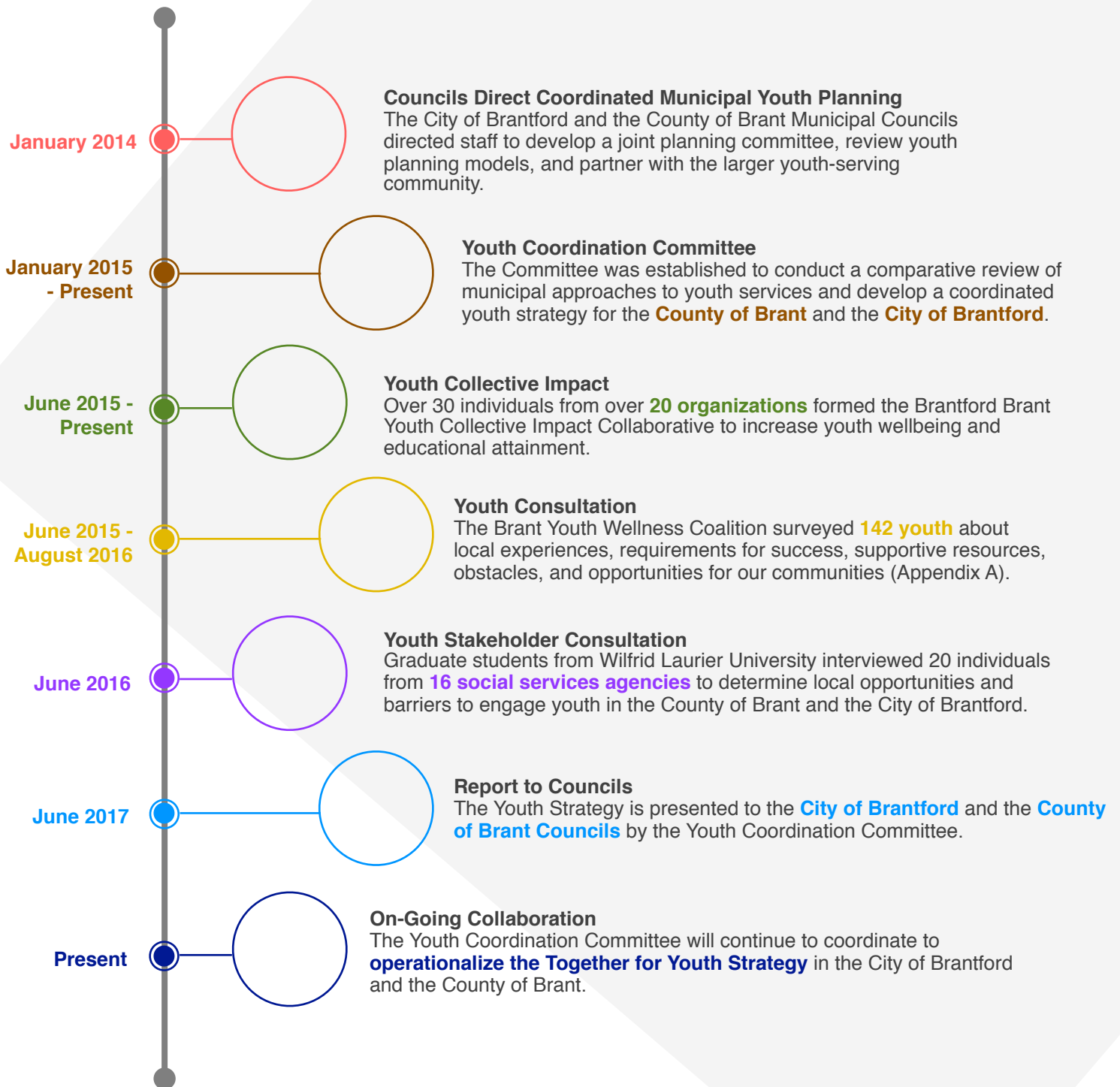
The Strategy is a result of consultation with youth, youth agencies, and municipal staff in the County of Brant and the City of Brantford. Themes that emerged during consultation were categorized using the Province of Ontario's *Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed: Stepping Up*. Within each theme, the milestones and goals presented reflect the voices of youth and youth agencies in the City of Brantford and the County of Brant.

Our two municipalities are proud of the achievements of our youth and the community initiatives that continue to empower youth. Our municipalities work closely with many organizations that are committed to giving youth opportunities to play and prosper.

However, our work is not done. Youth in our communities are asking for more opportunities to thrive, such as resources to support their education, transportation, and housing needs. The 22 goals outlined in this report provide a foundation for collective municipal action across boundaries to support youth.



# Overview of Youth Strategy Process



# Common Themes

The Province of Ontario's framework, *Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed*, outlines 7 themes and 20 related outcomes that evidence indicates are critical for positive youth development in Ontario. The themes are based on the views of youth and experts. The Together for Youth Strategy aligns with these themes.

Themes	Priority Outcomes
<b>Civic Engagement &amp; Youth Leadership</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ontario youth play a role in informing the decisions that affect them.</li> <li>2. Ontario youth are engaged in their communities.</li> <li>3. Ontario youth leverage their assets to address social issues.</li> </ol>
<b>Health &amp; Wellness</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Ontario youth are physically healthy.</li> <li>5. Ontario youth feel mentally well.</li> <li>6. Ontario youth make choices that support healthy and safe development.</li> </ol>
<b>Education, Training, &amp; Apprenticeships</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Ontario youth achieve academic success.</li> <li>8. Ontario youth have educational experiences that respond to their needs and prepare them to lead.</li> <li>9. Ontario youth access diverse training and apprenticeship opportunities.</li> </ol>
<b>Employment &amp; Entrepreneurship</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Ontario youth have opportunities for meaningful employment experiences.</li> <li>11. Ontario youth have the skills and resources needed to develop a successful career or business.</li> <li>12. Ontario youth are safe and supported at work.</li> </ol>
<b>Diversity, Social Inclusion, &amp; Safety</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Ontario youth experience social inclusion and value diversity.</li> <li>14. Ontario youth feel safe at home, at school, online and in their communities.</li> <li>15. Ontario youth respect, and are respected by, the law and justice system.</li> </ol>
<b>Strong Supportive Friends &amp; Family</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. Ontario youth have families and guardians equipped to help them thrive.</li> <li>17. Ontario youth have at least one consistent, caring adult in their lives.</li> <li>18. Ontario youth form and maintain healthy, close relationships.</li> </ol>
<b>Coordinated &amp; Youth Friendly Communities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19. Ontario youth have access to safe spaces that provide quality opportunities for play and recreation.</li> <li>20. Ontario youth know about and easily navigate resources in their communities.</li> </ol>







# 1. Civic Engagement & Youth Leadership

## 2016 Milestones

- In 2016, the City of Brantford Youth Council members volunteered **1,400 hours** at Woodman Park Community Centre to provide advice on youth programming, organize youth events – such as Youth Week and dances – and write grants for youth activities.
- In November 2016, the County of Brant opened the **Brant Youth Centre** in Paris at Syl Apps Community Centre, a drop-in youth space open every Tuesday and Thursday from 3pm-8pm.
- Over **425 youth** across eight schools in the County of Brant informed the Brant Youth Centre’s design, programming, and marketing strategies.
- The City of Brantford continued to run a **Youth Leadership Development Program** to train youth in leadership skills, communication, team building, inclusion, and resource development.
- Both the City of Brantford and the County of Brant facilitated youth-friendly feedback sessions to inform youth recreation programming using poster paper, online surveys, and paper surveys.
- Both the City of Brantford and the County of Brant trained municipal staff and community agencies in **positive youth engagement** and **youth restorative justice**.
- Brantford Public Library offered **142 programs** for youth ages 10 to 25, **reaching 3,218 youth** in 2016.
- Youth programs at the Brantford Public Library continued to be responsive to current youth interests and programs and youth participants conducted regular assessments of their programming.
- The County of Brant Public Library launched a partnership with Brant Youth Centre to participate in the future **Brant Youth Council** to assist the planning and implementation of youth programming.
- In local **Community Hubs**, youth provided leadership and collaborated with community partners to share the youth voice. A **Youth Chair** actively participated as a liaison among two Community Hub groups and a local secondary school in the City of Brantford.

## Goals

- 1.1 Host an annual youth engagement initiative to foster youth leadership and provide an avenue for youth to inform municipal initiatives.
- 1.2 Launch a Brant Youth Council and provide ongoing avenues to incorporate both Youth Councils’ feedback in City and County planning.
- 1.3 Continue to train municipal staff in positive youth engagement.



## 2. Health & Wellness

### 2016 Milestones

- **Active Grand** continued to develop an access to recreation policy that will increase youth opportunities to participate in local recreation activities in the City of Brantford, the County of Brant, and Six Nations of the Grand River.
- **Moving on Mental Health**, led by Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services, continued to be supported by both the City of Brantford and County of Brant to ensure children, youth, and their families have access to responsive mental health services.
- Staff members were trained in **Safer Spaces** and **SAFE Talk** at both the City of Brantford and County of Brant.
- Both the County of Brant and City of Brantford offered youth programs promoting physical health – such as swimming, skating, and fitness – and mental health – such as social activities and drop-in programming.
- Over **350 youth** in the City of Brantford signed up for **Crew Card Memberships**, which give them instant access to drop-in programs, such as Open Gym, Art Club, and W Lounge, and discounts to specialty programs.
- In 2016, **80 youth members** joined the County of Brant's Youth Centre, since the beginning of November 2016.
- The City of Brantford continued to run **T.R.A.X.**, an adventure day camp for 11 to 15 year olds featuring outdoor exploration, guest speakers, special events, and off-site trips.
- Both the County of Brant and the City of Brantford staff continued to participate a community working group, Parker's Project, to determine how our communities can better support **pregnant and parenting teens**, securing \$100,000 in funding from Ontario 150 Partnership Program.
- Brantford Public Library, in partnership with other community organizations, offered a number of programs that addressed a wide variety of physical and mental health topics for youth, bringing in health care professionals, and offering healthy snacks to participants. Programs included Youth Café, Brant County Health Unit Family Drop-In, George Street Youth Café, and the Parachute Program. Over **1,400 youth** attended these physical and mental health related programs in 2016.

### Goals

- 2.1 Expand Safe Talk certified staff.
- 2.2 Develop a campaign focusing on food insecurity.
- 2.3 Support emerging initiatives focusing on youth homelessness.
- 2.4 Increase youth access to programming by addressing youth transportation.
- 2.5 Support recommendations of the Brant Drugs Strategy that focus on youth substance use.

# 3. Education, Training, & Apprenticeships

## 2016 Milestones

- The City of Brantford and the County of Brant continued to be core members of the **Brantford-Brant Youth Collective Impact Collaborative**, a collaborative of 30 members from 22 youth service organizations aiming to enhance youth outcomes in the County of Brant and the City of Brantford by focusing on Developmental Assets (Appendix C; Appendix D).
- Woodman Community Centre, Doug Snooks Eagle Place Community Centre, TB Costain, and the Brant Youth Centre were fully equipped with **digital technology** to increase digital literacy among youth. The W Lounge at Woodman Community Centre averages approximately **450 youth users** a month, with 112 visitors receiving homework help.
- The **Learning, Earning, and Parenting Program** at the City of Brantford continued to help parents under 26 finish high school, improve their parenting skills, prepare for and find work, and transition to post-secondary education.
- The **Neighbourhood Learning Series** offered programming to support educational and employment at the City of Brantford Neighbourhood Hubs.
- The County of Brant Public Library values the ongoing participation of youth in their **Book Pal and Read It Programs** where youth worked to help elementary students build confidence and proficiency in their reading skills.
- The County of Brant Public Library engaged increasing numbers of youth in their **Teen Summer Reading Club** with **96 youth logging 2304 hours** of reading during the summer of 2016.
- The City of Brantford's Social Services facilitated the **Renewed Computer Technology** program to equip individuals on Ontario Works, including youth, with free laptops to help with education and job searching.
- The City of Brantford's Social Services partnered with Brant Family and Children Services and the Wilfrid Laurier University's Diversity & Equity Office to host **Youth Day at Laurier** in November 2016.
- The Brantford Public Library supported digital literacy for youth through various programs, and also offered volunteer opportunities through their Youth Action Group. In 2016, youth logged over **400 hours** of volunteer time.

## Goals

- 3.1 In partnership with the community agencies, support developmental assets training across the youth services sector.
- 3.2 Partner with Graduate Brantford to encourage high school graduation and provide ongoing education opportunities.
- 3.3 Develop a model with post-secondary institutions to support youth transitioning to post-secondary education, focusing on funding options, mentorship, and life-skills.
- 3.4 Equip additional youth spaces with digital technology.



## 4. Employment & Entrepreneurship

### 2016 Milestones

- The **Brantford-Brant Business Resource Centre** continued to offer programs targeted to young entrepreneurs, supporting 15 to 29 years old starting their own businesses and providing mentoring, training, and capital up to \$5,000 for youth to start, grow, or buy a small business.
- In the City of Brantford, youth who graduated from the **Youth Leadership Development** program were automatically eligible for an interview for student employment with the City.
- The City of Brantford and County of Brant partnered with many community agencies to provide free job skill sessions for youth at community centres and libraries.
- The Neighbourhood Learning Series offered programming to City of Brantford Neighbourhood Hubs to help youth find employment. Training includes **youth leadership, safe food handling, First Aid and CPR certification, babysitting training, and job skills development.**
- The County of Brant and their library were employing **95 youth** in December 2016. Over 2016, over **50 youth volunteered** in programming and services and **150 youth volunteered** during special events.
- The County of Brant had **11 youth** participate in their **Leader-In-Training Program.**
- The Grand Erie District School Board launched **Focus on Youth.** The program enhances high quality program opportunities for youth. Over **30 youth participated** in the program in the City of Brantford and the County of Brant during Summer and March Break in 2016.
- The County of Brant Public Library employed youth as **Read It Tutors** who, during July and August 2016, conducted 882 one-on-one literacy building sessions with elementary students.

### Goals

- 4.1 In collaboration with Junior Achievement Waterloo, support the expansion of youth entrepreneurial skill development training to the City of Brantford and the County of Brant.
- 4.2 Continue to support Brantford-Brant Business Resource Centre's Summer Company Program.
- 4.3 Collaborate to develop a marketing and promotional program for certified babysitters in the City of Brantford and the County of Brant.

# 5. Diversity, Social Inclusion, & Safety

## 2016 Milestones

- There are now **dedicated youth spaces** in both Paris and Burford Public Library Branches, providing rural youth with a welcoming space to access free wifi, collaborate on homework projects, or pursue recreational reading.
- **Youth Lunchtime Drop In** started at the the County of Brant Public Library in November 2016 to welcome teens looking for space to gather during school nutrition breaks. On **18 program days, 92 youth** utilized the space at the Paris Branch to gather, eat lunch, and socialize.
- The City of Brantford continued to participate in Inclusion Training with **Landsdowne Children's Centre** on diverse youth needs.
- The **Every Kid Counts Support Program** ensures children and youth with special needs have an equal opportunity to participate in their local community recreation and leisure programs.
- The Bridge and Woodman Community Centre held a **youth swim for self-identified LGBTQ+ youth**.
- Youth programs at the Brantford Public Library are now held on a **drop-in basis**, instead of the previous model which required registration, in order to reduce barriers to attendance.
- The Brantford Public Library offered programs that **develop life skills for youth that have aged-out of community support programs** and are no longer eligible to receive supports that were available to them when they were younger.
- **Transportation vouchers** were provided to youth to reduce socio-economic barriers to attending several programs at the Brantford Public Library.
- Brantford Public Library, along with Brant Family and Children Services, facilitated Youth for P.E.A.C.E. programming (supporting LGBTQ youth). In May 2016, this group expanded and evolved into **Youth Pride**.
- The City of Brantford partnered with Brant Family and Children's Services, Brantford Youth Justice Services, and Wilfrid Laurier University's Child and Adolescent Research and Education Lab to hold workshops that provide local agencies with specific tools and strategies to help support **youth in danger of crossing over from the child welfare system to the criminal justice system**.

## Goals

- 5.1 Ensure programming is inclusive by mitigating barriers and celebrating youth diversity across identities and lived experiences including Indigeneity, race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender, gender expression, ability, class, age and/or family status.
- 5.2 Support, promote, and encourage equitable participation in recreation and leisure activities.



## 6. Strong, Supportive, Friends & Family

### 2016 Milestones

- Brantford Public Library offered **intergenerational, family-oriented programs** which provide activities for babies and toddlers while simultaneously focusing on child development, as well as parenting and life skills for young parents.
- The Child and Youth Worker at Brantford Public Library recently became a certified **Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) practitioner**. Young mothers attending library programs will benefit from her training to support the development of healthy parenting skills.
- The new Brant Youth Centre provided an **inclusive and supportive environment** for the youth to build relationships. The Youth Centre is supported by a number of community partners such as the County of Brant Public Library, Ontario Provincial Police, Brant County Health Unit, City of Brantford, and local places of worship.
- The County of Brant Public Library, Kids Can Fly, and Brantford Expositor partnered on two projects - **Generations of Writers** and **Youth Writers Project** - utilizing Ontario Trillium Foundation funds to engage youth in writing initiatives and **promote intergenerational relationships**.
- In 2016, the City of Brantford supported the Brant Youth Wellness Coalition to host **CaNEW Friends on the Grand**, which aims to increase a positive understanding between youth and community leaders.
- The new **Major Ballachey Hub** space offered place-based programming opportunities for youth and their families. The City of Brantford, in partnership with the Grand Erie District School Board, provided space for the Boys and Girls Club and Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services.

### Goals

- 6.1 Facilitate more intergenerational programming.
- 6.2 Provide positive youth development training to youth agencies, parents and guardians, and the business community.

# 7. Coordinated & Youth Friendly Communities

## 2016 Milestones

- In 2016, both the City of Brantford and the County of Brant were developing **Parks and Recreation Master Plans**, which will reflect the voices of youth and identify priorities for future recreation facilities and programming.
- In 2016, both the County of Brant and the City of Brantford applied to Play Works to be designated Youth Friendly Communities. **Play Works** is a group of organizations that represent the areas of sport, physical activity, civic engagement, arts and culture, rural youth and recreation. Play Works is dedicated to advancing play for 13-19 year olds on local and provincial public and political agendas (Appendix E). Both municipalities are proud to have received **bronze designation** and will continue enhance youth-friendly programs and initiatives.
- The **Brantford Public Library's Child and Youth Worker** position went from part-time to full-time in 2016. This position works in close partnership with several community organizations to coordinate youth programming efforts. Partnerships include Brant County Health Unit, George Street Transitional Youth Program, St. Leonard's Community Services, Wesley Urban Ministries, Why Not Youth Centre, Triple P Network, and Brant Community Response Team.
- The County of Brant, City of Brantford, and both municipal libraries participate in **numerous collaborative and working groups** to support youth, including the Youth Coordination Committee, Brantford-Brant Youth Collective Impact Collaborative, Brant Youth Wellness Coalition, Children and Youth Services Committee, The Bridge, and Parker's Project.
- The **Youth Coordination Committee**, comprised of staff from the County of Brant, the City of Brantford, the County of Brant Public Library, and the City of Brantford Public Library continued to meet to develop a coordinated youth strategy, align youth programming, and share best practices.

## Goals

- 7.1 Align the strategic youth initiatives with the Parks and Recreation Master Plans at the City of Brantford and the County of Brant to identify collective priorities for youth programming.
- 7.2 Work collaboratively to maintain and enhance Youth-Friendly Community status.
- 7.3 Actively participate in community collaboratives and working groups that support youth and youth agencies.

# Appendices



# Appendix A

## Brant Youth Wellness Coalition Survey



*The Brant Youth Wellness Coalition is surveying youth aged 14-24. Please take a few minutes to tell us about your experiences growing up / living in Brantford.*

1. Can you tell us what it's like to grow up in Brantford? What are some positives and negatives about growing up in Brantford?
2. How are youth treated in the community? What (if anything) would you like to see different?
3. Can you give us some examples of people, places or organizations in Brantford where you can go to get support or feel safe?
4. Tell us about any obstacles that youth might face growing up in Brantford?
5. What services or places have you used and had a positive experience with?
6. What does Brantford have that can help you achieve your goals?
7. What services / supports / activities does Brantford need for youth? What should those look like (location, cost, availability, etc.)
8. If there were a list of youth "Rights", things that every youth should have, without question or cost, what do you think should be on that list?

*Thank you for completing our survey. If you would like to be entered into a draw for an ipad mini, please leave us your name and contact number*

# Appendix B

## Recommendations from A Quantitative Analysis of Social Service Providers' Experience Working with Youth – Final Report (2016)

The Together for Youth Strategy was also informed by a partnership between the City of Brantford and nine Master of Arts Criminology graduate students at Wilfrid Laurier University. Graduate students conducted 20 semi-structured interviews/focus groups with staff from 16 social service agencies serving youth in Brantford-Brant. Based on their qualitative analysis, they made the following recommendations for the City of Brantford and County of Brant:

- ***Saving a Lost Generation***
  - o Increase accessible youth housing
  - o Increase transitional support
  - o Enhance youth employment opportunities
- ***Raising Community and Organizational Awareness of Resources***
  - o Social Media: Improving youth and organizational awareness of youth resources
  - o Acquire a school champion
- ***Accommodating Geographic Span***
  - o Improve transportation challenges
  - o Meet youth where they are at
- ***Increasing Mental Health Resources for Youth***
  - o Continuity of Care: Increasing long-term support
  - o Decrease wait lists / times
  - o Provide specialized mental health services
  - o Early intervention
- ***Appealing to Youth***
  - o Increase food programs and free services
  - o Create unstructured 'safe' spaces
  - o Develop more youth support groups
- ***Fostering/Enabling Cohesive Collaborations***
  - o Increase communication and decreasing overlap in services
  - o Coordinated Efforts: Striving to be on the 'same page'
  - o Evidence-Based Program Development: Becoming proactive
  - o Working Outside the Box: Drawing on outside resources

**Source:** Baker, A., Boyd, A., Ho, N., Knipe, T., Mistry, E., Olenewa, J., Spychaj, M., Styczynski, S., Viersen, T., and Dr. Carrie B. Sanders. (2016). *A Quantitative Analysis of Social Service Providers' Experience Working with Youth – Final Report*. Wilfrid Laurier University.

# Appendix C

## Brantford-Brant Youth Collective Impact Membership

The Brantford-Brant Youth Collective Impact Collaborative consists of members with frontline youth services, such as mental health agencies, housing agencies, and Indigenous organizations, as well as municipalities, libraries, the health unit, and school boards. As of December 2016, there were 30 members representing over 20 agencies. This group has informed the Together for Youth Strategy through mobilization toward a common goal of enhancing youth outcomes by increasing developmental assets (Appendix D). The group is open to all those with a youth interest. December 2016 members include the following:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grand Erie
- Boys and Girls Club of Brantford
- Brant County Health Unit
- Brant Family and Children's Services
- Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board
- Brant United Way
- Brantford Native Housing
- Brantford Public Library
- City of Brantford Strategic Planning
- City of Brantford Community Programs & Recreation
- Contact Brant
- County of Brant
- County of Brant Public Library
- Grand River Community Health Centre
- Lansdowne Children's Centre
- Nova Vita Domestic Violence Prevention Services
- Sexual Assault Centre of Brant
- St. Leonard's Community Services
- Why Not City Mission
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services
- Community Members



# Appendix D

## 40 Developmental Assets

The Search Institute has identified the following building blocks of healthy development—known as Developmental Assets—that help young children grow up healthy, caring, and responsible. This particular list is intended for adolescents (age 12-18).

### External Assets



#### SUPPORT

1. **Family Support** | Family life provides high levels of love and support.
2. **Positive Family Communication** | Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
3. **Other Adult Relationships** | Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
4. **Caring Neighbourhood** | Young person experiences caring neighbours.
5. **Caring School Climate** | School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
6. **Parent Involvement in Schooling** | Parent(s) are actively involved in helping the child succeed in school.



#### EMPOWERMENT

7. **Community Values Youth** | Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
8. **Youth as Resources** | Young people are given useful roles in the community.
9. **Service to Others** | Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
10. **Safety** | Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighbourhood.



#### BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATIONS

11. **Family Boundaries** | Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
12. **School Boundaries** | School provides clear rules and consequences.
13. **Neighbourhood Boundaries** | Neighbours take responsibility for monitoring young people's behaviour.
14. **Adult Role Models** | Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behaviour.
15. **Positive Peer Influence** | Young person's best friends model responsible behaviour.
16. **High Expectations** | Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.



## CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME

- 17. **Creative Activities** | Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.
- 18. **Youth Programs** | Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in community organizations.
- 19. **Religious Community** | Young person spends one hour or more per week in activities in a religious institution.
- 20. **Time at Home** | Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week

## Internal Assets



## COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

- 21. **Achievement Motivation** | Young person is motivated to do well in school.
- 22. **School Engagement** | Young person is actively engaged in learning.
- 23. **Homework** | Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
- 24. **Bonding to School** | Young person cares about her or his school.
- 25. **Reading for Pleasure** | Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.



## POSITIVE VALUES

- 26. **Caring** | Young Person places high value on helping other people.
- 27. **Equality and Social Justice** | Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
- 28. **Integrity** | Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
- 29. **Honesty** | Young person "tells the truth even when it is not easy."
- 30. **Responsibility** | Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
- 31. **Restraint** | Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.



## SOCIAL COMPETENCIES

- 32. **Planning and Decision Making** | Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
- 33. **Interpersonal Competence** | Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
- 34. **Cultural Competence** | Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.
- 35. **Resistance Skills** | Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
- 36. **Peaceful Conflict Resolution** | Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.



## POSITIVE IDENTITY

- 37. **Personal Power** | Young person feels he or she has control over "things that happen to me."
- 38. **Self-Esteem** | Young person reports having a high self-esteem.
- 39. **Sense of Purpose** | Young person reports that "my life has a purpose."
- 40. **Positive View of Personal Future** | Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

**Source:** Search Institute. (n.d.). *40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents*. Retrieved from <http://www.search-institute.org/content/40-developmental-assets-adolescents-ages-12-18>

# Appendix E

## Play Works Criteria

In order for a municipality be designated as a Youth Friendly Community, a municipality must meet a set of 16 criteria:

1. Youth have options for play;
2. Youth are formally connected to the community;
3. Facilities are dedicated to youth play;
4. It is easy for youth to find information about play activities in the community;
5. The community supports public youth events;
6. The community celebrates and recognizes youth;
7. The community commits funding for youth play;
8. The community supports positive youth development;
9. The community supports volunteerism and leadership development;
10. The community has models of effective community partnerships;
11. Youth activism and advocacy for play is nurtured;
12. Youth feel comfortable in their own community;
13. Youth can get to the play programs that are offered;
14. Schools support the youth friendly approach;
15. Adults champion the cause for youth play; and
16. Play is accessible to youth with disabilities.

**Source:** Play Works. (n.d.) *Play Works Partnership*. Retrieved from [www.playworkspartnership.ca/play](http://www.playworkspartnership.ca/play)





This report was prepared by the Youth Coordination Committee, which includes staff members from the County of Brant, the County of Brant Public Library, the City of Brantford, and Brantford Public Library.

We extend a sincere thank you to youth in our community for making our municipalities vibrant; the youth survey participants who gave their time to participate and write about their experiences; the Brant Youth Wellness Coalition for capturing the youth voice; Wilfrid Laurier Graduate Students and the 20 youth serving agency staff who generously gave their time and expertise; the Brantford Brant Youth Collective Impact Collaborative who have rallied together to support local youth; and all of the community organizations that work with youth in the City of Brantford and County of Brant.

May 2017

Accessible formats available upon request.