

Youth Services



Mount Pleasant

City of Vancouver
Community
planning program

City Role

Youth services are provided throughout the city by a variety of agencies including the City, the province and non-profit groups, and include:

- recreation
- education
- health clinics
- mental health
- counselling
- emergency services
- crisis and help lines
- shelter and housing
- financial assistance
- alcohol and drug
- probation services

For details call Information Services Vancouver at 604-875-6381.

Civic Youth Strategy

The City of Vancouver's Civic Youth Strategy was adopted by Council in March, 1995. The four objectives are:

- ensure that youth have a "place" in the city;
- ensure youth have a strong voice in decision-making;
- promote youth as a resource; and
- strengthen the support base for youth.

The City has a number of youth programs and initiatives delivered mostly through community centres and libraries. The City also has a **Youth Outreach Team** that acts as a bridge between the youth community and the City. For detailed information and ways to get involved, call 604-871-6032.

Youth Services in Mount Pleasant

The **Mount Pleasant Community Centre** at 3161 Ontario St. offers services, programs and recreational activities. It has a Community Youth Worker who works with youth, pre-teens and youth leaders. The Centre also operates a Youth Centre, develops Youth Leadership, and has Pre-teen and Afterschool Open Gym activities. A Youth Committee is currently working on a transitional plan to rebuild the committee and is looking for new members; call Anne Marie McGee at 604-713-1892. For a complete listing of programs and services refer to the Mount Pleasant Recreation Guide available at the centre or call 604-713-1888.

The **Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House** at 800 E. Broadway has several children's programs for all ages 5 to 18 yrs. These include **Saturday Safari** an 8 week program that involves field trips, skating and swimming; **Spring and Summer Day Camps** that provide recreational activities and games; and a **Before and After School Care** program at Florence Nightingale Elementary. For information call 604-879-8208.

The House also has a **Pre-Teen** program. Youth get to hang out, learn basic life skills, and do homework. They enhance their self-esteem and communications skills through a new series called "All about Me". There are also two programs for older youth: the **Cultural Buddy** program focusing on peer support to immigrants and

refugee students, call 604-879-8208; and the **TNT underground** program showcases local youth talent (singing and music), call 604-879-8208.

The **Vancouver Public Library**, located at 370 E. Broadway, offers special teen programs throughout the year. Youth can book computers to participate in the **Teen Summer Reading** club (year round!) and submit book reviews for chances to win great prizes, call 604-665-3962.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Vancouver. There are two separate Boys and Girls clubs in Mount Pleasant. They offer various services, including individual, peer, group and family counselling, drop-ins, social and recreational activities, crisis intervention, prevention services, referrals and assessment, networking with other community service agencies, and including education on alcohol and drugs for ages 6 - 18 years.

The **Kivan** Boys and Girls Club, located at 2875 George St, operates the Odyssey II program that provides services to youth and families, who are affected by substance abuse, call 604-879-9118. The second club is the **Kimount** Boys and Girls Club, located at 395 E. 6th Avenue, call 604- 874-0117.

Broadway Youth Resource Centre (BYRC). The centre is located at 691 W. Broadway, and offers a range of youth programs and services, including a **Resource Room** which provides access to

referral and information services, including the following:

A **Youth Advisory Group** participates in monthly volunteer programs and meetings. The centre has a **Youth Addiction** counsellor that counsels youth under 25. A **Probation Worker** provides information on probation, bail, and the youth justice system. There is also an **Adult Basic Education** program which offers self-paced instruction in intermediate level ABE - Grade 10 equivalency. The **Aboriginal Youth** program provides counselling, sweat lodge ceremonies, Elders' teachings and healing circles. The **Health Clinic** offers a physician and nurse to discuss any youth questions. The **L.O.V.E.** program (Leave Out Violence) is for youth whose lives have been touched by violence, call 604-709-5720.

Pacific Community Resources Society offers the following five additional services at BYRC:

1. Youth Housing Registry and Housing Assistance
2. Vietnamese Youth Services
3. Youth to Adult Transition
4. Eagle High, and
5. Steps Forward.

Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland is located at 34 E. 12th, and match Metro Vancouver girls with volunteer Big Sisters in a one-to-one mentoring relationship.

Community **health nurses** at local public schools work with other health professionals, teachers, and school staff to provide health education and counselling focused on early identification and intervention of health issues.

The **Vancouver Police Liaison Officers** provide support and guidance to Secondary youth by reaching out to students in need. The following schools that serve Mount Pleasant have a Liaison

Officer: Gladstone, Vancouver Technical and Sir Charles Tupper, call (604)717-2832 for information.

The **Raven Song Community Health Centre** located at 2450 Ontario St. provides free and confidential medical help and counselling. The clinic has free condoms and birth control pills and other medications, call 604-709-6400

Family Services of Greater Vancouver operates the Walden Safe House (confidential location) for youth who need a safe place to stay; call 604-731-4951.

Other Youth Resources in the City

D-Talks (*formerly Access1*) centralized access for youth detox and withdrawal management, call 604-658-1221

Audiology hearing assessments, call 604-659-1100.

Dial a dietician (for nutrition questions); call 604-732-9191.

Healthiest babies possible, call 604-877-4673.

Healthy Attitudes: Body images, self-esteem, eating disorders, call 604-321-6151.

Help Line offers emergency reporting of child abuse: physical, sexual, emotional and neglect – Dial '0' and ask for Zenith 1234.

Kids Help Phone counselling and referrals, call 1-800-668-6868.

Vancouver Crisis Line 24 hour counselling, call 604-872-3311.

The **WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre**, call 604-255-6344.

Youth pregnancy and parenting, call 604-707-3639. **Newborn Hotline** (babies), call 604-737-3737.

Youth Health Program Children's & Women's Centre of BC supports self-advocacy, gaining independence in their health care, puberty and sexual development, peer and social supports, education and vocational planning, call 604-875-3472.

The **Facts of Life Line** (Planned Parenthood Assoc of BC) birth control, pregnancy options and STDs. Call 604-731-7803; or 1-800-Sex Sense in B.C.

The **YouthCo AIDS Society**, 15-29, reduces vulnerability to HIV, AIDS, Hep C, call 604-688-1441.

Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS, prevention and support of HIV/AIDS, call 604-669-5567.

GAB Youth Services at The Centre for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth call 604-523-9115.

Sources:

City of Vancouver
Vancouver Coastal Health
Vancouver Public Library
Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House
Boys and Girls Clubs
Broadway Youth Resource Centre