

# Association of Neighborhood Houses of British Columbia

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## EVALUATION REPORT YEAR 1

Written by the Students Commission of Canada

### Project Description

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The Association of Neighbourhood Houses of B.C. (ANHBC) plays a leadership role in building healthy and engaged neighbourhoods by connecting people and strengthening their capacity to create change. ANHBC oversees eight neighbourhood houses and an outdoor centre, through which they operate more than 500 community-based programs and services for a diversity of participants. ANHBC's Opening Worlds to Literacy (OWL) Program is focused on raising awareness on the importance of literacy.

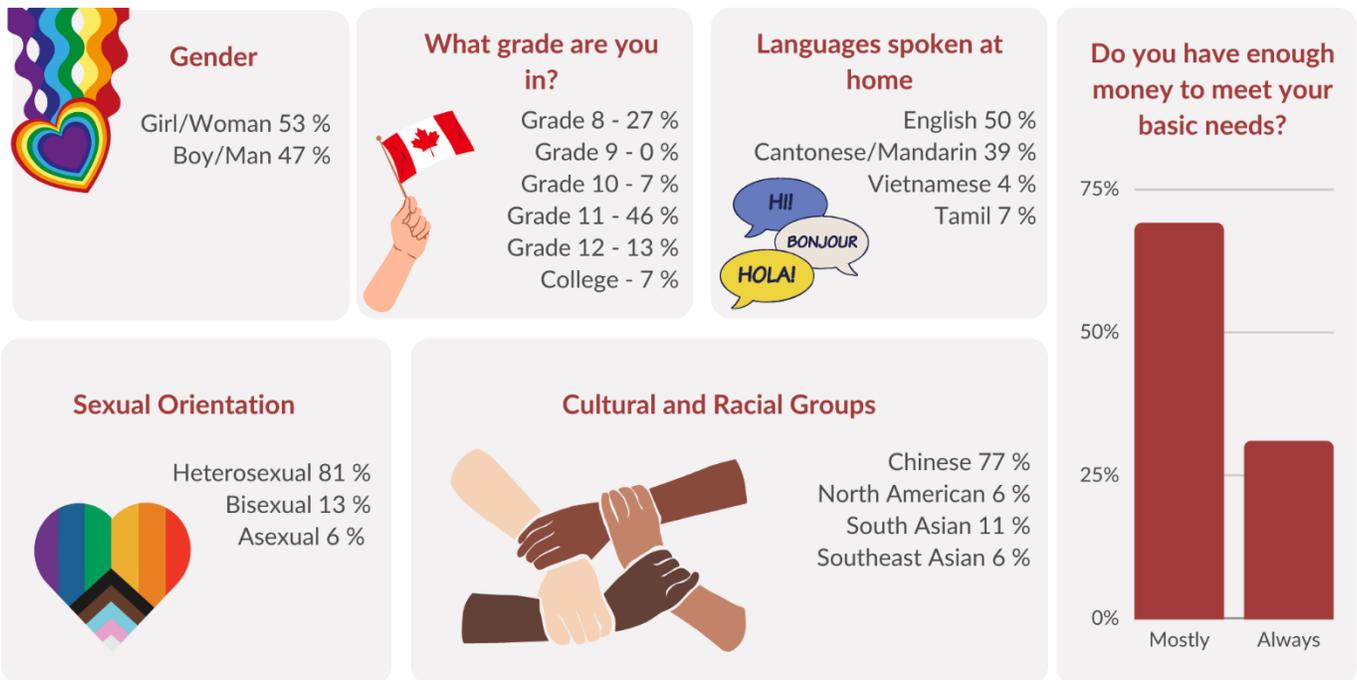
### Methodology

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Association of Neighbourhood Houses of B.C. has collaborated with the Students Commission of Canada (SCC) through their Sharing the Stories (StS) program, which offers customizable evaluation for non-profits serving youth. Together, they are working to ensure that the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of B.C. continues to build healthier and more engaged neighborhoods. The purpose of this report was to evaluate the impact of programming on the lives of youth participants (n=15). For this evaluation, ANHBC used a qualitative tool (Head Heart Feet and Spirit) to evaluate the impact of programming. Through using this tool, we were able to establish the positive impact of this program on the mental health of youth, their ability to create connections, and strengthen their writing skills.

Overall, the program succeeded in creating a safe space for youth in the ANHBC program. The Head Heart Feet and Spirit tool indicated that the skills that youth in this program obtained will be utilized in other areas of their life.

# Demographics



# Head Heart Feet and Spirit

The Association of Neighbourhood Houses of B.C. held a focus group with youth (n=15) in order to gain insight on their experiences and the impact of programming. The following qualitative analysis illustrates the key themes which came up, and quotes taken from participants.

## **HEAD – What have I learned today?**

Youth participants of this program described learning about subjects such as Mathematics, English, and furthering skills like event planning, and communication. They described the importance of having learnt these transferrable skills and being able to utilize them in different contexts.

*“How to plan activities, Friends are priceless people, Important skills (Canva, word, google docs).”*

*“How to work together in a group more efficiently splitting roles, leadership.”*

*“I learned persuasive techniques in English, I also learned how to make a cover letter and resume.”*

*“I learned about the quadratic formula.”*



*“I have learned communications skills. I also learned how to make bird houses.”*

*“I have learned a lot of French vocabulary that I can eventually use to apply in daily conversations.”*

### **HEART – How do I feel about today?**

Youth in the OWL Program experienced the space as an overall positive and welcoming space. They felt content, and productive as a result of being in the program and reflected on the direct positive impact it had on their performance.

*“It was enjoyable! The refreshments helped us focus on our tasks and the organization of the day was very clear.”*

*“I feel content and happy with where I am currently.”*

*“I feel happy because I performed well on my quiz.”*

*“I feel very positive and welcomed to this program.”*

*“I feel productive and helpful to the community.”*

### **FEET – What will I do with what I've learned today?**

The program participants discussed that they will be able to use the skills they've learnt in this space, outside of it. They shared that they'll be able to better improve their mental health, create connections, and strengthen their writing skills.

*“I will be able to use them to plan a different event.”*

*“I will be able to write stronger essays and paragraphs which will help me in post-secondary. It will also help me write reports and research projects when I start working.”*

*“I will solve equations using the quadratic formula.”*

*“Work on bettering myself, improving mental health, creating connections with others, being braver in decisions, not worrying about myself.”*

*“I will apply what I learned from the book to look at life more critically and I will apply the trumpet technique to make me a better player.”*

### **SPIRIT – How did I connect today?**

The OWL Program enabled youth to communicate with each other and build connections. They were able to connect with each other through dialogue and establishing common interests.

*“I collaborated with other people to plan events.”*

*“I connected by communicating with others throughout the day and asking them if they have plans for spring break, and being inclusive when someone asked if they can sit with us during lunch.”*

*“I connected with my peers through conversations.”*

*“I connected with friends at school throughout common interest by talking, I also connected with the student teacher that taught me the trumpet techniques.”*

## Discussion and Conclusion

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The Association of Neighbourhood Houses of B.C.’s Opening Worlds to Literacy program has had a positive impact on the lives of youth by providing them with a space to develop new skills.

Overall, this report has indicated that program participants have felt more engaged, connected, and knowledgeable as a result of this opportunity. Participants gained valuable transferrable skills and tools that they will continue to build on after their time in this program.

Throughout this report, it is evident that The Association of Neighbourhood Houses of B.C. (ANHBC) succeeded in creating a safe space for youth. Youth voice gathered in this baseline report can help to better understand the reality of these youth, the impact of such a program, and can help to develop and improve similar programs that are beneficial for youth. Our recommendation is to discuss the present results with youth in the community to see if this data portrays what they are experiencing.



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