

# Annual Report

2009 - 2010



Celebrating 33 years in youth health

McCreary Centre Society  
November 2010





# Message from the Co-Chair

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Cathy Still*

*Co-Chair, McCreary Centre Society*

The McCreary Centre Society continues to build an outstanding reputation in our province and far beyond. The Society serves youth in British Columbia by conducting research, providing information for policy development, conducting community outreach programs and evaluating existing programs offered by other organizations. The Society is widely recognized for leadership in youth participation and for encouraging young people to become involved in youth health issues. Many young people develop their research and social advocacy skills while involved with McCreary.

McCreary is renowned in North America because of the extensive independent research into youth health and development. There is great confidence in the data collected from our Adolescent Health Surveys because the information collected is reliable. The information is valid because the survey questions are designed to explore pertinent issues and are subjected to detailed testing and evaluation during the survey design. Furthermore, many groups have used the survey results to conduct wide ranging research in order to answer a huge variety of questions. Some of the questions studied include: body weight and eating disorders and protective factors for substance abuse prevention and bullying. The results are also used to develop policy in many BC Ministries.

Agencies and institutions have a high level of confidence in the information and services offered at McCreary. This is a result of detailed assessment and review of all information released, a persistence by the staff to improve on all the programs offered and a real pride in the work of McCreary. McCreary works with several post secondary institutions. Best practices have followed close collaboration with these schools with special attention to scientific rigor and ethics. The staff at McCreary, under the Executive Director, Annie Smith is to be commended for the dedication to the highest principles that have become the standard of McCreary.



We are very excited about our participation in more remote communities. As well as community focus groups, McCreary has led Next Step programs with youth in 12 rural communities. More recently, and using the latest technology, McCreary has presented Webex forums and will continue to do so in order to facilitate virtual visits to many more communities which we have been unable to access in the past.

Dr. Roger Tonkin, the founder of McCreary, has just published a book on the history of McCreary and the Reach program called *Little Engines That Did: A History of Two B.C. Nonprofits*. Dr. Tonkin worked tirelessly for many years on behalf of McCreary and he honours our society with his historical perspective.

The work of McCreary can only be accomplished with the effort and dedication of the outstanding McCreary staff. Under the leadership of Annie Smith, the Executive Director, and the contributions of Elizabeth Saewyc, the Research Director, the participation of many students and volunteers as well as the endless hours of the committed staff, McCreary has had another hugely successful year. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their continuing contributions to the success of McCreary.

# From Nairobi to New West

*Annie Smith*  
*Executive Director*

Welcome to the 33rd McCreary Centre Society annual report which reflects on a year that has seen us take our data to more exotic places than ever before, but has also seen us strengthening our partnerships at the local level and across British Columbia.

It has also been a year that has seen us come up with new and creative ways to engage youth in McCreary research results. These have ranged from making claymation and documentary style films to creating spoken word based on quotes from the Adolescent Health Survey.

As always, the willingness, flexibility and dedication of the staff team have made these events a possibility and have ensured that young people across the province are engaged in their own health information and are working with supportive adults in their communities to improve the stats that need improving.

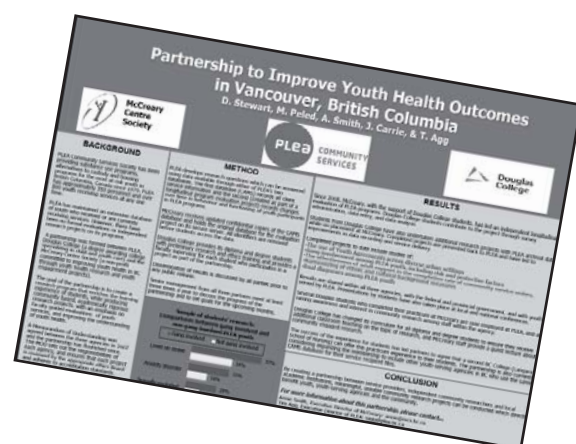
Young people cannot improve their health picture alone, and this year has also seen us share our data with federal and provincial government policy makers, youth serving agencies, health professionals, school boards and parents groups, as well as national and international audiences. There have been many fruitful dialogues, and not only have we already accumulated some great new questions to include in our next youth survey we have also been able to offer evidence to inform policy and practice across BC and Canada.

One of the major successes of this year has been the continuing community research partnership between McCreary, Douglas College and PLEA Community Services Society. This unique partnership allows students who plan to work in the field of child and youth care or youth justice the opportunity to learn relevant research skills and produce research based on the interests of a frontline youth serving agency. The students' research findings are shared with the agency and lead to genuine evidence based practice.

McCreary has also expanded its role as an independent evaluator for several local agencies working in the area of youth homelessness. This work combined with other new projects and partnerships has assisted the Society to once again report a slight surplus on the balance sheet despite feeling the pinch from the global financial problems.

Finally, this year saw the completion of the award winning Aboriginal Next Steps II which ran in 10 communities between 2007 and 2010. The end of this project and the lack of success in finding funding to keep it going, once again highlights the frustrations shared by many other non-profits of securing long term funding for evaluated, successful projects which are proven to positively impact the lives of some of the most vulnerable youth in the province.

Despite this setback we move into the next year with renewed enthusiasm and determination to find creative ways to fund our efforts to improve the health of all youth in British Columbia.



# Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Report

*Lucy Shen*

*Youth Advisory Council Member*

This has been another productive and eventful year for the YAC. There are some exciting new faces in the council this year. The members bonded happily through fun icebreakers and team building activities at our retreat at the beautiful Galiano Island in October 2009. During the weekend, the YAC designed promotional posters as well as a new logo for the coming Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges (B4) conference. In March 2010, the YAC hosted its 13th annual B4 conference, which took place at Camp Sasamat. The theme for this year's B4 was "Healthy Relationships". Featuring organizations such as YouthCo AIDS Society and Canadian Red Cross, the workshops focused on positive sexual self-esteem, stress management, and healthy peer and dating relationships. The participants and the YAC created 8 clay-mation films, which are available on YouTube. The next B4 is scheduled to be in Fall 2011.

In addition to the B4 conference, the YAC has been attending community events and workshops to build relationships with other youth-oriented organizations including the Surrey Urban Youth Project, the Society for Children and Youth, and the North Shore Multicultural Society. One of the major events was the spoken word workshop, where McCreary invited youth from all over BC to come and create spoken word poetry using themes from the 2008 Adolescent Health Survey. Two YAC representatives, Maya and Lily, acted as local hosts for the youth.

An ongoing project the YAC is involved with this year is through the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY). The members participated in two focus groups and a video project. They also presented some of the findings and talked about the importance of youth engagement at the RCY Summit.



As of October 2010, the YAC consists of 11 active members. Through summer socials and retreats, the council has become a great team. This year, the members engaged in a strategic planning session to better determine our direction. Key ongoing goals include YAC recruitment, YACshop development, and the continuation of the B4 conference for next fall.

MCS Staff and YAC alumni members have provided continued support and guidance, which allowed the YAC to participate in many valuable opportunities and grow to a confident and cohesive group. Through hosting the B4 conference and other youth events, the YAC members gained insights into the importance of youth voice and leadership - two remarkable tools for personal development as well as youth engagement in the community

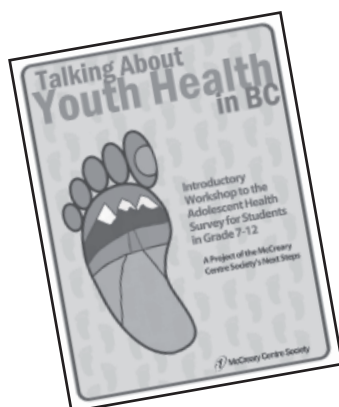
# From 2 Hours to 2 Years: Next Steps in the Community

## 2008 AHS IV Next Steps Workshops

This year has seen the launch of a new three month version of the Next Steps which takes the results of the 2008 BC Adolescent Health Survey (AHS) back to youth across the province in a series of workshops which culminate in a youth led project to address a local health issue which young people have identified through the workshops.

The Vancouver Foundation funded four of these Next Steps projects in Prince George, Slokan, Burnaby and Powell River. During the workshops, participants learned the results of the AHS, created Claymation videos about youth health (in partnership with Reel Youth) and planned a community-based project supported by a \$2,000 grant. Youth-led projects inspired by the AHS results included a mentorship program in which high school students work with Grade 7 classes to provide by-youth for-youth advice about navigating the transition into high school in Burnaby, and a school and community connectedness project that culminated in a community day attended by over 500 people in Slokan.

A one-day version of the AHS Next Steps which encourages youth and adults to learn about youth engagement and work together to address youth health issues in their community was also launched this year in Parksville. It was attended by participants from schools in Parksville and Qualicum. The event brought students and teachers from the different schools together with community agencies and has resulted in a number of improvements to youth services and resources in the area.



McCreary is currently working with youth in Creston and Crawford Bay on more three month versions of the Next Steps and has Next Steps of varying lengths scheduled from Grand Forks to the Sunshine Coast.

Finally a 2 hour 'do-it-yourself' AHS Next Steps toolkit has been created for teachers and other supportive adults to use in a classroom setting that gives a brief introduction to the AHS results.



## Aboriginal Next Steps II

The Aboriginal Next Steps II project came to an end in Vancouver in December 2009 with a celebratory youth leadership retreat involving young people from 10 Aboriginal communities across BC. Youth shared what they had learned throughout the two years of the project, made province wide connections and developed new techniques and strategies for keeping their local youth led projects going now that McCreary funding has ended. Sincere and heartfelt thanks are due to Sherry Simon who coordinated the project from start to finish and to the youth and adult allies in Cranbrook, Courtenay, Hazelton, Nisga'a, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Lytton, Westbank, Bella Bella, and Skeetchestn.

# Youth Voice for Youth Health Spoken Word Workshop - Improving Meaningful Youth Engagement

As an agency, we continue to explore ways to offer meaningful engagement opportunities for youth as well as create opportunities to move the AHS results into action. In August, McCreary hosted its first “Youth Voice for Youth Health” workshop in Vancouver, BC. Attended by youth from across the province, the workshop was inspired by quotes written by young people who completed the AHS. These quotes were used by workshop participants as a basis to give voice to their experiences of youth health through the creative medium of spoken word poetry.

In collaboration with By Any Dreams Necessary and Reel Youth, youth spent the day with facilitators Nadia Chaney and Michael Derby and filmmaker Hans Berger creating, performing, and filming spoken word poetry pieces based on the health topics from the AHS.

The day was a great success thanks to the positive energy, willing participation and courage of the individuals who pushed themselves in new directions and created a team spirit, despite only meeting each other the night before the workshop.



## New Website

McCreary has recently launched our new website, at [www.mcs.bc.ca](http://www.mcs.bc.ca). Not only are all of McCreary’s reports still available to download, but the new site has been updated to include information on more recent McCreary initiatives, including our program evaluation services and our AHS IV Next Steps workshops.

There are also more resources available on the website than ever before. Visitors can now download PowerPoint presentations and factsheets based on the AHS IV results for their region, as well as watch claymation videos and other films produced by youth. Thanks to Marcus Lander for all his help on the redesign.

### Feedback from workshop participants included:

“Thank you so much- moments like this can shape a person’s life.”

“I love it because I learnt to be an individual, and make room to do what I love.”

“I saw how powerful creative expression can be and I will bring my experience back to my community to try and bring it to more youth.”



# Community Research Partnerships

## SARAVYC

McCreary's partnership with the Stigma and Resilience Among Vulnerable Youth Consortium (SARAVYC) from the UBC School of Nursing saw more projects get underway this year. The first was a cross-national comparison of street-involved youth from South Korea and BC, since we both conducted surveys in 2006. Although one of the biggest challenges was translating the questions to make sure similar issues were asked in similar ways in both countries, the results were useful, and were presented at the Canadian Public Health Association conference in June.

SARAVYC also continued to support research about lesbian, gay and bisexual youth in the surveys. Along with our existing postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Weihong Chen, and doctoral student Yuko Homma, we added a new postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Chiaki Konishi, and two new research assistant students, Kallista Bell and Bonnie Miller, in conducting further analyses, and writing abstracts and manuscripts from the previous work.

## PLEA/Douglas College/McCreary Research Partnership

The community research partnership between McCreary, PLEA Community Services Society and Douglas College's Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies is continuing to generate exciting research projects. Douglas College practicum students, with support from McCreary staff and input from PLEA, analyze PLEA data to answer important questions about the youth who access PLEA services and the types of programs they benefit from. The students' findings are then used by PLEA in their planning and evaluation of services.

For details about specific student projects, please see the "Students Practica" section of this report.



Research Associate Duncan Stewart at the International Conference on Urban Health, Nairobi, Kenya

## Presentations

As this report has illustrated, we have been busier than ever presenting our research and youth engagement work across the globe. While presentations in places like Kenya and Kuala Lumpur allow us to share our experiences and learn about youth health in other parts of the world, those closer to home provide the opportunity for us to learn from and share our findings with local youth and those interested in youth health. For example, there have been local AHS presentations in Nanaimo, Vancouver, Port Hardy, Surrey, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Merritt and Princeton which have been used as a starting point for community discussion involving youth, school personnel, health care providers, youth workers and government officials.

As new reports have been published, McCreary has also hosted a number of online presentations on the findings. These presentations have been attended by school district personnel and public health workers who are unable to attend our presentations in person. They also decrease the carbon footprint associated with travel, while sharing the results of the reports and promoting dialogue on the findings, with all areas of the province.

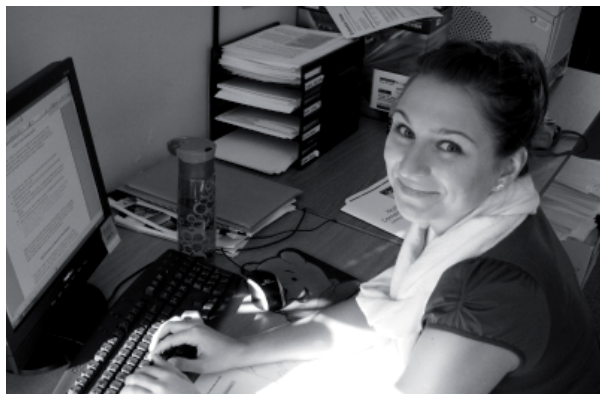
Many of these presentations are now available free to download at [www.mcs.bc.ca](http://www.mcs.bc.ca).

# Students at McCreary

## McCreary Student Group

The past year marks a productive one for the McCreary Student Group. More than a dozen students, including undergraduate, master's and doctoral students from a number of Canadian universities, and two medical residents, have been involved in the group. They have completed or are working on their thesis or dissertation research using BC AHS and other McCreary data. A variety of topics have been explored in the students' research projects, including eating disorders and body satisfaction, geographic variations of adolescent health, choices in sexual behaviour and the Age of Consent Law, obesity and unmet health care needs, East-Asian youth's sexual health, and functions of pregnancy among street involved girls. The group is facilitated by postdoctoral fellow Dr. Weihong Chen; members are mentored by McCreary's Research Director, Dr. Elizabeth Saewyc, and SFU Professor Dr. David Cox, and have access to supports provided by other research staff and trainees at McCreary. Four student group members successfully defended their theses and graduated in the summer: Melissa Northcott, Master's Degree in Psychology, Carleton University; Gina Martin, Master's Degree in Geography, University of Victoria; Bonnie Miller and Joanne Magtoto, Bachelor's Degree with Honors in Psychology, Simon Fraser University.

The student group meets bi-monthly to receive training around McCreary survey methodology and analysis, learn more about the work of McCreary and participate in opportunities for its members to present their research work.



## Student Practica

In addition to the Student Group which is made up of students working on their own academic studies, McCreary has been pleased to welcome students on practicum from Douglas College and Langara College.

In the past year, six Douglas College students completed a practicum at McCreary. Two students analyzed PLEA data to gain a better understanding of service recipients who are on Youth Agreements. Two others focused on youth at PLEA with dual diagnoses, and another used AHS data to examine young people's views on the impact of the 2010 Olympics. A student also looked at gang involvement among PLEA youth, and found that youth who had a teacher whom they could turn to if faced with a problem were less likely to engage in gang activity than youth without such a teacher in their lives. McCreary then expanded on these analyses and found that youth who felt connected to their community or those who anticipated having a job in five years were less likely to be involved in gang activity than their peers with lower levels of community connectedness or no vocational aspirations. Students' findings are shared with PLEA and Douglas College which offers students a genuine opportunity to be involved in projects that include both evidenced based practice and practice based evidence.

In 2009-10, students from Langara's school of nursing also got the experience of working with the ongoing evaluation of PLEA programs, in addition to doing data analysis of AHS data, and joining youth and community engagement activities. The students also contributed to McCreary's efforts to disseminate the 2008 AHS results by producing community-friendly fact sheets. The two most recent students created a fact sheet about body weight, in response to a request from Public Health Nurses in the Interior.

# Treasurer's Report

*Troy Peart*  
Treasurer

Reduced funding and uncertainty over the future of some major granting organizations provided some cause for concern this year but despite these and other fiscal challenges the Society has again ended the year with a modest surplus.

The Society has also welcomed Jim Li as bookkeeper this year and he has quickly become a vital member of the team dealing with everything from a federal government audit to the new HST rules and many things in between.



# Program Evaluation

This year McCreary has carried out independent program evaluations for several non-profit organizations in BC. Current projects include a number of evaluations for youth housing programs that are funded by the Vancouver Foundation. For further information about McCreary's evaluation services, please contact [maya@mcs.bc.ca](mailto:maya@mcs.bc.ca).

In addition to external evaluations, McCreary completed its evaluation of the Aboriginal Next Steps II project. Results showed that the project was successful at enhancing Aboriginal youths' awareness and understanding of health risk behaviours, and had a positive impact on Aboriginal youths' behaviours and psycho-social functioning. The project also resulted in an increased capacity for planning and sustaining youth-led community initiatives. The comprehensive evaluation report is available at [www.mcs.bc.ca](http://www.mcs.bc.ca).

# Research Director's Report

*Dr. Elizabeth Saenyc*  
Research Director

As highlighted throughout this report, McCreary continued to expand its role in providing youth health research evidence for provincial, national, and even international governments. Our data was provided to various BC Ministries to help guide planning or support policy initiatives; for example, both the Representative for Children and Youth and the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport's Population Health branch drew on McCreary data for identifying youth indicators. Even the news media have turned to McCreary data to document issues facing youth, whether that was the *Globe and Mail* using our sexual health trends in a story about Ontario's sex education curriculum, or *Macleans* magazine quoting our alcohol trends in discussing Frosh Week for university students.

The past year has also seen a growing number of partnerships with academic researchers requesting data access. Dr. Linda Rose-Krasnor of Brock University and the Centre for Excellence on Youth Engagement worked with us in exploring youth engagement and health. Dr. Louise Masse from the Child Family Research Institute at BC Children's Hospital received federal funding to study the effects of school nutrition and physical activity policies. Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater from the University of Victoria used the BC AHS data as part of her study on bullying among young teens in rural areas. Dr. Weihong Chen, McCreary postdoctoral fellow from the UBC School of Nursing, received a grant to explore help-seeking among East Asian adolescents. And Dr. Sabrina Wong from UBC's School of Nursing conducted a study about East Asian homestay students using our 2003 survey, one of the first population-based studies of this group in Canada; published this summer in the *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, the story received international attention, and McCreary's name was prominently mentioned in most of the news articles.

A number of abstracts and papers have been published in professional journals (see page 10).

# Publications

## Two New Substance Use Publications

In March this year, McCreary released two publications looking at substance use among BC youth aged 16-18. An 8 page bulletin looked at the use of substances other than alcohol and marijuana and protective factors against their use, and a full length report looked at early alcohol and marijuana use among this age group.

Entitled *What a Difference a Year can Make*, the report used data from over 10,000 16 to 18 year old students who completed the AHS in 2008. The report found that overall, young people are waiting longer to try alcohol and marijuana than they were ten years ago, and such a delay is associated with both better health and a reduction in risk behaviours.

For youth in BC, starting to use alcohol or marijuana before they turned 12 years old was linked to a number of risk behaviours, including binge drinking, drinking and driving, and getting into fights. However, delaying the first use of these substances by even a year or two was associated with improved health outcomes. Additionally, youth who reported higher levels of community engagement and connectedness to family or school were more likely to delay first using alcohol or marijuana until after they turned 15 years old.

Furthermore, even among those youth who had started using alcohol or marijuana at an early age, those who had not used these substances recently also reported lower rates of risk behaviours and higher rates of health promoting behaviours.



## ...And Two On Growing Up Healthy In BC

McCreary, in partnership with the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth and Public Health Officer (RCY/PHO), conducted two series of focus groups with youth across the province to discuss the state of youth health in British Columbia and to make suggestions for changes to how youth health is measured in the province. The focus groups were designed to elicit young people's suggestions on what they feel is important when it comes to their health, and how young people can best be supported to grow up healthy in BC.

The first round of focus groups saw over 150 youth provide suggestions on what might be good indicators of youth health in BC. This information was related back to the Representative's Office and the PHO in a report entitled *Measuring Our Health: Domains and indicators of youth health and well-being in British Columbia*. Incorporating the youth's feedback, RCY/PHO then analyzed existing BC datasets (including the 2008 AHS) and these were then disseminated back to youth for their reactions and suggestions for improvements through a second round of focus groups. These discussions were attended by over 90 participants, many of whom had also attended the first round of focus groups.

Their comments on the youth health data were captured in six documentary style films and the report *Treat Us Like We Matter: Youth's responses to the data on growing up in British Columbia*. Both are available at [www.mcs.bc.ca](http://www.mcs.bc.ca).

# Effective Interventions To Promote Healthy Child and Youth Development: McCreary Evidence Review now available

In 2007, McCreary was commissioned to prepare an evidence review of what kinds of population-based interventions promote healthy development for school age children and youth. The goal was not to focus on interventions that prevent problems or reduce risky behaviours, because other evidence reviews were focused on those; instead, we were asked to identify the research evidence for programs that foster healthy growth, positive youth development, and resilience. Completed in 2008, this paper was used by a working group convened by the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport to develop program recommendations for the regional health authorities. The final Core Model Program was approved by the Ministry in March 2010, and so the evidence review is now available for public release. It can be found at [www.mcs.bc.ca](http://www.mcs.bc.ca).

## 2009-2010 Publications

(Student Group members underlined)

### Community reports

(Reports available to download free of charge at [www.mcs.bc.ca](http://www.mcs.bc.ca))

Smith, A., Stewart, D., Poon, C., Saewyc, E. and the McCreary Centre Society. (2010). *What a difference a year can make: Early alcohol and marijuana use among 16 to 18 year old BC students*. Vancouver, BC: McCreary Centre Society.

Smith A., Stewart D., Poon, C., Saewyc E. (2010). *Drug use among 16 to 18 year old BC students* (Adolescent Health Survey IV Bulletin). Vancouver, BC: McCreary Centre Society.

Smith, A., Martin, S. and the McCreary Centre Society (2010). *Measuring our health: domains and indicators of youth health and well being in*

*British Columbia-Youth's feedback and suggestions*. Vancouver, BC: McCreary Centre Society.

Smith, A, Martin, S, Hoogeveen, C. and the McCreary Centre Society (2010). *Treat us like we matter: Youth's response to the data on growing up in British Columbia*. Vancouver, BC: McCreary Centre Society

### Academic publications using McCreary data [available on request]

Peled, M. & Smith, A. (2010). *Alternative education programs in BC: Meeting the needs of vulnerable students*. *Education Canada*, 50(2), 56-59.

Poon, C., Homma, Y., Saewyc, E. & Smith, A. (2010). *Is cultural connectedness a protective factor?* *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 46, S4.

Saewyc, E., Chen, W. & Hirakata, P. (2010). *Quantifying the influence of violence exposure on adolescent risk behaviours in Western Canada*. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 46, S65.

Smith, A., Peled, M., Leadbeater, B. & Clark, N. (2010). *Transitions to adulthood for vulnerable youth in British Columbia*. *Relational Child and Youth Care Practice*, 23(2), 16-22.

Stockwell, T., Buxton, J., Duff, C., Marsh, D., MacDonald, S., Saewyc, E., Richard, K., Hanson, R., Cohen, I., Corrado, R., Chow, C., Ivsins, A., Michelow, W., Nicholson, D., Pakula, B., Puri A., Rehm, J., Sturge, J., Tu, A. & Zhao, J. (2009). *The BC Alcohol and Other Drug Monitoring System: Overview and early progress*. *Contemporary Drug Problems*, 36, 459-484.

Wong, S., Homma, Y., Saewyc, E. & Johnson, J. (2010). *The unmet health needs of East Asian high-school students: Are homestay students at risk?* *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 101(3), 241-245.

# Acknowledgements

McCreary Centre Society would like to take this opportunity to thank all our funders, project partners, volunteers, students, YAC-ers and staff for their fantastic contribution over the past year. Your contribution is invaluable.

## McCreary Team

Weihong Chen,  
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Executive Director

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## Financial Contributors

BC Government Gaming and  
Policy Branch

BC Ministry of Children and  
Family Development

BC Child and Youth Health  
Research Network (CYHRNet)

BC Ministry of Healthy Living  
and Sport

Canadian Institutes of Health  
Research

Coast Capital Savings

Human Resources Development  
Canada

Michael Smith Foundation for  
Health Research

National Crime Prevention Centre

PLEA

University of British Columbia  
School of Nursing

University of Victoria

U.S. National Institutes of Health

Vancouver Foundation

VanCity

Youth Justice Fund

Office of the Representative for  
Children and Youth

BC Ministry of health



Lucy: Head of Security  
Sasha: Director of Sanitation

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Maya Mitsuhashi        Suiki Zhang

Anik Muhuri                Lily Zhou

Lucy Shen

## YAC transitioned to Alumni

Sylvia Eskoy

Kate Kovaleva

Nathan Penner

McCreary would also like to thank community partners across BC who have offered their time, resources and expertise to a number of projects in the past year.

Bella Bella Community School

Britannia Community Services Centre,  
Latin American Youth Project

Broadway Youth Resource Centre

Brooks Secondary School, Powell River

Burnaby School District

Burnaby Youth Custody Centre

By Any Dreams Necessary

Centre for Addictions Research BC

Charles Hays Secondary School, Pacific Coast School  
and Aboriginal Education Council, Prince Rupert

Crisis Intervention and Suicide  
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Douglas College Child and Youth Care Program

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Westbank First Nation and Mount Boucherie Secondary  
School, Westbank

Youth CO AIDS Society





The McCreary Centre Society is a non-government, non-profit organization committed to improving the health of BC youth through research, education and community-based projects. Founded in 1977, the Society sponsors and promotes a wide range of activities and research to address unmet health needs of young people. Areas of interest include:

- Health risk and protective factors
- Health promotion
- Positive youth development
- Youth participation and leadership skills development

All McCreary publications are available free to download at [www.mcs.bc.ca](http://www.mcs.bc.ca)

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