

# AN INTRODUCTION TO McCREARY CENTRE SOCIETY

## YOUTH HEALTH • YOUTH RESEARCH • YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

McCreary Centre Society is a non-government not-for-profit committed to improving the health of BC youth through research, evaluation and community based projects. Our vision is that all youth are supported to be healthy and connected.

### ADOLESCENT HEALTH SURVEYS

The BC AHS is a province-wide survey administered to youth in Grade 7 to 12 every five years since 1992. Adapted versions of the survey are administered to youth whose experience may not be captured in the BC AHS including youth in custody, and homeless and street-involved youth.

McCreary developed the Next Steps program as a way of engaging young people in the survey results. Through workshop activities, youth learn about risk and protective factors for healthy development, and are supported to develop and deliver projects which address youth health issues in their community.

### EVALUATIONS

McCreary conducts independent evaluations for other non-profit organizations and statutory agencies. We adopt a collaborative and flexible approach, with the programs being evaluated deciding on the evaluation approach best suited to meet their needs and goals.

Adolescence is a time of change and self-discovery and is particularly important for developing healthy lifestyles into adulthood.

In order to fully support the healthy development of BC youth, communities need relevant, accurate, up-to-date information to guide their programming and policy decisions.

McCreary Centre Society is a BC-based charity which conducts community-based research, evaluation, and youth engagement initiatives to improve youth health.

Our BC Adolescent Health Survey (BC AHS) and other youth health research projects (including literature reviews, special population surveys, and smaller qualitative and quantitative studies), give an evidence base of youth health trends, emerging issues, and risk and protective factors for healthy development.

Our high quality academic research is used by service providers, academics, policy makers, young people, and those who support them.

Through youth and community engagement projects, we engage local communities across BC who help steer the direction of our work. This ensures that our research is as relevant, useful, and culturally responsive across the province as possible.

### YOUTH RESEARCH ACADEMY (YRA)

The YRA is a group of youth aged 16 to 24 with experience of the government care system. Members of the YRA are trained to conduct research projects of interest to youth in and from government care and the agencies that serve them.

### YOUTH ADVISORY & ACTION COUNCIL (YAC)

The YAC is a group of youth leaders aged 15 to 24 who develop projects to improve youth health including organizing 'by youth for youth' workshops and events.

### YOUTH ACTION GRANTS (YAG)

The YAG program is coordinated by the YAC and YAC alumni. It offers \$500 grants to young people in BC to deliver projects which improve youth health in their school or community.



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McCreary is committed to honouring the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.