

ANNUAL

IMPACT REPORT

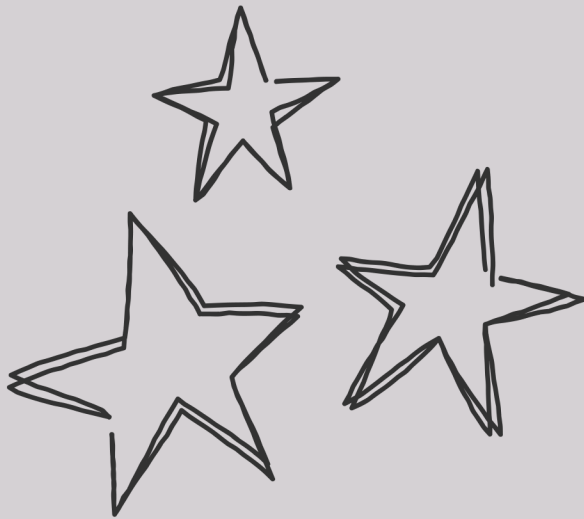


2022/23



**PACIFIC
YOUTH &
FAMILY
SERVICES**
peakhouse.ca

SUPPORTING YOUTH & FAMILIES IN BC TO FIND FREEDOM FROM PROBLEMATIC SUBSTANCE USE.



55

Youth in Peak House

230

1-1 & Family Support Sessions

87

Clients Supported, including Outreach

HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

Social Media Engagement

Enhanced Programming

Reduced wait times for intake

Outreach

School Program & School of Music

Community engagement and workshops

Staff Training

Community Connections

Staff wages and benefit review

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Following the highpoint of COVID we found ourselves in a new landscape. Many staff at other agencies had moved on due to closures, unsustainable work, and new outlooks on their career paths. This change created the need for increased outreach and awareness to ensure that service providers were aware of, and able to access our services for their clients.

A provincial billboard campaign was launched to get the word out Peak House was accepting referrals and had beds available for the community. Several workshops were hosted to share our resources with the community and radio and news outlets were contacted so that we could share our stories and successes. We brought former alumni alongside this journey to lift up and highlight the voices of the youth and families we work with.

Our own issues with staffing have been a struggle as well. Resourcing skilled and committed candidates has been harder than ever. One of the strengths of our program has always been our amazing staff team. We want to shout out our appreciating for our team, those who have worked extra hours and shown up to make sure the youth get the best possible care. The year ahead will focus on staff wage and benefit reviews to ensure we are providing the best possible experience for our hard working team.



IMPACT

While the year brought many unique challenges, Peak House remained focused on providing unwavering support to youth and families requiring our care.

2022/23

Annual Impact Report

Peak House
Pacific Youth & Family Services
Society

DEMOGRAPHICS

Youth came to us from across the province. From big cities to rural communities young people entered our program to get their lives back from drugs and alcohol. The work they engaged in was more than that of substance use. Young people in our care graduated school, got their lives back on track, learned valuable life skills, and became the young people they had hoped to be in the world. We watched young people become role models to their siblings, solid young parents to their own children, graduates that enrolled in post secondary education, and engaged members of their own communities.

ETHNICITY

The largest population of youth in our care identified as white, followed by indigenous youth, and those of mixed heritage. Our cultural consultant in partnership with VCH is a regular and celebrated part of our ongoing programming.

48%

Female identified

42%

Male identified

10%

Trans non-binary identified

29%

Youth experiencing homeless & low income

36%

Youth with Justice involvement

86%

Youth diagnosed with one or more mental health concerns

SEXUALITY

57% of youth choose not to disclose.

26% identified as heterosexual

17% identified as GLBTQ+

DRUG USE

38% Opiates, including fentanyl

24% Benzos

19% Crystal Meth

19% Alcohol

16% Crack/Cocaine

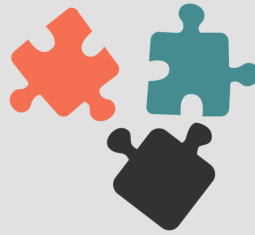
10% Heroin

90% of youth reported poly use.

Over 45% of our youth reported using cannabis alongside other substances.

WHAT MATTERS MOST

Coming from homelessness and living in shelters, with a desire to better himself and his future, 'K' made the courageous decisions to come to Peak House. During his time at Peak House, he was committed to graduating from high school. Within our 10-week program 'K' managed to successfully graduate from high school.



Prior to coming to Peak House 'Sam' was homeless. Experiencing street life at such a young age homelessness put Sam in a great deal of danger. Exploitation, assault, and increased substance use resulted in a series of traumatic experiences. Luckily Sam was resilient enough to make it to treatment. Even though this was their first time trying to get clean, Sam excelled in our program. They completed their stay and went on to a second stage recovery house in community. To this day they remain sober and have reported looking forward to planning their post-secondary education where they hope to help others facing addiction.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The 2022/23 fiscal year was another complex year for the Peak House program and the Pacific Youth and Family Services Society, the non-profit society that administers the program. During this time the global COVID-19 pandemic continued to challenge our resilience and impact wellbeing as communities adapted to the evolving 'new normal'. Tragically, we continued to lose community members at alarming and unprecedented rates in BC due to the toxic, unregulated drug supply. The province also experienced a series of environmental and staffing crisis's. These challenging conditions, perhaps more than ever, highlighted the value of the safe, supportive, and inclusive environment Peak House provides.

With shifting pandemic restrictions and health protocols, staff worked tirelessly to keep Peak House open and support youth coming into treatment. New ways of working were adopted to ensure high quality care was maintained, while also increasing accessibility and program visibility during this time of isolation. This included robust marketing and communications activities, with staff and alumni participating in radio/TV interviews and community outreach, the creation of new stickers, posters, and digital assets, and even the program's first billboard!

The dedicated and skilled team behind this important work, led by Executive Director James Kelly, makes the program effective and successful year over year. The Board of Directors would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the staff and volunteers who support the youth at Peak House, and our long-time funder, Vancouver Coastal Health. The Board of Directors would also like to acknowledge the generous donations from community members, your contributions have made a meaningful difference in the lives of the youth and families we serve.

At the Board level, we also experienced a year of changes. We saw the departure of Christine Smith, Secretary and fundraising subcommittee lead, and Patrick Grayer stepped down from the role of Chair. The Board of Directors would like to thank Christine and Patrick for their years of committed service to Peak House. Both contributed substantially to the stability and effectiveness of the Board. Your leadership will be missed! Following these shifts, Caitlin Grisack stepped into the role of Chair, Emily Coates into the role of Vice Chair, and Marc Goffaux into the role of Secretary.

The Board of Directors continues to seek new members and we are happy to welcome Angela Lee and Shannon Richardson, who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board.

In closing, the Board of Directors would like to acknowledge the youth who attended Peak House program this year. Your strength and perseverance, at a most challenging time in our collective history, is inspiring. The love you've shown for yourself and each other makes us proud. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the parents, caregivers, and community who supported and encouraged the youth during their journey.

Caitlin Grisack, Chair, on behalf of the Board of Directors
Pacific Youth and Family Services Society.



We'd like to thank our community for their generous support.

Thank you

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Peak House is a community, and it takes a community to make the work we do everyday possible. A special thank you to Emily Giguere at VCH for her ongoing support.

**OUR BOARD
OUR STAFF TEAM
OUR FUNDERS
OUR DONORS
OUR SUPPORTERS**

**WE COULDN'T DO IT
WITHOUT YOU**