

• **FOUNDRY** •

Foundry West Shore & the Foundry Service Model

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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge, with much gratitude, that our work takes place on land steeped in rich Indigenous history and home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit people today. We recognize and respect Indigenous people as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories, land & water.

Foundry is committed to listening to, and collaborating with, the Indigenous hosts, partners, and communities in our Network by grounding our work in cultural agility, safety, and humility; we recognize that this is essential to the health and well-being of youth and families.



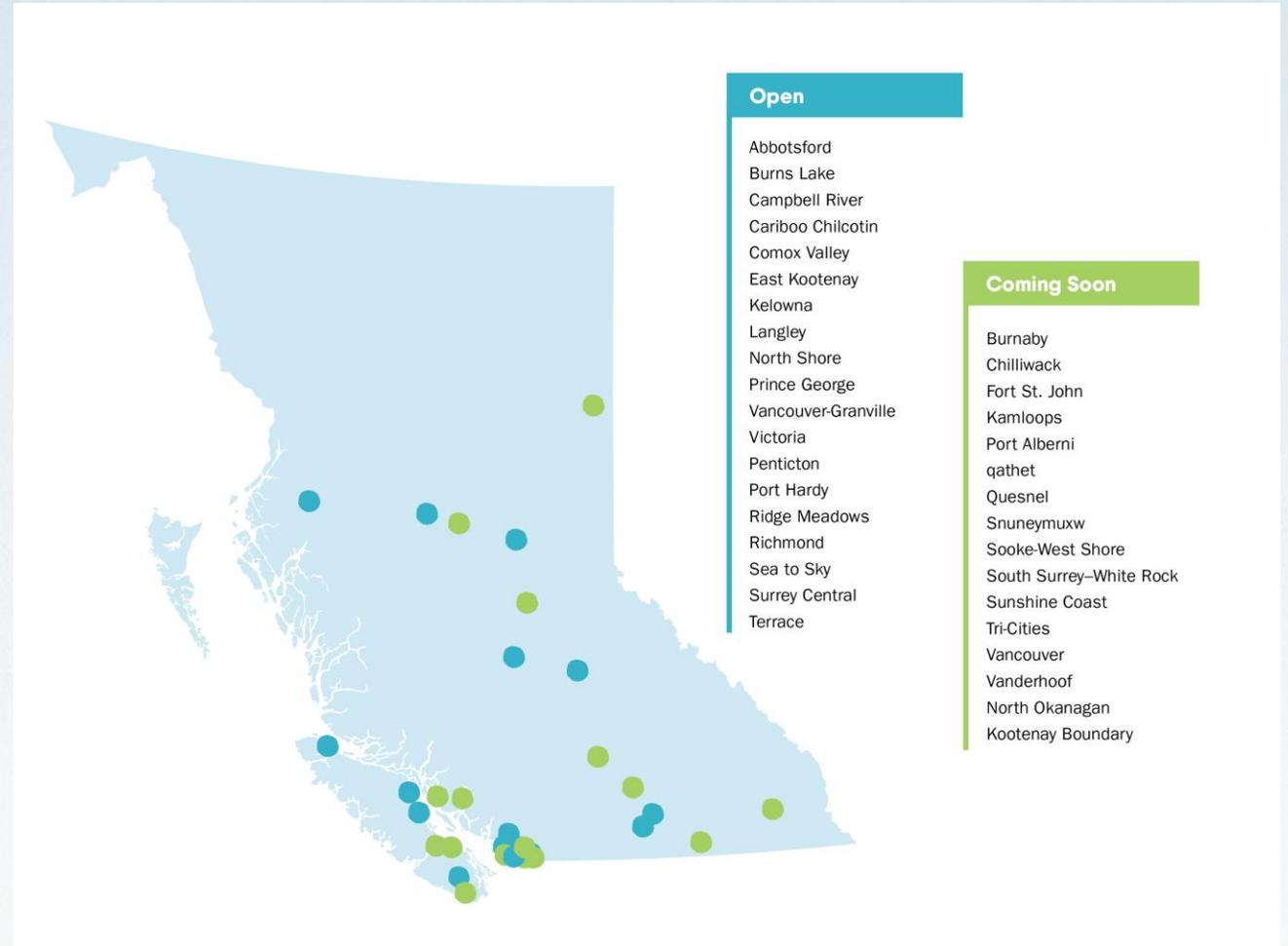
Foundry Network Across BC

Vision

To transform access to services for young people ages 12–24 in BC.

Mission

To support young people in living a good life.



What makes the Foundry model different?

- **Integrated Youth Services** – bringing multiple community partners, agencies, and service streams together
- **Youth and Family Engagement** – Advisory Committees help guide development and operations
- **Community Engagement** in the developing phase – each Foundry site is reflective of their community input and needs
- **Reducing barriers for access**
- **Baseline Core Services** at each Foundry site complimented by lead agency and community resources



The Importance of Partnerships

Designing Integrated Youth Services like Foundry requires intentional partnerships – the relationships built among people and organizations over time.

Partnerships that support transformative change go beyond sharing meetings, ideas and work; rather, our partnerships involve sharing and integrating organizational resources, as well as share collective responsibility to improve the wellness of young people across the provinces.



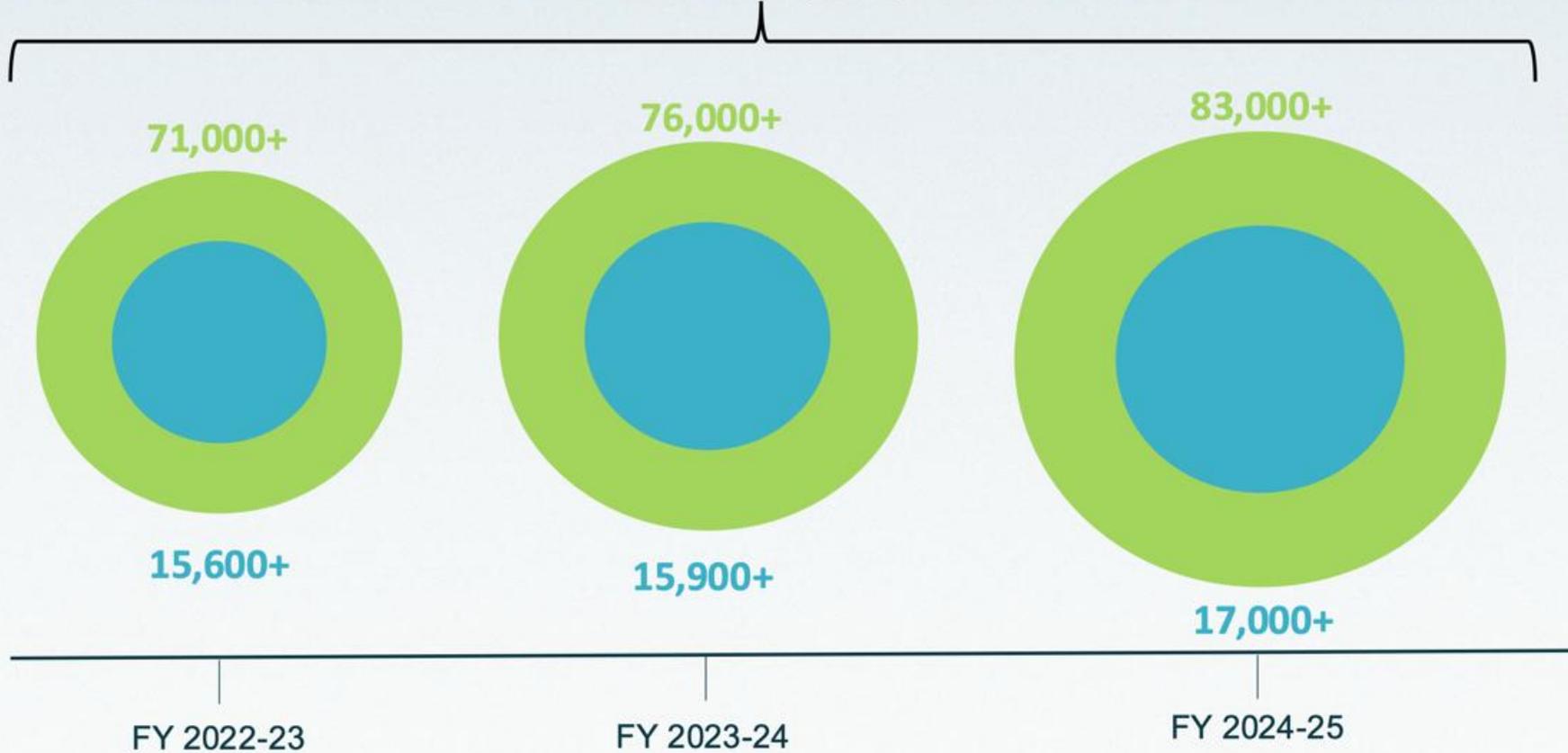
390,000+ Visits

56,000+ Unique Youth Visited

Between April 2018 – March 2025



Over the last 3 fiscal years



Build it and those that need it will come.

OF THE YOUTH COMING TO FOUNDRY

DISTRESS

79%

are experiencing a high or very high level of distress. This includes youth who are not coming for a specific mental health or substance use issue (k10).

SUICIDAL IDEATION

47%

have thought about suicide in the past 90 days.

MENTAL HEALTH

77%

rate their mental health as fair or poor.

SEEKING HELP

27%

would not have sought help had Foundry not existed.



Experience & Satisfaction at Foundry

Youth rated their experiences with Foundry staff highly, (4.6/5) across all areas, (personalized care, safe and trusting relationships, discrimination and judgement free, skilled and experienced).

Youth agreed/strongly agreed that...

98% Foundry provides a comfortable, safe & welcoming space

94% Foundry is accommodating of my needs

94% At Foundry it is easy to get help & support

93% Foundry's multiple services make it easier to get help

"They do amazing here, everyone is very kind and respectful and makes everyone feel welcomed when walking in the door."

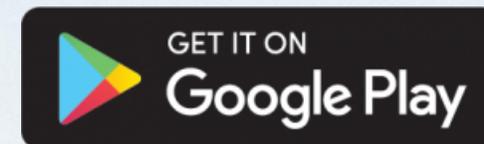
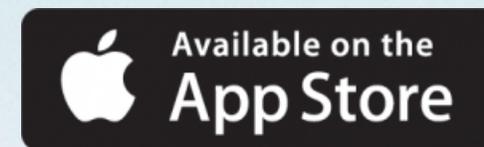
Foundry Virtual

Foundry Virtual BC aims to fill the gap in services for youth ages 12-24 and their caregivers in communities across BC, including rural and remote locations.

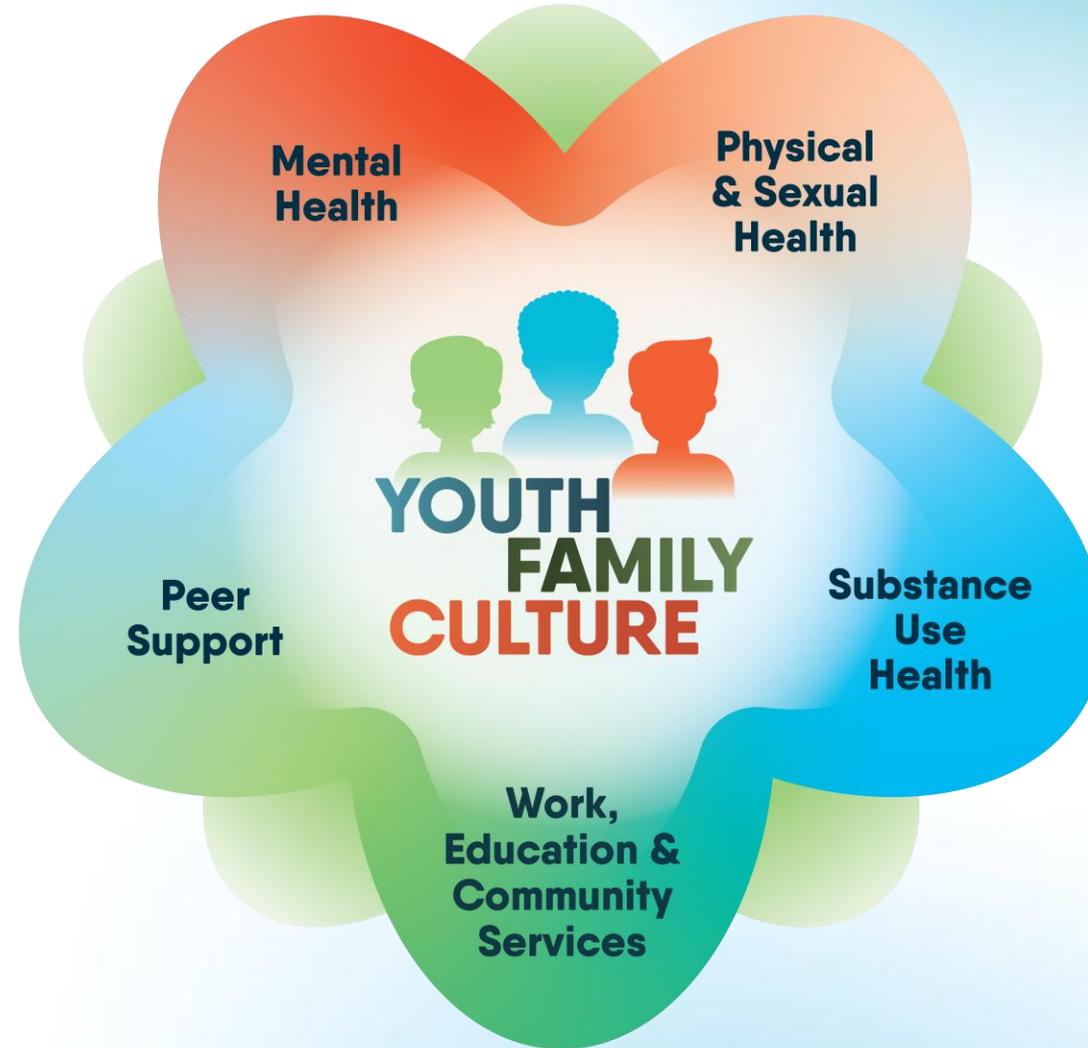
All services are FREE and Confidential

Access through the Foundry BC App or Web Portal

Video, Audio and Chat options are available



The Foundry Model: 5 Core Service Streams



Peer Support

Youth and caregivers with lived and living experience of life challenges who support others.

Placing youth and families at the **forefront of service innovation**

Peer support is based on the belief that **those who have experienced adversity** can provide support, encouragement, hope, and mentorship to others facing similar situations

Peer support within the Foundry service model focuses on creating opportunities for those with lived experience to recognize themselves as experts in the field of youth and family wellness



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Mental Health and Substance Use Health

Services designed to support the mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness of young people and their families/caregivers

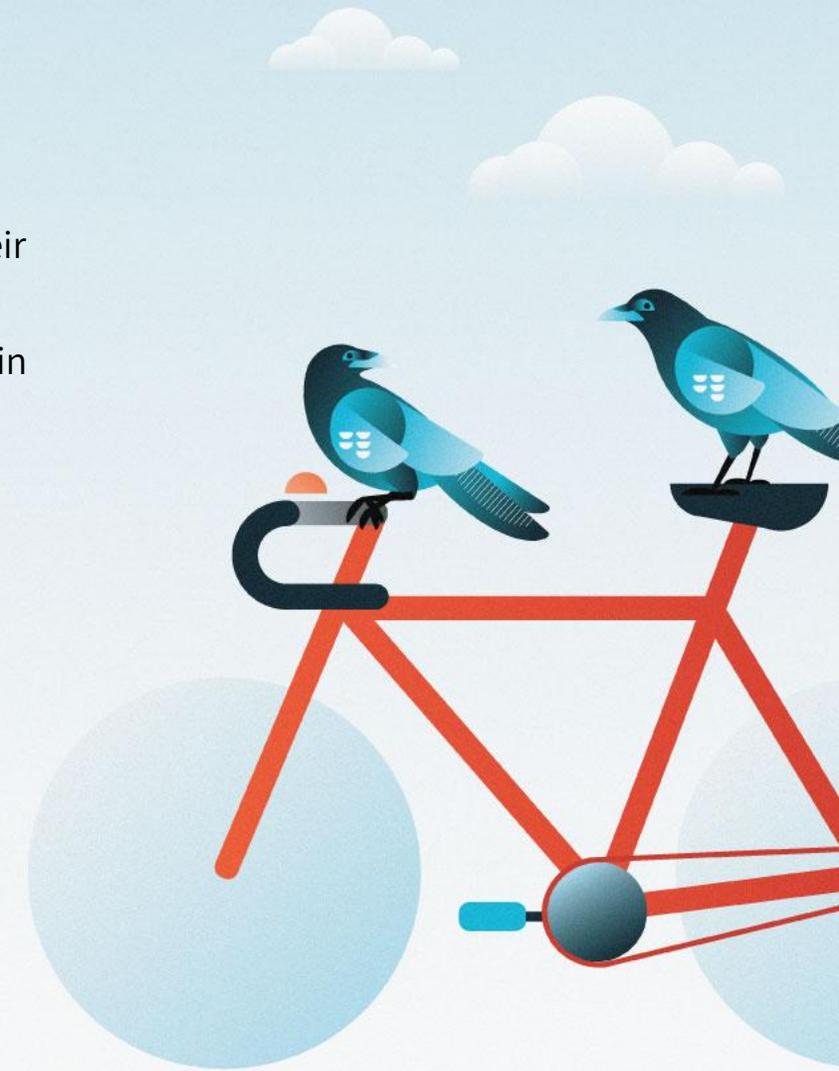
Using a range of cultural, psychosocial, and evaluative tools, young people co-design their services in partnership with providers based on a shared understanding of their needs.

Foundry uses a harm reduction approach woven throughout substance use services

These services, tailored to meet individual needs while considering family, social supports, and community factors, include screening and assessment, counselling and psychotherapy, pharmacotherapy, and collaborative care with community organizations

Common examples:

- Drop-in Counseling
- Brief individual counseling
- Assessments
- Groups
- Referral Pathways to higher-level services
- Naloxone trainings
- Primary Care / Psychiatry



Work, Education and Community Services

Supports a whole-person approach to wellness

Address a young person's social determinants of health and wellness

Fosters community engagement for young people and their families

Creates opportunities for transition as young people grow and their needs shift

- Foundry Works and Education
- Housing supports
- Food security, supports for transitions to adulthood
- Overall Wellness



Primary Care

Physical Health, Mental Health, Substance Use Support

Primary care is often the first point of access to health systems for many young people

Focus is team – based and collaborative

Integrated with Foundry's other service streams: Mental Health, Substance Use Health, Peer Support, Cultural Supports and Work & Education and Community.

Services are available through drop-in and by appointment



Why this Matters



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Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Crisis

Prevalence of Youth Mental Health Issues

One in four Canadian youth is affected by mental health or substance use issues.

Toxic Overdose Crisis

Toxic drug overdoses are the leading cause of death for children aged 10–18 in British Columbia. Suicide is the second most prevalent cause of death.

Gaps in Service Access

Less than 25% of youth receive needed mental health services.

Need for Integrated Solutions

Urgent call for comprehensive care addressing mental health, substance use, and social determinants for youth.



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Why Immediate Action is Critical

Escalating Youth Crisis

Rising youth suicide and overdose deaths highlight urgent need for timely and effective interventions.

Barriers for Marginalized Youth

Indigenous and equity-denied youth face systemic inequities, requiring culturally safe and inclusive care.

System Navigation Challenges

Families struggle with navigating disconnected systems, causing delays in accessing critical support services.

Need for Integrated Services

Community calls for centralized, youth-centered services combining mental, physical health, and social supports.



“Jordan’s” Journey: Breaking Free from Substance Use



Coping with Stress & Anxiety

Jordan’s substance use began as coping for stress and anxiety, escalating into dependency affecting health and academics.

Seeking Help

Foundry provided confidential, free drop-in services and connection to a doctor, counselors, and peer support.

Recovery

Foundry’s holistic care helped Jordan develop coping strategies and regain control, fostering resilience and hope.

West Shore & Sooke Youth are Excited About Foundry

- Existing services are great, but more capacity is needed
- Accessible location – safe, central bus service
- Identified a need for services that are consistent with Foundry's model
 - Employment and education support services
 - Peer support & training
 - Wellness activities
 - Mix of booked and drop in sessions
 - Parent/caregiver resources
- Confidential & low barrier



Project Priorities

Implementation

- Secure a location for the West Shore Hub
- Raise awareness about the Foundry project
- Engage and confirm hub partners
- Collect input from youth, family and service providers

Funding

- Secure foundational lead gifts to launch campaign
- Committed multi-year support to sustain programming
- Foundry Champions in community hosting events and introducing potential donors
- Foundry Campaign Cabinet Members



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Questions





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