

# Investing in partnership to support youth well-being: Foundry BC & BC Children's Hospital

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## Introduction

Facing a challenging and fragmented system for youth mental health in British Columbia (BC), the team now known as Foundry BC and the BC Children's Hospital Health Promotion & Health Literacy team connected and discussed the benefits of partnering to bring their collective resources and expertise together. The Foundry BC team had developed a 'youth hub' model being piloted in Vancouver on Granville Street, with the aim of establishing hubs across BC. The BC Children's team, in partnership with a BC regional health authority, had developed a youth early intervention-focused website, [mindcheck.ca](http://mindcheck.ca), along with the family-focused Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre website, as part of a child, youth and family health literacy strategy. The partnership was formed and has resulted in increased information, resources and support for young people and families in BC, delivered in a coordinated and collaborative way.

## Objectives

Foundry BC and BC Children's Hospital share the common goal of enhancing youth and young adult mental health and ensuring that young people can find care and support when they need it. Recognizing that mental health experiences exist on a continuum, the teams' combined skills and expertise support a continuum of care approach, with the BC Children's team supporting health promotion and health literacy and Foundry BC offering services online and in the community. The beginning of the partnership centered on the development of a shared youth mental health web platform, [foundrybc.ca](http://foundrybc.ca), to offer a one stop access point for youth mental health resources in BC. The BC Children's health promotion and health literacy team develops content on the [foundrybc.ca](http://foundrybc.ca) website and leads education initiatives and promotion campaigns, provincially and in community settings to enhance this holistic, continuum of care approach.

## Approach/Methods

Through a 'Collaborative Agreement' which articulated team roles and responsibilities, Foundry BC and BC Children's teams have developed products and tools to support this work. The website, [foundrybc.ca](http://foundrybc.ca), has been a core element of the partnership, along with supporting activities that include social media channels, campaigns, market research surveys, and the creation of promotional materials.

## Results/Policy Implications

As the partnership enters its seventh year, the products of the collaboration and its continuation speak to its success. Developing partnerships is an investment, adding to a sustainable and holistic system of care. As a result of this partnership to date:

- Over 600 pages of website content have been developed with over 1.5 million visits to the site
- Social media channels and campaigns raise awareness about Foundry BC, improve mental health literacy, and drive traffic to the website and services
- More collaboration and cross-promotion occurs across networks, with established partnerships throughout each organization and amongst their partners

## Conclusion

The Foundry BC and BC Children's Hospital Team partnership has resulted in a comprehensive, accessible hub of resources and supports for youth mental health in BC. The collaboration aligned the teams' skills and expertise, resulting in a holistic, continuum of care approach.

