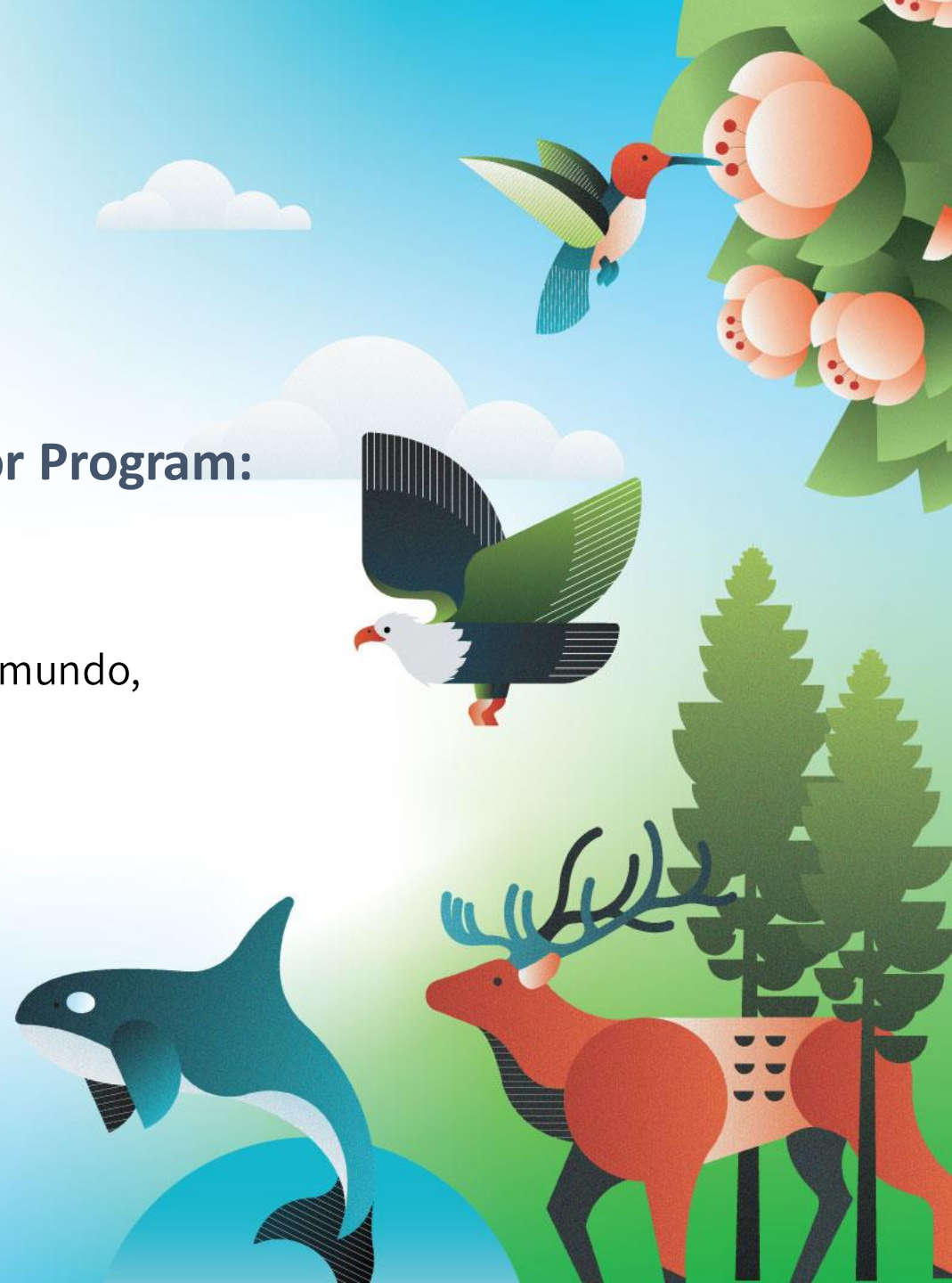


# • FOUNDRY •

## Foundry's National Youth & Family Ambassador Program: Barriers, Solutions and Aspirations

Dan Nixon, Suchayte Bali, Alison Gear, Kelly Veillette, Al Raimundo,  
Skye Barbic, Steve Mathias

IAYMH 2022  
September 30, 2022



# What was the National Youth and Family Ambassador Program?

- Youth and family led initiative to tackle integrated youth service projects
  - 8 thematic cohorts – 6-8 individuals per cohort
  - Cohort/Project Leads
  - Training/Support/Implementation
- Goal: Increase knowledge-base of participants and communities around integrated youth services



## Willingness to learn, adapt and spread awareness

- Responsive to critiques
  - Pivoting
- Reciprocal learning
  - Capacity to teach and learn
  - Working in their communities



# Youth and families desire to feel connected and share lived experiences

- Communicative forms of engagement preferred
  - Other forms lacked responsiveness
- Cohort meetings regularly included education/story-telling
- Cohorts felt like families



# Passionate, likeminded folk yearn to create impactful change

- Early project iterations surpassed program expectations
- Hopes of getting government/policy maker attention
- Projects focused on systemic change
  - Local to national



# How can we create more opportunities?

- Who are we missing?
  - Geographical, Families, Indigenous
- How can Integrated Youth Services be mobilized?
  - Gaps?
  - Power dynamics?
- The National Ambassador Program provided a major insight...
  - Testament to the capacity for youth and families to create impactful change when given the opportunity

*Foundry is hosted by Providence Health Care and supported by the Province of BC and donors to St. Paul's Foundation.*