

Foundry Sexual & Reproductive Health Campaign

January 2026



Introduction

In 2025, Foundry received generous sponsorship funding from Merck and Organon to support innovative approaches aimed at increasing sexual and reproductive health awareness among young people.. With this funding, Foundry centres across the province planned and delivered a series of sexual and reproductive health events between October and December 2025. More than 11 Foundry centres participated, implementing locally tailored activities designed to reduce barriers, promote prevention, and normalize conversations about sexual health in youth-friendly settings.

Quantitative Outcomes

Number of young people supported: 294

Number of Foundry service providers involved: 54

Service providers supporting the initiatives: centre managers, community engagement coordinators, family physicians, nurse practitioners, peer support workers, public health and primary care nurses, sexual health educators

All centres offered: general sexual health education, contraceptive education

Majority of centres also offered: Sexual Transmitted Infection (STI) testing, STI treatment, HPV vaccine education and administration, and long-acting reversible contraceptive consults

All centres supported gender diverse young people at these events.

Participating Centres

- Foundry Abbotsford
- Foundry Cariboo Chilcotin
- Foundry Comox Valley
- Foundry East Kootenay
- Foundry Langley
- Foundry Penticton
- Foundry Prince George
- Foundry Richmond
- Foundry Ridge Meadows
- Foundry Terrace
- Foundry Vancouver Granville





Ashley Ward-Hall, Sexual Health Educator and Peer Support Supervisor

Qualitative Observations from Foundry Centres



Foundry Abbotsford

Foundry Abbotsford held two sexual and reproductive health education events. Young people were very engaged and enjoyed the educational materials the providers had.

Young people asked the Foundry educators some great questions including:

- "Should you get the HPV vaccine if you have HPV?"
- "Where and how to get contraceptives"
- "What bacterial vaginosis is"
- "Genital Warts and how they appear"

"I definitely think the more we do this, the more youth will attend and feel more comfortable. " - Foundry Abbotsford staff



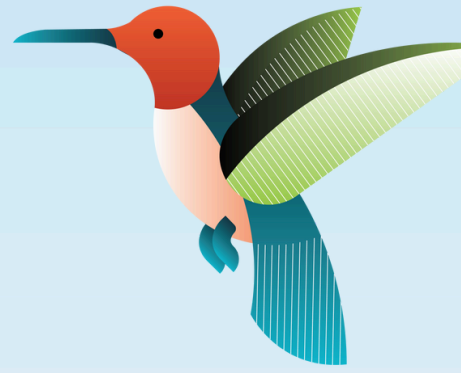
Foundry Terrace

Foundry Terrace hosted an interactive workshop with small-group activities, Q&A with a sexual health nurse, and take-home resources.

“It was really cool and made the workshop more fun. It also helped make the information easy to understand.” – Youth 1

“I liked that the presentation was in bullet points. It made it a lot easier to pay attention compared to other presentations I’ve seen because everything was clear and straight to the point.” - Youth 2

“It was a wonderful opportunity to see young people learning about sexual health and engaging in meaningful conversations in such a positive way” – Foundry Terrace provider



Foundry East Kootenay

Foundry East Kootenay had lunch hour sexual health drop in events including sexual health bingo in December. The youth really enjoyed the bingo and also decorating themed cookies of reproductive organs



Dr. Laura Swaney, Pediatrician



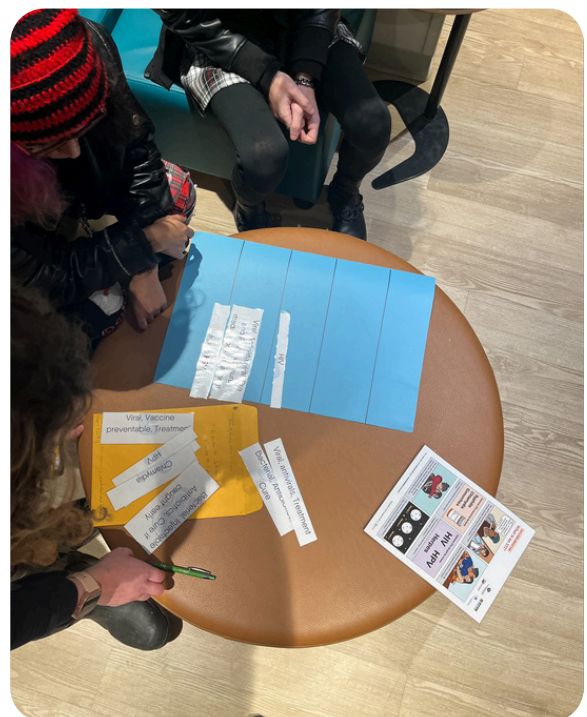
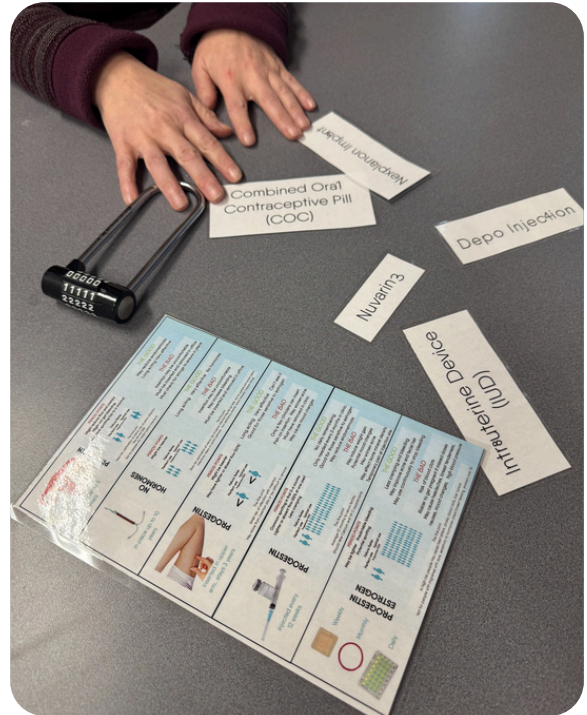
Kristi Beckman RN, Public Health Nurse

Foundry Cariboo Chilcotin

Foundry Cariboo Chilcotin hosted a sexual health education event using an escape room concept. The team also reviewed HPV vaccination with many young people including administering 5 HPV vaccines at the event.

“This was a great initiative to come up with a creative way to get information out to youth. The format I used was great for opening on the spot discussion, as well as addressing questions. I hope to take this to the school for Grade 11/12s in the new year at school. I feel like ability to be creative and provide food and prizes drew the kids in more than just setting up a booth. It was also a great opportunity to partner with the local university and with an off site public health nurse in a position promoting HPV prevention and screening. I was able to reach some high-risk youth and engage youth that probably wouldn't have otherwise engaged in sexual health awareness sessions.”

- Foundry Nurse



Foundry Comox Valley

Foundry Comox Valley had a sexual and reproductive health booth at the local college. Many young people stopped by the booth and share that they were very excited to see Foundry hosting events on campus. The students also pointed out noticing the rainbow stickers on the Foundry tables and posters which made them feel like it was a safe space for them to participate.

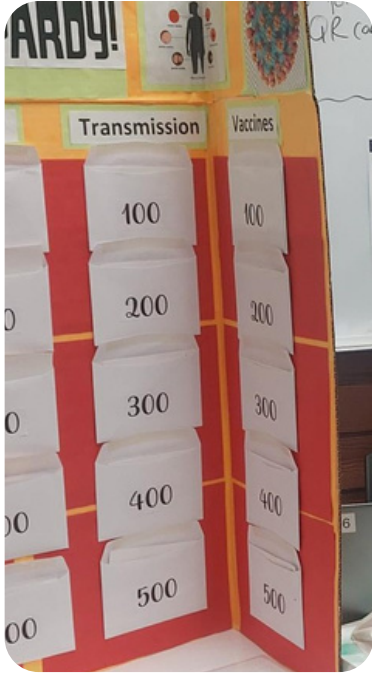
A nursing student came to visit and said "This is so cool. I never imagined I could do stuff like this as a nurse. This would be such a great way to teach people about sexual health and safe sex and stuff."

They also had a group of young men from the trades building come visit when they heard Foundry was giving out free pizza, and one of them commented "Free Pizza and Free condoms - they should do this every day!"

"This was a brilliant opportunity to partner with our Foundry Peer Support, Public Health, Primary Care and Harm reduction teams. We were thrilled with how many young people stopped by our tables and especially noted the visits from populations of youth we don't typically see at our centre (ie 20-24 yr old males)."
--Foundry Comox Valley Provider



Foundry Comox Valley Staff, Public Health Nurses and AIDS Vancouver Island Harm Reduction Worker.



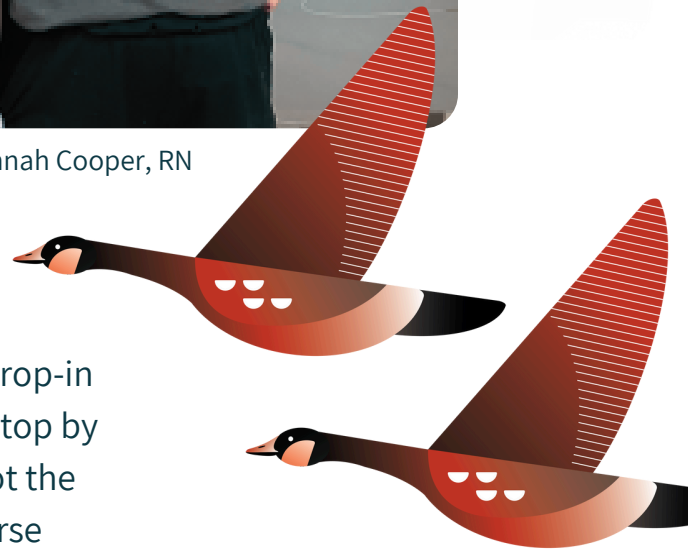


Dr. Andrea Moir, Amanda Kearnan, Clinical Coordinator and Alannah Cooper, RN

Foundry Richmond

Foundry Richmond held 3 separate sexual health drop-in events for local youth. Young people were able to stop by for some condoms, pizza and stickers. They also got the opportunity to check in with a family physician, nurse practitioner, nurse and/or peer support to address any sexual health care needs.

“Thank you, this event really helped us to break the ice and let young clients know that it is a safe and welcome space to chat about their sexual health needs and wellness.” - Foundry Richmond Team



Marita Gove, NP and Alannah Cooper, RN



Stickers for youth

Foundry Vancouver-Granville

Foundry Vancouver-Granville started their STI pop-up clinic campaign in September 2025. The pop-ups are led by nurses who all have certified practice. During these events, they provided 9 HPV vaccinations. They will continue to offer access to these STI pop-up clinic throughout 2026.



Jonathan Neufeld, NP, Dan Marquardt, SW, Dr, Andrea Tesolin, Maddie Beaumont ,RN, Alex Martin, RN

“I am writing this quote to speak on how amazing and grateful I am for the staff and sexual health services at Foundry. I have come into Foundry Vancouver on several different occasions for sexual health services, especially during the pop-up clinics they run on Thursdays. From vitals to blood work to collecting samples. These workers truly put in their time and effort to efficiently and effectively serve all the youth and young adults that they can. The staff are educated, non judgemental, and get the job done. I am so grateful for the numerous occasions that the sexual health nurses got me back into balance. From medications to having someone to talk to. I couldn’t recommend Foundry more to the ones whom can access it, to utilize the centre and work with the staff for so many sexual health needs. Foundry is community and can even feel like a second home. A place you can be comfortable, treated with respect and care, and guided in the right direction.” – Youth 1

“They are really non-judgemental. They make getting bad news about STIs tolerable and kind of fun, in a weird way” - Youth 2

“It has been fun giving out sexual health stuff to youth and clinic staff. It makes sexual health more fun and less taboo in the societal sense. Being sex positive is important. I would encourage more funding opportunities for sexual health. As the world we are currently living in swings further and further to conservatism, we need to remain a light in the dark for young people and their sexual health needs.”
Foundry Vancouver Granville RN

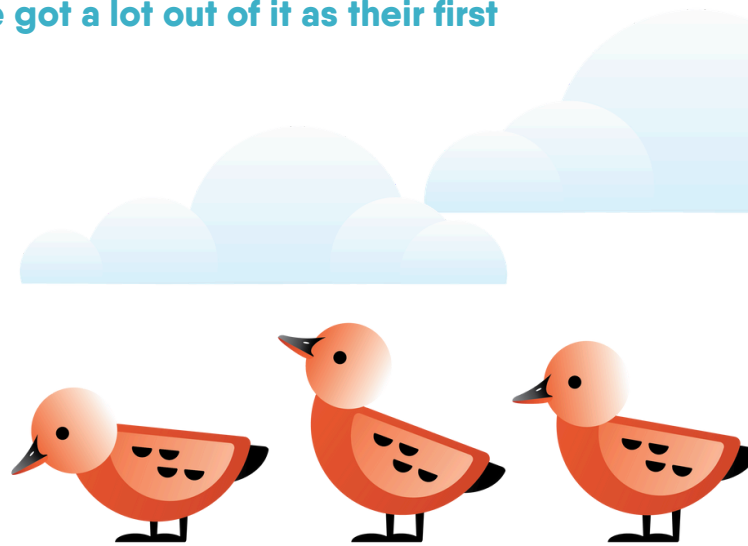
Foundry Ridge Meadows

Foundry Ridge Meadows recently hired a nurse practitioner, Amanda, to reopen their primary care services and offered a drop-in workshop as a meet and greet with her. She had all the primary care areas she can support displayed on a chart where young people could write questions, along with a round table conversation.

"It is nice to see she is excited to be here and she is willing to learn to expand her scope to provide care to those who need it. Meeting Amanda in a casual way helps lessen anxiety around going to her for care." - T

I had my concerns addressed and questions answered. The workshop seemed meaningful, and respectful. People got a lot out of it as their first interaction with Amanda." - M

"This was such a great opportunity to do something different and the timing of hiring our nurse practitioner was perfect. The youth enjoyed the interactions with each other and learning more about how Amanda can help them with their sexual, physical, mental and substance use health." - Foundry Staff



Foundry Langley

Foundry Langley youth expressed that they felt safe being able to ask vulnerable questions during the sexual health event.

The providers were able to offer sexual health supplies including flavored condoms and lube as well as creating much needed pre-natal safe sex kits for the pregnant youth.



Foundry Penticton



Foundry Penticton hosted an educational event for young people.

“Before attending the campaign, I didn’t realize how important regular STI testing was. The session explained everything in a way that felt approachable and judgment-free. I also learned about different contraceptive options beyond just condoms, which made me feel more confident about making informed choices. The HPV vaccine information was eye-opening—I didn’t know it could prevent certain cancers. I left feeling empowered and way less anxious about sexual health.”
—19 year old

“ The campaign was super helpful because it answered questions I was too embarrassed to ask before. I learned that sexual health isn’t just about avoiding pregnancy—it’s about overall well-being.”
—17 year old



Foundry Penticton Youth



Foundry Prince George

Foundry Prince George hosted 3 sexual events that coincided with the holidays so there was a lot of fun Christmas ornaments made. This initiative provided a valuable opportunity to make sexual health education more approachable and engaging for youth, which was viewed as a positive outcome and something to continue.

Foundry Prince George is grateful for the funding support, which made it possible to deliver these events in a more creative, fun, and engaging way for young people. The funding enhanced our ability to connect with youth and foster a welcoming environment around sexual health.

"I had so much fun creating Christmas ornaments!!!"

- Youth 1

"Cookies were delicious and had a good laugh about the shapes!" – Youth 2

"Never heard of Naughty Soap before but I'll check it out for sure. I love coming to Foundry, you guys always come up with something" – Youth 3

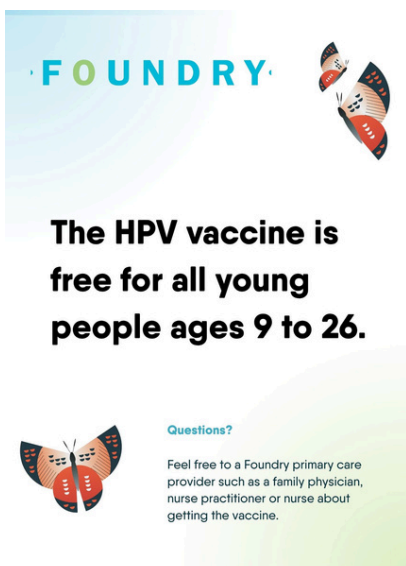


Summary

The Merck and Organon sponsorships represented a strategic investment in prevention-focused sexual and reproductive health programming for youth across British Columbia. Funding supported engagement through accessible, youth-friendly events that reached young people in both urban and rural communities. Participants increased their understanding of key topics, including HPV-related outcomes, contraception, and proactive approaches to protecting their overall health. Many were able to access HPV vaccination alongside timely, evidence-based education.

Centres identified several opportunities to strengthen future initiatives. Securing funding earlier would allow more time for planning and implementation. There is also strong interest in expanding participation to include additional centres and the Foundry Virtual team. Key learnings included the value of engaging diverse team members—such as peer support workers and sexual health educators—whose involvement was particularly well received by youth. Providing food consistently increased participation and created welcoming spaces for dialogue. Outreach beyond centre walls, including school-based engagement, was also highly successful in reaching youth who may not otherwise access services.

By reducing barriers to care and meeting youth where they are, the funding advanced more equitable access to sexual health information and services. All participating centres would welcome the opportunity to deliver similar initiatives again. Foundry centres expressed deep appreciation for the funding, which enabled the delivery of high-impact programming that strengthened sexual health awareness and supported informed health decisions for young people.



HPV poster used at events



HPV Plushie

