



Bringing support closer to youth across BC

2025/2026 Foundry Impact Report

· F O U N D R Y ·

 **STpaul's**
FOUNDATION



A Message of Thanks

This past year, your support helped more young people across British Columbia find a place to turn when they needed care, connection, and hope.

Thanks to your generosity, Foundry expanded its reach across the province, opening new centres in Burns Lake, Surrey-Central, and Tri-Cities. Each new Foundry location brings support closer to home, helping young people and families access care earlier and with fewer barriers.

That growing reach has helped Foundry centres welcome more than 19,300 young people through nearly 100,000 visits this year. Over the past eight years, Foundry has grown from 7 to 20 centres, with annual visits increasing nearly five-fold. Across all of our centres, Foundry has now welcomed more than half a million visits from young people.

Behind every number is a young person reaching out for support, a moment of hope, or a future changed through early access to care. Every centre, counselling session, and peer support visit helps ensure young people know where to turn and can access care early, close to home, and without barriers.

As Foundry continues working toward its goal of 40 locations across BC by 2030, we remain deeply committed to creating welcoming spaces shaped by the communities they serve and grounded in partnership, inclusion, and hope.

Thank you for helping build a future where no young person has to struggle alone. We are profoundly grateful to have you with us.

With heartfelt thanks,

Dr. Steve Mathias
Co-Executive Director

Dr. Karen Tee
Co-Executive Director

10 years. 10 Stories. 10 Voices.

To mark ten remarkable years of Foundry, we're sharing stories from the young people and caregivers who Foundry has helped, and the health professionals involved in bringing it to life.

Learn more:
foundrybc.ca/10-years



10 years.
FOUNDRY stories.
voices.

Husain

Foundry saved my life.



10 years.
FOUNDRY stories.
voices.

Danielle

Foundry has really been a life-changing source of community for me.



10 years.
FOUNDRY stories.
voices.

Gabriella

Foundry helped me take my mental health journey into my own hands.



10 years.
FOUNDRY stories.
voices.

Danny

I felt for the first time, somebody was in my corner.



10 years.
FOUNDRY stories.
voices.

Rayne

I've been able to just walk in and get support whenever I need, and not have to worry about paying for it.



10 years.
FOUNDRY stories.
voices.

Keira

Foundry has helped me advocate for myself. My emotions were validated and I realized I wasn't being dramatic.



10 years.
FOUNDRY stories.
voices.

Scott

Foundry is a game changer for young people and their families.



10 years.
FOUNDRY stories.
voices.

Rylee

Foundry is really oriented around meeting the youth where they're at. No problem is too big or too small.



10 years.
FOUNDRY stories.
voices.

Shahana

From your head to your toe, Foundry can help you.



10 years.
FOUNDRY stories.
voices.

Stacey

As I watched my daughter struggle, I felt a little bit lost. With Foundry she found someone she could talk to, so she wasn't alone.



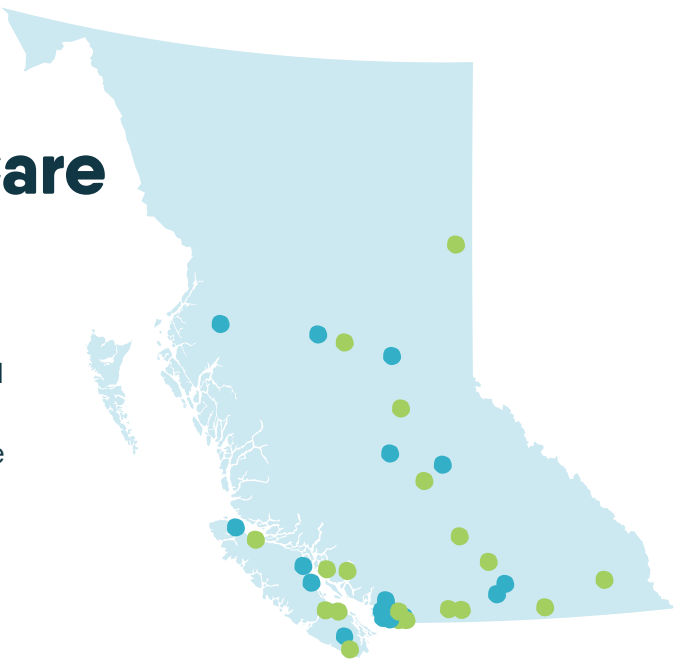
Your Support Brings Care Closer To Home

Because of you, more young people are finding health and wellness care in their own communities. Your generosity is helping transform access to care, connection, and hope across BC.

With your support, Foundry has grown to 20 centres, including **new openings in Surrey-Central, Burns Lake, and Tri-Cities this past year**, alongside virtual services.

You're also helping advance the next phase of growth to 35 centres, plus five additional locations connected to existing sites. These 40 locations will bring Foundry within a 45-minute reach for more than 85% of youth in BC.

Each new Foundry represents donor generosity, expanded reach, earlier access to care, stronger communities, and timely support for young people when it matters most.



Open
Abbotsford
Burns Lake
Campbell River
Cariboo Chilcotin
Comox Valley
East Kootenay
Kelowna
Langley
North Shore
Prince George
Vancouver-Granville
Victoria
Penticton
Port Hardy
Ridge Meadows
Richmond
Sea to Sky
Surrey Central
Terrace
Tri-Cities

Coming Soon
Burnaby
Chilliwack
Fort St. John
Kamloops
Pemberton
Port Alberni
Port McNeill
qathet (Powell River)
Quesnel
Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo)
Sooke-West Shore
South Surrey-White Rock
Summerland
Sunshine Coast
Vancouver
Vanderhoof
West Kelowna
North Okanagan
Kootenay Boundary
100 Mile House



“I just wanted a place to belong. I just needed someone to understand.”

-Keira

Finding Support in the Hard Moments

Keira lives in a small, close-knit community in northern BC where privacy is limited and reaching out for support can feel difficult. As she explored her Métis identity and navigated grief and major life changes, she was looking for a place where she could be heard, supported, and understood. Through Foundry Virtual, Keira connected with care from home, finding peer support and tools to help her process what she was going through in her own time and way.

Her story reflects the importance of ensuring young people in rural and remote communities can reach out for help and feel less alone, no matter where they live.

Because of your support, more than 2,500 young people turned to Foundry Virtual this

past year through over 8,200 visits, each representing a quiet act of courage and a moment of finding connection, understanding, and someone ready to listen when it mattered most.



Watch Keira's story to learn how Foundry Virtual helped her find her voice when she needed it most.

[Watch Keira's story.](#)



THIS LAND IS HOME.

Foundry's provincial work extends across lands that are home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples today; with histories, knowledges and ways of being that are diverse and unique to every community in which we work. We strive to respectfully hold and nurture relationships with Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous youth and family advisors, staff, community agencies and partners, who guide and inform our work.

Foundry Timeline

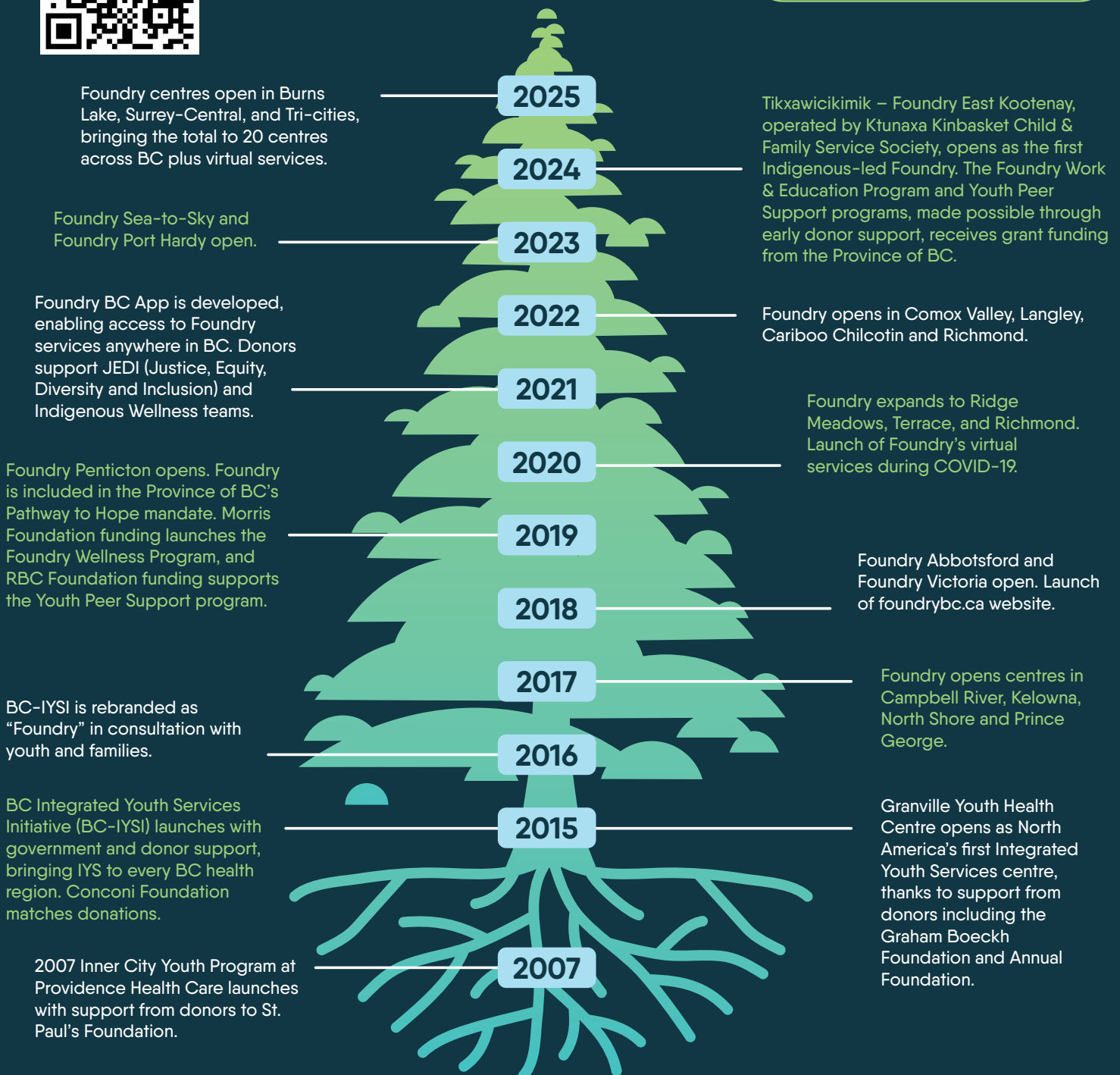
In 2015, Foundry was created to transform how young people aged 12-24 across BC access mental health, substance use health, physical and sexual health, peer support, and work, education and community services. With your support, it has grown into a province-wide network, and a national model for Integrated Youth Services.



Learn more about our journey:
foundrybc.ca/10-years

GROWTH AHEAD

With support from donors and government, Foundry will double to 40 locations by 2030, bringing care within 45 minutes for 85% of BC youth and families.





Thank You for Expanding Access

Since April 2018, Foundry has supported more than 67,000 young people across BC through nearly **half a million visits**.

Last year alone, more than 19,300 youth accessed Foundry, with about half visiting a Foundry centre for the first time.

Over the past eight years, thanks to your support, Foundry has grown from 7 to 20 centres, alongside Foundry Virtual. During this time, annual youth access has nearly tripled and visits have increased five-fold, reflecting both growing demand and expanded reach.

Each visit represents a young person taking a brave step toward support. Thank you for helping make it possible for more young people to find care earlier and closer to home.

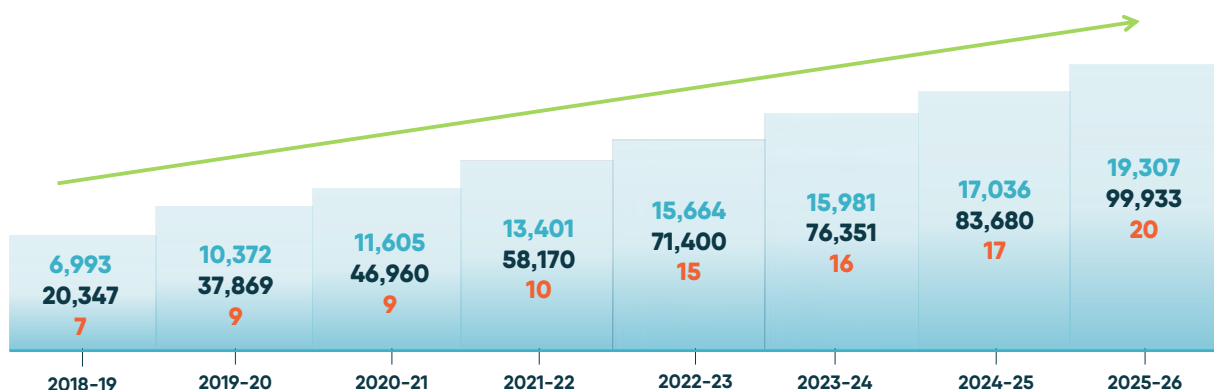
Learn more at:
[‘Sharing Lessons from a Decade Innovation’](#)



67,000+
Unique Youth

494,000+
Visits

20
Centres Open
Plus Foundry Virtual BC



Over 8 years, annual visits have grown nearly five-fold and the number of centres open increased from 7 to 20, plus a province-wide virtual service which opened in FY20/21.



From Newcomer to Community Connector

When Jas arrived in Prince George at 17, he felt alone in a new country, searching for connection. He found his way to Foundry, but was unsure if he would stay, until someone sat beside him and asked, "How are you doing?" That simple question made him feel seen. He kept coming back.

That same year, Jas survived a near-drowning experience that could have pushed him away from the water for good. Instead, he chose to try again. Learning to swim became part of his mental health journey, helping him build confidence, community, and a sense of possibility.

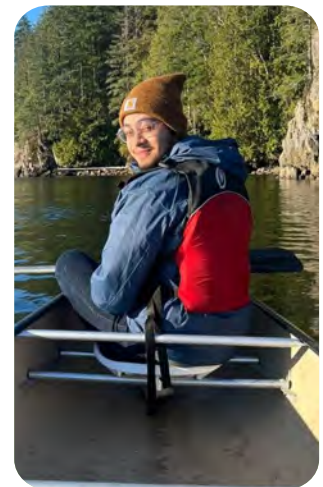
Today, Jas is a Peer Support Worker at Foundry Prince George, supporting youth who may feel uncertain and alone as he once did.

With support from donors to Foundry's

Wellness Program, Jas launched the Otter Swim Club, where youth, caregivers, and staff can safely learn to swim together, many for the very first time.

Because of you, young people like Jas can find connection, healing, and the chance to help others in return.

[Read Jas's full story](#)
to see how donor-funded Wellness programs are helping young people rediscover connection and confidence.



Youth-reported impacts of Wellness Programs:

70%

reduced reliance on screens for leisure

79%

reported a positive impact on mental health

86%

would recommend Wellness Programs to a friend

Relationship is Medicine

Donor-supported Indigenous wellness practices are reshaping care for young people.

Across BC, Foundry staff are deeply committed to providing culturally safe, responsive, and compassionate care for young people and families. Your support helps make this possible through Indigenous Wellness initiatives like Gathering Our Medicine.

Gathering Our Medicine, an Indigenous-informed healing framework created in partnership with Elders, knowledge keepers, youth, and community members, encourages staff to slow down, listen deeply, and build relationships as the foundation of care. Rather than focusing only on symptoms or solutions, staff are learning to be present without needing to fix everything right away.

At Foundry Abbotsford, Peer Support Worker Alison noticed the change firsthand. When she focused on relationship-building, young people began to return more often, stay longer, and slowly build trust, opening the door to deeper support.

Gathering Our Medicine reminds us that healing happens in relationships. Staff describe feeling less pressure to be perfect and more freedom to show up authentically with young people.

Care feels less transactional, more human, and rooted in connection. Your generous support helps make those relationships possible.



Of youth visiting Foundry in the last year...

18%

self-identified as
Indigenous

29%

self-identified as
racialized

33%

self-identified as
2SLGBTQIA+

Frequently Asked Questions

Why Do Youth Access Foundry?

Key Insights

Youth engagement from FY 2025/26 shows that Foundry continues to be a trusted point of access for care. For many youth, Foundry is not only where they access services. It's where they feel safe, connected and supported.

- Youth describe Foundry as a welcoming, non-judgmental space where they can feel safe being themselves.
- Relationships with staff and providers are central to positive experiences, with youth emphasizing the importance of feeling known, heard and respected.
- Youth value timely, low-barrier access to multiple supports in one place, including mental health, medical, peer and social supports.
- The ability to access both formal care and community-building spaces make Foundry feel different from other services.

Who Accessed Foundry Services in FY 2025/26?

Key Insights

Foundry continues to reach equity-denied youth, including Indigenous, racialized, gender-diverse, and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, with access patterns varying by age and gender identity. Indigenous youth representation is more than double that of the general BC Indigenous population (6%, Census 2021).

Age Profile

The average age at last visit was 19 years

Foundry continues to support youth across the full 12-24 age range

Identity

33% identified as 2SLGBTQIA+

Gender identity breakdown:

- 50% female
- 28% male
- 21% gender-diverse or questioning

Ethnicity

**18% identified as Indigenous
29% identified as racialized**

(Racialized includes: East Asian, Southeast Asian, South Asian, Latin American, Black, West Asian & Arab)

How Did Youth Hear About Foundry?

Key Insights

Referral pathways varied by age: younger youth most often learned about Foundry through family or school staff, while older youth were more likely to hear about it from friends and peers.



25%

My family member



21%

My friend



14%

My school counselor/teacher



11%

Other



11%

My healthcare provider (e.g.: doctor/nurse)



9%

Internet/Online search



5%

Hospital/Urgent Care Clinic



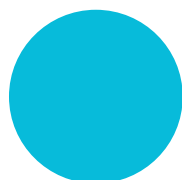
4%

My worker

What Services Do Youth Access?

Key Insights

Mental health remained the most accessed service, followed by physical and sexual health, with approximately 4 in 10 youth accessing multiple service streams.



38,490

Mental health



22,796

Physical and Sexual Health



17,220

Groups



13,323

Other visits



10,608

Work, Education, and Community Services



9,070

Peer Support



6,547

Substance Use Health

Where Are Youth Accessing Foundry Services?

Key Insights

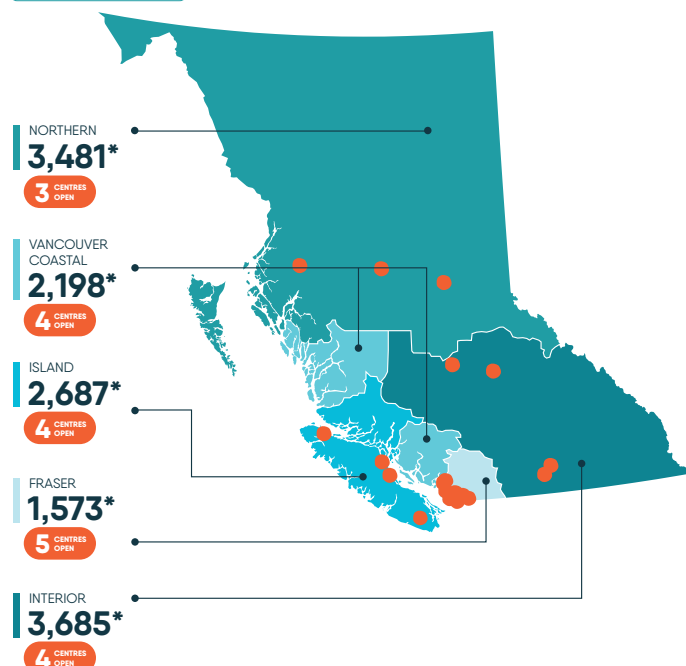
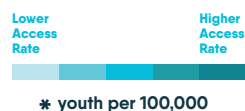
Access increased by 13% compared to last year, with about 1 in 2 youth accessing Foundry for the first time. The Interior and Northern regions have the highest per-capita access rates, despite lower numbers of youth accessing services.

If Foundry Wasn't Available, Where Would Youth Go?

Key Insights

Foundry is continuing to bridge gaps in the broader health and wellness system, as well as offer alternatives to emergency supports.

Overall rate of access to IYS in BC



28% Family members/friends



27% Nowhere / I wouldn't have gotten help



11% Walk-in clinic



10% My healthcare provider (e.g.: Family doctor, nurse)



8% My school counselor/teacher



6% Other



5% Online Support



4% Hospital emergency

Thank you for supporting Foundry's integrated youth services network across BC. Your generosity strengthens care and connection in communities of all sizes.

Youth Voices

"It's always nice to have diverse staff. It's easier to talk to people who I connect with and who might understand better. With diverse staff, a lot of people feel more welcomed, seen, and acknowledged."

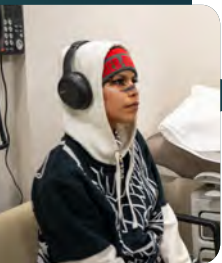
"When I told my friend about peer support, I told them they helped my anxiety. They helped me through my steps going forward so I wouldn't get stressed out."

"They didn't judge me for issues I had in the past and only wanted to help me move forward, that in itself made me to start want to really work for a better future for myself as well."

"Having a protected place for LGBTQ youth to meet is very important in these times."

"Foundry can be a welcoming safe space for all that need it."

"It's pretty easy to walk in and start interacting with people [...] the doors are open."



To stay connected and continue supporting youth,
please contact:

donate@foundrybc.ca or visit foundrybc.ca/donate

This document was written
and designed in-house.