

Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion

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Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion

Formerly the Old
Strathcona
Community
Mapping and
Planning
Committee
(OSCMAP)

We are a collaboration of youth-serving agencies and community partners working as **allies for youth in high-risk situations**. Through community-based participatory **research**, identifying emerging **trends**, and **advocacy**, we influence policy and take action to **advance the social inclusion of youth**.

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- Alberta Children's Services, Edmonton Region
- CSS Safe House
- City of Edmonton
- Edmonton Public Library
- The Family Centre
- Homeward Trust Edmonton
- iHuman Youth Society
- MAPS Alberta Capital Region
- Old Strathcona Youth Society
- REACH Edmonton
- Solicitor General, Youth Probation
- Youth Empowerment and Support Services

Working in Collaboration

- Shared vision
- Shared values
- Agreement on focus areas
- Annual action plan developed in June

Our work has **impact**, and depends on **commitment to active participation** from members and respective agencies.



Youth accessing services were regularly identifying being banned from a number of different kinds of locations, and often did not know when their ban expired or other conditions of the ban.

Environmental scan of local policy and practice
Mapping exercise and interviews with youth
Interviews with service providers





39 youth

Ages 15-25 years

26 male, 12 female, 1 gender fluid

20 of the youth identified as

Indigenous

Most commonly staying in
residential program or shelter at
time of interview



15 service providers
working with youth and
young adults living in
high-risk situations,
including homelessness.

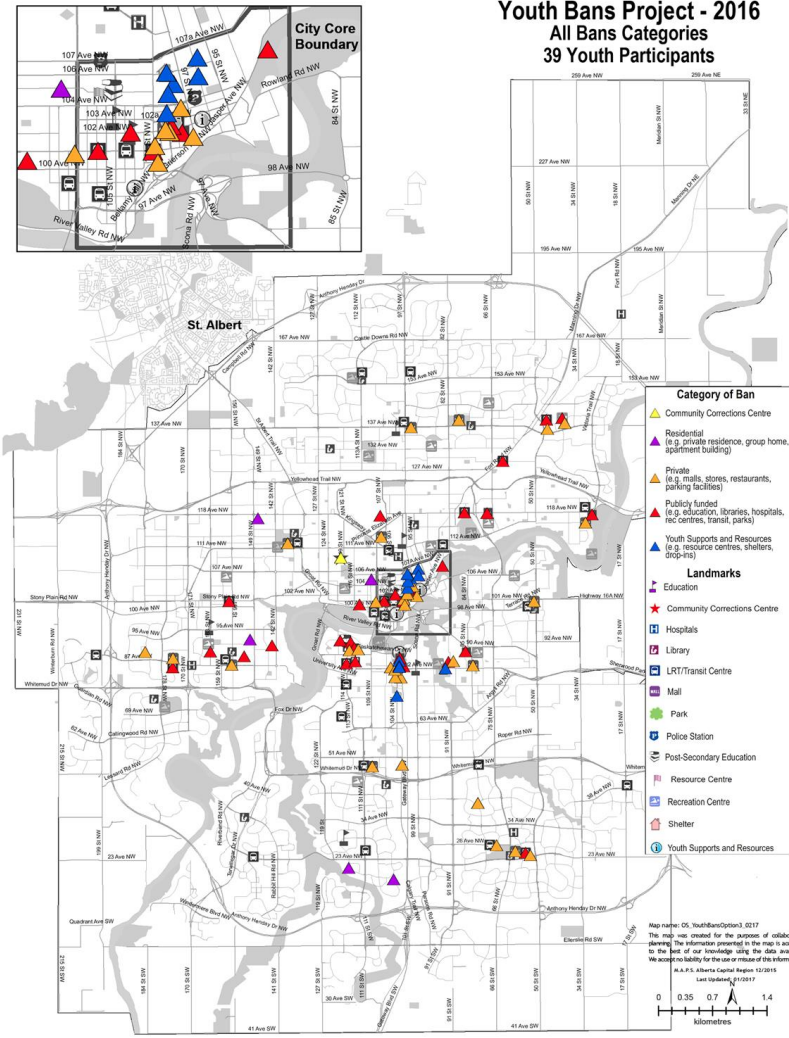


Local policies indicate that **drug or alcohol use, violence, property damage, theft, trespassing or loitering** may result in bans, and this was reflected in the experiences shared by the youth.

Youth Bans Project - 2016

All Bans Categories

39 Youth Participants



Most commonly reported ban lengths were “**life**”, **1 year** or **unknown**. Youth perspectives on their bans ranged from feeling the ban was **reasonable**, or that it was **unfair**, or that they **didn't care**.

The impact of bans was both **practical** (more difficult to access resources and meet needs) and **emotional** (feelings of rejection or embarrassment).

Youth Recommendations

How to Support Youth with Bans?

Support workers to help youth navigate their bans:

- clarification of what the ban entails
- how to abide by or cope with the ban
- how to prevent future similar incidents

Reviewing the ban to see if it can be resolved

Youth Recommendations for Banning

Professional Approach

Less threatening or hostile

Address any racism or discrimination

Opportunities for Review

Is the ban reasonable? Can it be appealed or resolved?

Are there opportunities for restorative justice?

Youth Recommendations for Banning

Decrease Length

Weeks or months, not years

Clear Communication and Documentation

Alternatives for Non-Criminal and Non-Violent
Incidents



Service providers expressed that the youth they work with are often **highly visible** and **closely monitored** by authorities in public spaces. They felt this fostered a sense of **rejection**, and that being closely monitored resulted in youth feeling **harassed** and more likely to **react poorly** if approached.

Service Provider Recommendations

Meet Basic Needs to Prevent Bans

Ban Only for Serious Offenses, and as a Last Resort

Implement De-Escalation Techniques and Trauma-Informed Practices

Service Provider Recommendations

Plan for Safety and Provision of Services

- Safety planning for the youth, staff, and other clients.
- Modified services offered where possible, e.g. meeting off-site, staff accompaniment in building.
- Working with other agencies to help meet the youth's needs.

Service Provider Recommendations

Decrease Lengths

Improve Communication

Ban Review and Resolution

Process Bans with Youth

Opportunity to learn from each other

How to best
communicate
bans needs
more
consideration





Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

**Truth and Reconciliation
Commission of Canada:
Calls to Action**



**END
POVERTY
IN A
GENERATION**

A ROAD MAP TO GUIDE OUR JOURNEY

MAY 2016

endpoverty
edmonton

Project Recommendations & Next Steps

Collaborative efforts involving youth and stakeholders to develop **best practices** including:

- Circumstances which necessitate a ban
- Length
- Documentation and communication
- Safety planning
- Ban review procedures
- Trauma-informed training and practices



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Thank you!

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