

# ACTION ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH INCLUSION: YOUTH BANNING GUIDELINES

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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**.

# Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion

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Community  
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Planning  
Committee  
(OSCMAP)

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



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.

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 Ban Journey Map



Youth may be living with trauma, mental health concerns, addictions, or previous negative experiences with authorities these challenges increase likelihood of escalation.



Authorities are responsible for keeping areas safe, usually in uniform and/or have perceived power.



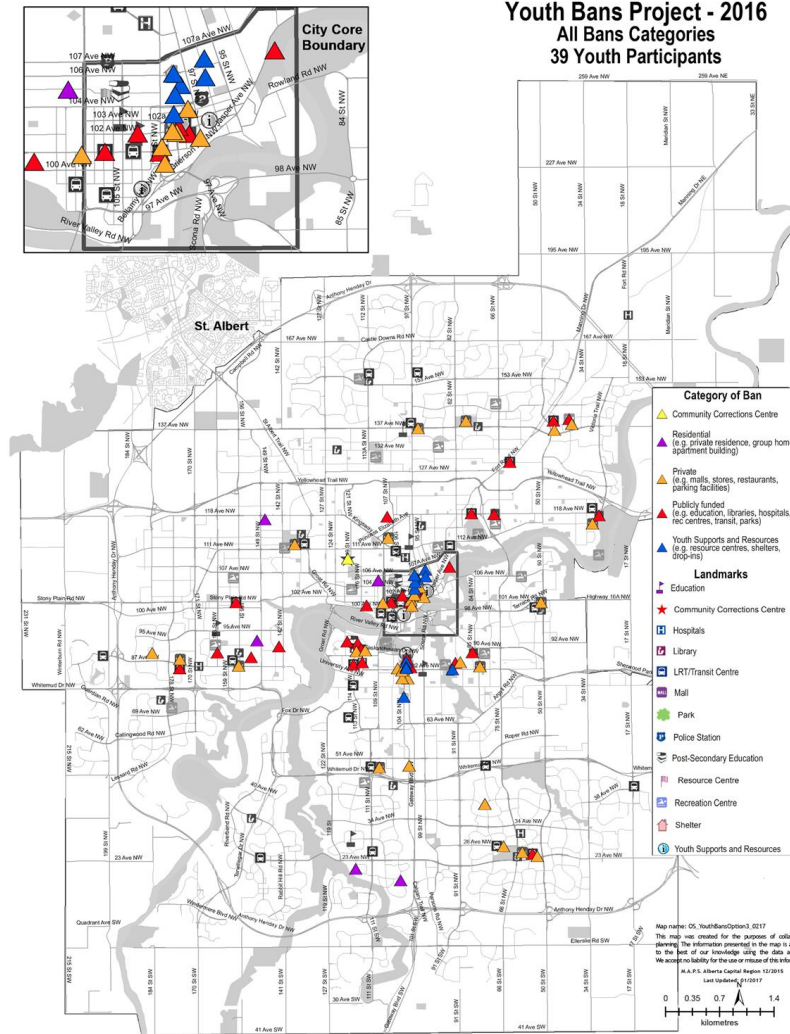
Youth are observed by authority using a bong in the park and may be approached in one of three ways.



# Youth Bans Project - 2016

## All Bans Categories

### 39 Youth Participants



# Bans: Research Project Findings

## Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion

**Problem:** 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.

### We spoke with:

- 39 youth aged 15-25 years
- 20 of the youth identified as Indigenous
- 15 service providers

## Recommendations from Youth & Service Providers for Improving Banning Practices

### 1. Decrease the length of bans

Youth and service providers felt that bans were often too long



2. If ban is issued, provide clear **communication** and **documentation** with on site **contact info**



### 3. Implement bans with a trauma-informed approach

- Less threatening
- Eliminate any racism or discrimination
- Use de-escalation practices
- Prompt team decision-making
- Bans only for serious incidents



4. **Review bans** to see if they are reasonable, can be resolved, or if opportunities for restorative justice would be appropriate



5. **Support** available for youth to understand, live with, and address their bans



6. Develop a **Safety plan** so youth can meet their needs while banned



7. **Meet basic needs** like food, housing, and access to mental health and addictions supports to prevent bans



Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion (AAYI) is a collaboration of youth-serving agencies and community partners working as allies for youth in high-risk situations. **We conducted this research because we care about youth.**

For more information about this project, contact [adm@mapsab.ca](mailto:adm@mapsab.ca)

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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



YEG YAG

Edmonton  
Youth  
Access  
Guidelines



# Working Groups at Your Table

- Is this clear?
- Do you agree this is consistent with the 5 values?
- Do you believe this could be implemented in your place of work? Why or why not?
- What barriers do you foresee in implementation with staff or youth?



# Action Alliance for Youth Inclusion

## Thank you!

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