

YAC Strategic Plan

Acknowledgement

The Youth Action Committee operates and supports youth in unceded Secwepemc territory.

In keeping with traditional protocols, we express our gratitude to the Adams Lake Indian Band, Neskonlith Indian Band, and Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band, who, since time immemorial, have ties to the territory on which we gather to learn, share, and inspire.

Introduction

Youth, ages 13 - 24, are an important segment of every community. According to the 2016 census, there are approximately 175 youth in Chase, which represents just under 8% of the Village's population. This figure does not account for the many youth who reside outside of the municipal boundaries, in communities such as Pritchard, Chase Creek, Turtle Valley, and the three Secwepemc communities. When these neighbouring communities are factored in, it is estimated that the population doubles to 350 youth.

The YAC Strategic Plan was initiated to guide the Village of Chase via the Youth Action Committee (YAC) in providing activities and opportunities for youth in Chase. However, after reviewing minutes and notes from prior YAC meetings, talking with current members of the committee, and some service organizations, it was evident that there were no lack of ideas or potential activities for the YAC to embrace, the primary challenge was YAC's lack of youth representation and engagement. Therefore, the project shifted slightly to focus on involving youth in planning by creating a framework that will mobilize a generation to take ownership of and become active on community issues, with the support of non-youth allies.

To establish this framework, a Values Mapping exercise was created and used at the Shuswap Experience Trade Show and at Chase Secondary School. Then, a Planning Session, open to the public, was held at the Chase Curling Club, where participants used the responses from the Values Mapping exercise to draft guiding principles statements and worked through the basics of developing potential working group plans (Appendix B).

With the Guiding Principles in place, the information shared through the Values Mapping exercise, the potential working group plans, and various discussions with stakeholders, the following four Strategic Goals were identified for the YAC:

- **Create and Strengthen Partnerships**
- **Grow and Improve Programs and Services**
- **Expand Youth Leadership Capacity**
- **Increase Funding and Resources**

An overview of these goals, including potential actions and metrics, are provided on pages 5 to 11.

Values Mapping

During the project it was decided that a Values Mapping exercise be used to engage youth in the ambiguous world of planning, as it uses simple prompts that engage the three primary communication senses (visual, auditory, kinesthetic) to create a very accessible platform. Through Values Mapping, participants are more likely to open up on topics that often require greater rapport or time, and they are likely to communicate their initial feelings and thoughts as there is not an expectation of “perfect answers” or any need to justify their decisions or comments.

Provided with a large map of Chase and the surrounding area, youth were asked to pin the following points on the map:

- Where I live
- My favourite place
- An underutilized asset
- Where I connect with others
- Where I work
- Where I access supports

Non youth also participated in this exercise and responded to the first 3 questions.



As a visual, the map filled with pins is exciting and provides some useful insight on place based assets in the community.

Information captured via the pins:

Areas that are under utilized:

- Centennial Park
- Wilson Park
- Curling Rink
- Primary School (Annex)
- Art Holding Memorial Arena
- The lake

Favourite place:

- The beach
- Chase Secondary
- Home
- Art Holding Memorial Arena
- Rodeo Grounds
- Adams Lake Band Gym

Where to access support:

- Chase Secondary School
- D&T Centre
- Home

It is the conversations with the participants as they pinned each item that provides the greatest insight from the exercise.

Information captured through conversations while pinning:

- Many youth indicated they aren't familiar with the Youth Action Committee, how it applies to their lives, or why it should matter to them.
- Youth want to understand what actions they can take to make a difference in the community or what the best way to participate is.
- A lot of in-person engagement activities occur at times when youth (especially students) are unable to attend - generally because of school or evening/weekend work commitments.
- The majority of out-of-town youth expressed it was difficult to arrange for transportation to attend events/activities or to hang out with their friends in Chase.
- Youth expressed that they are intimidated to be involved in organizations such as YAC or other service clubs as they don't feel comfortable to speak up or qualified to lend opinions on how things could be done.
- Snapchat, Instagram, and text messages are the most common platforms to communicate with youth.

Guiding Principles

One of the first activities at the Planning Session was to prepare guiding principle statements that would be used to support the discussions that evening and shape the draft work plans for the working groups. From these draft statements, the following Guiding Principles have been created for the YAC:

Youth Are Experts

Youth possess a unique perspective as they experience the community as young people; they are experts in their own right on how their community can be made more inclusive of their needs and aspirations.

Have Fun

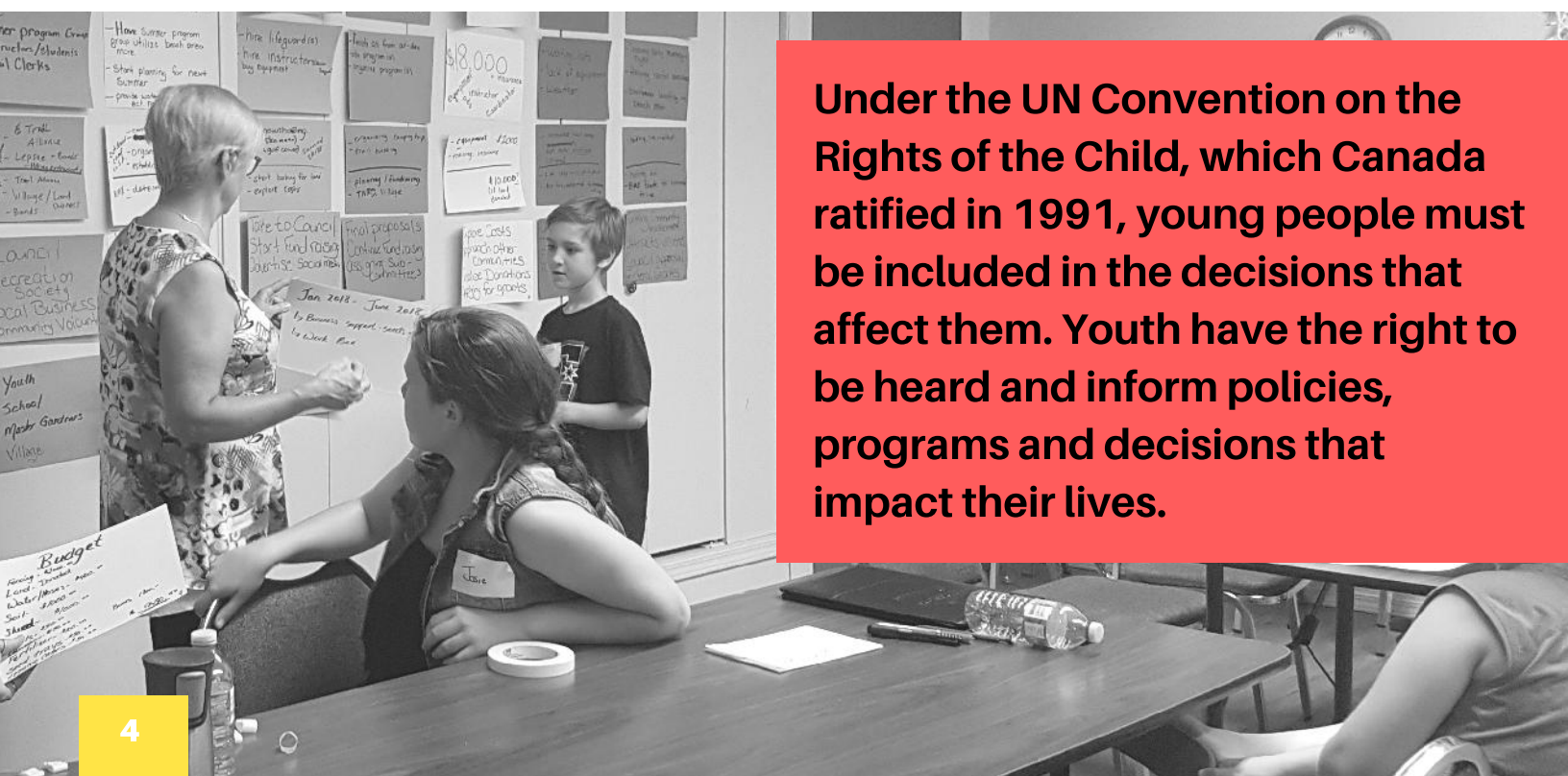
Youth are more likely to participate in a process that's fun, creative or social. Efforts must be made to ensure opportunities for high engagement and creativity.

Live For Today, Plan For Tomorrow

For youth engagement to be most impactful, it needs to include both quick actions and activities that focus on longer-term programs and systemic change.

#Connections

There are many organizations doing good work in Chase and district. Leveraging these organizations' networks will help youth become more active in volunteerism, planning, and building their capacity.



Under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Canada ratified in 1991, young people must be included in the decisions that affect them. Youth have the right to be heard and inform policies, programs and decisions that impact their lives.

Goal #1

Create & Strengthen Partnerships

This strategic goal is important because we exist within a web of relationships - all of which are important to the health and well-being of youth and, like any relationship, youth relationships in the village must be cared for and nurtured. When we do that, relationships will be strong, healthy and self-sustaining.

Formalize the Youth Action Committee

- Establish and approve a mandate and terms of reference for the YAC. Considerations include the percentage of youth and non-youth committee members, and First Nations representation.
- Seek operational funding from a variety of sources. For example, Village of Chase, BC Interior Community Foundation, United Way, TNRD etc.
- Hold meetings at Chase Secondary School during school hours.
- Meet regularly and invite delegations from the community-at-large to present and seek input or collaboration.
- Establish working groups, likely lead by non-youth allies, to address the various potential activities and priority areas identified by the YAC.

Separate YAC from Village of Chase while maintaining connection

- Continue to have a Village representative/liaison on the Youth Action Committee.
- Continue to seek funding and partnerships by leveraging Village relationships.
- Actively support and give guidance to Village initiatives to build awareness of youth matters.
- Actively support Village initiatives in order to incorporate youth perspectives into Village policy, programs and planning.

Enhance activities and engagement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth and organizations

- Extend an invitation to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between YAC and each of the First Nations.
- Ensure a youth from each First Nations is a member of the committee.
- Participate in the planning and delivery of an event that includes Indigenous culture (ie NAAAW, National Indigenous Day, Pow-wow etc.).
- Invitation to include an Elder at meetings and/or events.
- Host a workshop or solutions focused activity that addresses discrimination and reconciliation.

Establish opportunities for learning between youth and non-youth organizations

- Present the YAC Strategic Plan to the Chase Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Citizens on Patrol and other associations and groups.
- Host an annual event that highlights collaboration and partnerships.
- Seek a commitment from service organizations to complete an age and cultural competency training program which includes information on communication methods/channels to engage with youth, how to respect generational differences, etc.

We will know we have been successful when...

- YAC is a youth lead organization
- Government, service providers, and non-profits are active partners and allies to youth
- Youth events and occasions are well-supported and well attended in Chase
- YAC is recognized as the voice of youth in Chase
- The Indigenous community and youth are represented

Goal #2

Grow and Improve Programs & Services

This strategic goal is important because although there are a wide variety of organizations and programs in Chase, most of the services and programs are not designed to serve current youth needs or preferences. We need to strive for more age and culturally appropriate services because young people are more likely to access services that reflect their own values, experiences and ways of being.

Increase youth participation in sport

- Partner with the Recreation Society, Chase Curling Club, Fun Soccer League, Minor Ball, Minor Hockey, Village Lanes etc. to develop strategies for increasing youth and young family participation in sport in Chase and access supports such as KidSport.
- Hold an (semi) annual registration fair for the various leagues and activities.
- Develop a day or pass for youth to drop-in at various facilities/activities.
- Advocate and assist with the enhancement or creation of public sporting/activity spaces such as volleyball pitch, baseball fields, basketball court, outdoor fitness equipment, biking trails etc.

Increase youth participation in arts & culture activities

- Partner with the Citizens on Patrol and Chase & District Festival Society to assist in showcasing youth musicians and performers at Coffee Houses and Music on the Lake.
- Host "jam sessions" for youth to gather and play music and/or "theatre sports" nights for youth to act and practice improvisation and public speaking.
- Encourage non-youth musicians to provide individual and group lessons. Ask for community members to donate used musical instruments.
- Host paint nights with local artists leading the session and open the event to include other generations who pay to participate and cover the costs of youth participants.
- Ensure opportunities exist for youth to learn about and participate in local First Nations arts and culture activities.

Improve the physical safety and mental well-being of youth

- Document barriers that limit youth from accessing programs and services.
- Inventory existing programs and services targeted to youth.
- Work with RCMP, health providers, and others to increase positive interactions between youth and address youth physical safety issues and safe places.
- Convene a Working Group to explore options for construction or acquisition of appropriate space(s).

Increase the awareness of youth programs and services available to youth and young families

- Create a webpage, Instagram account, or an app for youth services and activities in Chase.
- Ensure information on youth programs and services offered in Chase is easily accessible on the Village's website.
- Regularly share information in CSS newsletter, band newsletters, and Sunflower.

We will know we have been successful when...

- Youth oriented communications are in place
- Youth have a safe place to connect
- Youth have low-barrier options to participate in recreation activities from arts to sports
- Youth and non-youth are regularly participating together in programs and activities

Goal #3

Expand Youth Leadership Capacity

This strategic goal is important because youth need to lead the changes that will support the young population. That means growing the pool of youth candidates who are prepared to use their voice and ideas for positive change.

Cultivate more leadership roles for youth within organizations and committees in Chase

- Partner with educational institutions and/or non-profits that provide leadership training to develop and implement a youth leadership program.
- Create mentorship opportunities so that emerging young leaders can connect with experienced business and community leaders.
- Request community organizations to dedicate a seat for a youth on their board of directors.
- Offer non-profit director training for potential youth leaders.
- Seek youth representation for village committees.

Recognize youth leadership in Chase

- Create a leadership award that is presented to a youth citizen. Also potential to recognize an organization or successful program that provides services/supports youth.
- Welcome delegations seeking policy advice and input to attend Youth Action Committee meetings.

Increase opportunities for employment and career progression

- Work with employers, Chase Employment Centre, Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training Services, Community Futures etc. to create career development opportunities for youth.
- Work with Chase Secondary and the Education and Departments of the First Nations to identify opportunities to overcome youth education and training challenges.
- Partner with Chase Library and Chase Literacy Program to increase utilization of library by offering nontraditional programs or equipment.
- Work with TRU and Okanagan College to explore options of distance learning or remote training.
- Engage partners to investigate ways to support youth entrepreneurs in Chase.

We will know we have been successful when...

- Youth are recognized by the non-youth population for their achievements and leadership
- Youth presence is visible through meetings and events in Chase
- YAC plays a significant role in setting policies and programs in Chase
- Youth are working in diverse organizations providing services to the community

Goal #4

Increase Funding and Resources

This strategic goal is important because there needs to be more resources targeted to youth and young families in Chase as many programs and organizations are focused on the adult and senior population. In addition to more targeted resources, there must be greater accountability to youth for the use and outcomes associated with those resources.

Youth are involved in funding ideas, generation, and allocation

- Offer training (like program design and proposal writing) to support the capacity of youth, organizations and groups to access funding.
- Seek youth representation on nonprofit boards, funding review committees, and other project teams.
- Invite government, nonprofits, and other funders to seek advice and guidance from the Youth Action Committee on youth funding priorities in Chase.
- Host an annual fundraising benefit for YAC and its projects.
- Apply for at least two grants a year, that are funded by non local organizations or sources
- Host activities that are multigenerational but are free for youth and require a fee for non-youth participants

We will know we have been successful when...

- Adequate funding is available for youth programs and services
- Youth organizations have the capacity to compete with non-youth organizations for funding
- Funding and reporting mechanisms are transparent and effective
- Funding is used effectively – particularly to support children, youth and families

Appendix A

Proposed Activities

An activity, project or resource for youth that can be complete for under \$500

- Restore horseshoe pits at Wilson Park. Host lessons and drop-in leagues for all ages
- Personal watercraft rentals at Memorial Park (paddle boats, kayak, paddle boards)
- Open mic nights
- Youth pentathlon
- Zine making workshop
- Badminton/volleyball at the park
- Bike race
- Bike rodeo
- Youth drop-in nights at school and bowling alley
- Hot Wheel car tournament/competition
- Have more youth bands at beach
- Billiards at Gary Lanoue's place

An activity, project or resource for youth that will require between \$500- \$5,000

- Youth curling bonspiel
- Volleyball court/nets
- Pitch-it - business/entrepreneurship competition & mentoring
- Jam Can
- Drive In movie
- Horseback riding
- Road hockey
- Dog park
- Kids dog walking services
- Youth recreation program as part of Summer Program
- Upgrade tennis courts
- Initiate a community music program

An activity, project or resource for youth that will require at least \$5,000

- Skatepark
- Indoor swimming pool
- (Mountain) biking trail
- Water/splash park
- Chase Creek trail with bridge crossing at Wilson Park & Mill Park
- Upgrade ball diamond
- Trades school
- BMX track
- Trades day
- Utilize Chase annex for youth and young parents programs

Appendix B

Working Group Plans

TASK	Provide and promote water activities		
TEAM	Mercy, Grace, Jannika, Kera, Karen and Josie		
WHO TO/IS INVOLVED	YAC, Summer program group, instructors/students, retail clerks		
STAGE ONE	STAGE TWO	STAGE THREE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have summer program group utilize beach area more• Start planning for next summer• Provide water guns, beach toys, noodles, floaties etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hire lifeguard(s)• Hire instructors (swim, kayak etc.)• Buy equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finish tasks from stage 2• Advertise program(s)• Organize program(s)	
BUDGET	\$18,000 - equipment, insurance, instructors, ads, coordinator		
RISKS	Waiting lists, Lack of equipment, Weather		
VICTORY	Daily lessons morning & night, Thriving rental business, Businesses located at the beach area		
NOTES & ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sailing classes• Make activities to do at the beach• Develop a summer swim team• Kayaking lessons/rentals• Paddle boarding lessons/rentals• Hire a lifeguard• Resources for water sports• Teach swimming lessons at the lake• Provide and promote water activities• Build a diving board at the beach		

TASK	Create access and education for outdoor activities		
TEAM	Nate, Jethro, Kelsey and Cole		
WHO TO/IS INVOLVED	Outdoor Rec: Trail Alliance, Boy Scouts/Girl Guides, David Lepsoe, First Nations, Hiking enthusiasts. BMX Track: Trail Alliance, Village/Landowners, First Nations, Kamloops/Salmon Arm BMXers		
STAGE ONE	STAGE TWO	STAGE THREE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact trail alliance• Bear safety• Organize hike• Establish interested people	Outdoor Rec: Snowshoeing days Survival skills courses BMX: Start looking for land Explore costs	Outdoor Rec: Organizing camping trip Trail building BMX: Planning/fundraising TNRD/Village land use permission	
BUDGET	Outdoor Rec: \$2,000 BMX: \$10,000 (if the land is donated)		
RISKS	Outdoor Rec: Increased trail usage, Not totally accessible BMX: Kids stop using skatepark, too addicted to biking		
VICTORY	Outdoor Rec: Hiking/outdoors club in effect BMX: Having fun, BMX track for everyone to use		
NOTES & ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create access and education for outdoor activities• Build a sports track for bikes, rollerblades, scooters• Create a paintball site• Build hiking and biking trails around town• Educational programs (e.g. Swimming, horseback riding, hiking, sewing, textiles)• Start a 4H club• Start a ball hockey league• Form a horseback riding club		

TASK	Develop and improve infrastructure for physical activities		
TEAM	Ava, Michelle, Maria, Rollie, Coleman and Desiree		
WHO TO/IS INVOLVED	Council, Recreation society, Local businesses, Community volunteers		
STAGE ONE	STAGE TWO	STAGE THREE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop proposalsApproach businessesInvolve Rec. society	Take proposals to council Start fundraising Advertise (social media)	Final proposals Continue fundraising Assign sub-committees	
BUDGET	\$9000 - (equipment, shed, gardens, plats, soil etc.)		
RISKS	Maintenance, Vandalism, Weather, Neglect/ Loss of interest and participation, Insects/ animal pests		
VICTORY	Expand gardens, Agriculture awareness, Exceeds expectations		
NOTES & ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Build safer places near the schoolProvide supervised after school hang outsProvide a monthly activity night (e.g Craft night)Fundraise for an arcadeBuild more places to hang outCollaborate with the arcade for a soda shoppeStart a community garden for youth		

TASK	Provide safe, fun, supervised activities for youth		
TEAM	Dalana, Alice, Donna, Carmen, Jaxon and Linda		
WHO TO/IS INVOLVED	Youth, school, master gardeners, senior volunteers, Village		
STAGE ONE	STAGE TWO	STAGE THREE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness of project in community• Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tool collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business support-seeds, soils, fencing etc.• Work Bee	
BUDGET	Unsure - need to look at other communities		
RISKS	Unrealistic goals, Disinterest, Public criticism, use of public/lease lands that then get used for other purposes (ie Mill Park)		
VICTORY	Getting community involvement, Attract visitors, Council approval, Federal grants		
NOTES & ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create more playgrounds• Add basketball courts• Start a gymnastics club at annex• Fundraise for water park• Build a waterslide(s)• Build an amusement park at the beach• Construct a new ball diamond• Encourage a business: Sky Zone (trampoline park)• Build a bigger pool		

TASK	Encouraging participation in planning and utilization		
TEAM	Maria, Kary, Simone and Joan		
WHO TO/IS INVOLVED	Local government, schools, First Nations, Youth, Parents/ Guardians, Seniors		
STAGE ONE		STAGE TWO	STAGE THREE
Creat sub-committees <ul style="list-style-type: none">Teens: Communicate with local youth, social media, announcements, word of mouth, paperParents/ Guardians: Social media, Facebook, word of mouth, postersSeniors: Traditional media, word of mouth		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Create a list of existing resourcesAdvertise/ promote (multimedia, personal visits, emails, Instagram)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve and develop existing resources based on community inputOngoing communication (two-way)Ongoing recruitment of volunteers from diverse backgrounds
BUDGET	\$200 - Adverts, pamphlets, posters		
RISKS	Leaving groups/individuals out, Less “sexy” sub-committee may lack appeal		
VICTORY	Intergenerational/ multicultural inclusion in planning/execution and enjoyment of resources		
NOTES & ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hire a youth workerAwareness of resources for youthIncorporation of all citizensInter-generational mentoring		

TASK	Organize youth events/activities		
TEAM	Gavin, Victor, Jacob, Ali, Brook, Marvin and Bruce		
WHO TO/IS INVOLVED	Skatepark society, Service clubs, interested parents/adults, Chase Heat, Festival society, Youth action committee, Leadership group CSS, Summer Rec program, Chamber of Commerce		
STAGE ONE	STAGE TWO	STAGE THREE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form committee• Involve youth• Seek sponsors• Apply for grants• Run lemonade stand at skatepark to raise funds for youth events• Invite seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchase movie equipment• Get permission from Village for park use• Set a schedule for events• Get skateboarders to graffiti• Approach amusement companies to seek quotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advertise events• Contact donkey refuge for riding• Contact school• Seek permission from Village for memorial park use• Look into insurance	
BUDGET	\$20,000		
RISKS	Safety for children, Loss of revenue, Lack of interest, No funding, Huge involvement/ lack of volunteers		
VICTORY	Successful fundraising, Huge youth turnout, Renewed spirit, Happy kids, Lots to do for youth in Chase, families moving to Chase		
NOTES & ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Host events for kids/youth• Outdoor movie in the pocket park• Host a carnival using local and non residence• Hold a Hot Wheel car tournament/competition• Recruit volunteers to decorate skatepark• Invite seniors to the skatepark grand opening		





**Chase
Youth
Action
Committee**

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