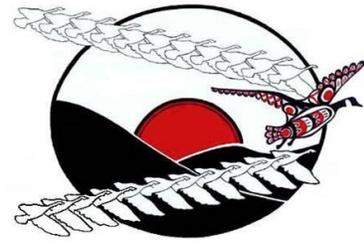


# Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council Report to the Board of Directors September 2017



From: Eric Klapatiuk, Karlee Wilson, Shyla Elgie, Danielle Sam  
Re: AGM Report  
Date: September 22-23, 2017

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"Joining PAYC was the best decision I've ever made. I've learned and grown so much in the last few years that when I look back at myself, it's always in wonderment at how different I was and pride in how much I've changed. It's always a joy to see other youth flourish and evolve as they grow and become their best selves alongside yourself and you just feel so so proud of them, too. I've made so many close connections in the Friendship Centre Movement and I adore everyone I've come into contact with to the point that I do consider everyone family. I'm always looking forward to meetings because I get to see everyone, PAYC and non-PAYC alike."

**- Karlee Wilson**

"Over the past course of time a large time commitment has been the Constitution and By-law Working Group. With multiple meetings, a lot of conversation occurred around youth voice within the new board structure of the presented draft document. Laterally between the youth, our vision was strength and equity. In thinking collectively, we can contribute to better outcomes for indigenous people and youth. Youth voice and representation has been a needed vital role in conversation. In fact, historically there has been multiple commitments that youth are needed for driving and motivating any joint work. A large strength within our movement is the perseverance and energy of youth. We have fostered a cohort of robust youth leaders through skill development, who in turn have aided in strengthening partnerships. Further, there is value in youth voice for the contribution of improving the landscape of programs and services for Indigenous youth. Youth voice gives the opportunity to shift the conversation more broadly and contribute to new and innovative dialogue.

In closing, I want to take a quick moment to express appreciation to the many people in this room: the youth, the elders, staff, directors, friends, and others alike."

**- Eric Klapatiuk**

"During this past year being on PAYC has helped me grow on a professional and individual level – from facilitating workshops at GOV to participating at many PAYC events. I feel very grateful for all

of the support and encouragement I have received. It has helped drive my passion for youth engagement.”

– **Shyla Elgie**

“My time with PAYC has offered a lot of self-growth. I’m still quite reserved when it comes to speaking to large groups of people, but I know that when I do have the courage to share my thoughts or feelings I am heard by everyone because our circles offer such respect to everyone. The greatest experience I’ve had was Gathering Our Voices. It’s always so amazingly refreshing to see so many of our young people engaging and supporting each other, to see them participating in activities outside their comfort zones, making new friends, and having open minds to learning new things.

I am so grateful not only to the BCAAFC, but to my own Friendship Centre in Port Alberni as well because they believed in me when I doubted my own ability. I have a lot of great people on my team of support, and I do not hesitate to lean on them when I need to.”

– **Danielle Sam**