

NEWSLETTER

January 2026



Planet Youth Haldimand-Norfolk (PY HN) has had a productive first year. Following an initial period of community engagement and mobilization, PY HN hosted a Community Forum in Jarvis in November 2024. The event brought the community together to connect and learn about Planet Youth and the Icelandic Prevention Model, as well as how to work collaboratively to support and make a positive impact on the youth of Haldimand and Norfolk.

Staff also attended the Planet Youth Conference in Ottawa in November 2024, where they connected with and learned from other communities across Canada implementing the Planet Youth approach.

PY HN continued to engage with the local community throughout much of 2025. The steering committee held its first meeting on January 8, and team members attended several local events, including the Axtion Sports Jam on September 13, the Jarvis Touch a Truck on September 14, and the Holy Trinity Wellness Fair on November 27



The PY HN team also participated in professional gatherings to share knowledge and learnings from other communities implementing the Planet Youth approach. Staff attended the Knowledge Development and Exchange (KDE) Hub Annual Symposium in Guelph November 25-26, which focused on youth substance use prevention across federally funded programs in many communities.

Among attendees were University of Waterloo researcher Dr. Jennifer Yessis and her master's student Kaitlyn Squires. They will be working with PY HN to conduct population level intervention research to advance knowledge in youth substance use prevention, with a specific focus on learning from promising interventions.



Staff also attended the Planet Youth Conference on November 27, where communities from across Canada gathered in Toronto for a full day focused on youth wellbeing, collaboration, and the practical use of data to strengthen protective environments for children. The conference emphasized how united communities and reliable information help young people grow safer, healthier, and more connected.



In November 2025, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) awarded PY HN \$704,886 to support the rollout of the approach over three years.



The first round of data collection began in December 2025 and wrapped up on January 8, 2026, with surveys sent to all grade 10 students in Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board and the Grand Erie District School Board in Haldimand-Norfolk.

To help promote this data collection to students and their families, PY HN collaborated with a few youth and parents from the area to film videos, which were edited by a local young person.

Survey results are expected in February or March and the results will be shared widely throughout the community. Local action teams will come together to review the findings and come up with initiatives to work on the priorities identified within them.



Stay tuned for information about recruitment for these action teams in early 2026!