



**Youth for Christ**  
Youth Unlimited™



# ANNUAL REPORT

YOUTH FOR CHRIST CANADA

2023



## LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR



**Dear Friends of Youth for Christ,**

Thank you for your faithful support and partnership with Youth for Christ Canada as we work towards seeing every young person living fully in Christ!

As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well and sharing about the gift of living water. I am so grateful that we have the gift of God's love and eternal life and that we are able to share this Good News with young people across Canada.

*Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

JOHN 4:13-14 ESV

Today, youth are navigating uncharted territory which most of us did not have to deal with when growing up, but the one thing that remains the same is God's unwavering love for all of us. Throughout the history of Youth for Christ | Youth Unlimited, we have remained *Geared to the Times, Anchored to the Rock*. Our programs change based on the current needs of youth in our communities, however, our message of God's love has never changed.

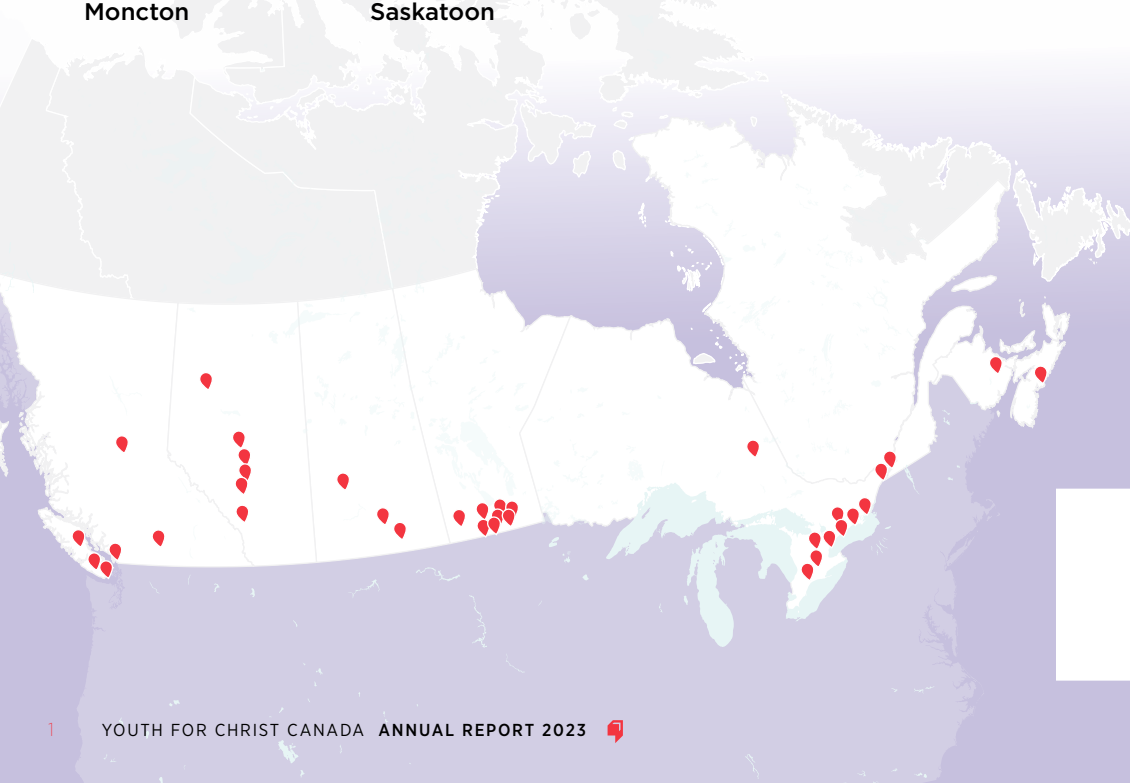
We are so thankful for God's faithfulness and your partnership as we work together towards seeing the hope and potential in every young person.

Grace and peace,

**Tim Coles**  
National Director

# Our Chapters

- |                  |                    |                 |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Altona           | Montréal           | SE Saskatchewan |
| Calgary          | Morden             | Steinbach       |
| Central Alberta  | Morris             | SW Ontario      |
| Comox Valley     | Northumberland     | Timmins         |
| Eastern Counties | Nova Scotia        | Toronto         |
| Edmonton         | Okanagan           | Vancouver       |
| Highlands        | Peace Country      | Victoria        |
| Honeymoon Bay    | Peace Hills        | Westlock        |
| Kawartha         | Portage la Prairie | Westman         |
| Kingston         | Prince George      | Winnipeg        |
| Landmark         | Quinte             |                 |
| London           | Regina             |                 |
| Moncton          | Saskatoon          |                 |



57,979

YOUTH

4,754

VOLUNTEERS

798

CORE MINISTRY PROGRAMS

822

STAFF

36

CHAPTERS / AFFILIATES

**EVERY YOUNG PERSON  
LIVING FULLY IN CHRIST**



# LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

The first Youth for Christ rally in Canada was on December 30, 1944, at Massey Hall in Toronto. As we look forward to celebrating 80 years of Youth for Christ Canada, we thank God for His constant faithfulness as He works in the lives of young people.

Youth for Christ has a rich history of sharing the Good News of God's love with young people across Canada. Starting in the mid-1940s, Youth for Christ was known for its rallies where thousands of young people attended to hear God's message of hope and love for all. Throughout the decades, we have remained true to the message of salvation by being geared to the times and anchored to the rock.

Michael Packer became involved in Youth for Christ in 1959. He shares how the local paper advertised a Youth for Christ event that changed and shaped the direction of his life as it laid the

foundation for a life of Christian service:

*"I was born in May 1941 during World War II in Blackpool, England. My father died when I was 10 years old, leaving me as the only male and churchgoer in my family. In 1956, our family emigrated to Canada, finally settling in Vancouver, where I attended Holy Trinity Anglican Church.*

*In 1959, I saw an advertisement in the Vancouver Sun for the movie Seventeen being shown at a Youth for Christ rally near my home. I knew nothing about Youth for Christ, or the church, but I was intrigued on that Saturday night to find a large church packed with teens. I sat next to a young man named Bob. By the end of the meeting, I realized that this type of event was not what I as a devout Anglican was used to, and I told Bob that I would likely not come again.*

*But God had other plans, and a few weeks later I began attending the rallies regularly. The music, the enthusiasm, the excellent speakers, many of them missionaries, and the involvement of young adults, showed me that Christianity was a vibrant, active faith. By the following year, I understood that I needed to trust in Jesus as my personal Saviour and Lord of my life. One 1960 spring night, I joined others at the front of the YFC rally as a public commitment to Christ.*

*Those of us who came forward that evening were counselled, and given Bible study material to complete. We were encouraged to meet weekly as a group with Associate Director Ralph Lemke. Ralph introduced me to using Our Daily Bread for my Scripture study. In time, he had me give a public testimony at a Saturday night rally. I don't remember what I said, but I know that I ended indicating that I wanted to serve the Lord by quoting Matthew 5:16: 'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'*

*In time, I became active in an evangelical church, growing spiritually through Bible teaching, prayer meetings, and College & Career Fellowship. God used the year of Youth for Christ follow-up to lay a firm foundation for the Christian service God*

*had planned for my next six decades.*

*I am so grateful that Youth for Christ encouraged me to daily read my red YFC Bible (which I still have), to let the Holy Spirit apply the Scriptures to my life, and to listen to our pastor's sermons for guidance. Thank you, God and YFC."\**

Fast forward to today, and we still have rallies to share the Good News of God's love with young people in Canada. Now these rallies are called Change Conference. In October 2023, we had over 4,000 youth attend events in Toronto and Ottawa with over 1,300 making a decision to follow Jesus, like Michael Packer did in 1960!

*"I was at the Toronto conference and I wanted to say that I felt God's presence at the conference, specifically during worship and have really been encouraged to start reading my Bible more and being more open with my faith to others and building my relationship with Christ, so thank you thank you thank you for this amazing opportunity!!!"*

- CHANGE CONFERENCE 2023 PARTICIPANT

*\*This is an excerpt of Michael Packer's story.*

**To read the full version and learn more about Michael, please visit [yfc.ca/michael](http://yfc.ca/michael)**



## OUR MISSION

Every young person living fully in Christ

## WHAT WE DO

Engage and equip youth to know and follow Jesus



“Heading to California on Calbreak was a game-changer. Hearing about Jesus felt like finding my way out of a dark place into the light, and the staff were so supportive. Meeting other skaters and hitting up dream skate parks was an absolute blast.”

- YOUTH, YFC | YOUTH UNLIMITED SASKATOON



# CANADIAN NATIONAL OFFICE

NON-CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Year Ended December 31,	2023	2022
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Contributions	\$ 6,254,287	\$ 5,989,759
Registrations, Administration Fees & Other	581,808	427,898
Association Dues	163,751	146,535
	\$ 6,999,846	\$ 6,564,192
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Global Engagement & International Ministries	2,795,012	2,766,801
National Programs & Events	1,522,430	1,389,035
National Operations	1,427,393	1,352,685
People Development	598,626	613,954
Affiliate Ministries	452,188	415,946
Chapter Development	307,068	260,596
	\$ 7,102,717	\$ 6,799,017
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses for the Year	\$ (102,871)	\$ (234,825)

## 2023 CANADIAN OPERATIONS

INCLUDING ALL CHAPTERS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	
Income for National Office & all Local Programs	\$ 52,862,508
Expenditures for National Office & all Local Programs	\$ 52,473,406
Amount of Surplus between Income and Expenses	\$ 389,102

798 

Core Ministry Programs

681 

Permanent Staff

141 

Seasonal / Youth  
Employment  
Opportunities

4,754 

Volunteers

2,576 

Responded to the  
opportunity to be a  
follower of Jesus

3,658 

Total youth in discipleship

951 

Churches partnering  
with YFC in Canada



# SERVING YOUTH IN **371** COMMUNITIES

## CORE MINISTRIES

Your support has made it possible to serve 371 communities through **6 CORE MINISTRY** categories



### INNOVATIVE CENTRES

Pursuing shared interests in inspiring environments



### CRITICAL CARE

Supporting youth experiencing systemic vulnerability



### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Connecting through team and mentoring relationships



### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Growing and discovering God's purpose for life



### TRIPS, CAMPS & EVENTS

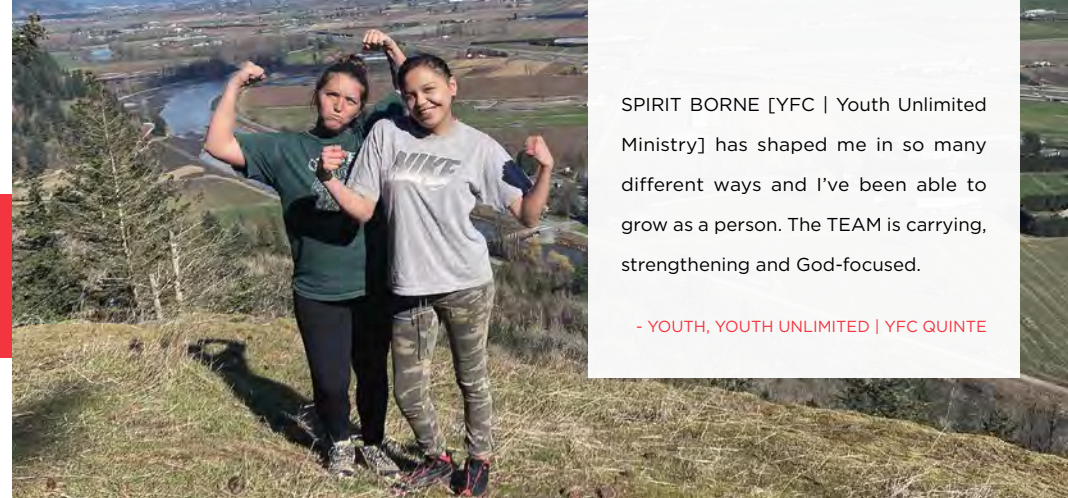
Sharing experiences, adventure and social impact



### MARKETPLACE INITIATIVES

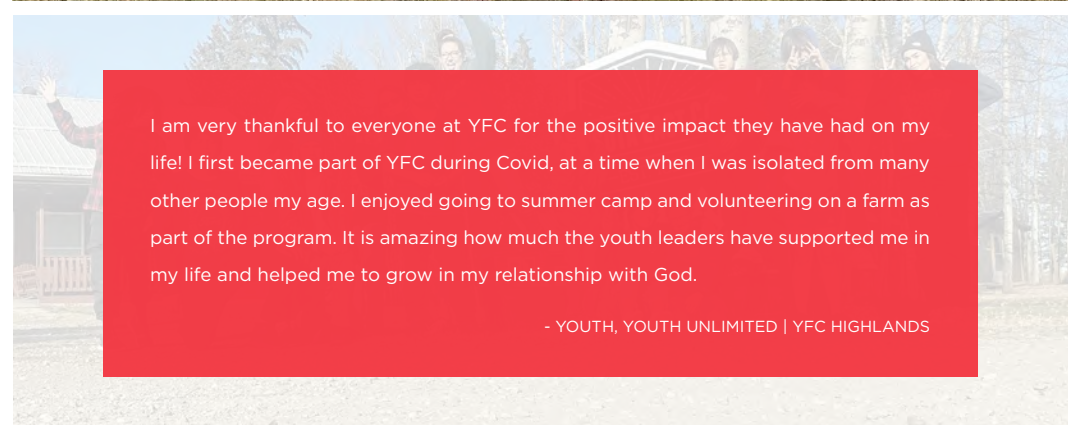
Developing employment skills and entrepreneurship

Visit [yfc.ca](https://yfc.ca) for more information on our Core Ministries



SPIRIT BORNE [YFC | Youth Unlimited Ministry] has shaped me in so many different ways and I've been able to grow as a person. The TEAM is carrying, strengthening and God-focused.

- YOUTH, YOUTH UNLIMITED | YFC QUINTE



I am very thankful to everyone at YFC for the positive impact they have had on my life! I first became part of YFC during Covid, at a time when I was isolated from many other people my age. I enjoyed going to summer camp and volunteering on a farm as part of the program. It is amazing how much the youth leaders have supported me in my life and helped me to grow in my relationship with God.

- YOUTH, YOUTH UNLIMITED | YFC HIGHLANDS



I've struggled with major depressive disorder my whole life. I didn't really want to come to the conference, but I came anyway! And God just reminded me so lovingly that He wants to sit with me in my darkness. He has asked me to invite Him and continue to experience life with Him, even if it isn't all butterflies and rainbows. I also feel a lot of guilt for struggling with mental illness because of my dysfunctional family and also just the pressure to be the "perfect Christian" but God reassured me that I'm allowed to be sad. Even Jesus weeps for us and emotions are a gift from God so I'm allowed to feel. He just wants to work on them with me.

- PARTICIPANT, CHANGE CONFERENCE



*God's Unwavering Love*

## MIKAYLA'S STORY

At Youth for Christ Canada, we see the hope and potential in every young person. We know that God loves each one of His children, and our staff and volunteers want to share God's love with each young person they interact with. In March 2015, Harvard's Center on the Developing Child released a study saying, *"Every child who winds up doing well has had at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult."*\*

When Mikayla was growing up, she had a good relationship with God, but as she went through high school, she struggled with partying, drugs, and alcohol. She found herself in jail and mental health facilities. Unfortunately during this time, she did not have a lot of support from family or friends.

Over the past few years, Mikayla attended Backstage, a ministry of YFC | Youth Unlimited Steinbach, and was loved and accepted by the staff and volunteers there. She credits the love and support she received to be what helped her realize that God was still there.

On Christmas Eve, her sister invited her to attend church, and she showed up wondering if she was going to be accepted with her face tattoos and rough lifestyle. After this service, Mikayla started attending church regularly because it was a positive alternative to her current lifestyle. Not long after, Mikayla became pregnant, and she wondered if she would still be accepted at church. She was reassured by her church community that she was loved and that her child was a blessing.

\*<https://joshshipp.com/one-caring-adult/>

*"God knows everything that you've done; God knows every single sin and still loves you. I think the biggest part was just me starting to forgive myself, and that was the hardest part - it still is... [I] have to forgive myself every day... I feel so loved, so accepted, and a sort of peace that I never felt before; that peace I was trying to find with all the drugs and everything... I found with God... God can love anybody, and God does love everybody, no matter how deep your sin is."*

Now, when Mikayla attends church, she welcomes new attendees with open arms, the way she was welcomed into church and into Youth for Christ.

*"I feel so loved, so accepted, and a sort of peace that I never felt before..."*

Your faithful partnership allows our staff and volunteers to continue showing God's love to young people across Canada. Your generous support allows us to build long-lasting relationships with youth who, in turn, can be a positive influence in the lives of others in their communities.

**To watch more of Mikayla's story, visit [yfc.ca/mikayla](https://yfc.ca/mikayla)**





# GLOBAL IMPACT STORY: GENERAL ASSEMBLY



In October of 2023, YFC staff from across the world gathered together in the Netherlands for a global conference called **General Assembly (GA)**.

GA is a time to meet and reconnect with colleagues from other YFC nations. It is a time to be re-inspired through collective teaching with speakers from multiple countries, attend seminars, pray, and worship together. We were able to connect with colleagues from nearly 80 countries, learn from one another, and hear how God is moving in the nations.

Canada was well represented at GA with 100 attendees from across the country participating in the Conference.

As one attendee said, *"It was truly a picture of heaven. We were unified across cultures, languages, countries and generations with the same heart and vision 'to see that every young person, in every people group, in every nation, has the opportunity to make an informed decision to be a follower of Jesus Christ and become part of the local church.'"*



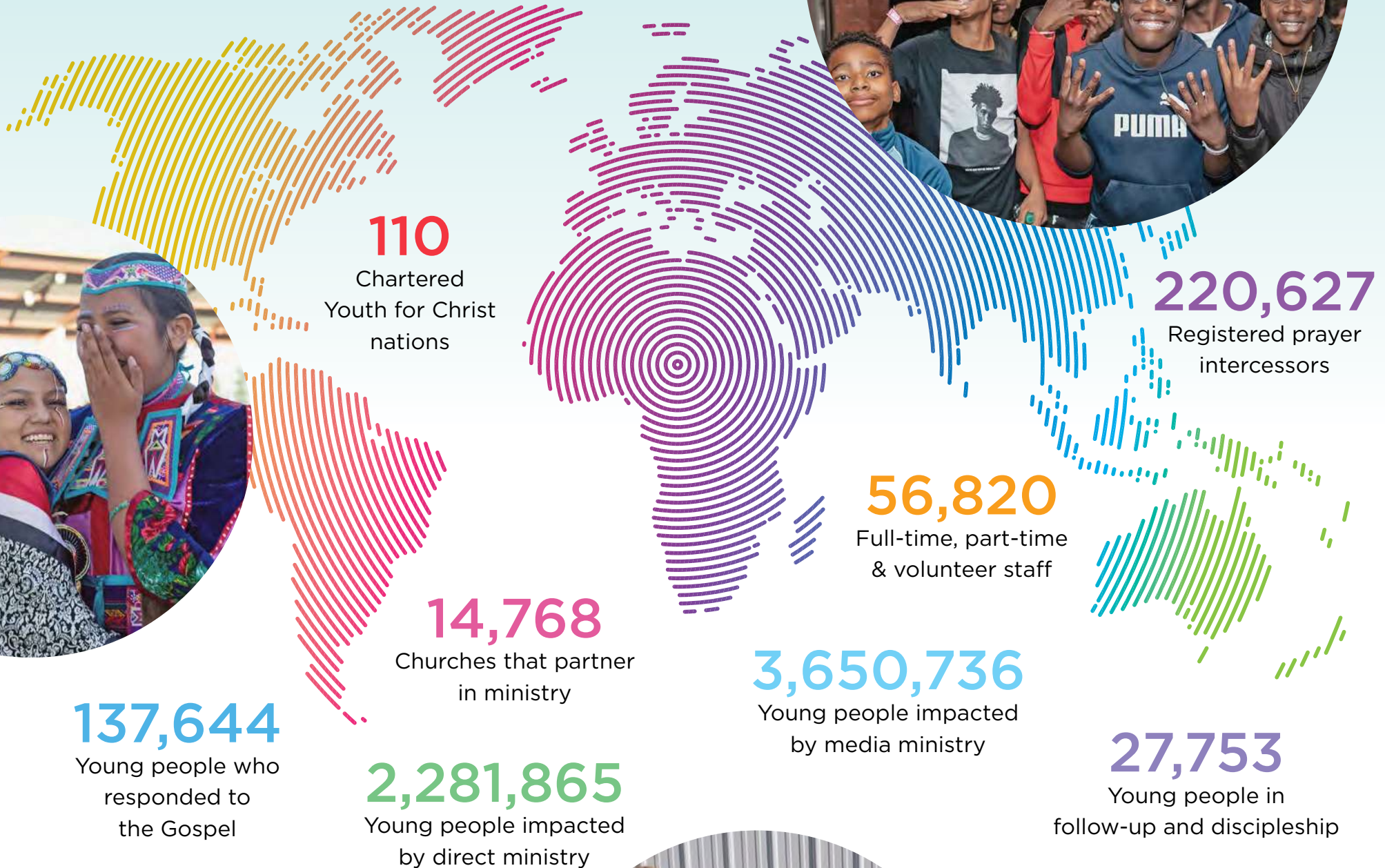


The Drop-In [YFC Ministry] is a safe space to be yourself and to, of course, have fun. It's well protected and has a variety of fun things youth can do and socialize about. My favourite thing about the Drop-In is how thoughtful the leaders are when deciding what to set up and play with us, like volleyball. I also love when we have God talks and when we can really connect about why we're all together.

- YOUTH, YFC | YOUTH UNLIMITED WINNIPEG



# 2022 WORLDWIDE IMPACT



**110**

Chartered Youth for Christ nations

**220,627**

Registered prayer intercessors

**56,820**

Full-time, part-time & volunteer staff

**14,768**

Churches that partner in ministry

**3,650,736**

Young people impacted by media ministry

**27,753**

Young people in follow-up and discipleship

**137,644**

Young people who responded to the Gospel

**2,281,865**

Young people impacted by direct ministry



These figures are a compilation of statistics reported on Annual Ministry Reviews from 2022. They are close approximations but not absolute totals. Media includes literature distribution, TV, radio, and internet.

Information provided by Youth for Christ International. At the time of printing, 2023 statistics were unavailable. To view 2023 statistics, please visit [yfc.org](http://yfc.org).

**NATIONAL PROGRAMS  
FROM COAST TO COAST**



**Change Conference**  
changeconference.com



**The Compassion Series**  
compassionseries.com



**Keep it Real**  
ikeepitreal.ca



**Engage**  
yfc.ca/engage



**WakeUp Deborah**  
wakeupdeborah.net



**Lifeteams**  
lifeteams.ca



**Honeymoon Bay Lodge  
and Retreat Centre**  
yfc.ca/honeymoon-bay



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Mark Fletcher**  
Board Chair

**Rebecca Aitken Stymiest**  
Vice-Chair

**Phil Siff**  
Vice-Chair

**Brian Girvan**  
Secretary / Treasurer

**Erin Dupuis**  
Central Region Board Member

**Genga Arulampalam**  
Member at Large

**Bernie Hayhoe**  
Member at Large

**Samson Ling**  
Member at Large

**Suzy Symes**  
Member at Large

**Dwayne Dyck**  
Central Region Executive Director

**Mark Koop**  
Western Region Executive Director

**Tony Posthumus**  
Eastern Region Executive Director

**David Annesley**  
YLAB Representative

**Ashley Reimer**  
YLAB Representative

**Larry Williams**  
YFCI Representative



## OUR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Tim Coles**

National Director

**Maureen Pryce**

Associate National Director

**Brett Andrews**

Director of People Development

**Mark Beattie**

Director of Finance

**Jake Schellenberg**

Director of Chapter Development

**Daryl Stogryn**

Director of Global Engagement

**Naomi Van De Visch**

Human Resources Director



**THANK YOU** for your support over the past year.

We could not have done it without **you!**





**Jeunesse pour Christ**  
Jeunesse sans limite™

Youth for Christ Canada

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Canadian Centre for  
Christian Charities

Supporting ministries in a complex world



A chartered nation of  
Youth for Christ International

WE SEE THE **HOPE** AND **POTENTIAL** IN EVERY YOUNG PERSON