

Guiding Principles: Halls Creek Youth Strategy

Guiding principles are the fundamental, moral and ethical beliefs shared by youth development stakeholders in the Shire of Halls Creek. They represent core values and what the group consider important in terms of a context for their vision and recommended initiatives. They provide a framework for decision making about priorities. Any action needs to be measured against these values. Nine guiding principles have been identified.

1. **Respect for Diversity and Human Dignity**- opposing all forms of discrimination whether based on age, race, ethnicity, gender, social circumstances or sexual orientation.
2. **Socio-economic Realities**- acknowledging that effective youth development will be integral with continued progress on tackling broader critical community issues including community governance, family and community safety, educational relevance, employment opportunities, alcohol and drug abuse, housing and transport.
3. **Respect for Youth Engagement**- valuing the opinions, contributions, approaches and skills of young people within all areas of community life, and supporting young people to be strategically engaged as both architects and agents in all development processes, including program development, implementation and evaluation. This *Strategy* respects the contribution that young people offer as citizens today, not just leaders tomorrow.
4. **Youth Empowerment**- providing young people with experiences, knowledge, skills, confidence and supports which enable them to participate effectively, responsibly and fully in society.
5. **Social Justice and Inclusion**- targeting support and services to those young men and women most disadvantaged.
6. **Cultural Relevance**- ensuring that youth options (including employment and training options) evolve within a local cultural framework and cultural/community realities.
7. **Asset and Opportunity Focus**-building upon local assets, creativity and existing initiatives and facilitating opportunities and experiences that enable young women and men to see their communities as places of opportunity.
8. **Collaboration**- ensuring a high level of stakeholder cooperation, partnership and networking.
9. **Sustainability**- focusing on long term financial supports, community capacity building initiatives and workforce development for youth work professionals.

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