

Portage Youth on:



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Data collected via online surveys in the Spring of 2022 by Communities Building Youth Futures. This survey was filled out by 85 local youth.

By the Numbers:

Only 3 in 10 youth feel that their opinion is valued by people in charge



Also - only 3 in 10 youth feel that when they speak up, their voice is heard.

41.2% of youth feel that if they want to make a difference in our community, they have the support to make it happen.

About half of youth (49.4%) say they see a clear path to get them from where they are today to where they want to be in the future.



A vision for a 'Perfect Portage':

When asked to envision a perfect portage, here are some of the ideas we heard:

"There would be a reason for youth to stay (e.g., better higher education opportunities, more jobs and higher wages)."



"Youth centres for youth and young adults to feel welcome and not forced to hangout on the streets."

"A community that actively tries to build better relations with everyone regardless of race or gender. A community that strives to build a better future."

Feeling part of **POSITIVE** impacts:

When asked to share about a time when youth felt like they were part of a positive impact in our community, there were 3 major themes:

Volunteering: Present in 35% of responses



Through their work: 15%

Acting as a role model: 14%

"I actively volunteer with children throughout the winter. Seeing the next generation of young people gain confidence as they learn new skills is the best aspect of my contribution to the community."

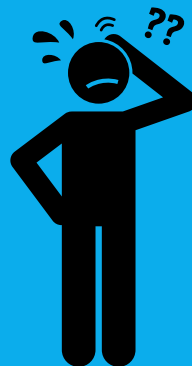
The top three things that youth want to see more of are:

1. Parks/Green Spaces
2. Jobs
3. Training Programs



Issues that feel too **BIG** to fix:

When asked to share about a time where a problem or issue in our community felt too big to fix, 4 major themes emerged:



Drug use and addictions: 19% of answers

Safety & Crime: 18%

Homelessness: 13%

Discrimination*: 13%

*Primarily racism, homophobia and ableism