

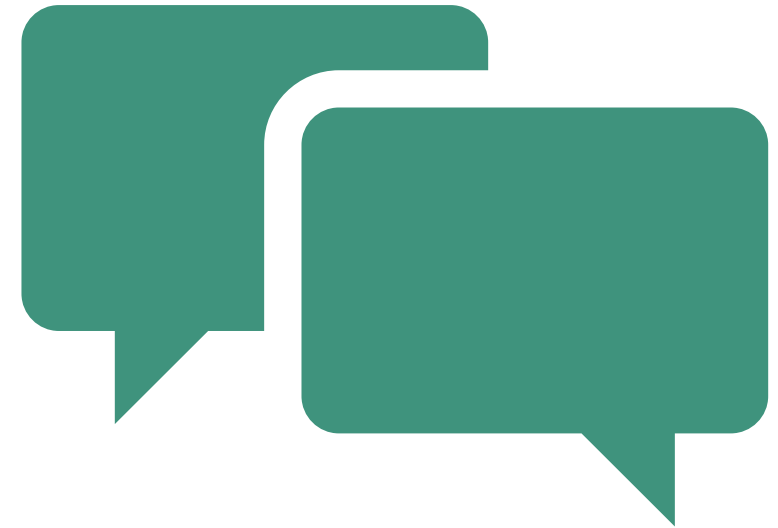


WELCOME!

Funding Your Future:

Post-Secondary Funding and Support for Young People with Lived Experience in Care

Tracey Eyles – Advocate
Jamie Kang – Advocate





Territorial Acknowledgements



Group Agreements



What we will cover:

1 FINANCIAL SUPPORTS & RESOURCES

- Agreements with Young Adults
- Provincial Tuition Waiver Program
- Youth Educational Assistance Fund
- Youth Futures Education Fund
- Scholarships, Bursaries, Grants, Funds

2 ADVOCACY SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

- What is the RCY?
- What does the RCY do?
- Rights and Advocacy

3 DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS

AGREEMENTS WITH YOUNG ADULTS: A.Y.A

At the age of 19 having been in the continuing custody of the Director; under a Youth Agreement; or Under the Director of Adoption

AYA can be used for up to 48 months; 48 months do not need to be used consecutive and program choices can change or alter or involve multiple programs.

Programs must however be at least 12 weeks in length and have 10hrs per week

Age 19- 26 (day of 27th birthday)

Up to \$1250 per month- assessed on a need's basis- this is secondary to any primary adult funding you would be eligible for such as PWD.



Questions about AYA? Who should you ask?



PLEASE SPEAK WITH YOUR SOCIAL
WORKER



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
AGREEMENTS WITH YOUNG
ADULTS TEAM



CONTACT CENTRALIZED SCREENING
1-800-663-9122



AGEDOUT.COM



RCYBC.CA
1-800-476-3933

Provincial Tuition Waiver Program

The PTW program supports BC students who are former youth in care who are attending either full or part time studies .

Students must be taking a program or courses from a public post-secondary institution, the Native Education College or one of 10 eligible trades training centers

Students must be older than 19 OR 17-18 years of age, have graduated from high school and are no longer in care of MCFD or a DAA. There is no age cap for this program.

Formerly in ANY BC MCFD or DAA legal status or MSDPR CIHR program for at least 24 months or 730 days.

Time in care does not have to be consecutive – it can be accumulated in any combination.

Programs of study can include credit and non-credit courses leading to a certificate, diploma, credential or undergraduate degree.

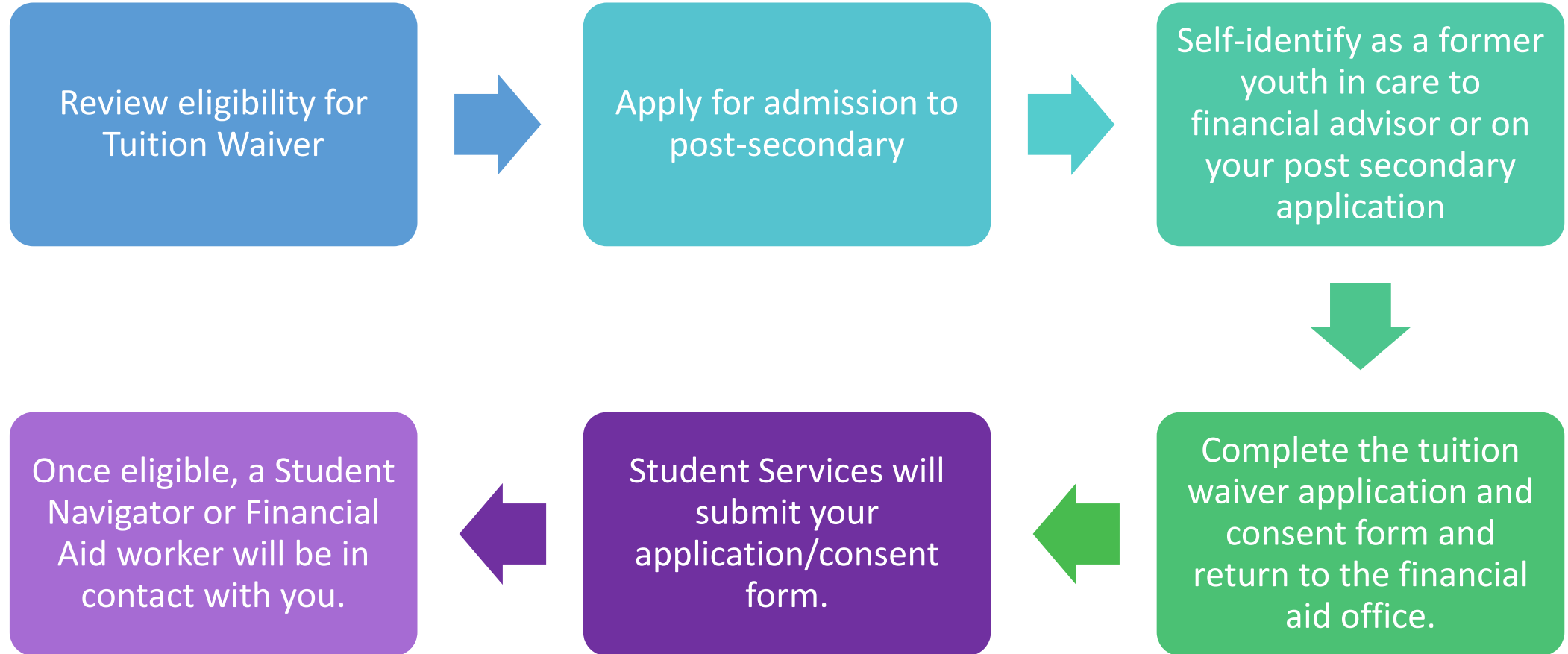
Courses taken during unclassified qualifying years, non-credit based trades programs and continuing education programs eligible for financial assistance.

Apprenticeship training, any non-credit courses associated with lifelong learning or competencies related to the labour market.

The PTW program does not apply to Masters, PHD or post-graduate courses or programs or any Adult Basic Education programs and/or fees.



Provincial Tuition Waiver Application Process



Additional Student Funding

Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEOF)

- Between 19-24 years of age
- Up to \$5,000 for four program years

Youth Futures Education Fund (YFEF)

- Low barrier funding base on an assessment of needs
- For books, housing, utilities or emergency situations.
- Must be approved on Provincial Tuition Waiver Program to access

Scholarships Bursaries, Grants and Funds

- Available to anyone
- Multiple grants/bursaries available - they take 6 weeks to process

Federation of BC Youth In Care Network Dream Fund

- Available to youth 14 to 24 years
- Education Achievement Bursary – up to \$1,500
- Reach for success bursary – up to \$500
- Available 2x per year

Public Guardian and Trustee Educational Assistance Fund

- Available to young adults 19+
- Must have been in the continuing custody of MCFD
- Up to \$4,500 annually

Public Post-Secondary Institutional Tuition Waivers

- University of BC
- University of Victoria
- Vancouver Island University
- Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
- BC Institute of Technology
- Justice Institute of BC
- Langara College



You can apply for all of these resources at the same time!

POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Lower Mainland

- University of British Columbia
- Simon Fraser University
- Emily Carr University of Art and Design
- Langara College
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- University of Fraser Valley
- Native Education College
- Capilano University
- Capilano College
- Vancouver Community College
- BCIT
- JIBC

Trades Training

- Boilermaker Training Centre
- Pile Drivers Local 2404
- Construction and Specialized Workers
- Trowel Trades Training Association
- D.C 38 Joint Trade Society
- Piping Industry Apprenticeship Board
- IUOE Local 115 Training Association
- Floor Layers Union
- Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre Society
- Electrical Joint Training Committee

Van. Island

- University of Victoria
- Van Island University
- Royal Roads University
- North Island College

Interior

- Thompson Rivers University
- UBC Okanagan
- Okanagan College
- College of the Rockies
- Nicola Valley IT

North

- University of Northern BC
- College of New Caledonia
- Northern Lights College
- Coast Mountain College

MCFD

- Call 1-877-387-7027 and ask to speak to a complaint specialist.
- Send an email to MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca – include your name, city, email, phone number, what your concern or feedback is and how and when we can reach you.

MPSFS

- Categories eligible for review include time in care and legal status, location of study, age.
- To request a review, contact the Ministry System Navigator at tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca

Ombudsperson

- Call toll free 1-800-567-3247
- Mail PO Box 9039 Stn Prov Gov't, Victoria, BC V8W 9A5
- Email info@bcombudsperson.ca
- In person: 2nd floor – 947 Fort St. Victoria, BC

COMPLAINT PROCESSES

What is self-advocacy?

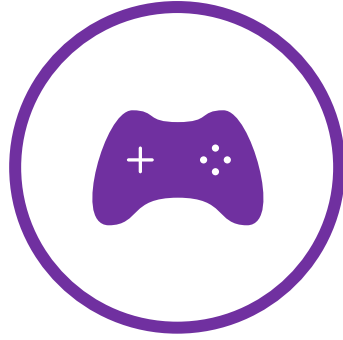
Self advocacy is:



Learning about
your rights



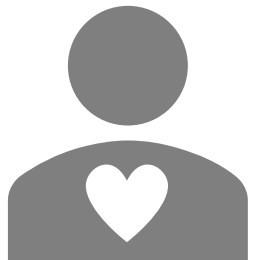
Speaking up for
yourself so that
you are heard
by the right
decision maker.



Taking control
and making
decisions about
your own life



Accessing the
information
you need



Young people are experts in their own lives and should be involved in any decision that affects them.



CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS:

- Can you explain your needs and wants to others without difficulty?
- When you make your own decisions, do others respect them? Why not?
- Do you take responsibility for yourself and your actions?



Obstacles to Self-Advocacy



Others?

Important Self-Advocacy Messages

- Advocacy is something we do in everyday life, beginning when we are toddlers. As we grow, speaking up for ourselves is needed on many levels. We do it with friends, on the playground, when we are playing sports, with teachers at school, public transit, doctor's offices, neighbors, etc.
- Knowing how to advocate for yourself is a fact of life. We want to help you be the best self-advocate you can be!
- Self-advocacy means standing up for yourself and using your voice.

**WHAT CAN YOU SAY TO YOUR FRIENDS AND PEERS TO
ENCOURAGE THEM TO SELF-ADVOCATE?**



Essentials for Self-Advocacy:



Knowledge



Skills



Self-Awareness



Knowing who you are, using confident, calm, and simple language, listening to understand another's perspective, and being curious to learn and expand information, knowledge, and skills are essential!



Knowledge is Power!

What You Need to Know

Speak with the professionals in your lives and ask them to provide more information.

Look online –find someone to show you where to look for information.

Reach out to advocates at the Representative for Children and Youth or other organizations.

Service BC – provides information about Provincial Government programs and services.
1-800-663-7867

Try your local library. Librarians can help you find information if you aren't sure how. That is their job!

School counselors and education workers can help you find the information you need.

Ensuring you know your rights and what you are entitled to is the basis of being a good self-advocate. If you understand your rights, you will feel more confident to say what you want.

Skills for Success!

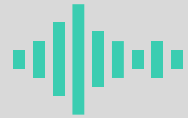
Communication!



Pace



Volume



Tone



Body Language



Respectful



Clear

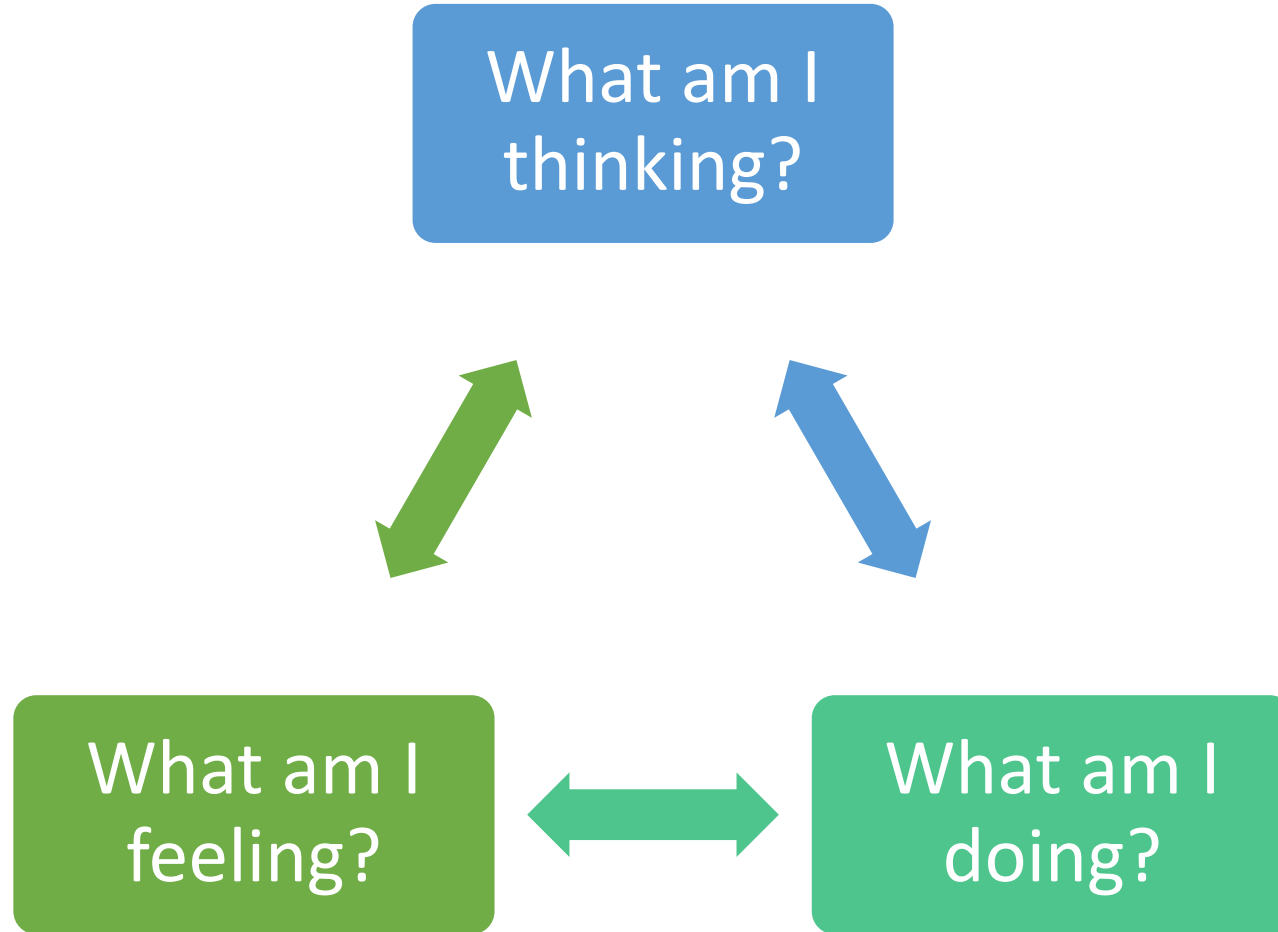


Concise



Listening is one of the most important communication skills. After speaking up for our needs, we need to listen to hear the response to achieve the goal. Listen with purpose, listen to learn, listen to ask questions, listen to make sure that they understand you!

Self-Awareness!



WHO CAN HELP YOU WITH ACCESSING RESOURCES?

Guardianship
Social Worker

Youth Worker

Agreement with
Young Adults
Worker



Post Secondary Schools – Navigator or Financial Aid Worker

Student Aid BC – Ministry System Navigator.

The Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks



REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

What happens if your self-advocacy efforts are not successful, or the issues are bigger than you can handle?

WHO CAN YOU CALL?

What is the Representative for Children and Youth?

We help children and youth 0 to 19 access the services they need from MCFD

We help young adults 19 to 27 access Community Living BC services, Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) and the Tuition Waiver Program

We provide individual advocacy services to young people involved with certain government services.

My Social Worker is not listening to me!

I don't feel safe in my foster home.

I want to learn how to be independent.

My brother lives in a different home and I don't get to see him!

RCY: Mandate

0-18



Children and Youth With
Support Needs



Child and Youth Mental Health
and Substance Use Services



Permanency
Planning/Adoption



Child Protection and Family
Support



Youth Services



Youth Justice



Early Childhood Development
and Child Care Services

19-27



Agreements with Young Adults



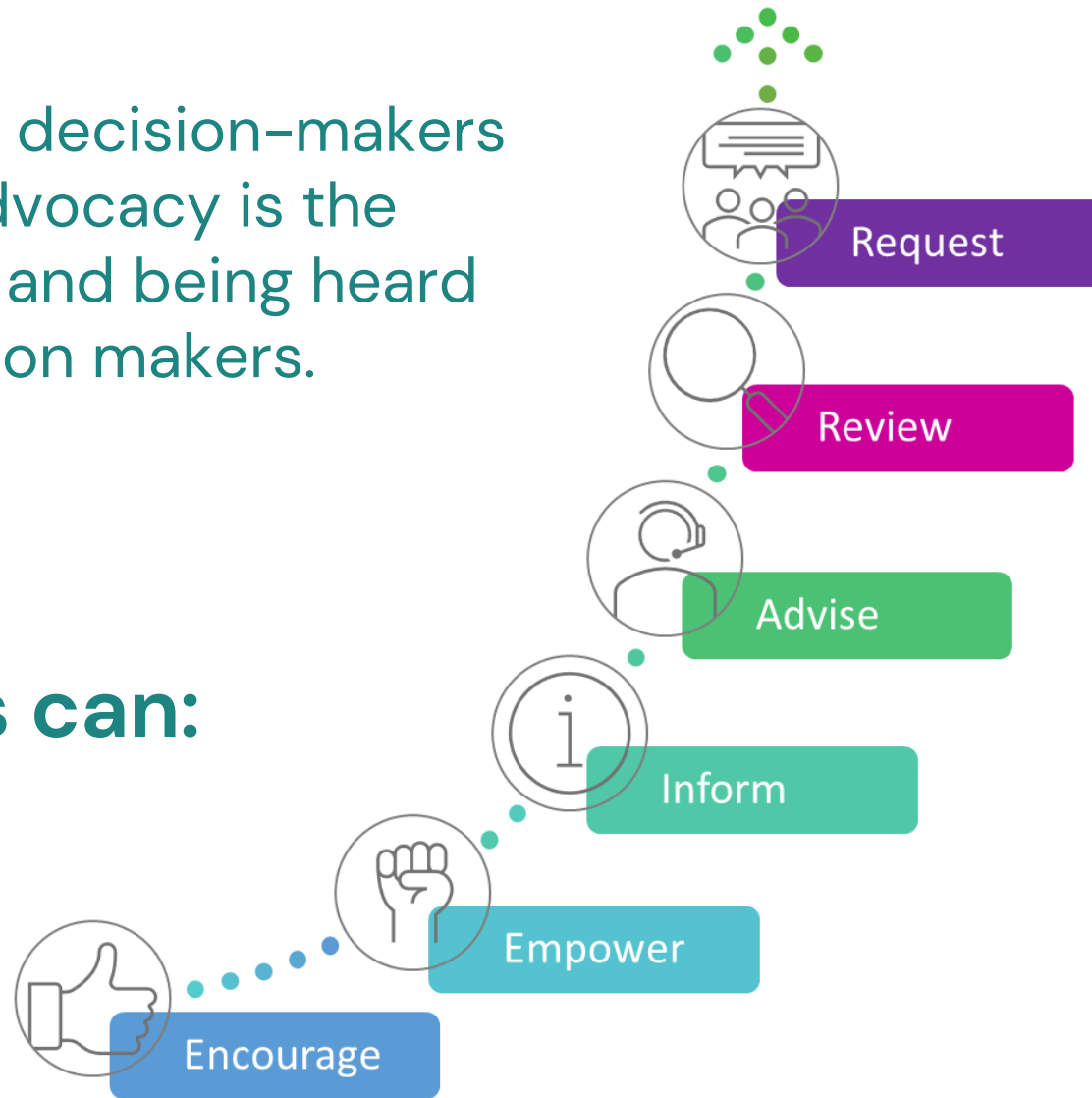
Provincial Tuition Waiver
Program

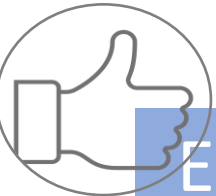


Community Living BC Services
for Young Adults

While Advocates are not decision-makers or case managers, advocacy is the process of speaking up and being heard by the right decision makers.

RCY Advocates can:





Encourage

- Supporting young people to advocate for themselves. This includes asking for help in a positive way.
- Helping young people to overcome negative experiences they may have had in the past and increasing self-confidence.
- Listening and helping young people understand their strengths and know their wants and needs.
- Supporting young people to listen and consider the perspectives of others.
- Teaching young people to ask questions – if you are unsure, ask, if you are uncomfortable with a decision, ask for more details – research before making a decision or agreeing to one.



Empower

- Asking young people what is important and unimportant to them.
- Including youth in decision making processes – and letting them know their voice matters.
- Coaching and mentoring young people to do the work, letting them try different things.
- Letting young people know that they have some control over their response to situations.
- Helping young people prepare for meetings, conversations with social workers or others in situations where they may be involved in planning.
- Ensuring that young people know that their experience, values, needs, wants, goals are taken into consideration.



Inform

- Rights Education.
- Skill development.
- Helping young people prepare and organize themselves – Self-advocacy requires being informed and organized.
- Making sure young people know all the facts.
- Providing information about government systems and how to voice concerns about those systems.



Advise

- Providing information about provincial systems, different routes that could be taken to meet goals and objectives and sharing possible outcomes.

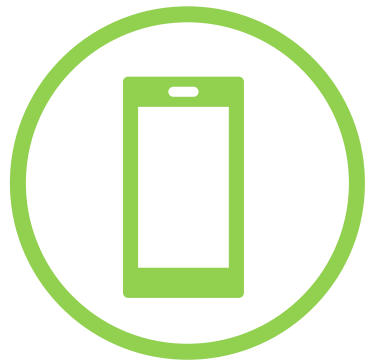
RCY: *Advocacy Model* (Say Model)



The SAY Model is the work of the decommissioned Ontario Child Advocate (2008-2018).

Contact Process: *Youth/ Young Adults*

When children, youth, or young adults contact our office they will be connected with an Intake Advocate almost immediately.



TEXT



PHONE



WRITE



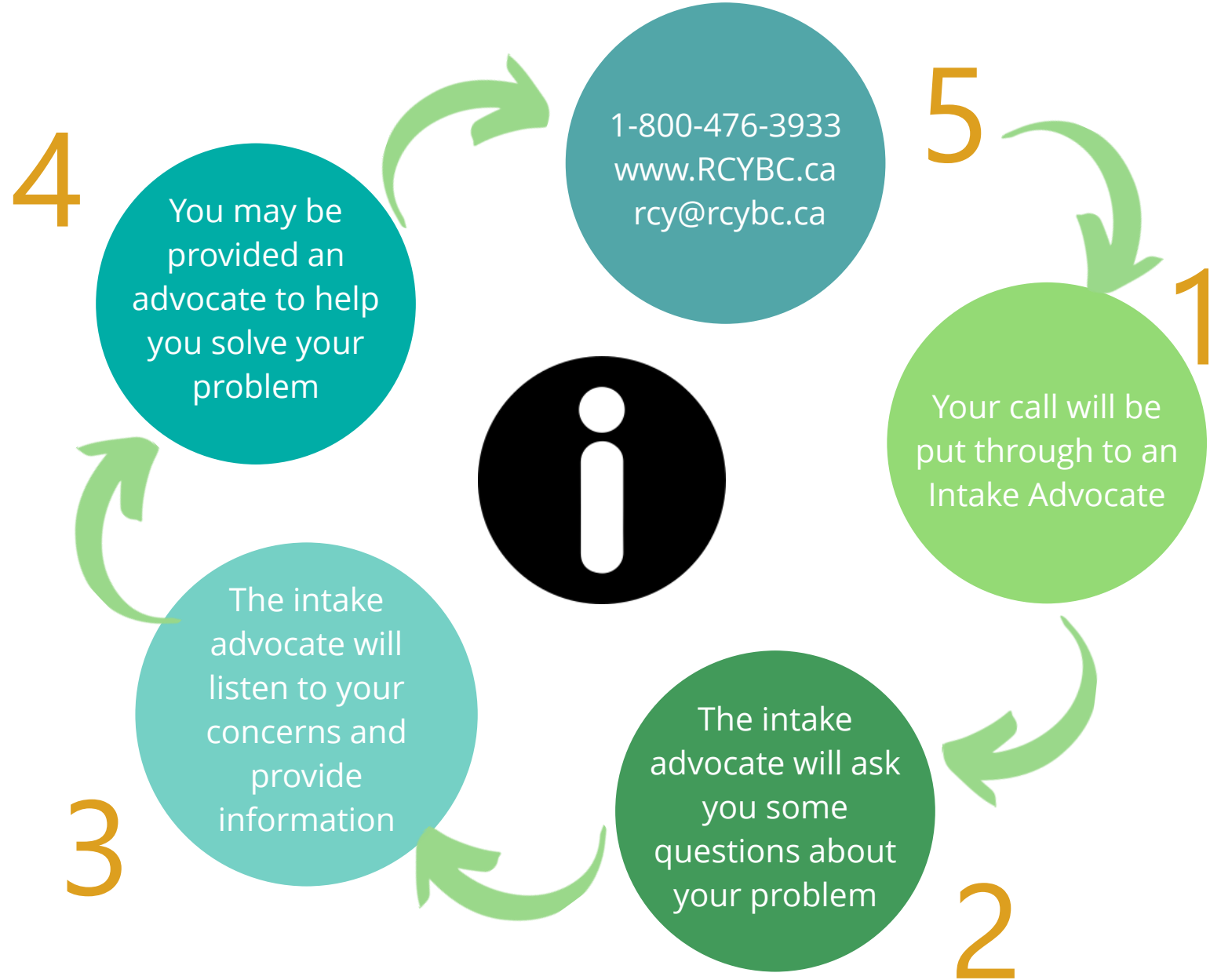
CHAT



EMAIL



What to expect when you call the RCY.





TEXT

1-778-404-7161



PHONE

1-800-476-3933



WRITE

Victoria/Prince George



CHAT

www.rcybc.ca



EMAIL

rcy@rcybc.ca

Contact Us!



@rcybcyouth



Rep4Youth



@rcybc and @rcybcyouth



BC's Representative for Children and Youth
and RCYBC Youth



www.rcybc.ca