



Charlene Smith

Council Chair

Term on Council:
2019 - Present

Hometown:
Roberts Creek, BC

Current Community:
Victoria, BC

Inspiration

For as long as I can remember, I've been passionate about helping my peers thrive. I believe that children and youth are the leaders of tomorrow, and it's important that the community supports their growth and helps them navigate through their journey to adulthood. The Youth Community Council is an opportunity to work with an incredibly generous organization to create a meaningful, sustainable impact on youth across Vancouver Island and Canada.

Fun Fact

My interests are very diverse. I enjoy hobbies from opera singing and dancing, to fishing and competitive shooting!

What do you hope to achieve on the Council?

I hope to empower youth to be social change agents and help our Vancouver Island community better support the needs and growth of our local youth. During my time on the Council, I also strive to better understand how I can continue to serve our community and its future leaders.

What accomplishment are you most proud of to date?

During high school, I identified the need for drug, sex, and alcohol education for youth and developed a plan to raise over \$10,000 to bring resources to my small, rural community. I successfully delivered my program to over 2000 secondary and elementary school students at 15 different schools and to 100 community service providers and parents. I had raised enough to repeat the program for a number of years even after I had left the community. I'm so pleased that I finally took the step!

Bio

Charlene currently works as an Annual Giving Officer at the University of Victoria. As a fund development officer, she strives to inspire philanthropy in the community. She previously worked with the Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island helping Island kids access the health care they need, when they need it most.

Charlene graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Commerce at the Gustavson School of Business, where she took leadership roles in many campus clubs and initiatives. Charlene continues to stay actively involved with other organizations that support the well-being of families. She has volunteered her time with the Vancouver Police Department Odd Squad, Volunteer Victoria Youth Advisory Council, Salvation Army, Victoria Hospitals Foundation, and more. As a board member for the Association of Fundraising Professionals and Chair of National Philanthropy Day, Charlene enjoys celebrating others dedication to giving back and empowers local youth and community leaders to make an impact on causes they are passionate about.

In her spare time, Charlene enjoys going on adventures with her dog Remington, hiking, camping, backpacking, fishing, skiing, and shooting across the Island.



Charlene hiking with her dog Remington.