

# PERSPECTIVE

Young people who are homeless (ages 13 - 24) make up approximately 20% of the homeless population in Canada (Gaetz et al., 2014). Over the course of the year there are between 35,000 - 40,000 young people who experience homelessness, and on any given night between 6,000 - 7,000.

These youth are at significantly higher risk of experiencing harms, exploitation/trafficking, gang recruitment, and involvement with police and justice systems. As youth become more entrenched, co-occurring risk-factors may escalate (i.e. ongoing poverty, substance use, mental and physical health issues) and significantly impact their likelihood of sustainable tenancy.

Gaking Abinoojiiyag Programs aim to mitigate youths experiences of homelessness and system-based trauma by establishing culturally competent Indigenous-led Youth Supports in Brandon, MB.



# CONNECT



[www.brandonfriendshipcentreinc.ca/gap-youth-outreach](http://www.brandonfriendshipcentreinc.ca/gap-youth-outreach)



## Referrals

[admin@bfcgap.ca](mailto:admin@bfcgap.ca)

## Outreach Coordinator

204-761-0385

[coordinator@bfcgap.ca](mailto:coordinator@bfcgap.ca)



@GAP Youth Outreach



## "Our Nest"

GAP Outreach Lodge

360 - 8th Street

Brandon, MB

R7A 3X4



# GAP

GAKINA ABINOOJIIYAG PROGRAM

BRANDON FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION  
SUPPORT FOR YOUTH AGES 16 - 26

REFERRAL BASED CONNECTIONS  
FOR VOLUNTARY YOUTH SUPPORT  
INCLUDING MENTORSHIP, ADVOCACY  
& WRAP-AROUND CASE MANAGEMENT

GAP PROGRAMS OPERATE TWO YOUTH  
LODGE SPACES: OUTREACH & SAFE LODGE

THIS BROCHURE TELLS YOU ABOUT  
GAP'S YOUTH OUTREACH TEAM

## **ABOUT US**

GAP is a community based early intervention and prevention program for young people and their families who may need support transitioning to independent living, and youth who may be at risk of homelessness or within their first year of homelessness.

The goal is to keep youth connected to their families, communities, and schools; strengthening connections to natural supports and ultimately reducing risk of homelessness.

GAP aims to support young people in achieving their unique goals in a safe and planned way by helping youth rediscover strengths that already exist within them and encouraging harm reduction strategies toward peaceful living and sustainable tenancy.

We provide one-on-one mentorship, service navigation & coordination, advocacy support, life skills learning, family conciliation & community integration support, as well as housing resource assistance.

**Please note: Youth ages 16-26 who are experiencing shelter/housing crisis, can receive immediate support 24 at the Brandon Friendship Centre's Youth Safe Lodge located at 450-12th Street in Brandon. More info >>>**

## **REFERRALS**

Care givers and service providers are invited to reach out to GAP's Youth Outreach Team with referrals for youth ages 16 - 26 (up to 29.)

To connect youth, please complete the referral form (QR CODE on back) and email to [admin@bfcgap.ca](mailto:admin@bfcgap.ca).

If you prefer to speak to someone about a referral before completing a form, please contact our Coordinator to schedule: [coordinator@bfcgap.ca](mailto:coordinator@bfcgap.ca)

It is important to note that we are a small team providing intensive support & case management services. We have a limited capacity, so youth may be waitlisted. In the meantime, we hope we can recommend other resources and share info about how to connect with different supports.

## **HOUSING CRISIS**

### **BFC Youth Safe Lodge**

**450 - 12th Street in Brandon, MB**

**24-Hour Safe Space (ages 16-26)**

**Overnight Shelter Beds (ages 18-26)**

**Transitional Rooms for Young Women**

**It's best to call ahead: 204-725-1773**

## **Proof of Identity**

We can help youth obtain proof of identity documents such as Health Cards, Birth Certificates, Photo ID Treaty & Social Insurance Numbers

## **Culture & Life Skills**

GAP connected youth have access to life skills, wellness, recreation & cultural programming including a blend of "in-house" and community based activities (and transportation!)

## **Case Management**

We are here to provide support and guidance to youth, and to advocate on their behalf as needed. We support youth learning: how to complete applications and forms, prepare for meetings, and assist with service navigation. We can help youth access local resources such as food hampers, housing programs, income assistance & rent top-ups, mental health & addictions services.

## **Shelter & Housing Support**

We can support youth with skills like budgeting, housing search & viewings, learning about tenancy, landlord relations, and being a good neighbour. Housing support is different for everyone!

