



The Students
Commission

Centre of Excellence for
Youth Engagement



1991 - 2016

RESPECT LISTEN UNDERSTAND COMMUNICATE

Annual Report 2016

Our 25th Anniversary

2016 was an exciting year, as we celebrated 25 years of championing youth voice and engagement! We know that young people are powerful agents of change and experts of their own experience. We partner with them to ensure their ideas are at the forefront of program, community, and policy development. This means facilitating strong youth-adult partnerships, incubating new youth program models, and amplifying youth voice across the sector through shared measurement and learning.



The Students Commission was born at a national youth conference in 1991, which brought together young people from every province and territory to develop recommendations to share with the Prime Minister of Canada. The final recommendation of the inaugural conference was to 'commission' an organization for students, that would work to implement the recommendations and present them to the Prime Minister. And so...The Students Commission of Canada was born!

The Young Decisions Makers Conference

We celebrated our anniversary by hosting a national Young Decisions Makers conference and our first ever Sharing the Stories Knowledge Exchange at YMCA Cedar Glen. Young people and adult allies from across Canada came together to explore key issues of concern to youth. We were thrilled to receive a tweet from Justin Trudeau at the end of the conference inviting us to share our report. Echoing our past, a group of youth delegates submitted their recommendations to the Prime Minister's office in July 2016.



The Students Commission | 23 Isabella St., Toronto, ON M5P2G8 | www.studentscommission.ca

Supporting young people to put their ideas for improving themselves, their communities, and their world into action.

Opportunities for Youth

We innovate and incubate dynamic youth programs.



Children Lead the Way Conference

We were excited to work internationally in 2016, as we partnered with Save the Children Canada on their *Children Lead the Way Project*. It was a joy to host young people from seven countries at the Children Lead the Way International Conference, where they built an international declaration on the rights of working children. The International Declaration was shared on YouTube and in three languages: English, French and Spanish.

RCMP Youth Leadership Development Workshop

Maintaining a long-time partnership with the RCMP, we delivered our fifth Youth Leadership Development Workshop at Depot Base in Regina, SK. The workshop focused on building partnerships between Indigenous youth and RCMP officers. Officers and youth worked together to develop local action projects geared towards engaging young people. It was a great example of youth-adult partnerships in action.



#YDM416 is born

Our Toronto youth group used the summer of 2016 to re-focus and identify an issue that we were passionate about working on together. Thanks to a generous donation from Cadillac Fairview, we were able to spend time building relationships as a group and exploring different issues. In partnership with adult allies at the SCC, we decided to take action on structural racism because it impacts so many of us on a day-to-day basis. Our group, now named #YDM416 (Young Decision Makers 416), spent the fall studying this issue and identifying how we wanted to take action. We are looking forward to developing a youth-led workshop on structural racism for service providers.

Youth Education and Employment Opportunities

We're pretty lucky to work with some amazing young people that truly drive the projects here at the SCC. Well over half of our staff and volunteers are youth and young adults under the age of 24. This includes high school students involved in co-op education, part and full-time staff members, and project volunteers. We'd like to express our sincere gratitude to all of our youth team for their hard work, insight, and energy. Our work is strong because it is built on youth-adult partnerships.



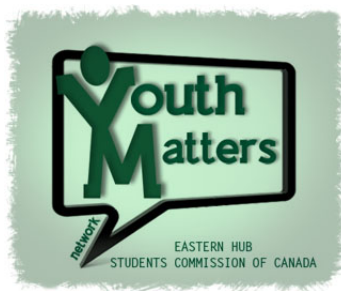


Health Canada's Youth Leadership Team

We were happy to maintain our long-standing partnership with Health Canada over 2016 by supporting another Youth Leadership Team (YLT) meeting in Ottawa. YLT meetings focus on bringing young people together to address tobacco control issues in Canada. This year, the YLT gave Health Canada input on packaging, helping them better understand the impact of tobacco marketing. The YLT is the longest standing federal government youth advisory committee.

UNICEF Youth Voice: Index for children well-being

For a wealthy country, Canada's children aren't fairing so well. They continue to experience significant barriers to their health, education, income and life satisfaction. Over 2016, we worked with UNICEF to continue building their Index of Child Well-Being in order to track and understand how Canadian youth are doing. We engaged close to 120 young people in six communities across Canada to share their experiences and provide feedback into the proposed index.



Youth Matters

We have partnered with Youth Matters in New Brunswick since 2011. We support Youth Matters in the facilitation of bi-weekly youth meetings at the New Brunswick Youth Centre (NBYC). The NBYC is a closed custody facility for youth detained under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Our facilitation team includes students from New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) in Miramichi. The youth group meetings explore topics like the Four Pillars, Healthy Masculinities and Healthy Relationships.

Influencing Those Who Influence Youth

We support organizations across Canada to help young people thrive.

Collective Impact for Toronto Youth

The graduation rate for Black racialized youth in Toronto is more than 30% below the Toronto District School Board average. Through the Collective Impact for Toronto Youth project, we are partnering with organizations across the city to close that gap, working to ensure young people are supported in all areas of their life. 2016 was a busy year for us. With funding from YouthCI and LesLois Shaw Foundation we began implementing our theory of change with three Neighbourhood Clusters: The Scarborough Executives Network, The Youth Services Network of Scarborough, and Success Beyond Limits in Jane and Finch. Our Youth Incubators have done a spectacular job engaging young people in the complex world of CITY through a weekly youth group tackling structural racism and through four video projects on CITY's *integrated system of care*.





Youth to Kingston (Y2K)

Y2K is a community movement aimed at making Kingston a more youth-friendly and inclusive region. With support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation’s Youth Opportunities Fund in 2016, we created more youth leadership roles and implemented a dedicated expansion to the Frontenac, Lennox and Addington counties. We worked with our partners at Three Things Consulting, Community Living Kingston, Boys and Girls Club of Kingston and Area and Pathways to Education to identify and hire

15 youth facilitators. The youth facilitators worked in partnership with adult allies through youth-adult partnership teams to ensure youth are heard and engaged in transforming their community. There were five youth-adult partnership teams: Kingston Community Action, FL&A Community Action, Outreach, Participatory Action Research (PAR), and Communication. Our activities in 2016 culminated with an annual Youth Forum which engaged close to 250 people in the region.

Prince Edward County Youth Collective Impact Project

As a model, Collective Impact is about aligning partners and efforts around a common goal for large scale social impact. We are excited to be working with the Prince Edward County Youth Collective Impact Project which is striving to increase high school graduation rates. We’ve been sharing our experience of facilitating CI projects as a backbone organization, and have begun directly supporting the Shared Measurement for the project through our research and evaluation platform, *Sharing the Stories*.



Saskatoon Youth Strategy Launch

Like many communities in Canada, youth in Saskatoon highlight structural racism, violence, access to services, and access to housing and basic needs, as the key barriers impacting young people’s ability to thrive. 2016 marked the launch of a Collective Impact project aimed at supporting young people’s successful transition to adulthood through a city-wide youth strategy. As the project facilitator, we are delighted to be working with a strong team of local youth and youth serving agencies to implement solutions developed through youth-adult partnership.

Sharing the Stories

We amplify the voices of young people through research and evaluation.

Sharing the Stories (StS) is our innovative research and evaluation platform. 2016 marked the third year of our 10-year expansion strategy for Sharing the Stories. By the end of 2016, we moved from supporting 162 to 230 unique programs and organizations. Many of our new subscribers were collective impact partners and new Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) members from rural, remote, and urban communities across Ontario. Our StS subscribers are learning a great deal about their programs and are better able to tell the story



of their impact. By using consistent, academically validated tools, we are able to compare individual results to aggregate data from programs across the country. This lets us spot trends, highlight gaps, and amplify the collective voices of youth.

Planning for the Future

We look ahead so that we will thrive.



Our staff and board began an exciting strategic planning process over 2016, which will guide our organization over the next 10 years. We look forward to finalizing and launching the new plan in 2017. We're doing our best to keep up with the Jetsons, so we used 2016 to transition our IT support to a group of coders and technicians who are enhancing the integrity of our technical systems. Finally, we were thrilled to hire Christa Romaldi as our new Associate Director to support internal operations and long-term succession planning.

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Are you also passionate about championing youth voice? Send a young person to our next national youth conference #CanadaWeWant. Donations can be made through CanadaHelps.org.

Charitable Number: 886333947 RR 0001

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Our Partners

We consider ourselves very lucky to be working with such amazing partners from across the country! It's great to know there are so many individuals and organizations working create positive changes for young people.

Agincourt Community Services Agency
Albion Neighbourhood Services
Amadeusz
Anonymous Foundation
Atikameksheng Organics c/o
Atikameksheng Anishinawbek
Bad Subject
Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Saskatoon
Bishop's University
Black Women in Motion c/o For Youth Initiative

Blue Canoe Productions
Boys and Girls Club of Kingston and Area
Boys and Girls Clubs Central Region
Boys and Girls Clubs of Saskatoon
BrAIDS for AIDS c/o Youth Action Network
Brock University
Cadillac Fairview
Canada Summer Jobs
Canadian Red Cross
CANVAS Arts Action Programs c/o Youth Assisting Youth

Carbon Computing
CAREA
CEREFAC
Chief Public Health Officer
Children's Advocate office of Saskatoon.
Chill Zone
Cipher c/o ACCESS
City of Kingston

Our Partners

List continued from previous page.

City of Saskatoon	Native Youth Sexual Health Network c/o	Saskatchewan Ministry
City of Toronto Community Health Care	Ontario Federation of Indigenous	of Social Services
Centre Napanee	Friendship Centres (OFIFC)	Saskatoon Police Dept.
Community Living Kingston	New Brunswick Community College	Saskatoon Public Schools
Community Living York South	New Path Family and Youth Services	Save the Children Canada
Community Reaction to Neighbourhood	Next Edition	Silver Linings Family Circle Tuck Shop c/o
Concerns (CRNC)	Next Gen Men c/o 360Kids Support	Community Living York South
Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op	Services	Sistema Toronto
Council of Educators	NGen c/o Boys and Girls Club of Hamilton	Six Nations Polytechnic
Department of Heritage	North BurLINKton	SoundCheck c/o The HopeWorks
Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Drop-	Ode	Connection
In Centre	Office of the Provincial Advocate for	SPEG
Drive Accelerator Group	Children and Youth	Success Beyond Limits
Durham Region Writing Rainbow	Ohero:kon "Under the Husk" c/o Onake	Sunset Service c/o SKETCH Working Arts
East Scarborough Storefront	Corporation	T-Miut c/o Tungasuwingat Inuit
EGADZ Youth Center	Ontario Lung Association	The Scarborough Executives Network
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Ontario Trillium Foundation	The United Way of Toronto
Eritrean Youth Collective	Ophea	The YMCA
Exchanges Canada	OUT Saskatoon	The Youth Services Network
F-U Forgiveness Project	P.U.S.H. Elite	Three Things Consulting
F.E.A.T. for Children	Parkour Toronto c/o For Youth Initiative	Toronto Public Health - Investment in
Fort Albany Youth Council c/o Fort Albany	Pathways for Children and Youth	Youth Engagement
First Nation	Pathways to Education Canada	Trust 15 c/o YMCA of Greater Toronto
Health Canada	Pathways to Education Kingston	UNICEF
lakwa'shatste Youth Fitness c/o The	Pathways to Education Napanee	United Way of Greater Toronto
Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of	Peacebuilders International	United Way Saskatoon
Ontario	Planned Parenthood Toronto	White Ribbon Canada
Impact N Communities	Potash Corp	Woodgreen Community Services
John Howard Society of Saskatoon	Power to Be International	Working Women's Community
Joint Consortium for School-Aged Health	Power to Girls Foundation c/o SKETCH	Centre
Justice Canada	Working Arts	World Changers Society c/o Rapport
Kingston Boys & Girls Club	Public Health Agency of Canada	Youth & Family Services
Kingston Community Health Centre	Qmedia	World YMCA
(KCHC)	Queen's University	YJC
Kingston Family Resource Centre	RCMP	YMCA Canada
Kingston Frontenac Public Library	Regaining Cultural Identity c/o Sachigo	YMCA of Greater Toronto
Kingston Trillium	Lake First Nation	Young and Potential Fathers
LAB B c/o Youth Action Network	REX Pride c/o Leave Out Violence (LOVE)	Youth Advocacy Training Institute
Legalswipe c/o Ontario Justice Education	RISE Edutainment c/o VIBE Arts	Youth CI - Laidlaw and McConnell
Network	S.E.E.D.S. c/o Thornecliffe Neighbourhood	Foundation
LesLois Shaw Foundation	Office (TNO)	Youth Matters
Lifted by Purpose	S.L.Y.E.	Youth Opportunities Fund
Limestone District School Board	S.W.A.G.	YouthLink
MoCreebec Eeyoud Youth Council c/o	Sacred Water Circle c/o Green	
MoCreebec First Nation	Communities Canada	
Naadmagit Ki Group		