



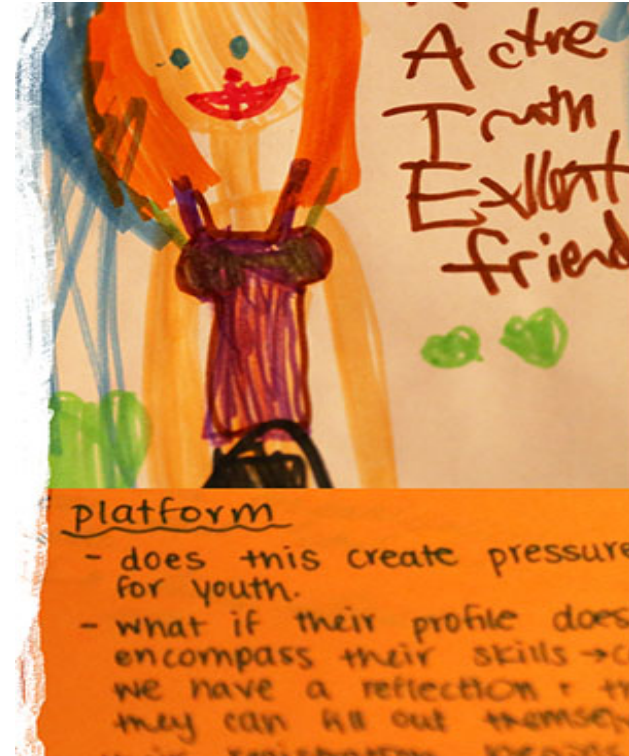
# Annual Report 2017





# Influence those who influence youth

- **National Youth Policy:** the Students Commission was hired by the Privy Council Office's Youth Secretariat to develop a conversation guide for Canada's first ever youth policy. Worked with National Youth Serving Agencies to engage them on behalf of Privy Council.
- **Systems Change:** We continued to support systems change projects through the Youth2Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington youth movement, the Prince Edward County Collective Impact project, the City of Saskatoon youth strategy and Collective Impact for Toronto Youth (CITY).
- **Publishing:** We published and updated several e-books for the Sandbox Project on their Young Canadians Roundtable on Health and the Joint Consortium for School-Aged Health.
- **Youth Strategies:** We were hired by the Town of Wasaga Beach and Renfrew County to support the delivery of a youth strategy for these communities.
- **Workshops:** We delivered close to 40 workshops on a variety of topics for young people, adult allies and policy-makers.





*Take Charge Youth from across Canada meet to share learning*

## Provide Opportunities for Youth

Launched the First of Four **#CanadaWeWant Youth** conferences in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation. The conference is grounded in Truth and Reconciliation and is focused on bringing young Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians together to build the Canada they want for the next 150 years

**Youth Take Charge:** Received funding from Heritage Canada to support youth in 5 communities to address structural racism. The 5 communities included were Halifax, Kingston, Toronto, Saskatoon and Golden, BC. The young people developed a workshop and educational series for their peers and met weekly/bi-weekly to build workshop

**Youth Advisory Committees:** We supported several youth advisories to the Federal Government including our long-standing Tobacco group with Health Canada, a children's rights committee focused on providing input to the UN on the UNCRC and our 2 year old Justice Youth Action Committee focused on building a 21st century justice system.

**Youth Employment:** We hired 25 youth to support the delivery of work in 2017





# Plan for the future

- **New Strategic Plan:** We engaged a variety of youth, staff, partners, advisors and Board members in a two-year process to develop and finalize our 10-year strategic plan: 2018-2028 (See next page). Our new strategy focuses on working with others to build a world where all young people positively transition into a successful adulthood.
- **Diversified funding:** We continue to diversify sources of funding, now standing at 83 distinct sources of revenue.
- **Leadership:** We are successfully recruiting new Board members with great expertise and commitment to the mission of the SCC Brina LudwigProut joined in 2017. We appointed a new younger Executive Director: Sharif Mahdy, who completed his Masters in Leadership, with a thesis focused on strengthening and modernizing SCC governance for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Founding Executive Director Stoney McCart moved into a new role as Director of Strategic Partnerships.
- **Indigenous Advisory:** In addition to our on-going partnership with Three Things Consulting and Pytor Hodgson, we initiated the first steps to an Indigenous Advisory Circle.





# The 10-Year Strategy: Purpose, Pillars, Priorities and Culture

## The Students Commission of Canada Statement of Purpose

**Purpose:** The SCC is a charitable organization that purposefully works with others to ensure that young people are valued, heard and their ideas for improving themselves, the lives of their peers and communities are put into action.

**Our desired outcome:** A world where all young people transition positively into a successful adulthood.

## Our Four Pillars: Respect, Listen, Understand, Communicate™

**Respect:** We start with respect for the gift and strength that each person carries within: for young people, their idealism and their capacity to improve the world.

**Listen:** With respect as our foundation, we learn to listen. We listen not just with our ears, but with our heads, hearts and all of our senses. We listen actively, intensely, not just to words, but to silences, to deeds, to experiences.

**Understand:** To understand is to go beyond listening, to process what we have heard from others, to reflect upon the new knowledge and gifts given to us.

**Communicate:** The beginning of action, this is when the obstacles fall away. We create plans with others and implement them to make a positive difference in our world.



# The 10-Year Strategy: Purpose, Pillars, Priorities and Culture

## Our Strategic Priorities

Our focus is to stay small, incubate ideas directly with youth, and work in partnership in all projects with youth and other organizations. We focus on being a node in the web of Canadian organizations and institutions that promotes the exchange of knowledge and expertise among youth and organizations to promote all youth thriving in a healthy Canada.

### Turn Knowledge into Action and Action into Knowledge

1. Capture knowledge and tell stories about what's working and not working for Canadian youth.
2. Increase and share the evidence-base for decision-making related to effective youth programming and development.
3. Young people generate and use evidence to take action on issues that matter to them.

### Strengthen the Network

1. Champion youth-led initiatives, provide and advance youth opportunities to network with each other.
2. Work with others shape a positive future for all young Canadians.
3. Build capacity, connections and understanding among youth and organizations.

### Strengthen our function as a Node in the Youth Well-Being Network

1. Continue to reflect upon, refine and execute our specific skill sets to contribute to the network purpose.
2. Continue to strengthen and diversify our funding sources to sustain our activities over longer periods of time without financial pressures.
3. Continue to hire young people and support our staff, volunteers with professional development.



# The 10-Year Strategy: Purpose, Pillars, Priorities and Culture

## Our Culture

- We incubate and innovate with youth and, because we do, we generate sparks for positive change.
- We work in youth-adult partnerships and, because we do, young people's voices are influential in improving their lives and the lives of their peers.
- We work with partners and, because we do, we are inclusive and supportive, building community and strengthening a network of partners dedicated to youth thriving.
- We turn knowledge into action, and action into knowledge and, because we do, we are constantly learning and improving our process, as well as those of others.
- We work with vision and passion and strive to integrate head, heart, feet and spirit in all that we do.