Menu of Services

The Students Commission of Canada 2025

488,541

YOUTH ENGAGED

+

6,576

ADULTS ENGAGED

495,117

SCC Impact Footprint

In 2024 We Reached and Also Delivered ...

251k views on our website

203 reports

45 presentations/ workshops/ trainings

60 Knowledge Mobilization Products (ranging from infographics, videos, toolkits and guides, data parties, etc.)

100+ social media posts on our various platforms

Contents

Charitable Number: 886333947 RR 0001

The Students
Commission
of Canada
*Centre of Excellence for
Youth Engagement*

La commission
des élèves du
Canada
*Le centre d'excellence pour
l'engagement des jeunes*

Background

The Students Commission of Canada (SCC)-the Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement (CEYE) is a leader in *youth engagement programming and research.* The SCC helps build capacity throughout the network of organizations and institutions serving youth across Canada. It delivers services for adult allies, staff of organizations, agencies, governments and corporations, as well as academics, researchers, students, parents, caregivers, and community members to support the engagement of youth. Rooted in our Four Pillars: Respect, Listen, Understand Communicate™ and T.R.U.S.T. Framework, our services are informed by research generated through our work as the CEYE and more than 30 years of active practice of youth engagement. Validated frameworks and models, updated literature reviews and ongoing program evaluation guide our programming and consulting activities. We provide a full continuum of strategic advice, customized research, program development, program implementation, evaluation and follow-up.

The SCC supports its charitable activities in part by generating revenue through these consulting, advisory and implementation services to a wide range of clients, including federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments; local, regional and national youth serving organizations and networks; public health units and schools; tribal councils and Indigenous youth serving organizations; police services; correctional services, and various recreational and sports deliverers. We also provide services for corporate partners.

Daily Rates

The SCC is a registered charity (#886333947-RR-0001). The services offered in this menu are part of its charitable objectives; therefore, no HST/GST is applicable. The SCC's intergenerational team brings together a wide range of skills, from program development and facilitation to leadership, youth engagement, graphic design, digital media, and complex data analysis. The SCC's structure is based on diverse funding sources and a collaborative organization. As a result, clients often interact with several staff members or volunteers (up to 10 to 12 people), while maintaining a stable primary contact throughout the project.

The SCC's services are offered at a rate of $1,000 per day. This amount covers the work of staff members at various levels (junior, intermediate, and senior) for consultation, coordination, analysis, production, support, maintenance of the shared database, as well as per diem, travel, and administrative costs. Note that youth honoraria are not included in this daily rate and will be the subject of a separate agreement, based on the specific needs of the project.

How to Use this Menu of Services

This menu is designed to be flexible and modular – you can, therefore, build the support that best fits your needs. It's organized into three sections:

1. **What We Do** – the SCC's areas of content expertise for different audiences. It provides examples of projects the SCC did, engaging with diverse youth populations, and adults who work with, support, or influence youth and/or youth policy to improve their capacity for meaningful youth engagement;
2. **How We Do It** – the SCC's evidence-based methods and approaches used to deliver that content to each audience; and
3. **Available Services** – the specific services you can purchase from the SCC to support youth engagement in your work, from facilitation to training and consulting.

Using this "Choose-your-own-adventure" model, you can mix and match content areas, delivery methods, and services to create a customized approach to youth engagement that works for your project, organization, or community.

Please note: it is possible to apply SCC processes and services to content outside of what is listed below, but this may require the purchase of additional services, such as a needs assessment or literature review, to ensure that whatever the SCC generates and delivers as part of our work together encompasses the most recent and relevant evidence and speaks to the needs and goals of your community or project.

Requesting Services

To request a service, please send an email explaining your request for services. If possible, please include the content, processes, and/or services below that are of most interest to you. An SCC team member will respond to you within five business days to set up a meeting and/or request more details.

The SCC will provide a quote via email within the agreed-upon timelines that will outline project timelines, deliverables, and cost. Scope and cost are negotiable, within certain parameters.

Once the quote has been agreed upon, the SCC will generate a contract for both parties to sign. Once signed, activities can begin!

What We Do

Content Areas for Youth

The SCC provides **upstream* youth engagement programs** to engage youth to lead and contribute to solutions on issues and challenges that impact themselves, their peers, communities, and countries. The menu below outlines the different ways that the SCC can support, lead, or train your staff to deliver effective youth engagement programs.

*'Upstream' is an intentional shift to address collaboratively the root causes of issues that affect youth the most to create change at the same level at which youth are impacted.

The SCC delivers youth engagement programs across diverse content areas using evidence-based models (described below, page 14-23) to equip and support youth in meaningful and relevant ways to put their ideas for change into action. Rooted in the belief that Youth Engagement is a Process, our approach prioritizes the creation of safer spaces where young people can explore and address various topics. For 30+ years, the SCC has consistently delivered programs and gathered research on the following areas of focus:

1. Healthy Relationships
2. Social Cohesion and Violence Prevention
3. Addressing Substance Misuse
4. Mental and Holistic Health
5. Skills Development

Youth Engagement Process – Safer Spaces

Keywords: micropopulations, inclusion, justice, equity, diversity, safety

We leverage principles of belonging and inclusion to recalibrate environments and cultures to accommodate, include and centre a wide range of perspectives. Rooting groups in the SCC's 4 Pillars: Respect, Listen, Understand, Communicate™, we employ a series of staged activities to encourage vulnerability and generate safety among youth participants. We also help youth acknowledge and challenge systemic and structural inequities that shape how people are treated based on their identities within a certain (perceived) group (e.g., race, gender, sexual orientation). Youth gain skills to address inequities and injustices (e.g., how to challenge peers on microaggressions) on individual, social, and system levels.

Check out the SIF Project

Healthy Relationships

Keywords: peer relationships, romantic relationships, critical thinking, decision making, motivational interviewing, active listening, toxic masculinity, bullying

These programs increase knowledge, skills, attitudes for youth to think through, build, and sustain healthy relationships—romantic, friendship, mentor, and other. By unpacking gender and sexuality norms, understanding current data on relationships, and supporting critical thinking, we promote healthy expectations and boundaries while undermining harmful attitudes, such as toxic masculinity and bullying. We shift behaviors to reduce gender-based violence by increasing understanding of system-level root causes that lead to teen-dating violence while also engaging youth to find their voice in shaping their own and their peer relationships to reflect the values and 'green lights' of what makes a healthy and fulfilling relationship.

Check out Be the Program

Social Cohesion and Violence Prevention

Keywords: forum theatre, comedy, storytelling, social identity formation, safer spaces, diverse voices, violence prevention, gang violence, bullying, cyberbullying

These programs break down polarizing walls that isolate youth and create 'us vs. them' divides. We build bridges across difference, finding shared grounds for youth to relate to traditions and cultures of others (e.g., Indigenous and non-Indigenous; newcomers and established groups). One critical vein of this work is combating hateful messaging through storytelling, drama, and comedy, interrupting narratives fostering radicalization while increasing narratives that value diversity. We create platforms for hearing unheard moments around an issue, not just the dominant voices. We help youth navigate important, pressing problems (e.g., war, community crisis) by growing tools for staying informed (e.g., digital media literacy) while helping them to walk the path of truth leading to reconciliation and find their voice to spark change.

Check out Hearing Unheard Moments (HUM)

Addressing Substance Misuse

Keywords: substance misuse, systems change, media, social media, policy change, program recommendations

We work with youth to identify upstream systems change approaches to addressing substance misuse amongst their peers and in their communities. Young people learn about the policies and programs that can help reduce substance misuse amongst their peers and spend time developing concrete actions through policy, program and direct youth advice to a wide range of systems-level influencers. Young people are also supported to learn how to leverage media and social media tactics to share their message.

Check out Over the Influence (OTI)

Mental and Holistic Health

Keywords: mental health, physical wellbeing, holistic, nutrition, basic needs, housing, environment, social determinants of health, commercial determinants of health

These programs take a wider lens into health, both mental and physical, diving into the daily pressures and potential supports to youth's sense of wellbeing. We are continually pushing upstream, collaboratively addressing the root causes of issues that affect youth the most to create change at the same level at which youth are impacted. We hold spaces where youth unpack challenges and make recommendations to issues such as the housing crisis, barriers to complete nutrition, and healthy coping mechanisms.

A key variable is exploring and embracing adaptive identity traits across online and in-person spaces. Grounded in shared values, anonymous and transparent avenues of sharing open the door to understanding and acting on nuanced facets of wellbeing. We cultivate encouraging and supportive groups (which youth call 'communities') where youth show care and encouragement for each other beyond the program space and help youth establish coping strategies to stabilize and even boost wellbeing. Trauma-informed yoga and outdoor learning experiences provide other alternative settings promote holistic wellbeing.

[Check out the SIFT Project](#)

Skills Development

Keywords: experiential learning, career exploration, career development, job placement

We help youth to navigate the labour market and successfully transition into sustained and meaningful employment. Most notably, we host Canada's most recognized career exploration event, Take Our Kids to Work, an experiential learning opportunity for Grade 9 and Secondary III (Quebec) students across Canada offering them the chance to see the world of work firsthand, explore a variety of careers and sectors, and look at what skills are important to thrive in the world of work. In our Art of Work program, we also link and support youth to first job placements and internships, and open doors to service opportunities where they can leverage their strengths and follow their passion.

[Check out Take Our Kids to Work™](#), [Check out the Art of Work](#)

Content Areas for Adult Allies, Staff, Advocates, and Champions

The SCC provides capacity building supports to adults who work with, support, and influence youth grounded in the evidence base generated by our Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement.
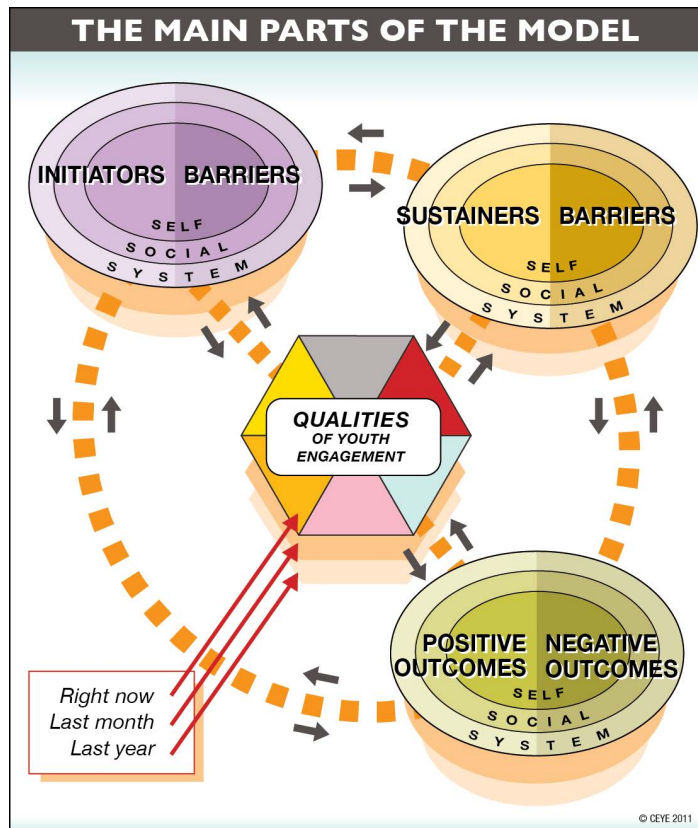
Youth Engagement

Keywords: initiator, sustainer, outcomes, individual, social, system

The Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement's conceptual framework of youth engagement provides a tool for planning and continuous evaluation. The framework includes initiating factors, sustaining factors, qualities of engagement, as well as outcomes. Each of these are explored at the individual, social, and systemic levels over time. This component can include strategic planning for developing new, or improving existing youth engagement opportunities, with a hands-on activity to practice using the framework.

Content will cover recent trends from youth engagement literature, current and emerging research results around youth engagement, with a focus on how the research translates to policy and practice.

Components of the recent youth engagement literature and youth engagement framework are included to provide a basis for program development and identification of effective practices. Deconstruction of existing youth engaging programs provides examples of effective practices with a focus on action planning. This component includes youth engagement in various settings, including events and conferences as well as effective models, policies, and practices to create safe, fun, and meaningful experiences for youth. As with all of our work, we give special attention to engaging diverse youth, particularly youth that are typically disengaged.

Adult Allyship

Keywords: youth-adult partnership, mutuality, collaboration, shared expectations, adultism

An activity-based workshop for adult allies to build on their skills at working with youth. The workshop format models youth engaging practices. Activities focus on self-reflection, values, exploring new skills, and assessing strengths. This workshop is complemented by a full training manual with extra activities and worksheets available online. Activities from this training are ideal to integrate in various youth engagement workshops and during initial processes of youth-adult partnerships.

YOUTH WHO THRIVE

Youth Thriving

Keywords: autonomy, relatedness, competence, engagement, program qualities, head/cognitive, heart/emotional, feet/behavioural, spirit/connection, belonging

This content summarizes the full Youth Who Thrive literature review, outlining the critical factors that support youth ages 12-25 to thrive during critical life transitions such as moving to high school or leaving care and promoting long-term health throughout their lives. The specific objectives are:

1. Review and synthesize young people's needs in relation to their development and critical transitions.
2. Identify key programming outcomes that address young people's development and transitions
3. Identify evidence-based interventions and program designs to achieve outcomes

Thriving during adolescence is assisted by being physically healthy and developing the capacity to learn, the capacity to feel good about one's-self, and the capacity to behave well socially and societally.

The academic categories for these capacities are often described as cognitive/learning, emotional/psychological, and behavioural/social. Many youth organizations translate these terms into easy to remember words like head, heart, feet or hands.

Although the strongest determinants of adolescent health worldwide are structural factors in society such as income inequality and access to education, effective youth programs can contribute to positive outcomes for youth, who in turn positively impact their communities.

Facilitation

Keywords: active listening, head, heart, feet, spirit

This content is intended to explore facilitation principles and to practice youth facilitation skills. Youth and/or adults learn about engaging ways to facilitate group discussions and processes, including icebreakers and activities, as well as building group ownership. This training includes resource materials (e.g. facilitation manual) and can be tailored for particular purposes (e.g. focus group facilitation, facilitation of discussion groups or programs related to difficult subject matter, etc).

Program Design

Keywords: layers, values, rights, logistics, learning, authenticity, outcomes

The program design content focuses on the SCC's evidence-based CMYK model, which supports the development of programs according to a series of layers that support programs that effectively engage and support youth. Layers include values, rights, learning, logistics, and charismatics. We explore how to apply to these to new and/or existing programs.

Safer Spaces

Keywords: micropopulations, inclusion, justice, equity, diversity

Most of our program participants are youth furthest from opportunity. We adapt and fine tune programming around the day-in-day-out lived realities of youth who have been marginalized, granting a nuanced expertise in gearing programs toward a variety of micropopulations. We are always striving to create safer spaces (as opposed to safe spaces), recognizing that safety and meaning are not assumed for all youth in a space. This necessitates a program pedagogy that actively responds to the needs of youth for whom the space is least safe. We leverage anti-oppressive principles to recalibrate environments and cultures to accommodate, include, and centre equity-seeking perspectives. Rooting groups in the SCC's 4 Pillars: Respect, Listen, Understand, Communicate™ and inclusive and justice-oriented values is core. We also help youth acknowledge and challenge systemic and structural inequities that shape how people are treated based on their identities within a certain (perceived) group (e.g., race, gender, sexual orientation). Youth gain skills to address inequities and injustices (e.g., how to challenge peers on microaggressions) on individual, social, and system levels).

How We Do It

The SCC has a 30+ year history of using the below models to deliver effective youth engagement programming. Each model or approach has the following elements integrated:

1. The Four Pillars: Respect, Listen, Understand, Communicate™: these are the foundation of our processes and our key to building safer spaces;
2. Head, Heart, Feet, Spirit: these are the key elements of youth engagement, found in the SCC's Youth Engagement Framework. By integrating them into all activities, we can ensure that youth participants have the opportunity to learn, feel, act and connect;
3. Intergenerational collaboration: our youth engagement activities are grounded in working across generations, leveraging the energy, expertise, wisdom of all age groups, in a meaningful way. We practice active listening to ensure that everyone feels valued and heard.
4. Young Decision Makers Model: this approach provides youth a flexible structure to allow for in-depth discussion on topics and issues that matter to them. The model includes studying data, sharing personal experiences and lived realities, having discussion and debate within the parameters of the Four Pillars, and generating recommendations, ideas, and action to help address the issues at hand.

These program models/approaches can be adapted to address diverse content and issues dependent on your community, youth population, needs, and goals.

Youth Consultations

Model/Approach: The SCC can recruit, facilitate, and provide a report on youth and young adults' feedback on the topic required. Consultations can be local, regional, or national and can be conducted in person, online, or over video or teleconference.

PROGRAM EXAMPLES

Youth Consultations on Cannabis Legislation: Partnered with Health Canada to learn from youth how the legalization of cannabis has impacted them, their peers, and their communities.

Youth Consultations on Sexual Health Education (British Columbia): Youth supported the creation of teaching materials for educators in BC to address sexual health education with the hopes of improving its uptake and efficacy in the classroom.

Over the Influence: Tackling the Opioid Crisis

Swipe to learn more about the project and how you can get involved!

1/5

Workshop/Workshop Series

Model/Approach: The SCC can adapt, plan, coordinate and deliver workshops on diverse topics in English or French. Workshops can be delivered virtually or in-person and can be adjusted in length depending on the mode of delivery and availability of youth. A single workshop can be divided into multiple sessions and vice versa, as per your needs and goals.

PROGRAM EXAMPLES

Be the Program 2.0 – Cyberbullying and Virtual Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program: A series of activities that addresses online safety.

Peace Blueprint: Addressing Violence in Young Women's Lives: Gender-based violence and the impact on young women and women-identifying people.

Truth Leading to Reconciliation Workshop: Works to create empathy among non-Indigenous youth through interactive activities about Canada's Indigenous history and explore a pathway to reconciliation.

All My Relations: Meeting Grounds Workshop: Explore the similarities and differences among Indigenous and newcomer populations in Canada and strives to build connection between them.

Addressing Structural Racism: Increase awareness and understanding of structural racism and how it disproportionately impacts racialized populations.

#ThisIsCanada: Explores how the teaching of Canada's history impacts identity and beliefs about Canada, potentially reinforcing biases.

#MyEnvironment: Supports youth to understand how environmental degradation can affect Canada, and the youth themselves, and equips youth to take action on environmental issues.

Art of Work: Supports youth to understand how to navigate their first or second employment experience.
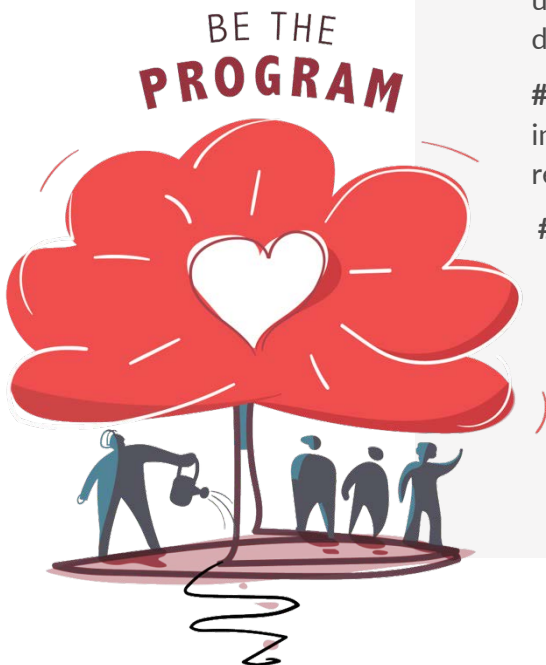
Youth Conferences, Forums, Symposiums and Gatherings

Model/Approach: The SCC was born out from a recommendation by youth at a national youth conference held in Toronto in 1991. From that initial event, the SCC has developed a process with a series of manuals and tools for holding conferences and gatherings that bring together youth, as well as youth, young adults and adult allies, creating 'a-ha' moments that shift thinking.

We host our own events and also assist others to design and host events.

PROGRAM EXAMPLES

#CanadaWeWant Conference Series (2017-present): A six-day national youth conference that focuses on engaging youth in small groups using the Young Decision Makers model to address 8-10 issues. Each group generates policy recommendations and action plans that are shared with policy makers and decision-makers at a showcase event in Toronto that closes the conference.

Make Your Mark Conference Series (2022-present): A four-day national youth conference that brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to explore the intersection between reconciliation and youth generativity, or the motivation to make things better for the generation that come after us. This conference includes large group and small group activities that lead to the generation of community action projects.

Against the Current Conference Series (2023-2025): An annual knowledge mobilization event that brings together academics, leaders and staff of youth serving organizations, decision makers from governments and funders of youth programs and youth to explore the latest research, trends and practices related to effective youth programs. There is now an in-person one-day version of the event in May and a half-day virtual version of the event in September.

Young Leaders Forum (2010-2015): The SCC assisted YMCA Canada to host a Young Leaders Forum prior to its
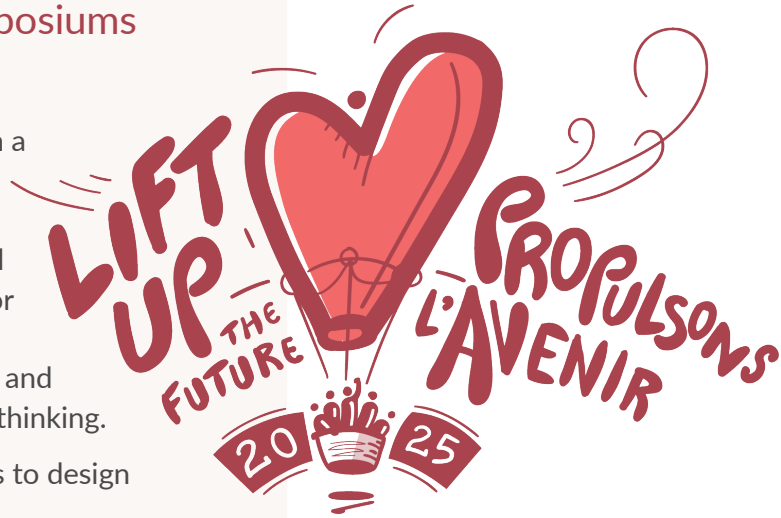
Annual General Meeting and then support and include Young Leaders participation at the Annual General Meeting. We then supported YMCA Canada to work with the Young Leaders throughout the year to integrate youth into YMCA's governance practices to meet the YMCA's new strategic plan, focused on healthy outcomes for children and youth. This involves training and support for youth from all YMCAs across Canada.

Youth Groups/ Youth Advisories/Youth Leadership Tables

Model/Approach: The SCC can assist your organization as you develop an advisory board, committee, or group to steer a project, program, or organization. A full service offered by the SCC from youth recruitment to evaluation, our team has the expertise to ensure that the group is inclusive and reflects those who use your program and that they are supported, trained and able to participate fully. We can support local, regional or national groups, including any virtual, face-to-face or overnight meetings, where we can facilitate logistics, support/supervision, facilitation as necessary.

PROGRAM EXAMPLES

Health Canada's Youth Leadership Team on Tobacco and Vaping: The SCC has been supporting this Leadership Team through various iterations and in various roles since 1999. This is a national advisory that meets regularly in a virtual setting, with in-person overnight events on a yearly basis. The SCC has supported the design, facilitation and chaperoning of these events, alongside ongoing design and delivery of virtual meetings, recruitment, and ongoing youth support.

Justice Youth Advisory Committee: From 2016-2019, the SCC, in partnership with Justice Canada, supported a national, virtual group of youth to provide and gather from their peers insight on justice topics, as named by Justice Canada. Committee youth focused on constituency building, namely engaging their peers in discussions and surveys that provided insight into how youth understood justice issues and made recommendations for moving forward to better serve youth and all Canadians. The SCC analyzed data and authored reports available through Justice Canada.

YDM416: From 2016-2020, the SCC recruited, supported, and facilitated weekly in-person sessions on diverse topics with a group of 15-40 youth from across Toronto. We focused on creating and maintaining safer spaces, practicing vulnerability across diversity, engaging in knowledge sharing, having difficult conversations, and evaluating our impact. Youth created trusting, consistent and caring relationships among their peers and with the diverse adult allies that supported the group.

Youth Engagement in Research and Evaluation

Model/Approach: The SCC supports youth to be integrated into research and evaluation, including Participatory Action Research projects, evaluation research, as well as more traditional academic research. Areas to explore include 1) innovative research methodologies (e.g. community mapping, web-based research, photovoice, theatre) 2) processes to engage youth in some or all stages of research from design to evaluation, including training re skills and support to facilitate youth in the research process. Training can be tailored for youth to build interview and focus group facilitation skills, develop survey and interview tools, etc.

PROGRAM EXAMPLES

Sharing the Stories – Program Evaluation: The SCC has supported more than 400 organizations to conduct research and evaluation of their programs. Examples of clients include: Catapult Canada-Rideau Hall Foundation, Pathways to Education, Toronto Public Health, BGC Canada and the Youth Opportunities Fund of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Many of the organizations are focused on supporting Black, Indigenous youth and other equity-deserving youth. We support organizations to design and

implement program evaluation plans. This collaborative process provided space for youth leaders and staff to develop capacity to lead evaluative processes in their communities and build evidence to demonstrate the efficacy of their programs.

Hearing Unheard Moments Program: Through comedy, arts, and Forum Theatre, the Hearing Unheard Moments (HUM) program creates safer spaces for real dialogue on controversial, polarizing topics. HUM helps youth identify and address moments of exclusion that may lead to radicalization.

HUM highlights the importance of co-creating. By talking, listening and producing together, we progressively create safer spaces for deeper listening. Curiosity and motivation to communicate versus defensiveness and self-protection emerged.

Check out Hearing Unheard Moments (HUM)

Don't Believe the Hype Program: This program aims to educate youth about the multi-faceted nature of Hip-Hop culture, and help youth develop their critical thinking skills by highlighting and discussing the ways in which Hip-Hop is linked to their own lives and society in many intricate ways.

This course engages learners in dissecting and analyzing Hip-Hop Culture through an arts-based approach to discussion, and various and informative educational activities. Topics explored will highlight a variety of social issues that affect our youth and their communities. Learners are encouraged to engage in critical analysis and develop skills in various artistic mediums. Ultimately the aim of this course is to use Hip-Hop as an alternative tool for education to engage and build bridges between youth, educators and academic discourse.

Check out Don't Believe the Hype

Peer Influencer Program Models

Model/Approach: We cultivate and mobilize youth leadership coast-to-coast-to-coast to take action on issues that matter most to young people. Through an eight-module curriculum,

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we train youth to influence their peers to make positive and healthy decisions in their lives—how to hold hard conversations, stay informed, and find trusted caring adults who can support them. We also help youth make lasting and positive contribution for the next generation, inviting them to reflect on how they, individually and as a group, wish to make their schools, neighborhoods, and communities better. We are continuously bringing youth voice and input to the forefront of policy and community action development.

PROGRAM EXAMPLES

Be the Program Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program: Be the Program leverages the power of youth influence to improve relationship health and reduce teen dating violence. Be the Program supports youth to better understand relationships, identify root causes of violence, and support their peers to think critically and make decisions that lead to healthier relationships.

The SCC delivered Be the Program over 5 years in partnership with organizations across Canada. The program demonstrated key outcomes in leadership and influence, critical thinking, and knowledge about healthy relationships. Youth also shared that the program approach, to be responsive and adaptive within the parameters of a shared safer space, was key to their positive experiences.

Check out Be the Program

SIFT Program: SIFT creates safer spaces where youth and adults closest to them explore, experience, and build capacity towards belonging, self-care, wellbeing, and positive social identities. Youth co-create safer spaces by sifting through and choosing tools that matter to them the most. Through SIFT, we offer 18 services, spanning the 6 themes below, to spark new or deepen existing safer spaces:

- The SCC's 4 Pillars & Shaping the Safer Space
- Authenticity & Social Identity
- Sharing & Vulnerability
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Belonging & Community
- Contribution & Empowerment

Check out the SIFT Project

Belonging
Experienceing connection in a safer space

Over the Influence: Over the Influence (OTI) is mobilizing youth leadership across Canada to take action on the opioid crisis. We train youth across the country to promote harm reduction techniques to their peers and broader communities, empowering youth to seek evidence-based resources, access formal supports, and contribute to rewriting the narrative of opioid use within their circles and broader communities.

Check out Over the Influence (OTI)

Influence in Action DrugBuzz Program: From 2009-2012, the SCC delivered Drugbuzz, a program that supported influential students from different social groups in each school to learn some new life skills, gain new knowledge and methods of communicating with their peers. Through this training, youth learn how to influence their peers effectively to make healthier and safer choices. While initially addressing substance use, the program expanded to address healthy eating and other topics around health and wellbeing that youth named as key to their ongoing wellbeing.

Check out the Influence in Action Drugbuzz Program

Collaborative Program Model

Grounded in a networked approach, the SCC understands that youth thriving will only occur when diverse parties work together to mutually reinforce programs, policies, and activities that benefit young people. The SCC has been at the forefront of large-scale collaborative programming since its inception, ensuring that projects are grounded in a clear and shared social purpose, the 4 Pillars, and youth voice.

City of Vancouver Violence Prevention Strategy 2023-2026

The SCC supported the City of Vancouver to develop its Youth Safety and Violence Prevention (YSVP) Strategy that outlines a comprehensive approach to enhancing the safety and well-being of youth in Vancouver.
It aims to address root causes of youth violence and identify community responses that effectively prevent its occurrence and recurrence. The Strategy sets out a plan to create safer spaces and empower young people and

communities to develop and implement solutions. We supported a comprehensive community engagement and policy planning process with more than 780 children and youth reached as part of dialogue sessions, community-based research projects and events. 110 partners from non-profit youth serving agencies, community groups and public partners were involved in the policy discussions that set the direction of the strategy and implementation plan.

Check out the City of Vancouver Violence Prevention Strategy

Collective Impact Toronto Youth (CITY) (2012-2018)

CITY strives towards the vision of a Toronto where all youth experience maximum health, are skilled, safe and equitable participants in city life. The chosen focus is to increase the high school graduation rates of racialized youth furthest away from opportunities. We seek to ensure that these youth are cared for through increased, intentional use of programs and services, improved cross-sectoral co-ordination and strengthened evaluation systems. Collaborative processes led to the design of multi-tiered governance, a shared purpose, an evaluative framework, and collaborative and complementary programming.

Check out Collective Impact Toronto Youth (CITY)

Youth2Kingston/Youth2Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox, and Addington:

Youth 2 Kingston (Y2K) was a regional initiative of youth advocating for youth. Though originally focused on the city of Kingston, their reach expanded throughout Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, (KFL&A). They gathered voice from youth to define the needs of youth in Kingston and area through social media, community outreach, social programs and activities. They provided an ongoing opportunity for municipal government, community organizations, businesses, and individual residents to listen to young people, to hear their ideas and recommendations on how to better serve youth throughout KFL&A. The SCC was the backbone organization for Y2K since its inception

DATA IS VOICE

In 2012 young people developed and surveys to inform the development Kingston Youth Strategy for the city to create a more youth-friendly com

Let's see where the journey took them and the city. There's power in the numbers.

22 JULY 5th
22 youth meet stakeholders from 27 organizations to brainstorm ideas for a Kingston Youth Strategy.

100 MID JULY
100 youth complete a short survey that asked their opinion of youth services in the city.

10+ LATE
Is th S/

Yes. Not so much.

191 AUGUST TO OCTOBER
191 youth complete longer version of youth survey online reaching even more young people.

450 FALL
Total of 450 youth complete short survey creating a more detailed snapshot of what Kingston youth experience.

Male   Female

Youth Adult Partnership Tea diverse youth to review short s beyond participation in th

41 FALL 2012
Focus groups conducted to involve 41 youth with diverse perspectives (i.e., Queens University students, Mental Health Group, and Immigrant Services).

97 WINTER
Staff from 40 schools and 57 organizations part of environmental scan of youth-serving organizations.

750 WIN
Input from 750 Kingston youth and recommendations identi youth cited the cost of transp barrier to youth accessing cit

The **Phase 1 Youth Strategy Report** presented to City of Kingston in 2012 secured unanimous backing for all recommendations. Key among them was ...

FREE Bus Passes for students*

* In Phase 2 of the project youth consultation and advocacy successfully extended the free bus pass to all youth in Kingston.

and has helped, along with the many local partners, secured long-term funding from various sources to support the ongoing work of the Y2K team.

Project PEACE:

Project PEACE involved a collaborative of Toronto youth, the Toronto Police Service, community agencies and schools in efforts to reduce the negative impact guns and gangs have on youth and community. Working together, youth and police developed videos, programs and workshops that address violence. PEACE provided youth with opportunities to create positive change in their community, build healthy relationships and develop leadership skills.

Project PEACE is an award-winning initiative that successfully built relationships across youth and police officers and across communities.

Check out Project PEACE

Available Services

The SCC can provide the services below upon request; these services can be applied to the content area and delivery models above. They can also be packaged together or separated into smaller tasks to meet the specific needs of your organization.

Program Development and Network Capacity Building

Program Design and/or Adaptation of a Program Models

The SCC will work with you to design or adapt programs, including adapting the program models above, to meet the needs and goals of your youth populations and/or community. The SCC utilizes an asset-based, positive youth development approach in all its programming. Developing programs may include utilizing the below activities to improve the understanding of the youth, community, and/or content/issue area to build or adapt/refine a program.
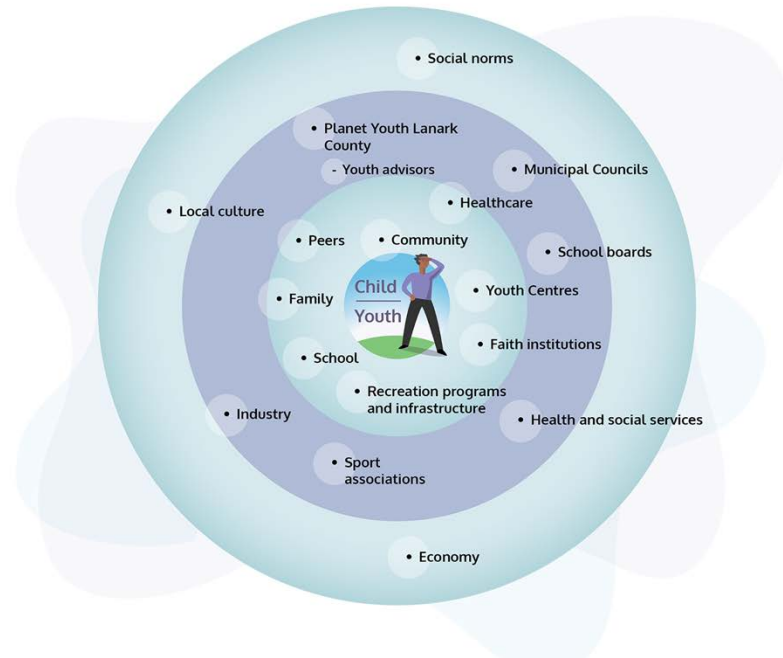
Literature Reviews, Environmental Scans, and Needs Assessments

We can deliver to you a full scan of organizations, programs or projects from around the globe that meet your needs. These scans are developed in concert with you to ensure the information you require is the information you receive. The SCC can leverage its Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement to develop targeted Literature Reviews and Summaries. This knowledge on children and youth engagement-related issues can help support your existing and new work. By looking at current and relevant data generated internationally, these reviews will help you ensure your programs are having the greatest impact on those you serve. The SCC can leverage its Sharing the Stories Research and Evaluation platform to conduct needs assessments with youth and community members and build a foundation for programming.

Proposal Writing Support

The SCC can work with your team to author proposals or grant applications, conveying new or adapted programs, developing workplans, budgets, and supporting the development of program partnerships.

Planet Youth Lanark County

- Social norms
- Planet Youth Lanark County
  - Youth advisors
- Municipal Councils
- Local culture
- Healthcare
- Peers
- Community
- School boards
- Child Youth
- Family
- Youth Centres
- Faith institutions
- School
- Recreation programs and infrastructure
- Industry
- Health and social services
- Sport associations
- Economy

Program Delivery

Direct Youth Program/Youth Workshop Delivery

The SCC will work with you to identify the right SCC program to meet your needs and tailor it to your community and context. The SCC will then recruit youth (if necessary), deliver, and evaluate the program.

Research and Impact Measurement

The SCC will work with your team to understand your program, its origins, intended outcomes, activities, and processes. Together, we will utilize our Sharing the Stories platform and tools to design an evaluation that gathers youth and/or adult ally voice on the elements of your program that you want to learn about and explore.

Staff Training and Support

Youth Program/Youth Workshop Delivery Support

The SCC will work with you to identify the right SCC program to meet your needs and tailor it to your community and context. The SCC will then train your team on the curriculum, the evidence supporting it, and best practices regarding delivery, with specific references to populations you serve if possible. If requested, the SCC will support and advise your team on the recruitment of youth, the delivery of the program curriculum, and the evaluation of the program.

Staff Capacity Building Training

The SCC will work with your team to determine their learning objectives and deliver the content you're interested in over a single or multiple sessions, virtually or in-person. All trainings and workshops use interactive activities, real-world applications, and opportunities for practice to support the achievement of key learning objectives. Our team of skilled facilitators will tailor and adapt each session to meet the shifting needs of your team.

Curriculum Development, Guides, and Toolkits

Learning opportunities tailored for your team can be captured in curricula, guides or toolkits that you can continue to deliver and share amongst your team and community as you see fit. Geared towards your needs, these user-friendly tools will make it easier for you to continue to support the development of team's capacity in any of the above-named content areas.

Event Management

Full Event Management

Our team can work with you and your organization to plan, develop, execute and evaluate your entire event. One of our strengths in youth-focused event planning and management is being able to quickly, efficiently and effectively bring together all those needed to ensure the success of your program.

Event Chaperoning

The SCC team has the team, the training, the expertise, and the appropriate insurance to chaperone overnight events for youth under 18 years old, as well as youth 18 and older. The team is trained in Standard First Aid, ASIST Suicide Prevention Training, Duty to Report and experienced in building and maintaining safer spaces across diverse youth populations.

Event Management Training and Consultation

Having brought together thousands of young people from across Canada and internationally to more than 200 events, the SCC's expertise will help provide your organization's planning team with insights, ideas, and potential tools to ensure your youth or youth/adult gathering is a success. We can assist you in developing an event plan, creating a process or program that will

meet your needs. Our Consultation team includes the SCC leadership team, young leaders, and youth who can meet, review and provide either one-time or ongoing consultation for your event.

Youth Recruitment

We can provide support as you recruit participants for your event. We can work with our partners in our youth-adult partnership network to ensure diverse representation. Our expertise is in recruiting diverse youth participants. Our team can help develop a communication strategy you can use to promote the event to youth and young adults, using social media to recruit youth and link youth and adults from our partners across Canada to help broaden your reach.

Event Facilitation

We can provide trained and supported youth, young adult, and adult facilitators to lead large or small group discussions to support your process. These facilitators can lead a range of additional activities, including community-building activities and off-site tours or meetings, as well as provide night-time and behavioural support to your participants.

Event Evaluation

In collaboration with youth and young adults, our team of researchers can tailor our event evaluation plans using our Research and Impact Measurement platform: Sharing the Stories to your needs, including daily evaluations, workshop evaluations, an overall event evaluation, impact evaluation, and / or process evaluations.

Research and Impact Measurement

Sharing the Stories Platform

In 2011, the SCC identified a consistent gap in the capacity of Canadian youth-serving organizations to conduct research and impact measurement activities effectively. In fact, most organizations did not have the capacity or resources to rigorously evaluate their programs or compare the effectiveness of their programs with other organizations. As a result, there was a lack of Canadian evidence for youth engagement programs, initiatives, and interventions. Through support and funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the SCC launched the Sharing the Stories (StS) research and impact measurement platform. StS includes reliable and valid quantitative and qualitative evaluation tools. More importantly, it includes a team of youth engagement and knowledge mobilization experts who support organizations to develop effective

Working with youth and organizations to amplify their story

research and impact measurement plans. StS is a subscription-based model. Each organization pays a relatively small fee to subscribe to the platform. They also agree to pool their data into an anonymized database so that comparisons can be made across programs using similar evaluation
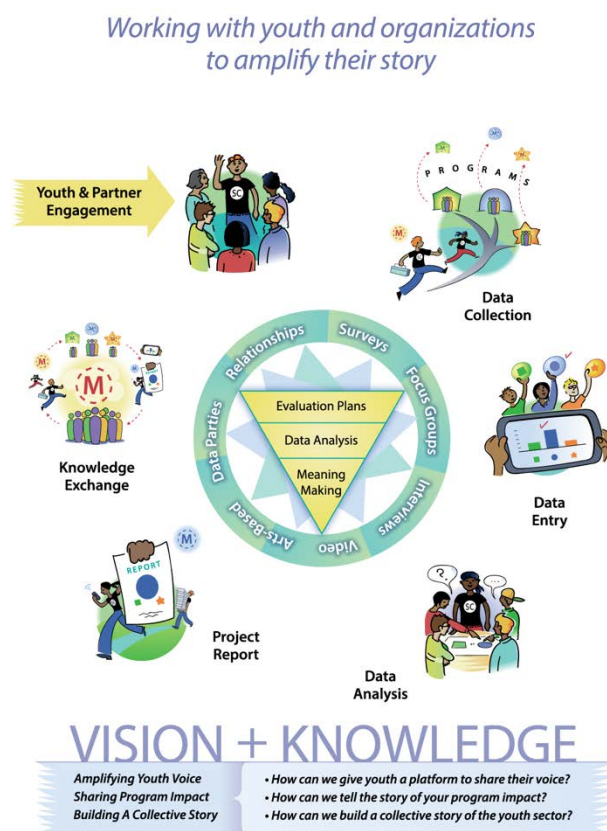
tools, processes, and measures. StS now has over 400 unique programs and organizations that are a part of the shared platform and approximately 17,000 unique users. StS is focused on building an anonymized database of information for youth, the youth sector, policy makers, corporations and funders.

The information gleaned from the database supports:

1. Youth Voice: StS provides a platform for young people to have their voices heard in the programs and initiatives that work with them.
2. Youth Sector: StS provides a platform for organizations to learn about what's working in their programs and what might need to be improved.
3. Policy-Makers: StS identifies trends in the youth-serving sector and shares them with policy-makers so that policy can be informed by evidence.
4. Funders: The evidence generated from StS informs funders on the effectiveness of their programs.

StS is organized around reporting on change on three levels using CEYE's Youth Engagement Framework.
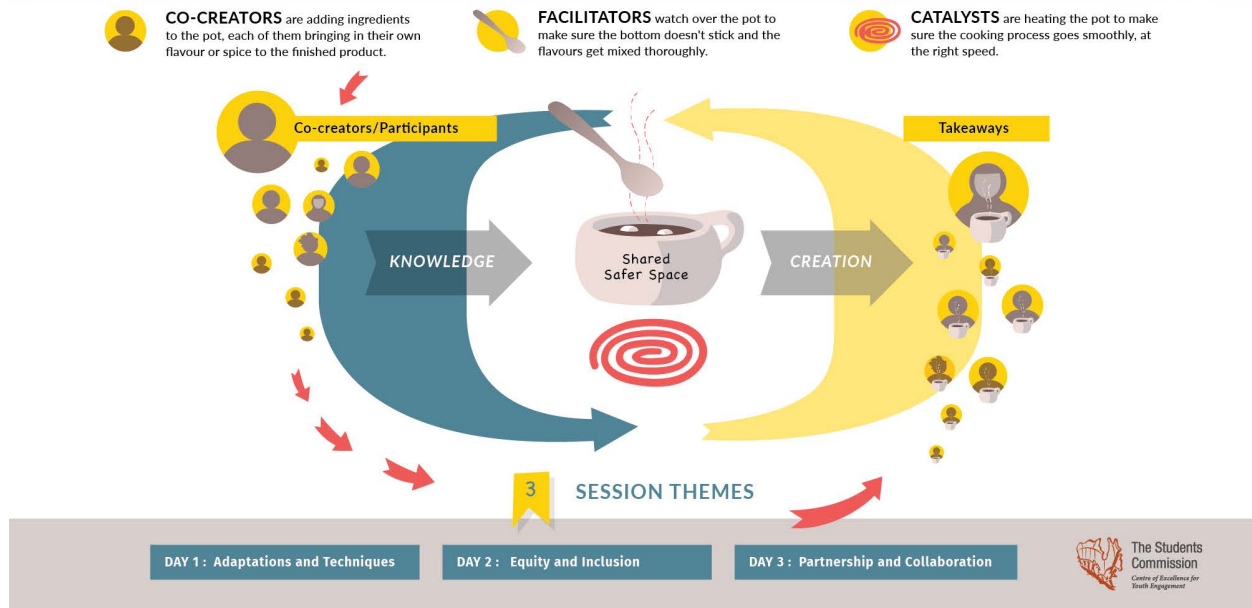
- The individual level focuses on reporting on changes (positive and negative) for individual youth and adult allies.
- The social level focuses on reporting on changes (positive and negative) in relationships. For example: how youth interact with other youth or how youth interact with other adult allies.
- The system level focuses on reporting on changes (positive and negative) for programs, organizations, and policy makers. For example, how youth influence program design or how youth influence government policy.

Participatory Action Research (PAR)

PAR is an opportunity to engage youth, young adults, and adult allies in identifying issues of importance, gathering information, and drafting reports / recommendations that are most relevant to them. The "research" aspects of PAR are different in that it avoids the "We'll take information from you and report" approach that often comes from more traditional research undertaken by academia or systems. PAR recognizes that the experts are not only those from existing research structures, who often would go to a community, study youth and leave with their information to write papers, reports and develop recommendations, never to be seen again by the youth or young adults. Using PAR means that the "research" is done by youth and young adults, for youth and young adults. We can support you as you develop a PAR project that brings youth and young adults together to address specific issues identified by them and develop results that are directly applied to the problems at hand.

The #CanadaWeWant Knowledge Exchange 2021
Co-creators, Facilitators, and Catalysts

CO-CREATORS are adding ingredients to the pot, each of them bringing in their own flavour or spice to the finished product.

FACILITATORS watch over the pot to make sure the bottom doesn't stick and the flavours get mixed thoroughly.

CATALYSTS are heating the pot to make sure the cooking process goes smoothly, at the right speed.

Co-creators/Participants

Takeaways

KNOWLEDGE

Shared Safer Space

CREATION

3 SESSION THEMES

DAY 1 : Adaptations and Techniques

DAY 2 : Equity and Inclusion

DAY 3 : Partnership and Collaboration

The Students Commission
Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement

Knowledge Mobilization

Strategy Development

Grounded in both primary and secondary research methods, the SCC utilizes scans, literature reviews, and voice from youth, community, staff, and other stakeholders to design youth-oriented strategies, including youth engagement strategies, violence prevention strategies, mental health support strategies, and other strategies related to youth work. These strategies engage diverse perspectives to design approaches that bring together collaborative partners, including government, nonprofits, corporate partners, youth and adult allies to achieve a common purpose. The SCC can deliver corresponding implementation and evaluation plans, as per the goals of your organization or community.

Report Writing

For any of the above services, the SCC can generate a written report, with the content curated and presented specifically for the audience you have identified. The SCC has expertise writing reports for federal, provincial, and municipal governments, nonprofits, and communities. We will leverage our academic team housed in the Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement, if necessary, to support the delivery of academic-style papers for presentation at academic conferences and other research spaces.

Product Creation

In addition to or as an alternative to a report, the SCC has a team dedicated to the delivery of diverse knowledge mobilization products, including videos, visuals, infographics, and webpages, to convey key messages, share learning across diverse audiences. The SCC has created video series for educators, youth of all ages, and adult allies. Some examples of our products include:

- Rethinking Conversations Around Youth Substance Use
- Beyond the Birds and the Bees – Supporting Sexual Education in BC
- Blueprint for Action – Preventing Substance Related Harms Among Youth

Thank you for being curious

We look forward to connecting with you.

Contact us at info@studentscommission.ca to learn about the services and opportunities we provide!

Join the Sharing the Stories platform or get involved in our network of partners.

For more about the Students Commission of Canada (SCC) explore our website or find us on LinkedIn. To follow live updates from the SCC, make sure to follow the hashtag #CanadaWeWant and the @studentscommission on Instagram, Tik Tok, and Facebook!

Donate to The Students Commission of Canada. Charitable Number: 886333947 RR 0001

The Students Commission of Canada
Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement

La commission des élèves du Canada
Le centre d'excellence pour l'engagement des jeunes