

YOUTHREX IS PART OF Ontario's Youth Action Plan to mobilize research about youth, increase understanding of positive youth development and invest in continuous quality improvement in Ontario's youth programming.



Ontario's Youth Action Plan was launched in 2012; a key accomplishment of the plan is *Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed.*

Stepping Up is an evidence-based strategic framework for improving youth outcomes. The framework identifies seven themes of youth wellbeing that also inform the work of YouthREX:

1. Health & Wellness
2. Strong, Supportive Friends and Families
3. Education, Training and Apprenticeships
4. Employment and Entrepreneurship
5. Diversity, Social Inclusion and Safety
6. Civic Engagement & Youth Leadership
7. Coordinated & Youth-Friendly Communities

OUR VISION is an Ontario where shared knowledge is transformed into positive impact for all youth.

WHAT WE DO

The Youth Research and Evaluation eXchange (YouthREX) is a province-wide initiative based at York University with five regional Hubs across Ontario. YouthREX promotes the integration of research evidence and evaluation in the development and delivery of Ontario's youth programs. YouthREX regional hubs engage local grassroots youth serving organizations, academic partners, youth and policy stakeholders in capacity building, knowledge mobilization, research and evaluation opportunities. Launched in December 2014, YouthREX is primarily funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services with contributions from York University and the four partner universities.

OUR MISSION is to make research evidence and evaluation practices accessible and relevant to Ontario's grassroots youth sector through capacity building, knowledge mobilization and evaluation leadership.

HOW WE WORK

YouthREX draws from a Critical Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework focusing on youth assets rather than youth deficits, acknowledging that some youth experience compounding systems of disadvantage that limit their access to critical social, cultural, political and economic resources.

We strive to:

- Build Capacity
- Use Participatory Processes
- Emphasize Youth Voice

WHO WE WORK WITH

- Youth
- Grassroots youth-led/serving organizations
- Academics and students with research interests in youth work, community-based research and evaluation
- Policy makers
- Funders



KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Creating opportunities for knowledge to action processes by sharing youth research and evaluation findings in accessible ways

Activities include:

- Curating research and evaluation practices, tools and resources
- Supporting knowledge to action processes
- Facilitating spaces for convening meaningful dialogue and action



CAPACITY BUILDING

Facilitating learning and networking opportunities for the grassroots youth sector

Activities include:

- Providing professional development opportunities such as skill-building workshops, webinars, certificate courses
- Developing tools and supports that encourage research and evaluation activities



CUSTOMIZED EVALUATION SUPPORTS

Providing one-on-one program evaluation supports to grassroots youth organizations, promoting the integration of evaluation into everyday practice

Activities include:

- Developing evaluation leadership capacity
- Supporting grassroots groups to share the story of their impact
- Identifying opportunities for improvement through evaluation strategies



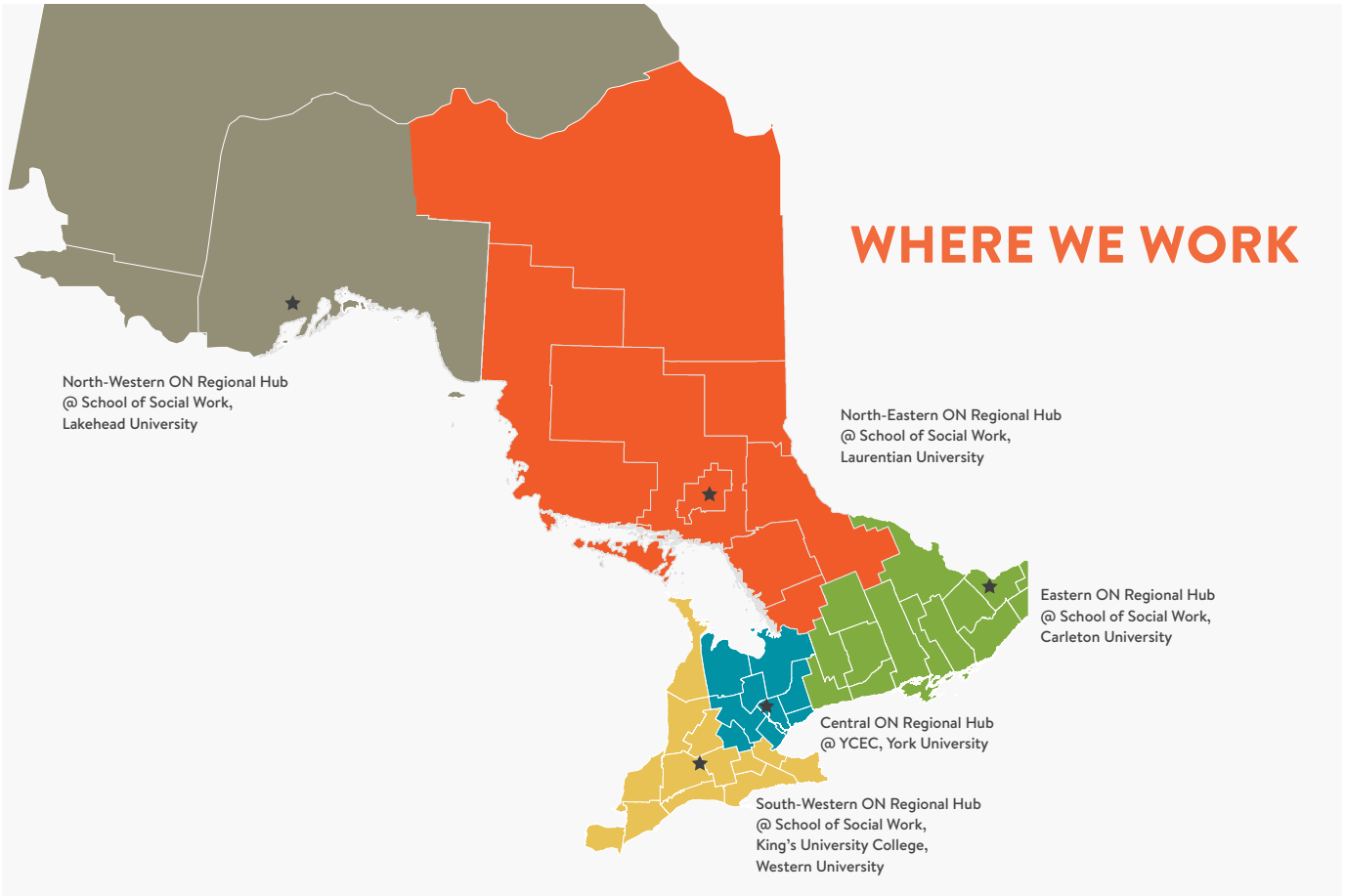
NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATIVE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (NOISE):

YouthREX youth innovation lab brings highschool youth & university students together to work on timely social action projects. NOISE is also a space for YouthREX to co-develop research and evaluation resources with youth.

Activities include:

- Prototyping and piloting YouthREX-developed research
- Creating opportunities for critical dialogue and knowledge exchange

WHERE WE WORK



Central Ontario Region

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- Halton
- Simcoe
- York
- Waterloo
- Grey
- Dufferin
- Wellington
- Toronto
- Peel

North-Western Ontario Region

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- Kenora
- Thunder Bay

North-Eastern Ontario Region

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- Timiskaming
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- Parry Sound
- Muskoka
- Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury
- Algoma
- Manitoulin
- Sudbury
- Cochrane

Eastern Ontario Region

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

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- Leeds and Grenville
- Ottawa
- Prescott and Russell
- Lanark
- Northumberland
- Frontenac
- Haliburton
- Renfrew
- Durham
- Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
- Prince Edward
- Lennox and Addington
- Kawartha Lakes
- Hastings
- Peterborough

South-Western Ontario Region

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-
- Essex
- Middlesex
- Haldimand-Norfolk
- Brant
- Hamilton
- Bruce
- Oxford
- Lambton
- Huron
- Chatham-Kent
- Perth
- Elgin
- Niagara

UPCOMING EVENTS AND LAUNCHES

1. YouthREX Regional Community eXchange Events

February & March 2015

Each Regional Hub is hosting an engagement forum to bring together community stakeholders to learn about future Hub activities and provide feedback on how YouthREX can support their youth work.

2. YouthREX Provincial Community eXchange

February 27, 2015

This is an opportunity to learn more about YouthREX and how stakeholders (youth, youth workers/organisers, grassroots organizations, academics, funders etc.) can engage with YouthREX provincial office and regional hubs.

3. State of the Youth Sector Report 2015

Report Launch: April 2015

This report will share results and recommendations from an Ontario-wide survey of how youth-serving organizations engage with evaluation to measure, share and improve the impact of their work.

4. Beyond Measure? Evaluation and Action in Ontario's Youth Sector

Date: March 24, 2015

This will be an opportunity for sector stakeholders to convene around the outcomes of the State of the Youth Sector Report - share, learn, and plan cross-sectorally around research and evaluation in the youth sector.

5. Customized Evaluation Supports

Program Launch: May 2015

Grassroots and other youth-serving organizations will be able to access one-on-one support around evaluation.

6. Certificate Course on Critical Social Work

Program Launch: July 2015

This is an experiential course that will explore issues and challenges of critical youth work through a 'praxis' model of action, reflection and integration. Drawing on a diversity of practice-based knowledge, critical dialogues and diverse interactive activities, participants will deepen their knowledge of critical front-line practice, policy analysis, research and collaborative youth-engaged organising

7. Online Resource Hub

Launch Date: July 2015

This will be an accessible one-stop hub of resources such as tools and research that support improved youth work practices. The Hub will also share lessons and promising practices from case study examples of how evaluation can be effectively used in grassroots youth organizations.



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