



# #KtA2016

YORK UNIVERSITY  
OCTOBER 27-29, 2016

A Provincial Exchange

# The Youth. The Work. The System.

Knowledge to Action  
for Youth Wellbeing



**YOUTHREX**  
Research &  
Evaluation eXchange

[www.youthrex.com](http://www.youthrex.com)  
[exchange.youthrex.com](http://exchange.youthrex.com)  
[@REXforYouth](https://twitter.com/REXforYouth)



# #KtA2016

We are excited to provide this Exchange as a sharing and learning space for dialogue about knowledge that can inform and strengthen youth wellbeing in Ontario.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**3** Guiding Questions

**4** Welcome Messages

**7** KtA Exchange Schedule at a Glance

**8** The Exchange Agenda at a Glance

**10** Keynote Speakers

**11** Panel Session:  
Talking Back to the System

**13** Posters/Exhibits

**14** Floor Maps

**15** Concurrent Sessions at a Glance

**16** Youth Sector Excellence Awards

**17** Detailed Overview of Sessions

**42** Acknowledgements

**44** The YouthREX Story

**46** The YouthREX Team

A Provincial Exchange

# The Youth. The Work. The System.

## Knowledge to Action for Youth Wellbeing

---

### KtA EXCHANGE GUIDING QUESTIONS

The movement of knowledge to action requires opportunities for people to come together and learn with, and from each other. This Knowledge to Action Exchange on “The Youth. The Work. The System” brings youth sector stakeholders from across the province of Ontario together to share and engage with practice-relevant knowledge from research, youth work practice and lived experiences.

We invite you to join us in unpacking and exploring the following questions related to the three dimensions of our theme:

#### THE YOUTH

1. What are the issues that youth are experiencing?  
How are these issues impacting their lives?
2. How do these issues impact youth that Ontario's Stepping Up Framework identifies as facing multiple vulnerabilities?
3. What are innovative youth work practices happening on the frontlines to address these issues impacting the lives of youth? How do we know these interventions are working?
4. How are youth creating ‘spaces’ for themselves to enter these conversations about their wellbeing? What are youth doing to act/resist/react to issues they are facing?

#### THE WORK

1. What issues affect youth workers' ability to do their work with youth as effectively and healthily as possible? How can we foster healthy, vibrant and meaningful work for frontline youth workers?
2. What are innovative approaches for understanding and addressing ‘thorny’ issues youth workers are facing, such as self-care, precarious work and trauma?
3. What are the issues around professional recognition of youth work and the education and training for youth workers?

#### THE SYSTEM

1. How might we engage and leverage ‘systems’ to better support youth wellbeing?
2. What models can break the silos and support a multi-sectoral approach to youth work?
3. How does the youth sector intersect with other systems?  
What are good youth work practices that demonstrate a holistic, systems thinking approach? For example, how youth programs work within the larger system and engage a range of institutions and stakeholders?



## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM YOUTHREX'S PROVINCIAL ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



**ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US** at Youth Research and Evaluation eXchange (YouthREX), I am delighted to welcome you to York University for our first Provincial Knowledge to Action (KtA) Exchange: “The Youth. The Work. The System.” We are excited to provide this Exchange as a sharing and learning space about knowledge that can inform and strengthen youth wellbeing in Ontario. YouthREX is very grateful to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for the opportunity to be a part of Ontario’s Youth Action Plan.

We intentionally and strategically chose to use our first Exchange to engage the multiple dimensions that impact youth wellbeing in recognition that the issues happening with youth, within youth work, and within larger systems and contexts are interconnected. The three dimensions of our theme: “The Youth. The Work. The System”, are therefore neither static nor siloed from each other. Rather, they are continuously growing and developing, interdependent in some ways, occasionally in synergy, and sometimes in tension with each other.

We are grateful to our two keynote speakers for framing and setting the context for this Exchange – Mr. Daniele Zanotti, President and CEO of the United Way Toronto and York Region and Dr. Sean Lessard, Associate Professor of Teacher Education and Aboriginal Studies, University of Alberta. We are also grateful to our four panelists – Stephen Bediako, Mélanie-Rose Frappier, Dr. Naomi Nichols and Jim Rankin for sharing with us responses and strategies for ‘talking back’ to the system on critical youth-system interactions.

I also want to thank all of you who answered our call to share your knowledge by taking the time to prepare and submit proposals and for everyone who accepted our invitation to join us for Thursday’s Pre-Exchange workshops, Friday’s Exchange and Saturday’s Post-Exchange Design Day. Each of these three days includes an opportunity for YouthREX to begin a dialogue

with our stakeholders on the role of youth work in addressing the important recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. While YouthREX is using the Exchange to signal our full commitment to the process of understanding and action towards reconciliation, we also know that this is just the beginning; our collective efforts will need to be sustained over the long-term.

Finally, I would like to take a moment and acknowledge the wonderful, wonderful people at YouthREX that made this KtA Exchange possible and that make YouthREX what it is – youth, undergraduate and graduate students, staff and academic directors – in our provincial office here at York University and at our five regional hubs at Carleton University, King’s College at Western University, Lakehead University, Laurentian University and the YCEC at York University. The YouthREX team is reflective of our diverse sector in both our professional and lived experiences and everyone brings tremendous energy and passion to our work everyday!

Welcome again to our first Provincial Knowledge to Action Exchange: “The Youth. The Work. The System.” We look forward to continuing facilitating opportunities for sharing and learning around research and evaluation that support the development of responsive programming, tools and resources for youth work in Ontario.

Collegially,

Uzo Anucha, MSW, PhD  
Provincial Academic Director, YouthREX  
Associate Professor  
School of Social Work  
York University

**Ministry of Children  
and Youth Services**

Minister's Office

56 Wellesley Street West  
14th Floor  
Toronto ON M5S 2S3  
Tel.: 416 212-7432  
Fax: 416 212-7431

**Ministère des Services  
à l'enfance et à la jeunesse**

Bureau du ministre

56, rue Wellesley Ouest  
14<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M5S 2S3  
Tél. : 416 212-7432  
Télec. : 416 212-7431



October 28, 2016



***A Message from the Minister***

I am delighted to extend greetings to more than 200 youth sector stakeholders attending today's conference hosted by Youth Research and Evaluation Exchange (YouthREX) at York University.

This important conference brings together frontline youth workers, academics, funders, policymakers and young people themselves to share best practices, discuss key issues and build relationships with other youth sector stakeholders from across the province. Thank you all for participating today and for your ongoing and diligent efforts to make life better for at-risk youth.

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services shares YouthREX's unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of at-risk youth and supports your vision of an Ontario where shared knowledge is transformed into positive impact for all youth. Our government is proud to support projects like YouthREX. In doing so, we are helping build the research and evaluation capacity of youth-led and youth-serving grassroots organizations and we are helping youth at-risk make positive choices and reach their full potential.

Like you, our government wants to know how we can use evidence from research, practice and lived experience to support grassroots youth sector organizations to make more informed decisions about youth programming. And we want to know how we can use data and stories from youth programming to better understand, measure and share their impact in ways that drive change and improve youth wellbeing.

Thank you again for making a difference and please accept my best wishes for a productive and rewarding day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Coteau'.

Michael Coteau  
Minister



## WELCOME FROM THE DEAN, FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES, YORK UNIVERSITY

**THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE** can be found at every turn. Their impact on social, cultural, economic, and political renewal is critical, especially in this time of unprecedented global connectivity and change.

The challenges we face require collaboration, adaptation, and innovation and the participation of young people is essential. We must ensure that all of Ontario's youth are able to access and transform opportunities into a vital and equitable present and future.

Ontario's Youth Action Plan, and work across the youth sector, contributes to the achievement of this vision. With innovative events like this one, we are actively improving pathways to inclusion in communities large and small, urban and rural.

The three-part theme of this event — The Youth. The Work. The System — shares common objectives with York University and the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. We strive to create opportunities for meaningful and equitable youth inclusion, to make connections beyond the university, to work in partnership with communities, and to collaboratively generate action-oriented solutions to complex challenges.

The active involvement of such a breadth of participants is inspiring: youth, undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff from five Universities across the province and, of course, community leaders, from whom there is much to learn. I am confident that the new knowledge and, most importantly, the action that will emerge from this event will be even more inspiring.

I look forward to the shared learning this provincial exchange will enable, and I feel strongly that this model of supporting engagement with issues — such as Truth and Reconciliation — that actively involves individuals, organizations, and governments will result in unprecedented innovation.

With best wishes for a very successful event,

Professor Ananya Mukherjee-Reed  
Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies  
York University

# KTA EXCHANGE SCHEDULE // OCTOBER 27-29, 2016

Pre-Exchange Workshops Thursday, October 27 10AM – 3PM	The Exchange Friday, October 28 8AM – 5PM	Post-Exchange Design Day Saturday, October 29 10AM – 4PM
<b>01. Unpacking Our Stories: Using Critical Narrative Practices In Youth Work</b>  Harjeet Badwall Assistant Professor, School of Social Work York University Academic Lead Customized Evaluation Supports, YouthREX  ----- <b>02. Indigenizing Youth Work: Towards A New Relationship</b>  Melissa Compton and Robbyn Zwaigenbaum Youth Mental Health Workers Native Child and Family Services of Toronto  ----- <b>03. Where Does The Data Go? Using Spreadsheets To Manage Youth Program Evaluation</b>  Sidney Shapiro Research Assistant NE Regional Hub @Laurentian University  Corliss Bean Research and Evaluation Specialist, YouthREX	<b>8.00 – 9.00</b> Registration + Networking Breakfast + Poster Presentations / Exhibits	<b>Idea Lab 01:</b> Bringing Our Whole Selves: Inclusive Programs With and For Racialized LGBTTTQQ2SIA Youth  ----- <b>Idea Lab 02:</b> Indigenizing Youth Work: Towards a New Relationship  ----- <b>Idea Lab 03:</b> Far and Farther: Equitable Access to Programs, Services and Opportunities for Youth Living in Rural and Remote Communities  ----- <b>Idea Lab 04:</b> Beyond the Individual: Collective/Community Approaches to Youth Worker Wellbeing
	<b>9.00 – 9.30</b> Opening Ceremony and Welcoming Remarks	
	<b>9.30 – 10.20</b> Morning Keynote Speaker: Daniele Zanotti, President and CEO of United Way Toronto & York Region	
	<b>10.20 – 10.30</b> Performance by Shaili Champaneria	
	<b>10.30 – 10.45</b> Health Break + Poster Presentations / Exhibits	
	<b>10.45 – 11.45</b> Stream One: Concurrent Workshops	
	<b>11.45 – 12.00</b> Poster Presentations / Exhibits	
	<b>12.00 – 1.00</b> Networking Lunch + Viewing of the Exchange for Youth Work by YouthREX	
	<b>1.00 – 1.50</b> Afternoon Keynote Speaker: Dr. Sean Lessard, Associate Professor, Teacher Education & Aboriginal Studies, University of Alberta	
	<b>2.00 – 3.00</b> Stream Two: Concurrent Sessions (Spotlight Presentations / Roundtables / Multimedia and Performances)	
	<b>3.00 – 3.20</b> Health Break + Poster Presentations / Exhibits	
	<b>3.20 – 4.20</b> Panel: Talking Back to the System	
	<b>4.20 – 5.00</b> Youth Sector Excellence Awards and Closing	

## THE EXCHANGE AGENDA AT A GLANCE

# 8:00AM — 12:00PM

8:00am	<b>Registration + Networking Breakfast + Poster Presentations / Exhibits</b>
9:00am	<b>Opening Ceremony and Welcoming Remarks</b>  <div> <div> <b>MCs</b>  Edwin White Chacon  Nnali Simon  YouthREX Youth Advisory Council </div> <div> <b>Professor Celia Haig-Brown</b>  Associate Vice-President, Research and Innovation  York University   <b>Honourable Sophie Kiwala</b>  MPP for Kingston and the Islands  Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children and Youth Services and Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation </div> </div> <b>Traditional Opening</b> Ryan Besito Traditional Knowledge Keeper
9:30am	<b>Morning Keynote Speaker: Daniele Zanotti</b> President and CEO of United Way Toronto & York Region <i>It's Still about "Qua": Everything we ever needed to know about the youth, the work and the system</i> <i>Lessons from my Nonna Filina – and the homeless kid at 360°kids</i>
10:20am	<b>Performance by Shaili Champaneria</b> Artist and Member, Youth Advisory Council
10:30am	<b>Health Break + Poster Presentations / Exhibits</b>
10:45am	<b>Stream One: Concurrent Workshops</b>
11:45am	<b>Poster Presentations / Exhibits</b>
12:00pm	<b>Networking Lunch + Viewing of the eXchange for Youth Work by YouthREX</b>  Rebecca Houwer Knowledge eXchange Manager, YouthREX



# 1:00PM – 5:00PM

1:00pm	<b>Afternoon Keynote Speaker: Dr. Sean Lessard</b> Associate Professor-Teacher Education & Aboriginal Studies, University of Alberta Adjunct Professor, University of Regina <i>Red Worn Runners: Exploring the potential and possibilities within youth both in and outside school places</i>
2:00pm	<b>Stream Two: Concurrent Sessions</b> Spotlight Presentations / Roundtables / Multimedia and Performances
3:00pm	<b>Health Break + Poster Presentations / Exhibits</b>
3:20pm	<b>Plenary: Talking Back to the System: Perspectives on Addressing Complex (aka ‘Wicked’) Problems</b> Panel Moderator: Cyril Cromwell Simmons, Youth Work Curriculum Specialist, YouthREX  <div> <div> <b>Mélanie-Rose Frappier</b>            Youth Ambassador of Canada            Young Aboriginal Leader &amp; Motivational Speaker and founder of It’s Cool to be Healthy   <b>Dr. Naomi Nichols</b>            Assistant Professor            Faculty of Education, McGill University         </div> <div> <b>Stephen Bediako</b>            Executive Chair, The Social Innovation Partnership            Board Member of Project Oracle and Trustee of Chance UK and Centre for London   <b>Jim Rankin</b>            Reporter and Photographer            Toronto Star         </div> </div>
4:20pm	<b>Youth Sector Excellence Awards and Closing</b>  <div> <div> <b>Award Presentations</b>  <b>Sean Twyford</b>            Director, Youth Strategies Branch            Strategic Policy and Planning Division            Ministry of Children and Youth Services   <b>Dr. Andrea Daley</b>            Director, School of Social Work, York University         </div> <div> <b>Closing Remarks</b>  <b>Lekan Olawoye</b>            Co-Chair, YouthREX Provincial Advisory            Program Director, Studio Y - MaRS   <b>Dr. Uzo Anucha</b>            Provincial Academic Director, YouthREX         </div> </div>

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## DANIELE ZANOTTI

President and CEO  
United Way Toronto & York Region

### *Its Still about “Qua”*

*Everything we ever needed to know about the youth, the work and the system: Lessons from my Nonna Filina – and the homeless kid at the 360°kids*

President and CEO of United Way Toronto & York Region, Daniele Zanotti is an effective and inspiring leader. With more than 20 years of experience in the public and non-profit sectors, Daniele’s previous role as the CEO of United Way York Region was pivotal to the historic merger of United Ways across Toronto and York Region in 2015.

Leading resource development of the first combined United Way Toronto & York Region fundraising efforts, he spearheaded a record-breaking achievement of raising \$100 million to strengthen United Way’s impact across the region, reducing the gaps in inclusion, income and infrastructure.

Deeply involved in the community, Daniele sits on the Board of Directors for CivicAction, and has volunteered on the boards of the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council, the Human Services Planning Board of York Region and the Vaughan Community Health Centre.

Daniele has a Masters in Social Work from the University of Toronto and Bachelor’s Degree from York University. He lives in Vaughan with his wife and two children.



## DR. SEAN LESSARD

Associate Professor  
Teacher Education & Aboriginal Studies  
University of Alberta

### *Red Worn Runners:*

*Exploring the potential and possibilities within youth both in and outside school places*

Dr. Sean Lessard is Woodland Cree and is from Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Saskatchewan. Dr Lessard is a former youth worker, teacher, guidance counselor and consultant. He is known for his innovative work alongside Indigenous youth and communities in the development of educational and community programming.

Sean has a Bachelor of Education, Master of Education and PhD from the University of Alberta.

Sean works across Canada as a highly sought out speaker, facilitator and researcher. For the past three years he has served as an Assistant Professor at the University of Regina, Saskatchewan in Indigenous Education and Core Studies. He is the 2015 Canadian Education Association’s Pat Clifford Award for Emerging Research in the field of Education as well as the 2015 Myer Horowitz Outstanding Dissertation Award at the Centre for Research for Teacher Education and Development.



**3:20PM – 4:20PM**

## **PANEL SESSION**

### **TALKING BACK TO THE SYSTEM: PERSPECTIVES ON ADDRESSING COMPLEX (AKA ‘WICKED’) PROBLEMS**

---

**How do we move towards a system that collaboratively supports youth in every context and scale of development?**

**How do we move our knowledge of system dysfunction, violence or plain misalignment into healthy and tangible change that leads to better outcomes for youth wellbeing?**

Youth development is embedded in different interconnected and nested physical and social contexts – for example: family, peer, caregiver, teacher, school, community, religious institution, social services, policy and government. These spheres of development can be differentiated through proximity to an individual: micro (personal), meso (organizations), and macro (political, economic, cultural). No matter what our entry point into supporting youth wellbeing is, we engage with policies, relationships, resources, and power that make up the ‘system.’ This engagement, while continuously developing and oftentimes interdependent, is also often also fraught with tension.

This dynamic panel will explore, from multiple vantage points, youth-system interactions with panelists sharing a range of responses and strategies for ‘talking back’ to the system on critical issues affecting youth.



### MÉLANIE-ROSE FRAPPIER

Youth Ambassador of Canada  
Young Aboriginal Leader & Motivational Speaker  
Founder of It's Cool to be Healthy

For 19-year-old Mélanie-Rose, making a positive difference in her community and country is her passion. In April 2016, Mélanie was selected as one of 36 Youth Wisdom Carriers to contribute to the Rideau Hall Foundation's national initiative, Enhancing Indigenous Education Through Co-Creation. She will be speaking on this experience, sharing the resulting Youth Declaration that addresses four key recommendations for the enhancement of Indigenous education in Canada.

Mélanie is currently attending Laurentian University majoring in Health Promotion and taking a minor in Indigenous Studies. Her francophone and Métis culture are very important to her and she is always looking for ways to attain cultural, spiritual and personal growth.



### STEPHEN BEDIAKO

Executive Chair  
The Social Innovation Partnership  
Board Member of Project Oracle and Trustee of  
Chance UK and Centre for London

Stephen is a leading figure in the drive towards establishing an evidence-based approach to social programmes. As Executive Chair for The Social Innovation Partnership (TSIP), he is responsible for leading the board, strategic development and thought leadership. He has advised Nesta, Big Society Capital, Mayor's Fund for London and Save the Children among others. Stephen has over ten years' experience in strategy and policy, having previously worked at Tribal, Deloitte, iMPOWER, and the Home Office, as well as for Barack Obama's 2012 Presidential Campaign. He has spent time in Africa with Voluntary Service Overseas and currently volunteers as a school governor and as an UpRising mentor for the Young Foundation.

Stephen holds a BSc in Politics and History from Brunel University, and an MSc in Public Policy from LSE. He has completed additional trainings including, the Common Purpose American Express Leadership course (2013), the Goldman Sachs and UCL Advances 10,000 Small Business Leaders Programme (2014), and Big Venture Challenge (2015).



### DR. NAOMI NICHOLS

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education  
at McGill University, Principal Investigator,  
Schools, Safety, and the Urban Neighbourhood  
and Mapping the Influence of Engaged  
Scholarship

Naomi's research activities and publications span the areas of youth homelessness; youth justice; alternative education and safe schools; inter-organizational relations in the youth sector; "youth at risk;" and community-academic research collaborations. Prior to joining the Faculty of Education at McGill, Naomi completed a Post-doctoral Fellowship with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness at York University. The Fellowship focused on knowledge mobilization, research impact, and cross-sectoral responses to youth homelessness. In 2014, the University of Toronto Press published her first book, *Youth Work: An institutional ethnography of youth homelessness*. In 2016, she released a new co-edited book, published by the Homeless Hub, *Exploring Effective Systems Responses to Homelessness*.



### JIM RANKIN

Reporter and Photographer  
Toronto Star

Jim specializes in investigations, features and data journalism. His work has been nominated for ten National Newspaper Awards and in 2002 he was part of a team involved in the Michener Award-winning investigative series into race, policing and crime in Toronto. In 2014, he was honoured with a Harry Jerome award for public advocacy and a media award from the Urban Alliance on Race Relations for a body of work on social justice issues.

In 2010, Jim and his colleagues at the Star launched an ongoing investigation into the police practice of carding and, beginning in 2012, the "Known to police" series of articles. Jim and his team analyzed police data that showed disproportionate carding of people with black and brown skin. Youth of all backgrounds are subject to carding. The carding patterns mirror over-representation of black youth in other systems Jim and his colleagues have examined, including incarceration rates, school suspension and expulsion rates, and apprehensions in Ontario's child protection system.

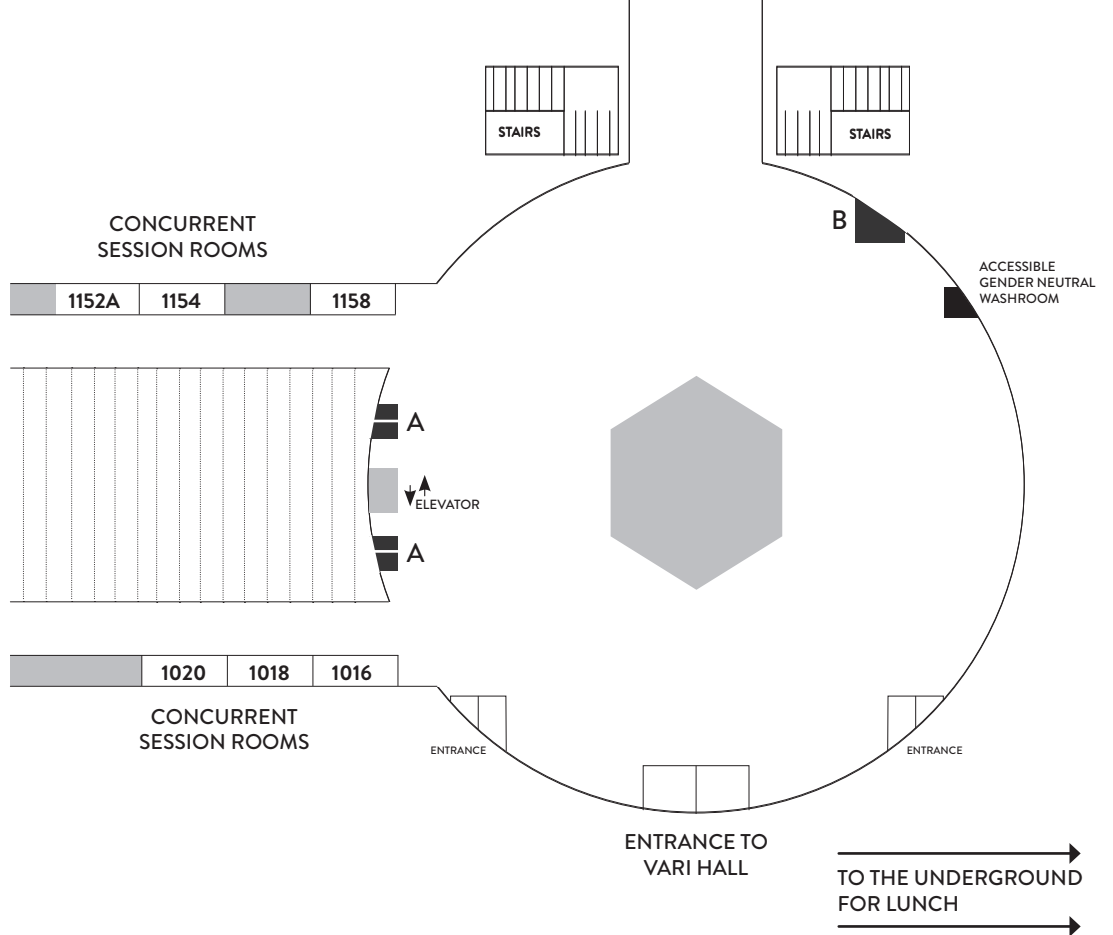
# POSTERS / EXHIBITS AT A GLANCE

All posters will be displayed in the registration area of the Vari Hall Rotunda on Friday, October 28. Presenters will be available to discuss their posters and answer questions at various times throughout the day.

8am – 9 am  
10.30am – 10.45am  
11.45am – 12 noon  
3pm – 3.20pm

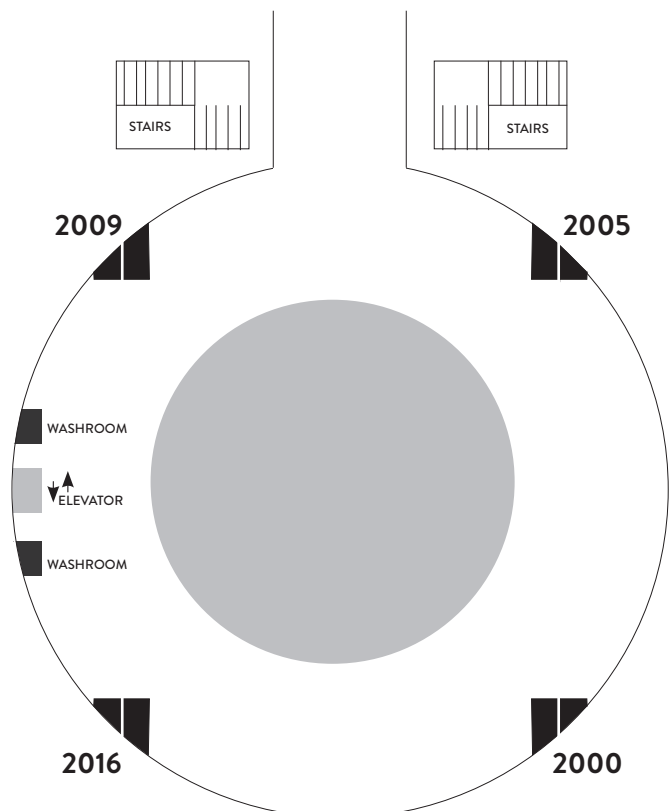
Posters	Presenters / Organizations
<i>Facilitating Access, Change and Equity in Systems: “Fighting an Uphill Battle” – Consultations into the Wellbeing of Black Youth in Peel Region</i>	<b>Maame Debrah</b> United Way of Peel Region
<i>Not All Fish Swim Upstream</i>	<b>Elizabeth Buset</b> Canadian Mental Health Association, First Place Clinic and Regional Resource Centre
<i>Beyond Measure? The State of Evaluation and Action in Ontario's Youth Sector</i>	<b>Alexander Lovell</b> YouthREX
<i>Giving Youth their Say: The Youth and Family Perspective on Mental Health and Addiction Services across Eastern Ontario</i>	<b>Dr. Isabelle Ares</b> University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research
<i>Engaging At-Risk Youth in a Family Program</i>	<b>Joanne Brown</b> Parent Action on Drugs (PAD)
<i>Collaborating to Implement a Youth Engagement Initiative</i>	<b>Alison Baxter</b> Oolagen Youth Mental Health/Delisle Youth Services
<i>Growing Roses in Concrete? Problematising Youth Resilience in a Canadian Urban Neighborhood</i>	<b>Rahma Siad Togane and Dr. Uzo Anucha</b> York University and YouthREX
<i>The New Opportunities for Innovative Student Engagement Project: Make NOISE for Social Change!</i>	<b>Hatice Celik</b> YouthREX
<i>Customized Evaluation Supports for Ontario Youth Sector</i>	<b>Dr. Jessica Wiese</b> YouthREX
Exhibit Tables	Organizations
<i>The eXchange: Connecting Shared Knowledge to Youth Work</i>	<b>Rebecca Houwer</b> YouthREX
<i>Promoting Education And Community Health (PEACH)</i>	<b>PEACH</b>

- A** PLENARY ROOM  
Lecture Hall A 1009
- B** WELLNESS ROOM  
Room 1005



## VARI HALL FIRST FLOOR

## VARI HALL SECOND FLOOR



# CONCURRENT SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

	Concurrent Workshops 10.45AM – 11.45PM	Concurrent Spotlights / Roundtables / Performances 2.00PM – 3.00PM
<b>01 // RM 2016</b> Session Chair: Dr. Edward Rawana	<b>Youth Engagement in Mental Health Agencies</b> by Muna Mohamed, Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health	<b>Education: Exploring Identity and Possibilities for Collective Change</b> by Matthew R. Morris, Toronto District School Board; Herleen Sayal, Laidlaw Foundation; Arifah Yusuf and Kimberly Miller-Pryce, Lifted by Purpose; Steve Richter, Pathways to Education Canada
<b>02 // RM 1018</b> Session Chair: Dr. Sarah Todd	<b>Community Healers Project: Self-Care Support Circle for Youth Workers</b> by Amahla Johnson, Professional Intuitive Consultant, FJPYN	<b>Intersections of Art, Identity and Social Change</b> Jahmeeks Beckford, Pathways to Education and Jennifer Vasic, Wilfrid Laurier University; Elizabeth Buset, First Place Clinic, Canadian Mental Health Association; Natasha Conde-Jahnel, Cambrian College; Lina Chaker and Jay Sivakumar, Together We Flourish
<b>03 // RM 1020</b> Session Chair: Dr. Carl James	<b>McCain Model of Youth Engagement</b> by Joanna Henderson and Gloria Chaim, McCain Centre for Child, Youth & Family Mental Health	<b>Police Interactions with Racialized Youth</b> by Dr. Philip Yunlian Meng, Central Connecticut State University; Neil Price, George Brown College; Sulaimon Giwa, York University; Brandon Hey, Waterloo Region Crime Prevention
<b>04 // RM 1158</b> Session Chair: Dr. Peter Donahue	<b>Youth Wisdom: Hearing Youth Perspectives on System Change</b> by Emma Blue and Melissa Kamphuis, London Youth Advisory Council	<b>Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship</b> by Segun Akinsyna, Currant; Christa Romaldi and Kehinde Bah, Youth Action Network; James Arron, Socent 7; Tamara Balan, Civic Action
<b>05 // RM 1016</b> Session Chair: Dr. Diana Coholic	<b>Young and Trans: What You Need to Know About Supporting Trans Youth</b> by Vincent Bolt, TG Innerselves / Sudbury Action Centre for Youth	<b>The Politics of Space</b> by Jay Pitter and Sanjeev Timana Inspirit Foundation; Rene Barton and Rehana Robin, BITSY
<b>06 // RM 2005</b> Session Chair: Corliss Bean	<b>Building from Within: How to Support Youth to Create Meaningful Change</b> by Ocean Avriel and Sarah Mughal, Jack.org	<b>Evaluation for Youth Wellbeing</b> by Alexander Lovell, Rebecca Houwer & Vivian Oystriick, YouthREX
<b>07 // RM 1154</b> Session Chair: Dr. Nombuso Dlamini	<b>Jessie's Talk (Community Education Program)</b> by Liora Sobel and Linda Cardoso, June Callwood Centre for Young Women	<b>Nurturing Mental Health: Evidence and Outcomes</b> by Élyse Champaigne-Klassen, CHEO; Jasmine Ferreira, Canadian Mental Health Association (Ontario); Sera Weafer-Schiarizza, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
<b>08 // RM 2009</b> Session Chair: Dr. Purnima Sundar	<b>Addressing Power Inequality through Collaborative Positioning and Narrative Approach</b> by Jia Yao and Amy Druker, Oolagen Community Services	<b>Homelessness and Settlement</b> by Jacqueline Stol, YouthREX Eastern Hub; Elisa Traficante, Raising the Roof; Moffat Makuto, Multicultural Association of Northern Ontario
<b>09 // RM 1152A</b> Session Chair: Dr. Stephanie Rattelade	<b>LGBTQ Youth Doing it for Themselves: Developing a Youth-Led Anti-Homo/Bi/Transphobia Social Marketing Campaign</b> by Sylvan Tang and Carolyn Wu, Planned Parenthood	<b>Breaking the ICE</b> by Joseph Recinos, AVNU <b>Youth in Transition</b> by Anick Gervais and Adam Lyons, Western Area Youth Services
<b>10 // RM 2000</b> Session Chair: Karli Brotchie	<b>Indigenous Harm Reduction</b> by Robbyn Zwaigenbaum and Melissa Compton, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto	<b>Past These Struggles (Performance)</b> by Jermaine Henry, Spoke N'Heard and YSI <b>Youth Leading Change (Multimedia)</b> by YouthREX Youth Advisory Council



# YOUTH SECTOR EXCELLENCE AWARDS

---

**YouthREX's 2016 Youth Sector Excellence Awards will be presented to five youth organizations that exemplify a commitment to improving youth wellbeing by engaging in an evaluation of their youth program that is learning focused, youth engaged and uses contextualized evaluation methods.**

YouthREX is proud to announce the 11 inaugural nominees of our 2016 Youth Sector Excellence Awards selected primarily from a pool of 60 organizations that are currently engaged in evaluation of their youth program with the support of YouthREX's Customized Evaluation Supports program. YouthREX understands that evaluation can support a youth program to do what they do, better!

YouthREX's Youth Sector Excellence Awards recognise youth initiatives in Ontario that exemplify a commitment to improving youth wellbeing by undertaking an evaluation journey that reflects the three lenses through which the YouthREX *Framework for Evaluating Youth Wellbeing* views evaluation. These lenses provide youth programs with particular, contextualized lenses uniquely suited to the organizational, social and political realities that grassroots youth programs are located in. The nominees were selected for how well the organization's evaluation journey responds to the questions posed by these three Lenses as follows:

**A Learning Focused Lens:** Will the evaluation produce insights and findings that can be used by the youth program to improve and promote youth wellbeing?

**A Youth-Engaged Lens:** Does the evaluation meaningfully engage youth participants?

**A Contextualized Methods Lens:** Does the evaluation methods allow a youth program to tell rich and nuanced stories of their processes and outcomes that acknowledge the complexity and dynamism of youth work?

**This year's nominees:**

1. Visions of Science
2. Murray McKinnon Foundation
3. Charlie's FreeWheels
4. Osgoode Youth Association
5. DILA
6. Youth Active Media
7. London Youth Advisory Council
8. Blenheim Youth Centre
9. Sudbury Workers Education and Advocacy Centre
10. Better Beginnings Better Futures
11. Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Project

**We will announce the five recipients of the 2016 Youth Sector Excellence Awards at the closing of the Exchange. Each winner will receive a plaque of recognition and \$500 to support their evaluation-related activities such as youth engagement.**





DETAILED OVERVIEW

**WORKSHOPS, SESSIONS,  
POSTERS, PERFORMANCES,  
AWARD NOMINEES AND  
MORE!**



OCTOBER 27, 2016 // 10AM-3PM

# PRE-EXCHANGE WORKSHOPS

---

YouthREX is offering three workshops for a day of deeper engagement, practical learning and networking on the following topics: Indigenizing Youth Work, Critical Narrative Practices in Youth Work and Managing Evaluation Data. These workshops will each be a full learning day from 10am – 3pm at York University and will include lunch and refreshments. There is no cost to attend.

Registration is open to those who are currently engaged in Ontario's youth sector in either a paid or volunteer capacity, on a first come, first serve basis, though priority will be given to frontline youth workers.

01 //

## UNPACKING OUR STORIES: USING CRITICAL NARRATIVE PRACTICES IN YOUTH WORK



### HOSTED BY

Harjeet Badwall, Assistant Professor  
School of Social Work, York University  
Academic Lead, Customized  
Evaluation Supports, YouthREX

**What insights do stories offer us about how we come to know ourselves and others? How can engagement with narration and narrative ideas support our commitments to social justice with/ in the youth sector?**

Narrative Practices can support us to “unpack” stories that frame young people's lives. They also help us access powerful narratives of resistance, change and hope. Join us to learn about the possibilities Critical Narrative Approaches offer our work in the youth sector. In this workshop Dr. Harjeet Badwall will introduce the foundations of Narrative Practices from a critical perspective and facilitate interactive and hands-on activities.

02 //

## INDIGENIZING YOUTH WORK: TOWARDS A NEW RELATIONSHIP



### HOSTED BY

Melissa Compton  
Youth Mental Health Worker  
Native Child and Family Services of Toronto



Robbyn Zwaigenbaum  
Youth Mental Health Worker  
Native Child and Family Services of Toronto

One of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action involves youth work. The TRC calls on “the federal government to establish multiyear funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices.”

In preparation for this important work, this interactive workshop will explore the following:

- What is reconciliation in the youth sector and how does it unsettle existing structures and practices?
- What happens when we acknowledge that we are on Indigenous land and that the majority of youth programs are built and exist within colonial structures?
- What changes when we come to an understanding and appreciation of Canada's colonial history and exploitive relationship with First Nations?

This engaging workshop will examine these questions in relation to the ongoing restorative work of reconciliation and explore how we can learn from and integrate Indigenous experience, history, theory and worldviews into youth work practice in order to improve outcomes for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth living on Turtle Island.

## 03 //

### WHERE DOES THE DATA GO? USING SPREADSHEETS TO MANAGE YOUTH PROGRAM EVALUATION



#### HOSTED BY

Sidney Shapiro  
Research Assistant  
YouthREX's Northeastern  
Regional Hub  
@Laurentian University



Corliss Bean  
Research and Evaluation Specialist  
YouthREX

Most organizations collect some type of information as part of their work with youth, for example intake forms or applications, attendance records, case notes, and program documentation. The critical question is, how are you using the information that you collect as part of your everyday work with youth in your program evaluation? What can you learn from the information you already collect? If you are missing important information, how will you collect it?

The question of what information to collect also comes with the question of how to manage and use it. The goal is to build a data management system that works with the capabilities of the organization, and makes it easier to evaluate how your programs are working.

This workshop introduces participants to data management strategies with a particular focus on using spreadsheets. We show you how to set them up, enter data, and do simple analysis. More specifically, this workshop will teach participants how to structure data in a spreadsheet and use the eight key formulas required to do basic data analysis. Participants will also work to understand and identify what data should be collected, the pros and cons of using validated tools and other methods, how to use a spreadsheet to manage your data, and how to create a data analysis plan.



OCTOBER 28, 2016 // 10:45AM-11:45PM

# STREAM ONE: CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

---

01 // ROOM 2016

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES

### HOSTED BY

Muna Mohamed, Youth Advisor  
Ontario Centre of Excellence  
for Child and Youth Mental Health

The Centre of Excellence's Youth Engagement services supports Ontario's child and youth mental health agencies to more meaningfully and authentically engage young people. This presentation showcases the Theory of Change and the suites of services offered to help agencies move along the continuum of engagement towards more meaningful engagement. The presentation will provide an overview of the Centre's Youth Engagement services, while also delving into the associated theories, principles and implementation components that frame our youth engagement work.



**MUNA MOHAMED** is a 4th year Public Affairs and Policy Management student at Carleton University and a Youth Advisor with the Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health. She's a provincial mental health advocate with a dedication to implementing anti-oppressive practices in youth serving agencies.

02 // ROOM 1018

## COMMUNITY HEALERS PROJECT: SELF-CARE SUPPORT CIRCLE FOR YOUTH WORKERS

### HOSTED BY

Amahla Johnson, Professional Intuitive Consultant, F|PYN

Amahla will lead a shortened participatory demonstration of a Community Healers self-care support circle for frontline youth workers, which will include a group introduction activity, discussion, and guided meditation. In this workshop, participants will explore the emotional tension inherent in trying to honour young people's realities while satisfying the abstracted outcomes desired by institutions.



**AMAHLA JOHNSON** is a long-time holistic healer who has used her tools to support many community groups and social justice organizations, especially ones with a youth focus. She worked with Frontline Partners with Youth Network from 2009 to 2013 and this year initiated the Community Healers Project, which has a vision of creating regular self-care support circles for frontline community and youth workers.

## 03 // ROOM 1020

### MCCAIN MODEL OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

#### HOSTED BY

Joanna Henderson, Director  
Gloria Chaim, Associate Director and  
Head of Community Engagement and Partnerships  
McCain Centre for Child, Youth & Family Mental Health

The workshop will review an evolving youth-adult partnership model used by the McCain Centre for Child, Youth & Family Mental Health at CAMH. To illustrate, youth and adult team members will present and discuss three projects developed at the Centre demonstrating varying types of youth engagement.



**JOANNA HENDERSON** is a Clinician Scientist and Director, McCain Centre for Child, Youth & Family Mental Health, CAMH and Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. Dr. Henderson is a Lead Investigator on a number of provincial and national initiatives involving youth engagement.



**GLORIA CHAIM** is Associate Director, Child, Youth and Family Services and Head, Community Engagement and Partnerships, McCain Centre for Child, Youth & Family Mental Health, CAMH and Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto. Along with Dr. Joanna Henderson, she is Project Lead on multiple provincial and national projects.

## 04 // ROOM 1158

### YOUTH WISDOM: HEARING YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON SYSTEM CHANGE

#### HOSTED BY

Emma Blue, Director of Advocacy  
Melissa Kamphuis, Executive Director  
London Youth Advisory Council

The wisdom of childhood and youth can provide the creative disruption needed to shift our most rigid systems. However, young people don't always express their ideas for systems change in ways familiar to institutions and adults. Join us to learn how to notice the way youth share their change ideas.



**MELISSA KAMPHUIS** works with the London Youth Advisory Council, currently as Executive Director. She started volunteering with the LYAC in 2014, working to capture the work of young people in a way that respects and promotes their words and silences. She is excited to share the approach the LYAC has developed.



**EMMA BLUE** is the London Youth Advisory Council's Director of Advocacy (LYAC). Over her last two years with the LYAC, Emma has spent her time learning how to listen to the lived experiences of young people in a way that honours their voices and creates opportunities for institutions to hear them.

## 05 // ROOM 1016

### YOUNG AND TRANS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SUPPORTING TRANS YOUTH

#### HOSTED BY

Vincent Bolt, Project Coordinator  
TG Innerselves/Sudbury Action Centre for Youth

This workshop will cover some of the challenges that trans youth experience when accessing services, as well as challenges that trans youth experience at work, school, and at home. Vincent will share examples of what has worked for TG Innerselves in supporting trans youth, as well as delve into how to create more inclusive and affirming policies.



**VINCENT BOLT** is the Project Coordinator for TG Innerselves. He has been a trans activist since his coming out at age 16. He has been providing workshops, presentations, and facilitating support groups over the past 11 years. He has a BA in Literature from Laurentian University, and is currently completing his Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work. He is a die hard Marilyn Manson fan, who likes to relax to his music with his adopted bunny, Winter.

## 06 // ROOM 2005

### BUILDING FROM WITHIN: HOW TO SUPPORT YOUTH TO CREATE MEANINGFUL CHANGE

#### HOSTED BY

Ocean Avriel, Chapter Coordinator  
Sarah Mughal, Manager of Programs and Evaluation  
Jack.org

This applied workshop will highlight our approach at Jack.org in supporting youth-led, community-driven advocacy work across Canada. We'll demonstrate our comprehensive leadership training and capacity building strategies designed to put youth at the centre of mental health change-making. We'll also present the evidence behind our approach and learnings from practice.



**OCEAN AVRIEL'S** role at Jack.org is to support youth-led initiatives in colleges, universities, and high schools through the national Jack Chapter program. Ocean holds a BA in Sociology and Political Science from Memorial University in Newfoundland.



**SARAH MUGHAL** oversees the design, delivery, and evaluation of Jack.org's programs. She is also responsible for our formative research and for ensuring that we're aligned with evidence-based practices. She holds a BA in Health Studies from the University of Toronto and an MPH from Simon Fraser University.

## 07 // ROOM 1154

### JESSIE'S TALK (COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM)

#### HOSTED BY

Liora Sobel, Program Director

Linda Cardoso, Community Education Speaker,  
June Callwood Centre for Young Women

Jessie's Talks provide community education around teen pregnancy, healthy sexuality and decreasing stigmatization. Join us for a unique session where you will learn how we enable youth to use their lived experience to create innovative impact within the youth sector. We will share our methodology and you will hear the personal experiences directly from our youth.



**LIORA SOBEL** is the Program Director at Jessie's - The June Callwood Centre for Young Woman. With a degree in psychology and women's studies, Liora is passionate about creating programs and services, which empower marginalized women to meet and achieve their greatest success. Her innovative strategies have enabled her to create the first social enterprise, in Canada, for young mothers in the health and social services sector.

Linda  
Cardoso

**LINDA CARDOSO** gave birth to her son when she was 16 years old. As a teen mom she experienced much adversity and barriers in raising a child so young. Linda is dedicated and passionate about creating social change in educating youth, students and the community around teen pregnancy, healthy sexuality and stigmatization. She has been a community education speaker with Jessie's Centre for the last four years.

## 08 // ROOM 2009

### ADDRESSING POWER INEQUALITY THROUGH COLLABORATIVE POSITIONING AND NARRATIVE APPROACH

#### HOSTED BY

Jia Yao, Individual and Family Therapist

Amy Druker, Individual and Family Therapist  
Oolagen Community Services

This workshop aims to explore taken-for-granted assumptions in our work with youth, especially how we position ourselves and collaborative documentation practices. Participants will try out collaborative documentation practices guided by Narrative Therapy, as well as hear from youth about what has been helpful/not helpful and their hopes for the future.



**JIA YAO** is a narrative therapist at Oolagen whose practice is guided by critical social work theory -- particularly post-structural thinking. She strives to work in ways that honour client's knowledge, abilities and values. She is also actively involved in the teaching of Narrative Therapy in community and academic spaces.



**AMY DRUKER** is a narrative therapist based in Toronto. She works as an individual and family therapist at Oolagen Community Services. Her practice is strongly guided by her social justice values.

09 // ROOM 1152A

## LGBTQ YOUTH DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES: DEVELOPING A YOUTH-LED ANTI-HOMO/BI/ TRANSPHOBIA SOCIAL MARKETING CAMPAIGN

### HOSTED BY

Sylvan Tang, Youth Advisory Committee Member  
Carolyn Wu, Youth Advisory Committee Member  
Planned Parenthood

The youth engagement model of the LGBTQ Youth Initiative's anti-homo/bi/transphobia social marketing campaign will be shared, including innovative techniques used to collectively create a campaign concept, and design a sitemap, wireframes and content for the website. There will be opportunities to troubleshoot your own youth engagement processes.



**SYLVAN TANG** (he/him, they/them) is a transmasculine youth of colour and an undergraduate student in accounting at York University. Sylvan is passionate about social equity and making a difference - especially towards supporting queer and trans migrants, whom often struggle to find resources. Sylvan can easily be found around The 519, Sherbourne Health Centre and Planned Parenthood Toronto.



**CAROLYN WU** is a queer/Asian/Torontonian youth involved with the Youth Advisory Committee at Planned Parenthood Toronto's LGBTQ Youth Initiative. Carolyn's role on the Initiative has included developing an LGBTQ youth film screening series, conducting research, determining the creative direction of the anti-homo/bi/transphobia social marketing campaign. Her work on the Initiative has further developed her passion for film, and she looks forward to seeing how social media will be used to combat homo/bi/transphobia.

10 // ROOM 2000

## INDIGENOUS HARM REDUCTION

### HOSTED BY

Robbyn Zwaigenbaum  
Melissa Compton  
Youth Mental Health Workers  
Native Child and Family Services of Toronto

Substance use in the Native community is a contentious issue because of centuries of colonialization. However, the isolation that Native youth experience as a result of this dynamic has resulted in many recent deaths due to alcohol poisoning, overdoses and violence. Harm Reduction groups are imperative for the health of this community, to foster an environment where Native youth can attend to create their own community, have access to their culture and learn vital knowledge that has saved lives. This workshop will provide participants with a working knowledge of the issues facing urban Native youth and a framework on how to conduct Intergenerational trauma-informed psycho-educational groups within the context of safety planning.



**ROBBYN ZWAIGENBAUM** works with Indigenous youth in Toronto with moderate to severe mental health and addictions. Robbyn's experience with the sex trade and harm reduction spans almost twenty years; she sits on the advisory board to assist victims of sex trafficking in the Native community. Robbyn is a certified Opioid Dependence Treatment Counsellor and frequently provides professional workshops on harm reduction, sexual health and the sex trade. Robbyn is completing her Ph.D at OISE/University of Toronto in Social Justice in Education and has guest lectured in Gender and Violence at the University of Toronto.



**MELISSA** is a member of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq band. Melissa, an alumni of Ryerson University with a BA in Child and Youth care, was the first graduate from the Aboriginal Knowledge and Experiences certificate and has a concentration in Criminal Justice. Melissa has been connected to the field since she was a youth herself; she is now one of the many youth mental health workers located in the downtown core. Melissa's passion is working with Aboriginal/Indigenous youth and finding ways to connect and integrate Aboriginal worldview, culture and teachings into all areas of work she does.



# STREAM TWO CONCURRENT SESSIONS

01 // ROOM 2016

## EDUCATION: EXPLORING IDENTITY AND POSSIBILITIES FOR COLLECTIVE CHANGE ROUND TABLE



Matthew R. Morris



Herleen Sayal



Arifah Yusuf



Kimberly Miller-Pryce



Steve Richter

### Matthew R. Morris

Educator, Toronto District School Board

#### *The Fresh Prince Syndrome: Experiences of Urban Black Youth in Educational Settings*

Black male students encounter many racialized experiences when navigating universities. These occurrences come to shape their perceptions surrounding Black masculinity. This work analyzes the experiences of Black males who feel the need to belong to an urban Black collective while at the same time attempting to navigate educational institutions in which they ostensibly do not belong according to dominant constructions of urban Black heterosexual men. Salient themes of identity construction within an educational space and the transformation of “support systems” demonstrate how Black males navigate and are successful in academia.

**MATTHEW R. MORRIS** is an educator, blogger, speaker, and Anti-Racism activist. He currently teaches middle school in the Toronto District School Board. He has recently completed his M.A in Social Justice Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. His writing and blog, [www.matthewrmorris.com](http://www.matthewrmorris.com) speaks to aspects of race, culture, and education.

### Herleen Sayal

Educator, Researcher and Fellow  
Laidlaw Foundation

#### *Wake Up York Region – Profiling the Voices of Youth Pushed out of the Education System*

A community based research project that focuses on exploring and analyzing the push/pull

factors that contribute to youth not completing high school in York Region. By sharing this research project, the researcher anticipates creating increased dialogue and discussion in the region about youth voice, gaps in the education system, existing services, and the need for collaborative solutions.

**HERLEEN SAYAL** is an Educator, Researcher and Laidlaw Fellow, who is currently working on a community based research project on youth in York Region. She has over five years of experience in the non-profit and education sector, and has worked on various initiatives across the GTA and internationally to support the development and overall wellbeing of women, children, and youth.

### Arifah Yusuf & Kimberly Miller-Pryce

Founder/Program Director and Creative  
Director, Lifted by Purpose

#### *Get Lifted*

Lifted by Purpose will share promising practices when engaging youth living on the margins and/or with lived experience in the justice system. We will share the benefits of the arts, creating safe/brave spaces and building meaningful relationships with youth and service providers. We would like to start a dialogue to address how lived experiences, whether positive or negative impact mental/physical health and the relevance of practicing healthy coping skills. The supports available making a positive impact and the challenges we may encounter, that need to be addressed as individuals and as a collective.

**ARIFAH YUSUF** is the Founder/Program Director of Lifted By Purpose. She is a Registered Social

Worker, with 12 years experience engaging and developing programs for young people. She received a Leadership Award from Canadian Alliance of Black Educators in 2015 and the Ontario Leading Women in Community Award in 2016.

**KIMBERLEY MILLER-PRYCE** is an award-winning Film Director and Creative Director for Lifted By Purpose (LBP). Kimberly collaborates with youth to ensure their voice and message is conveyed through the arts. Her work has been selected for various local and international film festivals including Toronto's Reel World Film Festival where she won best short for Baby Half Lie.

### Steve Richter

Researcher, Pathways to Education Canada

#### *The Pathways Community Mapping Tool: Toward Supporting Systems Engaged with Youth*

This presentation will make the case for the Pathways Canada Community Mapping Tool to be used by existing education, government and non-profit systems in Canada. Through accessing reliable data, these systems can be better informed when working with communities to affect social change.

**STEVE RICHTER** graduated university with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in sociology. Passionate about social change and equality, he began working in the non-profit sector. He now works as a researcher at Pathways Canada.

## 02 // ROOM 1018 INTERSECTIONS OF ART, IDENTITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE ROUND TABLE



Jahmeeks Beckford



Jen Vasic



Elizabeth Buset



Natasha Conde-Jahnel



Lina Chaker



Jay Sivakumar

### Jahmeeks Beckford

Student Parent Support Worker  
Pathways to Education

### Jennifer Vasic

Ph.D Student, Wilfrid Laurier University

### *Unexamined Creativity: How the Arts Could Really Change the World*

To understand how the arts can better foster inclusion, we explore the notion of the arts as a catalyst for social transformation. To situate this critique we present literature describing how the arts improve outcomes for youth from low-income neighbourhoods, including examples from our work with communities and our personal experiences.

**JAHMEEKS BECKFORD** is a youth support worker, community builder, athlete, and artist. He incorporates heart, creativity, and compassion into everything he does. Jahmeeks' experience in frontline youth work and superior artistic abilities contribute to changing the public education system through the arts and creative practices.

**JEN VASIC** is a frontline youth worker at heart who is currently channeling this energy into Ph.D. studies. With a commitment to participatory processes and creative practices, her research centres on how art and creative practices ought to transform the public education system into a more equitable institution.

### Elizabeth Buset

Artist and Educator, First Place Clinic, Canadian Mental Health Association

### *Not All Fish Swim Upstream: Art and Youth Mental Health*

Elizabeth will explain the different workshop series she has designed and facilitated at Canadian Mental Health Association's First Place Clinic in Thunder Bay. She will talk about the clinic, its mandate and challenges and how her arts-based workshops, designed to foster creativity and positive self-expression, have assisted youth clients in their recovery. Youth client artwork, testimonials and display of a collaborative spray painted painting created last year entitled "Not all fish swim upstream" will also be shared.

**ELIZABETH BUSET** is a visual artist and educator from Thunder Bay. She designs and facilitates a series of drop in printmaking workshops for the Canadian Mental Health Association's First Place Clinic, a treatment center for Northwestern Ontario youth experiencing mental illness.

### Natasha Conde-Jahnel

Educator and Student, Cambrian College

### *Moving Art, Moving Minds*

*Moving Art, Moving Minds* explores the intersections between arts education and the development of a positive self-identity for at-risk youth. The presentation draws on my lived-experience as a youth worker in the inner-city of Halifax, Nova Scotia. I look in particular at an arts-based project entitled *Moving Images* and highlight the instances of the development of a positive self-image.

**NATASHA CONDE-JAHNEL** holds a PhD in Performance and Media from the Johannes Gutenberg University in Germany. She has worked as an instructor and lecturer at Dalhousie University and the University of Lethbridge. Her

interest lies in youth development through the arts and, as such, has taken part in and led several projects based on Theatre for Social Change. She recently moved to Sudbury by way of Nova Scotia and aspires to continue her involvement in the Sudbury Action Centre for Youth

### Lina Chaker & Jay Sivakumar

Chair and Strategic Officer, Together We Flourish

### *Breaking Barriers Across Youth Serving Organizations*

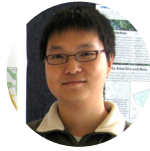
A community public art project initiated dialogue between diverse fragments of youth in the Windsor-Essex region. This meaningful forum of engaging youth from various social networks resulted in the discovery for the need of a collaborative framework and integrated programming across youth services. The norm of categorizing youth in accordance to their lived experiences reinforces the fragmented service provided by youth-serving agencies in their efforts to document the impact of programming.

**LINA CHAKER** is a proud Windsorite with a passion for bridging communities through food and art. Her youth engagement experience has led her to be reappointed to the PCYO. She is completing an Arts & Science degree with a major in Communication Studies and has explored the motivations of youth advocacy.

**JAY SIVAKUMAR** is a senior political science student at U Windsor. She is interested in local and international humanitarian efforts that emphasize community and skill building, particularly in marginalized populations. Jay is also interested in generating a creative platform for individuals facing socioeconomic barriers to have the opportunity to thrive and vocalize thoughts.

## 03 // ROOM 1020

### POLICE INTERACTIONS WITH RACIALIZED YOUTH ROUND TABLE



Dr. Philip Meng



Neil Price



Sulaimon Giwa



Brandon Hey

#### Dr. Philip Yunlian Meng

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Geography,  
Central Connecticut State University

#### *Racial Profiling in the Context of Neighbourhood*

Our study investigated racial profiling of Black youth in Toronto and linked this racial profiling to urban disadvantage theory, which highlights neighbourhood-level processes. Our findings provide empirical evidence suggesting that because of racial profiling, Black youth are subject to disproportionately more stops for gun-, traffic-, drug-, and suspicious activity-related reasons. This study shows that the theoretical literature in sociology on neighbourhood characteristics can contribute to an understanding of the relationship between race and police stops in the context of neighbourhood. It also discusses the negative impact of racial profiling on Black youth.

**DR. MENG'S** research interests include geographic information systems (GIS), public participatory planning, and quantitative analysis. His research in these areas has been published in a variety of urban and GIS journals. From 2010 to 2013, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the School of Social Work, York University on the Assets Coming Together for Youth project.

#### Neil Price

Transitions to Post-Secondary Education Program  
George Brown College

#### *Validating Youth Voices: Preparing Communities to Resist Anti-Black Racism, Ageism and Attacks on Lived Experience*

Neil will be speaking on The Community Assessment of Police Practices (CAPP) report, published in November 2014, which generated a series of vicious attacks from the police community, which were meant to discredit its

findings. These events provide an excellent case in which to examine the epistemological dimensions of anti-black racism and ageism, and how they are both specifically used to devalue community-based research conducted by youth. Neil will share how anti-black racism and ageism are used to invalidate community voices, and will attempt to share insights and perspectives on ways in which youth and oppressed communities/peoples can develop knowledge, strategies and research methods that resist such actions.

**NEIL PRICE** is a Toronto-based educator, community worker and writer. He holds a M.A in Public Policy from Ryerson University. Neil teaches within George Brown College's Transitions to Post-Secondary Education Program and was project director of the Community Assessment of Police Practices (CAPP) research project in the Jane-Finch community during the summer of 2014. His writing on race, human rights, politics and policing has been published in NOW Magazine, the Toronto Star and THIS Magazine.

#### Sulaimon Giwa

PhD Candidate, York University

#### *Improving Race Relations Through Joint Police-Youth Dialogue: An Ottawa Case Study*

Toxic interactions between police and members of racialized groups can lead to distrust and discord in police-community relations, undermining police legitimacy in the eyes of the public. Addressing mistrust between police and affected communities can begin to bridge the divide. Sulaimon will speak on The Police/Youth-of-Colour Dialogue, a first-of-its-kind intervention in Ottawa, an innovative idea to open up lines of communication between frontline police officers and racialized youth. Data from the Dialogue point to the benefits of a structured dialogical approach for addressing structural racism within the context of policing, and provide a model that

can be adapted and replicated across the country.

**SULAIMON GIWA** is a PhD Candidate in social work at York University, with research, policy, and direct practice experience at the community and federal level, in community and organizational practice in diverse communities, corrections, and policing. His work centralizes critical race transformative theories as analytic tools for social justice and equity.

#### Brandon Hey

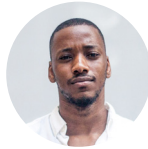
Youth Engagement Strategies and Researcher,  
Waterloo Region Crime Prevention

#### *Synthesis of Critical Positive Youth Development & Systems Change Efforts: An Integrated Model*

Brandon will share his research on synthesizing "best practices" of youth engagement models. Recurring failures in social policy formations as well as the continued barred entry of youth in socio-political decision-making efforts motivated the creation of a new theoretical model pertaining to youth engagement and youth organizing. This new integrated model shifts focus away from mere "developmental assets" towards a real emphasis on engagement in activities that promote systems' change, leading to better attainment of a variety of social-behavioural and well-being outcomes among affected youth.

**BRANDON HEY** started his career as a substance abuse counsellor and has consulted three municipal governments regarding their youth engagement strategy: from a Municipal Hamlet of Pangnirtung, City of Toronto and the Region of Waterloo. As a Studio [Y] fellow at the MaRS Discovery District, he also consulted Canada's only nation-wide, student-led mental health organization called Jack.org. Brandon is currently completing his master's in community psychology.

## 04 // ROOM 1158 YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ROUND TABLE



Segun Akinsyna



Christa Romaldi



Kehinde Bah



James Arron



Tamara Balan

### Segun Akinsyna

Co-Founder and Executive Director, Currant

#### *WTF is Currant? Home of the Vanguard*

How much value does lived experience hold? Currant's presentation will provide insight on how young entrepreneurs are utilizing their lived experience, networking with intrapreneurs and leveraging physical and human resources to bring meaningful change to their lives and communities

**SEGUN AKINSYNA** is a passionate Connector with years of experience in the public and private sector. He loves to support people's ideas and help them grow personally and overcome challenges. He has a burning desire to support community development and disrupt traditional business practices. His ultimate goal is to bring value to anything and everything he does in both the public and private sector. He loves working on massive problems that are challenging and seem impossible. Segun is a dreamer, doer and motivator and who is always looking to work with new people.

### Christa Romaldi and Kehinde Bah

Director and Coordinator,  
Propeller Department, Youth Action Network

#### *Propeller: Supporting Young Leaders to Reach New Heights*

This spotlight will explore the shifting needs and goals of youth who are organizing to make change in their communities, and our approach to supporting them. Join us to explore Youth Action Network's Propeller Department's unique offering: a community development platform designed specifically for each young leader that comes on board.

**CHRISTA ROMALDI** currently works at the Youth Action Network where she supports young leaders and youth-led groups to make positive change in their communities by building relationships with peers and fellow practitioners, connecting to resources and supports, and learning to navigate complicated systems that often pose barriers to participation and leadership.

**KEHINDE BAH** mentors young leaders as the Coordinator of the Propeller program at Youth Action Network. His career spans the civic, philanthropic, and community sectors for over 15 years. He's also a co-founder of the Remix Project, an organization that serves youth who are trying to enter into the creative industries.

### James Arron

Collaboration Coordinator, SoCent 7

#### *Supporting Young Social Entrepreneurs*

How can young people be supported to quickly test and develop social venture ideas? This was the question we explored through the Hook It Up program that provided support to 23 young social entrepreneurs across the province. During this session we aim to spark conversations about what's needed to support impactful and long-lasting youth-led ventures. We can't wait to hear what you have to say! Learn more at [www.HookItUp.ca](http://www.HookItUp.ca)

**JAMES ARRON** has served as "Collaboration Coordinator" for a collective of seven organizations supporting youth social entrepreneurship across Ontario since 2016. As part of the "SoCent7" Team, he supported the creation of the Hook it Up program. You can also learn more about his past work at [www.JamesArron.com](http://www.JamesArron.com)

### Tamara Balan

Project Director, Civic Action

#### *Escalator: Engaging the Private Sector in Youth Employment*

Private sector engagement is critical to the success of initiatives designed to address the issue of youth employment. In this presentation, we share our model for private sector engagement and discuss the opportunities that exist for employers to meet their talent needs through hiring youth facing multiple barriers to employment.

**TAMARA BALAN** leads CivicAction's Escalator: Jobs for Youth Facing Barriers initiative, creating economic opportunities for youth, while meeting the needs of employers. Tamara holds a Bachelors degree in Urban Studies and Political Science from the University of Toronto. In 2012, Tamara was named a Vital Person by the Toronto Foundation.

## 05 // ROOM 1016 THE POLITICS OF SPACE SPOTLIGHT



Jay Pitter



Sanjeev Timana



René Barton



Rehana  
Robin

### Jay Pitter

Author, Placemaker, City Builder

### Sanjeev Timana

Research and Evaluation Coordinator, Inspirit Foundation

### *Fostering Healthy Spatial Entitlement in Marginalized Youth*

Jay and Sanjeev will address the discomfort of the word entitlement and then explore why it is important for historically excluded and marginalized youth to engender a sense of healthy entitlement in order to not only develop resilience and healthy wellbeing but to thrive in spaces outside of their immediate communities long after they “age out” of youth programs.

**JAY PITTER** has considerable experience working with a wide range of stakeholder groups such as designers, planners, policy makers and youth. Her work with young people takes place in multiple contexts including: local placemaking, curriculum design, post-secondary and personal mentorship. Jay’s recent project, *Subdivided*, a new Coach House Press anthology that she both co-edited and contributed to, tackles housing vulnerability issues using personal narrative and analysis. It has been featured by media outlets such as the *Globe and Mail*, CBC Radio and NOW. Jay is currently the Director of Stakeholder Engagement with the Inspirit Foundation and is producing a five-part “walk show” series with Bell Media.

**SANJEEV TIMANA** brings comprehensive data analysis skills to the role of research and evaluation coordinator at the Inspirit Foundation. He earned a B.A. in Politics from Queen Mary, University of London, as well as a Research Analyst graduate certificate from Humber College, and his early work in labour organizing fostered his passion for social justice, uniquely positioning him to contribute towards Inspirit’s goal of creating an inclusive society. Sanj has a unique gift for translating complex data related to difficult issues into stories for change.

### René Barton and Rehana Robin

Project Coordinators, BITSY

### *On Our Terms: Building Spaces with Youth at the Table*

René and Rehana will focus on how to address the challenges of getting institutions and young people to mutually work well together. Through examining the underlying dynamics that make such partnerships a challenge, this session will engage the audience with best practices and potential pitfalls for organizations and institutions looking for authentic relationships with communities.

**RENÉ BARTON** is the founder of Uprising, based in East Scarborough, Toronto. She’s been serving youth in the Eglinton-East Kennedy-Park neighbourhood since she was a youth. She works with Rehana Robin, a co-founder of BITSY and collaborates to provide educational, recreational and employment opportunities to one of Toronto’s underserved areas.

**REHANA ROBIN** is a co-founding member of BITSY, a project that resides in the Don Montgomery Community Centre. After successfully campaigning to convert an existing gun range into youth studio space, Rehana provides drop-in space as well as structured programs here for youth in the area.

## 06 // ROOM 2005 EVALUATION FOR YOUTH WELLBEING SPOTLIGHT



Alexander Lovell



Rebecca Houwer



Vivian Oystriick

In this spotlight, members of the YouthREX team will share findings and recommendations from our report, *Beyond Measure? The State of Evaluation in the ON Youth Sector*. We will then share our own framework for evaluating youth wellbeing, along with information about our Customized Evaluation Supports program. Participants will also have the opportunity to share evaluation-related experiences, insights and concerns while learning more about the possibilities and potential benefits of youth program evaluation.

### Alexander Lovell

Research and Evaluation Director, YouthREX

### *Beyond Measure? The State of Evaluation and Action in Ontario's Youth Sector*

ALEXANDER LOVELL is a geographer with several years of experience researching issues relating to youth, community health and wellbeing. He has authored and co-authored peer-reviewed articles about immigrant settlement and has led community-based research about health and social services. Alexander is currently the Director of Research and Evaluation at YouthREX.

### Rebecca Houwer

Knowledge Exchange Manager, YouthREX

### *YouthREX's Framework for Evaluating Youth Wellbeing*

REBECCA HOUWER is YouthREX's Knowledge Exchange Manager. Rebecca oversees the production and curation of content for the eXchange and the implementation of YouthREX's capacity building opportunities. Rebecca is committed to creating opportunities for deepening dialogue and sharing knowledge in order to improve outcomes not only for youth, but also for everyone.

### Vivian Oystriick

Northeastern Hub Manager, YouthREX

### *Working with Grassroots Youth-Serving Organizations: Customized Evaluation Supports*

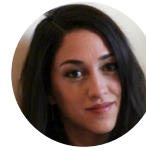
VIVIAN OYSTRICK has been working as the YouthREX Northeast Hub Manager since January 2015, at Laurentian University's School of Social Work, in Sudbury. Prior to joining the YouthREX team, she worked as both a Case Manager and Supervisor at the Children's Aid Society of the District of Sudbury and Manitoulin, for sixteen years.

## 07 // ROOM 1154

### NURTURING MENTAL HEALTH: EVIDENCE AND OUTCOMES SPOTLIGHT



Élyse Champaigne-Klassen



Jasmine Ferreira



Sera Weafer-Schiarizza

---

#### Élyse Champaigne-Klassen

Mental Health Research Planner  
YouthNET/CHEO

##### *A Pathway to Building Resiliency in Youth*

Élyse will share an analysis on how feeling connected and learning coping skills are related to lower depression rates and suicidal ideation. The spotlight will be centered on how resilience can be nurtured in youth ages 13-20 using a Youth Engagement Model.

**ÉLYSE CHAMPAIGNE-KLASSEN** is a passionate researcher whose goal is to better understand how to understand better! As a recent graduate in psychology from the University of Ottawa, she has been a part of multiple research projects in mental health and has a strong connection with research and its purpose. Over the years, she has had many frontline jobs as a youth facilitator, a distress line volunteer, and has taught children with disabilities as a swimming instructor. Alongside her frontline experience, her experience in research has highlighted the importance of never forgetting why research is done in the first place - and that is the people it is being done for.

#### Jasmine Ferreira

Project Manager, Canadian Mental Health  
Association (Ontario)

##### *The Mood Walks for Youth in Transition Project: Promoting Walking in Nature to Improve Mental and Physical Health*

Jasmine will share how Mood Walks is providing training and support to 40+ community mental health agencies across Ontario as they launch hiking programs for youth who are at risk of or experiencing mental health issues. Mood Walks is led by the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario in partnership with Hike Ontario and Conservation Ontario.

**JASMINE FERREIRA** is a Project Manager at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario, delivering the Mood Walks for Youth in Transition project. She has worked in non-profit settings for 8+ years with experience in outreach, clinical practice, health care policy and program planning.

#### Sera Weafer-Schiarizza

Evaluation Coordinator, Centre for Addiction  
and Mental Health

##### *Growing Together: Developing a Context-Driven Evaluation for the Choices Program*

Sera will explore the potential of a context-driven evaluation to shape program growth by highlighting Choices, a multi-site youth life skills program. The partnership between Choices sites and Centre for Addiction and Mental Health has resulted in more evidence-based decision-making, greater evaluation ability in program staff and ultimately, higher quality programs.

**SERA WEAFFER-SCHIARIZZA**, M.PH, is an Evaluation Coordinator with the Provincial Systems Support Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, Ontario. Her work focuses on developing the provincial evaluation of the Choices program for youth, and she has supported many health agencies and community-driven initiatives across Ontario.



## 08 // ROOM 2009 HOMELESSNESS AND SETTLEMENT SPOTLIGHT



Jacqueline Stol



Elisa Traficante



Moffat Makuto

---

### Jacqueline Stol

Research Assistant, YouthREX Eastern Hub

#### *Youth Homelessness in Rural Communities*

Jacqueline will share findings from a soon-to-be released YouthREX Research to Practice paper on rural youth homelessness. Jacqueline will engage in discussion of promising, effective or best practices that contribute to our knowledge of meaningful pathways and opportunities for youth to find healthy and sustainable places to live and to thrive.

**JACKIE STOL** works as a Research Assistant at YouthREX's Eastern Hub. She helps to write Research to Practice papers for Ontario's youth sector. She is pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work at Carleton University. She often volunteers, works and researches in areas of marginalization, anti-oppression, community development, youth and mental health.

### Elisa Traficante

Community Initiatives Project Manager, Raising the Roof

#### *The Upstream Project: Preventing Youth Homelessness*

Elisa will present The Upstream Project, a school-based initiative to prevent youth homelessness. The presentation will include a description of the methodology and projected outcomes of the program, a 'sneak peek' at a toolkit being developed by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness to provide communities with the necessary resources to implement the program, and early learnings for adapting the international model to the Canadian context.

**ELISA TRAFICANTE** has over 15 years' experience managing and evaluating community projects with youth at-risk, in various community organizations. In her professional career she has supported youth facing multiple barriers such as homelessness, addictions and mental illness in both rural and urban programs.

### Moffat Makuto

Youth Advisor and Executive Director, Multicultural Association of Northern Ontario

#### *Working with Indigenous and First Nations Children and Youth*

Moffat will share success stories and best practices gained through experience from working with First Nations children and youth in Northwestern Ontario, many of whom face settlement challenges from moving from small remote Northern reserves to larger multicultural urban settings. Moffat will share stories and resource materials developed to make Aboriginal children and youth part of the solution to the problems they face, and strategies developed through his work to involve everyone in the process.

**MOFFAT MAKUTO** has worked with the Regional Multicultural Youth Council (RMYC) since its formation as a legacy of the International Youth Year in 1985. The RMYC is a dynamic inclusive group linking young people of all backgrounds across Northwestern Ontario and engaging them in activities that give them a voice, enhance their wellness, safety and achievement. The youth council has collaborated successfully with First Nations to provide orientation and supports for their students who move from remote reserves to the urban environment.



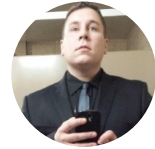
## 09 // 1152A BREAKING THE ICE & YOUTH IN TRANSITION MULTIMEDIA



Joseph Recinos



Anick Gervais



Adam Lyons

### Joseph Recinos

Project Coordinator, AVNU

#### *Breaking The ICE (MULTIMEDIA)*

Breaking The ICE is a short documentary providing insight into the work of youth activators creating positive social change throughout Northern Ontario. Join Project Coordinator and Director, Joseph Recinos for a discussion on the findings of AVNU's Information Cultural Exchange, a program aimed at empowering youth, exchanging culture, and uniting voices.

**JOSEPH RECINOS** is a Dora nominated performer whose passion for the arts extends behind the scenes. He is the Director of the SummerWorks SLIP Program and Project Coordinator for AVNU. His commitment to equitable and diverse practices within the arts has led Joseph to publish several articles and speak on a variety of panels/juries.

### Anick Gervais

Public Speaker

#### *Adam Lyons*

Residential Counselor, Western Area Youth Services

#### *Youth in Transition (MULTIMEDIA)*

In 2015, the Sudbury Manitoulin Service Collaborative developed an intervention with the goal of improving mental health and addictions services for transition aged youth. Part of this intervention included a video, Youth in Transition, that was used to help inform youth about their transition to adult Mental Health and Addictions services. Join Anick and Adam to learn more about this work, the full protocol that was developed, lessons learned and more.

**ANICK GERVAIS** is a communications graduate of Algonquin College and Toastmaster. She is skilled and passionate about public sharing. Through her workshops and public speaking engagements, she has a unique ability to connect with her audience to deliver important messages on mental health, bullying, loving yourself and more. Anick is known for her many TV and speaking appearances including Big Brother Canada, Entertainment Tonight and workshops with various school boards in Sudbury, Ontario and beyond.

**ADAM LYONS** is currently a Residential Counselor with Western Area Youth Services out of London, Ontario. He works with youth, who have various degrees of mental health related issues and are living semi-independent. Prior to that, he was working at the Sudbury Action Centre for Youth, in Sudbury, Ontario as the Youth Program Coordinator after being with the Children's Aid Society for four years. He holds a Bachelor's in Sociology and a diploma in Social Service work.

## 10 // ROOM 2000

### PAST THESE STRUGGLES & YOUTH LEADING CHANGE

#### PERFORMANCE AND MULTIMEDIA

---



Jermaine Henry



YouthREX Youth Advisory Council with Youth from *Youth Leading Change*

#### Jermaine Henry

Community Artist and Facilitator,  
Spoke N'Heard and Youth Social Infrastructure

#### *Past These Struggles* (PERFORMANCE)

*Past these Struggles* is Jermaine's Hip Hop project using community arts as music therapy in his youth work; visioning beyond struggles youth face regarding mental health, police brutality, and racism. In this session Jermaine will use his personal story, experience and spoken word to share his message about how young people are standing up for what we believe in and leading the change they want to see.

**JERMAINE HENRY** is a Social ARTrepreneur who is passionate about connecting and inspiring young people to be their best. Through drama, rap, facilitation and spoken word he co-creates meaningful moments rooted in compassion and courage.

#### YouthREX Youth Advisory Council

#### *Youth Leading Change* (MULTIMEDIA)

YouthREX's Youth Advisory Council recently launched their documentary *Youth Leading Change*, a film that celebrates the voices and agency of youth from the province of Ontario who are leading, and creating platforms for change. Join this session for a viewing of part of the documentary as well as a discussion on how this project came to be, and key learnings and challenges from this youth-led initiative.

**YOUTHREX'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL** advises YouthREX in its capacity building, knowledge mobilization and evaluation support activities. The advisory is comprised of youth (16-25 years of age), including individuals with experience in the youth-serving sector. Members of the advisory committee engage internal and external stakeholders on issues impacting the youth that they represent and/or serve.



# OCTOBER 28, 2016

# POSTERS & EXHIBITS

---

***Facilitating Access, Change and Equity in Systems:  
“Fighting an Uphill Battle” – Consultations into the  
Wellbeing of Black Youth in Peel Region***

by Maame Debrah, United Way of Peel Region

This poster will share information on research commissioned by the F.A.C.E.S Collaborative of Peel, a collaborative of community agencies, community advocates, youth researchers, educators and front-line service providers. The research focuses on the challenges and issues faced by Black youth in Peel Region and how community strengths may be mobilized to provide opportunities and access for them.

***Not All Fish Swim Upstream***

by Elizabeth Buset, Canadian Mental Health Association,  
First Place Clinic and Regional Resource Centre

*Not All Fish Swim Upstream* is a collaborative spray painting created by youth in Thunder Bay through workshops facilitated by Elizabeth Buset at Canadian Mental Health Association's First Place Clinic.

***Beyond Measure? The State of Evaluation and Action in  
Ontario's Youth Sector***

by Alexander Lovell, YouthREX

This poster presentation will share the findings from YouthREX's 2015 comprehensive province-wide study: *Beyond Measure? The State of Evaluation and Action in Ontario's Youth Sector* that includes a survey of 197 participants and 60 key informant interviews with youth sector stakeholders from across Ontario. The *Beyond Measure* study provides a 'point-in-time' description and analysis of evaluation issues in the youth sector including current practices, barriers, capacities, perceptions and aspirations related to evaluation. The presentation will review the five key messages from the study and the ten recommendations on how the youth sector can develop responsive evaluation processes and practices that are uniquely suited to the organizational, social and political realities.

***Giving Youth their Say: The Youth and Family  
Perspective on Mental Health and Addiction Services  
across Eastern Ontario***

by Dr. Isabelle Ares, Psychology Post-Doctoral Fellow,  
University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research

Involving youth and their families is key to developing mental health and addiction services that meet their needs. Findings shared in this poster underscore the value of youth and family input to ensure appropriate services. Providers' perspectives of their services do not always align with those of the youth and families they serve.

***Engaging At-Risk Youth in a Family Program***

by Joanne Brown, Parent Action on Drugs (PAD)

Can you get at-risk youth to commit to a program with their parents? This presentation shows the experience of diverse partners in urban, rural and remote Ontario regions in successfully engaging youth and parents in an evidence-based curriculum, *Strengthening Families for Parents and Youth*, resulting in significant positive family changes.

***Collaborating to Implement a Youth Engagement Initiative***

by Alison Baxter, Oolagen Youth Mental Health/Delisle  
Youth Services

This poster presentation shares the steps taken by Oolagen Youth Mental Health staff members to plan and implement a youth engagement initiative within their organization. Through youth engagement, youth who come into contact with the treatment system are given the opportunity to move beyond the role of client and become an integral part of decision making in youth serving organizations through youth advisory groups, acting as consultants and participating on Boards of Directors.

### ***Growing Roses in Concrete? Problematizing Youth Resilience in a Canadian Urban Neighborhood***

by Rahma Siad Togane and Dr. Uzo Anucha  
York University and YouthREX

The late hip-hop artist Tupac Shakur popularized the image of a rose growing in concrete as a metaphor for urban youth thriving against the odds.

This poster presentation adopts Tupac's metaphor to problematize the notion of youth resilience in urban environments by deconstructing how it contributes and/or reinforces narratives that highlight the importance of individual efforts for success, while neglecting the systemic inequities that constrain the opportunities for urban youth and thereby perpetuating negative stereotypes of their communities. Youth from the Jane-Finch community were recruited and trained in basic research methods as part of the Assets Coming Together for Youth community-engaged research project. They conducted interviews with 50 youth on one of the following three topics: wellbeing, "turf" issues, and violence. The findings point out the limitations of dominant narratives that idealize individual roses while stigmatizing the environment where they grow and neglecting the larger socio-economic structures that constrain youth opportunities. We advance a counter-narrative that highlights the important role of families and communities play in ensuring youth development and wellbeing. We locate youth agency within larger socio-economic structures that mediate their social circumstances as well as their opportunities and possibilities.

### ***The New Opportunities for Innovative Student Engagement Project: Make NOISE for Social Change!***

by Hatice Celik, YouthREX

The New Opportunities for Innovative Student Engagement (NOISE for Social Change) is a research to action project that was developed in 2012-2013 informed by the findings from the Assets Coming Together for Youth (ACT for Youth) community-engaged research project. NOISE provides engaged learning opportunities and multi-directional mentorship to high school students from the Jane-Finch community by bringing them together with undergraduate and graduate students social work students to undertake social action projects in the community.

In 2014, NOISE was folded into YouthREX and has been implemented in other YouthREX regional hubs. This poster presentation describes the goals and objectives of the NOISE model and the preliminary findings from a process and outcome evaluation of four years of running the project at York University.

### ***Customized Evaluation Supports for Ontario Youth Sector Programs***

by Dr. Jessica Wiese, YouthREX

This poster presentation provides an overview of YouthREX's Evaluation Framework and our Customized Evaluation Supports (CES) that supports the evaluation capacity of grassroots youth organizations in Ontario. CES offers free one-on-one program evaluation supports for grassroots youth sector organizations across Ontario to better understand their programs and develop and implement evaluation plans that track, measure and share the impact of their work with youth. We describe our service delivery model and reflect on what we have learned in the last year from our CES work with over 60 youth organizations across our five regional hubs across Ontario.

### ***the eXchange for Youth Work***

by Rebecca Houwer, YouthREX

This poster presentation will provide you with the opportunity to 'experience' the eXchange for Youth Work, YouthREX's online hub connecting shared knowledge to youth work. Ask us anything about our searchable Library, our Evaluation Toolkit and our online eXchange community. We're excited to share how the eXchange can support your youth work!

### ***PEACH***

Established in 1993, PEACH has stayed at the forefront of helping marginalized people in the vibrant and complex community of Jane and Finch realize a better life. PEACH bolsters the ability of very marginalized youth to re-imagine their future – to bounce back from setbacks, reconnect to education, experience strong adult support, improve learning skills, become engaged in community activities, express themselves, and feel connected.



OCTOBER 28, 2016

# YOUTH SECTOR EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINEES

---

## CENTRAL HUB

**Charlie's FreeWheels** offers a Build-A-Bike program that teaches bicycle mechanics to youth. Their mission is to inspire a spirit of exploration and to mobilize, empower and engage youth using bicycles as a driver for personal growth and positive social change. Their vision is to support the development of empowered young leaders, to build on the strengths of the community and to become a leading resource for youth to engage with cycling issues in Toronto. Their free program gives youth the opportunity to build their own bike by refurbishing a used one. At the end of the program, participants get a new bike, accessories and the necessary skills to safely ride and maintain their bikes.

**Murray McKinnon Foundation**, a non-profit charitable organization, was established in 1972 to provide a caring and supportive environment to young men and women who are in conflict with the law or at risk of youth justice involvement. Their goal is to empower today's youth to reach their full human potential and to enable them to successfully reintegrate and become productive members of society. Murray McKinnon Foundation uses a strength based approach in their work. Youth are encouraged to set individual goals and staff members support them in enhancing their own strengths and resiliency.

**Visions of Science Network of Learning (VoSNL)** is a charitable organization that aims to advance the educational achievements and career aspirations of youth from low-income and marginalized communities through meaningful engagement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields and research. Their programs and initiatives create an accessible and supportive STEM learning network. Program staff, volunteers and community stakeholders work together to ensure that participants are engaged, skilled and knowledgeable in STEM fields as they progress from childhood, to adolescence, and into adulthood.

## EASTERN HUB

**Osgoode Youth Association (O-YA)** is a community built and operated non-profit youth centre located in the rural south Ottawa Village of Osgoode, Ontario, Canada. O-YA promotes a healthy community by providing a safe and comfortable environment for inspiring youth programs, critical mental health resources and fun community events. Community youth benefit from this welcoming gathering space throughout their critical developmental stages. O-YA supports the development of all local 7 - 18 year olds with programs that focus on recreation, education, inspiration, mental health, socialization and fun!

**Youth Ottawa DILA Program (DILA)** stands for Day of Information for a Lifetime of Action. Their mandate is to support youth in taking action on community and/or societal issues that are relevant to them. DILA is a Youth Ottawa program consisting of three core elements: 1. The DILA Program, consisting of an eight-visit program to help youth identify issues of civic importance and develop and effectuate Action Plans which will create solutions to these issues; 2. The DILA Conference, which runs every October and brings together youth and community organizations for workshops on social and environmental issues; and, 3. The DILA Youth Action Showcase, which brings youth to City Hall every spring to meet with community leaders, demonstrate their actions, and advocate for the issues which matter to them.

**Ottawa Youth Active Media Project (YAM)** is a neighbourhood-based, videography initiative for youth. Youth reflecting geographic communities across Ottawa have the opportunity to learn the art of filmmaking while creating short films about issues that matter to them. Youth Active Media empowers youth to effect positive social change through art, while developing transferable skills, and providing employment opportunities for youth through paid mentorships.

Through their Social Enterprise, Youth Active Media is enhancing the communications capacity of local organizations through video services that can help tell the story of local issues, from a local perspective. Videos are created on a fee-for-service basis by talented YAM youth – it's a win/win!

## SOUTHWESTERN HUB

**The London Youth Advisory Council** exists to ensure that youth voices are integrated into local public policy decisions. LYAC seeks to reboot citizenship in London by encouraging youth to lead the charge against political apathy by playing a constructive role in the decision-making processes of the governments and institutions that influence our communities. The LYAC inspires and educates youth about the impact that they can make by recommitting to advocacy, policy development and political engagement as tenants of citizenship.

**The Blenheim Youth Centre** is a place where young people of the community (ages 8-18) can gather together in a safe environment. As a means of providing young people with “something to do,” the Centre offers daily afterschool programming that allows the youth to develop social and life skills. The activities and programs available keep youth off the streets, prevent vandalism and violence, and allow them to develop and build acceptable social, personal and professional relationships. The BYC is the only youth centre available to this population within Blenheim and surrounding areas and currently receives visits from approximately 30 youth per day.

## NORTHEASTERN HUB

**The Sudbury Workers Education and Advocacy Centre (SWEAC)** is an organization of workers, students and community volunteers committed to improving the lives and working conditions of people in low-wage and unstable employment. SWEAC was started by a dedicated group of volunteers and workers who were concerned about the inequalities that precarious and low-wage workers were facing in Sudbury. Their mandate is to deliver support and education on workers rights, provide community spaces for workers to share and learn together, and ensure that all workers have a voice and are treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.

**Better Beginnings Better Future** is a prevention program for high-risk communities. The Sudbury Better Beginning Better Futures’ holistic model provides child-centred activities and community development in the Flour Mill/Donovan neighbourhood. Their mission is to promote and strengthen personal growth focused on the child and the individual uniqueness of all community members. They also aim to promote and encourage active participation in all aspects in the shaping of programs and support systems, while integrating respect, and teamwork of everyone in achieving a safe, healthy and wholesome environment for all.

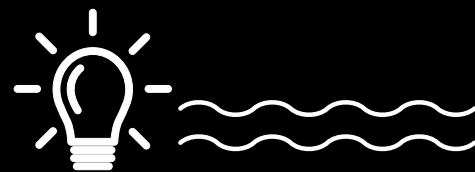
## NORTHWESTERN HUB

**Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Program** is a network of empowered and celebrated Indigenous youth supported by a community of individuals, organizations and funders that work toward shared desires for a healthy environment, social inclusivity, and strong cultural connections. The partnership is deeply rooted in reciprocity and shared ownership, focusing on mutual learning experiences to build strong, equal, and lasting relationships between everyone involved.

29.10.2016

Join us for our

# POST-EXCHANGE DESIGN DAY!



Share your knowledge, **learn** from new perspectives, and **collaborate** to co-design uniquely tangible recommendations and solutions to advance youth wellbeing.

## LAB 01

**Bringing Our Whole Selves: Inclusive Programs With and For Racialized LGBTQ2SIA Youth**

## LAB 02

**Indigenizing Youth Work: Towards a New Relationship**

## LAB 03

**Far and Farther: Equitable Access to Programs, Services and Opportunities for Youth Living in Rural and Remote Communities**

## LAB 04

**Beyond the Individual: Collective/Community Approaches to Youth Worker Wellbeing**

## OVERVIEW //

This Post-Exchange Design Day will bring together youth sector stakeholders – youth, youth workers, youth managers, policy makers, funders and citizens to collaboratively tackle four ‘thorny’ challenges that youth and youth workers experience.

These four challenges will be redefined as Idea Labs; the goal is to generate new ideas that can inform innovative, outside the box solutions for advancing youth wellbeing on these issues.

The Design Day will provide participants with a safe environment to collaboratively work with peers from multiple vantage points in the sector; topic area specialists will be on hand to provide guidance and clarity when needed. Each Idea Lab will share their solutions and recommendations with the entire group for review and feedback. YouthREX will then share these solutions and recommendations widely within the youth sector through a knowledge mobilization strategy crafted around the contributions and outcomes of each Ideas Lab.

This Design Day is hosted in collaboration with the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Youth Opportunity Fund and MaRS Solutions Lab.

## WHO WILL BE THERE? WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE? //

We invite all stakeholders invested in at least one of the four topics to participate! Each lab will include representatives from youth sector stakeholders including: youth, youth workers, policy makers, funders and researchers.

We will have topic area specialists who will be on hand to provide gentle guidance, feedback and clarity when requested, as well as note takers who will support in harvesting comments, discussion and feedback.

## WHY PARTICIPATE? //

### Focused and collaborative design

We've designed this day to maximize participatory engagement on four pre-defined topics. Everyone present is invested in the topic areas and has specific experience and knowledge to bring to the table, whether it's lived, practice or research-based. This is an opportunity to share your knowledge while learning from other perspectives in order to create something uniquely tangible related to youth wellbeing.

### Deeper networking with fellow stakeholders from across the sector

So often, youth sector stakeholders end up working in silos or within pre-defined structures where engagement is confined within our formal roles. This is an opportunity to break down those walls, hear from each other, and connect deeply over what we can all agree we're working towards: improving the lives of youth.

### There's a plan for afterwards...

Everything that is shared and developed during the day will be harvested, and shared across the youth sector through various channels and types of content! YouthREX will be intentionally designing a knowledge mobilization strategy for each topic and the resulting recommendations/solutions that you will part of designing.

## WHEN, WHERE, HOW? //

**Saturday, October 29, 2016**

10am – 4pm

York University

Kaneff Building, Room 519


**Please visit [youthrex.com/exchange-2016](http://youthrex.com/exchange-2016) to apply to attend the Post-Exchange Design Day!**

**Questions? We'd love to hear from you!**

[info@youthrex.com](mailto:info@youthrex.com) // 1-844-876-5433 // @REXforYouth

## LAB 01

### **Bringing Our Whole Selves: Inclusive Programs With and For Racialized LGBTTTQ2SIA Youth**



Racialized LGBTTTQ2SIA youth offer unique insights, perspectives and experiences to an array of contemporary challenges and yet they face significant and overlapping barriers to inclusion. Queer youth and racialized youth disproportionately experience bullying and violence, discrimination, homelessness, poor physical and mental health outcomes, and lack of interpersonal and community support.

- How might we move beyond identifying the service needs and gaps that racialized LGBTQ2 face to proactively designing pathways to inclusion?
- How might we design services, programs, and opportunities that critically embrace intersectionality?
- How might we design youth programs that support youth to be seen as their whole selves and contribute fully?

## LAB 02

### **Indigenizing Youth Work: Towards a New Relationship**




In order to improve outcomes for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth living on Turtle Island, there is an urgent need for youth sector stakeholders to participate in the restorative work of reconciliation. One of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action calls for, “community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices.”

- How might the work of reconciliation unsettle dominant youth sector structures and practices?
- How might the youth sector work “in a good way” with others to address the legacy of residential schools, close gaps and remove barriers, support Indigenous culture, and reconcile relationships with Indigenous people?
- How might we reimagine a youth sector that actively learns from and integrates Indigenous experience and knowledge to better meet the needs of all youth?

## LAB 03

### **Far and Farther: Equitable Access to Programs, Services and Opportunities for Youth Living in Rural and Remote Communities**




Youth living in rural and remote communities may not have access to the same level of services and supports as youth in urban communities. There are many barriers to participation, including lack of transportation, lack of specialized supports and also gaps in the services and opportunities offered to youth.

- How might we meet the specific needs of diverse youth living in rural and/or remote communities?
- How might we creatively engage youth in rural and remote communities, and facilitate stronger peer connections?
- How might we address transportation barriers sustainably for youth living in rural and/or remote communities?

## LAB 04

### **Beyond the Individual: Collective/ Community Approaches to Youth Worker Wellbeing**



Frontline youth workers and the work they do are critical to the youth sector and the wellbeing of youth in our communities. Despite this, they often face significant challenges of their own such as precarious employment, and continuously seeing, hearing and personally experiencing the same oppression and trauma affecting the youth they work with.

- How might we create the conditions for frontline youth work to be a healthy and thriving career path for those who choose it?
- How might we move to a collective, sector-wide approach to ensuring youth worker wellbeing?
- How might we cultivate a culture that views youth worker wellbeing as a priority and integral to youth wellbeing?





## ABOUT THE PERFORMER



**SHAILI CHAMP** is a budding musical artist from Brampton, Ontario who also goes by the name ShaiiChamp and Shaid. Music has always been an important part of Shaili's life. Immigrating to Canada, she heavily relied on music to learn English and to get through first generation struggles. She passionately believes in the power of music for storytelling and creating social change. She uses music to spread knowledge, raise awareness and offer new perspectives for real life issues. She hopes that through her music, she will initiate important conversations and raise questions about the world we live in. Shaili produces beats, writes lyrics and is always interested in collaborating with local artists.

Shaili performed an original song she wrote and produced for the *Youth Leading Change* documentary. You can check out her music at <https://soundcloud.com/shaiichamp> or contact her at [shailichamp@gmail.com](mailto:shailichamp@gmail.com).

---

## THE EMCEES



**EDWIN WHITE CHACON** is a fourth year student at the University of Toronto studying Political Science and Ethics, Society, and Law. In 2011, he was part of the Assets Coming Together (ACT) Youth-Led Committee that aided in the development of community-based research projects. Currently he is a Legislative Usher at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and Fostering Connectedness Lead at the newly created department Innovation Hub at the University of Toronto. Edwin spent his summer working on an initiative that encourages social innovation through a case competition model. It would provide youth with a platform to develop social solutions to urban issues facing the GTHA.



**NNALI SIMON** is a vibrant young lady from Toronto, Ontario and she is a recent graduate of Ryerson's Social Work program. Her interests include cooking, gardening, and caring for others. Nnali currently works with Toronto Community Housing, where she works with families, individuals and tenant-leaders.



THANK YOU FOR  
JOINING US!

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all conference participants for attending our 2016 Provincial Knowledge to Action Exchange: The Youth. The Work. The System.

And a special thank you to all our keynote speakers, panelists, presenters and performers.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

**Dr. Ruth Koleszar-Green**

Assistant Professor – School of Social Work  
York University

**Janine Berridge**

John Howard Society of York Region

**Dr. Purnima Sundar**

Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and  
Youth Mental Health

## YOUTHREX PROVINCIAL KTA EXCHANGE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Dr. Uzo Anucha**

Provincial Academic Director

**Chanel Herbert**

Administrative Coordinator

**Rebecca Houwer**

Knowledge Mobilization Manager

**Yumi Numata**

Comms & Knowledge Mobilization Manager

**Anita Sekharan**

Lead Designer and Digital Content Manager

We are grateful to YouthREX's Provincial Advisory Committee members (as well as our five Regional Advisory Committee members) who provide thoughtful feedback for all our work including this KtA Exchange.

Their contributions make it possible for YouthREX to stay connected to the youth sector and be responsive to issues that are important to youth wellbeing in Ontario communities.

## PROVINCIAL ADVISORY BOARD

**Lekan Olawoye**

MaRS Studio Y // Co-Chair

**Nicole D'Souza**

Youth Council // Co-Chair

**Raven Bryenne Bach**

Youth Council // Co-Chair

**Sue Wilkinson**

FindHelp

**Likwa Nkala**

East Metro Youth Services

**Gladys Okine**

First Work

**Kristen Lwin**

Practice And  
Research Together (PART)

**Dr. Purnima Sundar**

Ontario Centre of Excellence for  
Child and Youth Mental Health

**Biljana Zuvella**

United Way Toronto &  
York Region

**Victoria Alleyne**

CatalystsX

**Lisa Barleben**

Youth Centres Canada

## YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Co-Chairs**

Raven Bryenne Bach  
Nicole D'Souza

**Coordinators**

Edwin White Chacon  
Nnali Simon

**Members**

Amara Amomneze  
Shaili Champaneria  
George Crooks  
Tom Gleason  
Daisy Heung  
Shaun Leamy  
Fonna Seidu  
Amanda Suleiman  
Aumkaaran Thedshanamoorthy

# THE YOUTHREX STORY

---

**Launched in December 2014, Youth Research and Evaluation Exchange (YouthREX) builds on the work of Ontario's Youth Opportunity Strategy (2006) and Youth Action Plan (2012) by supporting the youth sector's capacity to measure and understand program impact.**

YouthREX is primarily funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services with extensive contributions from York University and the four partner universities, Carleton University, King's College at Western University, Laurentian University and Lakehead University.

**Our vision** is an Ontario where shared knowledge is transformed into positive impact for all youth.

**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.

YouthREX's mandate is focused on grassroots and youth-led organizations especially those working with racialized youth, newcomer youth, Aboriginal youth, youth with disabilities or special needs, youth in and leaving care, Francophone youth, LGBTTQ youth, youth living in rural & remote communities, youth from low-income families and youth in conflict with the law.

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services has entrusted YouthREX with a mandate centred around three objectives:

**#1: Knowledge Mobilization:** To enhance knowledge of research and evaluation practices, tools, resources and techniques within youth-serving organizations; to leverage practical experiences and knowledge within the youth serving sector (e.g. lessons learned and promising practices) and facilitate the transfer/exchange of this knowledge across the sector.

One of the ways that YouthREX accomplishes our Knowledge Mobilization objective is through **the eXchange for Youth Work** – an online hub that brings youth development knowledge from research, practice and lived experiences together in one online space, and in accessible formats making it easier for the youth sector to connect shared knowledge to their work with young people across Ontario. Check out **the eXchange** here: [www.exchange.youthrex.com](http://www.exchange.youthrex.com)

**#2: Capacity Building:** To build the capacity of youth-serving organizations, in particular, small-scale/grassroots groups to conduct their own program evaluations and integrate evidence into program development and implementation. Examples of our Capacity Building activities include our 10-week online, Understanding Program Evaluation for Youth Wellbeing Certificate and our three-day Critical Youth Work Certificate (CYWC) that we have offered in several GTA locations (North York, Peel, Richmond Hill, and Scarborough) and Ottawa. We will be offering the CYWC certificate in Thunder Bay in November 2016.

**#3: Direct Evaluation Supports:** To provide direct program evaluation and data analysis supports to youth serving organizations in particular grassroots groups – measuring the impact of their youth programming and identifying opportunities for improvement. YouthREX understands that evaluation can support a youth program to do what they do, better! YouthREX is currently working with 60 youth organizations and programs across Ontario. We have created the Youth Sector Excellence Awards to recognise partner organizations that are deepening their evaluation practice by successfully involving youth in their evaluation, using multiple methods to understand the impact of their work, and applying what they learn from their evaluation to improve their program.

# THE YOUTHREX JOURNEY: FROM DISCOVERY TO ACTION TO LEGACY

---

## DISCOVERY PHASE

### Year One: November 2014 to March 2015

YouthREX officially launched in December 2014. Our very short first year, or “Discovery phase”, focused on outreach, engagement, and deepening our understanding of the experiences of Ontario’s youth, youth workers and youth sector organizations that include youth-serving and youth-led organizations. We laid the foundation for the processes that would support the execution of our deliverables while building and strengthening our networks and listening to the needs of grassroots youth organizations in Ontario. Both the Regional Hubs and Provincial office spent extensive time connecting with organizations across the province to better understand the specific and individualized needs of our stakeholders.

## ACTION PHASE

### Year Two: April 2015 to March 2016

Year Two was our first full year. We launched and /or piloted significant deliverables while hosting numerous events, workshops and community of practice opportunities across the Province. At our Regional Hubs, we engaged hundreds of stakeholders in diverse knowledge mobilization, capacity building and evaluation opportunities as well as developing diverse collaborative intersectoral partnerships. We have integrated evaluative mechanisms throughout all of our activities, so that we can hear direct feedback from our stakeholders, and continue to learn and improve.

## LEGACY PHASE

### Year Three: April 2016 to March 2017

We are currently in Year Three and our goal is to solidify various deliverables centred on our three objectives and expand on them where necessary. In Year Three, we are focusing on building on the lessons from years one and two and strengthening the foundation of our work and our relationships with our diverse stakeholders. Our Hubs are continuing to reach out to communities in their regions, hosting events and offering support to grassroots youth organizations. We will publish our Youth Data Book in January 2017 which will provide the youth sector with data on the wellbeing of Ontario’s youth.

We look forward to continuing our work facilitating opportunities for sharing and learning with youth sector stakeholders around the integration of research and evaluation in the development and implementation of responsive programming, tools and resources with and for the youth sector.

## Follow Us:

[www.youthrex.com](http://www.youthrex.com)

[www.exchange.youthrex.com](http://www.exchange.youthrex.com)

[Twitter.com/REXforYouth](https://twitter.com/REXforYouth)

[Facebook.com/YouthREX](https://facebook.com/YouthREX)

[Instagram.com/yellthetruth](https://instagram.com/yellthetruth)

# YOUTHREX TEAM

---

## ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

### Dr. Uzo Anucha

Provincial Academic Director  
Associate Professor, School of Social Work  
York University

### Dr. Harjeet Badwall

Academic Lead, Customized  
Evaluation Supports; Assistant  
Professor, School of Social Work,  
York University

### Dr. S. Nombuso Dlamini

Academic Lead, Capacity  
Building; Associate Professor  
Faculty of Education

### Dr. Stephen Gaetz

Academic Lead, Knowledge  
Mobilization; Professor, Faculty of Education  
York University

### Dr. Diana Coholic

Academic Director, Northeastern Hub  
@ School of Social Work, Laurentian University  
Director and Associate Professor  
School of Social Work

### Dr. Carl James

Academic Director, Central Hub  
@ York Centre for Education & Community  
York University; Professor and Jean Augustine Chair  
in Urban Education, Faculty of Education  
York University

### Dr. Peter Donahue

Academic Director, Southwestern Hub  
@ School of Social Work  
King's University College, Western University  
Director and Associate Professor  
School of Social Work

### Dr. Edward Rawana

Academic Director, Northwestern Hub  
@CERPYP, Lakehead University  
Associate Professor, School of Social Work

### Dr. Sarah Todd

Academic Director, Eastern Hub  
@School of Social Work, Carleton University  
Associate Professor, School of Social Work

## PROVINCIAL OFFICE STAFF

### Alexander Lovell

Director, Research and  
Evaluation

### Chanel Herbert

Administrative Coordinator

### Dr. Jessica Wiese

Senior Manager of Research  
and Evaluation

### Rebecca Houwer

Knowledge Exchange Manager

### Yumi Numata

Communications & Knowledge  
Mobilization Manager

### Anita Sekharan

Lead Designer and  
Digital Content Manager

### Hatice Celik

NOISE Project Manager

### Cyril Cromwell

Youth Work Curriculum  
Specialist

### Corliss Bean

Research & Evaluation Specialist

### Laura Mulrine

Communications &  
Digital Content Officer

### Sinthu Srikanthan

Program Evaluation Associate

## REGIONAL HUB MANAGERS

### Jessica Noble

Central Hub  
@York Centre for Education &  
Community, York University

### Dr. Stephanie Rattelade

Eastern Hub  
@School of Social Work,  
Carleton University

### Dr. Laura Hogarth

Southwestern Hub  
@School of Social Work  
King's University College  
Western University

### Vivian Oystreck

Northeastern Hub  
@School of Social Work  
Laurentian University

### Karli Brotchie

Northwestern Hub  
@CERPYP  
Lakehead University

## NOISE @ YORK UNIVERSITY MSW RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Diana Da Silva  
Vanessa Junior  
Aasiyah Khan  
Rut Ikinori Lau  
Samantha Postulart  
Rossy Sidhar

## PROVINCIAL OFFICE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Ishmael Ahmad  
Lisa Nguyen  
Netanya Sookdeo  
Maria Gabriela Umana-Peraza  
Thawany Monteiro  
Mesha Tella  
Haniah Khalid  
Billy Siu  
Sara Kramer  
Phillip Baiden

## REGIONAL HUB RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Alisa McClain  
Jacqueline Stol  
Sidney Shapiro  
Paige Miltenburg  
Melanie Mathews  
Jordan McCormick

## Connecting Shared Knowledge to Youth Work

**Every piece of content on the eXchange has been created in-house or curated with the intent of being useful, relevant and accessible to all of our diverse youth sector stakeholders.**

These stakeholders include youth, frontline workers, funders, government, community members...you get the idea! This means you'll find content on topics such as housing/homelessness, employment, leadership, self-care, justice, and of course, evaluation, as they relate to youth in our communities.

This is a list of all the main types of content on the site. Keep in mind, we've designed everything to be searchable by content type, as well as the seven *Stepping Up* themes, different population groups, origin of the content and source. We also have key words and tags that will help refine your search.

**We hope you find what you're looking for, and more! If not, please let us know at [youthrex@yorku.ca](mailto:youthrex@yorku.ca) and we will do our best to rectify the situation. You can also send us content and resources that you think we should feature on the eXchange.**



### ACADEMIC LITERATURE

We searched through lots of academic journals so you don't have to. From youth attitudes towards apprenticeship to evidence-based strategies for enhancing family engagement in youth, you'll find full research reports on diverse youth-related topics here.



### FACTSHEETS

These one-pagers share succinct explanations and practical tips on topical issues and areas of interest for youth sector stakeholders.



### INFOGRAPHICS

Visual representations of data or information about youth sector relevant topics, including evaluation. Infographics help present complicated information quickly and clearly.



### NEW MEDIA

Sometimes it's easier to understand something when it's explained in innovative ways. Here's where we have creative forms of content such as podcasts, comics, zines and more.



### REPORTS

Here you'll find open-source reports that aren't commercially or academically published on specific topics and/or communities. Sources include community-based initiatives, NGOs and Policy Think Tanks.



### RESEARCH SUMMARIES

Here's where we profile key reports and academic research by answering 6 key questions. These summaries are handy as is, or can be used as launch pads for further investigation.



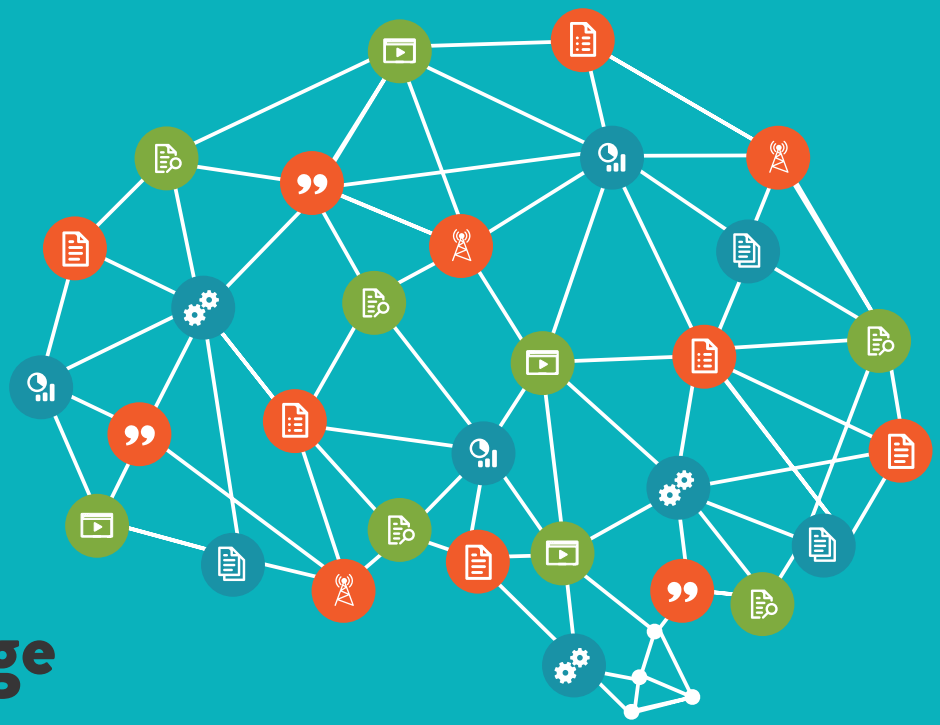
### TOOL/TOOLKIT

Tackling something like an inclusion program, safety planning or youth advocacy in your organization/initiative? Take these instructional tools and use them as is, or modify them to fit your need(s).



### VIDEOS

Watch engaging and relevant videos, including archives of YouthREX's own recorded webinars on all things youth and evaluation related.



## Connecting Shared Knowledge to Youth Work

**The eXchange** is an extension of YouthREX's efforts and commitment towards enhancing youth wellbeing in Ontario by supporting the work of grassroots youth stakeholders by actively helping them connect shared knowledge to youth work.

The eXchange is our online hub that brings youth development knowledge in accessible formats from research, practice and lived experiences together in one online space, making it easier for the youth sector to strengthen and enhance their work with young people across Ontario.

The goal of the eXchange is to have everything about youth work, available from anywhere, at anytime!

### Key Features of the eXchange

- A **searchable Library for Youth Work** that has over 800 diverse types of content for supporting youth experiencing multiple barriers
- Visitors to the eXchange can **set up an account** to save and share library items that spark their interest.
- An **Evaluation Toolkit** that can help youth programs better understand the impact of their work with youth. Structured around YouthREX's Evaluation Framework for youth programs, this toolkit includes step-by-step actions with evaluation tools, templates and resources.
- A **dynamic online learning community** for the youth sector to stay informed about current youth news and engage with issues relevant to improving youth wellbeing.

[www.exchange.youthrex.com](http://www.exchange.youthrex.com)

@REXforYouth