

# YouthREX at FIVE

NOVEMBER 2014 — MARCH 2019



**YOUTHREX**  
Research &  
Evaluation eXchange

## **OUR VISION**

An Ontario where shared knowledge is transformed into positive impact for all youth.

## **OUR MISSION**

To make research evidence and evaluation practices accessible and relevant to Ontario's grassroots youth sector through knowledge exchange, capacity building and evaluation leadership!

# Knowledge Exchange

We create and curate evidence-based resources to support youth work practice, and to amplify the voices and experiences of young people in Ontario.

## Mobilization

**3,867**

Newsletter  
Subscribers

**2,702**

Twitter  
Followers

**847**

Instagram  
Followers

## Exchange for Youth Work (Online)

SINCE MARCH 2016

**1,146**

Curated and  
created resources

**16k**

Downloads of  
resources

## Webinars

FIVE YEAR TOTAL

**35**

Webinars

**3,400+**

Participants

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR

**5**

Webinars

**350+**

Participants

## Knowledge to Action Exchange

**600+**

Stakeholders  
Engaged

**in 2016  
and 2018**

“

“This is an invaluable resource; as the only youth-led organization in our city, YouthREX gives us inspiration, and answers so many questions that we have through robust, relevant and critical research. Topics & issues allow us to feel we are not alone!”

- YOUTHREX STAKEHOLDER

# HIGHLIGHT

## Doing Right Together for Black Youth



### Doing Right Together for Black Youth

What We Learned from the Community Engagement Sessions for the Ontario Black Youth Action Plan



#### Top Ten Issues for Black Youth and Their Families

FACTSHEET

Between March and July 2017, Ontario's Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) conducted 15 community engagement sessions to inform the Ontario Black Youth Action Plan. Over 1500 community members participated in the engagement sessions. The MCYS shared anonymized data (without any identifying personal information) captured at these community engagement sessions, as well as written submissions, with YouthREX to analyze, interpret, and summarize.

Here are the top ten issues affecting Black youth and their families from this analysis.

01 Widespread Anti-Black Racism

02 Black Excellence Not Recognized

03 Lack of Black Representation in Leadership Roles

04 Anti-Black Racism in the Educational System

05 Anti-Black Racism in the Child Welfare System

06 Anti-Black Racism in the Criminal Justice System

07 Trauma of Racialized Policing

08 Poverty and Economic Barriers

09 Mental Health

10 Wellbeing of Black Youth, Families, and Communities

#### Working Together to Do Right for Black Youth

FACTSHEET

Between March and July 2017, Ontario's Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) conducted 15 community engagement sessions to inform the Ontario Black Youth Action Plan. Over 1500 community members participated in the engagement sessions. The MCYS shared anonymized data (without any identifying personal information) captured at these community engagement sessions, as well as written submissions, with YouthREX to analyze, interpret, and summarize.

Community members were asked to reflect on the best way to work together to ensure that the Ontario Black Youth Action Plan (BYAP) works for Black youth and builds the capacity of Black organizations.

##### Centering Black Youth Voice and Leadership in the BYAP

What are the best ways to engage Black children and youth to hear their voices and learn about their experiences?

Youth have a unique voice and are finding imaginative and creative ways of telling new stories, participating in political activity, responding to complex social problems, and advocating for change.

##### 01. Nothing About Black Youth Without Black Youth

The strong representation and meaningful involvement of Black youth within the BYAP, as well as within the community projects supported by the BYAP, is crucial.

##### 02. Communicate WITH Youth, Not AT Youth

It is important to understand how youth communicate. Black youth are online and can be engaged through social media.

##### 03. Reduce Barriers & Provide Accessible Information

Engage Black youth voices within youth spaces by providing accessible information and reducing barriers that limit participation.

##### 04. Create Opportunities for Storytelling & Representation

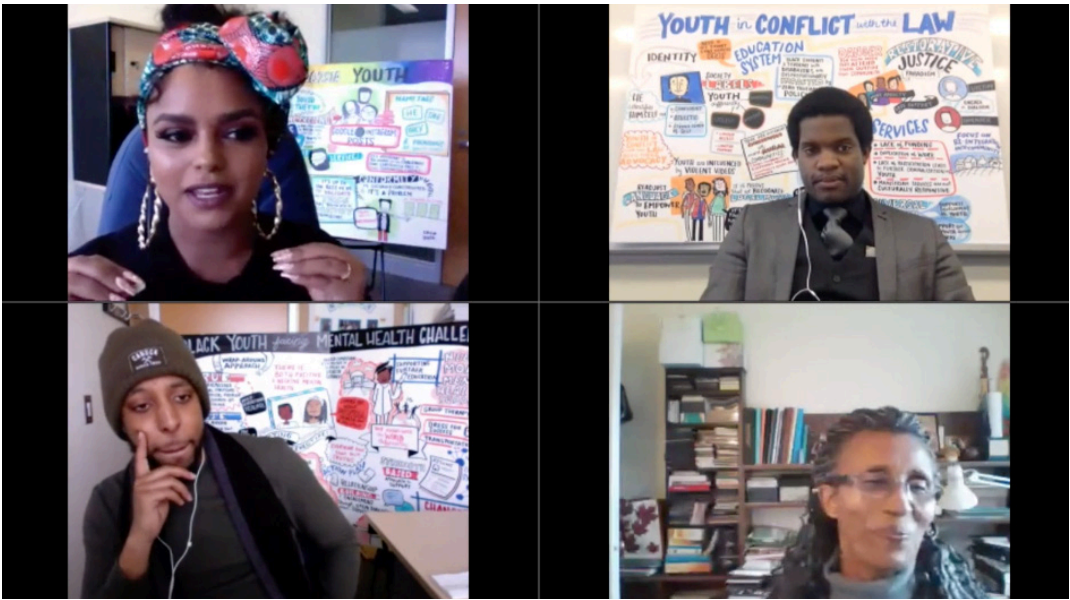
Create opportunities to engage and hear Black youth voices through storytelling and representation in the public sphere, including in the media.


##### 05. Prioritize Black Youth Voices and Develop Black Youth Partnerships

Black youth need to be included in the governance of the BYAP and community projects, to ensure equity in program design and delivery. Black youth must be seen as experts and their leadership, expertise, and skills must be supported. The BYAP should also ensure mentorship opportunities for Black youth with peers and role models who reflect their own identities.

### Among our top downloaded resources on the eXchange!

REPORT	FACTSHEETS	WEBINAR SERIES	
789	888	406	253
Downloads	Downloads	Registrants	Replays






"Engage Black youth and listen to the issues they're facing."  
HAMILTON

"I want to be a part of the decision-making process to build my community."  
TORONTO EAST

"Giving youth opportunities to speak, creating a comfortable place to speak."  
WINDSOR

Learn more in the report!  
Doing Right Together for Black Youth: What We Learned from the Community Engagement Sessions for the Ontario Black Youth Action Plan



# YouthREX ED

We have offered a wide range of professional development opportunities for youth workers to learn, connect and share - both online, and offline.

## Critical Youth Work Certificate

FIVE YEAR TOTALS		CURRENT FISCAL YEAR DELIVERABLES	
	<b>11</b> Cohorts	TARGET	ACTUAL
	<b>233</b> Learners	<b>3</b> Cohorts	<b>3</b> Cohorts
	<b>8</b> Cities	<b>60</b> Learners	<b>77</b> Learners
			<b>2</b> Cities

## Workshops

FIVE YEAR TOTALS		CURRENT FISCAL YEAR DELIVERABLES	
	<b>45</b> Workshops	TARGET	ACTUAL
	<b>1038</b> Learners	<b>6</b> Workshops	<b>10</b> Workshops
	<b>17</b> Communities	<b>120</b> Learners	<b>289</b> Learners
			<b>8</b> Communities

## Communities of Practice

FIVE YEAR TOTAL	
<b>16</b> Communities of Practice	
<b>270</b> Stakeholders	<b>6</b> Cities

## Online Program Evaluation Certificate

FIVE YEAR TOTALS		CURRENT FISCAL YEAR DELIVERABLES	
	<b>4</b> Cohorts	TARGET	ACTUAL
	<b>655</b> Learners	<b>2</b> Cohorts	<b>2</b> Cohorts
		<b>200</b> Learners	<b>260</b> Learners

## NEW Advanced Program Evaluation Certificate

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR DELIVERABLES	
TARGET	ACTUAL
<b>2</b> Cohorts	<b>2</b> Cohorts
<b>100</b> Learners	<b>128</b> Learners

## HIGHLIGHT

# Critical Youth Work Certificate

11

Cohorts

233

Learners

8

Cities

## NEW THIS YEAR

5 interactive, online  
electives to enhance  
learning outcomes



“

“The content of the work was really rich and it is imperative for youth workers to engage in that type of critical discourse to enhance their understanding and framework of how they approach youth work.”

- YOUTHREX STAKEHOLDER



“This certificate has further opened up my eyes and validated so much of what I’ve been doing and will continue to do, as I walk alongside the amazing population that I do. It has allowed me to map where I am on this journey and how to remain and be more effective at dealing with the systemic barriers and perspectives that are just not hitting the mark. The multimedia platform use throughout was great for my learning style too!”

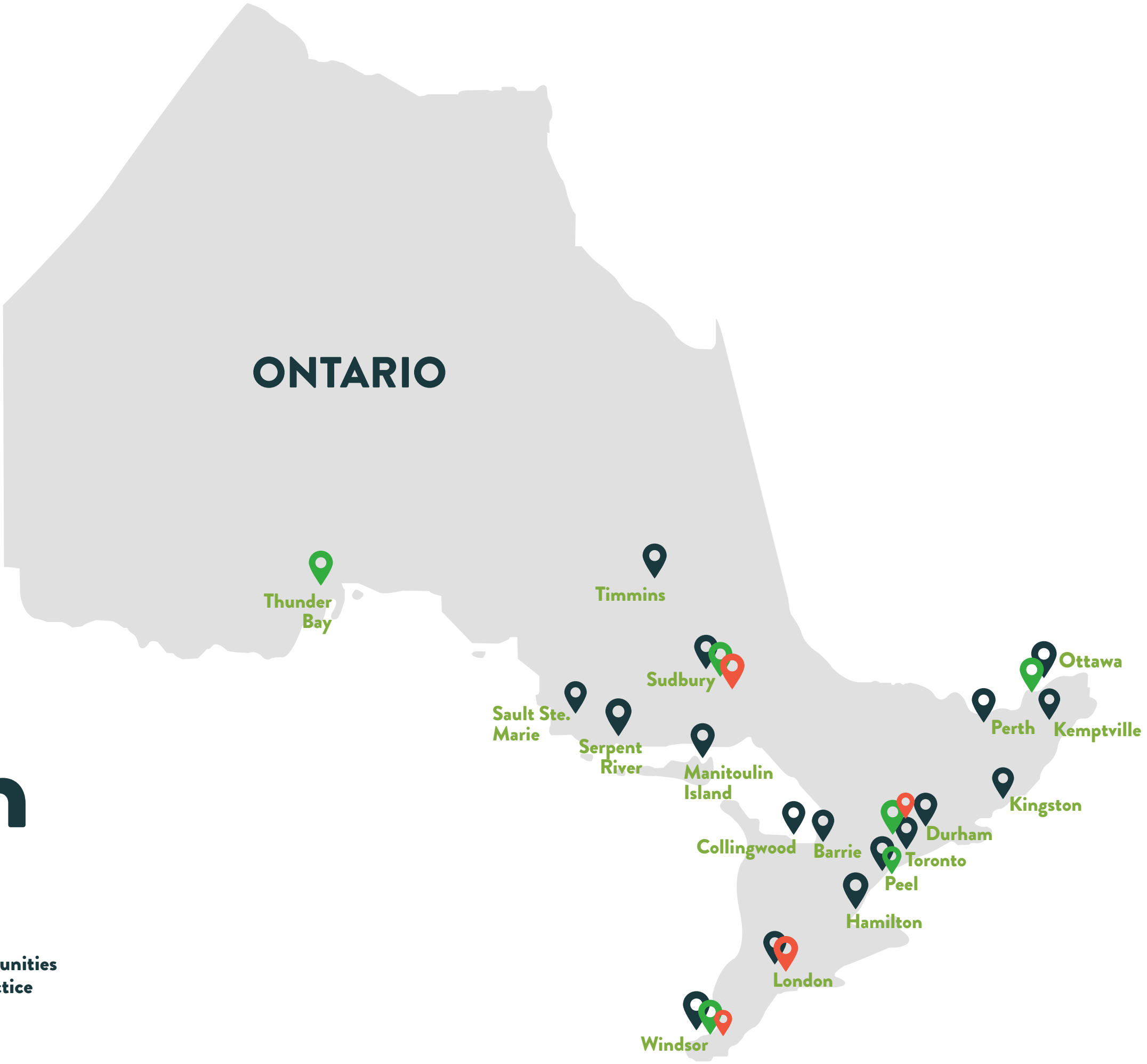
**- YOUTHREX STAKEHOLDER**

ONTARIO

# Our Reach

## YouthREX ED

-  Critical Youth Work Certificate
-  Workshops
-  Communities of Practice



# Youth Program Supports

We work one-on-one with youth programs to support the design, development and evaluation of their work with young people.

203  
Youth Orgs/  
Programs

45  
Communities  
in ON

SINCE JULY 2015

Ajax  
Amherstburg  
Arden  
Blenheim  
Brampton  
Brantford  
Burlington  
Chatham- Kent  
Etobicoke  
Georgetown  
Greely  
Hamilton

Hanover  
Ingersoll  
Kingston  
Kitchener  
Leamington  
London  
Markham  
Mississauga  
Muncey -  
Chippewas of the  
Thames First Nation  
Nepean

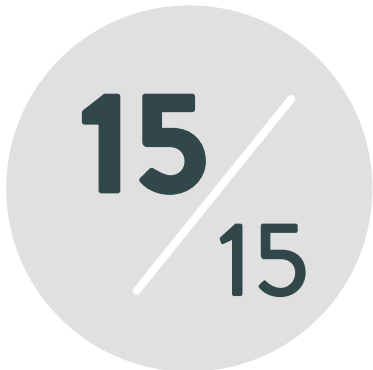
Newmarket  
Niagara  
North York  
Oakville  
Orleans  
Oshawa  
Ottawa  
Pembroke  
Perth  
Picton  
Renfrew County

Richmond Hill  
Sault Ste Marie  
Scarborough  
Serpent River  
First Nation  
Smiths Falls  
Sudbury  
Thunder Bay  
Toronto

“

“Logic models had always felt abstract and distant, but now they felt concrete and [I] understand their use and see the value for [my] program.”

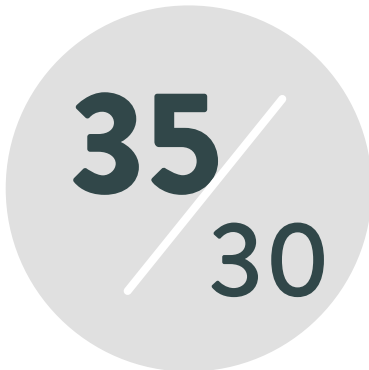
- YOUTHREX STAKEHOLDER



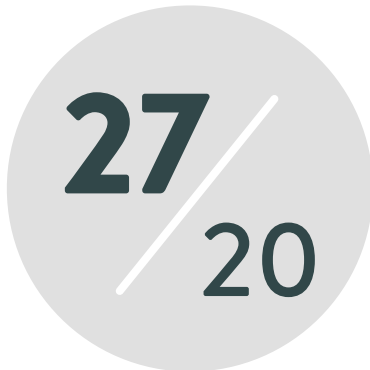
DATA  
REQUEST



EVIDENCE  
REQUEST



PROGRAM  
DESIGN



PROGRAM  
DEVELOPMENT



EVALUATION  
CONSULTATIONS

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BREAKDOWN  
BY SUPPORT TYPE

## HIGHLIGHT

### Evidence Requests

# 33

Unique Evidence Briefs  
created for Programs

#### Youth Programs have asked us about best practices for...

01. Mentoring high school students.
02. Engaging racialized, immigrant, newcomer, and refugee youth.
03. Engaging and empowering youth to lead programming.
04. Recruiting youth for programming in rural settings.
05. Engaging and supporting youth not in education, employment or training (NEET).

...and more!

# “

**“In a time when service providers’ requirements sometimes are more than their time available, the ability to have assistance with a task such as research and be provided with a clearly-outlined and easy-to-read document is greatly appreciated.”**

**- YOUTH PROGRAM**

# Beyond the Deliverables



## Indigenous Youth Voices

YouthREX collaborated with Indigneous Youth Voices to develop a roadmap for supporting Indigenous youth to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #66.

## Partnership with East Metro Youth Services (EMYS)

### YOW Online Learning Platform

**150**  
Provincial Youth Workers

**5**  
Modules

**15**  
Lessons

**35**  
Lectures

### Anti-Black Racism Workshops

**140**  
Provincial Youth Workers

**6**  
Cities in ON

Cannabis Project

**In progress**



## Dr. Joey-Lynn Wabie

In July 2018, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Laurentian University, joined YouthREX as Director of Indigenous Initiatives. In October, she led a Visioning Day as part of our Knowledge to Action Exchange.

## Youth in Politics

YouthREX partnered with the Youth in Politics project (funded by the Ministry of Education) to develop a youth-friendly resource on how to organize all-candidate smeeetings for the October 2018 school board trustee elections.



“Great training and great work by YouthREX It is really a God-send for youth workers as there are many youth workers who do not have the formal training needed to do this type of work.”

**- YOUTHREX STAKEHOLDER**



“I often refer local initiatives and coalitions to the eXchange and YouthREX for resources and access to online courses. Whenever I hear that one has joined up for one of your online certification courses (e.g. evaluation) I know that the local impact will be amazing!”

**- YOUTHREX STAKEHOLDER**

“

Keep up the good work!  
Hope you get so much  
more funding to expand :)”

- YOUTHREX STAKEHOLDER



The Youth Research and Evaluation eXchange (YouthREX) is a province-wide initiative based at the School of Social Work at York University, with regional hubs at Carleton University, King's University College at Western University, and Laurentian University.

**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.

**OUR VISION** is an Ontario where shared knowledge is transformed into positive impact for all youth. Our Stakeholders include grassroots youth-led and youth-serving initiatives (frontline staff, program staff, leadership), funders, and policy makers.

YouthREX is primarily funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, with contributions from the four partner universities.

#### **YouthREX**

York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3  
[youthrex@yorku.ca](mailto:youthrex@yorku.ca)  
[www.youthrex.com](http://www.youthrex.com) | [exchange.youthrex.com](http://exchange.youthrex.com)  
[@REXforYouth](https://www.instagram.com/REXforYouth)