

For Immediate Release

Y4Y Quebec calls for support for English-speaking youth as Quebec plans to reopen the economy

Montreal, May 14, 2020:

Following the first in a series of province-wide meetings with English-speaking youth, Y4Y Quebec is calling for several measures to support English-speaking youth as Quebec plans to open up for business. These include:

- Universal mental health care supports for youth
- Reopening access to neighbouring Ontario and Labrador to access essential services, as early as possible
- Reliable high-speed Internet throughout the province of Quebec
- Commitment to keep public transit services operational
- Lower cell phone bills
- Support for English-language media outlets
- Financial support for recent graduates living in Quebec

“Youth unemployment has skyrocketed to 35% in Quebec in April 2020” said Y4Y Quebec President Malcolm Lewis-Richmond. “We’re calling on the provincial and federal governments to reassure youth by addressing known issues so that the English-speaking community can have an easier time accessing services, keeping in touch with friends and family from a distance, and conducting essential trips.”

“We’re hopeful that Canadian businesses will implement telework on a permanent basis” said Y4Y Quebec Director Shae-Lynn Roberts. “Telework is an important strategy to counter youth out-migration in the rural or remote areas like the Lower North Shore. Many of my peers would have loved to stay down home, but their professional lives required them to be in office buildings in Toronto or Montreal. Telework positions would diversify the employment opportunities within the regions and, in turn, stimulate their local economies.”

“Students have struggled with the transition from in-person to online classes, and evaluation procedures have been arduous. Internships needed to fulfill degree requirements have been cancelled. Skill-building job opportunities have been lost. Students and recent graduates are hopeful that emergency

aid will continue until the economy has stabilized,” concluded Malcolm Lewis-Richmond.

Multiple regions of Quebec were represented in the meeting, as youth from the Lower North Shore, Montreal, the Townships, Abitibi, and the Outaouais joined in to make their voices heard about the major youth issues in their communities. Representing the government were Mr. Greg Kelley, Mr. David Birnbaum, and Mr. Christopher Skeete.

Y4Y Quebec will hold the second youth consultation in this series on June 2, 2020, to continue to track the evolving situations of the English-speaking youth community through this crisis, and report important findings to community leaders and decision-makers. Register for the conference [here](#)

For more information, contact Adrienne Winrow at info@y4yquebec.org or 514-612-2895