



*Inform, Empower, Engage*

**2024-25**

**IN REVIEW**

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# From THE PRESIDENT

Dear Y4Y Community,

What an exciting year this has been here at Y4Y Québec! New to the role of President, I am humbled to have been welcomed by so many of you. This year, we hosted our largest Youth Forum to date, welcoming more of you than ever to hear directly from youth on pressing issues. In addition to our many consultations and research projects, we ran fantastic programs: Café Rencontres, honing French language skills in low-stress environments; Welcome to the City, building capacity for independent living in Montréal; Youth on Boards, equipping youth with governance training for placement on boards of directors; and many more. I'm grateful to the cohorts of youth who are learning, living and governing with us.

Governance is not reserved for boardrooms, just as democracy is not reserved for Parliament Hill. By showing up, engaging and discussing with us, this community is actively participating in shaping Y4Y. Each one of us is responsible for stewarding not only this organization, but our communities and country – and our members have done so, leading with purpose, generosity and care.

Youth are often referred to as **the leaders of tomorrow** – we are also the leaders of right now. Responding to the present moment, gathering in hopeful and generative spaces, youth are carrying the hard work of building the Y4Y, the Québec and the Canada that we want.

Here's to another year leading and learning together.



**Sufia Langevin**  
President

# From THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Y4Y,

This past year, we saw changes in the priorities of governments at home and abroad, and those changes could not help but affect the priority-setting processes of all Canadians, including youth. Questions about the role of technology in our lives, the fragility of democracy, the future of work, and the cost of a trip to the grocery store dominated conversations in the public square. As always, youth have a disproportionately heavy burden to bear, as they attempt to predict how these forces will challenge them in the future, so that they might make choices today to equip themselves to face them.

In 2024–25, community sector organizations worked to develop programs and initiatives to both anticipate, and respond to, the needs of youth in Québec. Y4Y led projects that sought to inform, engage and empower the English-speaking youth community, while also seeking to strengthen ties between linguistic communities and deepen mutual understanding. The voices of our youth communities were heard in more places and with greater cohesion this year, perhaps due to the fact that there is more common ground among young people than there are points of contention. The values of quality education for all, job-readiness, freedom of the press, participatory democracy, social inclusion and youths' sense of belonging remain top priorities for Y4Y as an organization. Our work will continue to reflect those values in the years to come, as it did in the year that is commemorated herein.

It is my sincere hope that the team of young people, who made the projects and initiatives of 2024–25 come to life, reflect on their work proudly as they read this Annual Report. Thank you to the staff who showed up every day with a smile, a plan, and a spark of inspiration to share. Alex Pettem, Director of Policy, and Maria Mahdessian, Director of Communications, are, respectively, in their 7<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year of service to Y4Y. We would not be the organization we are today without their dedication. Thank you to the Board of Directors for their guidance, patience, and encouragement at every twist and turn. The financial and moral support of our funders at PCH and the SRQEA continues to be inextricably linked with Y4Y's performance. We would be remiss not to emphasize the importance of partnerships which allowed us to reach more young people in more parts of the province than ever before in 2024–25. So much has been learned from the organizations that have been working to improve outcomes for youth in Québec for decades. Finally, thank you to the youth who showed up, spoke up, and shared their thoughts with the Y4Y team. We hope to continue to be an organization you value, alongside the institutions and people who impact your lives in a positive way every day.

Warm regards,



**Adrienne Winrow**  
Executive Director

**Mission**

Y4Y Québec is a non-profit organization committed to addressing the issues facing English-speaking youth (ages 16-30) across Québec.

**Vision**

We aspire to create a strong sense of belonging to the community so that all youth will feel a part of Québec society.

**What we do**



Conduct youth consultations across the province to understand youth needs and concerns firsthand;



Create youth-focused programs and initiatives;



Publish policy documents and conduct research on the situation of English-speaking youth;



Host outreach events to foster community engagement at the local level;

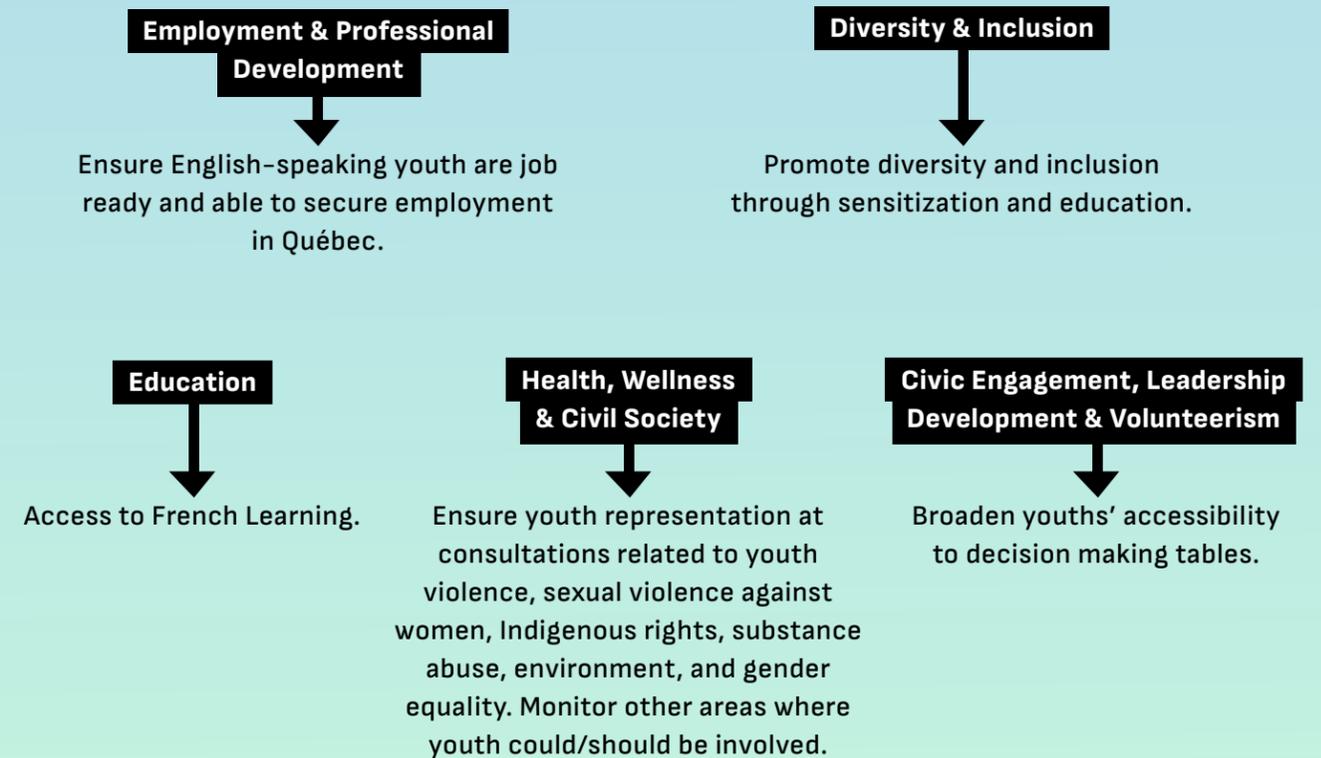


Represent youth issues with key government stakeholders, and support youth leadership.

Between 2020 and 2022, Y4Y consulted with youth, stakeholders, and community organizations across the province to identify the needs of Quebec’s English-speaking youth communities. Two major events—one virtual and one held in person at Dawson College—were also organized, gathering input from over 200 youth contributors in total.

This community-wide effort resulted in the development of a 5-Year Strategic Plan to Help Guarantee the Ongoing Vitality of Québec’s English-speaking Youth, covering the period from 2022 to 2027.

With the support of its members, Y4Y has since been creating projects and initiatives that respond to the many priorities outlined in that document. The key priority areas identified by youth, for youth, were:



In December 2024, Y4Y kicked off another round of strategic planning — this time for Y4Y Québec as an organization. Without question, the new plan, to be adopted by March 2026, will be heavily influenced by the findings of the 2022 Vitality Plan. The organization’s commitment to a peer-to-peer approach to improving outcomes for our English-speaking youth communities will be reflected in the strategic planning process, as we continue the work of identifying key objectives for 2026–2029.

# Y4Y's OUTREACH



*Board of*  
**DIRECTORS 2024-2025**



**Sufia Langevin**  
 President



**Michael Lecchino**  
 Vice President



**Hayley Campbell**  
 Secretary



**Caleb Owusu-Acheaw**  
 Treasurer



**Latesha Fequet**



**Benjamin-Taylor Sauv **



**Alicia Buffit**



**Kenneth Clarence**

*A Voice for Change:*  
**REPRESENTING C TE-NORD  
 ON THE Y4Y BOARD**

Being a board member for the Y4Y Board of Directors means actively contributing to the mission of empowering English-speaking youth across Qu bec. It involves guiding the organization's strategic direction, supporting youth-led initiatives, and ensuring that programs and policies reflect the diverse realities of young people in the province. Board members play a vital role in advocacy, decision-making, and community engagement, working together to build a more inclusive and vibrant future for all English-speaking youth.

Representing the C te-Nord region on the board carries special importance. As one of the more remote and under-served areas of Qu bec, the C te-Nord faces unique challenges—such as limited access to resources, fewer youth opportunities, and geographic isolation. A board member from this region ensures that these realities are not only heard, but addressed. By bringing the voice of the C te-Nord youth to the forefront, we help create more equitable programs that truly reflect the needs of all communities.

Serving on the board is both a responsibility and a privilege. It's an opportunity to lead with purpose, amplify regional voices, and help shape policies that improve the lives of young people—both on the C te-Nord and across Qu bec. Your voice matters, and your leadership can make a real difference.



**Alicia Buffit**  
 Y4Y Board Member

*Activity Report*  
**PROJECTS  
& PROGRAMMING**

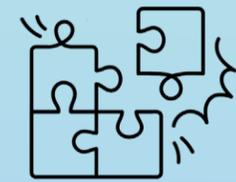
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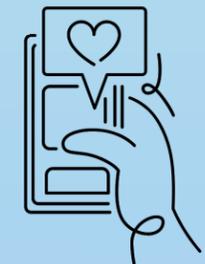


*Our Year*  
**IN NUMBERS**

 **1,200+** youth involved

 **185** activities

 **73** partnerships

 **3,427** social media followers

 **6** publications

 **9** engagements with the media

 **107** youth sponsored

# YOUTH ON BOARDS



Funded by the Government of Canada and the Government of Québec, *Youth on Boards* was developed to address two significant needs within Québec's English-speaking community. First, many young people are seeking more active leadership roles in their communities. Second, numerous non-profit organizations serving official language minority communities (OLMCs) are eager to see greater youth representation on their boards. This project responds to both needs by equipping participants with the skills, confidence, and tools to serve effectively in governance roles.

Y4Y Québec hosted two training weekends during the 2024–2025 fiscal year, building on the foundation laid the previous year. The program continues to evolve, shaped by feedback from participants and a dedicated advisory committee made up of four youth alumni. Their insights have been instrumental in refining the experience.

Graduates of the training have demonstrated impressive initiative. Several have joined school governance bodies, launched their own non-profit organizations, or expressed interest in pursuing careers within Québec's non-profit sector. The enthusiasm from youth across the province speaks volumes. *Youth on Boards* has clearly shown that young Quebecers are ready to lead. With the right guidance, they are more than capable of stepping into key decision-making roles within their communities.





*Y4Y Québec's Youth on Boards program equipped me with the knowledge, tools, and —perhaps most importantly— the confidence to step into leadership roles within the non-profit sector.*

*Through tailored guidance, practical insights, and hands-on experience, I gained a solid understanding of board dynamics and how to contribute in a meaningful way. I now feel empowered to succeed in this space and make a positive impact in the organizations I serve.*



**Cassandra Johannessen**  
Participant  
Youth on Boards





*Before the Youth on Boards training, I had no idea that young people could actively participate on the boards of non-profit organizations. This experience empowered me to see my involvement as a real opportunity to improve access and services for young adults. I also learned about valuable resources and organizations that can support me moving forward.*

*Lastly, I met incredible people who share a passion for meaningful change, which made me feel hopeful about the future of boards in Québec.*



**André M. Pessoni**  
Participant  
Youth on Boards





*During the Youth on Boards training, I gained a deep understanding of how a board truly operates. I learned about the various roles held by board members, as well as those individuals outside the board who are impacted by its decisions. Thanks to the training, I now have a clear idea of the roles I would like to pursue if I were to join a board, and which responsibilities may not be suited to me.*

*The experience was exceptional, the organization was wonderful, and the team fostered an interactive and engaging environment that allowed us to learn and participate fully through a mock board—demonstrating not only what to do, but also what not to do.*

*Moreover, this gave me the opportunity to connect with a diverse group of amazing individuals from different backgrounds. Engaging with them expanded my perspective and knowledge, as I was exposed to various fields and experiences that will be helpful for me in the near future.*



**Imène Berkati**  
Participant  
Youth on Boards



# WELCOME TO THE CITY



*Welcome to the City*, funded by the Government of Canada through the *Leaders of Tomorrow* project, was designed to support first-year CEGEP students as they transitioned to independent living in Montréal. This year, Y4Y Québec partnered with Champlain College Saint-Lambert and Dawson College to offer a series of workshops on essential life skills such as financial literacy, cooking on a budget, workplace rights, and navigating shared accommodations.

The workshop themes were shaped by consultations with second- and third-year students who had already experienced moving out on their own. Their insights informed a resource-rich handbook that includes health and community resources, budgeting tools, and practical tips for living independently in a new city. This youth-informed approach ensured the content reflected the real challenges faced by their peers.

The project wrapped up with social activities that brought together students from multiple CEGEPs. These events gave participants the chance to build new friendships and experience Montréal's vibrant cultural scene in an inclusive and welcoming setting.

For many, moving from smaller towns in the regions to the city brought both challenges and the excitement of newfound independence. *Welcome to the City* offered practical support to help ease this transition, equipping young people with the tools, knowledge, and community connections needed to thrive during their first year away from home.





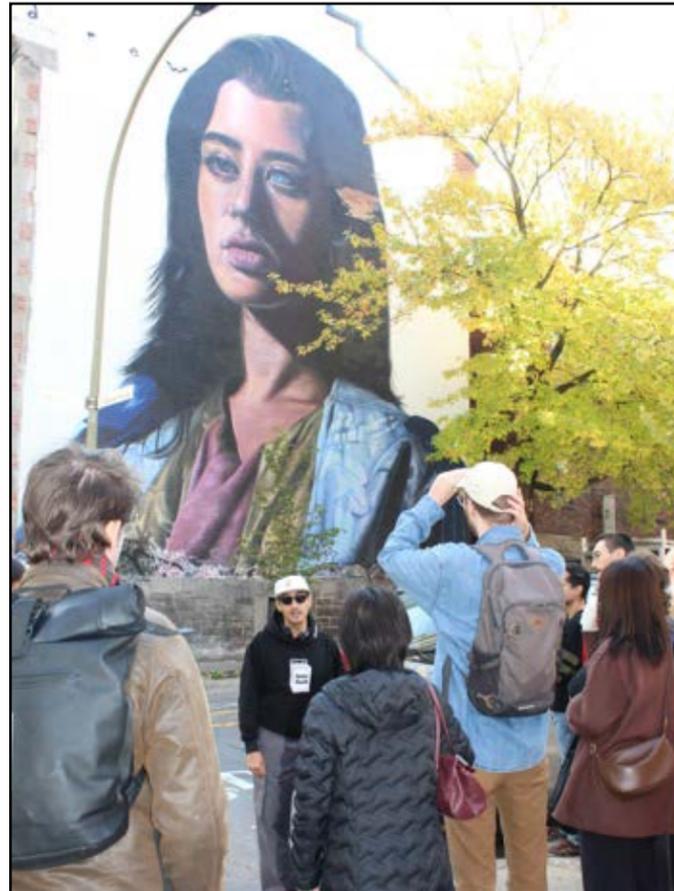
*I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank the Y4Y Québec team for the wonderful experiences I've had attending the "Welcome to the City" workshops, hosted by Adrian, Alex, and the fantastic guest speakers. These sessions have truly helped youth like me better navigate the transition into adulthood—whether it's learning about personal finance, living with roommates, or understanding our employment rights.*

*I also really enjoyed the guided street art tour—it was such an enriching experience! I was actually chatting with my dad about this organization recently, and he said, "Now this is what school should be teaching!" I couldn't agree more.*



**Lauren L.**  
Participant  
Welcome to the City





*Speak, learn, discover — one coffee at a time*

## THE CAFÉS RENCONTRES PROJECT



The Cafés Rencontres Project, funded by the Québec Ministère de la Langue française through the financial assistance programme *En français, naturellement!*, aimed to support English-speaking students in practicing French in relaxed, non-academic settings. Participants from Concordia University, Bishop's University, and Champlain St. Lawrence CEGEP took part in two phases of the project.

In November, the first phase included three lounge-style events at each institution. Students enjoyed coffee, pastries, and French-language games led by fluent volunteer facilitators, creating a supportive, low-pressure atmosphere for practicing spoken French.

From February to March, the second phase featured three cultural outings. Students visited the Musée Pointe-à-Callière in Montréal, the Musée d'histoire de Sherbrooke, and the Citadelle de Québec. These experiences deepened their appreciation for Québec's heritage while reinforcing their language skills in real-world contexts.

The project's strength lay in fostering a sense of ease and peer support. Students, regardless of their level of proficiency, were encouraged to explore French in a collaborative environment that prioritized comfort and confidence. By reducing academic pressure, the initiative strengthened participants' language abilities and their connection to Québec's culture—making the project a meaningful and impactful success.



*Volunteering for the Cafés Rencontres Project at Y4Y Québec was a rewarding experience. I had the opportunity to guide university students through a French-language activity called “Comment ça va?”, a card game focused on managing stress and expressing emotions in French.*

*It wasn't just about language—it also created space for genuine conversation and connection.*

*I loved taking the lead in facilitating the game, encouraging students to participate, and helping foster a supportive, engaging environment where everyone felt comfortable speaking.*

*Someone even suggested I consider becoming a life coach—apparently, my empathy and life experience really resonated!*

*Working alongside the amazing Y4Y team made the experience even better.*

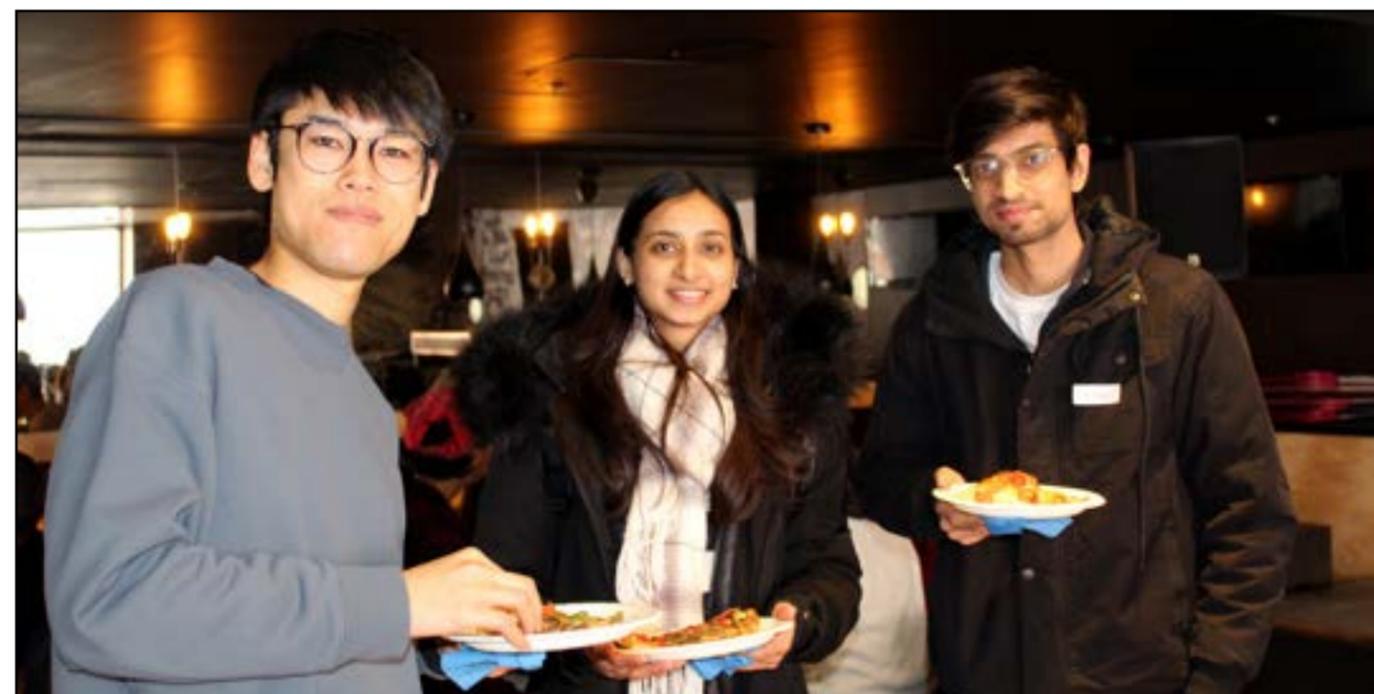
*Their organization, thoughtful PowerPoint presentations, and teamwork during our prep meetings made everything easy to follow.*

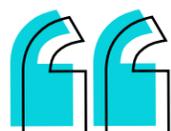
*In the end, I left feeling useful and inspired.*



**Abril Rivera**  
Volunteer

*The Cafés Rencontres Project*





*The Cafés Rencontres initiative was fantastic!  
I really appreciated the chance to learn more about Montréal’s history,  
especially the beautiful Old Port.  
As someone who works in both English and French,  
I don’t often get the opportunity to chat informally in French,  
since most of my circle is made up of English speakers.  
But this event encouraged exactly that,  
which was such a refreshing change!*

*It offered the perfect space to practice  
French in a judgement-free setting—  
something that’s especially valuable for anyone learning  
or trying to get more comfortable speaking the language.  
The Y4Y staff were welcoming, as always! :)*



**Anonymous  
Participant**  
The Cafés Rencontres Project





# MY VOTE COUNTS

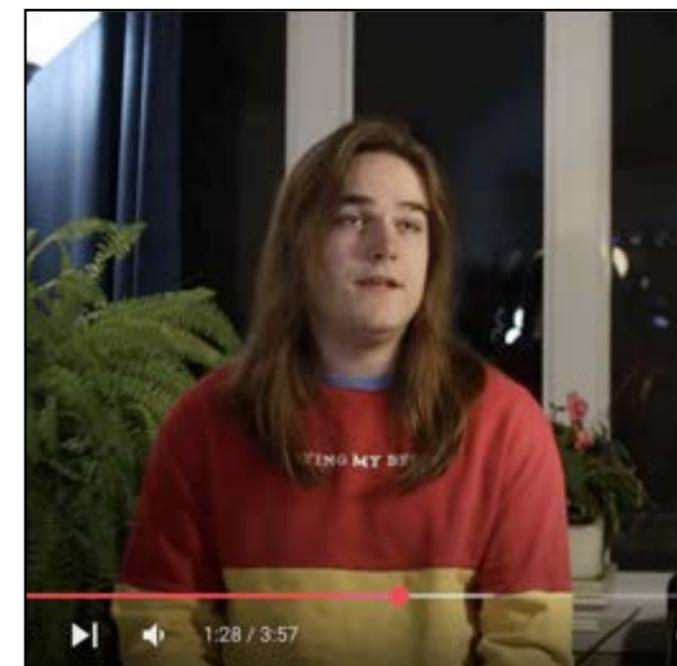
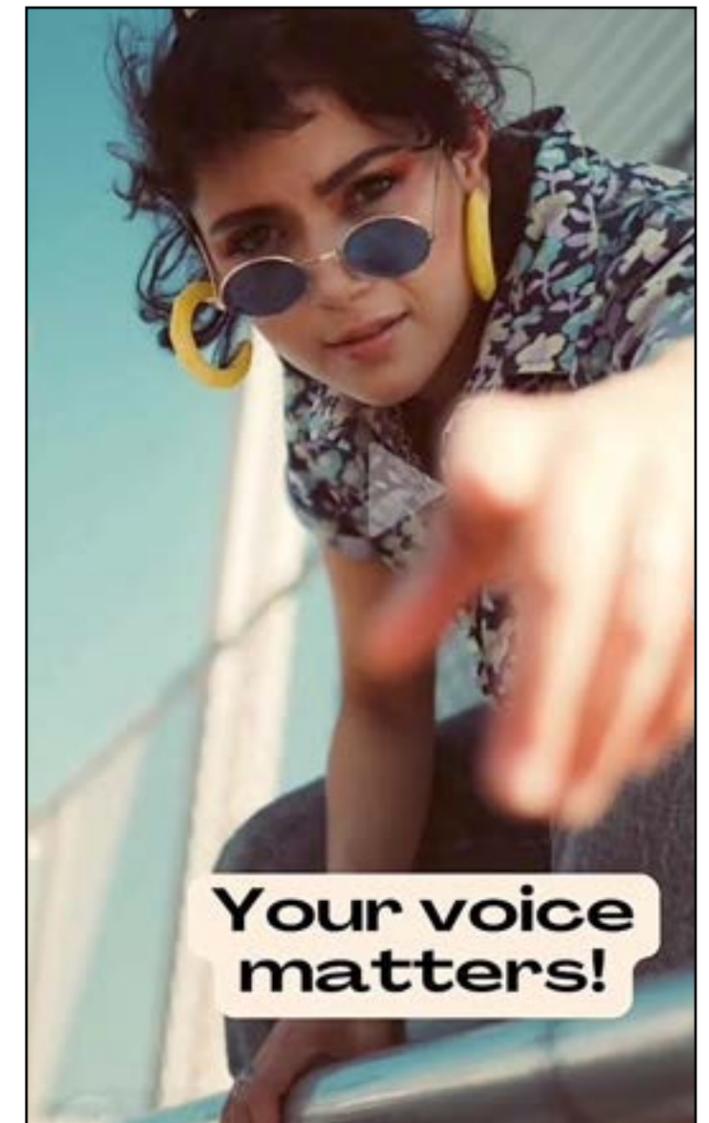
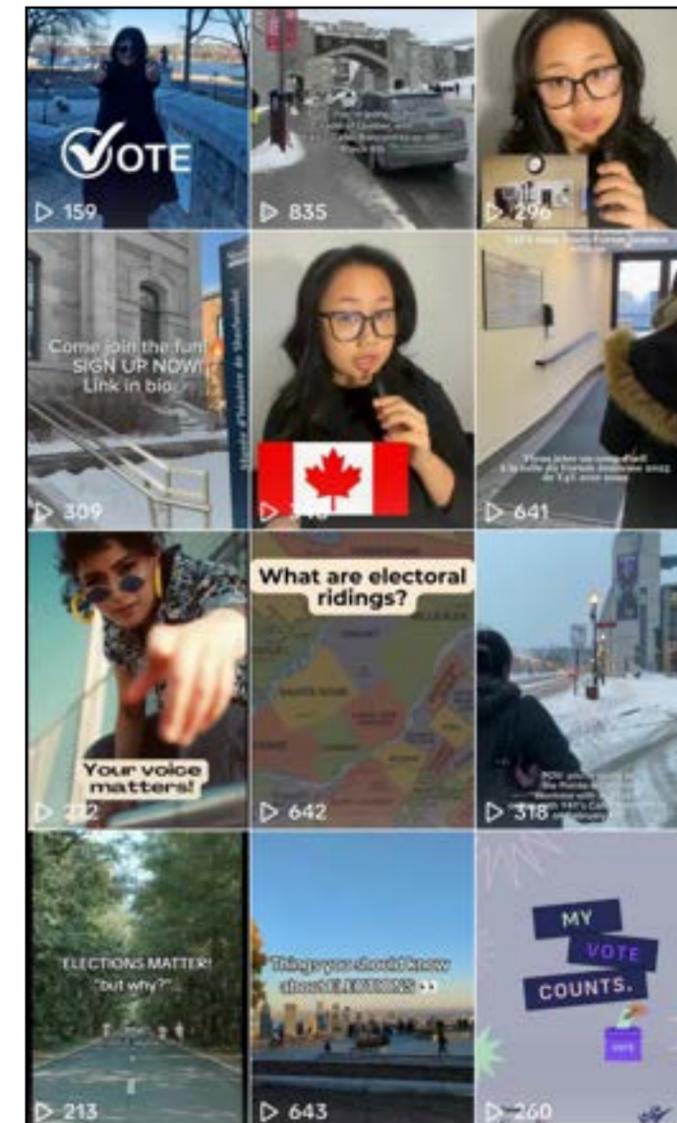


Funded by the Government of Canada, *My Vote Counts* is Y4Y Québec's province-wide civic engagement campaign aimed at encouraging both current and soon-to-be voters aged 18–34 to participate in democratic processes at all levels. The initiative, supported by youth leaders from across Québec, leverages social media to connect with young audiences using creative, engaging, and educational content.

At the heart of the project is a 10-part Reel (video-series) campaign on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok. These short videos—produced by five youth from across Québec—break down key aspects of the electoral process in an accessible and engaging way. From explaining what elections are and why they matter, to demystifying voting at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels, the series is designed to empower young people with the knowledge they need to participate. Each of the young creators brought their unique perspectives and voices to each episode, making the content relatable, informative, and inspiring for their peers.

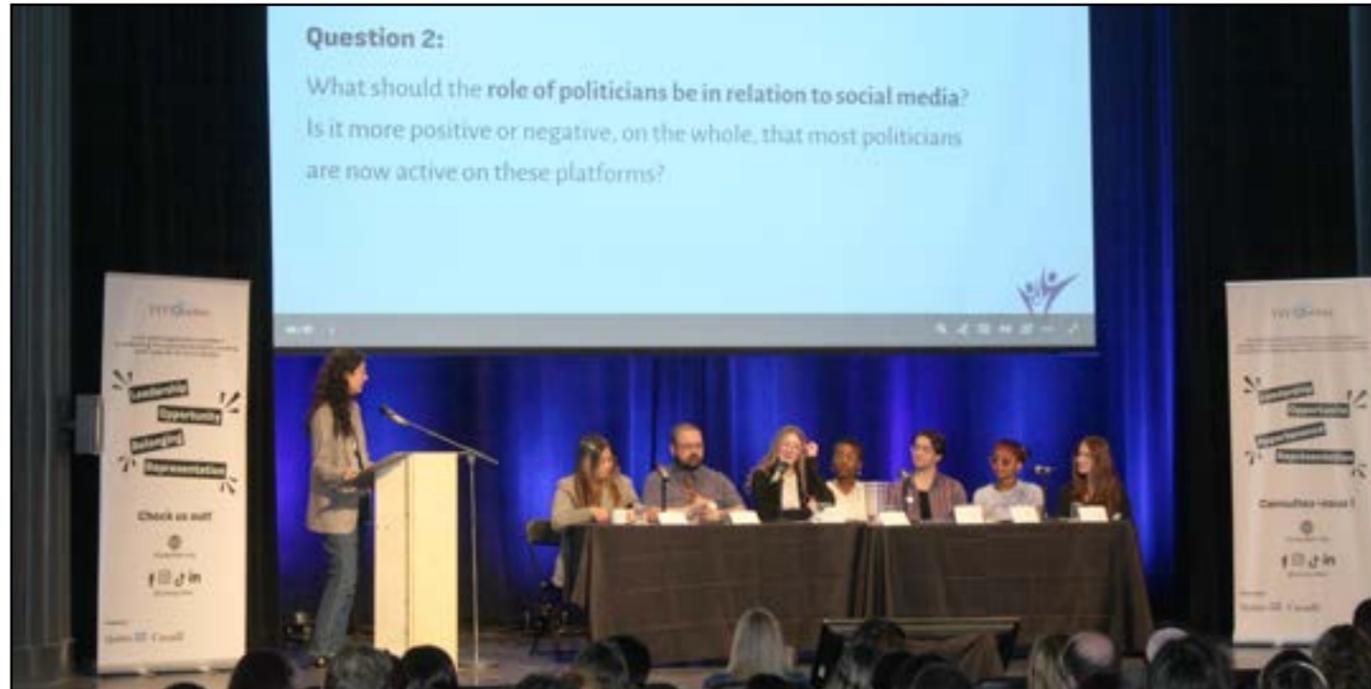
Additionally, the final phase of this project was a three-part video series also created by and for youth. The first episode highlights the importance of voting, showcasing how young people's involvement can influence decisions on issues that matter to them. The second dives deeper into civic engagement, exploring youth perspectives on the housing crisis and climate change. The final video features three participants discussing how homelessness, accessibility to education, and police reform affect their voting decisions.

Together, the videos emphasize the importance of electoral participation as a driver of policy change. By putting youth voices front and centre, *My Vote Counts* demonstrates the power of civic action and shows how Québec's younger generations can help shape the future.



*Inform, Empower, Engage*

## 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH FORUM

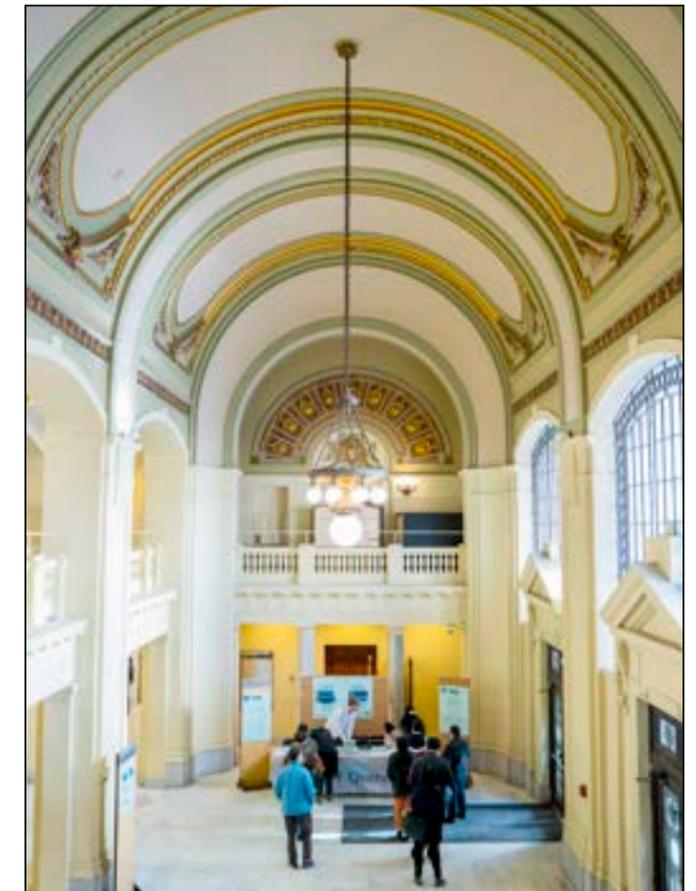


On March 19<sup>th</sup>, Y4Y hosted its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Forum at UQAM, bringing together over 200 English-speaking youth, artists, panellists, and representatives from organizations across Québec. This full-day event offered a platform for meaningful discussion, artistic expression, and community building.

The day began with a keynote address from Y4Y's Board President, followed by presentations on youth outmigration and an introduction to Y4Y's Policy Committee. Three engaging panel discussions explored key topics affecting youth today: the democratic deficit, identity, and media consumption. Each session featured youth panellists sharing lived experiences, insights, and calls to action—moderated to encourage dialogue with the audience.

Guests were invited to network during the Munch & Mingle lunch and connect with service providers at the Info Hall, a dedicated space for organizations that support English-speaking youth. The day concluded with a Pop-Up Art Show, celebrating creativity and self-expression.

The Youth Forum remains a cornerstone event in Y4Y's mission to empower, inspire, and engage Québec's English-speaking youth. Its success was made possible through the dedication of Y4Y's team, staff, and volunteers, as well as the invaluable contributions of all participants.







*I'm so grateful to have participated in Y4Y's Youth Forum during the media literacy panel.*

*It was inspiring to be part of such a diverse group of young people, each bringing unique perspectives to the conversation. Together, we explored how media literacy equips youth to navigate the digital world with confidence and critical thinking.*

*To me, media literacy isn't just about analysing content—it's about recognizing bias, questioning narratives, and making informed choices. In an era of widespread misinformation, these skills are essential for both political engagement and youth mental health and wellness.*

*This Forum reminded me of the power of youth voices—especially when we come together to talk about the issues that impact us most. Thank you to Y4Y Québec, partnering organizations, and fellow panellists for creating such a thoughtful and energising space.*

*I'm looking forward to continuing these conversations and advocating for accessible, youth-centred media education.*



**Sammy J.**  
Panellist & Participant  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Forum



*Thank you so much for the opportunity to be part of the Youth Forum. It was an honour to share my photographs and connect with such a passionate and engaged group of young people from across Québec.*

*The event created a space where youth voices were not only heard but celebrated, and I felt deeply inspired by the stories, discussions, and creativity all around me.*

*Being an artist at the Forum reminded me of the power art has to spark dialogue and create change. I connected with the Info Hall booth representatives and fellow artists, and left feeling motivated to keep using my skills to support community-building and social impact.*



**Karolina Dobiszewska**  
Youth Artist Participant  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Forum



# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



The Volunteer Program, an integral part of the *Leaders of Tomorrow* project, has officially completed its first year at Y4Y. Funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH), the program supports the integration of English-speaking youth in Québec into professional environments through meaningful volunteer experiences. It provides participants with valuable opportunities to develop communication and leadership skills, preparing them for future success. Throughout their involvement with Y4Y, volunteers are offered a variety of training opportunities to support their personal and professional growth. They also take on key roles within several committees, including the Regional Outreach Committee and the Policy Committee, where they contribute actively to shaping initiatives and advancing community engagement.

The program has successfully brought together English-speaking youth from across the province, fostering collaboration and unity through shared volunteer experiences. By working towards common goals, participants build a strong sense of belonging and community spirit. This first year represents a significant milestone in empowering young people, amplifying their voices, and promoting active civic participation. As we reflect on its early impact, the Volunteer Program continues to highlight the power of youth engagement in building a more inclusive and vibrant Québec.



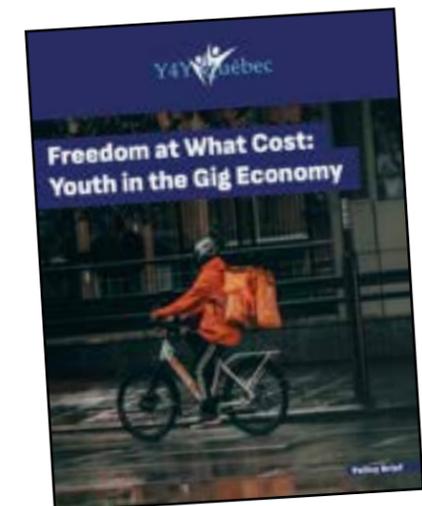
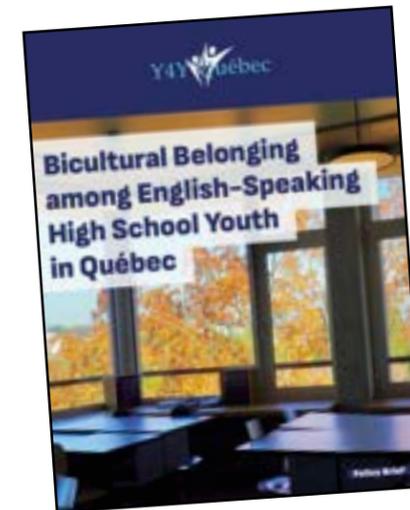
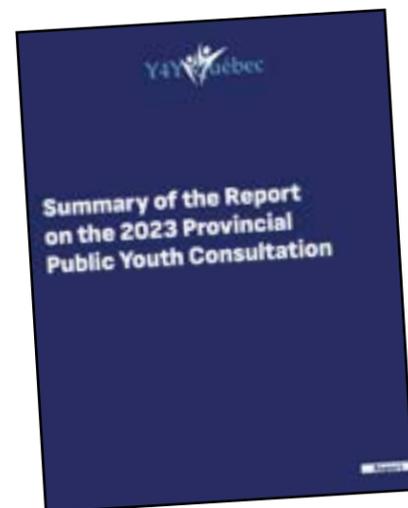
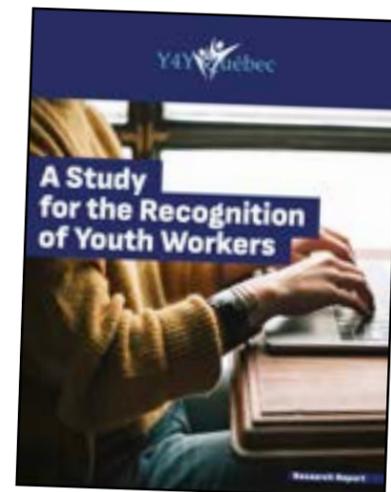
# Y4Y's RESEARCH

Y4Y is grateful for the research conducted by its Policy Committee members, as well as all the youth who have shared the most pressing issues on their minds with us—whether through consultations, interviews, or surveys.

In 2024–2025, Y4Y published four policy briefs addressing some of the most urgent issues facing Québec's English-speaking youth, both now and in the future. Youth in our network wrote about topics such as young newcomers' experiences with Québec's Francisation program; youth workers navigating the gig economy; the strength and symbolism of collaborative quilting for 2SLGBTQIA+ English-speaking youth; and the challenges English-speaking youth face in communicating confidently in French, and how this affects their sense of belonging in the province.

Additionally, Y4Y published a research report entitled *A Study for the Recognition of Youth Workers*, which calls for greater recognition and validation of youth workers across the province. We define "youth workers" as individuals of any age who work directly with Québec's English-speaking youth (ages 12 to 30). The report offers a clearer understanding of how essential youth workers' services are, and provides recommendations to support their professional needs. Y4Y was inspired by Coalition Interjeunes' study *Connaître, reconnaître et valoriser les métiers d'intervention en ACA jeunesse* and aimed, through our report, to contribute to their findings.

Read through our research reports and policy briefs to learn more!



# Y4Y's POLICY COMMITTEE

Y4Y's Policy Committee has grown steadily over the years and now serves as a key resource for collecting input on our Annual Youth Forum panel questions, reviewing new project proposals, and generating ideas for policy briefs. The committee's expanding membership continues to provide valuable insights into the lived experiences of youth across the province.

Made up of civically engaged youth with a range of backgrounds and interests, the Policy Committee plays a central role in shaping Y4Y's advocacy work and ensuring that youth perspectives are reflected in policy discussions relevant to English-speaking communities in Québec.

*Attending***GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS**

In 2024–2025, Y4Y's participation in government consultations focused primarily on issues related to Official Languages in Canada and the implementation of key elements of the Official Languages Act.

Y4Y paid particular attention to the ways in which dramatic political and social changes will be felt by young English-speaking Quebecers, and expressing the need for strategies for all Official Language minority communities (OLMC) in Canada, including our own.

The pre-budget consultations with Québec's Minister of Finance provided an opportunity to discuss how youth from OLMCs can contribute meaningfully to national efforts aimed at safeguarding democracy in Canada. Similarly, the consultations regarding funding for the Arts & Heritage sectors allowed Y4Y to highlight the need for more support for emerging youth artists.

Y4Y relies on the contributions of youth from across the province, who share their views during consultations and youth-led activities. Their voices help us bring forward the concerns and priorities of the collective.

*Representing***YOUTH VOICES**

- 1 Pre-consultations on regulations for Part VII of the Official Languages Act
- 2 SRQEA exchange session
- 3 Dialogue Session on Minority-Language Education & French Second-Language Instruction in Québec
- 4 Online Consultations on Regulations – Official Languages Act & Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act
- 5 Consultation with the English-speaking Communities in Québec (ESCQ)
- 6 ESDC Dialogues with the English-speaking Communities of Québec
- 7 Community Roundtable Discussion for the Working Group on Arts, Culture and Heritage
- 8 Consultations on Regulations for Part VII of the Official Languages Act
- 9 Consultation on Regulations for Part VII of the Official Languages Act Part II
- 10 First dialogue session on the promotion and protection of French: "Diving into the future to act now"
- 11 Y4Y presence at the *Prix leviers du ROCAJQ*, where the contributions of youth to Québec society were on full display

## DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY ISSUES & NEEDS

- 1 Quilting session with the queer community in Montréal (June 2024)
- 2 Employment journeys at the Bishop's Forum (August 2024)
- 3 Two youth consultations on Employment journeys in the Outaouais: Pontiac High School, and the Pontiac Continuing Education Centre in Shawville (September 2024)
- 4 Employment journeys at Three Rivers Academy (October 2024)
- 5 Employment journeys in Québec City with the Native Montreal Youth Council (November 2024)
- 6 Employment journeys at The Anchor Academic and Vocational Education Centre in New Carlisle, Gaspésie (November 2024)
- 7 Pointe-Saint-Charles Documentary Screening and conversation on belonging and identity at Press Start (December 2024)
- 8 Brainstorming sessions at Lake of Two Mountains High School & Rosemère High School with 4Korners to plan peer-led FSL activities using micro-grant funds (February 2025)
- 9 The Spark Hub supper at the Y4Y office (March 2025)

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EVENTS



- 1 Sponsoring 12 Native Montreal Youth Council members to attend the *Early Days* exhibit at the MNBAQ for the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
- 2 Sponsoring and tabling at the Black Students Career Development Society's *Volume 10* event
- 3 *Lunch & Learn* with all ESC network organizations to discuss the Youth Workers Study, and its data reveal
- 4 Y4Y's Executive Director serving as a panellist during the REISA Youth Network Forum
- 5 Y4Y's President, Executive Director, and Research Coordinator attending the Coalition Interjeunes Data Party for the Youth Workers Study
- 6 Peer Group Leadership workshop delivered to the 2025 Bishop's Forum Coaches' Retreat
- 7 Y4Y's Executive Director participating at the *Journée expéri-clinico-scientifique sur la participation des jeunes*

*Empowering Youth through Engagement:*

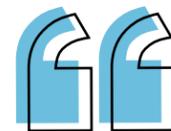
## Y4Y'S SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVES



In 2024, Y4Y had the privilege of sponsoring an array of youth to attend key events across Québec. We sponsored five youth to participate in the predominantly French-speaking *Parlement Jeunesse du Québec* in December, and eight youth to attend Force Jeunesse's annual *Rencontres Maîtres chez Vous* in October. Additionally, one youth was sponsored to attend the *Bishop's Forum* in August, while three regional youth (from Gaspésie, the Lower North Shore, and the Outaouais) took part in Y4Y's Forum in March 2025. In April 2024, we accompanied three English-speaking youth to *La Grande Consultation Jeunesse* in Québec City, and we secured 50 complimentary tickets to the international youth leadership conference *One Young World* in September.

In November, Y4Y proudly sponsored 20 youth from our membership and **Native Montreal's** Youth Council to travel to Québec City for the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec's exhibition *Early Days: Indigenous Art from the McMichael Canadian Art Collection*. This exhibition, featuring over 50 artists from 13 nations, marks the first Canadian collection of Indigenous art to tour internationally. As part of our collaboration with the **Provincial Employment Roundtable**, we also hosted a youth consultation and explored Old Québec in between.

Thank you to all participants who joined and shared these valuable experiences with us!



*Attending the “Rencontres Maîtres chez Vous” event was an inspiring experience that showcased the power of youth in shaping the future.*

*The day was filled with thought-provoking panels and engaging conversations with political leaders and young professionals committed to social change—it was truly an honour to connect with them!*

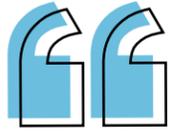
*Many thanks to Y4Y Québec for making this opportunity possible and for allowing me to represent our mission in such a dynamic setting.*

*Although following the event in French was a challenge, I stayed engaged with the help of a live translation app—proof that language doesn't have to be a barrier to meaningful connection and learning!*



**Sam**  
Participant  
*Rencontres Maîtres chez Vous*





*Participating in the “Parlement Jeunesse du Québec (PJQ)” was undoubtedly one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences I’ve had in a long time. Coming from a background in computer science, the world of politics was entirely new and unfamiliar to me. It tested me in many ways: navigating complex political concepts, stepping outside of my comfort zone, and embracing a new challenge in French as an anglophone.*

*Despite the challenges, it was an incredible opportunity for growth.*

*I met some of the most passionate individuals—future leaders who I’m confident will help shape Canadian history and politics.*

*The experience also deepened my appreciation for Québec’s rich history and culture, opening my mind to perspectives I hadn’t encountered before.*

*It showed me the amazing things that can come from simply trying something new.*

*Overall, it was an unforgettable experience, and I’m profoundly grateful to Y4Y Québec for giving me the opportunity to participate in the “PJQ”.*



**Ayomide Ojo**  
Participant  
Parlement Jeunesse du Québec



# *Activity Report*

## **SPECIAL**

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

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ēducaloi  
Information Empowers



## EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCES IN QUÉBEC



Y4Y Québec partnered with the **Provincial Employment Roundtable (PERT)** to support its research on the employment experiences of English-speaking youth (ESY) in Québec. As part of this initiative, Y4Y carried out regional consultations in the Outaouais, Mauricie, Gaspésie, and Capitale-Nationale regions. These sessions provided a platform for youth to share their perspectives, challenges, and aspirations related to employment in today's job market. A companion survey was also deployed across the province to gather further insights into these issues on a larger scale, ensuring that regional disparities were captured.

The combined data from both the consultations and the survey offer a comprehensive view of the current employment landscape faced by young people in Québec, highlighting both universal and location-specific challenges and needs. Participants were able to voice concerns about job accessibility, career opportunities, and obstacles that impact youth in rural regions and smaller communities.

The insights gathered from these consultations contribute directly to PERT's broader research report to be published in Fall 2025. The themes, concerns, and issues raised by youth will help inform government policymakers as they develop future employment strategies for English-speaking youth across the province, ensuring that local realities are factored into decisions that affect their career opportunities and futures.

## COALITION INTERJEUNES



The *Coalition Interjeunes* is a unifying force and leading voice for autonomous community youth action in Québec. Representing seven major provincial youth networks, it brings together over 400 organizations across all 17 administrative regions, working primarily with youth aged 12 to 30. Through collaboration and advocacy, the *Coalition* promotes equity, solidarity, and social justice, while defending the vital role of youth community organizations in shaping Québec society.

Y4Y is proud to have been involved with the *Coalition* in recent years. Our ongoing participation has included membership on their Research Committee, as well as chaperoning English-speaking youth to attend their *Grande Consultation Jeunesse* (this past fiscal year having sent a staff member to engage in its planning committee). The *Coalition's* findings from their report on youth workers was critical in allowing Y4Y to write its own report on valorizing youth workers who work directly with English-speaking youth. Finally, we were honored to have the *Coalition* attend our Annual Youth Forum.

Y4Y looks forward to exploring future collaborations with the *Coalition*, whose representation on youth issues is an important force for good for all of Québec's youth.

# LE FRANÇAIS AU PRÉSENT ET AU FUTUR

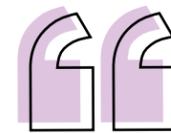


As part of Réseau réussite Montréal's (RRM) project *Le français au présent et au futur*, Y4Y Québec delivered interactive workshops on linguistic insecurity for English-speaking high school students. The initiative aimed to empower youth to navigate social and professional settings in French with greater ease and confidence.

Between November and December 2024, Y4Y facilitated 24 workshops for six Secondary III and IV classes at Lakeside Academy. Students viewed original video capsules created with 12 youth collaborators who shared personal stories of their experiences learning and using French in Québec. These testimonials offered reassurance and practical strategies for language development beyond the classroom.

Participants then engaged in guided discussions, sharing their own journeys and tips for building linguistic resilience. Ideas were collected on Post-it Notes, many of which highlighted the importance of peer support and linking French learning to personal interests.

The workshops successfully reframed French not as a barrier, but as an opportunity to participate more fully in cultural and professional life. Y4Y's involvement ensured that English-speaking youth left feeling more capable and inspired to embrace bilingualism in their futures.



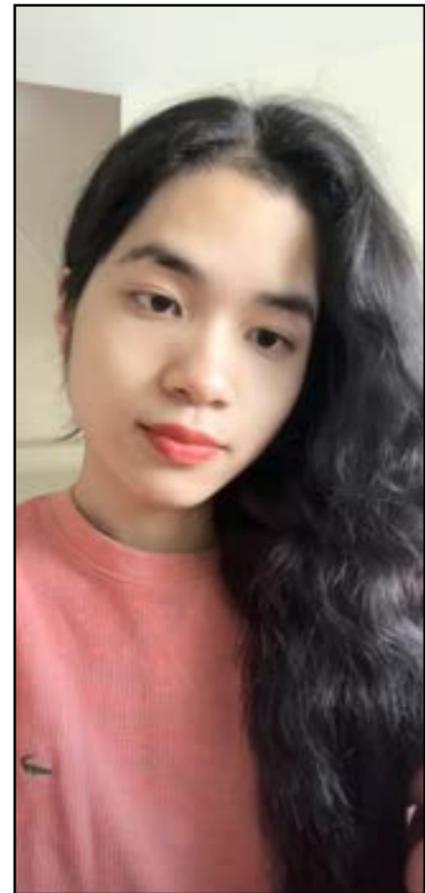
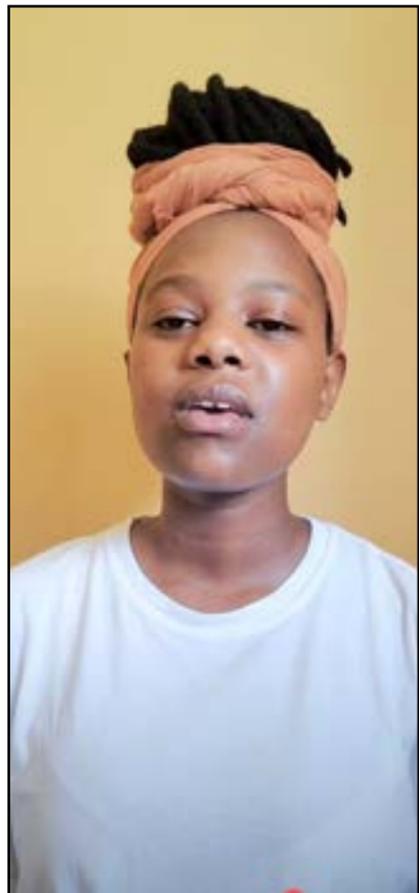
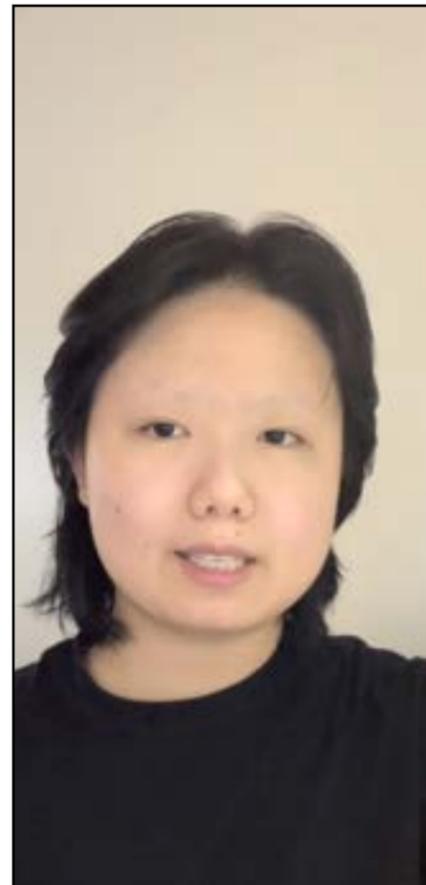
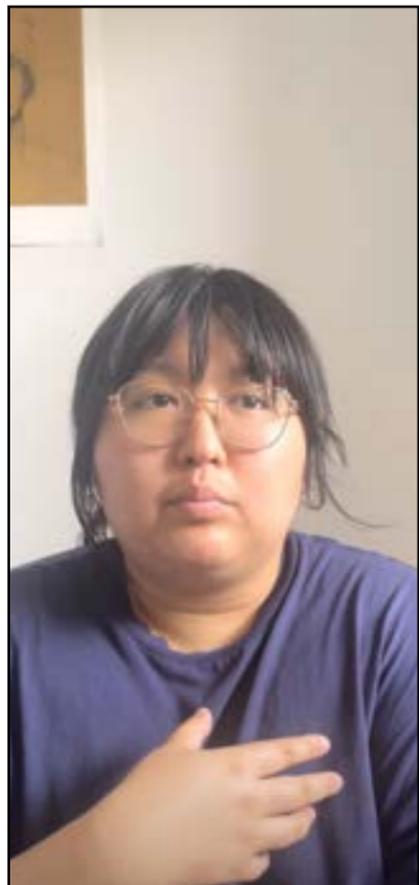
*I feel truly grateful to have had the opportunity to share my story as part of the "Français au présent et au futur" workshops. Having been in the same shoes as many of these young students, I understand how important it is to feel seen and validated. If my experiences can uplift or inspire even one person, that means a great deal to me.*

*It's been an incredibly meaningful experience, and I'm thankful to have been part of it!*



**Bon**  
Video Contributor  
*Le français au présent et au futur*





## THE SPARK HUB



Y4Y was proud to collaborate with The Dialogue Network on the 2024–2025 phase of its nationwide initiative, the *Programme de valorisation d'initiatives francophones (Programme VIF)*. This microgrant program is supported by the Government of Canada's Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–2028, through Canadian Heritage. As Québec's representative, Y4Y encouraged young people across the province to apply for *Programme VIF*, which supports youth-led, French-language initiatives that promote civic engagement and foster linguistic exchange. This partnership gave rise to *The Spark Hub* project.

*The Spark Hub*, funded by The Dialogue Network, is an ongoing initiative that empowers English-speaking youth to design creative activities that promote French-language learning. A key objective of the project was to encourage young people to apply for *Programme VIF* microgrants—an opportunity to build skills in event planning, networking, and interlinguistic collaboration.

To amplify youth voices, Y4Y hosted workshops in Montréal and the Laurentians to gather ideas directly from young people about events that could foster meaningful dialogue between English- and French-speaking peers. These sessions took place at Y4Y's office, as well as in partnership with 4Korners at Rosemere High School and Lake of Two Mountains High School. They inspired new, youth-led initiatives driven by creativity and a commitment to community building. In tandem with the workshops, Y4Y launched a campaign led by three passionate young leaders. Their outreach highlighted the value of French-language programming and the role of youth engagement in creating inclusive communities.

*The Spark Hub* showcased the creativity and initiative of young Quebecers who are eager to explore fun, innovative ways to connect through language. Their contributions reflect a deep desire to strengthen community cohesion by celebrating bilingualism and fostering cultural exchange.



**We asked three motivated youth in Québec some questions about the importance of for-youth, by-youth initiatives for community**



*[The event] felt accepting and welcoming.  
The activity had an appeal, more than just the pizza!  
[I] was able to work in a team and come up with a good idea.*



**Anonymous Participant**  
*The Spark Hub*



## MY TOWN, MY VOICE



In continued partnership with Éducaloi, and funded by Justice Canada, Y4Y proudly delivered the fifth edition of the *My City, My Voice* workshop. This year, the program travelled to Stanstead, Québec, to work with the *Phelps Helps* leadership committee.

The initiative introduces young people to the mechanics of municipal governance, helping them understand how local politics impact daily life and how their voices can influence policy. Previous iterations of the program have partnered with the **Black Community Resource Centre (BCRC)**, the **Maasai Mentoring Group**, the **Dawson Boys & Girls Club**, and **Black Girls Gather**.

Participants gain foundational knowledge of how cities operate and how to advocate for the changes they wish to see. Through hands-on activities and discussions, youth are empowered to see themselves as active contributors to their communities.

*Youth participation in the Social Economy:*

## WORKING WITH THE RDN

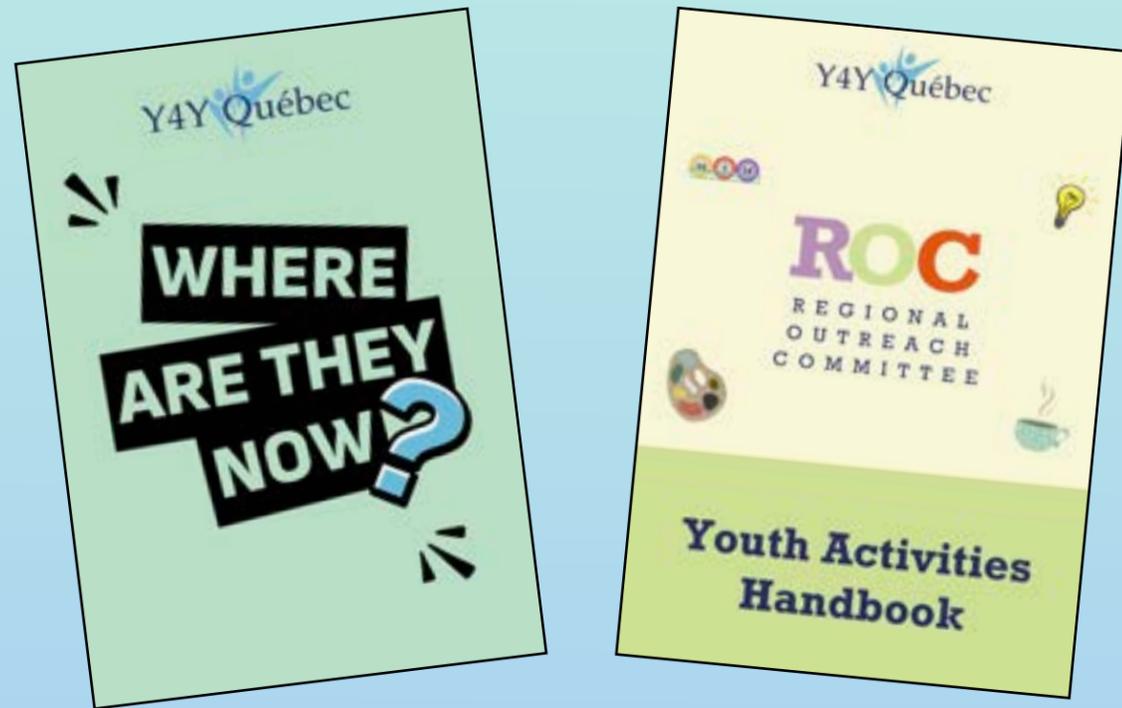


Y4Y continued its partnership with the **Regional Development Network (RDN)** this year to promote the SEENet program to youth and stay connected with regional organizations about initiatives across the province.

Hoffman Wolff, the RDN's Social Economy Manager, delivered an exciting presentation to a group of youth interested in learning about the social economy in Québec. We also learned how to be effective SEENet Ambassadors to help spread the word about the opportunities for young entrepreneurs in our community.

Later in the year, Y4Y contributed to SEENet's Strategic Planning process, thereby committing to staying abreast of SEENet's activities and offerings for the years to come.

## Our Year in COMMUNICATIONS

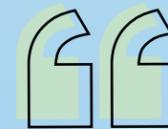


In 2024–2025, the Communications Team made significant strides in enhancing our outreach to better connect with youth across Québec. Y4Y remains committed to delivering communications that are impactful, engaging, and youth-centred. In addition to supporting the promotion of Y4Y's initiatives, we focused on strengthening accessibility and inclusion by translating our website from English to French and introducing bilingual content across our social media platforms.

Among our key projects was the *Where Are They Now?* booklet—a catalogue highlighting former Y4Y staff, board members, and volunteers. Unveiled at our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Forum, this alumni collection features headshots and short updates on where they are today, showcasing their academic and professional journeys, as well as future aspirations. We are proud to celebrate the diverse paths our alumni have taken, and this handbook stands as a compelling testament to the lasting impact of youth involvement at Y4Y.

We also produced the *Regional Outreach Committee Youth Activities Handbook*, created in collaboration with Concordia University's Recreation & Leisure Studies students. This guide celebrates creativity, community, and the importance of leisure in supporting young people's wellbeing and sense of belonging within their communities.

On the technical front, we proudly transitioned from the American platform NationBuilder to Keela, a Canadian CRM solution better aligned with our operational needs and values. We also updated our Privacy Policy to comply with Law 25.



*I am very grateful to have worked with such a supportive and inspiring team at Y4Y.*

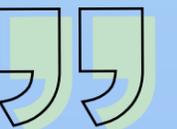
*From the beginning, I felt welcomed and appreciated, and my ideas were always met with openness and encouragement.*

*My experience at Y4Y allowed me to learn and grow through various roles, beginning as a Communications Assistant and progressing to Communications Coordinator and Project Coordinator. These roles provided me with invaluable skills and insights that I will carry with me throughout my career.*

*I am truly thankful to have been part of an organization dedicated to making a meaningful impact in the lives of English-speaking youth in the community, and to have had the opportunity to work alongside—and get to know—such incredible people.*



**Lene Nemeh**  
Past Communications Coordinator  
& Project Coordinator



## More Things to CELEBRATE

- 1 Over 20 youth applied to be Local Youth Ambassadors in their respective regions of the province.
- 2 The Create-a-Consultation Committee was formed.
- 3 Y4Y attended 3 job fairs in three different regions, to offer positions to young ES jobseekers.
- 4 Y4Y partnered with *LaRuche* and raised over \$7,000 for the My Vote Counts initiative.
- 5 Y4Y bid a fond farewell to Mr. William Floch, and attended a celebration of his career serving the ESC; Y4Y met with the new *Sous-ministre adjoint* for the SRQEA, Mr. John McMahon to discuss youth issues and priorities.
- 6 Y4Y contributed to the QCGN's brief to the Senate Committee on the future of the CBC and other media in Canada.
- 7 Y4Y worked with the experts at Techsek to increase data security and make the switch from Gsuite to Microsoft.
- 8 Y4Y addressed a 3<sup>rd</sup> year class in the Recreation & Leisure Studies Program at Concordia; the class developed the Youth Activities Handbook, which will be used and shared for years to come.
- 9 Staff received training from Vent Over Tea on Responding to Trauma in peer leadership situations.
- 10 Y4Y submitted its *Mémoire budgétaire* to the Minister of Finance, with tariff updates & recommendations regarding ESY in Québec.
- 11 Y4Y's Executive Director participated in consultations with Canadian Parents for French, French for the Future, & *Réseau Dialogue* regarding the Linguistic Duality Network's Strategic Plan.

## Outlook for THE FUTURE



When I think of Y4Y's future, I see a community of young professionals helping each other advance in a world that is evolving faster than many institutions can keep up. I see a new generation of English-speaking organizers, communicators, and scholars, using the various experiences Y4Y creates to enact change and propel themselves to the settings they seek. We are well-positioned to tackle the issues our community faces in these unprecedented times.

This organization is still young, but growing fast thanks to the committed staff, volunteers, members, and partners. With this trend continuing, Y4Y's reach, and impact will increase with it.

I am proud to be a part of such a journey.



**Benjamin-Taylor Sauvé**  
Y4Y Board Member

*Du fond du coeur,*  
**MERCI!**

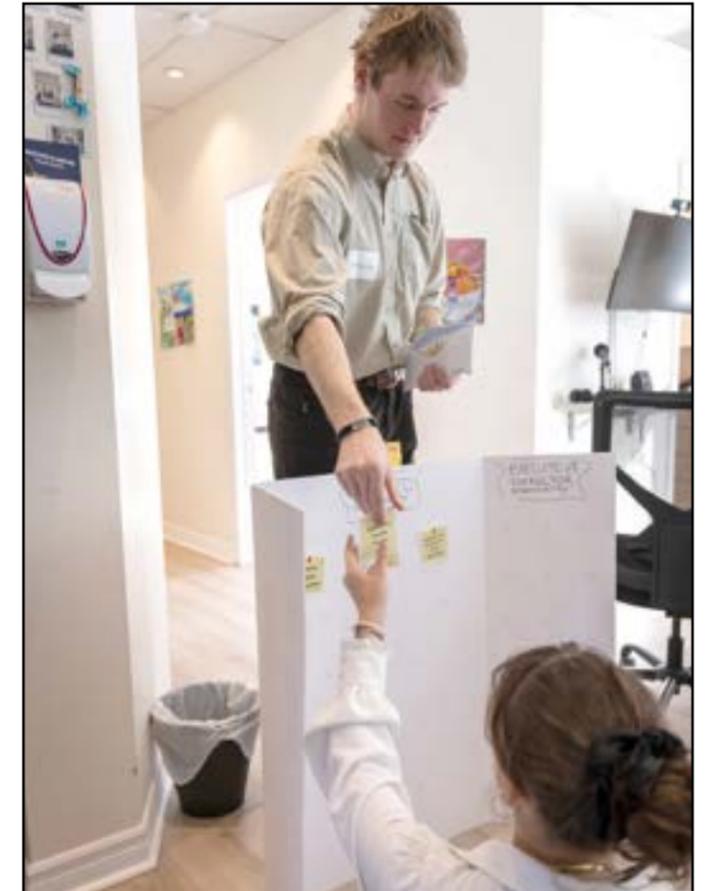
Since Y4Y Québec's founding, youth-led projects and local partnerships have been at the heart of everything we do. This annual report serves as a highlight reel of our accomplishments—large and small—none of which would have been possible without the generous contributions of our funders and the steadfast support of our community partners.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Québec's *ministère de la Langue française*, *Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale*, and *Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise*, as well as to the Government of Canada's Department of Canadian Heritage for their invaluable financial support. Your belief in our mission enables us to continue empowering the next generation of leaders across the province.

We are equally grateful to the many community partners who provide essential support—be it mentorship, guidance on organizational development, participation in brainstorming sessions, collaborative working groups, information-sharing, or inclusion in key stakeholder conversations.

You are an integral part of our journey, and we are proud to walk alongside you as we work to build a more inclusive, engaged, and youth-driven Québec. We look forward to reaching new milestones—together.

Canada  Québec 





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