

ANNUAL REPORT

LOOKING BACK ON 2018/2019



Y4Y Québec

2018-2019

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**We would like to begin
by acknowledging that
the land on which we
gather is the traditional
unceded territory of the
Huron-Wendat people.**

From: <https://www.caut.ca/content/guide-acknowledging-first-peoples-traditional-territory>

Mission Statement

Youth4Youth Quebec (Y4Y) is a provincial non-profit youth network committed to addressing the issues facing English-speaking youth (ages 16-30).

Y4Y's Objectives Are:

- To Provide a platform to share information on resources, training and networking opportunities, and employment/career services for English-speaking youth via outreach to communities throughout Quebec;
- To support English-speaking youth in accessing support resources and networks through the help of regional ambassadors throughout Quebec;
- To provide networking opportunities English-speaking youth in Quebec, to include opportunities for engaging with the French-speaking majority in Quebec;
- To provide a vehicle for youth to take leadership roles in their community and inspire their peers to become involved in influencing public policy to ensure that all language groups are equally represented in Quebec society with the goal of optimizing employability, the acquisition of French language skills as well as social and economic integration;
- To create a strong sense of belonging to the community so that all youth will feel a part of Quebec society.





A Letter From The President



Dear Y4Y Quebec members,

Welcome to our organization's Annual General Meeting! As the organization's founding president, I am very excited about this milestone in the organization's history.

As you recall, after our official launch in March 2018, our outreach was coordinated to start local chapters of the organization that would empower youth to be able to make change in their community by hosting an event or by joining an advocacy effort.

We succeeded in our mobilization efforts and extended our outreach into two new regions of the province, the Laurentians and Abitibi-Temiscamingue. The key issues facing English-speaking youth were compiled and were presented to high-level stakeholders including the National Assembly of Quebec where we met with the Premier's staff as well as the MNA responsible for youth, the House of Commons where we visited the offices of the Prime Minister of Canada (who is also Minister for Youth) and the Minister of Tourism and Official Languages, and the office of the Mayor of Montreal and Executive Committee sent us a very positive letter of encouragement.

Our last fiscal year culminated with a Youth Engagement Forum and Changemaker's Summit, which was the pinnacle of our success. Over 100 youth and youth workers from across the province gathered in our metropolis to propose 12 ideas that would make life better for English Quebecers. Finally, as a community we were raising awareness of the issues that we face amongst decision-makers and Quebec civil society.

Internally, the organization also has been successful in diversifying sources of funding, collaborating with partner organizations from the community sector and starting work on a succession plan. There will be challenges though in the future which include expanding the membership base, seeking non-governmental funding, growing into new regions such as Nunavik, and ensuring youth consultations are engrained in the core activities.

I'm proud of what our volunteer-based organization has accomplished. Y4Y Quebec will continue to work on initiatives that promote political inclusion of English-speaking youth, reduce poverty levels, and find ways to slow the rural exodus and out-migration of youth that want to stay in their hometown and province.

Malcolm Lewis-Richmond
President
Gatineau, Quebec



Over the course of the past year, Y4Y Quebec has experienced rapid growth as an organization from several standpoints. It has gained name recognition, both amongst the English-speaking youth community it aims to serve, and within the well-established networks of community organizations that have been working on behalf of the wider community for decades. As Executive Director, I have been struck by the open-armed “welcome” Y4Y Quebec has received across the province by members of the English-speaking community who recognize the need for a youth-led initiative to focus on youth issues specifically. Y4Y’s staff, Board of Directors, and youth volunteers have worked as a team to rise to the occasion this year, and I believe we can be proud of the results we have achieved in our first year of incorporation.

The first PCH-funded project undertaken by Y4Y Quebec, entitled “Engaging and Mobilizing English-speaking Youth in Quebec”, was successfully completed in March 2019. It involved an ambitious combination of province-wide youth consultations, the formation of new partnerships with existing regional organizations, youth empowerment activities, and the development of a virtual platform to increase youth engagement. The project was an important first step in getting to know the community Y4Y wishes to serve. The successful management of last year’s project was directly related to the additional funding support Y4Y acquired from the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d’expression anglaise, without which the organization would not have continued on this path of rapid growth. Y4Y was also fortunate to receive funding from the Secrétariat à la jeunesse, as well as through the Ministère de l’Éducation’s Soutien à l’action bénévole program.

Thanks to the members of our dedicated Board of Directors, each of whom sits on one or more of Y4Y’s working Committees, there was a steady increase in the number of youth participants in Committee meetings and, therefore, Committee activities. The Regional Table Committee grew to include youth from across the province, uniting members from the Magdalen Islands with those from Nunavik and elsewhere on a monthly basis. The Policy Committee submitted youth-oriented questions to be asked of the provincial candidates during the historic English-language Leaders’ Debate, two of which were broadcast. The Outreach Committee organized a Make-Way-for-Youth Symposium in partnership with the Townshipper’s Association and Bishop’s University.

Y4Y's Advisory Committee, made up of non-profit professionals, met with staff and volunteers on a monthly basis throughout this critical first year. The members of the Advisory Committee provided guidance, support, and advice on best practices based on their varied experiences working on behalf of the English-speaking community of Quebec.

Y4Y can also be proud of the research initiatives undertaken by the organization this year. In partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies, Y4Y produced a Gap Analysis, as well as a Needs Assessment report, the results of which further underscored the need for a non-profit entity such as Y4Y to focus on the needs of English-speaking youth in Quebec. Y4Y's President, staff, and volunteers had multiple interactions with government officials, many of whom were previously unaware that a group of motivated youth were working to create a province-wide organization, but quickly became supporters of Y4Y. Our Youth Engagement Forum and Changemaker's Summit, held in March 2019, included speeches from one of the National Assembly's youngest members, Mr. Greg Kelley, as well as one of Parliament's youngest Members, M.P. Emmanuella Lambropoulos. Mr. Christopher Skeete, the Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers, was also a guest speaker at our Youth Forum, and maintains an open dialogue with Youth4Youth. The Forum was publicized prominently in the Gazette, and attracted over 100 attendees of all ages and backgrounds from across the province. The list of reasons for being proud of Y4Y's growth over the last year would be incomplete without mentioning the importance of the Community Health and Social Services Network's (CHSSN) inclusion of Y4Y as a Member. We have already benefited a great deal from their expertise in providing services to the English-speaking communities, and we cannot overstate the importance of the CHSSN's support to the healthy, inclusive, steady, and mission-focused growth of Youth4Youth Quebec.

It has been an honour to work with the Y4Y team this year. Improving the prospects of English-speaking youth in Quebec is a shared responsibility, and the voices most likely to be heard are of those whose futures are truly at stake. I look forward to contributing to Y4Y's bright future, as it strives to connect youth with one another, across the province they call home.

Adrienne Winrow



Malcolm Lewis-Richmond

// President



Jonathan Patton

// Vice-President



Hayley Campbell

// Secretary



Jessica Walker

// Treasurer

Board of Directors 2018-2019



Gabriela Navarrete-Rolls

// Director of Communications



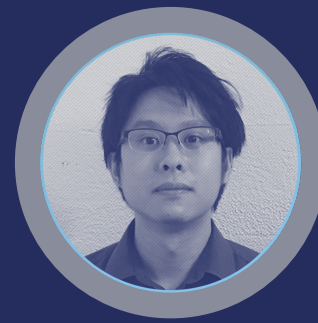
Shae-Lynn Roberts

// Director of Membership



Alexander Gordon

// Director of Outreach



Edward Lai

// Director of Policy

Activity Report

01. Youth Consultations



Y4Y's research project, 'Engaging and Mobilizing English-speaking Youth in Quebec', required us to conduct 12 consultations with youth across the province in order to better understand the issues they are facing in their respective communities. Each consultation allowed us to speak with, on average, 20 young people. Not only did this provide the data to refine our outreach, it allowed us to learn about the lived realities of youth in these communities.



02. INM école d'hiver & Maîtres chez vous



Y4Y sponsored 10 English-speaking youths to attend the *École d'hiver*, an event held for those between the ages of 15-35, who sought to reflect on individual and collective solutions to the climate crisis. The issues discussed at Force Jeunesse's *Maîtres chez vous* conference ranged from the transition to a low-carbon economy, to upholding democracy in the digital age, to the upcoming federal elections. The former was held at St. Lawrence College in Quebec City, while the latter was held at HEC Montréal. Both events allowed Y4Y to participate in important public debates addressing youth's place in the 21st century. The events also provided an opportunity for the youth participants to engage with the French-speaking majority, and practice their second language in a public setting.

03. Research - Gap Analysis & Needs Assessment Report

Y4Y produced two research papers last year, both of which focused on the issues facing the English-speaking youth community such as: vitality, identity, inclusion, and sense of belonging, French language acquisition, leadership and government representation, retention and demographic renewal. When polled, the English-speaking youth respondents made it clear that they feel a low-to-moderate attachment to Quebec society, and recognize the need to improve their French-language skills. They also prioritize the need to have the English-speaking community recognized by all levels of government.

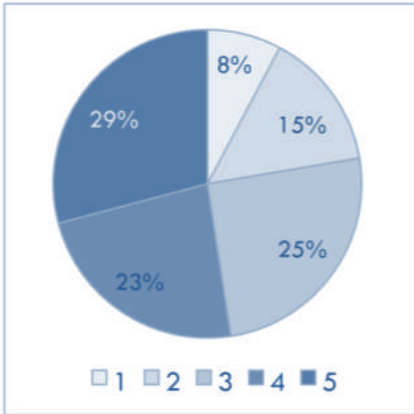
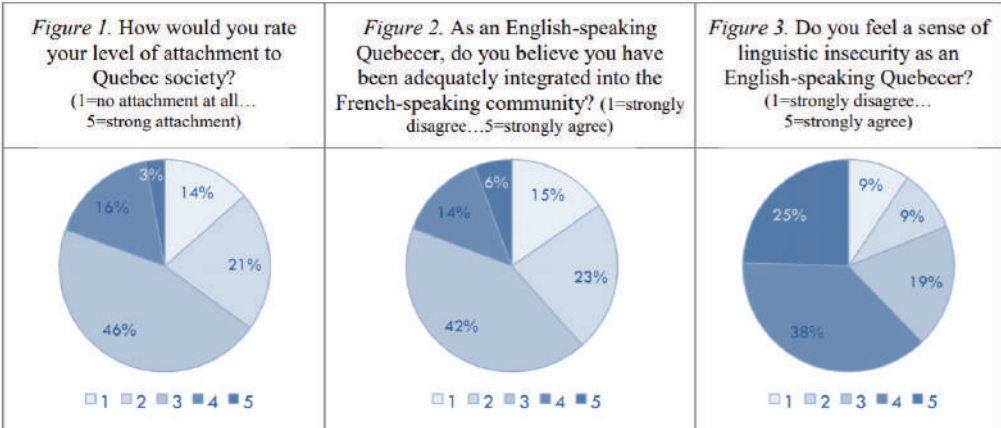


Figure 4. Improving French Skills (1=not important... 5=very important)

04. Y4Y's Second Annual Youth Engagement Forum & Changemakers' Summit



The Youth Forum brought together a diverse group of young people to generate new ideas, raise awareness about the challenges they face as English-speakers, and hone their leadership skills to promote positive change. Over 100 youth participants attended the event at the Casa d'Italia. Speakers included Emmanuella Lambropoulos, the MP for Saint-Laurent; Christopher Skeete, the Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers; Greg Kelley, the Official Opposition's Relations with English-speaking Quebecers critic; Ben Loomer, from LEARN Quebec; Sarah Sultani and Erika English from l'Institut du Nouveau Monde; Rebecca Bauer, from Playwright's Workshop's Young Creator's Unit, and more. Problems facing the participants' communities were raised, solutions workshopped, and the Youth participants had the chance to present their ideas to their peers. Many of the Youth Participants from the Forum have continued to be involved with Youth4Youth.



05. P.M.O Meeting



Y4Y was granted an audience at the Prime Minister's Office so as to present the organization's mission to the federal government, and to tell them what we need to keep having an impact on Quebec society. We were graciously hosted by M. Mathieu Bouchard and Mr. Jonathan Kalles. We took the opportunity to discuss Y4Y's activities across the province, policy issues concerning English-speaking youth, bilingualism, and the modernization of the Official Languages Act.

06. Modernization of Official Languages



The Modernization of Official Languages has been a file closely followed by Y4Y, as we have a strong interest in being part of the conversation as to how the Act will be updated. Y4Y's Director represented Y4Y at the Forum on the Modernization of the OLA at Bishop's University, and Y4Y's President, Malcolm Lewis-Richmond, served as an Expert Panelist at the Symposium on the Modernization of the Official Languages Act (OLA), which was hosted by Mélanie Joly, the Minister of Tourism, Official Languages and La Francophonie. Y4Y has both guaranteed a place for English-speaking youth within the national conversation, and developed a solid understanding as to where the conversation is headed.

07. Encouraging Volunteerism by Providing Opportunities



Throughout 2018-19, Y4Y sought to give back to the community and provide as many opportunities as possible by encouraging youths to volunteer with us. Central to this pledge are our Committees, to which all youth welcome. Furthermore, Y4Y organized many public activities, such as our Youth Soccer Tournament, which could not have been done without the hard work of numerous volunteers. The goal for Y4Y is to broaden the personal and professional horizons of our young members by offering as many skills-building volunteer opportunities as possible in all regions of the province.

Current & Planned Activities

Y4Y's staff, along with its dedicated Board members and young volunteers, are highly committed to the success of the projects currently underway. Identifying Best Practices for Reaching English-speaking Youth Across Quebec has allowed Y4Y to meet youth in remote areas of Quebec, and connect with them in meaningful ways. The research produced through the project will provide insight to the organizations that serve the community, all of whom have experienced difficulty in engaging youth locally. Yet another project, to begin in October 2019, will hire a representative group of youth to create a flag for the English-speaking community of Quebec, which, if successful, will become an important cultural symbol. A separate project, funded through the Youth Secretariat's "Mobilization of Indigenous Youth" program, and beginning in October, will focus on the suicide crisis in Nunavik. This initiative, called Project Aliana, will be led by a Committee of youth from Kangirsujuaq. They will work alongside Y4Y's coordinators and youth-led Committees to create a two-day youth forum to promote healing, awareness, and harm-reduction.

Through Canadian Heritage's Appreciation and Rapprochement program, Y4Y has applied for a Creative Writing project that, if granted, will pair 6 English-speaking and 6 French-speaking young writers to co-write pieces about aspects of life in Quebec. Both the Quebec Writers Federation and the Union des Écrivains Québécois will be our partners in this exciting endeavor, which will culminate in the publication of the youths' work. Y4Y will be applying to Canadian Heritage's Enhancement of Official Languages program for funding for a project that we hope will grow exponentially in popularity amongst the youth it aims to help. The project will pair English-speaking youth with job opportunities in the regions of Quebec's tourism industry, providing them with an immersive job experience in a French-speaking community, thereby sharpening their conversational French skills at a time in their lives when job-seeking is becoming a priority. Y4Y is confident that we can successfully run this project, which directly addresses the issue of retention of English-speaking youth, and the need to increase their sense of belonging in the province they call home.



Staffing Notes

Y4Y has been fortunate to have hired many capable young people over the past year to work on behalf of the organization. Special recognition goes out to Dr. Scott Fleming and Henri Pilon. Alex Pettem, our Project Manager, has shown dedication to the organization through his diligent work and willingness to take on new challenges. Our newest coordinator, Kelly Weber, is committed to the success of the Flag Project and is looking forward to getting started. Our consultants from across the province have been integral to the organization's professional development, and we are grateful to have them on the team as well.

Upcoming Board Meetings



- October 30th, 2019
- November 27th, 2019
- December 25th, 2019
- January 29th, 2020
- February 26th, 2020
- March 25th, 2020



Other Important Dates

- November 2019 • Y4Y Fundraising Activity
- December 2019 • Y4Y Holiday Bash
- January 2020 • Provincial Youth Priorities Meeting
- February 2020 • Reveal Party for Research Results
- March 2020 • Y4Y Qc's 3rd Annual Youth Engagement Forum
- April 2020 • Project Aliana Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Healing Forum

Get Involved!



Youth4Youth Qc's growth and sustainability depends on the dedication of its young members from across the province. If you are a youth between 16 and 30 who is looking to give back to the community, contribute to interesting projects, learn about the non-profit sector, talk policy, and meet other engaged youth, please consider joining one of Y4Y's youth-led Committees. By visiting y4yquebec.org, you can sign up to receive our Monthly Newsletter or become a contributing Member. Please follow us on Facebook, too! You can also write to info@y4yquebec.org or call (514) 612-2895 for additional information on joining the team.



Partner Organizations

ACDPN: African Canadian Development and Prevention Network

CAMI: Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders

Casa D'Italia

CASA: Committee Anglophone for Social Action

CEDEC: Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation

Centre St-Pierre

Champlain St-Lawrence College

CHSSN: Community Health and Social Services Network

CJE NDG: Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi N.D.G

Coasters Association Inc.

COCO: Centre for Community Organizations

Concordia University

Constance Lethbridge Centre

Dawson Boys & Girls Club

Dawson College

ELAN: English-Language Arts Network

FESFO: Fédération de la Jeunesse franco-ontarienne

Force Jeunesse

FRIJ: Forum Jeunesse de l'Île de Montreal

Headstrong

Institute du Nouveau Monde

John F. Kennedy High School

LEARN Qc



Lennoxville Youth Centre

Musée des Beaux-Arts Montreal

NDG Community Council

Neighbor's Association

Playwright's Workshop Montreal - Youth Creators Unit

Pontiac High School

Prevention CDN-NDG

QCGN: Quebec Community Groups Network

RAWQ: Regional Association of West Quebecers

REISA: East Island Network for English Language Services

RIOCM: Regroupement Intersectoriel des Organismes Communautaires de Montréal

ROCAJQ: Regroupement des Organismes Communautaires Autonomes

Jeunesse de Québec

Sun Youth

Townshippers Association

Université de Laval

VCSA: Vanier College Student Association

VEQ: Voice of English -speaking Quebec

VGPN: Vision Gaspé Percé Now

YES Montreal: Youth Employment Services

YMCAs of NDG Westmount & St-Henri

Youth Ottawa

ACKNOWLEDGE

Volunteers

We wish to acknowledge the amazing contributions of our Volunteers, who worked many hours this year at events, serving on committees, and behind-the-scenes in the office as well. Y4Y's Board of Directors, all volunteers themselves, are extremely grateful to this group of dedicated and engaged young people . A huge thank you goes out to each and every one of them for helping to make Y4Y's mission a reality.

Y4Y would like to extend a special thank you to our Advisory Committee. Iris Unger, Candice Cartier, Julie Hobbs, Teresa Kaeser, Dr. Heather Lawford, and Anne Usher meet with us monthly and when necessary. They have each been an invaluable resource to the staff team and our volunteers, and we are deeply grateful for their contribution.

D G E M E N T S

Funders

We wish to thank the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec for their generous contributions and continued support of our non-profit organization, Y4Y Quebec.



Québec 

Funded by the
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