



Charting the Course

2022-2023

Year in Review

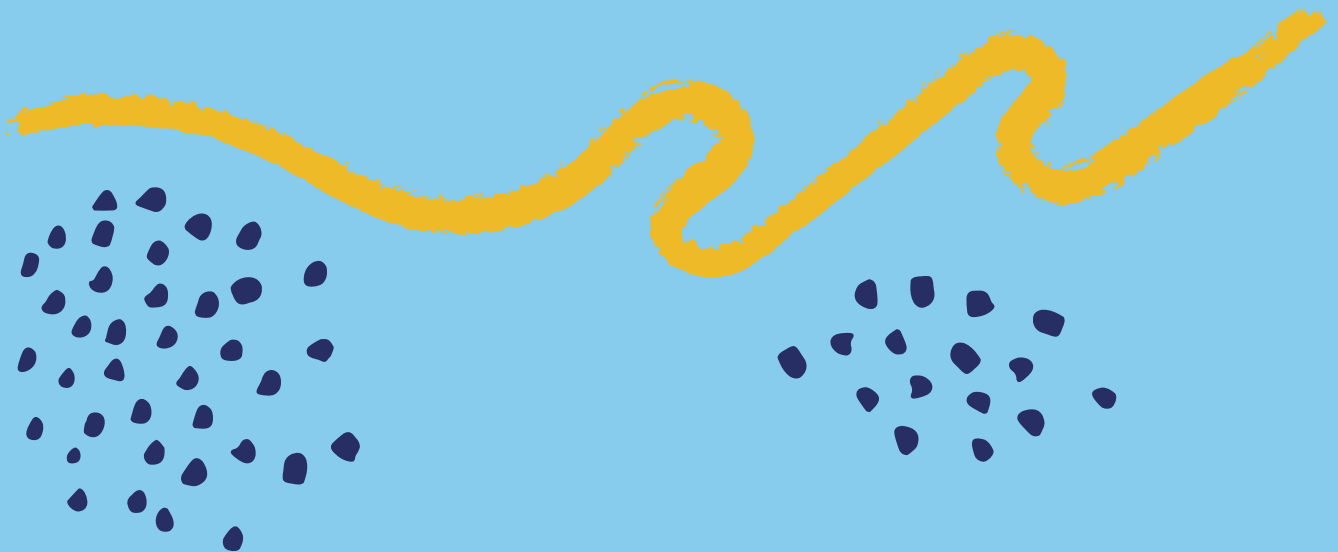


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Letter from the President

Dear Members, Friends, and Partners,

The 2022–2023 fiscal year was a very busy one at Y4Y. The past year involved over 50 youth working in nine different administrative regions across the province. Our dedicated team successfully ran projects that hosted events in communities from the Magdalen Islands to the Outaouais, from the Bas-Saint-Laurent to the Nord-du-Québec, and within many regions in between. Whether it be building peer support by discussing mental health resources in the regions, learning a little bit more about each other through storytelling, or hosting local activities to foster a sense of community, these activities centred on human connection with a regional flavour, true to our “by youth, for youth” approach.

This year, I was incredibly impressed with young English-speaking Quebecers’ creativity within Y4Y’s projects. Their originality shone through in products such as the heritage passports and artwork. I was deeply moved by their courage in being vulnerable through the stories they chose to share throughout all our projects, for example in our zines on mental health, in our locally-hosted activities, and as human books. I find constant inspiration in the innovative and visionary ways in which English-speaking youth express themselves.

This year’s highlights include the strengthening of existing partnerships and the exploration of new

ones. *Project Impact* notably engaged students in six different high schools throughout Québec. The *Youth Town Hall Series* introduced Y4Y to the issues of language preservation amongst Cree youth in Chibougamau. The support Y4Y has received in the past year through its relationships with ROCAJQ and Coalition Interjeunes has opened new doors for the organisation and enabled us to work with the French-speaking youth community to achieve common goals. Y4Y also participated in the provincial pre-budget consultation process and presented to M. Eric Girard, Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers. We are looking forward to growing these partnerships to empower youth in the coming year, and continuing to engage productively with government officials on the issues we identify through our consultations with young people across the province.

Y4Y’s strength as an independent organisation resides in our commitment to our grassroots origins. Within the span of a few short years, Y4Y has grown into a respected and recognized partner in the community. I am looking forward to the important impact Y4Y will continue to have within the community over the next year. It is truly an honour to sit on the Board of such an incredible organisation.



Madeleine Lawler

Madeleine Lawler
President

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It would be impossible to evaluate the 2022–23 year without emphasising the impact that the re-opening of our society, post-pandemic, had on all of us. As wonderful as it was to remove our masks, gather, share and celebrate again, the effects of the previous years of isolation will be felt by young people for years to come. Y4Y kept this understanding, which it gained through ongoing consultations with our English-speaking youth community, close to heart in 2022–23. Everything we did to support youth in finding their voices was anchored by the understanding that healing is a process. It’s a road that no one should have to travel alone; the peer-to-peer approach has proven to be an invaluable piece of the puzzle for youth, and Y4Y is proud to have upheld its mission by creating opportunities for youth to reach out in their own communities this past year.

Y4Y was fortunate to have received funding that allowed us to expand our outreach, to include youth in more remote parts of the province, as well as youth of a younger age bracket than ever before. We also had the chance to create opportunities for youth to engage with older generations, as well as the French-speaking majority community. *Project Impact* involved youth from multiple high schools across the province in English community heritage and cultural research, broadening their understanding of our community’s roots here in Québec. *Meet Your Neighbour / Salut les Voisins* allowed storytellers from an immeasurably diverse set of backgrounds to share their life experiences in three different regions of the province. In its second year of operation, Y4Y’s youth mental health initiative, *With You In Mind*, created safe spaces for youth to engage in peer-support activities locally in various regions of the province, while also compiling a mental health resource list for English-speaking youth. *You Are Here: The Belonging Project*, in its third and final year, empowered Youth Cultural Ambassadors to create local events for their communities to enhance their sense of attachment to the province we all call home. The *Youth Town Hall*

Series succeeded in engaging youth in meaningful discussions about Law 96 in multiple regions, including the North of Québec. The *Community Liaisons* project asked youth in some of the most remote parts of the province to share insights from their personal journeys with mental health topics through blogging, and resulted in the installation of Community Exchange Boxes in five different locations to promote neighbourly give-and-take. None of these projects would have been possible without the guidance of Y4Y’s multiple Youth Advisory Committees, whose contributions to the projects were inextricably linked with their success.

From my perspective, there is no other way to think about 2022–23 than with total admiration for all those who made it possible to get the work done. Y4Y’s capacity to work across distance and with youth from a multiplicity of backgrounds is a direct result of its commitment to the youth-led approach. The staff – the Communications team, the Coordinators, the Interns, and the project-associated youth across the province – upheld the highest standards of excellence in every aspect of their work. They absorbed knowledge from community partners with more experience, they shared what knowledge they had without reservation, and they taught me a great deal about the essence of teamwork. The same can be said of Y4Y’s Board of Directors, who are highly skilled at supporting the mission, while also trusting the staff to carry out activities in the spirit of the organisation’s values. We acknowledge the ongoing support of our funders, whose guidance and belief in Y4Y’s steady growth has been a source of strength, and we thank them. The foundations on which Y4Y will continue to build in the coming years are solid, and I look forward to everything the future has in store.



Adrienne Winrow

Adrienne Winrow
Executive Director

Y4Y Facts

What

a provincial non-profit organisation

When

established in 2018

Who

English-speaking youths
(ages 16-30)

Mission

To address the issues facing English-speaking youths
(ages 16-30) in Québec

Québec's English-Speaking Youth*



* While Y4Y defines youth as between the ages of 16-30, the available Census data breaks youth down into two groups: 15-24 and 25-34.

Sources

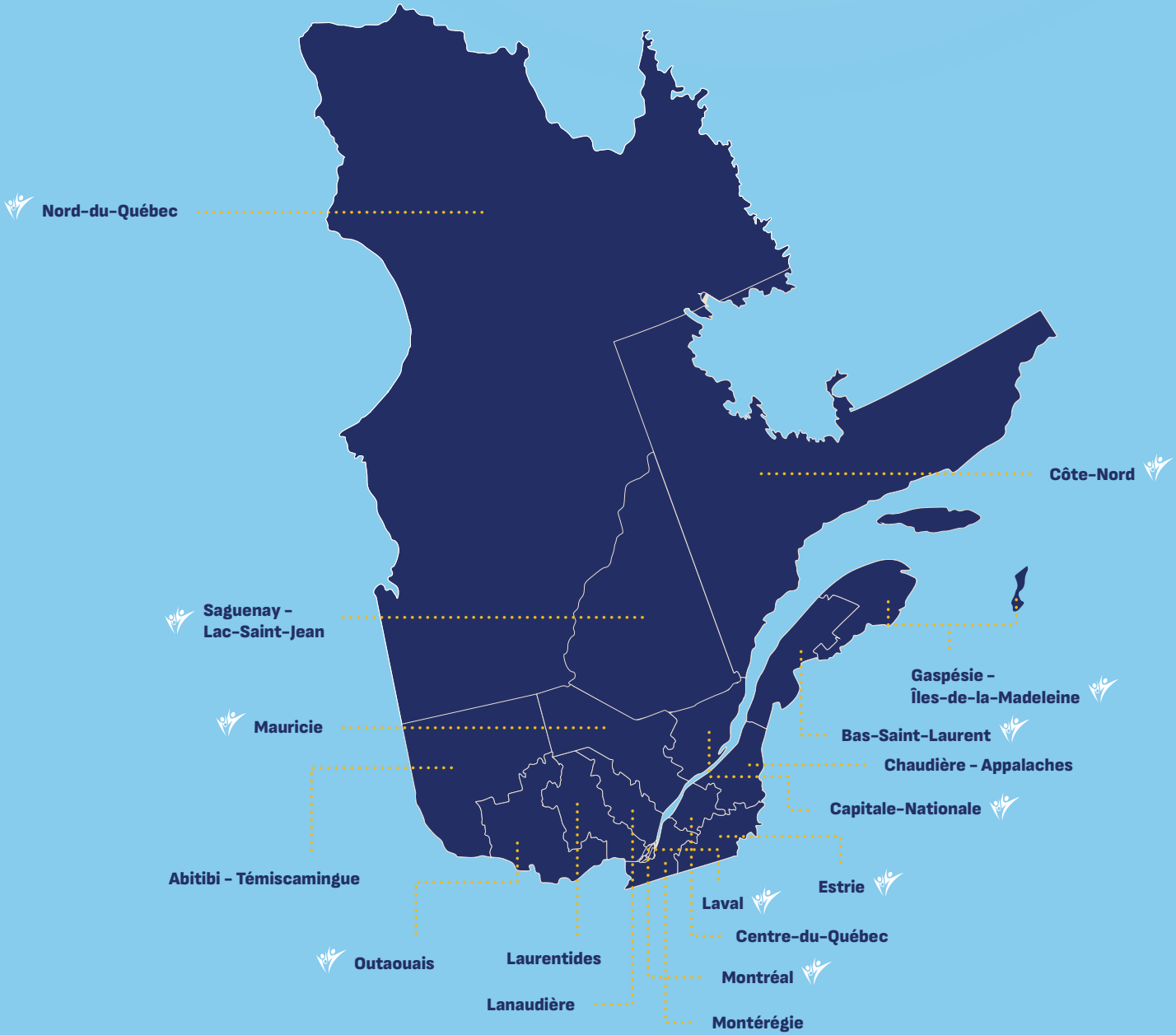
- 1) Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0170-01 Mother tongue by first official language spoken and knowledge of official languages: Canada, provinces and territories, census divisions and census subdivisions
- 2) Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released March 29, 2023. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> [accessed June 1, 2023].

Y4Y's Outreach

Collaborating with Y4Y was the key ingredient needed for Phelps to launch its first ever youth committee. Thanks to the guidance and thoughtful advice from the Y4Y team, the Phelps Youth Committee has benefited from well planned leadership events and mental health workshops. We look forward to many future initiatives with this innovative partner.



Katie Lowry
Programs Director
Phelps Helps



Board of Directors 2022-2023



Madeleine Lawler
President



Jonathan Patton
Vice President



Hayley Campbell
Secretary



Wadii Karfali
Treasurer



Caleb Owusu-Acheaw



Joanna Kanga



Corey Hoare



Chelsey Thomas



Jamie Fabian



Michael Lecchino

Celebrating Our Communities And What Makes Us Unique

In 2022, the team at Y4Y Québec worked to establish new relationships with high schools and as a result, we were able to reach more youth at the younger part of our mandated age-range. While working with these youth, it was important to align our activities with our vision of creating a strong sense of belonging to our community and to Québec society. Many of the high school-aged youth that Y4Y connected with will leave their region to pursue post-secondary education and the hope is that they return with their knowledge to help their communities prosper. By offering access to activities that spark interest and conversations around community, culture, etc. we hope youth will develop a deeper appreciation and connection with their roots and envision their futures here in Québec.

Project Impact, introduced in 2022, involved six high schools in various parts of the province. Youth from these regions had the chance to engage in visits to local cultural attractions, presentations, and participate in community events in their respective communities - most importantly

they had fun! They worked together to create travel posters to help promote local tourism.

Y4Y hosted another successful *Youth Forum*, which took place in February at the historic **Morrin Centre** in the heart of Québec City. High school students from five area schools participated, along with youth from other regions. One major highlight of the *Youth Forum* was the introduction to the *Meet Your Neighbour* project, an adaptation of the **Human Library** project founded in Denmark. Forum participants spent time listening to the personal stories of the "human books" and engaged in thoughtful conversations with their peers. With the help of community partners, youth coordinators, human books, and a tour of the facility, the programming truly offered something for everyone. Youth participants had the opportunity to rotate through various activities throughout the day, connect, and share.

Through discovery and conversations about our communities and what makes them unique, youth will be empowered to find ways to make a mark on their communities.

Hayley Campbell
Secretary

Activity Report

Projects & Programming



I think that the workshop was fantastic, the facilitators from Y4Y and Educaloi were clear, concise, and very informative. I'm happy that we got the chance to create a mock city council. This experience not only gave us the opportunity to understand how municipal government works, but also provided our club's youth council with a framework to operate and bring change within their own community.

Emmet
Staff Member
BGC Dawson



By the Numbers: Adventures & Achievements

YOUTH REACHED

8,000+

ACTIVITIES

111

PARTNERSHIPS

58

OFF-ISLAND STAFF VISITS TO REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

40

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MEDIA

18

PUBLICATIONS

7

WEBSITE CLICKS

11,000+

CLICKS ON "RESOURCES" WEBPAGES

1,175

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

3,000



J'ai adoré cette expérience de Livre humain !

Je ne savais pas vraiment à quoi m'attendre, mais c'est un concept qui rapproche les gens et qui mérite d'être connu.

Participer à ce projet m'a démontré que la diversité que l'on met habituellement de l'avant à Sherbrooke est plus large que ce que je croyais.

J'ai rencontré des personnes de diverses ethnies, mais aussi une personne queer non-binaire transgenre, ce qui a été une excellente surprise. J'ai rencontré des personnes qui aiment Sherbrooke comme je l'aime.

La ville devient plus moderne, tout en restant à échelle humaine. Il y a une belle vie de quartier, beaucoup de bienveillance et d'ouverture au dialogue et à la nouveauté.

Très belle expérience.

Je veux continuer à raconter des histoires dans d'autres endroits de la ville.



Mariam "Nakato" Tounkara
Human Book in Sherbrooke
Meet Your Neighbour / Salut les voisins

Meet Your Neighbour / Salut les voisins

Empathy through Storytelling



Funded by Canadian Heritage, *Meet your Neighbour / Salut les voisins* was an adaptation of the Human Library Organisation's living libraries, based in Denmark. The project involved a series of storytelling events where participants, called 'readers', borrowed 'human books,' who were members of the community that volunteered to share their unique life experiences in an intimate setting.

Meet Your Neighbour hosted three living library events in Sherbrooke, Québec City, and Montréal. Readers across the province engaged with the life stories of 29 human books, which touched on a wide range of experiences (An Artist Living with an Invisible Disability, Taking up Space as a Woman and Newcomer in Montréal, The Richness of Bilingualism, etc.). The purpose of these events was to use storytelling as a means of fostering empathy and strengthening readers' comprehension of diversity, bilingualism, and social cohesion. This project forged new partner-

ships with both French and English-speaking communities in celebration of diversity—both culturally and linguistically.

Meet Your Neighbour was discussed on-air with Julia Caron on CBC Quebec AM, and was featured in articles by *The Sherbrooke Record* and the *Quebec Chronicle Telegraph*. Our living library event in Québec City was also the focus of a podcast episode by the *Voice of English-Speaking Quebecers*. We thank everyone who participated in crafting empathy through storytelling!



Working as a Youth Advisor for the Meet Your Neighbour / Salut les voisins project has been an incredibly enriching experience for me.

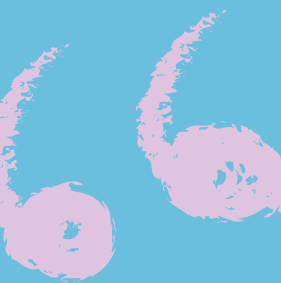
The project's focus on creating a safe space for dialogue and exchange through personal conversations that challenge stigma and stereotypes is an admirable goal that I felt passionate about being a part of.

The opportunity to collaborate with partners from both linguistic communities to celebrate the diversity of people through storytelling of individual lived experiences was a highlight of my experience. The focus on prioritising equity-seeking groups for inclusion in the project was particularly important to me, as I believe in creating space for those who may feel marginalised or unheard in our society.

As a Youth Advisor, I was able to engage with different lived experiences and perspectives in a meaningful way, which helped foster a safe environment that promoted belonging, inclusivity, and social cohesion amongst youth. Being a part of a project that actively works towards breaking down barriers and challenging stereotypes was an empowering experience that I will carry with me in my future endeavours.



Elizabeth Davies
Youth Advisory Committee Member
Meet Your Neighbour / Salut les voisins



Nisha Coleman
Quebec Writers' Federation

Y4Y was a joy to work with. Their devotion to the success of the project was heartening. They were very attuned to the needs of their project participants, making sure everyone felt safe and supported, and accommodating any requests quickly and efficiently.

Gabe and Adela were always quick to answer questions and maintained regular communication about the workshops with the participants so they knew what to expect. They even took notes during the workshop to send to them after! I think the participants felt as taken care of as I did throughout this process. It was a big job to coordinate so many events across three unique cities.

Their dedication to the project was remarkable and contributed to its obvious and overwhelming success. I sincerely hope to have the privilege to work with this organisation again.

You are Here

A Next-Generation Approach to Promoting English-Speaking Québec's Heritage



The Belonging Project allowed me to get a glimpse at what it takes to prepare and host events for teenagers and young adults. I've done event planning with another job position, but the events were almost always geared toward the English-speaking senior population, so it felt exciting to get out of my comfort zone! And attracting youth to an event versus seniors is a different game entirely. I was asking myself questions like, "How can I make this cool enough to make people come?" It's interesting to see how the planning for an event differs for varying demographics.



Abbigail Whitcher
Youth Cultural Ambassador in Eastern Townships
You are Here



Funded by the Secretariat for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, *You Are Here: The Belonging Project* was an initiative focused on creating sites of belonging and regional pride for English-speaking youth (ESY) (ages 16-30) situated throughout the province of Québec.

Back for a third consecutive year, the *You Are Here* project was developed to address the sense of isolation experienced by ESY who identify with linguistic minority communities in Québec. Over seven months, a team of four Youth Cultural Ambassadors (YCA) representing different regions of Québec built relationships with community members and organisations, created events that showcased local heritage, culture, history, and inhabitants.

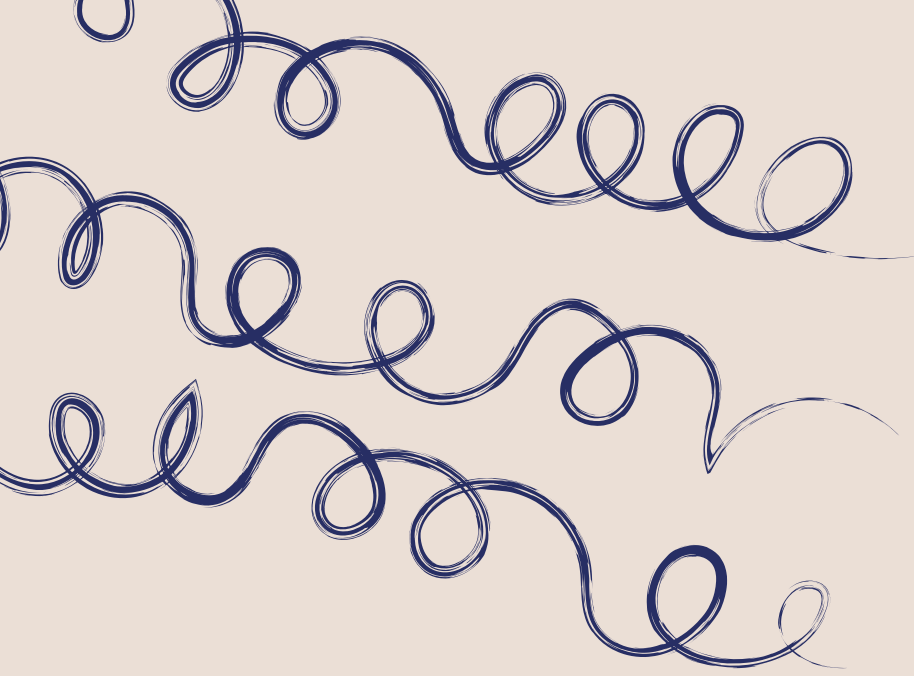
Our YCA also engaged with local media to promote their events and the project. With two fea-

tures for CBC Quebec, a radio spot on CIDI 99.1 FM Community Radio, and an article in the *Aylmer Bulletin*, our YCA spread their news far and wide.

Through regional activities and intergenerational conversations, *You are Here* fostered a sense of mutual recognition and enabled youth to become stewards of their communities. The project provided participants with an opportunity to discover the richness of the province, promoting a stronger sense of attachment among English-speaking youth.







My experience with Project Impact was even greater than expected, all of the people were very welcoming and kind. I learnt so much about what it takes to be a leader and that different people experience different things. Each different aspect of the project was very enjoyable.

I loved all of my time.


Sydney Roberts
 Youth Committee Chair
 St. Paul's School, the Lower North Shore
Project Impact



Project Impact

A Travel Poster Passion Project!



 **Funded by Canadian Heritage and in partnership with LEARN, Project Impact** was the first of its kind at Y4Y. It was carried out entirely through high school **Community Learning Centres** across Québec. Six participating high school students from across the province lead the exploration and documentation of cultural and historic sites of significance for Québec's English-speaking communities.

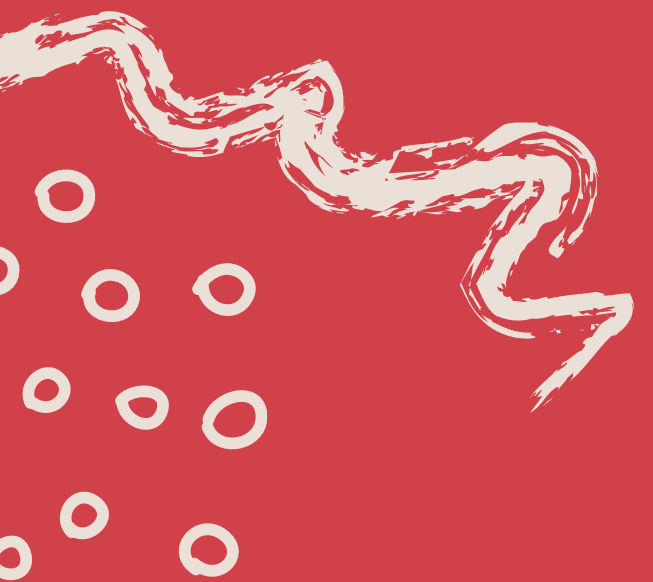
In an effort to promote Québec tourism, this project involved historical field trips and heritage activities led by local English-speaking community organisations, including a presentation by historian, Rick Henderson, and an inter-generational storytelling event.

Through the course of the academic year, Secondary IV and V students were invited to create a Heritage Passport and a Travel Poster that promoted local historic sites and cultural attractions in their regions. From photographing to de-

signing and producing these passports and posters, these young creatives had all hands on deck. From creation to action, they also visited these sites with the purpose of exploring their regions. With the intention of connecting the six participating high schools from the different regions, Y4Y organised the Travel Poster Launch event, where students shared their work with guests, who also had the opportunity to walk into a gallery of Travel Posters. Moreover, Tourism centres across Québec displayed the students' work to support this youth-led heritage initiative.



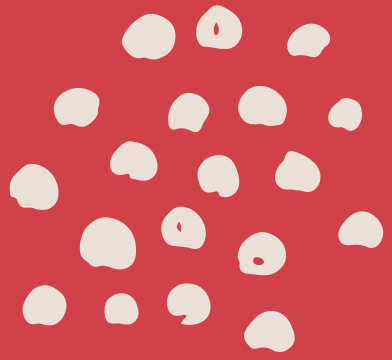




My experience at Y4Y was exceptional. From the great team to the connections that I've made in the community, everyone was really warm and kind. Y4Y provides a welcoming environment that helps you develop your personal goals and support you with your projects. I will miss working there!




Jiestine Horlador
Project Coordinator
Growing Up in Verdun



Growing Up in Verdun

An Art Project by Verdun Youth about Growing Up in Their Neighbourhood



 **Funded by Canada Summer Jobs, *Growing Up in Verdun* was a six-week project culminating in an outdoor art exhibit held in July 2020. Its aim was to host a series of multimedia pieces created by young English-speaking artists about their experiences growing up in the Montréal borough of Verdun.**

Growing Up in Verdun provided a creative outlet for youth to express themselves and empowered them to voice their concerns through art. Moreover, it fostered an opportunity for the public to contemplate and appreciate the diverse cultures and backgrounds flourishing within their community.

resulting in their first-ever experience of generating sales, and expanding their networks.

Our exhibit drew a diverse audience, including youth, community leaders, and elected officials, who joined us on a sunny summer day.

This project offered young artists a remarkable opportunity to showcase their artwork among new audiences in a curated exhibition format,

Y4Y expresses its gratitude to **CCS Montreal, BGC Dawson, and Quai 5160 - Maison de la culture Verdun** for their invaluable assistance in curating this exhibit.





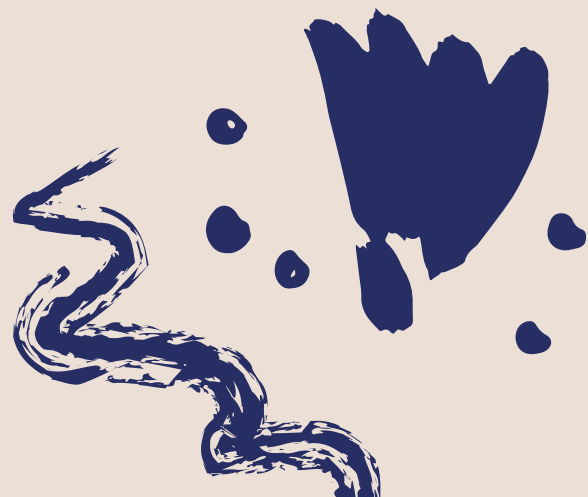
Working with Y4Y Québec as a Community Liaison helped me find community when I was just beginning to build a new life in Québec City.

I had the opportunity to organise and host community events for youth, build a community exchange box, and share my voice through blog posts. I got to know so many wonderful people and organisations in my city because of the projects I worked on. I gained skills that could open up many future employment opportunities such as project management, and event planning skills. I got to see my articles about mental health published which has been an incredible experience.

I am very grateful to have worked with so many passionate, supportive, and innovative individuals. I am inspired to continue working with non-profit organisations in the future thanks to my experience with Y4Y.




Flora Janos
Community Liaison in Québec City
Community Liaisons Program



Community Liaisons

An Ear to the Ground for Y4Y Québec



 **Funded by the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), over the course of eight months, Y4Y's *Community Liaisons* project uniquely catered to youth in different parts of the province by creating flexible, part-time opportunities for four young Community Liaisons (CLs) to engage with their communities and raise awareness of Y4Y's mission among fellow youth.**

The CLs from the Montréal, Mauricie, Capitale-Nationale, and Bas-Saint-Laurent regions strengthened Y4Y's connection to the regions and promoted community engagement as an integral part of mental well-being. Throughout the project, they promoted mental health by hosting one active and one artistic community event to connect English-speaking youth in their regions. They represented Y4Y at local French-speaking community events, and advocated for their respective regions in Y4Y's Regional Outreach Committee.

The Community Liaisons also relayed these expe-

riences via blog posts on topics pertaining to mental health, their communities, and their experiences as English-speaking youth. Y4Y then gathered these blog posts in periodical form, culminating in four zines that celebrate the work of our CLs.

Y4Y's Community Liaisons project is leaving behind a lasting impression through the community exchange boxes—designed and built by our CLs—such as our little free library in Amqui, and our Games and Puzzles Exchange Box located in McGill University's Gerts Café.





Working with Y4Y was such a pleasure!

As a Youth Advisor for the With You in Mind project, I always felt like I was making a real impact in our community.

It was so nice to be a part of an organisation that takes actionable steps towards making people feel supported and included. Also, the staff at Y4Y is so welcoming and considerate, which made me feel comfortable to ask questions or bring up any concerns I had.

I got excited about the meetings, training, and projects, which made the work not even feel like work. Most importantly, I could tell that a lot of thought was put into the application of values that Y4Y upholds. This made my experience working with them such an incredible one.




Keisha Ferdinand
Youth Advisor in Montréal
With You in Mind



With You in Mind

An Initiative Aimed to Develop Youth's Skills in Navigating Mental Health



 **Funded by the Secrétariat à la jeunesse and Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon through the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), year 2 of *With You in Mind* (WYIM) placed peer-to-peer support at its centre. This refers to the emotional and practical support between two or more people who share a common experience, such as a mental health challenge or illness.**

According to a 2021 CHSSN survey, 90% of the sampled Québec English-speaking community members reported frequent struggles with their mental health (CHSSN, 2021). Recognising the growing need for well-being and connection during the pandemic, Y4Y's WYIM project dedicated spaces for community members across the province to share their experiences with mental health, both virtually and in-person. To facilitate these connections, coffee chats were organised by the project's four Youth Advisors, bringing together youth from Montréal, Gatineau, and the Magdalen Islands. These discussions focused on the topics of safe spaces, access to services, and coping mechanisms.

Additionally, the Youth Advisors compiled a comprehensive list of mental health resources available in English throughout the province. Furthermore, *With You in Mind* organised a peer support simulation, which engaged over 40 participants. This simulation provided a confidential and secure environment for young individuals to openly discuss their mental health struggles and aspirations with like-minded peers.

Through this project, Y4Y aimed to address the urgent need for mental health support and foster a sense of community among Québec's English-speaking youth population, particularly during the challenging circumstances of the pandemic. **43**

Finishing undergrad during a pandemic!



I am proud of maintaining a steady job.

I'm proud of myself for trusting the people in my life who want to support me!

Didn't move - !!! sometimes changing your environment doesn't solve your issues lol

Go ahead! Get involved in the Community! Don't forget to follow your hobbies and have fun. It is important for your mental health! Good Luck ♡

Perfection is not being asked of you, just do your best and the rest will naturally come ♡

I'm proud of myself for putting myself out there ♡

Take it one day at a time ♡ You are worth it I love you ♡

It is worth it to say NO sometimes.



You're worthy of love

Take it Easy

It's okay to be yourself. You're an amazing person and your true self doesn't deserve to be hidden ♡

You are stellar and beautiful in your own way. Never compare yourself to others. You are loved ♡

80% of life is just showing up.

LEARN TO BE OPEN MINDED



Today's hardships will come to pass - Take it day by day

Take part in more extra-curricular activities in school



To respect participant privacy, no photos were taken during WYIM activities and events. In lieu, we share with you some words of wisdom and positive thinking related to us by peer participants, in their own words.





ECO-02 has been fortunate to work with Y4Y on a few projects. We are always impressed with, but never surprised by, the level of professionalism of staff like Alex Pettem and Lexia Piccolo nor the pride in their projects.

When ECO-02 was approached by Y4Y to work on the Town Hall project we thought it was an excellent opportunity to collaborate and present the Anglophone perspective to a primarily French region. Coordinating the project with Alex was smooth and communication was excellent when trying to secure dates and locations for the Town Hall. Working together was easy and our shared standard of expectation and quality ensured the event went off without a hitch.

When it comes to work in tandem and partnership, Adrienne and Alex and the rest of Y4Y staff really understand what partnership means. We can't wait to work with them again in the future.



Brittney Chabot
ECO-02



Youth Town Hall Series

Coming Together Beyond the Headlines on Law 96



Funded by Canadian Heritage, the *Youth Town Hall Series* enabled Y4Y to hold nonpartisan conversations on the importance of language & connection in Québec in the context of Law 96 ("An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec").

Y4Y's *Youth Town Hall Series* delved deeper into current issues that are of significant importance to individuals, by going beyond the surface-level headlines and seeking out first-hand perspectives. Representatives of Québec's English-language CEGEPs were indispensable in helping to frame these conversations.

In collaboration with ECO-02, a bilingual panel was organised in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean to explore the implications of Law 96 on Chicoutimi and its residents. The event welcomed the participation of youth from Katimavik, enriching the discussion with diverse perspectives. In Chibougamau, situated in the Nord-du-Québec region, a classroom of Cree and non-Cree students alike discussed the impor-

tance of Indigenous language preservation. Conversations were also held across the Lower North Shore, linking high school students into collective reflections on the pros and cons of the high speed internet recently introduced to the region.

Our Executive Assistant, Alex Pettem, had an opportunity to conduct an interview with CBC Montreal's Debra Arbec, shedding light on the project's different activities, including the visit to MacLean Memorial School in Chibougamau.


We concluded the project with an online event featuring *Éducaloi* and *Apathy is Boring*, addressing questions on Law 96, and discussing youth civic engagement.



6th Annual Youth Forum

Leading through Compassion



 On February 16th, Y4Y hosted its 6th annual *Youth Forum* at the Morrin Centre in Québec City, bringing together more than 100 students from five high schools across the province.

The event was packed with engaging activities, including an English-speaking heritage trivia game, a paint-by-the-numbers art activity, three leadership games, a living library, and an active listening exercise facilitated by Vent Over Tea.

The Voice of English-Speaking Québec also captured the unique experiences of youth who partook in the living library activity by interviewing them in a live podcast episode. The interviews provided a platform for youth to express any insights gained from the living library's inclusive and safe space; one open to dialogue and exchanges. In challenging the stigma and stereotypes associated with certain unconventional life experiences, storytelling provided all of us

with a renewed perspective on empathy.

The positive feedback received from the youth and their chaperones was truly heartwarming and reinforced our dedication to the work we do. Y4Y staff, board members, Community Liaisons, and Youth Advisors were excited to connect with this stellar group of English-speaking students and their chaperones.

It was an enriching experience, allowing us to delve into topics that matter to young English-speaking Québecers, forge new connections, and broaden our perspectives. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to host another remarkable *Youth Forum* next year!

An issue I think should be given more importance is making LGBTQ+ kids especially non-binary kids feel more welcome and included in schools.

the environment.

Mental health and how teenagers feel is a subject I'm very passionate about

I care about climate change!

I care about mental health

How english is going to look like in the future

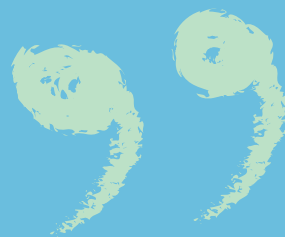
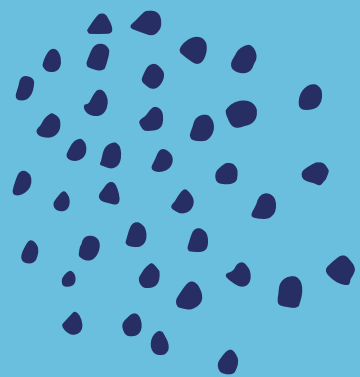
An issue I care about:
- abortion
- Mental Health
- Equality

Justice!

We asked our Youth Forum participants to note the issues that most matter to them. This is what they had to say

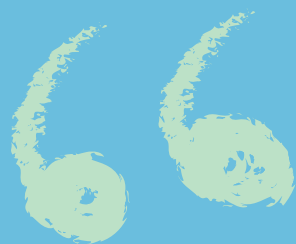






Volunteering for Youth 4 Youth has been a great opportunity to build connections in Québec's English-speaking community. It has afforded me the possibility to practise my writing skills, while enhancing my advocacy and leadership skills. Y4Y Québec has helped me find a community where I can discuss subjects I am passionate about with other engaged and passionate youth allowing us to learn and grow from each other.

By putting youth voices front and centre, it allows many of us to be able to take a stand in what we believe in and make a collective difference. I look forward to continuing to use my voice in this organisation and to continue contributing to initiatives, such as by writing policy briefs.



Helen Alder
Volunteer
Y4Y's Policy Committee

Y4Y Committees & Volunteering



Y4Y's Volunteer Committees were actively engaged throughout the year. They supported the staff and Board with tasks ranging from connecting Y4Y with regional organisations & service providers, developing internal policies & governance practices, and ensuring English-speaking youth representation at events across the province in English and in French. We are grateful for the Committee Chairpersons - Michael Lecchino, Joanna Kanga, Jonathan Patton, Caleb Owusu-Acheaw and Corey Hoare - whose work represented a great contribution to the year's achievements.

In the past year, Y4Y's Policy Committee not only grew in its membership, but in mandate responsibilities. By welcoming three new members to the committee, discussions became more animated in thought and active in participation. Under the leadership of its Chair, meetings have gradually returned to their scheduled monthly status with increasing involvement. Current members and interested outsiders are asked to seek consensus on preferred meeting times to encourage maximum participation.

Throughout the year, the Policy Committee closed out and finalised the organisation's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy. Looking forward, the Committee seeks to develop institutional mechanisms, with the help of the Governance Committee, to apply the policy to staff and volunteers of Youth4Youth Québec.

Recently, the development of a Policy Brief Writing Guide has helped to position and standardise the Policy Committee return to its original roots of reviewing prospective policy publications. With the Guide, committee membership will be better empowered and informed in providing feedback on proposed briefs while emphasising the importance of the organisation's mandate and interests.

Currently, the Committee is exploring opinions at how the organisation can institutionalise its well-known and previously-explained policy stances on issues impacting English-speaking youth as means at improving media outreach and communications strategy. Ideally, these are discussions we would like to seek as much input and collaboration as possible from non-members of the Committee as well as staff and volunteers.



Caleb Owusu-Acheaw
Board Member
& Committee Chairperson

Y4Y Research

Y4Y is grateful for those youth who participate in our consultations and share with us the issues on their minds. This then guides much of our research, allowing for relevant policy briefs that give a voice to our audience.

In 2022-23, Y4Y published two research reports; one concerning Law 96 and its provisions on college instruction in the minority language, another on the motivations and barriers to civic engagement among English-speaking youth. These reports shed light on the strengths of English-speaking youth communities, and the supports that might benefit them.

Y4Y also published five policy briefs on some of the most pressing issues facing the present and future of Québec's English-speaking youth: Residential precarity. Public transportation. Climate anxiety. LGBTQIA2S+ issues, and learning disabilities.

Y4Y Québec urges the provincial government to raise awareness on the existence and urgency of climate anxiety. We believe in making public transportation more affordable and efficient in order to increase its popularity. We lend our voice to those of various tenant advocacy groups who call for policy changes, such as creating rent registries, and requesting the government roll out information campaigns aimed at educating young renters about their rights.

Y4Y calls on the provincial government to redouble its efforts in enforcing existing supportive measures for the LGBTQIA2S+ community, and to go further. Finally, CEGEPs and universities ought to bring more attention to their offices for mental health and disabilities, as well as investing in more information and communications technologies (ICTs) for students with learning disabilities.

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





Thank You!



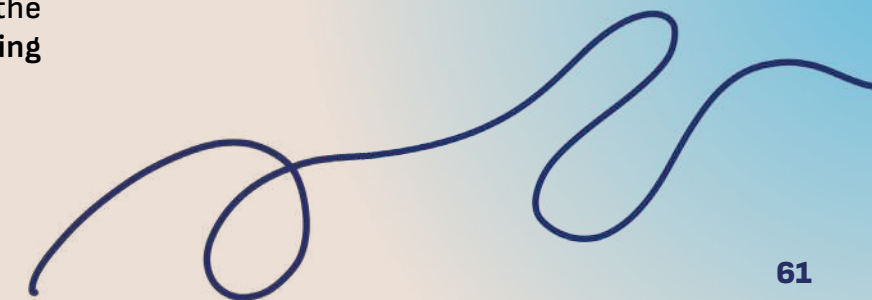
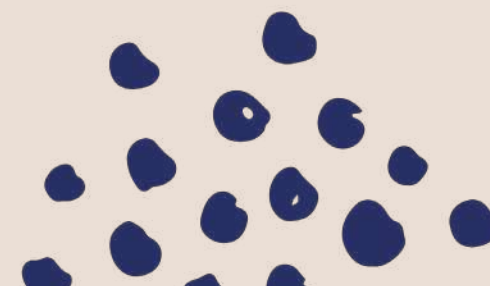
You have all been instrumental to our growth and success!

The community partnerships forged by Y4Y this year had an enormous and profound impact on our ability to bring projects to life. They played a pivotal role in our ability to thrive and maintain our stability. Our community partners have also been an endless source of inspiration and support. We are deeply grateful to the organisations, the members of staff teams, the youth coordinators, the CDAs, and the Executive Directors from whom we have learned so much over the years.

A special thank you goes out to our funders, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Secretariat for Relations with English-Speaking

Quebecers, and the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), upon whose honesty, support, guidance, and encouragement we rely.

Lastly, we cannot express enough gratitude to the English-speaking youth communities of Québec. Your trust in Y4Y is a tremendous honour, and we are proud to support and empower the next generation of leaders. Your belief in our organisation fuels our passion to continue making a positive impact.





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