

Youth Engagement Toolkit Orientation



First things first...

- Take your right hand
- Place it over your left shoulder
- Raise it up and down on your back

Next...

- Bring the palms of your hands together
- Now apart
- And back together
- Do this action repeatedly for ten seconds

You all deserve
a round of
applause for
deciding to
focus on Youth
Engagement
within your
team!



Now, let's get started!

What is Youth Engagement?

“The meaningful participation and sustainable involvement of young people in shared decisions in matters, which affect their lives and those of their community, including planning, decision making and program delivery.”

(Smith, Peled, Hoogeveen, & Cotman, 2009, p.8)



This means...

- We look for opportunities to bring youth into decision making processes.
- Those who participate are willing to work together towards a common goal.
- Adults advocate for youth involvement at an organizational level.
- Youth feel empowered to use their voice.



Who Wins in Youth Engagement?

Youth



Youth



Practitioners



Practitioners



Organization



Organization



Everyone Wins!

Benefits



- RESILIENCY!
- Healthy Relationships
- Belonging
- Positive relationships with staff
- Interdependence
- Initiative
- Purpose
- Skills & Knowledge
- Life Long Engagement
- Reconciliation with the system

- Shifted Mindsets
- Meaningful Programming - Youth are invested.
- Adds purpose to the work.
- New Ideas, Energy, Values, Knowledge
- Tapping into new resources!
- Enhanced relationships with youth. Practitioners often report feeling more effective and that they are making a positive impact.
- Opportunity to develop new skills.

- Meaningful Programs
- Informs:
 - Legislation
 - Policy
 - Programs
 - Practice
- Improves service delivery
- Reflects an organization that promotes and upholds Child & Youth Rights!

Youth

Practitioners

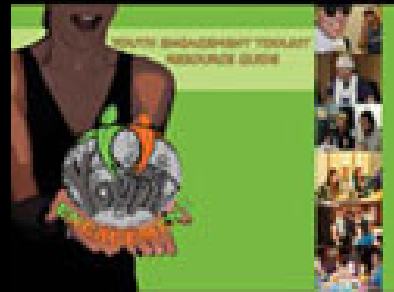
Organization

How Do We Know We Are Practicing Meaningful Youth Engagement?

We know the practice of youth engagement is often easier said than done - this is why we've created the Youth Engagement Toolkit!



YOUR TOOLKIT



Meeting 1 - Orientation and Values Assessment (2-3 hours)

- Champion gives an overview of toolkit process and how it works
- Youth and adults build a common understanding of terms and concept related to youth engagement through small group exercises (Values Assessment)
- View the PowerPoint and watch the video
- Explore the benefits to Youth Engagement

You are
Here



1
week

Meeting 2 - Going through the Tool – (3 hours)

- Youth and adults use the evaluation tool to assess youth engagement practice in their organization/work setting
- They discuss current youth engagement practice
- They identify areas where they can begin to strengthen youth engagement practice in their work setting

1
week

Youth Engagement Development Plan – (2-3 hours)

- Using the template provided, youth and adult team members will create a Youth Engagement Development Plan in response to identified areas of interest from the Evaluation Tool.
- Steps identified in the Youth Engagement Development Plan will be implemented over the next two to three months.

2 – 3
months

Plan Review (2 hours)

- Youth and Adult team members will meet to review the status of the goals in their YEDP and form new goals

YET Promo Video



2

youth-adult partnerships

Indicators	Ranking	Comments
17. Youth and adults work together to establish roles and responsibilities.	1 2 3 4 5 N/A	
18. Youth have access to decision makers who can address their concerns.	1 2 3 4 5 N/A	
19. Youth and adults make decisions collaboratively.	1 2 3 4 5 N/A	
20. Through working with adults, youth gain skills for their own personal and professional growth.	1 2 3 4 5 N/A	

What is the Youth Engagement Evaluation Tool?

- Supports organizations to enhance Youth Engagement practice.
- User friendly tool to help organizations complete a self-evaluation of Youth Engagement within their work environment.
- Engages youth in the evaluation process.



Sample Indicators

2

youth-adult partnerships

Indicators	Ranking	Comments
17. Youth and adults work together to establish roles and responsibilities.	1 2 3 4 5 N/A	
18. Youth have access to decision makers who can address their concerns.	1 2 3 4 5 N/A	
19. Youth and adults make decisions collaboratively.	1 2 3 4 5 N/A	
20. Through working with adults, youth gain skills for their own personal and professional growth.	1 2 3 4 5 N/A	

Refer to P.11 of your Evaluation Tool to see these indicators.

Sample YE Development Plan

EXAMPLE 1: Regular Practice				
Goal / Outcomes	Actions / Strategies	Due Date	Person(s) Responsible	Date Completed
For the Surrey office to develop a youth friendly presentation to explain Section 70 rights of children in care.	Workers and youth will meet to develop a slide show presentation about children's rights in care.			
	Youth and workers will co-facilitate a rights in care presentation in Surrey.			
EXAMPLE 2: Community Service				
Goal / Outcomes	Actions / Strategies	Due Date	Person(s) Responsible	Date Completed
Bring the "youth voice" into continuous planning of youth services in Fort St. John.	MCFD involved youth will be recruited to join the Youth Services Planning Table in Fort St. John.			
	Youth Services Planning Table and recruited youth will meet to develop a joint vision and structure for the committee's ongoing planning and evaluation work.			
EXAMPLE 3: Organizational or Systems Change				
To provide recommendations for the hours of work agreement for Youth Services Workers province-wide.	A subcommittee consisting of youth and adults will develop a draft plan for the revised hours of work agreement.			
	The subcommittee will consult with stakeholders including workers, Team Leaders, Community Services Managers, Shop Stewards, youth, and Human Resources to inform recommendations.			

This sample can be found on P.33 of the Champions Guide

Plan Review

- Approximately 2 - 3 months after completing your YEDP, gather your Youth Engagement Team and other stakeholders together again.
- Review your goals and the status of each.

Remember...

Youth Engagement is a process, NOT a project. You have begun to lay the foundation for meaningful Youth Engagement in your work environment. Keep it up, the rewards will be well worth the effort!