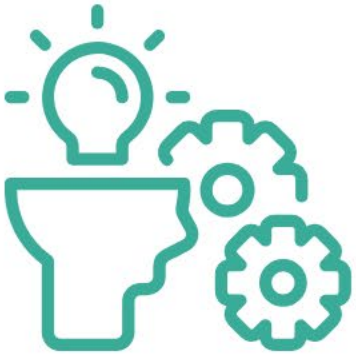


'Nothing About Us Without Us'

Young People and the Youth & Innovation Project

MARCH 7 12-1PM EASTERN TIME

Presented by Ilona Dougherty & the Youth Advisory Council



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**WINTER 2023 E-LEARNING SERIES:
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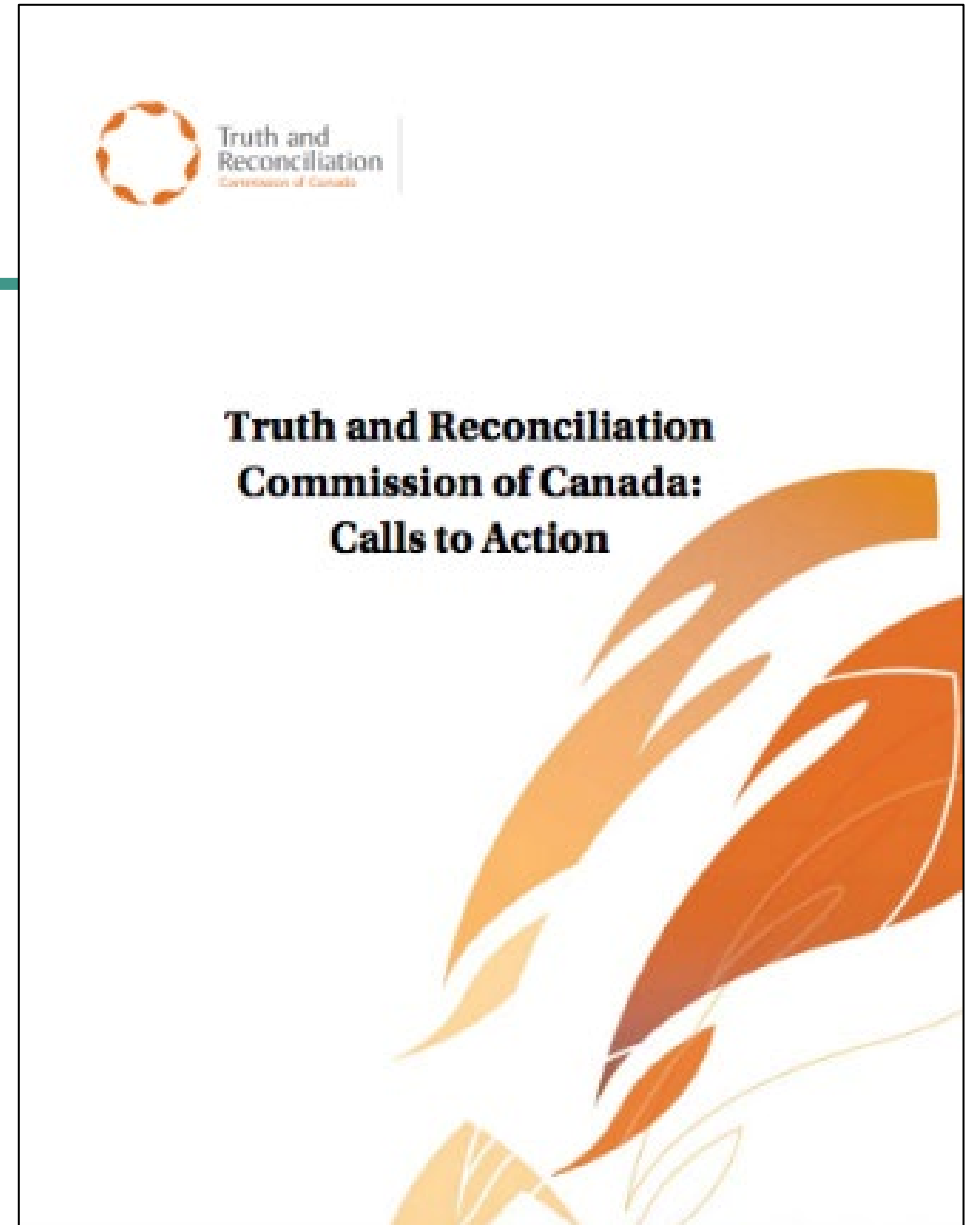
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Community Based Research Canada

Call to Action #7

“We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.”



Agenda



Opening



Presentation



Q&A



Closing

Presenters



Ilona Dougherty

Managing Director, Youth & Innovation
Project

School of Environment, Enterprise, and
Development (SEED)
University of Waterloo



Ellen Tam

Youth Advisory Council Member
Youth & Innovation Project



Ian Korovinsky

Youth Advisory Council Member
Youth & Innovation Project

'NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US'

YOUTH PEOPLE AND THE YOUTH & INNOVATION PROJECT



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YOUTH &
INNOVATION PROJE



Youth & Innovation Project - Goals

To conduct research on the positive social, environmental and economic impact young people, 15 to 25 years old, have on organizations, communities and systems.

To use these research findings to inform youth-focused public policy, funding, programs and practices, as well as intergenerational collaboration in business, civil society and government.

Youth & Innovation Project - Programs

Social and environmental impact research: This research measures the social and environmental impact young people have through youth service and volunteerism programs and aims to determine how best to amplify young people's impact.

Economic impact research: This research measures the economic, social and environmental impact of young perspective and current employees and aims to determine how best to amplify young people's impact.

Knowledge dissemination: Using our evidence-based insights we advise civil society, government and business on the design of policy, funding, programs and practices.

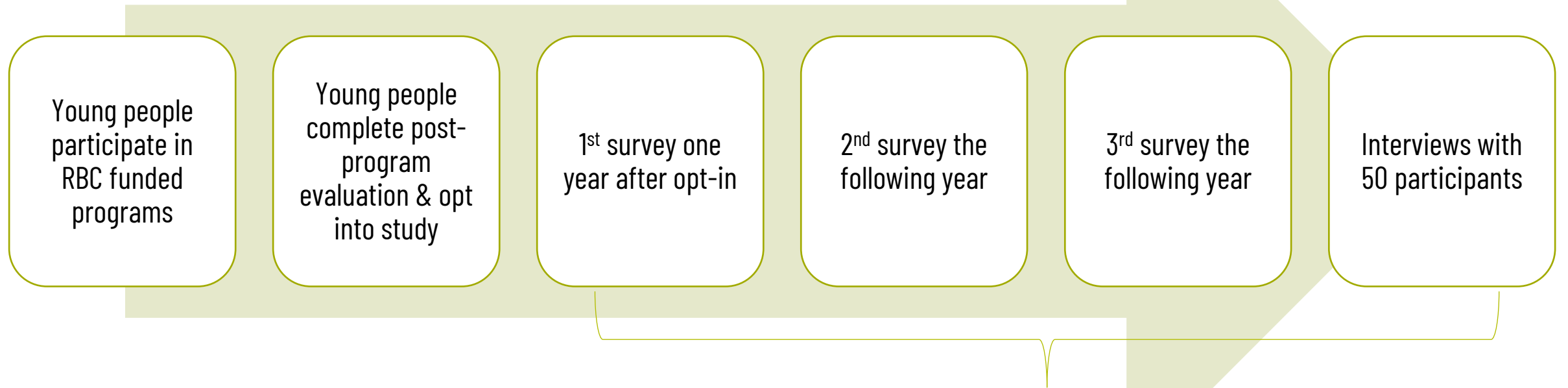
Example - RBC Future Launch Longitudinal Study

- What are the impacts of the RBC funded programs on young participants and the Canadian economy?

Sub-questions:

- How much more likely is it, in the years after a program, for young participants to be **employed** as compared to their peers?
- How much more likely is it, in the years after a program, for young participants to have **completed additional training** as compared to their peers?
- If they are employed, how much more likely are the young participants to be **thriving at work** in the years after a program as compared to their peers?
- Do all young participants have the same outcomes or are the outcomes different when **diversity characteristics** are accounted for?

Example - RBC Future Launch Longitudinal Study



Data collection started in May 2023 and will continue until 2028

A pilot study was implemented in July-September 2022 to test the survey and incentives.

Example - Ashoka Academy Collaborative for Youth Allyship

How can Canadian foundations best support youth-led civil society organizations and youth movements to have an impact on social and environmental issues?



Photo credit: Tracie Leost



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**YOUTH &
INNOVATION PROJECT**

Example - Ashoka Collaboration for Youth Allyship

- A systematic literature review was conducted. After a broad search, 41 documents, both grey and academic literature were selected to be read and then deductively and inductively coded.
- A media search identified, 177 Canadian young leaders. 16 accepted our invitation for an interview and were interviewed.

How we work is as important as what we do

- Engaging **young people** in this work as **equal and active contributors**. This means that young people **benefit from this work**, including being **financially compensated** for their work.
- Recognizing the importance of **lived experience**.
- **Providing support**, both **financial and process-based**, to enable full participation for those experiencing barriers.
- **Recognizing our own biases** and challenge them.
- Acknowledging the ways in which **power and privilege impact intergenerational work** and spaces this work takes place in. We actively **work to address power imbalances**.
- Ensuring our workplace prioritizes the health and well-being of our team.

How we work is as important as what we do

1. **'Nothing about us without us':** From the beginning of any project and throughout a project, we engage our Youth Advisory Council as well as other young stakeholders in designing and implementing our studies to ensure that a youth voice is at the center of our work.
2. **Gain a broad understanding:** We conduct literature reviews or other scans that look at an issue or topic from a broad interdisciplinary perspective.
3. **Conduct research:** We use a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods to gather data, analyse data and write academic manuscripts and research reports.
4. **Test our findings:** We test our findings again by conducting further research as well as pressure testing our findings by sharing them with those with lived experience, including our Youth Advisory Council.
5. **Share our findings broadly with decision-makers:** We aim to reach 16% of decision-makers in Canadian government, civil society and business in order to create a tipping point in the system.
6. **Changing policy and resource flows:** We work to institutionalize our findings by changing youth-focused public policy, funding, programs and practices.

Youth Advisory Council – How we engage members

- In-person retreat (in 2019)
- Monthly virtual meetings
 - Check in, Feedback & Training elements
- Welcome packages, holiday packages and thank you packages
- Honorariums (\$500), additional honorariums for individual work
- One on one check ins with each member once per year
- Providing individual support as needed (reference letters etc.)
- Regular feedback into how the Council is run

Youth Advisory Council – How we engage members

- Advising us on research design
- Advising us on questionnaires, surveys
- Advising us on how to reach study participants
- Advising us on messaging and branding
- And more....

What's next - Intergenerational Council

- Engaging young people as co-authors on academic publications
- Engaging current & former young leaders as well as decision-makers on the same council
- Young people will continue to meet monthly, everyone will meet 4 times per year
- Continue all other support of young people
- Launch Intergenerational Council with in-person retreat

Join us in making this bold intergenerational collaboration come to life.



Ian Korovinsky

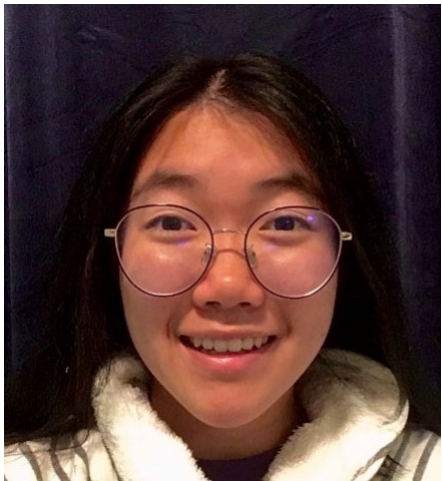
Youth Advisory Council member



Ilona Dougherty

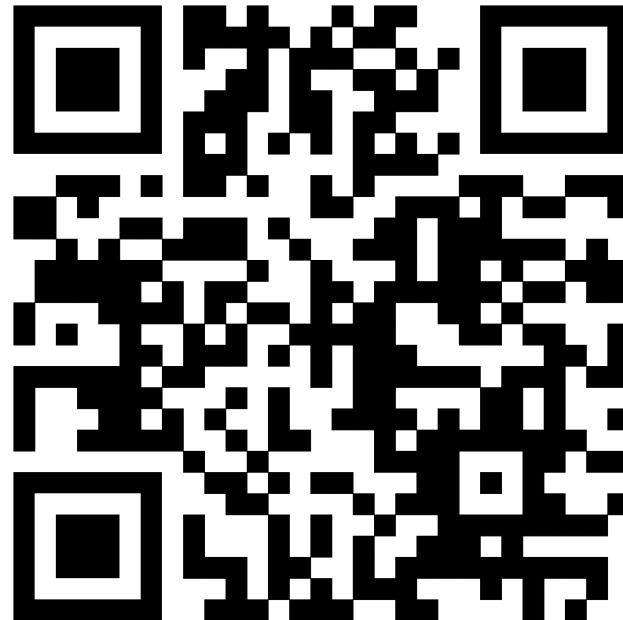
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Ellen Tam

Youth Advisory Council member



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Question and Answer



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Next E-Learning Event

Centering Youth Voice Through Arts-Based Evaluation of the WiseGuyz Program

APRIL 11 12-1PM EASTERN TIME

Dr. Deineria Exner-Cortens & the WiseGuyz team



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Feedback

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Thank You!

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