# **Engaging Youth in Applied Research:** Hope for the Future of Youth Housing



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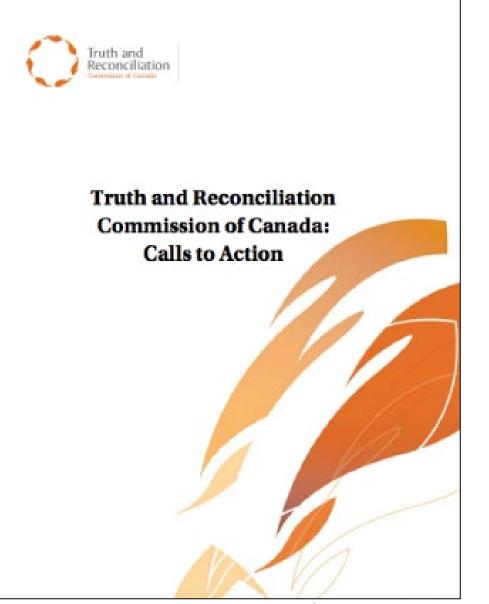
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# Call to Action #1ii

"We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care by:

ii. Providing adequate resources to enable Aboriginal communities and child-welfare organizations to keep Aboriginal families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside.











#### Presenters



#### Lorraine Closs, M.S.W

Professor, Faculty of Social and Community Services Durham College



#### Kendra Grant Guanti

Research Steering Committee Member





# TOGETHER, WE'RE LEADING THE WAY.

Engaging Youth in Applied Research: Hope for the Future







#### Land Acknowledgement

We are linked by our work supporting the Durham Region community on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among the Mississauga Peoples, and is the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, and territories covered under the Williams Treaties. I am very grateful for the opportunity to work and live on this land and I commit to embedding reconciliation in my words and actions. This includes learning about and understanding truths—truths about myself as someone with settler-colonial ancestry, truths about Canada's history, and truths about the land and people that I—like many other settler people have benefited from.





#### **Hope for the Future**

Co-design of a Youth-led Housing Hub: Developing a Unique and Scalable Housing Model for Youth Living on their Own





### Meaningful Engagement of Youth in Community Based Research

- Youth kept a journal of their experiences and reflections over a 2 year period
- They further shared their reflections during an interview led by a research assistant at the end of the project
- Themes about youth engagement emerged







#### Get the Right People at the Table

- Youth will benefit from a trusted/known adult who can "shepherd them" into the group
- Ask youth who is missing?
- Who might be hard to have at the table?







#### **Slow the Process Down**

- Youth have inexperience with how meetings are typically run by adults
- Does the way you run your meeting create a barrier for youth?
- Youth helped us reflect on our meeting "norms" and reconsider if they served a purpose

"...we ask questions and voice our opinion when we don't understand something."



#### **Acknowledgement through Compensation**

- Youth were compensated with an hourly wage and given help with transportation
- Youth were getting a wage to be there, just like everyone else at the table
- Free bus passes and sometimes personal pick ups and drop offs







#### **Shared Vulnerability**

- Youth exposed elements of their personal lives just by agreeing to be part of the project
- We "leveled the playing field" by incorporating exercises where all participants shared who they are outside of their service provider role

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#### **Give youth meaningful roles**

- Youth participated on sub-committees that created tangible products
- Creation of authentic "User Journeys"

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UNU. EXAMPLE AND	Friend 1 Came out to gra parents when h just 17 years of then stayed with until he was 17. years old.	Friend 2 C 6m ind- buring this was parents be and paral increasing increasing them and physical them their belief	ecame that i mentally bec cally abusive with im due to brui fs around guid	3 n teacher noticed youth was oming increasingly drawn and noticed ses and talked to a called the youth	Stephen di Stephen di the abuse a and with the counsellor; able to leav connected youth shells	7 to 8 months closed Steph home apply guidance was a help was was a and get housir rith the	Ontario Works 5 en was able to for Ontario Works, opproved and ble to find stable	B Justice for Youth E Stephen graduate school and went to secondary at Durh College.	9 to 10 months d high Decr 0 post- healt am was a	Surfing Host
Lived with grandparents as his parents sent him to Canada from his birth country for a "better" life. Parents still residing in birth country. Left home at 17.5 Y.O. to get out of unsafe environment, due to his sexual identity.	PEOPLE & SERVIC	ES INVOLVED	O- Gym Teac	her School Guidance		Š	Datario Works	Landlord Durbar	) College	





#### Youth Encourage other Youth to join

- Youth shared their positive experiences with other youth and this encouraged others to join
- Multiple youth at the table increased comfort levels as well as multiplied their voices
- Youth were deeply invested in helping other youth

"Kids listen to kids." — Trusteed youth





#### **Check Stereotypes and Biases**

- We learned we had biases and stereotypes about young people
- What are your assumptions? Are they correct?
- If youth are comfortable enough they will call you out—this is what you want







#### Share a Meal

- A component of building relationship and trust
- Youth appreciated collaborating on menu selections, and felt confident here
- Carried leftovers home after each event







- 3 Co-design sessions and a consensus building session were held where the data collected was analyzed and interpreted
- Youth co-designed with service providers their ideal supportive housing model



The research and youth voices were used in a successful funding proposal for a youth supportive housing project in Oshawa

...it seems obvious when you think about it that you should include those people [service users] in trying to design the services to make sure that it's something actually useful and valuable for them, but it isn't the way that it often actually works.





#### Kendra's Remarks!











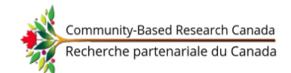
#### Thank you



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Closs, 2024



#### **Questions?**





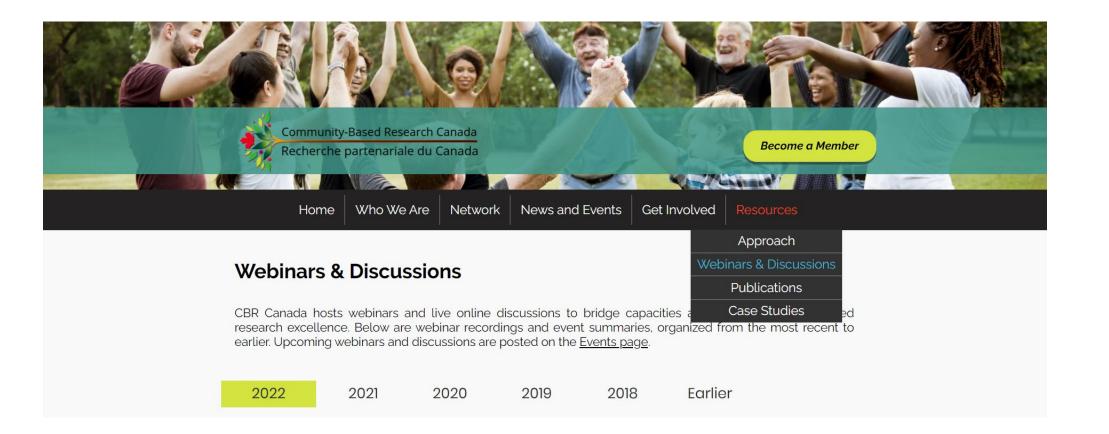
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#### **Question and Answer**





## Webinar Recordings





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The CBR Canada e-Newsletter is released every Fall, Winter and Spring, providing updates on the latest news, resources, and opportunities in Canadian-led communitybased research.

#### Subscribe to the e-News

Don't miss community-based research news and events.



### **Next E-Learning Event**

#### '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 WATERLOO **2023 E-LEARNING SERIES:** Community-Based Research Canada N COMMU 0 UNG PFOPLE I -BASED RESEARCH erche partenariale du Canada

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#### Feedback







# **Thank You!**

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