

Youth Research Academy: A Model for Engaging Young People in Research

JANUARY 18 12-1PM EASTERN TIME

Presented by members of the Youth Research Academy



McCreary Centre Society's
Youth
Research
Academy



**WINTER 2023 E-LEARNING SERIES:
YOUNG PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH**



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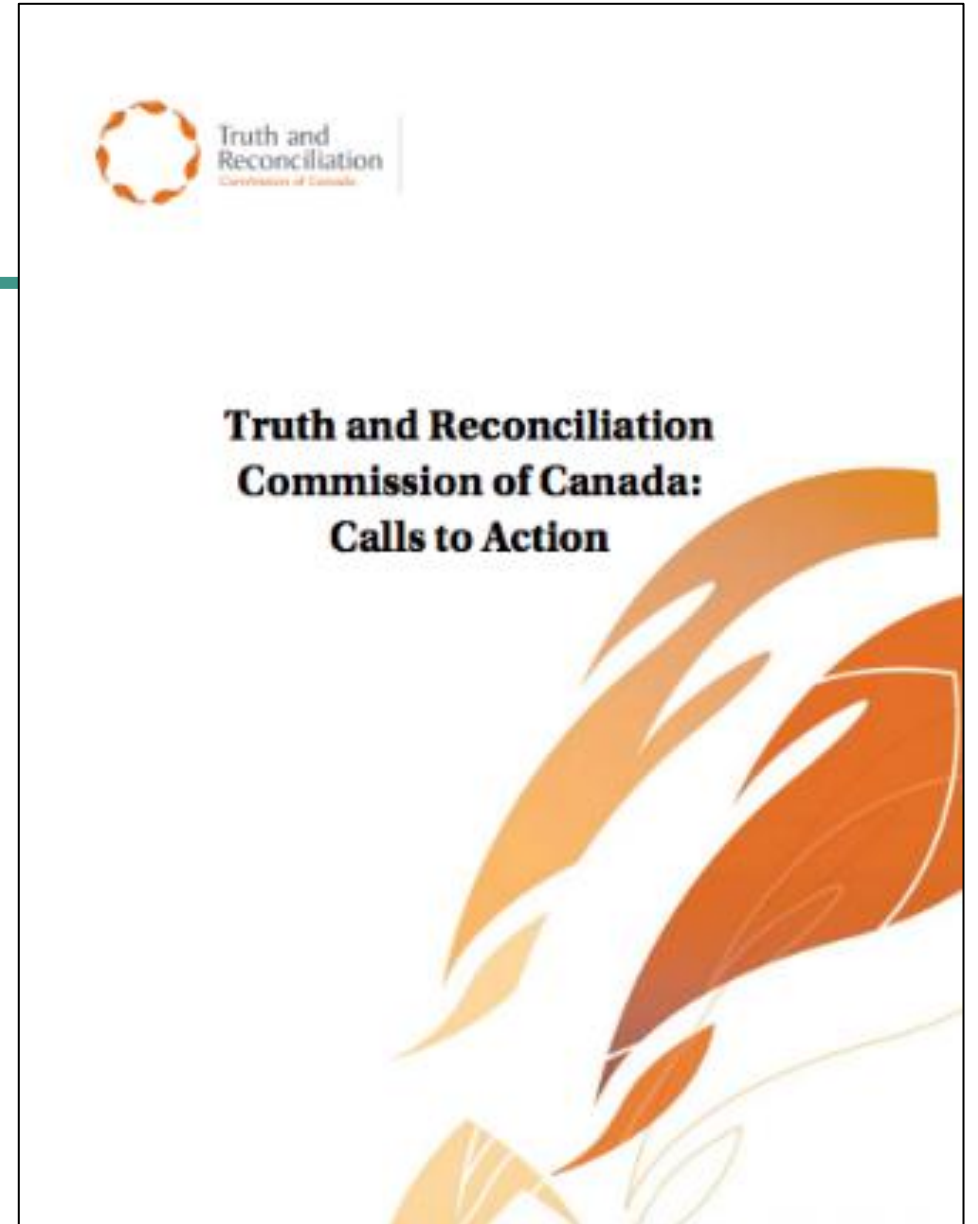
@CbrcResearch



Community Based Research Canada

Call to Action #38

“We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody”



Agenda



Opening



Presentation



Q&A

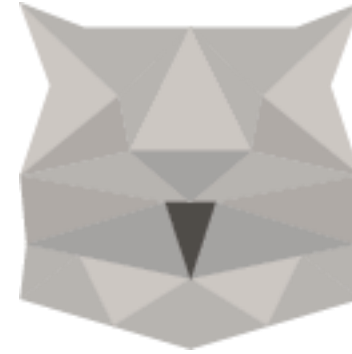


Closing

Presenters




McCreary
Centre Society



McCreary Centre Society's
Youth
Research
Academy

Katie Horton, Director of Youth Engagement
Evelyn McGowan, Director of Community Engagement
Afina Sunday, Youth Research Academy Peer Mentor
Riel Wood, Youth Research Academy Peer Mentor
Mara, Youth Researcher
Ali, Youth Researcher
Opal, Youth Researcher

The background is a piece of light green paper with a torn edge, set against a white grid. Various hand-drawn doodles are scattered around: a paperclip, a cloud, a starburst, a zigzag line, a flower, a leaf, a rainbow, and some abstract shapes. The text is centered on the paper.

Youth Research
Academy: A
model for
engaging youth
in research

McCreary Centre Society

- McCreary Centre Society is privileged to be located on the the traditional and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples – the skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), selíłwítulh (Tseil-Waututh), and x^wməθk^wəy'əm (Musqueam) nations.
- We also acknowledge the ancestral and continuing connection to this land of the Métis Nation

Agenda

01

Introductions

02

YRA Model

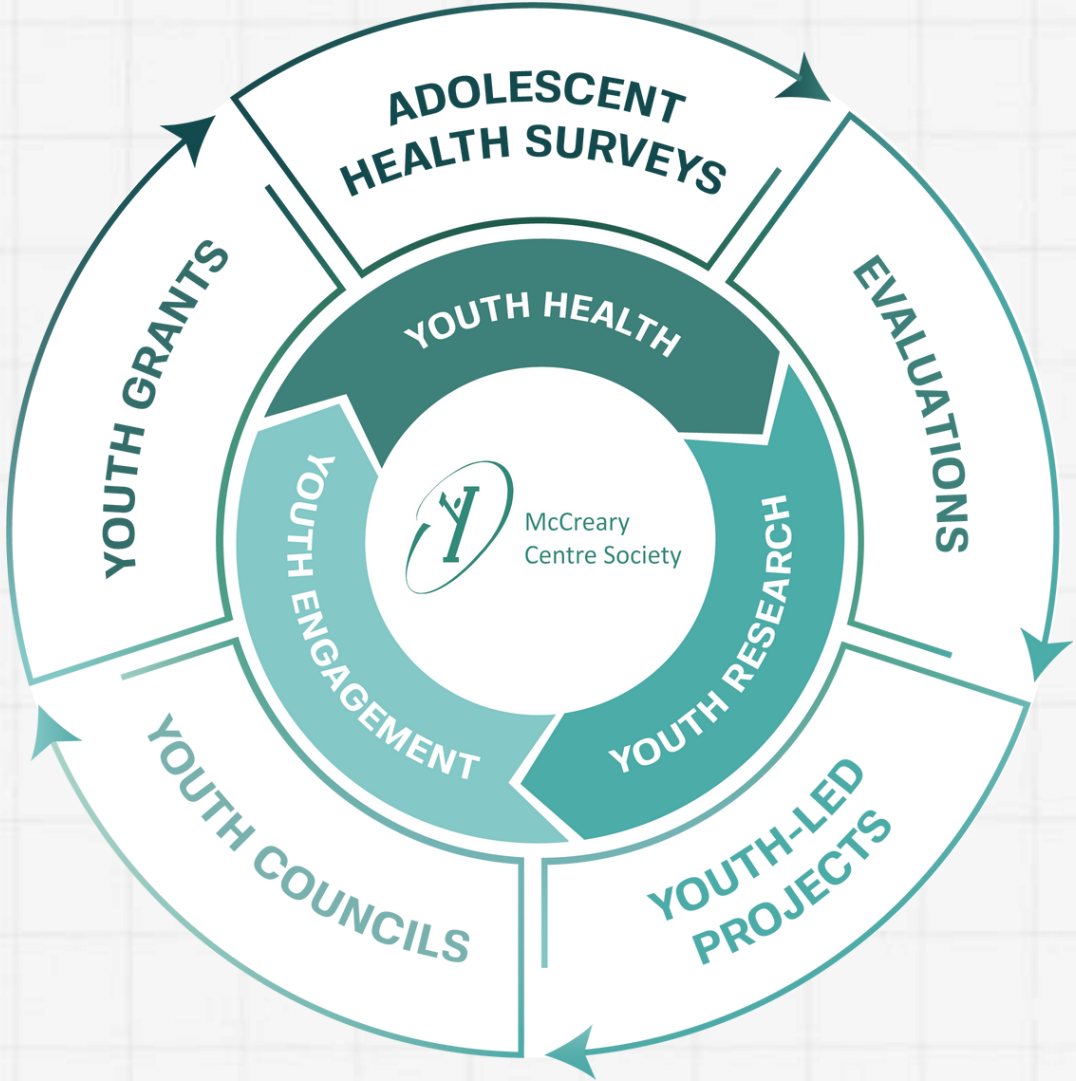
03

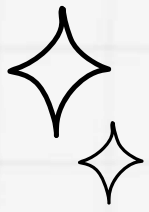
Youth Transitioning
Out of Care Study

04

Recommendations
and Conclusion

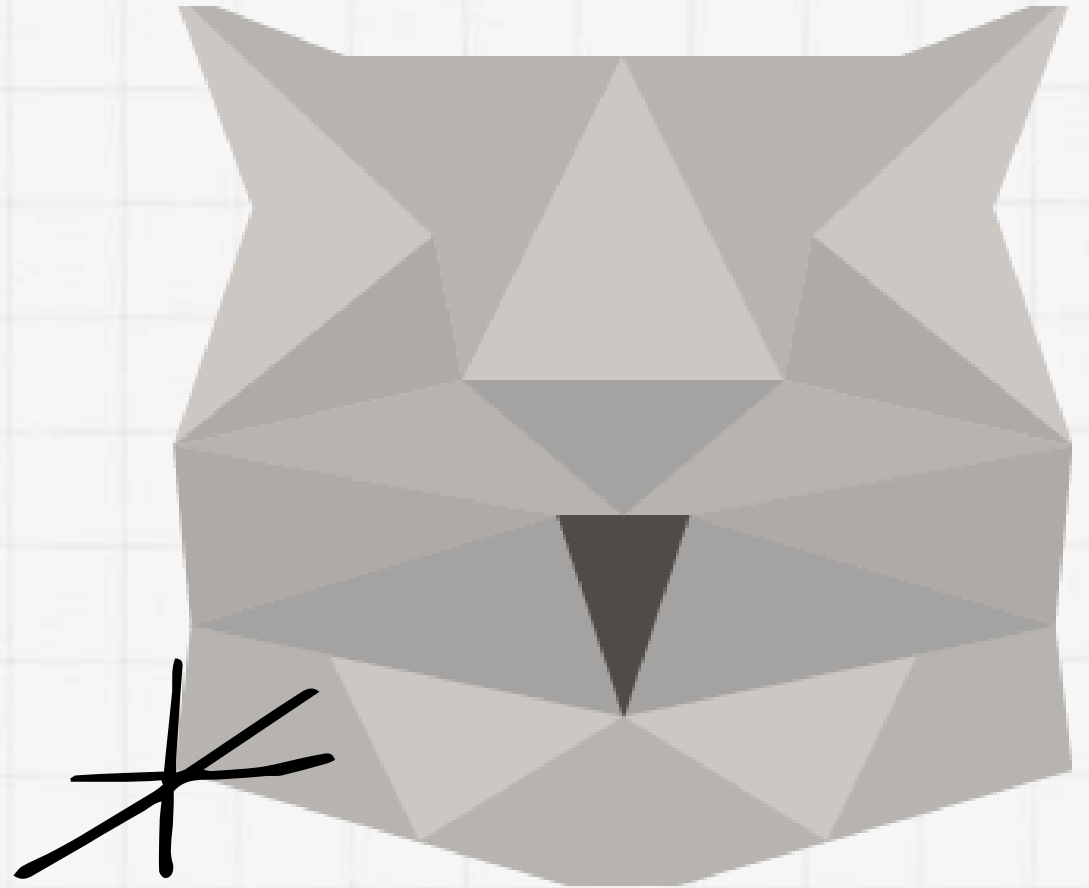
McCreary Centre Society





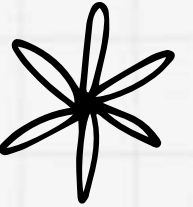
Youth Research Academy

- Youth 16-24 with experience in the government care system
- Helps carry out research focused on helping youth in and from care





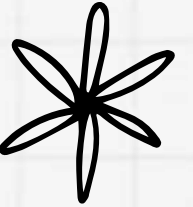
Purpose of the YRA



- Increase youth-led and youth-driven research
- Teach research skills to youth in and from care
- Assist youth to develop employment skills
- Offer agencies opportunities to engage trained youth researchers
- Offer evidence of success of the model of youth participation in research



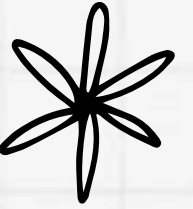
YRA - How it works



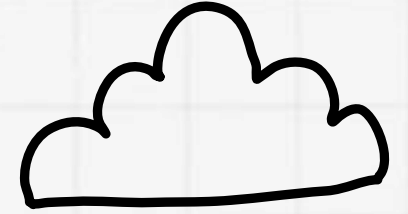
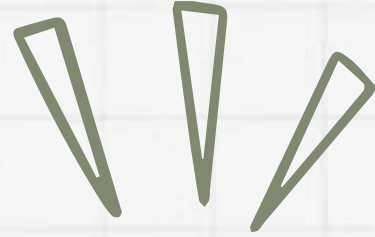
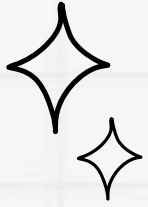
- Youth aged 16 - 24
- In-person work at McCreary office, 8 hours per week for 10 months
- 8th cohort began end of June 2023
- Cohort of up to 8 youth plus 2 Indigenous peer mentors
- Alumni group supports ongoing participation



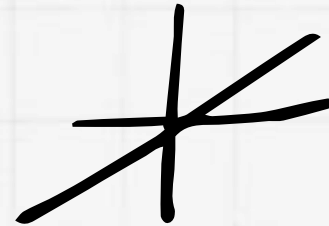
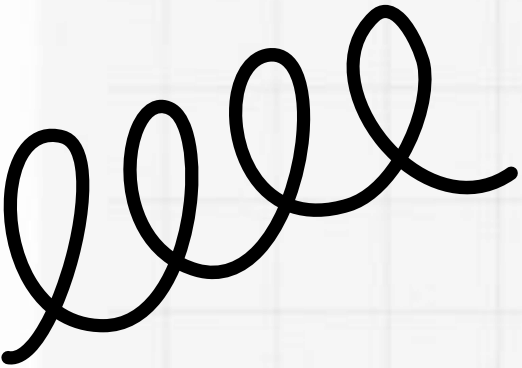
Evaluation of the YRA



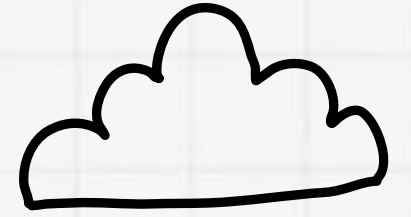
"This film represents what we are trying to do—change and grow over time. As we are growing, the research is growing with us."



What does youth-led
research mean?



Importance of youth-led research



- Youth get to choose what is important to focus on
- Other youth more likely to participate if the project is youth-led
- Gives youth a sense of belonging/importance
- Helps provide skills for youth's futures



Youth-led research in action

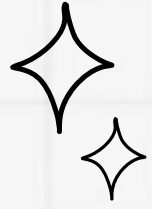
More than Grades –
Representative of Children and Youth (RCY)

- YRA co-developed focus group and survey questions
- YRA were involved in analysis and making recommendations from the findings
- Youth education fund has been set up for youth in government care

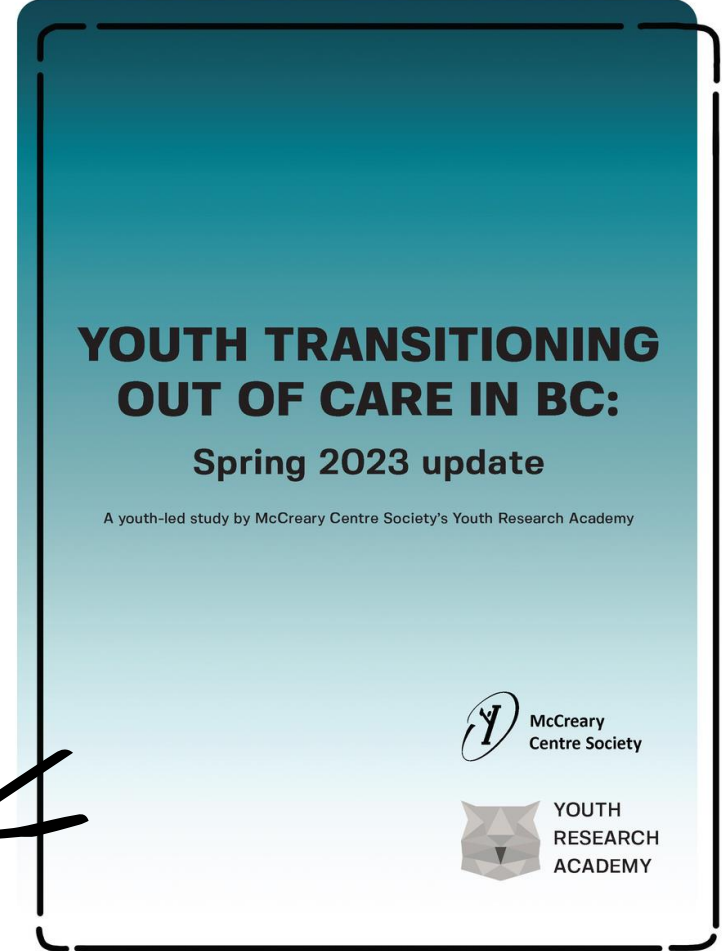
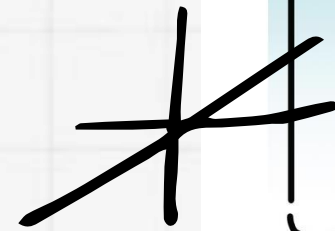
Youth-led research in action

Family-Finding Bootcamp -
Adoptive Families Association of BC

- YRA conducted literature review and environmental scan
- Interviews with staff who had used the model
- Recommendation not to move forward with the model in BC



Youth Transitioning out of Care Study (YTOC)



YOUTH TRANSITIONING OUT OF CARE IN BC:

Spring 2023 update

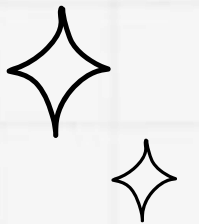
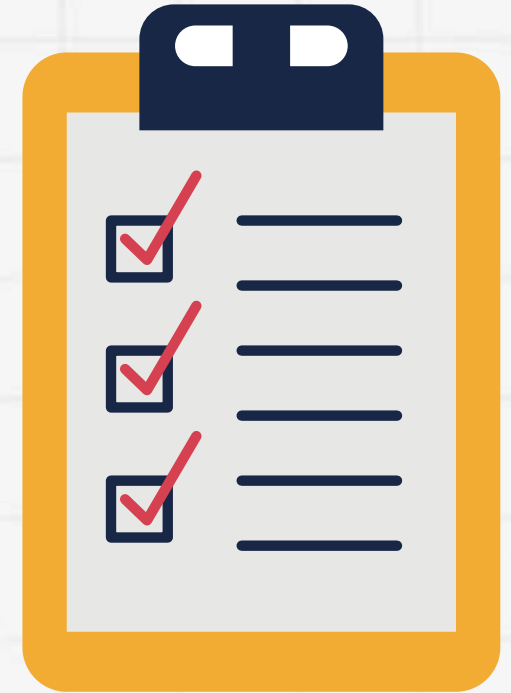
A youth-led study by McCreary Centre Society's Youth Research Academy



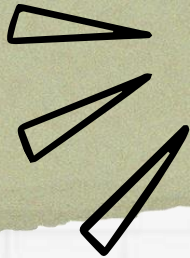
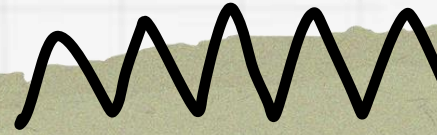
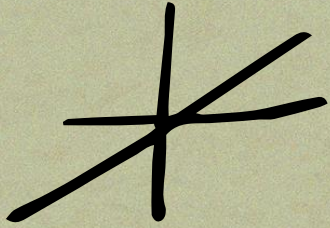
Methodology & Background



- Surveys completed every 6 months from 18 - 27
- Over 300 youth have participated so far
- YRA members helped design the initial survey and are involved in recruitment for the study



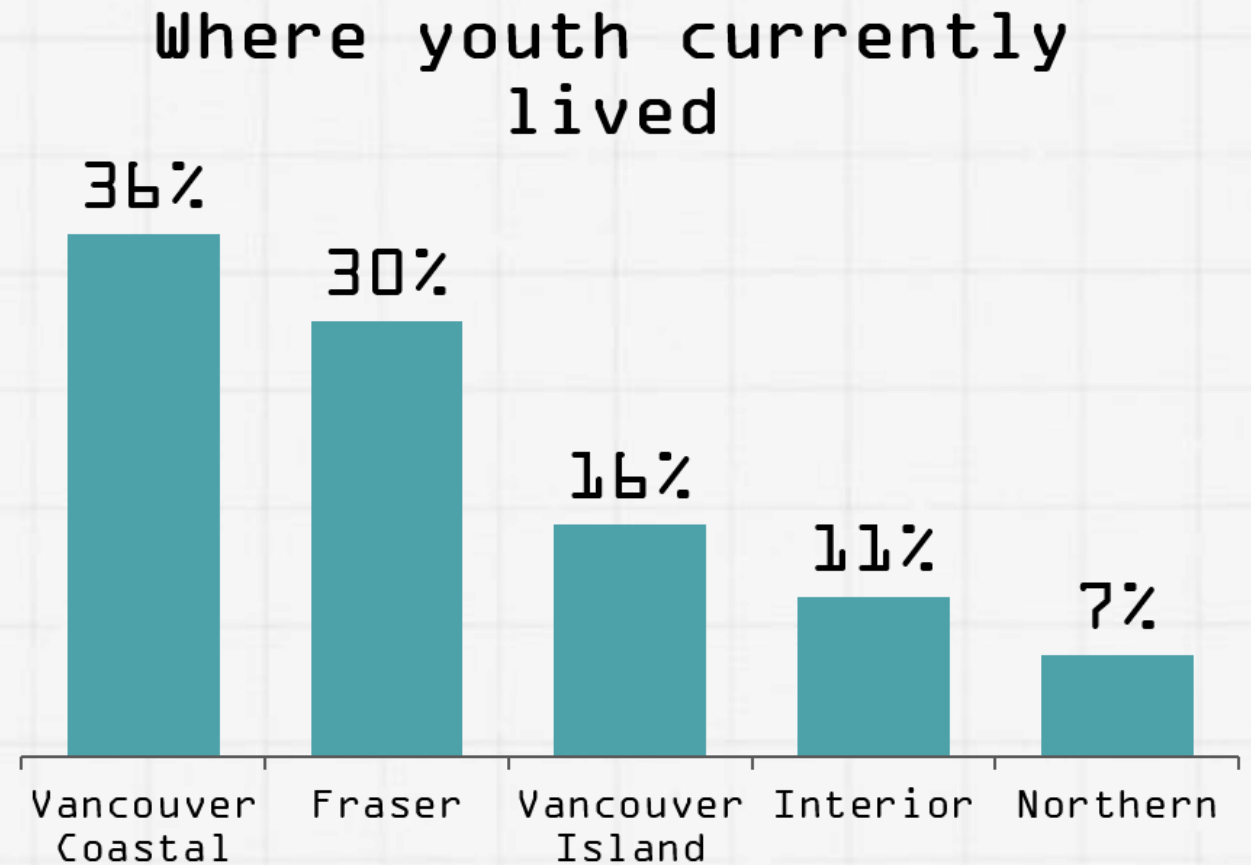
Key Findings

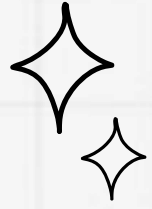


Profile of participants

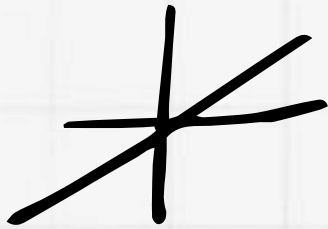


- 57% under the age of 19
- 60% female, 35% male, 4% non-binary
- 40% Indigenous youth





Housing



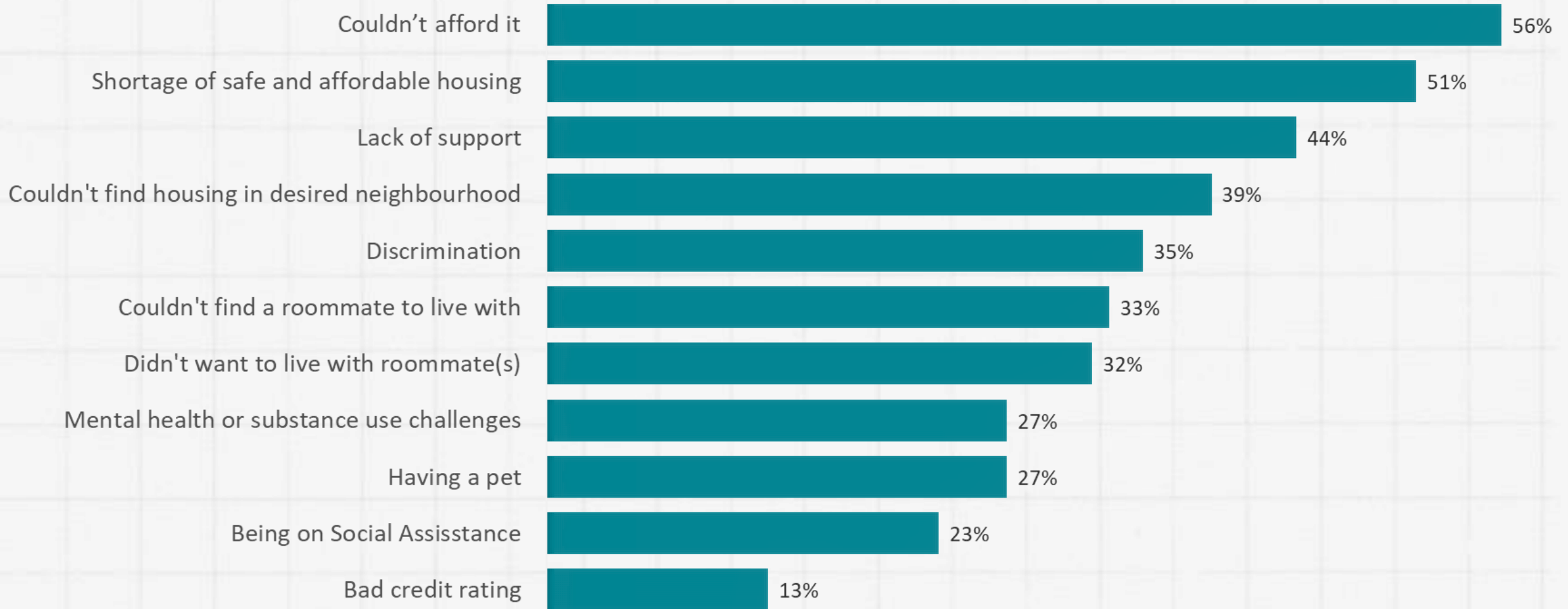
Housing Experiences

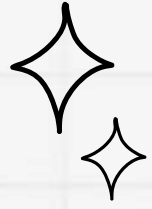
(among youth that had transitioned out of care)

- 68% lived alone or with a roommate
- 67% felt quite or very safe where they were living
- 57% felt their living situation met their needs

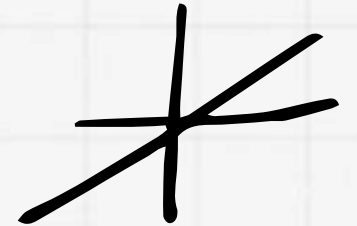


Barriers to Finding Housing

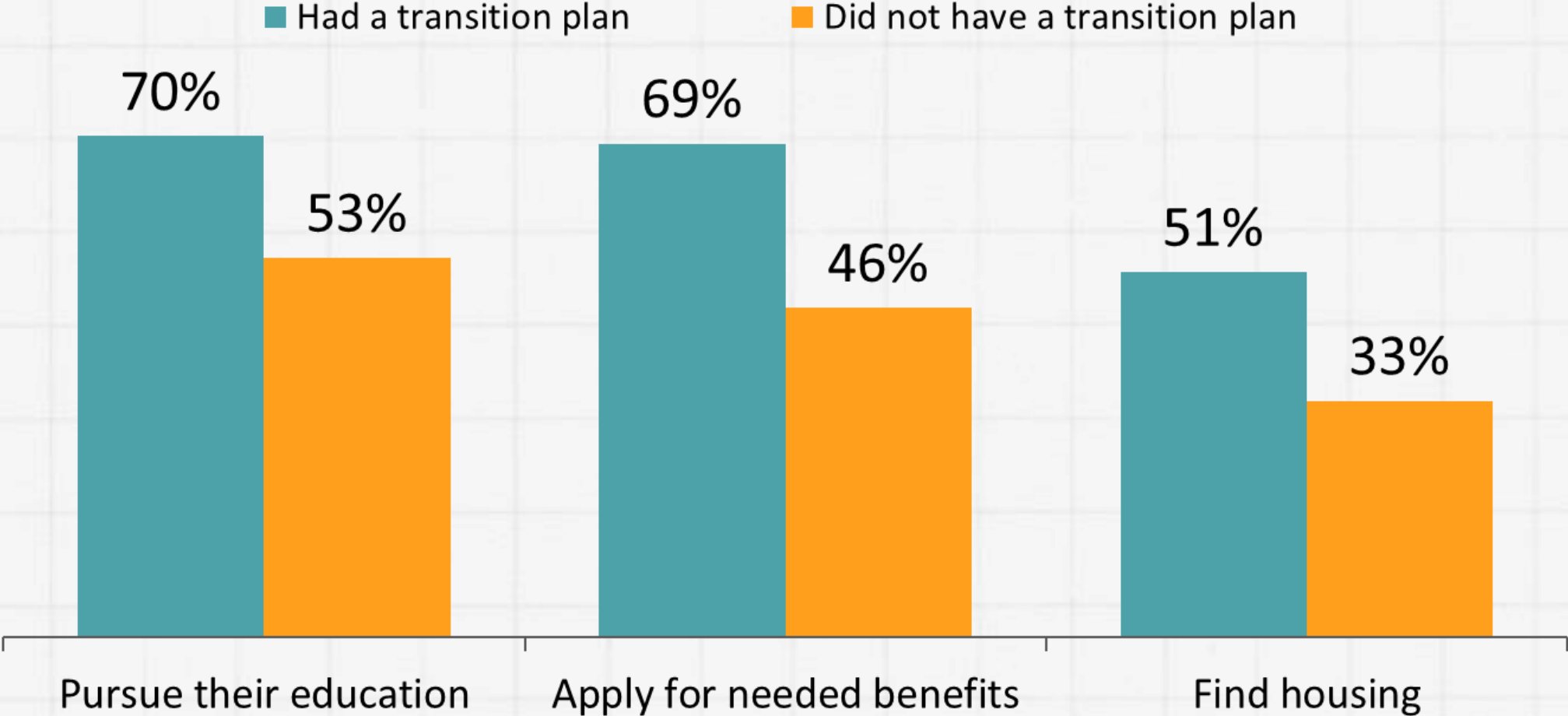


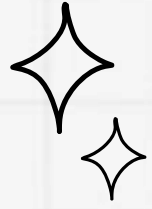


Transition Planning

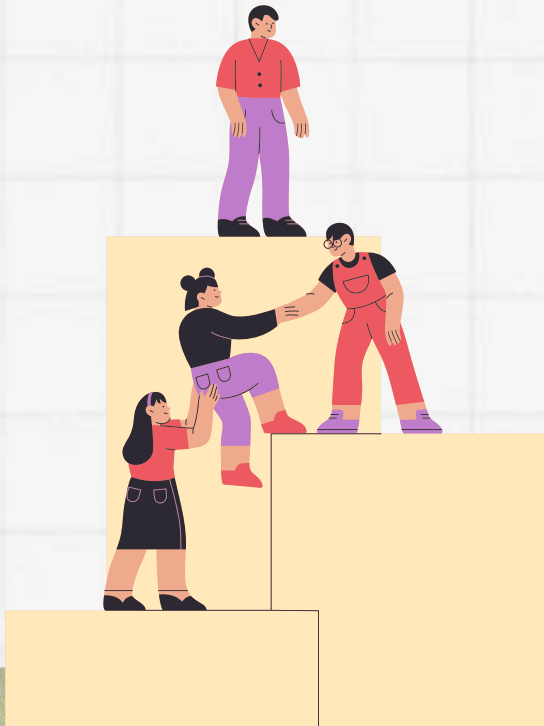
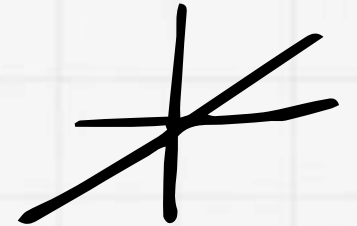


Having a transition plan and feeling prepared to... (among youth still in government care)





Supportive Adults



Helpful and Supportive Adults

Caring adults



Subjective well-being

Having an adult to help with housing

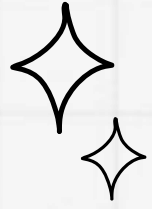


Housing needs being met;
Sense of safety

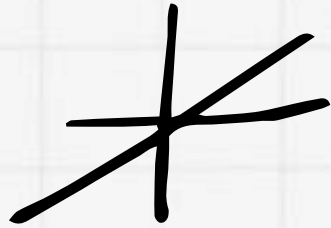
Having an adult to help with applying to school and/or work

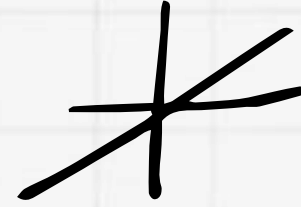


Challenges to graduating from high school



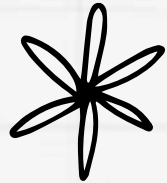
Hopefulness and Goals





Hopefulness

- 40% reported feeling often or always hopeful for their future

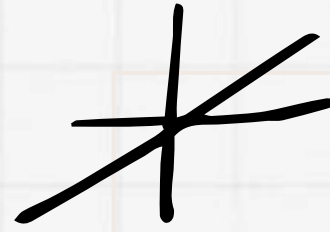


Goal Setting

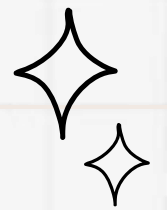
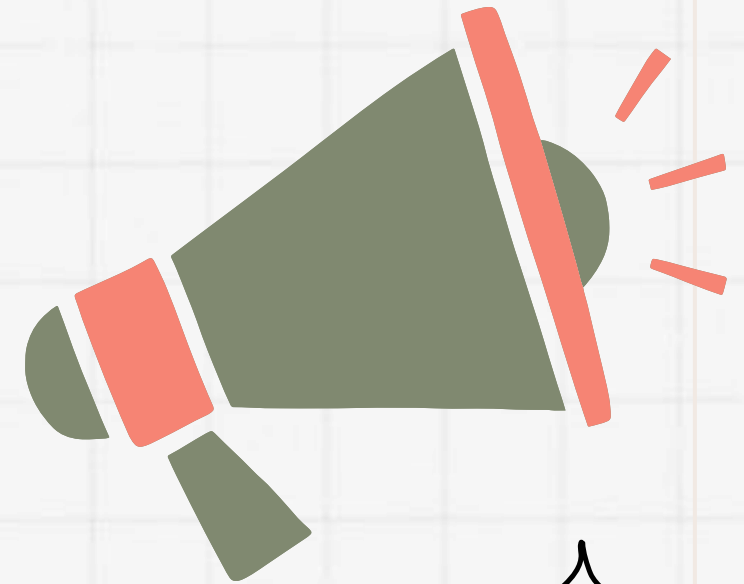
- 80% had set goals for themselves for the next six months



Ongoing impact of the study

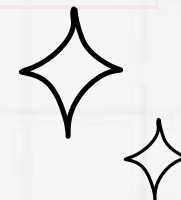
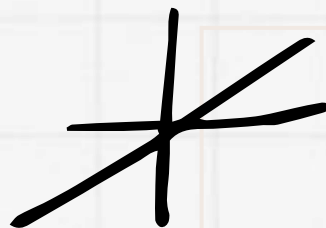


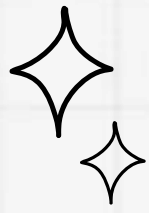
- Help set the direction and measure progress for TRRUST Collective Impact
- MCFD using the results to evaluate new transition supports
- YRA presented findings to new transition workers hired by MCFD



Young Indigenous Research Team (YIRT)

- Made up of Indigenous YRA alumni
- Supports Indigenous youth to continue to work on projects to improve outcomes for Indigenous youth with care experience





Conclusion & Recommendations



“The YRA is a great opportunity to do team-oriented research and analysis. I learned how to productively be involved in a team and I also learned computer, presentation, and team work skills.”

“It’s a great opportunity to connect with other youth who may share similar life experiences and it allows you to be meaningfully engaged in helping solve issues that people face.”

“Joining the YRA has been an empowering opportunity to share my knowledge and experiences as a youth from care. It’s given me a chance to help make the system better for others and to learn more about the system and the people who are involved [in it].”



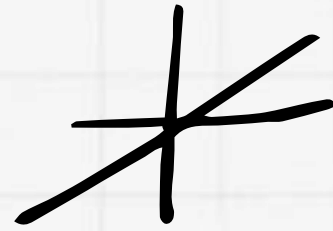
Conclusion & Recommendations



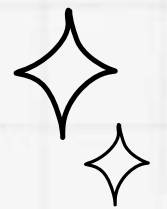
“Having the opportunity to help advocate for other youth with care experience is deeply important to me. You get to help advocate for the changes you desperately needed. It is important, healing, and incredibly fulfilling.”

“Joining the YRA helps you become an advocate for many other youth who have trouble speaking up. The YRA basically finds ways for youth in care to speak up.”

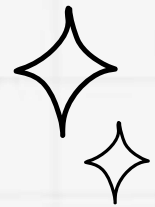
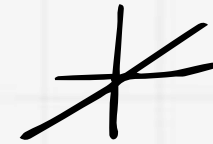
“Beyond gaining research skills, public speaking and presenting, critical and creative thinking skills, you gain a greater understanding of community organizations, government programs etc.. that exist to help youth.”



YRA alumni video



**A TOOLKIT FOR ENGAGING YOUNG
PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE IN
THE RESEARCH THAT AFFECTS THEM**




Thank
you!




Question and Answer



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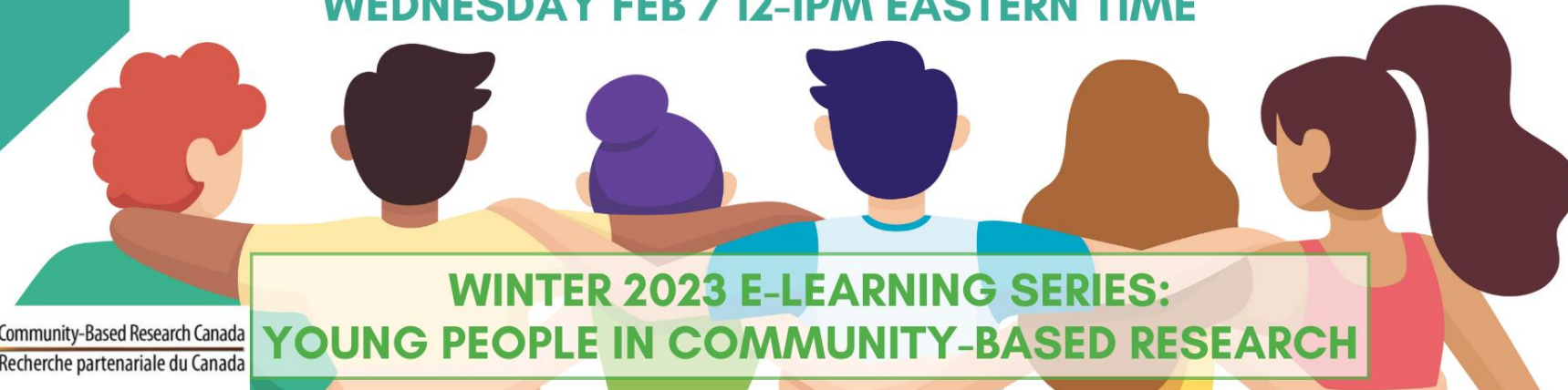
Next E-Learning Event

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

Presented by
Lorraine Closs & Kenda Grant Guanti



WEDNESDAY FEB 7 12-1PM EASTERN TIME



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