



# The Students Commission of Canada

## Annual Report 2013



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**The Students Commission of Canada** is a charitable organization, founded in 1991 on the recommendation of youth. They asked SC to keep creating conferences and opportunities to be heard and to put their ideas for change into action. Four Pillars, Respect, Listen, Understand and Communicate™, are the foundation for everything we do.

**THE  
STUDENTS COMMISSION**

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## Annual Report 2013

**I just want to go back to where it's okay to be different and it's okay to cry and be yourself. I want to go back to where everyone loves and cares about each other, I wanna go back to Ottawa ...April 2013**

The more things change, the more they stay the same. In 2013, the Students Commission of Canada continued to do what it does best: conferences, youth-led projects, and leading the charge for youth voice and youth engagement in Canada. We're staying small, thinking big. Through research, evaluation, and strategic consulting we share our expertise and positively influence the work of larger organizations, school systems and governments. This year these included the YMCA of Canada, the city of Kingston, Kids Help Phone, and various governments.

**I recognize you! You're from The Students Commission? I went to the conference in Ottawa in 1993. It uber changed my life. (May 2013, random park encounter)**

*Top picks for the year:*

Hosting two national conferences, in March and December, reaching almost 400 youth across Canada, in partnership with Tim Horton Children's Foundation and Youth Centres Canada.

Testing and implementing Four Pillar Youth Engagement training and programs for correctional officers and youth in closed custody facilities.

Receiving a 3-year \$625,000 grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation to roll-out the Sharing the Stories evaluation platform with Queen's University.

Assisting 40 organizations and the City of Kingston to engage youth in writing a Youth Strategy, unanimously endorsed by Council this fall.

Developing a Youth Engagement Toolkit for the Joint Consortium on School Health, for Ministries of Education and Health across Canada

Well the last two mornings I have been trying to add my contribution to a huge research proposal ...so damn you for such a fine job you've done on the new toolkit. Jokes aside, I wanted you to know how absolutely amazing and wonderful it is...easily the finest product / tool produced on youth engagement - probably, that I have ever seen...and no joke there



## 2013 Opportunities for Youth

### Highlights:

- Delivered Blueprint Workshops to 150 Youth in the GTA and Ontario and 150 youth in Saskatchewan. Workshop focused on engaging young people on the issue of violence in women's lives using gender-based analysis.
- Received funding from Justice Canada to pilot a youth leadership program in two closed correctional facilities in Ontario and New Brunswick. The four-month project focused on building relationships with staff and youth at closed custody facilities. As a result of the funding, the SC delivered a day-long youth forum engaging 25 youth in closed custody situations in March 2013 in New Brunswick. Also worked with 12 correctional officers and administrators in New Brunswick in on adult ally training.
- Hosted the Youth Mental Health and Wellness Conference at Tim Horton Onondaga Farms Camp in Feb-March 2013. Engaged 40 youth from across Ontario on the issue and worked with 10 adult ally facilitators from various organizations including the Albion Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCA of Greater Toronto and the Nest.
- Hosted with Youth Centres Canada- Unite and Ignite 2013, a national conference where young people came together to take action on several themes. 175 youth and 45 adult allies came together in Ottawa for the 4-day Conference.
- Unite and Ignite Planning and Fundraising Committees met bi-weekly throughout 2013 to plan fundraising activities and conference programming for 2014. 25 different youth from across the country came together to participate in content development and fundraising planning.
- YDM (Young Decision Makers Network) Committee meet weekly via videoconference discussing issues that are important to them (national network to go to for youth input)- 10-12/members and responded to requests SC received from various government departments for youth input.
- Received a two year grant from Status of Women Canada to engage 100 young men and boys across the country on the issue of violence in women's lives in four communities: Miramichi, NB, Toronto, ON, Victoria, BC and Saskatoon SK
- Received an \$80000 grant for Exchanges Canada to support the National Top Left Youth Conference: 119 youth who identified as low income and Aboriginal participated from every province and territory (except NWT), 25 adult allies attended
- SC facilitated 700 youth, young adults and adults and 40



organizations to write the City of Kingston Youth Strategy. It was approved unanimously by City Council in September 2013 and now SC has a yearly contract to assist the organizations and city to implement the recommendations.



- Assisted the Institute of Strategic Dialogue, an international think tank to engage youth on the issue of violent extremism.
- Supported activities with Youth Launch in Saskatoon to engage Saskatchewan youth.
- Hosted two consultations for the Public Health Agency of Canada Events with 150 youth. In Ontario, they discussed the Healthy Schools Food and Beverage policy and in Saskatchewan they gave advice to researchers on issues to include in the Health Behaviours in School Aged Children Study.
- Through out the year we hosted 9 Co-op Student Placements, three summer students and one college internship
- We supported youth to give numerous panels; these include a a panel of 6 youth for the PrevNet Network, a panel of 4 youth for a national Status of Women event in Ottawa on cyber bullying and exploitation, and a panel on Children's Rights for UNICEF.

## ***2013 Influencing those Who Influence Youth***

### **Highlights:**

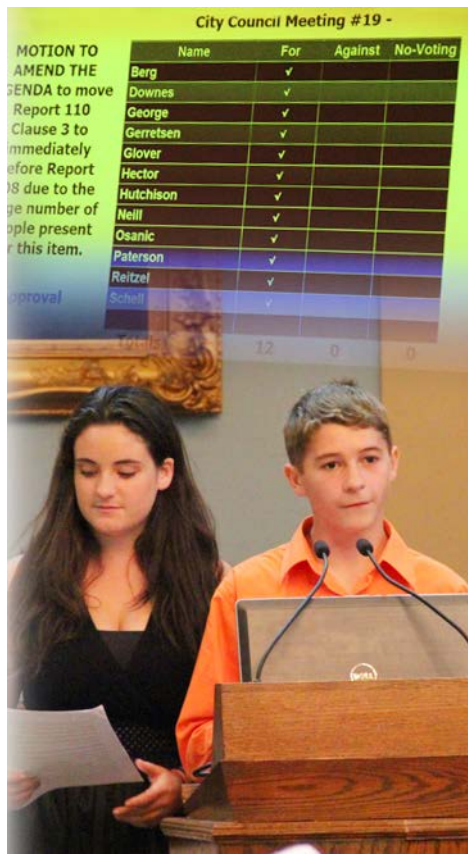
- Partnered with the Youth Advocacy Training Institute (YATI) to deliver comprehensive trainings for youth across the Province of Ontario. Facilitators from the SC delivered trainings to close to 125 adult allies and 125 youth as a result of this partnership. Trainings included Youth Engagement in Action, Youth Social Identities Training, Social Media Strategies and the Tobacco Industry.
- Toronto Public Health signed up for the CEYE's "Sharing the Stories" research and evaluation platform. The first organization to use the platform for multiple projects. We evaluated their Investment in Youth Program, the Why You Puffin? (LGBTQ youth engagement program and the Youth Health Advisory Network). In the first round of evaluations, 55 youth used the platform up until June 2013.
- Delivered Training to 30 Adult Allies of the Client Support Services team of the YMCA of Greater Toronto. It focuses on settling newcomer Government-Assisted Refugees
- Continued to partner with Parks and Recreation Ontario, Boys and Girls Clubs Central Region and the Ontario Lung Association in the delivery of the "Transition Years Workshop", a workshop focused on training youth workers on how to work effectively

with youth aged 12-15. Engaged close to 300 adult allies from January to March 2013 on the project in 12 Ontario Cities.

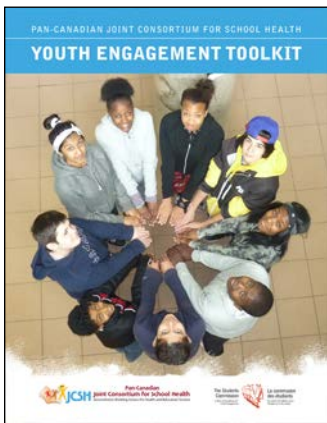
- Justice Canada funding also led to outreach to several youth correctional facilities in Ontario, namely the Roy McMurtry Youth Centre, Brookside Youth Centre and the William Hay Centre. Each facility indicated interest in pursuing year-long youth leadership development opportunities for youth in closed custody settings.
- Delivered the keynote speech to the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute (SPI) on Youth Engagement and Tobacco, and furthered our partnership with the SPI.
- Delivered two events for the Ministry of Education in Ontario and Saskatchewan. Engaged close to 150 young people and adult allies.
- 50 Adult Allies participated in Unite and Ignite from at least 20 different youth serving organizations from across Canada.
- Delivered a keynote address in Halifax on Collaboration for Youth Engagement.
- UNICEF Panel at the Child Rights Impact Assessment Conference
- Continued to support the Young Leaders Initiative of YMCA Canada through the “Sharing the Stories” platform and direct support at the Annual Young Leaders Forum. Engaged 60 young adults and influenced 15 adult allies from various YMCA Associations across the country.
- Supported the international Change Agents Initiative of YMCA Canada through research and evaluation. Engaged 24 young adults and 3 adult allies from YMCA Canada through on-going research and evaluation.
- Boys and Girls Clubs Central Region continued to use the Sharing the Stories platform for their annual youth conference at “Camp Smitty” and prepared a comprehensive evaluation report. Engaged 80 youth and 15 adult allies.
- Supported the evaluation report for the “Transition Years Workshop,” a partnership between the Ontario Lung Association, Boys and Girls Clubs Central Region, the Students Commission and Parks and Recreation Ontario. Close to 300 adult allies from multiple organizations across Ontario used “Sharing the Stories” evaluation tools and the on-line platform.
- Supported 6 Youth Engagement Forums in Windsor, Toronto, London, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo and Ottawa for







City of Kingston Youth Strategy engaged 700 youth, young adults and adults and 40 organizations. Approved by council.



Government-Assisted Refugee youth and their youth workers. Worked with 90 youth and 30 adult allies from these communities. Also supported the evaluation of this event and prepared a comprehensive evaluation report. Continuing to partner with Client Support Services for 2014 and beyond.

- Organized and presented a youth engagement program with international partners for the Health Behaviours in School Aged Children's Study's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference in St. Andrew's Scotland.
- Formed partnerships with Project Respect, Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op and Youth Matters in Victoria, Saskatoon and the Miramichi respectively to engage young men and boys on the issue of violence in women's lives through the Top Left Project
- Conducted a significant Literature Review of the last 12 years of research related to the critical factors that youth need to thrive in partnership with Queen's University for the YMCA of Greater Toronto and the United Way of Greater Toronto.
- Helping to lead and shape a Collective Impact Initiative for Youth in Toronto, Ontario with 12 other organizations.
- Created for the Joint Consortium on School Health (provincial ministries of health and education) a E-Book that showcased 20 years of Students Commission events, practices and research.
- Re-established connections in Quebec, and began once again to draw youth delegates and adult allies from Quebec.
- Continued our membership in PrevNet: a research and organizational network from across Canada working on preventing violence. Collaborating with them to obtain a National Collaborating Centres 10-year grant from Canadian Institutes for Health Research, which will focus on bullying prevention work.
- Despite all of our publications now being available for free on-line, we received orders more than 1500 magazines, booklets and pamphlets requested by government departments (municipal and provincial), public health services organizations and youth centres, who pay to have print copies shipped to them.
- Partnerships this year included YouCan on the Justice Canada Project, Kids Help Phone, the Co-operative Housing Federation Strategy, and OPHEA with the Smoke-Free Ontario pilot.

## 2013 Securing our Future

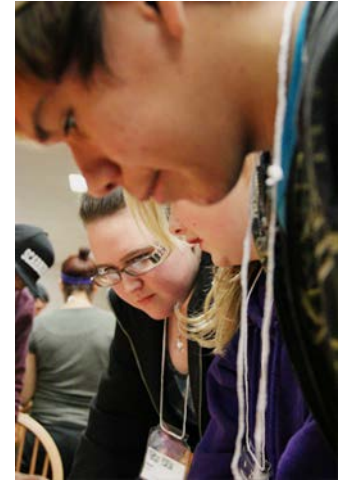
Highlights:

- Solidified our partnership with Queen's University through a

letter of agreement and ethics clearance of the Sharing the Stories research and evaluation platform

- Sharing the Stories research and evaluation platform approved for 3 year \$625000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.
- Secured WHY Grant 2 funding on the issue of mental health and wellness to continue our partnerships with the Ontario Lung Association, Boys and Girls Clubs-Central Region and Parks and Recreation Ontario
- Secured a two-year grant with the Status of Women for the Top Left Project.
- Secured a three-year contract with City of Kingston to implement the Kingston Youth Strategy.

**I wish u can fit in my pocket for advice when I need. Cause I really need right now in dealing with ppl. But I am using literally everything I learned as a facilitator and using in my daily life as a person and almost established actor. So I really thank SC For that.**



## ***2013 Partners, Clients and Funders***

ACT for Youth, York University  
Albion Boys and Girls Clubs  
Boys and Girls Clubs, Central Region  
Brookside Youth Centre, ON  
Brock University  
City of Kingston  
Collective Impact Initiative, Toronto  
Co-operative Housing Federation Strategy  
Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op, Saskatoon, SK  
Exchanges Canada  
Health Canada  
Health Behaviours in School-aged Children (HBSC), Scotland  
Humber College  
Institute of Strategic Dialogue, UK  
Justice Canada

Kids Help Phone  
Meadow Lake Tribal Council  
Ontario Educational Leadership Centre (OELC)  
Ontario Ministry of Education  
Ontario Lung Association  
Pan-Canadian Joint Consortium for School Health (JCSH)  
Parks and Recreation Ontario  
Project Respect, Victoria, BC  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
Roy McMurtry Youth Centre, ON  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Health  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Education  
Saskatchewan Prevention Institute  
Social Policy Evaluation Group (SPEG), Queen's University  
Status of Women Canada

The Nest, Toronto  
Tim Horton Onondaga Farms Camp, ON  
Toronto Public Health  
Toronto District School Board  
UNICEF  
William Hay Centre, ON  
Youth Advocacy Training Institute (YATI)  
YMCA Canada, Change Agents Initiative, International  
YMCA of Greater Toronto  
YouCan  
Prevnet  
Youth Centres Canada  
Youth Launch, Saskatoon, SK  
Youth Matters, Miramichi, NB