



The Students  
Commission  
Centre of Excellence for  
Youth Engagement



# WORK WORLD WE WANT

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Youth across Canada feel unprepared to enter the workforce. Youth identified several reasons for this unpreparedness: schools not offering relevant education, geographic isolation from services, and lack of awareness and/or access to the proper supports to prepare them for their future careers.

Finding solutions to issues youth face when seeking employment are complex and will require a multi-faceted problem-solving approach. We all have a responsibility to ensure that youth find ways to contribute meaningfully to their communities, and this includes a responsibility from employers of young people to recognize the privilege that is involved in employing young people. For many young people, their first job experience is critical for ensuring long-term employment success.



Work World We Want Theme Group

## SUMMARY

Our recommendations were generated to provide creative solutions to employment issues facing youth across the country. Discrimination, nepotism, unlawful and unethical workplace practices are still realities that young people face in finding and maintaining employment in Canada. The #CanadaWeWant is one in which all young people have the supports they need to find employment,

and live in an economy that values their contribution in the work force. The Work World We Want is one in which employers support their young employees to be successful, and one in which young people, regardless of their identity or geographic location, have the opportunity to gain experience prior to having their first job.



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# #CANADA WE WANT



## *The change we want to see:*

Youth are not discriminated against when seeking employment- having young people as employees should be seen as a privilege and benefit to the workplace.

Youth have access to experiences prior to beginning to work.

Mentors are available to young people to help guide them in career choices and make work places safe and accommodating for young people.

## *The way we want to get there (Activities):*

Increasing hands-on opportunities for career exploration, especially for remote and isolated communities.

## *The way we want to get there (Activities):*

Employers expectations are realistic and accommodate youth needs (i.e. School schedules)

All young people understand their rights in the work-place.

## *The way we want to get there (Activities):*

Living wage is utilized rather than a minimum wage. Young people's work is valued.

## *What we need to get there (Resources):*

Hands-on Training Programs

Child care Services

Living Wage mandated through legislation

## *The way we want to get there (Resources):*

Meaningful Career Exploration classes imbedded in all secondary school curriculums.

Career and Employment centers are accessible in all communities.

## *What are the values and the principles to ground our recommendations?*

Equity and Fairness

Truth and Reconciliation

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

## *What are the values and the principles to ground our recommendations?*

Opportunities and education for all young people, regardless of geographical location or identity.

