



The Students  
Commission  
Centre of Excellence for  
Youth Engagement



# YOUTH TAKE CHARGE

FEBRUARY 2018

The Addressing Structural Racism Theme team was comprised of those engaged in the Youth Take Charge Project. This is a national initiative to address structural racism. This project engages 5 communities across Canada (Surrey BC, Saskatoon SK, Toronto ON, Kingston ON and Halifax NS). Youth Take Charge supports these communities in leading community initiatives that address structural racism, through workshops, resources, youth groups and more. At the Canada We Want Conference, the addressing structural racism theme team was representative of those already engaged in the Youth Take Charge project in their community. The goal of the theme team group at the conference was to build relationships, study the issue further, make decisions and provided input into Canada's first national youth policy.



## SUMMARY

Structural racism is an issue that is ever so very relevant amongst young people. This issue poses a threat for young Canadians of minority communities to grow, develop and prosper in a Canada that is safe and respects their basic presence as a human being. It is important that we discontinue viewing racism from a historical lens and acknowledge that it is critical issue in present society. These recommendations provided by youth at The Canada We Want Conference into Canada's national youth policy matter and should be respected as such.



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# #CANADA WE WANT



## *The change we want to see:*

- Structural racism addressed in all facets of government institutions
- Canadians of all communities receive the same opportunities as everyone
- Diversity in schools with students and teachers
- Diversity voices consistently represented at policy decision making tables

## *The way we want to get there (Activities 1):*

Workshops on Structural racism and power

## *Activity 2:*

Research project engaging youth on power and class and Canada and how it contributes to racism

## *Activity 3:*

School board wide youth conferences, allowing students to meet and work with one another

## *Activity 4:*

Policy roundtables with government officials

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

- Funding from the Government and community organizations
- Centre of excellence for youth engagement, engaging research partners
- School board funding and support to lead youth conferences
- Community partnerships with local government officials to support funding for roundtable

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

- Collaboration between all levels of government
- Local government to work with different service providers to help present tools and deliver workshops for youth
- Collaboration between different decision makers and communities to listen to youth voice and implement recommendations

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

Racism is constantly viewed as an issue of the past and taught in history classes. It's a very prominent issue amongst youth of today and education plays a key role in addressing it.

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

Lack of representation of diverse voices in policy making means that key voices in the Canadian mosaic is missing and certain groups are put at a disadvantage. Diverse representation ensures everyone is heard.