

## **Understanding Contexts of Youth-Adult Partnership: Call notes (Jan. 18, 2012)**

### **1) Introductions:**

Isabelle (HeartWood, Halifax), Dave (St. Mary's U, Halifax), Susan (St. Thomas U, Fredericton), Sylvia (Population Growth Secretariat NB), Bonnie (Youth Launch, Saskatoon), Stoney (Students Commission, Toronto), Linda (Brock), Mark (WLU), Rebecca (WLU), Marla (City of Kitchener), Moffat (RMYC, Thunder Bay), Tania (U of S), Marina and Scott (Youth Launch, Saskatoon), Robin (MCFD, Victoria), Nish (SC Victoria)

**Action:** Everyone – if you haven't already, please send Nish your photo and a brief bio to add to the partners pages on the website (please pass this on to other team members):  
[http://www.studentscommission.ca/yap/partners\\_01\\_e.php](http://www.studentscommission.ca/yap/partners_01_e.php)

### **2) Understanding Youth-Adult relationships: Research questions**

\*FYI: Updated preliminary results from the initial survey are now online at  
[www.studentscommission.ca/yap/resources/Themes.pdf](http://www.studentscommission.ca/yap/resources/Themes.pdf)

Emerging questions:

[www.studentscommission.ca/yap/resources/QuestionMatrix\\_e.pdf](http://www.studentscommission.ca/yap/resources/QuestionMatrix_e.pdf)

These questions are for the 3 different layers of the project where we are exploring relationships:

- 1) Relationships between organizations in the whole project
- 2) Relationships within each co-researcher team
- 3) Relationships between youth and adults within the context that each team is exploring

These questions are not necessarily fitting for all partners, and each team are adding more:

### **Saskatoon/Nutana team's potential research questions:**

We want broad participation – get answers from those that don't come to school all the time, rather than just get those who are already engaged

- What do you believe youth adult partnerships are about?
- How does the youth know they are in a good relationship with the adult?
- Is it possible for youth & adults to partner in the classroom?
- How does the environment change the relationship?
- Describe your relationship...
- Specific relationship you think you might have an ally in Nutana...
- Do others have the same partnerships I do?
- Does everyone think the same? The teachers and students? Do they value the relationship?
- Is it a certain pathway or group of people that have good relationships? How do you get on that pathway? Wouldn't everyone want on that pathway?

- Question for teachers: What students do you partner with? Why? Are there some you don't? Why? What makes a student an ally in a classroom?
- What works with our school? What makes a difference that other schools could instill in their school?
- What makes an adult a good partner? A good ally?
- Do true partnerships exist in school settings? Can true partnerships exist in the school? Can you be in a partnership with the teacher if they're responsible for setting their grades? Is it reciprocal? What role does power have?
- Do you feel like other people have the same sort of access to those partnerships that you do?

Susan's question: Do teachers feel comfortable partnering with students?

### **City of Kitchener: Journaling within the co-researcher team**

- Moments: fluidity - in a supervisor relationship, different roles at different times
- Journal: keep them private and only sharing what we're comfortable with, not sure how to share...safety built over time.
- We don't answer all the questions all the time. At the beginning we answered all of them (took 1.5 hours), but as we go, we just answer what applies (takes maybe 30 minutes). We're all trying to do it after every interaction.

#### 1) Power Sharing

- Were there moments you felt you had a higher power than someone else?
- When did you feel power was being shared? What was happening?
- Were there moments or events that made you feel less equal? (ex – body language)
- How comfortable do you feel stating your ideas, opinions and providing input?

#### 2) What did you learn during the partnership?

- What do you feel you taught adults/youth?
- What were the times you felt safe in the partnership? And what were the times you felt unsafe? (Give specifics, what made you feel safe, what didn't make you feel safe)

#### 3) What makes the partnership meaningful? What was important about your experiences?

- What assumptions did I make today? Did people meet these assumptions or not?
- What is your relationship to each person? How do the other people make you feel? Is there a sense of power? If so, what is it? [Reflection on interaction with each person]

How comfortable do you feel stating your ideas, opinions and providing input?

How well did we work as a group?

One thing I learned today I learned about working with youth (adults) today was...

One thing that challenged me today (in the adult youth partnership)...

One thing that made me feel there was equal power...

**Action:** Nish will add research questions onto the website

### **Halifax and Victoria teams**

HeartWood is looking at youth engagement with the Ministry of Community Services in NS - engagement with the state? Do the same measures that we use in other engagement activities apply to this engagement with the state? Similar to Victoria project.

**Action:** Nish will connect teams on a call

How to sustain YAPs/Youth engagement initiatives?

Model of sustainability (Robin): 1. Leadership Competence, 2. Strong and Effective Collaboration/Partnerships, 3. Understanding the Community, 4. Program Flexibility, 5. Stable and Sufficient Funding, 6. Staff Quality and Involvement, 7. Demonstrated Program Success.

**Action:** Robin will share the report with the details

### **3) National meeting**

-National conference on Positive Youth Development, May 10-11, Halifax (Isabelle)  
Lions Quest (formerly known as Thrive) conference coming up at St. Mary's University on Thurs/Fri May 10-11, 2012.

<http://www.lionsquest.ca/section.asp?catid=139&subid=172&pageid=139>

-Piggyback on this event for a national meeting. 250 people, youth, community organizations, etc.

-Do we want to piggyback on this conference? We could all meet the day before/after the conference...

-Pairing up a couple of the projects and do a presentation at the conference. Group rate – will look into negotiating

When would we like to be meeting?

-Useful to meet to share our research questions, relationship building (first layer of questions), which will influence what we do in our local projects. Better to meet earlier than later to get to know one another

-At the meeting, could do open-ended presentations about what each team has done so far and get feedback.

-Also useful to meet at the point of what does this mean, analysis, and communicating, developing the product.

**Action:** Doodle poll to find out dates that people are available and people's preferences for which month is better, and costs.