

# W2A: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SHARING WHAT WORKS

MAY 15-16, 2018  
YMCA, 20 Grosvenor St.  
Toronto, Tkaronto



## ARE YOU?

A youth who leads formal or informal leadership, engagement or activation work in your community?

An adult ally who works with youth who wants to better understand how to engage youth, co-create with youth, and follow best practices in youth engagement?

Looking for ways to evaluate your results in youth engagement?

**REGISTER NOW**  
[wisdom2action.org](http://wisdom2action.org)

**Wisdom2Action (W2A)** is partnering with the **National Alliance for Children and Youth (NACY)**, and joining forces with many other partners, to facilitate a national conversation about effective youth engagement with youth, service providers, researchers and others working with youth.

At the heart of youth engagement is the empowerment of young people and the acknowledgement of youth as valuable partners in addressing and making decisions in governance and program design and delivery.

Wisdom2Action and NACY are launching this project to build capacity and sustainability within the youth serving sector across the country to support a range of youth engagement and youth-led models. We will create social impact through innovative and emerging practices for young people and the programs that serve them that are driven by youth creation, leadership and engagement.

**"Wisdom2Action's authentic youth engagement process fosters collaboration and innovation. Young people and adult allies come together to generate creative ideas to complex social problems and issues. This is a must-attend event if you want to be on the cutting edge of youth engagement and social innovation."**

- Sharif Mahdy, The Students Commission of Canada

# CONFIRMED PARTNERS

A number of regional and national organizations are committing organizational resources and making significant in-kind contributions to plan this event through a participatory approach.

We welcome the participation and collaboration from other organizations.

For further information please contact us:

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Executive Director, Wisdom2Action

**Lisa McKeen:** [lisa.mckeen@orbis.org](mailto:lisa.mckeen@orbis.org)  
Chair, NACY

- > Stella's Place
- > Sandbox Project
- > FRAYME Network
- > Students Commission of Canada
- > Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital



# GET INVOLVED

- > Join the event planning team or youth host team
- > Partner with Wisdom2Action and NACY to support youth travel to the event
- > Register to attend *W2A: Youth Engagement*
- > Promote participation through your channels



# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT: CANADIAN CONTEXT

Across Canada, many organizations have sought to ensure youth engagement in their policies and programs, particularly since the right to participate was enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

More recently with the appointment of the Prime Minister as Minister of Youth and the creation of a Prime Minister's Youth Council, there has been a renewed wave of interest in doing youth engagement across all jurisdictions and in youth serving organizations that span different sectors.

There are organizations across Canada who have experience in the field of youth engagement such as UNICEF, 4-H Canada, the Students Commission and others, and provincially and territorially there are examples as diverse as Nova Scotia's Heartwood Centre for Community Youth Development and Ontario's mindyourmind. These organizations follow

youth engagement principles that inform co-creation with young people to ensure that it is authentic and meaningful.

On the other end of the spectrum of youth engagement, there are youth serving organizations that struggle to identify how to undertake youth engagement from governance to services. Organizations are concerned about their own capacity to support youth engagement and engagement processes that are not well designed can lead to tokenism, manipulation, and exploitation. There is evidence available to support organizations to do better.

Additionally, other sectors in Canada are increasing engaging young people – from researchers to foundations to private sector corporations. They need to be brought into this conversation and learn alongside the youth serving organizations.

**W2A Youth Engagement: Sharing What Works will allow a broad range of stakeholders to consider critical topics and to focus organizational efforts on developing effective youth engagement strategies over the next year.**

## PHASE 1 > In Progress

Establish national intergenerational planning team.

Planning team to engage broadly on key questions of concern and use this process to update Wisdom2Action's 2013 knowledge synthesis report "Working with Children and Youth in Challenging Contexts to Promote Youth Engagement".

Create revised program guidelines & conduct online consultation.

Collect promising practices in youth engagement from across Canada and share on our website.

## PHASE 2 > Jan - May 2018

Host national Wisdom2Action as catalytical element co-designed and co-led by youth.

National representation from youth and youth serving agencies.

Share promising practices on youth engagement from across Canada and internationally.

Address key policy and program issues in youth engagement governance and structure, service and program development, and evaluation needs.

Reflect on and confirm policy and program guidelines.

## PHASE 3 > May - Nov 2018

Mobilize Youth Engagement Governance Toolkit with revised and additional pieces aimed across sectors.

Develop and implement Toolkit Evaluation Guide.

Train youth leaders on evaluation practices.

Develop videos about Youth Engagement and promising practices Community of practice – move promising practices forward together.

Create mentorship program to implement youth engagement.

# THE WISDOM2ACTION APPROACH

The W2A event model operates on the principle that everyone in the room has important knowledge to share.

We depart from traditional conference style formats and have instead created a highly participatory design that allows all participants the opportunity to present their ideas or programs, direct the agenda for the day, and host conversations that are meaningful to them.

**“Wisdom2Action is basically having people all at the same table, acknowledging different types of knowledge, and having this wisdom put into practice.”**

## W2A YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FACILITATORS

### FAE JOHNSTONE

Fae Johnstone (she/they) is a queer and trans educator and a fourth-year Bachelor of Social Work student at Carleton University on unceded and unsundered Algonquin territory. She is an experienced activist, community organizer and



facilitator. She is a member of the Strategic Advisory Council of the Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health, and a Core Team Member of Trans Health Information Ottawa.

This past year, Fae has been a key organizer of Slutwalk Ottawa, Trans Day of Remembrance and the Rally on Parliament Hill for Trans Rights Bill C16. Fae is a sought-after public speaker and facilitator, having participated in numerous panels and delivered countless presentations and workshops focused on mental health, trans inclusion, youth and community engagement, and anti-oppression over the past year, including traveling to Dublin, Ireland to deliver a keynote address on LGBTQ+ youth mental health at the International Association for Youth Mental Health Conference in September.

### MUNA MOHAMED

Muna Mohamed is a mental health advocate, student and creative facilitator mobilizing and organizing on unceded and unsundered Algonquin territory.

She has worked with a number of provincial and national youth serving organizations to support them in implementing youth engagement and anti-oppressive organizational practices.

Her current work focusses on exploring and better understanding how positive youth mental health can be promoted through a holistic, decolonial and intersectional lens.

Ultimately, Muna’s passion lies in using creative facilitation and community organizing as tools to empower children and youth in creating support systems that contribute to their personal and professional growth.

