



**REPORT OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER'S  
YOUTH  
COUNCIL**



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE **PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA AND MINISTER OF YOUTH**

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Throughout my life and career, I have emphasized how vital it is to actively involve young people in the policy conversation. Their innovative ideas on how to solve complex challenges are informed by the profound and critical stage of life they are experiencing in this present moment. They possess a distinctive ability to frame issues differently, and to call attention to matters of importance that may otherwise be overlooked or underestimated.

Young people have always contributed to building a better Canada in many different ways, through volunteering, through student government, through starting businesses, through civic action and (we should remind ourselves) through running for public office. But they can also feel alienated and excluded from the more traditional avenues for providing input to government policy.

That is why in July 2016 I launched the **Prime Minister's Youth Council**, as a platform for young people to engage directly with me, my Cabinet, Parliamentarians, and with senior government officials to ensure that we do a better job of understanding and addressing the needs and perspectives of Canada's youth, at the highest levels of government.

Considering the 20,000 applications I have received to date, it is clear that young people are ready to take their seat at the table.

Since the Youth Council's first meeting with me in September 2016, I continue to be inspired by their hard work, their tenacity, their insightfulness and their commitment to integrating the voices of as many other youth as possible into their work. The Youth Council has weighed in on important issues ranging from mental health and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, to clean growth and youth service, and to building **Canada's first-ever youth policy**.

Through this report, I want to show to Canadians how the Youth Council has impacted and shaped the government's work on priority issues, and how this new advisory body is changing the way we seek and incorporate youth perspectives into policy. Together, we are building a better Canada.



**Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,**  
Prime Minister of Canada and  
Minister of Youth

# THE PRIME MINISTER'S YOUTH COUNCIL (PMYC) HOW DOES IT WORK?

PMYC members meet both online and in person several times a year to discuss issues that matter to them as well as to their peers, their community, and their country.

**At in-person meetings, PMYC members provide advice** to the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and government officials. Discussions are captured in a meeting summary, which is then used by government officials to follow up with relevant Ministers and departments for further action.



**PMYC members also provide written or video input** on particular topics, based on:

- their school, work and life experience
- input from other youth in their community
- their research and volunteer experience

This often results in the Prime Minister tasking Ministers and federal departments and agencies to undertake further analysis of the issue in order to address the PMYC's input.

As a diverse group of youth from regions across Canada, the Prime Minister does not expect PMYC members to agree unanimously. PMYC members work together to convey differing perspectives.

The PMYC is a platform for youth to **use their voice, in their own voice**. With this core value in mind, PMYC members develop and deliver input in their own words in the medium they choose, be it a video, a post on social media, a formal presentation, a written letter, or by using tools like e-petitions to Parliament.

# PMYC IS A SOUGHT-AFTER ADVISOR ON PRIORITY ISSUES

When choosing what to discuss at meetings, or what projects to undertake, the Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as PMYC members put forward topics for consideration.

This approach supports a two-way dialogue. Government can obtain input from youth on specific programs and initiatives, and PMYC members can advance issues that are important to them – both of which contribute to policy development that better resonates with young people and with Canadians.

## GOVERNMENT TO PMYC:

- Atlantic Growth Strategy
- Canada Service Corps
- Canada's Innovation and Skills Plan
- Canada's response to the opioid crisis
- Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence
- Diversity in the Canadian Armed Forces
- International Experiences Canada
- National Housing Strategy
- Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
- Youth Employment and the Future of Work

## PMYC TO GOVERNMENT:

- Accessibility
- Blood donation ineligibility period for men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Canada's Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- Canada's place in the world
- Criminal Record Suspension Reform
- Electoral Reform
- Protecting the environment
- Racism experienced by immigrant and refugee communities
- Street Harassment
- Youth Representation in Decision-Making Bodies



***I HAVE WITNESSED AND BENEFITTED FIRST-HAND FROM THE PERSEVERANCE AND DEDICATION OF PMYC MEMBERS. THROUGH THE PMYC, YOUNG CANADIANS HAVE A DISTINCTIVE PLATFORM TO CONVEY THEIR UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES, AND THOSE OF THEIR COMMUNITIES, TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. THEIR INPUT HAS IMMENSE VALUE TO POLICY-MAKERS, WHO REGULARLY SEEK THEIR HONEST, FEARLESS ADVICE***

— **PETER SCHIEFKE,**  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (YOUTH)

# THE COUNCIL'S INAUGURAL MEETING IN OTTAWA

SEPTEMBER 2016

## THE PMYC **DISCUSSED**

- Youth Service
- Climate Action
- Gender-based Violence
- Diversity and Immigration
- Mental Health



PMYC members discuss climate action with Minister of Environment & Climate Change



The Prime Minister introduces the first members of the PMYC to over 1,000 ambassadors and delegates at the One Young World Summit

## THE PMYC **MET WITH**

- Prime Minister of Canada
- Minister of Environment & Climate Change
- Minister of Status of Women
- Minister of Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Delegates of the One Young World Summit



# OTTAWA MEETING

## KEY RESULTS AND FOLLOW-UPS

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Discussions on climate action fed into the **National Youth Summit on Climate Change** on November 23, 2016, with over 100 youth from the Ottawa-Gatineau region participating, and more joining the conversation online. The summit reached well over 500,000 Canadians on social media through **#YouthClimateAction**.



PMYC members' ideas and contributions from a mind-mapping session on youth service help lay the foundation for the launch of the Canada Service Corps in January 2018.

THE PRIME MINISTER HEARD  
LOUD AND CLEAR FROM  
THE PMYC MEMBERS THAT  
**MENTAL HEALTH  
IS A PRIORITY FOR  
YOUTH.**

To continue the conversation, the Prime Minister held a teleconference to explore the topic further, and requested officials from the Public Health Agency of Canada to arrange a virtual meeting with the Youth Council to go over Canada's efforts to improve mental health.

Their voice, and the chorus of other voices across the country helped lead to the targeted funding for mental health and addiction services in federal, provincial and territorial health agreements, as outlined in the August 2017 **Common Statement of Principles on Shared Health Priorities**.



# IN CALGARY, THE PMYC WELCOMED SECOND COHORT OF MEMBERS

JANUARY 2017

## THE PMYC **DISCUSSED**

- Canada's Innovation Agenda
- Diversity in the Canadian Armed Forces
- Climate and Energy
- Youth Employment

## THE PMYC **MET WITH**

- Prime Minister of Canada
- Minister of Innovation, Science & Economic Development
- Minister of National Defence
- Minister of Natural Resources
- Minister of Environment & Climate Change
- Expert Panel on Youth Employment



PMYC members share their views with Minister Bains on innovation and ways to encourage youth and women to enter STEM (science, tech, engineering, math) fields

# CALGARY MEETING – **IMPACT**

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The PMYC shared frank and challenging perspectives about discrimination that young women and minority groups can experience in interactions with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). The 2017 release of **Canada's Defence Policy** included new initiatives to make sure the CAF reflects the diversity of the country that it defends, and to eliminate harmful behaviours and ensure a work environment free from harassment and discrimination.

The Expert Panel on Youth Employment reflected Youth Council input in its report, **13 Ways to Modernize Youth Employment in Canada**. The report includes a suite of recommendations on strategies to better equip young people to join the workforce, how to support more youth entrepreneurship and ways to create safe and equitable workspaces



At a networking session with the Prime Minister and Cabinet, PMYC members discuss the state of official languages in Canada

**Canada's Innovation and Skills Plan** reflected several key messages from PMYC members, including supporting work-integrated learning and investing in coding and other digital skills learning to get young Canadians interested in science, technology, engineering and math early in their lives for them to have the skills needed to succeed in the future.

# PMYC IN MONTREAL: A DIALOGUE ON RECONCILIATION

MAY 2017

## THE PMYC **DISCUSSED**

- The history of Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples
- The Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
- Canada's commitment to end long-term Drinking Water Advisories on reserve
- Indigenous languages legislation



The PMYC participates in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise



PMYC members discuss the different facets of reconciliation with Minister Bennett

## THE PMYC **MET WITH**

- Prime Minister of Canada
- Leaders from the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Métis community
- Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs
- Minister of Justice & the Attorney General of Canada
- Minister of Health
- Minister of Canadian Heritage
- Canadian Roots Exchange
- Youth of the Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territory

# MONTREAL MEETING OUTCOMES AND FOLLOW-UPS

After the meeting, PMYC members submitted a letter to the Prime Minister to express support for Canada's implementation of the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** (UNDRIP).

On May 30, 2018, Bill C-262 (An Act to ensure the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) passed the Third Reading in the House of Commons with unanimous support from the government.



As part of the meeting in Montreal, PMYC members participate in a Facebook Live discussion on reconciliation, together with the Prime Minister and Minister of Canadian Heritage. The session has over 230,000 views and over 3,000 comments.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed the government's **commitment to Indigenous youth** in his announcement on February 14, 2018 to develop the Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework.

**INDIGENOUS YOUTH SHOULD NOT GROW UP SURROUNDED BY THE THINGS THAT PLACE THEM AT ELEVATED RISK FOR SUICIDE – THINGS LIKE POVERTY, ABUSE, AND LIMITED ACCESS TO A GOOD EDUCATION AND GOOD HEALTH CARE. BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND CERTAINLY FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH, ARE PRECISELY WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE THROUGH THIS FRAMEWORK.**

— **RT. HON. JUSTIN TRUDEAU,**  
PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA AND MINISTER OF YOUTH





# IN ST JOHN'S, THE PMYC MET TO DISCUSS ISSUES FACING ATLANTIC CANADA

SEPTEMBER 2017

## THE PMYC **DISCUSSED**

- Youth Policy for Canada
- Tourism and youth entrepreneurship
- Immigration in rural and remote areas
- Atlantic Growth Strategy

## THE PMYC **MET WITH**

- Prime Minister of Canada
- Minister of Small Business and Tourism
- Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship
- Ministers responsible for the Atlantic Growth Strategy
- Atlantic Growth Strategy Advisory Group
- Premier's Youth Council of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Choices for Youth



PMYC members discuss issues with Ministers at a networking session as part of the Cabinet Retreat.

# ST. JOHN'S A MILESTONE IN DEVELOPING A YOUTH POLICY FOR CANADA

The PMYC's discussions in St John's, including with other local youth, helped to inform preliminary areas of focus in the development of a youth policy for Canada, including:

- CANADIAN IDENTITY
- FINANCES
- CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING
- ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
- PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH
- MARGINALIZED YOUTH
- YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
- YOUTH VOICE
- RURAL, REMOTE AND NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

PMYC members presented these themes to the Prime Minister, which became the launching point for government consultations and roundtable discussions across Canada. In their presentation, PMYC members also spoke to **three overarching themes for the Policy**:

- A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH
- ACCESSIBILITY
- RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



PMYC members present to the Prime Minister their preliminary findings on priority areas of focus for a youth policy for Canada.



# PMYC MEETING IN WINNIPEG: DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

JANUARY 2018

## THE PMYC **DISCUSSED**

- Youth Policy for Canada
- Diversity in Corporations
- Indigenous Languages legislation
- Feminist government
- Gender-based Violence
- International Experiences Canada

## THE PMYC **MET WITH**

- Prime Minister of Canada
- Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage (Multiculturalism)
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
- Status of Women Canada
- Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française
- Rainbow Resource Centre
- Sacred 7 Youth Council



PMYC members meet with local youth leaders at the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre



# WINNIPEG MEETING

## CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

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PMYC members tour the Canadian Museum for Human Rights

PMYC members continued to share their perspectives on diversity and inclusion, particularly related to gender equality, supporting immigrants and refugees, and combating racism.

Through their work, PMYC members have highlighted issues such as street harassment and the living conditions of neighbourhoods with high newcomer populations. These inputs shape Canada's efforts to build a more inclusive society, where all Canadians have equal access to services and opportunities.



PMYC members provide additional input on Canada's gender-based violence strategy, on sexual violence on campuses and on the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

PMYC members have also emphasized to the Prime Minister that the PMYC should be just the beginning when it comes to **creating formal mechanisms for youth perspectives to be heard at the highest levels**. This was a central theme in the PMYC's discussion on Bill C-25 (An Act to amend the Canada Business Corporations Act, the Canada Cooperatives Act, the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act and the Competition Act), which received Royal Assent on May 1, 2018. Because of input from PMYC members, government departments are also working to educate chairs of federal boards on the value of the perspective of a young person in these positions.



# WITH A THIRD COHORT OF MEMBERS, THE PMYC MET AGAIN IN OTTAWA

JUNE 2018

## THE PMYC **DISCUSSED**

- Youth Policy for Canada
- Canada's Place in the World
- Responding to the Opioid Crisis
- Gender, Diversity and Inclusion
- Canada's G7 commitments

## THE PMYC **MET WITH**

- Prime Minister of Canada
- Minister of Global Affairs
- Minister of International Trade
- Minister of Health
- Minister of Environment and Climate Change
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage (Multiculturalism)
- Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on LGBTQ2 Issues



New members of the PMYC have their first meeting

- The Hon. Mike Lake, Member of Parliament for Edmonton—Wetaskiwin (Alberta)
- Anne Minh-Thu Quach, Member of Parliament for Salaberry—Suroît (Quebec)
- Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
- Innovation Centre at Bayview Yards
- Local youth representatives from the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization, the Circle of Care Program (Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health), Growcer, the Native Women's Association of Canada, the Spectrum LGBTQ Community Youth Group and Youth Ottawa

# PMYC COHORTS 2 AND 3 IN OTTAWA A NEW CHAPTER

With a third cohort of PMYC members, fresh perspectives were shared on the PMYC's ongoing priority issues, including:

*MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION*      *CANADA'S ENERGY FUTURE*      *PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT*

*CANADA AFTER CANNABIS LEGALIZATION*      *TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES*      *HEALTH SERVICES IN CANADA'S NORTH*



In a special session on Canada's response to the opioid crisis, PMYC members met with Dr. Theresa Tam (Chief Public Health Officer of Canada) and parents with lived experience to talk about raising awareness, reducing stigma and finding solutions.

PMYC members continued to advance work on a youth policy for Canada, where they analyzed data from cross-Canada consultations launched in February 2018.





# IN TORONTO, PMYC MEMBERS ADVISED THE PM ON HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT

OCTOBER 2018

## THE PMYC **DISCUSSED**

- Youth Policy for Canada
- Affordable Housing
- Homelessness
- Youth Employment
- Prevention of Radicalization of Youth to Violence

## THE PMYC **MET WITH**

- Prime Minister of Canada
- Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Youth Economic Opportunity)
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
- Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Public Safety Canada
- Chair of the Federal Expert Panel on Youth Employment
- Covenant House Toronto
- LinkedIn
- MaRS Discovery District
- Royal Bank of Canada



# TORONTO MEETING CONVEYING PERSPECTIVES ON INTERSECTING ISSUES

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During the meeting, PMYC members engaged in a panel discussion with leaders from the public sector and the private sector on enhancing economic opportunities for youth. PMYC members shared ideas on innovating how Canada's post-secondary institutions approach work-integrated learning.



**In a session with the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other officials from Public Safety Canada, PMYC members speak to links that can exist between the radicalization of youth to violence and racism and discrimination, as well as poverty and communities that lack affordable housing.**

In discussions with the Prime Minister, PMYC members attested to the distinct challenges young people face when trying to find a home and live independently, and the connection between housing and accessing viable employment opportunities. Be it trying to purchase their first home or simply finding an affordable place to rent in big cities like Toronto and Vancouver, young people are confronting new and different obstacles that are redefining expectations of conventional paths to home ownership and wealth generation that previous generations have experienced.

# THE PMYC BRINGS THE VOICES OF YOUTH TO THE TABLE

*THE PMYC BELIEVES THAT YOU DON'T NEED TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE. YOUNG PEOPLE ALREADY HAVE A VOICE, THEY JUST NEED A PLATFORM TO HAVE THAT VOICE HEARD.*

— **DONOVAN TAPLIN**



*INITIALLY I WAS NERVOUS TO APPLY. I KEPT ASKING MYSELF, AM I WORTHY OF THIS? DO I EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO GET SELECTED? BUT IT KEPT POPPING INTO MY HEAD AS SOMETHING TO TRY, AND FINALLY I DECIDED TO JUST GO FOR IT BECAUSE WHAT DID I HAVE TO LOSE? AND THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE I'VE REALIZED THAT EVERYONE IS WORTHY OF IT. EVERYONE HAS A STORY THAT DESERVES TO BE HEARD. YOU JUST HAVE TO GO FOR IT!*

— **ASHLEY WHITEMAN**

*IT WAS INCREDIBLE, THAT FIRST MOMENT WE WERE ALL IN THE SAME ROOM TOGETHER, TO HEAR EVERYONE'S PERSPECTIVE. IN MANY WAYS THE PMYC HAS MADE ME A BETTER LISTENER. IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO BE EXPOSED TO THE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES THAT COME FROM EVERY CORNER OF OUR COUNTRY. I WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR THAT.*

— **AARON TAYLOR**





**BEING ON THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN AMAZING. I'VE BEEN ABLE TO MEET PEOPLE FROM ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AND THEY ALL HAVE SUCH DIVERSE EXPERIENCES. THAT'S ONE OF THE MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE PMYC, NO TWO COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE ALIKE. WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN VIEWS, OUR OWN TAKES ON ISSUES. BEING ABLE TO HEAR FROM EACH OTHER AND CONVEY WHAT WE ARE HEARING DIRECTLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER, IS INVALUABLE TO HAVING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WHAT WE THINK CANADA'S FUTURE SHOULD LOOK LIKE.**

— **GABE SENEAL**

**BEING A YOUNG LEADER IN MY COMMUNITY MEANS NOT BEING APATHETIC TOWARDS PROBLEMS THAT EXIST. IT MEANS STAYING ACTIVE AND AWARE AND NOT BEING INTIMIDATED BY THE CHALLENGES BEFORE US. EVERY MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY, EVERY PERSON CAN TAKE ACTION.**

— **ÉLYSE TREMBLAY-LONGCHAMPS**



**BEING THE FIRST INUK ON THE PMYC HAS GIVEN ME A LOT OF ENCOURAGEMENT. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STAND IN FRONT OF YOUTH BACK HOME, AND TELL THEM THAT THEY CAN GO FOR WHAT THEY WANT, AND THAT IT CAN HAPPEN. I AM A LIVING EXAMPLE OF THAT IN MY OWN COMMUNITY.**

— **RACHEL SMALE**



# THE PMYC IS A FORCE FOR AMPLIFYING THE YOUTH VOICE

Sylvia Pascua-Matte (pictured) along with PMYC members across the country spoke at the 2017 national speaking tour:

**The Walrus Talks Conversations about Canada: We Desire a Better Country**, a signature initiative of the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation.



**THE WALRUS TALKS**  
YELLOWKNIFE, NWT



On the invitation of Rachel Smale, in January 2017 **Peter Schiefke (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister - Youth)** met with youth in her community of Pond Inlet to talk about climate change, sea ice, mental health and youth empowerment.



**ARCTIC RENDEZ-VOUS**  
POND INLET, NU

As part of the Canadian delegation at the **Summit of the Americas** in April 2018, Simone Cavanaugh and Dana Kenny shared their perspectives with the Prime Minister.



**SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**  
LIMA, PERU







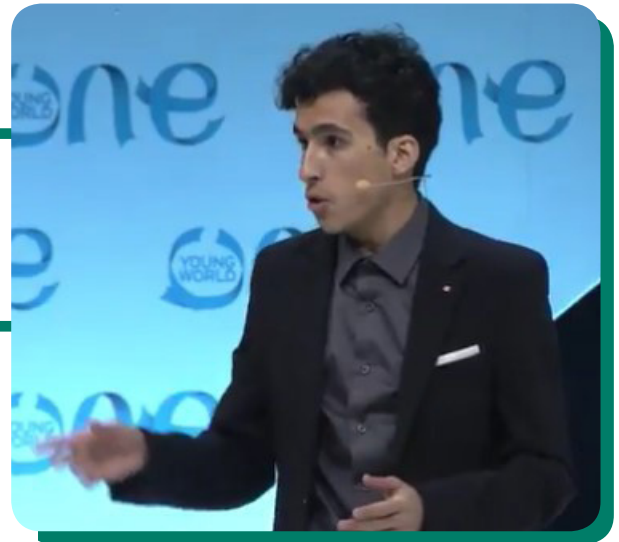
Held on the margins of the United Nations Defence Peacekeeping Ministerial, Lauren Kennedy and François-Olivier Picard joined 130 delegates in November 2017 at the **Youth as Peacebuilders Forum**, organized by the United Nations Association in Canada, where they met with the Prime Minister as well as Hon. LGen (ret.) Roméo Dallaire, Minister Sajjan and Minister Bibeau.



## **YOUTH AS PEACEBUILDERS FORUM** VANCOUVER, BC

At the **One Young World Summit** in 2016, Hani AL Moulia told his story of being a Syrian refugee, now living in Canada.

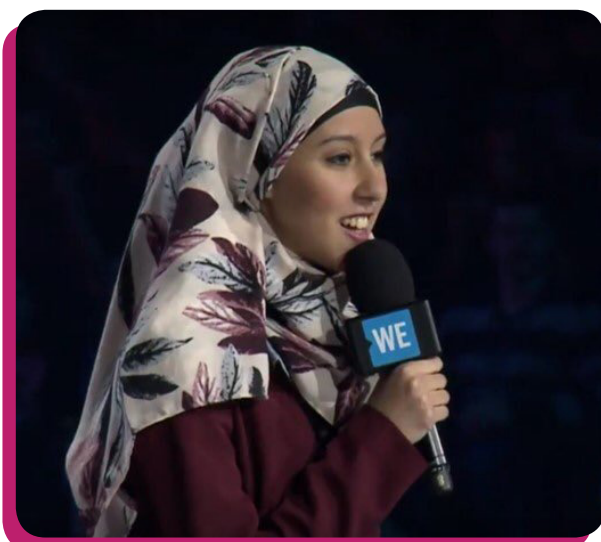
## **ONE YOUNG WORLD SUMMIT** OTTAWA, ON



Sara Abdessamie is an active member of the **WE Movement**, helping to empower and amplify the voice of youth across the country.



## **WE DAY ATLANTIC** HALIFAX, NS



# DEVELOPING A YOUTH POLICY FOR CANADA

As Minister of Youth, the Prime Minister is committed to creating a **first-ever Youth Policy for Canada**. In May 2017, the Prime Minister asked his Youth Council to play a primary role in supporting its development and to help bring as many young people as possible into the conversation.

*FOR A YOUTH POLICY TO SUCCEED, FOR A YOUTH POLICY TO BE RELEVANT AND IMPACTFUL TO YOUNG PEOPLE AS WELL AS TO ALL CANADIANS, YOUTH THEMSELVES MUST BE AT THE CENTRE OF ITS REALIZATION. THEY NEED TO HOLD THE PEN, THEY NEED TO TELL US WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO THEM, AND WE NEED TO BE READY TO LISTEN.*

— **RT. HON. JUSTIN TRUDEAU,**  
PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA AND MINISTER OF YOUTH

During summer and fall 2017, PMYC members worked on identifying topics and potential themes for a youth policy. These themes were presented to the Prime Minister at the in-person meeting held in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. They also became the launching point for the development of online consultations and roundtable discussion guides.



In February 2018, the Government of Canada launched cross-Canada consultations to provide young Canadians with an opportunity to discuss and provide comments on the identified priority themes, as well as highlight supports and solutions to improve the lives of youth across Canada.

## **DISCUSSIONS ABOUT A YOUTH POLICY ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

As part of consultations, PMYC members led, co-hosted and participated in over 25 youth dialogue roundtables with their peers. The perspectives of young Canadians were also shared as part of dozens more roundtables as well as thousands of ideas received through online consultations. Find out more about this dialogue – which elicited more than 10,000 individual responses – by reviewing the section Building a Youth Policy for Canada on [Canada.ca/youth](https://Canada.ca/youth).



The outcomes of these discussions contributed to the development of the Youth Policy. In August 2018, PMYC members also participated in an intensive session in Ottawa, working with government officials to shape the language of these key elements.

## **AN ONGOING AND ITERATIVE PROCESS**

During its in-person meetings, PMYC members have spent time discussing and updating the Prime Minister on their contributions to the Policy. As an ongoing effort to ensure that the Policy and its associated initiatives will be relevant, PMYC members, and youth across Canada will continue to play an important role as it evolves .

The core objective of the Youth Policy will be to ensure that youth voices are heard and can influence government actions and decisions on issues that matter to them, in a tangible and effective manner.

**36** MEMBERS HAVE SERVED  
ON THE PMYC TO DATE

**IN-PERSON**  
MEETINGS TO DATE

**7**

IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH  
**21** MINISTERS AND  
**8** PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

VIRTUAL MEETINGS AND  
TELECONFERENCES

**23+**

## HOW ARE PMYC MEMBERS SELECTED?

Council members are selected through a robust and youth-oriented application and selection process, which starts with an online application form. Applicants must be **16 to 24 years of age** to be eligible to be considered.

From the pool of applications, the Privy Council Office uses a methodology designed to ensure that **every applicant has a chance to be considered!** Using a combination of community engagement scoring, blind demographic analysis and random selection, a pool of candidates is invited to submit a video interview. The candidate pool is compiled in such a way to be representative of the applicant pool as well as the overall diversity of Canada.

Officials then assess interviews and applications according to a defined rubric in order to develop a short list of candidates for the Prime Minister's consideration.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PMYC'S INAUGURAL MEMBERS...

As we wrap up our term as members of the Prime Minister's Youth Council, we are proud to reflect back on our contributions. We have provided bold, unbiased advice to the best of our abilities. But we have also received much in return. Through the PMYC we have been able to connect with youth across the country and share in each other's experiences. We are inspired by the leadership young people are showing from coast to coast to coast. We have a voice, and we are using it.

We want to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the Prime Minister. While at times we may have pushed and challenged you, we know that you were always open to listening and we thank you for creating this important avenue through which youth can have their voice heard.

And finally, thank you to all the young Canadians who have been a part of the PMYC's work, at our meetings, at discussions in our communities and on campuses, and participating in discussions online. Young Canadians have a wide range of perspectives, and we represent just a few of them. By working together, by engaging in dialogue, and listening to each other, we amplify our collective voice. We look forward to continuing to work with the PMYC and its future members as alumni. We will keep working to make sure youth have a voice and we hope you will as well!

*Sincerely*



*Sara Abdessamie*



*Mustafa Ahmed*



*Hani AL Moulia*



*Alex Bouchard*



*Joe Darcel*



*Greg Francis*



*Sylvia Pascua-Matte*



*Rachel Smale*



*Donovan Taplin*



*Aaron Taylor*



*Mac Tebbutt*



*Élyse Tremblay-Longchamps*



*Nmesoma Umenwofor-Nweze*



*Ashley Whiteman*



*Chris Zhou*



**COHORT 1 MEMBERS**  
SEPT 2016 TO MARCH 2018

SARA ABDESSAMIE  
MUSTAFA AHMED  
HANI AL MOULIA  
ALEX BOUCHARD  
JOE DARCEL  
GREG FRANCIS  
SYLVIA PASCUA-MATTE  
RACHEL SMALE  
DONOVAN TAPLIN  
AARON TAYLOR  
MAC TEBBUTT  
ÉLYSE TREMBLAY-LONGCHAMPS  
NMESOMA UMENWOFOR-NWEZE  
ASHLEY WHITEMAN  
CHRIS ZHOU



**COHORT 2 MEMBERS**  
JANUARY 2017 TO JANUARY 2019

RAYENE BOUZITOUN  
SIMONE CAVANAUGH  
MOLLY FRENCH  
LAUREN KENNEDY  
DANA KENNY  
FRANÇOIS-OLIVIER PICARD  
NEHA RAHMAN  
GABE SENEAL  
SARA WHEALE  
JUSTIN CHARLES WONG  
RILEY YESNO

ZANDER AFFLECK  
HABON ALI  
JACK CAMPBELL  
ASHLEY CUMMINGS  
ELIJAH DIETRICH  
TAGALIK ECCLES  
SAGAR GREWAL  
PIER-MAUDE LANTEIGNE  
FRANÇOIS LÉPINE-COSSETTE  
KATHRYN MCINTOSH



**COHORT 3 MEMBERS**  
JUNE 2018 TO JUNE 2020

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# LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED AT PMYC MEETINGS

**(SEPTEMBER 2016 TO DECEMBER 2018)**

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- Atlantic Growth Advisory Group
- Canadian Armed Forces
- Canadian Blood Services
- Canadian Roots Exchange
- Choices for Youth
- Communications Security Establishment
- Community of Bell Island, Newfoundland and Labrador
- Covenant House Toronto
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Department of Canadian Heritage
- Department of Finance Canada
- Department of Justice Canada
- Department of National Defence
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Expert Panel on Youth Employment
- Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française
- Global Affairs Canada
- Growcer
- Health Canada
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Innovation Centre at Bayview Yards
- Leaders from the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Métis community
- LinkedIn
- MaRS Discovery District
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre
- Members of the House of Commons of Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Native Friendship Centre of Montreal
- Native Women's Association of Canada
- Office of the Prime Minister
- One Young World
- Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization
- Premier's Youth Council of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Privy Council Office
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Public Safety Canada
- Rainbow Resource Centre
- Royal Bank of Canada
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Sacred 7 Youth Council
- Say No for Nick
- Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on LGBTQ2 Issues
- Spectrum LGBTQ Community Youth Group
- Status of Women Canada
- Students Commission of Canada
- Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
- Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
- Young Diplomats of Canada
- Youth of the Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territory
- Youth Ottawa

# THE PMYC REPRESENTS JUST ONE WAY THE GOVERNMENT IS **CHANGING HOW IT ENGAGES WITH YOUTH**

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The **Canada Service Corps**, launched in January 2018, is innovating how youth can access short- and long-term service and volunteer opportunities.

Through subscriptions on [Canada.ca/youth](https://Canada.ca/youth), the Government of Canada has sent more than **450,000 invitations to youth engagement opportunities**.

Federal departments are working together to **streamline processes for youth delegates** to participate at national and international summits and meetings.

For public consultations, the Government of Canada is applying **new strategies to target youth** and to seek their input.



For more information about the Prime Minister's Youth Council, and the Government of Canada's work to engage youth more broadly, visit

[Canada.ca/youth](https://Canada.ca/youth)



