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YouthOTTAWA



Ottawa Youth Engagement Committee

2022 Recruitment Package

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



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What is OYEC?



The Ottawa Youth Engagement Committee (OYEC) consists of youth working in partnership with the City of Ottawa to inform decisions and actions that help make Ottawa a better city for youth. To assure that youth are valued stakeholders in our municipality, we strive to engage and amplify the voices of the diverse communities of youth in Ottawa, in action and through representation.

OYEC is half advisory based, and half action based.

Advisory: Staff from various City Departments, City Councillors, and members of stakeholder organizations may visit meetings to gain insight and advice on their initiatives.

Action: Sub committees work with City staff or independently to achieve goals and complete projects.

OYEC is supported by two main, local youth engagement organizations: **Youth Ottawa** and **YouthNet**. Keep reading to find out what they're all about!



Who is Youth Ottawa?



Youth Ottawa is a local non-profit organization that empowers youth through three pillars: Skills Programming, Employment & Project Amplification, and Recognition of Contributions.

For over 25 years, Youth Ottawa has provided youth across Ottawa with resources, training and support to build the skills, confidence and strategies they need to succeed and help build a better community for themselves and their peers.

Vision:

An Ottawa where youth drive remarkable positive change. (for themselves & others)

Mission:

To engage, encourage and empower youth to spark change (for themselves) and take action in our community (for others).



Who is YouthNet?



YouthNet/RéseauAdo (YNRA) is bilingual, for-youth-by-youth mental health promotion organization of CHEO. We strive to engage youth (ages 13-24) across the National Capital region in matters that are important to them with the aim of reducing stigma and promoting positive youth development.



Youth engagement is at the heart of all we do:

YNRA engages with youth directly in schools and communities to offer literacy, intervention, and advocacy programs. YNRA also supports youth-focused organizations to better infuse genuine youth engagement practices into their everyday operations.



In talking about mental health and genuinely engaging young people, YNRA equips youth with the tools to connect, find support, get involved, and make a difference in their schools and communities.

Learn more: www.ynra.ca or email us at ynra@cheo.on.ca

www.youthottawa.ca | info@youthottawa.ca | (877) 564-1577



OYEC Terms of Reference

Youth Ottawa in partnership with the City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Youth Engagement Committee (OYEC) is guided by three core mandates:

- 1) Educate youth on municipal functions of government
- 2) Bring youth voice to municipal decision making
- 3) Enable sustainable youth engagement on issues that are important to young people

Additionally, the program aims to;

- Increase awareness of the committee with Ottawa youth.
- Increase engagement with Ottawa youth.
- Encourage youth to volunteer & contribute to a cause they are passionate about.
- Educate youth on various programs and services offered by The City of Ottawa.
- Build public understanding of the positive impact of youth engagement
- Contribute to the infrastructure for sustainable, collaborative youth engagement on issues that are important to young people.



How to Join OYEC

The Ottawa Youth Engagement Committee (OYEC) is made up of two important groups:

1. OYEC Youth Leaders
2. OYEC Youth Network Members

Who are the OYEC Youth Leaders?

OYEC Youth Leaders are young people (ages 15-24) who commit their time and energy to helping make Ottawa a better city for youth. They are a core leadership team that meets monthly to discuss topics of importance, to consult with City officials and other community leaders, and to develop action plans intended to make a difference and engage Ottawa's broader youth population. OYEC Youth Leaders also receive extensive training and ongoing support from OYEC Coordinators/Adult Allies and may be involved in other youth sub-committees or community organizations.

Responsibilities:

- Attend monthly OYEC core leadership meetings (meetings will be held virtually and determined based on the whole OYEC team's availability)
- Attend a minimum of 80% of OYEC meetings in a calendar year
- Make a 1-year commitment to be part of the committee
- Agree to the community guidelines
- *Participate in a sub-committee and be available to attend project meetings outside of the regular monthly OYEC meetings to work towards action projects

**** A sub committee is a working group consisting of several OYEC members that focus on one priority issue facing the community. Priorities are voted on by OYEC members and form the committee's yearly action plan (YAP).**



Who can become an OYEC Youth Leader?

You don't need any special skills to become an **OYEC Youth Leader**, but it helps to be passionate about something! Check out the eligibility criteria below:

Eligibility

- Youth between the ages of 15-24
- Current resident in the City of Ottawa
- Be enthusiastic, passionate and proactive about making a difference
- Be committed to attending meetings regularly (1-2 meetings per month) for a period of 1 year (possibility to extend)
- Be a good team player - have the ability to work within a team with fairness, integrity and respect for others
- *Be willing to actively participate in OYEC by bringing new ideas, providing constructive input and helping with fair decision-making
- Youth who complete the application survey and/or are recommended by a community organization as a youth representative who can meet the above criteria
- Be available for special events and advocate for YouthNet and Youth Ottawa as a community ambassador.

***Note:** Don't worry, **OYEC** members and adult allies are all youth-friendly and supportive, so you'll also get training and ongoing support so you can feel confident sharing and participating!



Who are the OYEC Youth Network Members?

We encourage ALL interested Ottawa youth to apply to become an **OYEC** Youth Leader, but even if you don't get chosen as a core leader right away, you are still a VERY important part of Ottawa's youth engagement plan!

By signing up to join the **OYEC Youth Network**, you instantly get access to a bunch of awesome opportunities, like chances to consult on important city projects/motions, invitations to attend special events or to contribute to a sub-committee on a specific topic (e.g., mental health, homelessness, etc.,). You also get first dibs on exclusive prize draws, job and training opportunities.

Application and Selection Process

You can apply to be part of the **OYEC** Leadership team or **Network** all in the same form. Just complete the survey to apply:

- Applications to become an OYEC Youth Leader or Network member are open all year round.
- Candidates for the Leadership team will be contacted once there is an opening available
- Recruitment for new members is always open!
- Individuals must complete the **Youth Action Survey** and click that they wish to apply to become an **OYEC** Youth Leader.
- [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the OYEC application.
- Members must sign and agree to OYEC's community guidelines.



Incentives

- OYEC members can request volunteer hours for their involvement on the committee. These can count against High School student's 40 hours of community service as a graduation requirement.
- All OYEC members are eligible to apply for executive roles on the committee and receive a monthly honorarium up to \$100 a month for their successful fulfillment of the position.

Terms of Appointment

- The standard term of appointment will be one year. Members can ask for their membership to be extended for two additional terms. OYEC members, Coordinators and Youth Ottawa must approve extended terms of appointment.

The term of appointment can be less than one year should a member:

- Resign
- Miss more than 3 consecutive meetings

Should an OYEC member resign, a replacement will be found through the process for recruitment currently in place with Youth Ottawa.



Opportunities for Community Organisations

Are you a local Ottawa community organization that either serves youth or focuses on youth positive development or engagement? OYEC is always looking for organizations interested in partnering in a number of ways to support sustainable youth engagement in the city of Ottawa.

Ways your organization can get involved:

- 1) **Already have youth involved in your organization?** Recommend an outstanding young person to represent your organization or cause as an OYEC Youth Leader!
- 2) **Want to support sustainable youth engagement?** Offer to sponsor an OYEC Youth Leader's honorarium to participate or offer some in-kind support to OYEC as a whole.
- 3) **Want to do some knowledge translation on the work your organization does?** Offer your organization's expertise for OYEC's youth engagement initiatives (e.g., you can send a professional or subject matter expert as a guest speaker to speak to the OYEC Leaders).
- 4) **Don't have any youth representation yet?** Connect with OYEC to help build your own Youth Advisory/Action Committee (YAC) to support your organizations youth impact.
- 5) **Have an issue related to young people in Ottawa?** Ask for a consultation with OYEC to get some important youth insight.
- 6) **Have an opportunity for young people in Ottawa you want to recruit for?** Get in touch with OYEC to promote the opportunity (e.g., volunteering, jobs, research studies, scholarships, events, etc.,) to a wide network of youth!

If any of the above options resonate with your organization or you'd just like to learn more, don't hesitate to contact OYEC at info@youthottawa.ca



Apply Today!

- [CLICK HERE](#) to apply.

SCAN FOR SURVEY



Community Guidelines

The Ottawa Youth Engagement Committee (OYEC) strives to maintain an environment that fosters personal and professional growth for all of its committee members and employees. We also aim to ensure that all committee members are treated fairly and with dignity. Thus, it is the responsibility of the Organization ([Youth Ottawa & YouthNet](#)) and all its members to:

- Share responsibility for including all voices in the conversation.
- Listen respectfully.
- Sign the Youth Ottawa Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment policy.
- Recognize that each member has a right to be treated fairly and with dignity.
- Be open to changing your perspectives based on what you learn from others.
- Understand that we are bound to make mistakes in this space.
- Cooperate, communicate and encourage the growth and development of fellow members by helping them achieve both their personal goals and those of the committee.
- Understand that your words have effects on others.
- Take the work of OYEC seriously as ambassadors of Youth Ottawa and the City of Ottawa.
- Sign the Youth Ottawa Social Media Policy.
- Understand that others will come to these discussions with different experiences from yours.
- Make an effort to get to know other members, introduce yourself and network.
- Understand that there are different approaches to solving problems.

