

2017 Youth-led Community Change Project Descriptions

Beausoleil First Nation Youth Council Amount: \$25 000

Administrative Partner: Beausoleil First Nation

Project Description: Located in Christian Island Reserve 30, the Beausoleil First Nation Youth Council will raise awareness of Truth and Reconciliation and collect recommendations of what reconciliation means to local youth by hosting a series of forums. By engaging in these forums and raising awareness about TRC and its recommendations, the group aims to develop relationships with Indigenous youth on and off the reserve.

Black Lives Matter Toronto Amount: \$25 000

Administrative Partner: Children's Peace Theatre (TBC)

Project Description: Freedom School is a youth-led arts-based education and leadership program designed and implemented by Black youth for children (4-10) based in three wards in Toronto (Eglinton-Lawrence, York University Heights, and Crescent Town). Freedom School is developing best practices for teaching and engaging Black students including the development of Black-affirmative educational materials. Using a peer-mentorship model, Freedom School aims to address the root causes of high TDSB suspension and drop-out rates for Black youth by offering an alternative educational space through summer programming, and conducting a community-informed needs assessment regarding educational attainment for Black youth and children.

Naadmaagit Ki-Ningo Gikinonwin Amount: \$25 000

Administrative Partner: Tides Canada

Project Description: Ningo Gikinonwin proposes to work with urban Indigenous youth and community members by exploring culturally based ways to reconnect with the land in the city over the next four seasons. Participants will work with Indigenous elders, teachers, and knowledge keepers to explore past, current, and potential future Indigenous relationships with the land for both themselves and their nations.

Learning Disabilities Association of York Region Amount: \$20 000

Project Description: The Voices of LDAYR is a youth-led team made up of youth diagnosed with either learning disabilities and/or ADHD living in York Region. The project has three goals: growing the Voices of LDAYR Team, making presentations to decision makers annually and carrying out public outreach activities. Project activities will involve designing promotional materials; developing content for the LDAYR agency newsletter on topics such as special education funding, mental health awareness as it relates to LDs, benefits of informing children of their diagnosis, learning preferences, self-advocacy strategies, etc. and recruiting more members to the group.

LegalSwipe Amount: \$25 000

Administrative Partner: Ontario Justice Education Network

Project Description: Legalswipe will be developing and delivering legal education workshops to youth in Toronto. These workshops will consist of simulated police interactions, critical analysis of police practices and police-community relations, and understanding basic legal concepts to

equip young people of colour, primarily young black men, with education on their legal rights. These workshops will be delivered by young lawyers involved in this project.

Lue Boileau/Intercepting the Pipeline to Prison Amount: \$25 000

Project Description: The project aims to produce a documentary film interviewing Black and Indigenous youth with mental illness and mental health challenges, and their support caregivers on their experiences in the province inside and outside of institutions (hospitals, prison, education system, and shelters) in the GTA and on Garden River First Nation Reserve. Participants will be able to identify challenges, barriers to accessing support, discuss family stigma, develop strategies for survival, identify systemic changes they would like to be made and what supports they need or would like to create. The project also includes six community gatherings, workshop and skills sharing sessions, where participants will have the opportunity to make connections with other youth and caregivers.

Mno Wiisini Gitigaanan Amount: \$25 000

Project Description: Mno Wiisini Gitigaanan is a 2-spirit, rural, Indigenous youth-led food sovereignty project centred on growing and sharing traditional plant foods and medicines in the community, in the spirit of honouring Dish with One Spoon Treaty responsibilities. This project will support the continued development of 2Spirit and Indigenous youth leadership opportunities in Simcoe County through land and culture-based learning in food and medicine growing. In addition to hands-on learning, the project will result in local research and documentation of treaties and current realities, regional native plants and invasive species culminating in educational materials focussed on treaty responsibilities and environmental stewardship.

National Youth in Care Network Amount: \$22 500

Project description: This project is a response to Ontario's lack of a youth in care network. Youth in care networks provide vital supports for young people in the child welfare system to close service gaps, support youth in transition out of care, and advocate for increased support and services. This Project involves collecting data from 12 focus groups with youth in care across the province to identify the current gaps in the child welfare system and effectively build a case for an Ontario youth in care network.

NGEN Youth Centre Amount: \$25 000

Administrative Partner: Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton

Project Description: The City of Hamilton is in the process of launching its youth strategy and this project will ensure that young people's needs will be reflected in strategies development through an evidence-based approach. Building on their strong presence and leadership in Hamilton's youth space, NGEN will organize 2 youth-led community consultations inviting community members, with social service workers and policy makers to listen to the needs of youth in Hamilton and advocate for youth-centered policy recommendations. A report will be developed from the findings from the consultations will shared with

Pagsibol Amount: \$22 000

Project description: Rootcare aims to develop a research and awareness project that addresses community building for youth that identify as Indigenous black and peoples of colour (IBPOC) in

Southern Ontario. Project activities include a mapping exercise, community dinner, storytelling to address challenges in environmental justice such as farming and agriculture.

Youth Odena Amount: \$23 000

Project description: Youth Odena Summer of Growth (YOSOG) will host 80 events throughout the summer of 2017 in Sault Ste. Marie as part of a strategic advocacy plan seeking to secure a dedicated space for youth by youth. Events are broken down into 8 categories: developing artistic talent, leadership/confidence, professional skills, activist/advocacy skills, self-care/physical health routines, sexual health safety, reconciliatory practices, and newcomer youth safety/integration.

Youth Sexual Health Action Group Amount: \$5000

Administrative Partner: AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area

Project description: Youth Sexual Health Advisory Group plans to develop materials to provide youth with information, skills, and tools to make informed sexual health decisions, along with create trainings and resources to build parent and professional capacity to increase inclusion in schools across the Waterloo region. The key activities include disseminating a “First Day of School Package” to students to share information and resources about sex ed. and training workshops for teachers on inclusion and the LGBTQ+ students.

Youth Social Infrastructure Collaborative Amount: \$25 000

Administrative Partner: Children's Peace Theatre

Project description: Based in Sault Ste. Marie, this project aims to support Ontario’s philanthropic community to implement reconciliation practices as committed to in the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions’ Call to Action. By leveraging the organizations deep relationships in communities and drawing on their learnings from their reconciliation in practice, this project will develop tools and processes to support reconciliation efforts by philanthropic organizations and share these models across the sector.