



Halton Youth Initiative

2018-2021

The HYI elevated youth voices and empowered youth to have a positive impact in the communities of North Oakville, Acton, Aldershot and Milton.

Authentic Youth Engagement and Developmental Relationships

Making the Case for Authentic Youth Engagement Toolkit

Authentic youth engagement happens when you ...



...establish positive, safe and healthy relationships while engaging with others in a way that is true to you.

...encourage youth to build on their strengths.



...challenge adults to think about their strengths, values, hobbies, and lessons they've learned and find appropriate ways to share this with youth to help them navigate the world.

THE PHILOSOPHY

Activities were grounded in an **asset-based approach** and focused on **relationship building** to create a culture of **authentic youth engagement**.

DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS

How they translate in the Halton Youth Initiative:

- **Express Care** - Show up and acknowledge youth
- **Challenge Growth** - Accountability is key
- **Provide Support** - Expand on the idea of what a caring adult is
- **Share Power** - Involve youth in every aspect of the project
- **Expand Possibilities** - Connect the experience to the world



CALL TO ACTION:



- How can you establish positive, safe and healthy relationships with young people in your life?
- How can you engage youth in a way that is true to you?
- How can you encourage youth to build on their strengths?
- How can you encourage other adults to think about their strengths, values, hobbies, and lessons they've learned, and find age-appropriate and context-appropriate ways to share this with youth to help them navigate the world?

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

HALTON
KIDS
Our Kids Network

Funding for the Our Kids Network Halton Youth Initiative is provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

For more information about the Halton Youth Initiative visit haltonyouth.com