



Authentic Youth Engagement

Exploring the **Halton Youth Initiative** project findings and examining authentic youth engagement practices

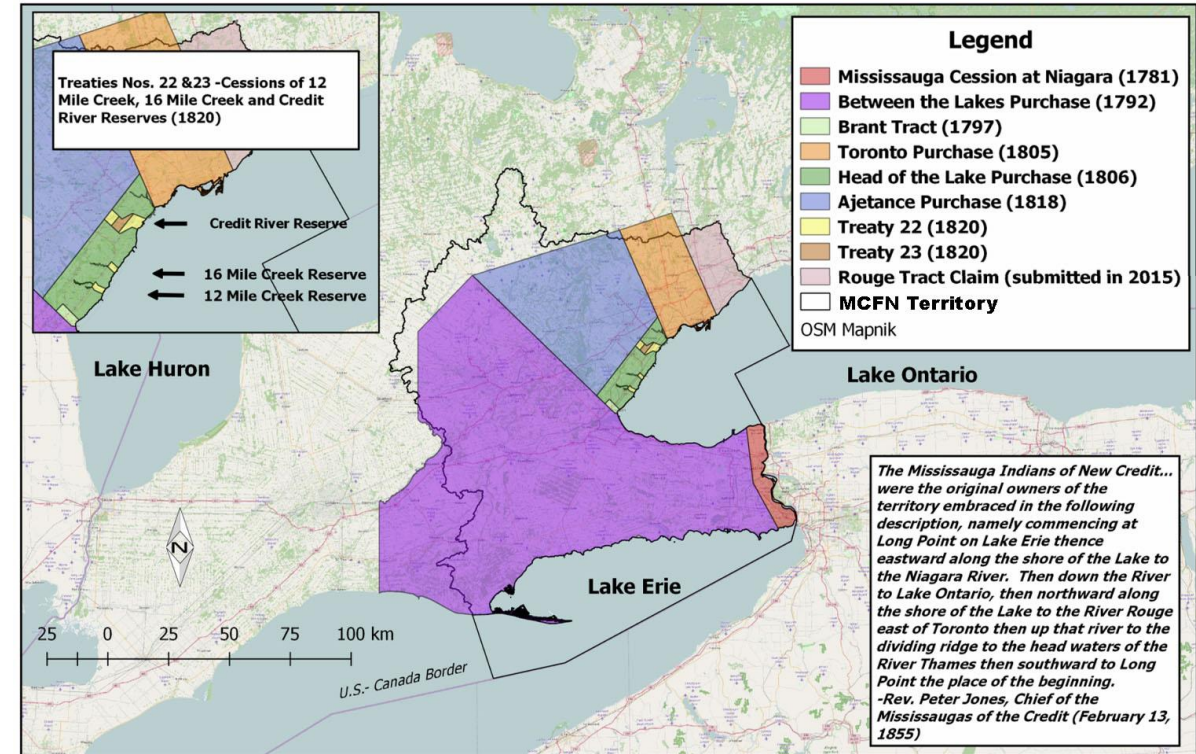


Funding for the Our Kids Network Halton Youth Initiative is provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Land Acknowledgement

Our Kids Network is situated on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee; now home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the lasting presence and deep traditional knowledge and viewpoints of the Indigenous people with whom we share this land.



Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Land Cessions 1781-1820 and Rouge Tract Claim, 2015

Agenda



Introductions

HYI History and Outcomes

Authentic Youth Engagement

HYI Outcomes debrief (3 Outcomes)

- overview, youth perspective, adult perspective, **Q&A**

Expanding Possibilities – what next?

Introductions

Youth Volunteers

- Manya Bhandari
- Diya Deepu
- Tina Liu
- Tanvi Manku
- Ashley Stevenson



Community Partners

- Jennifer Ancona, Town of Halton Hills
- Michelle Dittmer, Canadian Gap Year Association
- Armen Svadjian, Oakville Public Library
- Lily Viggiano, HYI Knowledge Mobilization Consultant

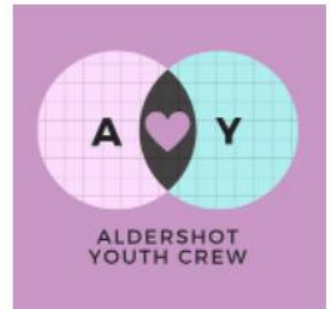
HYI History

The goal of HYI was to elevate youth voice and empower volunteers aged 12-17 to have a positive impact in the community. Adult allies drew from their lived experiences, knowledge and resource lists to support youth.

Goals of HYI

- increase awareness of local resources to a youth audience
- increase awareness of topics that matter to youth, and
- collaborate with community partners to increase positive youth hangout space.

Halton Youth Initiative – co-creating a model for Authentic Youth Engagement with youth and community partners



HYI Outcomes

The Halton Youth Initiative illustrated that when you intentionally build and support youth focused initiatives, communities can:

- *Exceed outreach goals,*
- *Provide safe in-person and virtual spaces to gather, and*
- *Maximize the positive impact on issues that matter to young people*

Authentic Youth Engagement

What is Authentic Youth Engagement?

- Showing up as yourself and for the youth
- Holding space for youth to be their true selves
- It is an ongoing commitment and practice of presence

Authentic Youth Engagement

Every picture tells a story...



Halton Youth Initiative – co-creating a model for Authentic Youth Engagement with youth and community partners

Authentic Youth Engagement

Developmental Relationships



EXPRESS CARE

Show me that I matter to you.

Be dependable

Be someone I can trust

Listen

Really pay attention when we are together

Believe in me

Make me feel known and valued

Be warm

Show me you enjoy being with me

Encourage

Praise me for my efforts and achievements



CHALLENGE GROWTH

Push me to keep getting better.

Expect my best

Expect me to live up to my potential

Stretch

Push me to go further

Hold me accountable

Insist I take responsibility for my actions

Reflect on failures

Help me learn from mistakes and setbacks



PROVIDE SUPPORT

Help me complete tasks and achieve goals.

Navigate

Guide me through hard situations and systems

Empower

Build my confidence to take charge of my life

Advocate

Stand up for me when I need it

Set boundaries

Put limits in place that keep me on track



SHARE POWER

Treat me with respect and give me a say.

Respect me

Take me seriously and treat me fairly

Include me

Involve me in decisions that affect me

Collaborate

Work with me to solve problems and reach goals

Let me lead

Create opportunities for me to take action and lead



EXPAND POSSIBILITIES

Connect me with people and places that broaden my world.

Inspire

Inspire me to see possibilities for my future

Broaden horizons

Expose me to new ideas, experiences, and places

Connect

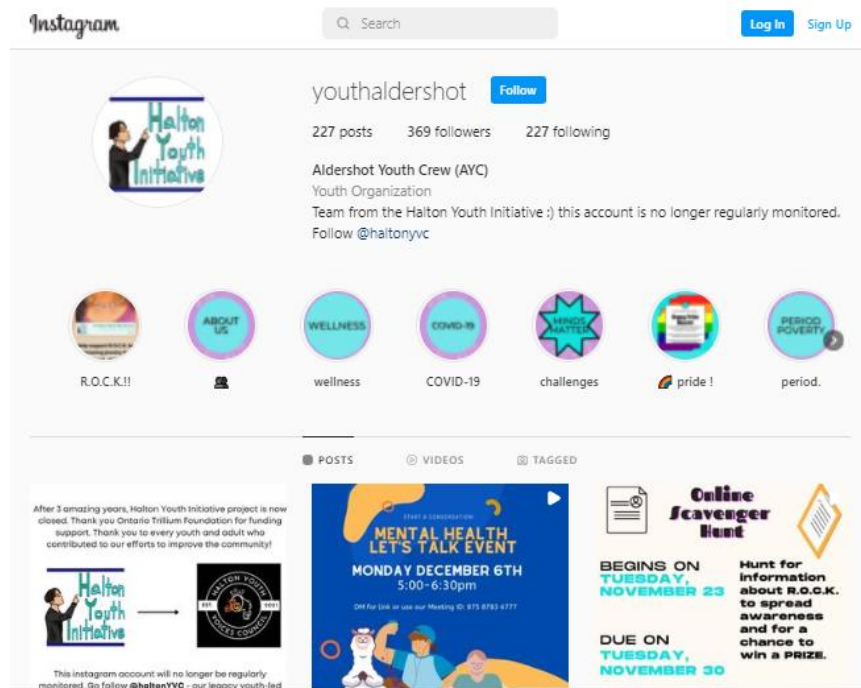
Introduce me to people who can help me grow

Understanding the Project Outcomes

Let's explore each outcome with youth and adult speakers sharing their experiences. Time is provided after each outcome for questions and conversations.

Outcome 1

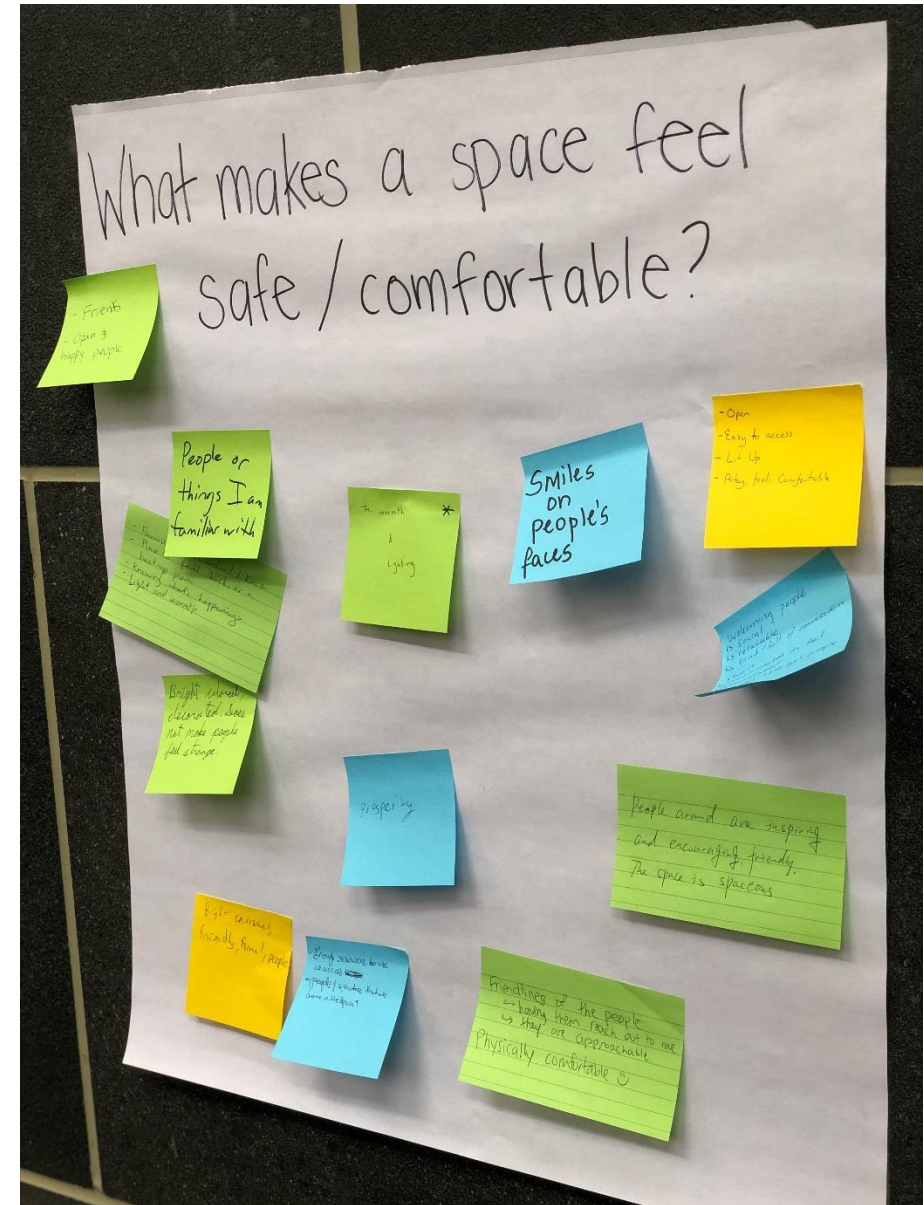
Exceeding Outreach Goals



Halton Youth Initiative – co-creating a model for Authentic Youth Engagement with youth and community partners

Outcome 2

Provide safe in-person and virtual spaces to gather



Outcome 3

Maximize the positive impact on issues that matter to young people



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Expanding Possibilities

Review document for further resources

What is a Youth Friendly Network?

What is your pledge going forward?



Thank you for joining!

We all have a role to play in supporting young people. There is no magic template: **show up, be present, and be YOURSELF!**



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