

Menu of Services

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Background and Daily Rates

The Students Commission of Canada (SCC) supports its charitable activities by generating revenue through providing consulting, advisory and implementation services to a wide range of clients, including federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments; local, regional and national youth serving organizations and networks; public health units and schools; tribal councils and Indigenous youth serving organizations; police services; correctional services and various recreational and sports deliverers.

Rooted in our Four Pillars: Respect, Listen, Understand Communicate™, our services are informed by research generated through our work as the lead of Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement and more than 25 years of active practice of youth engagement. Validated frameworks and models, updated literature reviews and ongoing program evaluation guide our consulting activities in a full continuum of strategic advice, customized research, program development and implementation, to evaluation and follow-up.

The SCC charges a base fee of \$500.00 for its services. The SCC is a charitable organization. As a result, we do not charge HST/GST on our services. Charitable Reg. #886333947-RR-0001. The SCC team is intergenerational and includes a diverse mix of skill sets. These skill sets and competencies include: Program Development, Youth Engagement, Leadership, Facilitation, Graphic Design, Digital Media and Complex Data Analysis. The SCC is a complex organization with multiple funding sources. As a result, the SCC often takes a 'team' approach to projects. Prospective clients may interact with up to 10-12 staff/volunteer members as part of this process. The lead contact for the process, however will be consistent.

Providing Opportunities for Youth

Conferences, Forums, Symposiums and Gatherings

The SCC was born through a recommendation by youth at a national youth conference held in Toronto in 1991. From that initial event, the SCC has developed and refined a conference curriculum. Our team can provide full event management or work with your team to fill in and support your customized needs.

Full Event Management

Our team can work with you and your organization to plan, develop, execute and evaluate your entire event. One of our strengths in youth focused event planning and management is being able to quickly, efficiently and effectively bring together all those needed to ensure the success of your program.

Consultation

Having brought together thousands of young people from across Canada and internationally to more than 200 events, the SCC's expertise will help provide your organization's planning team with insights, ideas, and potential tools to ensure your youth or youth/adult gathering is a success. We can assist you in developing an event plan, creating a process or program that will meet your needs. Our Consultation team includes the SCC leadership team, young leaders, and youth who can meet, review and provide either one time or ongoing consultation for your event.

Youth Recruitment

We can provide support as you recruit participants for your event. We can work with our partners in the youth-adult partnership network to ensure diverse representation. Our expertise is in recruiting diverse youth participants. Our team can help develop a communication strategy you can use to promote the event to youth and young adults, using social media to recruit youth and link youth and adults from our partners across Canada to help broaden your reach.

Event Facilitation

We can provide trained and supported youth, young adult, and adult facilitators to lead large or small group discussions to support your process. These facilitators can lead a range of additional activities, including community building activities and off-site tours or meetings, as well as provide night time and behavioural support to your participants.

Event Evaluation

In collaboration with youth and young adults, our team of researchers can tailor our event evaluation plans using our Sharing the Stories research and platform to your needs, including daily evaluations, workshop evaluations, an overall event evaluation, impact evaluation, and / or process evaluations. For more about our evaluation work please visit www.sharingthestories.ca

Issue, Policy, Program Advice from Diverse Youth

We are known for successfully bringing together diverse groups of youth and having them learn, share, and build together. We have seen and studied the impacts of gathering youth from varied backgrounds, cultures, languages, lived experiences and having them develop new understandings and communicating with each other, learning and sharing in order to create change in all young people's lives.

Many of the young people we have sustained relationships with (providing new opportunities for input) come from communities commonly marginalized or under-engaged such as youth of colour, First Nation, Métis, and Inuit youth, GLBT youth, newcomer youth, northern and rural youth, language minority youth, youth in care, and street involved youth. Our strong partnerships with organizations who serve these and other underserved youth allow us a reach from coast to coast to coast when seeking youth input. This is complemented by youth who are

identified as leaders, who are already active and currently engaged in various activities, and who came from diverse backgrounds.

Youth-Adult Partnership Network

Governments, organizations, and systems want to know what young people feel and what they are thinking on current issues facing children and youth. Increasingly recognized as an important component of youth engagement, having young decision makers assist as programs, policies, and legislation are developed, reviewed, and implemented can help ensure your work is relevant, effective, and meets the needs of children and youth in Canada.

The Young Decision Makers (YDM) model is our framework for incorporating and engaging youth in decision making. Our Youth-Adult partnership network is a body of youth, young adults, adult allies and organizations from across the country who work collaboratively to ensure that youth voice is heard in formal and informal decision-making bodies (governments, systems and organizations).

Community, Regional and National Partnerships

The SCC was founded through inter-generational and cross-organizational partnerships: the impetus of our birth was the coming together of a number of youth leaders, publishers, educators, and service club volunteers who knew that young people in Canada required a space to use their voices. Long before funding mandated partnerships, the SCC has applied systems thinking and network leadership approaches to its work: through collaboration with countless sectors on various projects. Our vision of partnership is one where all win: partner organizations, children, youth, and ourselves. We strongly respect the reciprocal nature of partnerships and value what we both share with and receive from others. Our capacity to develop meaningful partnerships can be seen in our relationships with our existing partners and their youth. This process of coming together, learning from each other, and moving each other forward has allowed us to share opportunities and knowledge in a respectful process.

Positive Youth Development Program Creation

When issues arise, funding becomes available, or your organization decides to develop a new program to serve youth and young adults, The SCC can provide support as you create a positive youth development program. We have existing programs available that can be tailored to meet your needs or we can help you determine a new strategy that can be executed into a program. Either as an official partner or in a contractual relationship, the SCC can assist you with adapting our existing programming to fit your needs or developing new initiatives.

Influence in Action

Influence in Action evidence-based program addressing substance use and positive decision making of youth by training youth who are identified as peer influencers, by their peers. With the information and skills from the training, these youth influence the decision-making of their

peers through informal conversations. This program is an excellent opportunity for influential students from different social groups in your school or organization to learn new life skills and gain new knowledge and methods of communicating with their peers. It is an amazing opportunity for the greater student body to be positively influenced in their decision-making. This program is based on a randomized control trial in Wales that reduced smoking rates across school populations by 4%. We have completed a pilot phase of this project nationally and currently are completing a report on this pilot. Early reporting suggests that the program was very well received by schools and organizations in various settings. For more information visit the [Influence in Action website](#).

Project PEACE

Internationally recognized as an effective crime prevention strategy, The PEACE Project involves Toronto youth, the Toronto Police Service, community agencies and schools in efforts to reduce the negative impact guns and gangs have on all our lives. Working together, youth and police have developed videos, programs and workshops that address violence. We can work with your organization or Police Service to develop a similar youth engagement response in your community to guns, gangs and violence. For more information visit www.projectpeace.ca.

Don't Believe The HYPE

This is a school-based youth engagement program led by a young adult facilitator that demonstrates positive role modeling while students learn more about hip hop. The students deconstruct how this genre of music – this culture – is used internationally to address social issues such as poverty, racism, and oppression. There is a skill development component in the elements of hip hop (dance, music, and writing) that is delivered throughout the program. Youth are challenged to look beyond the headlines and sensationalism of what they hear, see, and read about hip hop and to reach past the HYPE. For more information visit the [Don't Believe the Hype website](#).

Gender Specific Programming

Research shows that there are gender differences in learning and the SCC has developed gender specific programming for twenty years, recognizing the difference in needs, processes, and styles of programming. These include *Challenge the Assumptions*, *Young Women Connect*, the *Young Men's Guyde*, Project Not-So-Much and Project Not-So-Many. Skilled at recruiting, engaging, and sustaining the engagement of youth in these projects, we can assist you as you adapt one of our existing programs or develop your own gender specific programming.

"I am one of the members of Project Not-So-Much. This project started in November of 2003, and we have been here at the Students Commission ever since. The whole idea behind this project was to bring a group of young men together to hang out and express their opinions, on issues that they were facing in their communities, families and just life in general.

I don't want you to get it twisted; we didn't show up just wanting to talk about our problems. There was something that drew us in: money, food and tokens for the subway here in Toronto -

things that everyone loves. Believe it or not though, that's not what kept us here - it was the fact that we are making a difference in both are ourselves and in others."

– Youth Participant

Story-Telling, Research and Evaluation

Sharing the Stories

In 2011, the SCC identified a consistent gap in the capacity of Canadian youth-serving organizations to effectively tell their story. In fact, most organizations did not have the capacity or resources to rigorously evaluate their programs or compare the effectiveness of their programs with other organizations. As a result, there was a lack of Canadian evidence for youth engagement programs, initiatives, and interventions. Through support and funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the SCC launched the Sharing the Stories (StS) research and evaluation platform. StS includes reliable and valid quantitative and qualitative evaluation tools. More importantly, it includes a team of coaches and analysts who support organizations to effectively tell the story of their programs.

StS is a subscription-based model. Each organization pays a relatively small fee to subscribe to the platform. They also agree to pool their data into an anonymized database so that comparisons can be made across programs using similar evaluation tools, processes, and measures. StS now has over 300 unique programs and organizations that are a part of the shared platform.

StS is focused on building an anonymized database of information for youth, the youth sector, policy-makers, and funders. The information gleaned from the database supports:

- 1. Youth Voice:** StS provides a platform for young people to have their voices heard in the programs and initiatives that work with them.
- 2. Youth Sector:** StS provides a platform for organizations to learn about what's working in their programs and what might need to be improved.
- 3. Policy-Makers:** StS identifies trends in the youth-serving sector and shares them with policy-makers so that policy can be informed by evidence.
- 4. Funders:** The evidence generated from StS informs funders on the effectiveness of their programs.

StS is organized around reporting on change on Three Levels using CEYE's Youth Engagement Framework.

- The individual level focuses on reporting on changes (positive and negative) for individual youth and adult allies.

- The social level focuses on reporting on changes (positive and negative) in relationships. For example: how youth interact with other youth or how youth interact with other adult allies.
- The system level focuses on reporting on changes (positive and negative) for programs, organizations, and policy-makers. For example, how youth influence program design or how youth influence government policy.

Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement

The SCC is the lead of the Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement (CEYE). The CEYE includes researchers from Brock University, Bishop’s University, Humber College and Queen’s University. Initially named the Centre of Excellence by the Government of Canada in 2000, we continue to respond to, develop, and execute research and learnings, knowledge transfer frameworks, and research for governments, systems and NGO’s. The CEYE provides the academic and ethical anchor for the StS Research and Evaluation Platform. The CEYE also reviews the youth trends emerging from the StS platform and then works to develop research and/or policy proposals.

Participatory Action Research (PAR)

PAR is an opportunity to engage youth, young adults, and adult allies in identifying issues of importance, gathering information, and drafting reports / recommendations that are most relevant to them. The "research" aspects of PAR is different in that it avoids the “We’ll take information from you and report” approach that often comes from more traditional research undertaken by academia or systems. PAR recognizes that the experts are not only those from existing research structures, who often would go to a community, study youth and leave with their information to write papers, reports and develop recommendations, never to be seen again by the youth or young adults. Using PAR means that the “research” is done by youth and young adults, for youth and young adults. We can support you as you develop a PAR project that brings youth and young adults together to address specific issues identified by them and develop results that are directly applied to the problems at hand.

Environmental Scans

Are you looking to develop a new program or learn more about similar programming nationally and internationally? We can deliver to you a full scan of organizations, programs or projects from around the globe that meet your needs. These scans are developed in concert with you to ensure the information you require is the information you receive. Delivered in a design that is easy to read, this resource will be a tool that can be used by your whole organization.

Targeted Literature Reviews and Summaries

To support your program development, fund development or training programs the SCC can develop targeted Literature Reviews and Summaries. This knowledge on children and youth

engagement related issues can help support your existing and new work. By looking at current and relevant data generated internationally, these reviews will help you ensure your programs are having the greatest impact on those you serve.

Influencing those Who Influence Youth

Strategic Youth Policy Development

Strong policies result in strong programs. The SCC has helped many organizations and systems such as Girl Guides of Canada, Chiefs of Ontario, YMCA of Greater Toronto, YMCA Canada, the City of Vancouver, the City of Mississauga, Kids Help Phone, Cooperative Housing Federation and various federal, provincial and territorial governments across Canada as they develop youth and youth engagement strategies, policies, or frameworks.

Our team of researchers and programmers work collaboratively with you to determine how to develop effective, current, and relevant policies that are meaningful and will impact youth and your organization positively.

Working with youth and young leaders, senior management and volunteers within your organization we can develop a process that is engaging and inclusive to ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to influence the final policy. Our expertise in developing and leading focus groups, online and in-person surveys, consultations, interviews, PAR projects, Photovoice, and social media tools helps ensure a wide scope of input is generated and buy in occurs from all levels of your organization.

Our researchers scan similar processes, explore the latest data, and support the generation of tools to ensure that there is a clear relationship between formal and informal learning for your organization.

We can support the development and execution of youth or youth/adult steering committees or working groups who help move your process forward internally.

Lastly, we can conduct an ongoing evaluation of the process using Sharing the Stories so you can learn and share, should you wish, with others the knowledge generated and highlight the success of the process and the final product; new youth and/or youth engagement policies.

Supporting Youth in Engagement Activities

Advisory Boards

The SCC can assist your organization as you develop an advisory board, committee, or group to steer a project, program, or organization. A full service offered by the SCC from youth recruitment to evaluation, our team has the expertise to ensure that the group is inclusive and reflects those who use your program; they are supported, trained and able to participate fully.

We can support local, regional or national groups, including any face to face or overnight meetings (where we can facilitate logistics, support/supervision, facilitation) necessary. Our team of facilitators can work alongside your staff and volunteers to provide knowledge sharing and shared responsibilities if desired. Using various tools (social media, video and telephone conferencing, in person meetings) we can provide a group that builds strong relationships with each other and your organization, provides relevant feedback, advice and ideas and helps advise the project, program or organization.

Youth Consultations

Using the YDM Model and other interactive processes, the SCC can recruit, facilitate, and provide a report on youth and young adults' feedback on the topic required. Our facilitators begin by learning themselves about the topic at hand, develop an interactive agenda and process, and lead the group through the consultation in order to provide you with the most up to date data from youth and young adults. Consultations can be local, regional, or national and can be conducted in person, online, or over video or teleconference.

Youth Engagement Capacity Building

Key Note Addresses

For your conferences, symposiums, trainings, fundraisers, or other special events the SCC can provide recognized leaders in youth engagement as key note speakers for your event. These addresses can have experienced youth join the speaker for a full complement of experience for your event.

Workshops

The SCC offers a series of interactive workshops geared to youth, adults, or youth and adults on youth engagement activities, learnings, projects, and processes. These workshops (including Youth Engagement 101, Adult Allies, Youth As Influencers, Young Decision Making) can be delivered in a standalone process (ranging in time from 45 minutes – full or multi day sessions) or linked to a Key Note Address or other presentation at your events. Our workshops are often led by youth, young adults, and adults working together and will be paired to best meet the needs of the audience or your organization.

Presentations

Searching deeper than our Workshops, SCC Presentations are more instructive and less interactive, though still reflecting knowledge generated from our twenty-five years of experience on what participants want and need for a fulfilling and meaningful experience. Using touch pad instant polling and sharing knowledge about youth and youth engagement related issues, our presentations are geared to youth, adults, or mixed audiences. Our presentations are often led by youth, young adults, and adults working together and will be paired to best meet the needs of the audience or your organization.

Trainings

How do we develop a youth engagement strategy? How can we use the YDM Model within our organization? How do we deliver gender specific programming? How do we best engage more diverse youth and be inclusive in our programming? If you have asked these questions we can help provide the answers that fit your organization. Our trainings, either one time or ongoing, can help your organization become a strong leader in respectful and meaningful youth engagement. Led by our skilled and knowledgeable trainers, these sessions will provide the ideas, the research, and the knowledge that supports them and tools you can use to move the youth engagement agenda forward in your organization.

The SCC's workshops and trainings can offer a range of components, which we combine together and tailor for both youth and/or adult audiences depending on requests. Below is a snapshot of the possible workshops, presentations or trainings we can offer your organization.

A Framework for Youth Engagement: Introduction to the Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement's conceptual framework of youth engagement, and how to use it as a tool for planning and continuous evaluation. The framework includes initiating factors, sustaining factors, qualities of engagement, as well as outcomes. Each of these are explored at the individual, social, and systemic levels over time. This component can include strategic planning for developing new, or improving existing youth engagement opportunities, with a hands-on activity to practice using the framework.

Recent Trends from Youth Engagement Literature: Current and emerging research results around youth engagement, with a focus on how the research translates to policy and practice.

Engaging Youth in Programs: Components of the recent youth engagement literature and youth engagement framework are included to provide a basis for program development and identification of effective practices. Deconstruction of existing youth engaging programs provide examples of effective practices with a focus on action planning. This component includes youth engagement in various settings, including events and conferences as well as effective models, policies, and practices to create safe, fun, and meaningful experiences for youth. As with all of our work, we give special attention to engaging diverse youth, particularly youth that are typically disengaged.

Youth Take Charge, addressing structural racism: This youth engagement session leads participants through reflection activities and discussions about racism. It was prepared by the Students Commission of Canada (SCC), utilizing activities initially developed by Morris Green. The SCC is an inter-generational charity working towards a world where young people are valued, heard and their ideas for improving themselves, the lives of their peers and communities are put into action.

These sessions engage community members in identifying strengths and tools to help deal with key issues affecting young people's health and wellbeing, specifically in regards to experiences of racism. These sessions are intended to gather voice from young people on the issues that affect them as part of national project on structural racism. The data collected through the workshop will be used to inform the development of further anti-racism activities and workshops. The evaluation of the workshop presentations will also help highlight, for youth and adult allies, the key issues affecting young people in regards to racism in Canada today.

Smoking Prevention for Middle School Aged Children: our smoking prevention workshop engages young middle school students in a fun, active and engagement session that educates them on the impacts of smoking. We breakdown the impacts smoking has on social, physical and financial aspects of their life.

Adult Ally Training: An activity-based workshop for adult allies to build on their skills at working with youth. The workshop format models youth engaging practices. Activities focus on self-reflection, values, exploring new skills, and assessing strengths. This workshop is complemented by a full training manual with extra activities and worksheets available online. Activities from this training are ideal to integrate in various youth engagement workshops and during initial processes of youth-adult partnerships.

Youth Sexuality Workshop: An activity-based workshop for adult allies and youth to build their comfort level to work together in areas related to youth sexuality. Sexuality is defined holistically as a term that encompasses all aspects of youth health and well-being, from physical and psychological to identity and spiritual development. Activities focus on self-reflection, values, exploring new skills, and assessing strengths. This workshop is complemented by a full training manual with extra activities and worksheets available online.

Youth Engagement in Research and Evaluation: Support and training designed to build capacity to engage youth in research, including Participatory Action Research projects, evaluation research, as well as more traditional academic research. Areas to explore include: innovative research methodologies (e.g. community mapping, web-based research, photovoice, theatre), processes to engage youth in some or all stages of research from design to evaluation, skills and support to facilitate youth in research. Training can be tailored for youth to build interview and focus group facilitation skills, develop survey and interview tools, etc.

Youth Facilitation Training: This training is intended to explore facilitation principles and to practice youth facilitation skills. Youth and/or adults learn about engaging ways to facilitate group discussions and processes, including icebreakers and activities, as well as building group ownership. This training includes resource materials (e.g.

facilitation manual) and can be tailored for particular purposes (e.g. focus group facilitation, facilitation of discussion groups or programs related to difficult subject matter, etc).

Project PEACE: Geared to community agencies and schools in efforts to reduce the negative impact guns and gangs have on all our lives, this evaluated program is an interactive workshop led by experiential young leaders. This workshop helps guide young people through a process where they learn about decision making and the impacts of our decisions.