

Youth for Success Platform

January 15 , 2021



Introduction

The Youth for Success Platform is an organization that focuses on removing the barriers facing Canadian youth when it comes to employment and higher education.

We believe that everyone deserves equal access to employment and education.

The Canadian Community

- The barriers discussed in this presentation are present throughout the entirety of Canada.
- We must work together as Canadians to break down these barriers for all our youth.
- When we step outside our own communities and engage with Canada as a whole, we become better global citizens.
- The youth get to explore experiences that don't exist within their own communities.
- When the youth engage with people from outside their own communities, they get to share those communities with the outside world and show everyone why they're so special.

What do we do?

- Workshops and seminars to give Canadian youth the information and support that they require to overcome barriers.
- Weekly, monthly, and yearly events.
- Tutoring for math, science.



What are the barriers we plan to address?

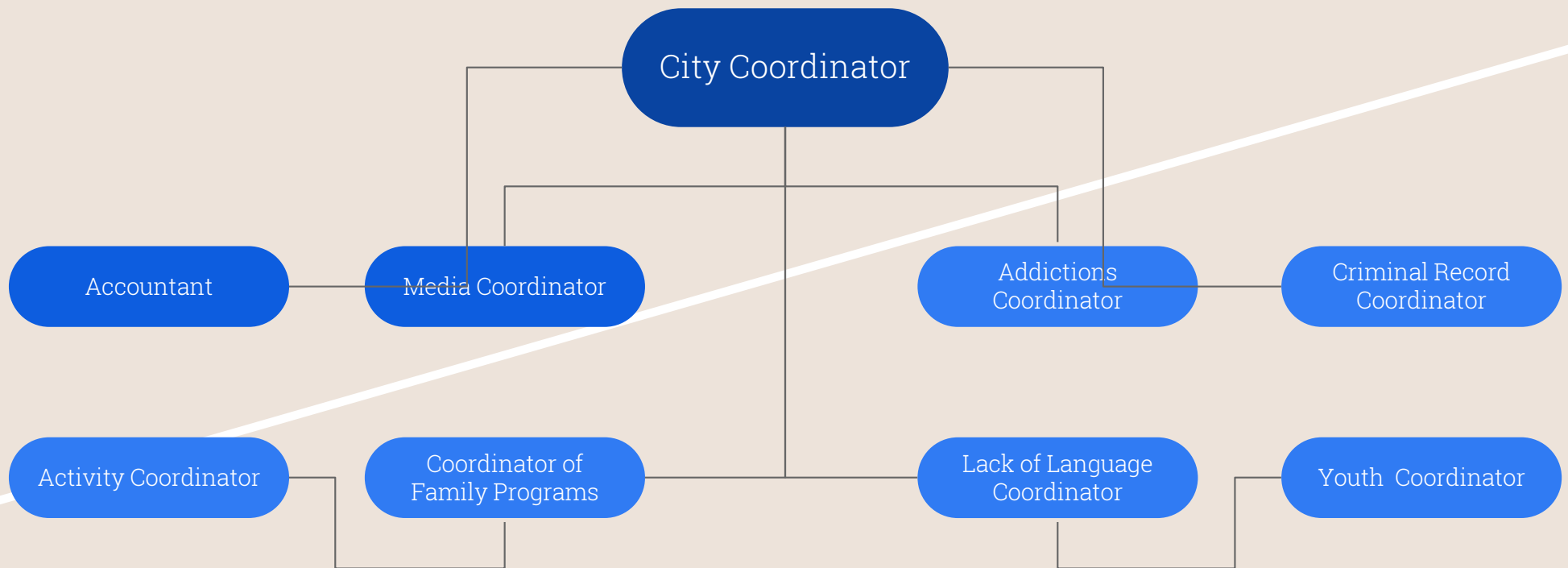
- Criminal Record
- Drugs
- Lack of Language
- Educational Gaps

Who do we help?

- Canadian youth, from middle school to university age.
- Whether they were born in Canada or moved here from somewhere else, as long as they live in Canada.
- We will also have programs that include families.
- There are programs available across the country.



City Committee Structure



How are activities structured?



Weekly Events

- Take place on weekends in local community and cultural centres. Workshops revolve around the theme of the cultural centre. These events are currently on hold due to COVID-19.
 - For example, we can do Ebru in Turkish Centres and celebrate the Festival of colours in an Indian Centre.
- Tutoring sessions for math and science to address the education gap.
- Journal and Movie Clubs for people who struggle with the English Language.

Monthly Events

- Youth 4 Success General meetings, recap of previous month's activities as well as an overview for what's to come.
- Webinars from guest speakers and experts.
- Panel discussions among the youth.
- Afterwards there will be an opportunity for socialization. It is currently being done online due to COVID-19.

Yearly Events

- Held as a three day convention in Ottawa.
- The first day will be open to the public and will include panel discussions run by the guest speakers from the past year.
- On the second day, the youth participants will give presentations on what they've done throughout the year and what outcomes they've achieved.
- On the third day the platform managers will present a report of the previous year and projections for the coming year.

Yearly Events Cont'd

- There will also be a reception at the end. We will invite government officials, university/college professors, journalists, activists, and others.
- Awards will be given out to youth and community partners who made an impact over the past year.



What about the barriers?



Criminal Record -Facts

- Youth who have been convicted of crimes face discrimination and stigma when it comes to their criminal record and getting a job.
- Approximately 30,000 youths are being charged with crimes in Canada every year, according to Statistics Canada.



Criminal Record -Impact on employment

- The legality of denying employment based on whether or not the applicant has a criminal record varies by province.
- Job applicants over 18 can be subject to a criminal record check which would show open youth charges.
- The majority of provinces prohibit discrimination against anyone with charges that have been either pardoned or expunged.
- A youth with a criminal record can be denied entry into another country.



Criminal Record -Our plan



- Our programs and workshops aim to give young people all the information they need to limit the damaging effects of their criminal records.
- We intend to host a series of seminars and informational sessions with a variety of guest speakers and experts.

Drug Addiction -Facts

- Almost one third of Canadian youth between 15-19 and over half of young adults aged 20-24 have used drugs.
- Youth between the ages of 15-24 are more likely to develop addiction issues than any other age group.
- Drug addiction can have lifelong repercussions on every aspect of a person's life.
- Prevention and awareness programs about addiction have shown positive results



Drug Addiction -Impact on employment

- Youth are incredibly vulnerable to employment issues caused by addiction
- A combination of lack of work experience, perceived immaturity, and limited resources already make obtaining employment a challenge for Canadian youth.
- In addition, people who are unemployed are more likely to develop substance abuse issues or have pre-existing issues worsen. This makes drug addiction a cyclical issue, which is why it is crucial to prevent it from ever developing in the first place.
- Drug addiction can also introduce additional barriers to employment as it puts youth in a position to incur a criminal record.
- Has the potential to create education gaps.



Drug Addiction -Our plan

- Focus on prevention and awareness when it comes to drug use.
- Guest speakers to address various issues around drug addiction.
- Prevention of drug addiction includes strong attachments to family, friends and structured activities.



Lack of Language -Facts

- 70% of newcomers to Canada report having a native language other than English or French and close to 50% report speaking a language other than English or French at home.
- 6.8% of newcomers report having no proficiency in either official language.
- English language proficiency has an effect on the overall earnings of Canadian workers.
- Regardless of someone's level of education, people who have less knowledge of the English language are more likely to struggle to find employment.
- Many Canadian colleges and universities have language test requirements for students with English as a second language.



Lack of Language -Impact on employment

- Jobs in Canada generally require proficiency in one or both official languages, especially the higher paying ones.
- Not only does a language barrier affect someone's ability to communicate with customers or clients, but it also puts them at a disadvantage with their bosses and managers.
- The language barrier also prevents students from pursuing their chosen form of education.
- Colleges and universities often require advanced levels of English, even for courses that have nothing to do with languages.



Lack of Language -Our plan

- Youth will be separated into groups according to their educational needs - middle school, high school, and university.
- Journal Club, Movie Club



Education Gap -Facts

- The high school dropout rate for the country was 14% and jumped as high as 50% in lower income communities.
- One of the factors that can cause a student to dropout of high school is a history of struggling academically.
- The unemployment rate for youth without a high school diploma is higher than the national average.
- Canadian universities and colleges almost always require certain high school courses as prerequisites for acceptance into their programs.



Education Gap -Impact on employment



- Struggling in school feels really discouraging, it might even dishearten students to apply to university in the first place.
- There are very few jobs in Canada that will hire youth who do not have, or are not currently working on a high school diploma.
- Overall GPA can affect a student's ability to get into university.
- Not being able to get into chosen programs can delay or change a youth's career goals.

Education Gap -Our plan

- Youth will be separated into groups according to their educational needs - middle school, high school, and university.
- We will be running small tutoring sessions online that are focused on math and science.
- There will be webinars on how the Education Gap faced by the students can affect their long term career and education plans.
- These programs are aimed at Canadian youth who grew up here and fell behind, as well as youth who are new to Canada and transferred from a different educational system.
- Registration will be required and the form is available online.



Social Media

- **Instagram: canaday4s**
- **Twitter: Y4SCanada**
- **Facebook: Youth4Success**
- **YouTube: Youth 4 Success**
- **E-mail:**
y4splatform@gmail.com

I would like to invite you all to become a part of Canada and help Y4S improve the lives of youth across our country.

