

YOUTH ECONOMIC JUSTICE SEEKERS

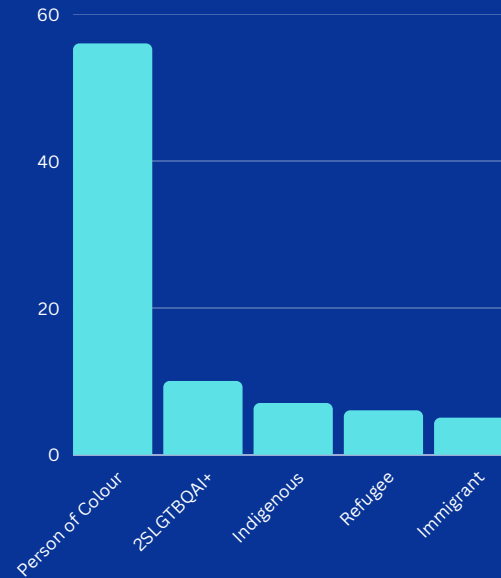
The Edmonton Youth Economic Ecosystem Collaborative (EYEEC) hosted 2 events in October 2022 (1 in person and 1 online), reaching 102 youth who are traditionally excluded. They brainstormed solutions to barriers they experience while attempting to succeed in career development, post-secondary, employment, and entrepreneurship.

OPPORTUNITY
FOR ALL

FOR
YOUTH
TOO?

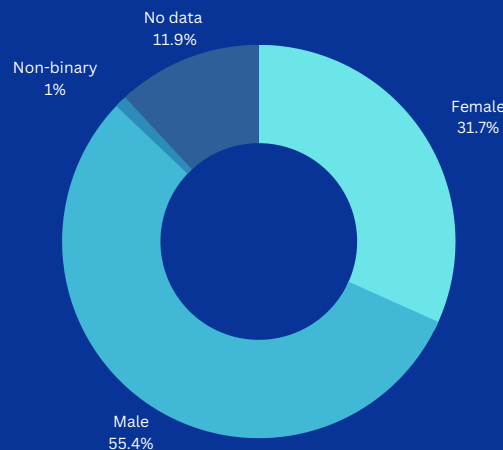


PARTICIPANTS

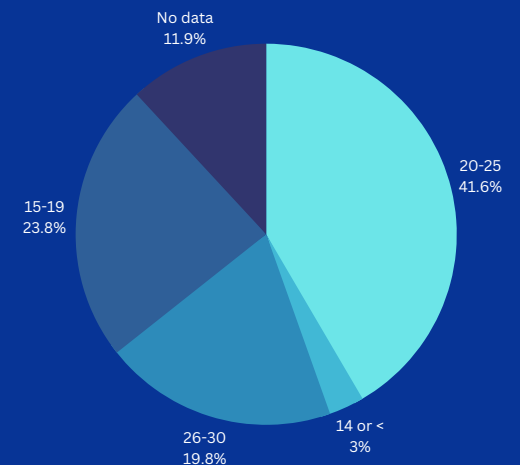


ETHNOCULTURAL IDENTITY

There were 102 youth from many different backgrounds and ages participating as well as 8 Influencers.



GENDER IDENTITY



AGE

THE FINDINGS



We heard over 300 ideas from the participants calling for more youth involvement across multiple sectors such as workforce development organizations, private businesses, funders, education, and other government ministries to explore solutions together.

The youth had very specific recommendations for the education system, community agencies including workforce development agencies, government, and employers which will be shared on the following pages.

[LINK TO FULL REPORT](#)

- More volunteer and job shadowing opportunities
- Partner with schools more often
- Hiring people after internships



TAKE A
CHANCE ON ME.

Specific recommendations for the recruitment process:

- group interviews,
- better communication with applicants,
- share feedback in a timely manner when not successful,
- taking stock of volunteer

- Ensure recruitment and the workplaces are inclusive and welcoming for all

"CANADA WELCOMES
NEWCOMERS SO THEY
SHOULDN'T EXPECT PEOPLE
TO START SPEAKING
FLUENTLY LIKE CANADIANS"

WE ARE HAVING
CHALLENGES
HIRING PEOPLE
WITH THE SKILLS
WE NEED.

EMPLOYERS

WE CAN HELP! WE
HAVE UNTAPPED
POTENTIAL..



Create more friendly work
environments with co-workers

"INDIVIDUALS WHO FACE
DISABILITIES ALSO FACE
HEIGHTENED CHALLENGES
AS MANY WORK
ENVIRONMENTS ARE NOT
INCLUSIVE"

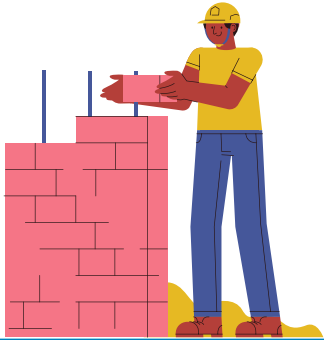
I WILL NEED
TRAINING &
MENTORSHIP AT
FIRST

- Better wages and benefits for youth
- Improve working conditions and hours

WE WANT TO CONTRIBUTE
TO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL



- Better orientation, training, supportive supervision & opportunities for mentorship
- Improve schedule planning with more lead time.



- Existing training and skill development are lacking, youth still feel unprepared.
- More employer-led approaches for skill-building & training

"I WANT TO BE AS IMPORTANT AS EVERYONE IN THE SOCIETY"



- Integrate some existing gov initiatives with junior & senior high schools
- Include youth in decision-making that impacts them



GOVERNMENT

MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, ADVANCED EDUCATION, SKILLED TRADES & PROFESSIONS, JOBS & ECONOMY

- better access to post-secondary, through affordable tuition, especially for youth who face barriers

SUPERPOWER: CREATING MORE INCENTIVES FOR EMPLOYERS TO HIRE YOUNG PEOPLE LONG-TERM



I HAVE A GREAT BUSINESS IDEA BUT I NEED STARTUP FUNDS



- More funding for basic skills training, and business start-up, incentives for employers to hire youth
- Show real outcomes from existing funds for workforce development agencies and employers
- More internships opportunities and jobs after completion



- Support community and community agencies to provide mentorship opportunities
- provide incentives for volunteer opportunities with employers



EDUCATION SYSTEMS

JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGHSCHOOLS

- More entrepreneurship learning and access to funding and business mentorship



I HAVE A
BUSINESS
IDEA!

Updated and relevant curriculum

- 21-century skills, digitization of the workforce
- Entrepreneurship,
- Current & future career needs
- Career pathways
- Skills-based learning



- Better preparation for post-secondary or work experience



"I DON'T KNOW
WHERE I AM GOING
AND I DON'T KNOW
WHAT OPPORTUNITIES
ARE OUT THERE FOR
ME."



- Schools, teachers and parents play a major role in sharing information about opportunities

"BUILDING THESE
INTO SCHOOL
HOURS & GAINING
CREDIT MAKES IT
ACCESSIBLE"

- Employment supports or partnership with community agencies in school settings

- Partner with employers more often
- Career fairs and hiring events on a regular basis



- School staff trained to support career exploration
- More internships with permanent jobs afterwards

- Share programs with youth through virtual and physical spaces youth feel comfortable.
- Organize career fairs and hiring events with and for youth (i.e. not just during the day unless at schools for example)

DEMAND-LED APPROACHES ARE THE ANSWER TO SOME OF THE GAPS

THERE ARE SO MANY GREAT PROGRAMS OUT THERE BUT OUR PEERS DON'T KNOW ABOUT THEM HOW CAN WE HELP SPREAD THE WORD?



- Include youth in decision making and program development.
- Employer-led programs and initiatives
- More entrepreneurship learning, connections and funding
- Work with schools to offer supports and programs in those spaces
- Hands-on or 'real world' learning and experiences

NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US



!!!
I STILL DON'T HAVE A JOB!



- More collaboration among all agencies in the employment sector.
- Learning from each about (employer) demand-led approaches
- Harm reduction, trauma-informed programs with easy flexible entry and exit points

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

EYEEC'S NEXT ADVENTURE AND MISSION

Working together, let's improve economic conditions for Edmonton youth ages 15-30, facing barriers to career development, employment and entrepreneurship by...

EMPLOYER
ENGAGEMENT

REGULAR
COLLABORATION
WITH ALL
STAKEHOLDERS IN
THE SECTOR

COLLECTIVE
ADVOCACY

BROADEN YOUTH
CONNECTIONS &
ACCESS TO
OPPORTUNITIES

YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
& INVOLVMENT

LET'S WORK
TOGETHER
ON THESE
IDEAS



TO LEARN MORE OR BECOME INVOLVED VISIT www.SKILLCITY.CA/EYEEC

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

STAY INFORMED
ABOUT EYEEC BY
SUBSCRIBING TO THE
YOUTH ECONOMIC
RESOURCES
NEWSLETTER (YERN)

CLICK HERE
TO
SUBSCRIBE



JOIN THE STEERING
GROUP OR
CROSS SECTOR
COLLABORATIVE TABLE
TO HELP INVESTIGATE
GAPS AND CO-CREATE
SOLUTIONS



SHARE THIS BOOK
OR THE FULL
REPORT WITH YOUR
CONTACTS AND ON
SOCIAL MEDIA



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our deepest gratitude to the 100+ youth who participated in the engagement events to share their experiences and ideas for solutions.

We were privileged to complete this project on Treaty 6 Territory and Metis Region 4, where many indigenous people have lived, worked, and governed for centuries. Some of these peoples are the Nêhiyaw (Cree), Dené, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot). We are grateful for the land we now reside in and work towards reconciliation with all indigenous, metis, and Inuit peoples.

PROJECT SPONSORS

The City of Edmonton, CAREERS: The Next Generation, Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton and Area, Edmonton Community Foundation, Clareview Community Recreation Center, and an anonymous funder.

TO LEARN MORE OR BECOME INVOLVED VISIT www.SKILLCITY.CA/EYEEC