

# LEVEL YOUTH POLICY PROGRAM SYLLABUS

## Description

Vancouver Foundation's LEVEL youth initiative aims to engage and provide training and leadership opportunities to young Indigenous, racialized immigrant and refugee youth to advance racial equity in B.C. Participants of the LEVEL Youth Policy Program (YPP) will gain the necessary skills to enable them to help shape and advocate for public policy that addresses relevant issues in their own communities.

## Objectives

By the end of LEVEL YPP, participants will be able to:

- » Understand key public policy issues in British Columbia
- » Identify key public policy issues impacting their communities
- » Identify, gain support and work towards influencing public policy change
- » Understand the different stakeholders involved in public policy
- » Work with youth and adults in their community including people in decision-making roles
- » Draft a policy ask or advance a policy issue that impacts their community

## Outline

### Module 1: Retreat & LEVEL YPP Introduction – Feb. 28 & Mar. 1

A two-day retreat. Participants will have a chance to review the overall objectives of the YPP, identify the assets, experiences, skills and values in the group, and come to a group consensus on the values and norms to abide by. Participants will also explore equity in their work and lives and learn key concepts and terms related to public policy.

### Module 2: Theory of Change & Community Mapping – Mar. 28 & 29

Understanding the theory of change and how to affect the system. This will include learning how to conduct a stakeholder analysis and a community needs assessment to identify problems impacting communities.

### Module 3: Working with Different Levels of Government – Apr. 25 & 26

Understanding the role of government in public policy, including the different levels of government, Indigenous governance structures, and ways to impact legislation.

### Module 4: Public Policy in B.C. (Retreat in Victoria) – May 27 & 28

A visit to the B.C. legislature and an opportunity to meet with provincial government officials. Participants will gain a practical understanding of the B.C. legislature procedures and decision-making, as well as ways to develop an effective policy ask.

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## Module 5: Sharing Your Story & Policy in Action – Jun. 20, 21, & 22

Exploring the role of media, solutions-based journalism and storytelling as it relates to public policy. By understanding who the media represents and the role of social media in influencing change, participants will learn how to create visibility and build a grassroots movement.

Participants will also get to work alongside City of Vancouver elected officials and community members and present campaigns at the community level, strengthen public policy through feedback, and engage with key political and community stakeholders.

## Module 6: Taking It Home – Sept. 19-20

In this final module, participants will be able to assess their learnings, explore other programs and opportunities, and determine next steps in their public policy campaign. Participants will also have the chance to evaluate the LEVEL Youth Policy Program and celebrate their achievements.

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*All modules will take place in Vancouver other than module 4 which will be a two-day retreat in Victoria. Participants will be expected to attend and participate in all six modules. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend teleconferences in between modules 5 and 6 as they develop their final projects.*