LEVEL Youth Policy Program
2020 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 the LEVEL YPP, participants will be able to:
- » Explore and reflect on what it means to do policy and advocacy work on unceded Indigenous territories
- » Understand key concepts about public policy
- » Understand the different levels of government and learn about Indigenous Governance Structures
- » Identify key public policy issues impacting your communities in British Columbia
- » Identify and gain support and work towards influencing public policy and system change
- » Understand the different stakeholders involved in public policy
- » Draft a policy ask to advance a policy issue that impacts your community

Outline

Module 1: Introduction to Public Policy and Each Other – February 13th and 14th

A two-day session. Participants will have a chance to review the overall objectives of the YPP. We will ground the policy program in the on-going learnings about what it means to do policy and advocacy work on unceded Indigenous territories. Participants will identify the assets, experiences, skills and practices to work together in the group. Participants will also explore equity in their work and lives and learn key concepts and terms related to public policy. Participants will reflect on the importance of youth voices in designing and influencing public policy.

Module 2: Public Policy in British Columbia – March 12th and 13th

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.

Module 3: Canadian Government and Indigenous Governance – April 16th and 17th

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

Module 4: Stakeholder Analysis and Budget Cycles (in Victoria) - May 14th and 15th

Learning how to conduct a stakeholder analysis and a community needs assessment to identify problems impacting communities. Learning about the importance of understanding budgets and finances in policy work. A visit to the B.C. legislature and an opportunity to meet with provincial government officials.

Module 5: Storytelling and New Narratives in Shaping Policy – June 18th and 19th

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, students will learn how to create visibility and build a grassroots movement. In conversation with municipal elected officials, participants will have the opportunity to share their policy project ideas, strengthen public policy through feedback, and engage with key political and community stakeholders.

Module 6: Reflecting and Moving Forward – September 24th and 25th

In this final module, participants will be able to assess their learnings and explore next steps. Participants will also have the chance to evaluate the LEVEL Youth Policy Program and celebrate their achievements with a final event where they will present their final policy projects to friends, family, faculty and community stakeholders.

All modules will take place in Vancouver other than module 4 which will be a two-day session in Victoria. Participants will be expected to attend and participate in all six modules. Participants will be matched with a faculty mentor to be guided throughout the development of your projects. These scheduled phone calls and/or meetings with mentors in July and August are mandatory. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend videocalls with staff and facilitators in between modules 5 and 6 as they develop their final projects.