

LEVEL Youth Policy Program 2022 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 17th & 18th and February 24th & 25th 2022

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 10th & 11th and March 17th & 18th 2022

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: Stakeholder Analysis and Budget Cycles – April 15th and April 21st & 22nd 2022

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.

Module 4: Canadian Government and Indigenous Governance – May 19th and 20th 2022 (in Victoria)

Understanding the role of government in public policy, including the different levels of government, Indigenous governance structures, and ways to impact legislation. 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 16th and 17th 2022

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 22rd and 23rd 2022

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 online 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 June and July 2022 are mandatory. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend video calls with staff and facilitators in between modules 5 and 6 as they develop their final projects.