
LEVEL Youth Policy Program Principles

- How we gather and learn is in service of racial equity.
- We work from and within Indigenous worldviews, with a large emphasis on connections to the land, and where everything and everyone is related and connected; where the quality of the relationships formed are key in life; where what matters is the success and well-being of the community, and where there can be many *truths* as they are based on individual lived experiences.
- We hold awareness of how historical, structural, and cultural context has contributed to racial inequity, and how they impact Indigenous and racialized immigrant and refugee youth differently.
- We centre the diverse lived experiences of the LEVEL YPP participants, and support the finding of points of connection, commonality, and solidarity in order to affect policy in ways that reflect individual and shared realities and build community.
- We take an appreciative view of building on and enhancing the skills and capacities (that already exist in the young people) so that they can challenge and change those systems that hinder their ability to build a more just world.
- We strive to have young people increase their level of decision-making, knowledge, and autonomy in the area of public policy; we facilitate higher degrees of youth participation by including practical hands-on examples, as well as reflection activities, to help ensure that learning is applicable to the diverse lived realities of the LEVEL YPP participants.
- We are inclusive of and welcome different ways of knowing.
- We seek to create an intentional "brave space" of openness, care, and respect for one another, and to learn together about new perspectives, to affect the systemic changes we hope to see.
- We welcome discomfort as a healthy, important part of the journey.
- Accents are welcome and lovely; spelling and grammar don't matter.
- We honour each other's wisdom and support each other's growth, and remember that while peer learning is a valuable experience, a) it is not their responsibility to teach you; and b) your learning cannot come at their expense.