

Our Members

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Supporting Youth in Care

WHO ARE WE?



We are a council that was created to help provide direct youth voice to activities, programs and changes occurring at YRCAS. Established in January 2022 through an expression of interest, this resulted in six young adults assembling the first Youth Advisory Council within YRCAS. Since this time we have continued our work and grown into the Council you see today. We meet on Zoom twice per month.

The YAC members range from ages 16 - 23. We are students, post-secondary graduates or employed full-time in the workforce. Our team have previously resided in internal foster homes, OPR foster homes and group homes including youth mental health programs. We are devoting our time from within Ontario and outside of Canada to provide Youth's perspective within the agency by advocating on their behalf.



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Coming Soon...

Youth In Care Definitions & FAQs page
Resources, Supports, & Services PDF & Webpage



**DON'T LET OTHERS DEFINE YOUR GOALS,
WE ARE ONE VOICE**

Our mission is to be available for consultation with children and youth involved with the child welfare system, YRCASs staff and board members, internal and external committees, and the Children's Fund to ensure the voice of Youth are included in all aspects of decision making.

What Can You Talk to Us About?

You can ask or share whatever you would like!



We want this to be a comfortable experience; names and faces can be removed for the purpose of confidentiality, upon request. It's important to note that your brutal honesty is critical for the YAC to understand how we can adequately assist you as well as other youth and children. Questions or topics that are optional to be addressed are the following.

- Barriers and gaps you endured while being involved with the system.
- Hardships. This is how I felt... the good, the bad, and the ugly.
- What would you want to change now or what would you have changed?
- Your experiences before care, during care, or after.
- Your message to workers- What would you like workers to consider? What can workers do to help you or other youth?
- Your success now and your struggles.
- Anything else that you want to speak about.

What We Have Done So Far

What We're Trying to Do for Youth in Care!



Committee's We Are On...

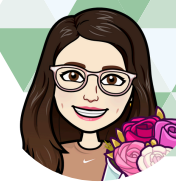
- Black, Latency, Adolescent, Continued Care Committee (BLACC)
- Foster Parent Pride Training Panel (PRIDE)
- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Committee (EIAC)
- Ontario Education Championship Team (OECT)
- Youth Events Committee (YEC)
- and more.....

Consultations We Have Completed...

- Education Liaisons Consultation
- Adoption Team Consultation
- Complaints Resolution Committee Consultation & Work Group
- Legal Process Feedback Request from the York Region Courts
- YRCAS Strategic Planning Project Focus Group with LBCG
- and more.....

Important Moments....

- Our members attended a YouthCAN conference as participants throughout the event, encouraging youth to join and sharing information about the YAC.
- Consultations with YRCAS Management Staff & CEO Ginelle Skerritt
- Advocating and making change on how YRCAS supports youth in care!



Ada



Eli



Kaylie



Nico



Arianna



Lian



Shakira

HOW WE CAN HELP

As a part of the YAC we hope to become a voice for those who often don't get to speak on issues that affect them, open the doors of opportunity for children, youth, and adults in and out of care, and alter the system for the generations that will come after us. Moreover, we want to put action to our words and stand up for a group of people that need serious, motivated, and strong-minded leaders to speak with and for us.