

Youth Action Gathering

Shaping our New Realities:
Collective Action by Youth and for Youth



19-21
March
2021

THE YOUTH ACTION GATHERING

ABOUT THE YAG

The YAG 2021 will take place March 19 to 21 on the theme of Shaping our New Realities: Collective Action by Youth and for Youth. It's a free and bilingual online event organized by the Youth Network of the Canadian Council for Refugees. The gathering will bring together newcomer and refugee youth ages 16 to 25, from different communities in Canada, to address together the challenges they face and imagine ways to transform society and build community! This year will be special because we will have members of our initiative Talk to Action who will share insights from their discussions.

Our program will be a combination of engaging sessions that will focus on mental health, social justice, youth engagement and more! We will also have live performances!



ABOUT US

The YN also promotes youth leadership among member organizations, who are asked to support youth participation in the Youth Network (including through funding travel to meetings and committing staff time to connecting youth to the CCR). Youth that are not associated with a member organization are also welcome to participate in the Youth Network.

The Youth Network exists to provide a youth-only space and facilitate leadership opportunities for newcomer youth, helping them to work alongside others to promote the rights and protection of youth refugees and migrants, and to create a safe space for networking and information-exchange for youth doing this work.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

This initiative was designed to foster dialogues among newcomer and refugee youth (16 to 25 year-olds living in Canada for up to 10 years) to discuss strengths and barriers, as well as the systemic changes that need to take place in order to improve the lives of newcomer youth. Together, we drew from these talks to develop a youth-led national advocacy agenda with recommendations for how to address the needs of newcomer and refugee youth.

These dialogues concluded at the beginning of March and members will have an opportunity to share their findings during our online Youth Action Gathering.

SCHEDULE

Friday 19

1:00 - 2:10 PM

Welcome plenary (part 1)

2:10 - 2:20 PM

Break

2:20 - 2:40 PM

Welcome plenary (part 2)

2:40 - 3:50 PM

Crafting Your Professional Life in Canada as a Newcomer

3:50 - 4:00 PM

Break

4:00 - 4:40 PM

Performance: Sai Shwari from Lotus collective and Thalia Malaika

Saturday 20

1:00 - 2:10 PM

Migrant youth and Indigenous youth solidarity

2:10 - 2:20 PM

Break

2:20 - 2:40 PM

Performance: Leon Henry from Black Creek Youth Initiative

2:40 - 3:50 PM

Racism and Discrimination in Canada: Impacts on Newcomer Youth

3:50 - 4:00 PM

Break

4:00 - 4:40 PM

Performance: Angel Baribeau and Chyler Sewell

Sunday 21

1:00 - 2:10 PM

Access to Services: Finding Our Way Through Canada

2:10 - 2:20 PM

Break

2:20 - 2:40 PM

Performance: Cindy Belotte

2:40 - 3:50 PM

Effective youth engagement, civic engagement and youth advocacy

3:50 - 4:00 PM

Break

4:00 - 4:40 PM

Performance: Lara Klaus & Mafer Bandola from Ladama

Please note that all the hours of the schedule refer to Eastern daylight savings time (EDT)

NST	AST	EST	CST	MST	PST
3:30pm	3:00pm	2:00pm	1:00pm	12 noon	11:00am

WORKSHOPS

Welcome plenary

Friday 19, 1:00 PM to 2:40 PM

During the Welcome Plenary, we will introduce you to the theme of the YAG, and open up the YAG space to be one of inclusivity, safety, and discussion. We will also convey important logistical information, while engaging in fun activities to get everyone comfortable and familiar with one another!

Facilitators: Ira Mamis and Thea Udwadia



Crafting Your Professional Life in Canada as a Newcomer

Friday 19, 2:40 PM to 3:50 PM

This workshop will explore different strategies to “crafting” a professional life as newcomer youth in Canada. Participants will have the opportunity to share their career aspirations. Together, we will explore challenges and potential solutions to achieving our professional goals. Facilitators will share two short testimonials with participants.

Facilitators: Pierre Adisa Kwizera Dushime and Thea Udwadia

WORKSHOPS



Migrant youth and Indigenous youth solidarity

Saturday 20, 1:00 PM to 2:10 PM

Join us for a panel discussion and Q&A as we share our experiences of Indigenous and immigrant solidarity. Joining our panel will be CCRYN's Dacious Richardson, and two Indigenous youth artists, Angel Baribeau and Chyler Sewell. This panel is hosted by inPath; a non-profit organization that works with Indigenous communities to implement arts-based programming that centres youth and ensures that Indigenous ways of knowing are embedded within the programs.

Facilitators and panelists: Alex Felicitas, Angel Baribeau, Chyler Sewell and Dacious Richardson

Racism and Discrimination in Canada: Impacts on Newcomer Youth

Saturday 20, 2:40 PM to 3:50 PM

In this workshop, we will explore and discuss the impacts of racism and discrimination on newcomer youth in Canada. Through interactive activities, participants will be given space to voice out their experience with racism and/or discrimination as well as the possible solutions to their challenges. Facilitators will give a brief history of racism and discrimination in Canada prior to the activities.

The goal of this workshop is to 1) address the issue of racism and discrimination in Canada; 2) discuss its impacts on newcomer youth on matters related but not limited to access to employment, housing and opportunities; and 3) outline concrete strategic solutions to racism and discrimination.

Facilitators: Chinue Bute and Pierre Adisa Kwizera Dushime

WORKSHOPS

Access to Services: Finding Our Way Through Canada

Sunday 21, 1:00 PM to 2:10 PM

This workshop will discuss access to services for newcomer youth. We will touch on issues regarding safe and affordable housing, legal rights information and mental health services. Participants will have the opportunity to identify challenges accessing services, discuss how these can help newcomer youth and reflect on why they are necessary.

Facilitators: Danna Cortes and Chinue Bute

Effective youth engagement, civic engagement and youth advocacy

Sunday 21, 2:40 PM to 3:50 PM

In this workshop, we will discuss the importance of civic engagement and advocacy of newcomer youth in Canada. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from our diverse panel who have experience in youth engagement, leadership and advocacy. This interactive workshop will offer new perspectives, create a space where youth can amplify their voices, learn how to be effective changemakers and empower one another to be the (young) leaders of today.

Facilitators: Ira Mamis and Dennis Njoki



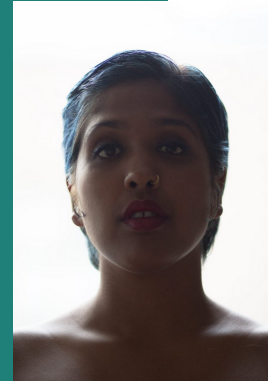
PERFORMANCES

Sai Shwari from Lotus collective and Thalia Malaïka

Friday 19, 4:00 PM to 4:40 PM

SAI SHWARI FROM LOTUS COLLECTIVE

Saiswari has been part of Lotus Collective as a facilitator for international women's, as a performer for our monthly jam nights, and partakes in the growth of the collective on an supporting organizational capacity. Saiswari shares her infectious energy through her performance as a singer, and dancer. She generously shared her cultural baggage and grounded presence as an educator and artist with much care and love.



THALIA MALAÏKA

Thalia Malaïka is a young artist currently finishing her last year of high school in Quebec. Her passions are singing, musical composition, writing and painting. Having taken singing lessons for over six years, Thalia has learned to sing diverse music genres, including blues, jazz, classical, gospel and pop.



Leon Henry from Black Creek Youth Initiative

Saturday 20, 2:20 PM to 2:40 PM

Hello, my name is Leon Henry and I'm proud to be a member of The Black Creek Youth Initiative. I am 15 years old and live in Toronto Ontario, also very active and open to talk to. I am Jamaican - St Lucian, originally born in Canada. I am a grade 10 student, now studying virtually. I am also involved in many self independent activities such as YouTube tiktoks and Instagram, basket ball and track and field. I also beatbox rap and sing but mostly write music. So excited and looking forward to participating in this event. I really would appreciate the love and support as I grow bigger and bigger.

PERFORMANCES

Angel Baribeau and Chyler Sewell

Saturday 20, 4:00 PM to 4:40 PM

ANGEL BARIBEAU

Angel Baribeau is a Queer, non-binary, singer-songwriter & multidisciplinary artist from the Cree Nation of Mistissini, Northern Quebec. Baribeau's goal is to be a changemaker. They feel a passion and responsibility to pursue their talent to create more representation in the music scene, recognizing that there are very few people in the industry that look like and identify as they do. Through the inPath's Artworks program Angel sharpened their skills in supporting and mentoring Indigenous artists furthering positive change in their community.

CHYLER SEWELL

Chyler Sewell is an Anishinaabekwe youth from Garden River, Ontario, currently living in Hamilton, Ontario. She is a storyteller, and believes in the power of stories to create connections and cultivate community. Chyler is currently the project lead on a digital story project exploring land rematriation through the lenses of Black youth, Indigenous youth, newcomer youth and youth of colour.

Cindy Belotte

Sunday 21, 2:20 PM to 2:40 PM

Born in Montreal and of Haitian descent, Cindy Belotte was introduced to traditional Haitian dance at the age of eight. She began her career with the MAPOU GINEN Dance Troupe, which has been in existence for over 45 years in Canada. Within the company, she evolves as a dancer and choreographer. Cindy's creative approach is influenced by her knowledge of the history of traditional Haitian dance where body movement flows from the sound of percussion and drums while giving way to her instinct as a choreographer. Multidisciplinary artist both in dance and singing, Cindy collaborates with several artists from the Montreal and international music scene (Wesli, Eddy Francois, Jean Jean Roosevelt, etc).



PERFORMANCES

Lara Klaus & Mafer Bandola from Ladama

Sunday 21, 4:00 PM to 4:40 PM

MAFER BANDOLA



Mafer Bandola is a Venezuelan bandolista, composer, educator and journalist. (Bandola llanera, Venezuelan four-stringed instrument). She is the first woman to play the electric version of this instrument. In 2020 she created the Broadcast "Bandola Viajera" where she interviewed bandolistas of various generations to talk about the oral tradition and evolution of the instrument.

She is the creator and producer of the LATINICA conference launched in March 2021 with the sponsorship of Found Sound Nation and 1beat, to bring together more than 100 Latinas and Latinx working in the music industry online. As a core member of LADAMA, the individual and collective composition are heard on the albums LADAMA (2017) and OYE MUJER (2020). She is currently part of the Leadership Artist in Resonance a series of artistic activism performances that unite musicians from the Pacific and the world working for change in conversation and collaboration.

LARA KLAUS



Lara Klaus is a Brazilian multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter and educator. As a solo artist, she has released the album Força do Gesto in 2018 and the single Poeira Estelar in March 2021. She has toured with renowned artists from Brazil such as Elba Ramalho, and played at important music festival around the world. She is also a founding member of LADAMA, an ensemble formed by four women from different parts of the Americas. Together, they released the albums LADAMA (2017) and OYE MUJER (2019), scored the track Porro Maracatu on FIFA 19 soundtrack, participated in the NPR Tiny Desk Concerts, and performed in North America, South America and Europe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

The members of the Core team of the CCR Youth Network: Danna Cortes, Dennis Njoki, Pierre Adisa Kwizera Dushime, Chinue Bute, Dacious Richardson, Ira Mamis and Thea Udwadia;

Angel Baribeau, Chyler Sewell, Alex Felicitas and Lina Moreno from InPath;

The artists who will be performing at the YAG: Sai Shwari, Thalia Malaïka, Leon Henry, Cindy Belotte, Lara Klaus and Mafer Bandola

Arianne Melara, Nathalie Lozano, Phillip Ackerman and Parker Mah for their support to the organization of the online event;

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