

National Youth Reconciliation Initiative (YRI) 2017-2018

Canadian Roots Exchange (CRE) is a non-profit organization that believes youth play a lead role in strengthening intergenerational relations and redefining existing relationships between the diverse peoples of this land. From coast to coast to coast, CRE brings together teams of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to break down stereotypes that divide communities. CRE programming is led by youth in partnership with community resources and adult allies.

CRE is excited to roll out the **sixth annual Youth Reconciliation Initiative (YRI)**, established in 2012. This project engages young leaders aged 17 to 29 years from across the country, building a national network of young leaders realizing their own transformative visions of reconciliation.

In 2017-18, YRI leaders will be involved in supporting a National Story Blanket and social media project. In 2016-17, each YRI team organized interactive arts-based educational programming with local youth pertaining to a different theme of reconciliation. These activities resulted in 12 different teams creating a visual representation of their learning on a segment of a story blanket to form a complete National Story Blanket. The second year of this project will involve youth hosting workshops with the National Story Blanket while continuing to engage new youth through interactive community programming.

Phase 1 - Leadership Development

YRI leaders will participate in an intensive orientation, learning, and training retreat. We are organizing 2 separate training sessions: one for teams based in British Columbia and the Prairie Provinces and one for teams based in Eastern Canada. The Western training retreat is scheduled from August 20 to 25, 2017 and the Eastern training retreat will take place from August 26 to September 1, 2017.

It is mandatory for all leaders to attend their regional training.

The retreats will provide training on reconciliation, decolonization, facilitation, cross-cultural education, as well as Indigenous history, culture and worldviews. YRI leaders will work together to develop tools and action plans for the second phase of the project.

Phase 2 – Community Engagement

YRI leaders will return to their regions equipped with the tools to deliver workshops based on a theme pertaining to solidarity and reconciliation. This phase of the project will put into action the training that took place during the learning retreat.



Each team will work together to lead approximately **seven** activities for local youth and use social media to document and highlight their impact in the community.

Phase 3 - Regional Exchanges

A small amount of leadership teams and youth leaders may have the opportunity to be involved in planning and organizing regional and/or reciprocal exchanges for local youth in their communities. Exchanges will involve approximately 2-3 nights outside of the community.

Phase 4 – Hosting the National Story Blanket

Each team will host the National Story Blanket for approximately 1 month. During this time, the team will share stories of positive relationships and successful solidarity in one to two workshops involving local youth. Workshops and events hosted with the National Story Blanket will be documented and youth will gather testimonials to help create a national film project on the National Story Blanket.

Who are we looking for?

We are inviting active youth leaders who can serve as positive role models and who are interested in strengthening relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to apply for this project. We are recruiting for teams in the following communities/regions: Vancouver, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Sudbury-Manitoulin, Hamilton-Six Nations, Ottawa/Gatineau, Montreal-Kahnawake, and Halifax Area. Each team will be comprised of 2 to 4 youth leaders living in close geographic proximity. Teams will be comprised of a balance of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. The YRI will take place between August 2017 and April 2018, with the hope that some youth will continue as YRI leaders in the following year.

What is involved? Do I get paid?

While this is a volunteer project (involving an approximate time commitment of 10-15 hours per month), **all project expenses will be covered**. This includes food, lodging and transportation to participate in the orientation retreat in August 2017. It also includes a modest budget for costs associated with Stage 2 activities (e.g. transportation, materials). **All team members who successfully complete the entire project will receive a year-end stipend of \$400.**



Interested in becoming a YRI leader?

Eligibility Checklist:

- I am between 17 and 29 years of age;
- I am excited to work in a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth;
- I can commit to organising seven community events with my team from September 2017 – April 2018
- I am motivated to challenge myself and others to learn more about Indigenous history, culture and issues, and I want to dispel harmful stereotypes and myths;
- I am comfortable facilitating workshops, giving presentations and organizing activities with youth in my region and would like to improve my skills in these areas;
- I identify as First Nations, Inuit or Métis OR I have some knowledge about First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities in my region, with a strong interest in learning more;
- I can dedicate approximately 10 to 15 hours of volunteer work per month between August 2017 and April 2018;
- I am available to participate in the mandatory training retreat:
If you reside in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta or British Columbia, your retreat will be held from August 20 to 25, 2017; If you reside in Ontario, Quebec or Nova Scotia, your retreat will be held from August 26 to September 1, 2017
- I will be residing in one of the following communities between August 2017-April 2018:
 - Vancouver
 - Edmonton
 - Calgary
 - Saskatoon
 - Regina
 - Winnipeg
 - Thunder Bay
 - Sudbury and Manitoulin Island
 - Hamilton-Six Nations Area
 - Ottawa-Gatineau Area
 - Montreal-Kahnawake Area
 - Halifax

*** If you have previously been a part of CRE's Youth Reconciliation Initiative, please contact us about the process before submitting your application.*

I am interested! How do I apply?

To be considered, send a **resume and cover letter** explaining why you would like to be part of this project. Discuss the skills and experiences you can offer to the team and areas where you would like to improve your knowledge and skills. Feel free to include links to blogs, videos or





other projects you have been involved with. Please note that all participants work with a regional team that has a balance of Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) and non-Indigenous members.

Send your resume and cover letter to volunteer@canadianroots.ca
List the community you are applying to in the subject line (Edmonton Application)

All applications must be in Word (.doc, .docx) or PDF format. If you have any questions about this project feel free to contact us at the above email address.

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis!

This project has seen an increasing number of applicants. We review applications on an ongoing basis and we encourage applicants to apply before the deadline. Interviews and selections will be concluded before Friday, July 14, 2017. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

CRE is committed to ensuring that our youth participants reflect the full diversity of Canada. In your letter **please let us know if you identify** as Inuit, First Nations, Métis or if you identify with an ethno-racial minority community.

