



## National Youth Reconciliation Initiative (YRI) 2019-2020

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 **8th annual Youth Reconciliation Initiative (YRI)**, established in 2012. This project engages young leaders aged 18 to 29 years from across the country, building a national network of young leaders realizing their own transformative visions of community building and reconciliation.

### Phase 1 - Training and Development: August 2019

It is mandatory for YRI leaders to participate in an intensive orientation, learning, and training retreat. Participants will be gathering from **August 18 to 24, 2019**. Training will be held at a retreat centre in the Niagara region (1hr outside of Toronto, ON).

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

### Phase 2 - Community Engagement: September 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

YRI leaders will return to their home regions equipped with the tools to deliver workshops and events based on themes pertaining to solidarity and reconciliation. This phase of the project will put into action the skills and knowledge developed during the learning retreat as well as incorporating their vision, knowledge and understandings of community building.

Each team will work together to lead approximately **six youth-driven activities, events or other programming** between September 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020 for youth in their community. Activities include interactive educational workshops, arts-based sessions, film screenings, spoken word events, and other initiatives based on the team's vision. In addition, National Program Coordinators will support each team with their vision, program planning, budgets, and reporting.

### Phase 3 - Reporting, Recruitment, and Alumni Network: April 1-30, 2020

The month of April will be used to wrap up reporting and evaluations and for your teams to help support the recruitment of the next YRI cohort.

As graduates of the YRI program, you will join a large network of YRI leaders across the country and can continue to stay connected with CRE!

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## Annual National Gathering in February 2020

CRE's annual gathering will take place in Montreal, QC in **February 2020** (*specific dates to be announced*). YRI leaders will play a lead role in supporting the gathering through volunteering, facilitating workshops, and networking with other young leaders. This is also an exciting opportunity to connect with YRI Leaders (past and present) and meet youth leaders from all across the country.

## Who are we looking for?

We are inviting 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 program. In addition, the successful candidates chosen should display high motivation in providing **community education programming along with having experience in facilitation, public speaking, community connections, time management, conflict resolution and open to working with a variety of personalities.**

Each team will be comprised of four to six youth leaders living in close geographic proximity. Teams will be comprised of a balance of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth.

## Interested in becoming a YRI leader?

### Eligibility Checklist:

- I am between 18 and 29 years of age;
- I am a permanent resident or citizen of Canada (a requirement of the project funder);
- I am excited to work in a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth;
- **I can commit to organizing 6 community events with my team from Sept 2019 – March 2020;**
- **I can dedicate approximately 10-15 hours of volunteer work per month between August 2019 and April 2020 to develop and implement the above events;**
- I am motivated to challenge myself and others to learn more about diverse Indigenous histories, cultures and topics as well as the realities of non-Indigenous communities in Canada;
- I want to dispel harmful stereotypes and myths that divide communities on these lands;
- 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 am available to attend the mandatory training outside of Toronto from **Aug. 18 to Aug. 24, 2019;**
- If I am selected, I take full responsibility to obtain and submit a Vulnerable Sector Check prior to the training (expenses covered by CRE);
- I will be residing in one of the following communities between **Aug. 2019 - Apr. 2020:**

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- |               |                                 |                                    |
|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| → Whitehorse  | → Winnipeg                      | → ThunderBay<br>(expanded program) |
| → Yellowknife | → London                        |                                    |
| → Kamloops    | → Peterborough                  |                                    |
| → Vancouver   | → Montréal                      |                                    |
| → Victoria    | → Quebec City                   |                                    |
| → Edmonton    | → Toronto (expanded<br>program) | → Halifax                          |
| → Calgary     | → Ottawa (expanded<br>program)  | → Moncton                          |
| → Lethbridge  |                                 | → St. John's                       |
| → Saskatoon   |                                 |                                    |
| → Regina      |                                 |                                    |

For the **Ottawa, and ThunderBay** teams only:

- I can commit to planning **10 community events and workshops** with my team from Sept 2019 – March 2020;
- I can dedicate approximately **15-20 hours** of volunteer work per month between August 2019 and April 2020 to develop and implement the above events;

For the **Toronto** team only:

- I can commit to delivering **2 workshops/month** and hosting **2 community events** with my team from Sept 2019 – March 2020;
- I can dedicate approximately **5-10 hours** of volunteer work per week which includes weekly meetings between August 2019 and April 2020 to develop and implement the above events;

### **I don't live in any of the above communities. Is there a program for me?**

CRE is working hard to represent communities across the country. Please contact us and let us know where you are living. You can also fill out the form and share where you would like to see CRE next!

We also have a Rural Reconciliation Initiative. Find out more here: <http://canadianroots.ca/rural-yri/>

### **What is involved? Do I get paid?**

While this is a volunteer project, **all project expenses will be covered. This includes food, lodging, and transportation to participate in the orientation retreat in August 2019.** 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 **honorarium for their participation.**

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### **I am interested! How do I apply?**

To be considered, please **fill out the online application form:**

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRI2019\\_20](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRI2019_20)

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Explain 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. Although it is not a requirement, please feel free to include links to blogs, videos or other projects you have been involved in.

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. Please be sure to indicate if you identify as Indigenous.

If you have any questions about this project, feel free to contact us at [volunteer@canadianroots.ca](mailto:volunteer@canadianroots.ca).

### **Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis!**

We review applications on an ongoing basis and we encourage applicants to **apply before the official deadline of May 30, 2019 at midnight, Eastern Standard Time.**

Interviews and selections will be concluded by mid-June 2019. **Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.**

Canadian Roots Exchange is committed to equitable representation and access that reflects the full diversity of Canada. Candidates from Indigenous, racialized, newcomer, 2SLGBTQ+, and other marginalized communities are **encouraged to self-identify in the online application form.**

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