



Rural Youth Reconciliation Initiative (R-YRI) 2019

Canadian Roots Exchange (CRE) is a charitable 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 its **Rural Youth Reconciliation Initiative (R-YRI)**. This project engages rural 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.

Phase 1 - Training and Development in May 2019

Youth leaders will participate in an intensive orientation, learning, and training retreat. The training takes place from **May 17-20, 2019** in Southern Ontario. The travel dates for participants are on May 16th and May 21st. It is mandatory for all leaders to attend this training.

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

Phase 2 - Community Engagement from June 2019 to August 2019

R-YRI leaders will return to their regions equipped with the tools to deliver programming 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.

Each team will work together over three months to plan and implement a rural engagement community project within their respective communities. The purpose of these projects is to engage with community members on the subject of the role and future of reconciliation in rural Canada. With support from the CRE staff, your local team will design the framework of the project.

Annual Gathering in February 2020 (not mandatory)

CRE's annual gathering will take place in Montreal, QC in **February 2020** (dates to be confirmed). R-YRI leaders will play a lead role in supporting the gathering and leading workshops. This is also an exciting opportunity to connect and meet with YRI youth leaders from all over the country.

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Who are we looking for?

We are inviting youth leaders living in rural communities, 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. Each team will be comprised of 5-10 youth leaders living in close geographic proximity. Teams will be comprised of a balance of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth.

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.**

Interested in becoming a R-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 organising a community action project from June 2019 – August 2019;**
- **I can dedicate approximately 6-10 hours of volunteer work per week between June 2019 and August 2019 to develop and implement the community project;**
- 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 dialogue, 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 in Southern Ontario from May 17-20th;
- If I am selected, I take full responsibility to obtain and submit a Vulnerable Sector Check (expenses covered by CRE);
- I will be residing in one of the following communities or surrounding areas between June 2019-August 2019:

→ **Comox Valley Regional District**

→ **Six Nations or Surrounding Townships**

→ **Northern Ontario**

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What is involved?

While this is a volunteer project (involving an approximate time commitment of 6-10hrs/week), **all project expenses will be covered. This includes food, lodging and transportation to participate in the orientation retreat in May 2019.** It also includes a budget for costs associated with the community project (e.g. transportation, materials).

Honorariums will be provided to participants on completion of their respective projects.

I am interested! How do I apply?

To be considered, please **fill out the online application form:** <https://forms.gle/EfytT2bLKYDY3qR57>.

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, feel free to include links to blogs, videos or other projects you have been involved with.

Please note that all participants work with a local team that has a balance of Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) and non-Indigenous members.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this project, feel free to contact Alyse at alyse@canadianroots.ca or Bayani at bayani@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 April 26th, 2019 at midnight, Eastern Standard Time.**

Interviews and selections will be concluded the following week. **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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