



**Canadian Roots Exchange's 4th Annual National Youth Conference
INFORMATION PACKAGE**



“Building a National Network of Youth Leadership for Reconciliation”

March 17-19, 2016

Sudbury, Ontario



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What is the National Youth Conference?

Canadian Roots Exchange's National Youth Conference aims to further our organizational mandate of **facilitating dialogue between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth** and bridging the gap between youth from diverse communities across Canada.

The forum allows youth to gather together to engage in dialogues on the **significance of the treaties of Ontario and Canada at-large, to challenge negative stereotypes, to participate in reconciliation-based activities, and most importantly to create a national network of youth** that promotes respect and understanding between all people living in Canada.

Since 2013, CRE has hosted three annual national conferences. Building on these successes, in 2016, we anticipate approximately **150 youth participants and 20 youth facilitators and volunteers**.

For three days, a diversity of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth will come together to learn from each other, and become more aware of the **history, teachings and daily realities of Indigenous communities** in Canada. Keynote speakers and youth-led workshops will place an emphasis on positive youth engagement, leadership and reconciliation.

Conference Programming

The CRE National Youth Conference is facilitated by youth and for youth. Our national youth facilitators are Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from local and out of province communities. The following is a snapshot of the programming featured at the Conference:

Traditional Gatherings and Community Events

CRE will collaborate with our community partners including N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre and the Laurentian School of Architecture to hold cultural events within the community to give the Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth participants the opportunity to be involved with cultural events at the local level.

Elders Welcome

Youth will learn from traditional Anishnabek Elders who will share welcome messages to inform youth participants of the local knowledge and teachings of diverse Anishnabek communities in the Sudbury area.

Youth Panel

A panel of diverse Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth leaders from across the country will open a dialogue on reconciliation and bridging the gap between historically divided communities

Keynote Speakers

Prominent youth and community leaders will share speeches in order to provide local insight on the themes of reconciliation, renewing relationships and youth leadership. Past keynote speakers have included Marie Wilson, Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and CBC journalist Wab Kinew.

Youth-Led Workshop Sessions

Participants will choose their sessions of choice, which will be run parallel to each other during morning and afternoon time blocks.

Some examples of themes that have been explored in past conferences include:

- Dialogue on the significance of provincial and national treaties
- Treaty education tools like the KAIROS Blanket Exercise on the history of treaty-making
- Challenging stigma related to mental health and addictions
- Narratives of diaspora communities
- Building bridges between Indigenous and newcomer youth

- Strengthening connections between Northern and Southern Canada
- Cultural safety and sexual and reproductive health
- Arts-based reconciliation work
- Reconciliation through hip hop and spoken word
- Environmental protection and education

Call for Presenters!

Canadian Roots Exchange is inviting interested youth or adults accompanied by youth to facilitate interactive workshops that reflect the conference themes of reconciliation and building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. Workshops can be a maximum of one and a half hours in length. Facilitators may request two session spaces if they have a longer or two-part session. Interested facilitators are encouraged to email a proposal and/or questions to conference@canadianroots.ca.

Sponsorship

If you or any individuals in your networks are interested in sponsoring this innovative youth-led conference please contact Canadian Roots Exchange at conference@canadianroots.ca to receive our sponsorship package.

Registration Information

Early Bird Registration Fee	Regular Registration Fee
December 1, 2015 - January 22, 2016	January 23, 2016 - February 26, 2016
Youth (up to 29 years old): \$75	Youth (Up to 30 years old): \$95
Adult (30 years +): \$100	Adult (30 years +): \$120

Registration fee includes all conference sessions, a conference package, as well as lunch and snacks for March 17, 18 & 19. CRE strives to make programs accessible and has some bursaries to assist youth with financial barriers. *Bursaries are available to assist with registration fees only, not travel and/or accommodations. Priority will be given to early registrants. Please email conference@canadianroots.ca.*

Payment Options

1. Email money transfer to info@canadianroots.ca

- Cheque or Money Order payable to Canadian Roots Exchange

Registration Process

To register for the conference you can complete the [online registration form](#) or you can email, fax or mail it to:

Email: conference@canadianroots.ca
Fax: 416- 978-7072

Mail: Canadian Roots Exchange
246 Bloor Street West, Room 712
Toronto, ON M5S 1V4

*** Before registering make sure you have first and last names, birthdates and any allergy concerns for everyone you are registering. *If you are interested in registering a group or class, please send an email to conference@canadianroots.ca to receive our group registration form.

Important Dates

Last day for Early Bird conference rate	January 22, 2016
Application deadline for the call out for facilitators	9am EST on February 1st, 2016
Last day to register for conference	February 26, 2016

Accommodations

CRE can assist with securing accommodations but the costs are the responsibility of the participant. The conference accommodations will be at the Travelway Inn on Paris Street across from Science North. Breakfast is included in the cost of the accommodations and lunch will be provided at the conference. CRE will also provide transport between the Travelway Inn and the conference site. Dinner will be at the participants' expense. ***If you would like to stay at the Travelway Inn you must let us know, as we will be booking the accommodations. The cost for a shared room (2 double beds) at the Travelway Inn is \$113.99+HST (including hot breakfast).***

Transport

Transport from Toronto to Sudbury and back will be provided by CRE at a discounted rate for youth participants needing land travel. ***If you would like a seat on the bus, please let us know and confirm your space as there are limited spots.***

Shuttles

The conference will be located in the heart of Sudbury and will be approximately a 10-minute drive from the accommodations. There will be a shuttle bus that will provide transport from the accommodations to the conference venue(s) for participants who are staying at the Travelway Inn.

Conference at a glance*

Thursday March 17, 2016

8:30 am - 9:30am	Registration
9:30 am - 10:30am	Conference Opening & Welcome
10:30am - 11:15am	Youth Panel – <i>Youth Leaders in Reconciliation</i>
11:15am - 12:30pm	Workshop Sessions – Block 1 Youth will have options from 3 to 4 different sessions pertaining to the theme of solidarity and reconciliation
12:30 pm - 1:30pm	Lunch Provided
1:30pm – 2:45pm	Workshop Sessions – Block 2 Youth will have options from 3 to 4 different sessions pertaining to theme of youth-led reconciliation
2:45pm - 4:30pm	Workshop Sessions – Block 3 Youth will have options from 3 to 4 different sessions pertaining to the theme of youth-led reconciliation and treaty education
6:30pm to 8:30pm	Evening Keynote Session

Friday March 18, 2016

9:00am - 10:00am	Day 2 Welcome
10:00am - 11:15am	Workshop Sessions – Block 4 Youth will have options from 3 to 4 different sessions pertaining to theme of health, wellness and spirituality
11:15am- 12:30pm	Workshop Sessions – Block 5 Youth will have options from 3 to 4 different sessions pertaining to theme of health, wellness and spirituality
12:30 - 1:30pm	Lunch Provided
1:30pm- 2:00pm	Key Note Speaker – <i>Cross Cultural Solidarity and Reconciliation</i>
2:00 pm - 3:30pm	Workshop Sessions – Block 6 Youth will have options from 3 to 4 different sessions pertaining to theme of Cross Cultural Solidarity & Reconciliation
3:30 pm - 5:00pm	Workshop Sessions – Block 7 Youth will have options from 3 to 4 different sessions pertaining to theme of the Role of Youth in Honouring Treaties and Renewing Treaty Agreements

Saturday March 19, 2016

9:00 am – 1:30pm (youth bring packed lunch)	Community Excursion – Science North Youth will get a guided tour experience of Science North. There will be a focus on Indigenous involvement and knowledge in the sciences.
2:00pm - 3:15pm	Workshop Sessions – Block 8 Taking It Home: Youth will have options from 3 to 4 different sessions pertaining to the role of transferring knowledge back to their home communities
3:15 to 4:30pm	Conference Closing
6:30pm to 8:30pm	Youth Talent Showcase

*Please note that the agenda is subject to change. A revised agenda will be distributed at the conference.

Contact Us Today!

Canadian Roots Exchange
246 Bloor St West - Room 712
Toronto, ON M5S 1V4

(416) 946-5047

www.canadianroots.ca

conference@canadianroots.ca

Official Conference Partners**N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre**

The N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre is a holistic, healthy, Indigenous community centre which promotes culture, language and well-being in a balanced way. N'Swakamok Native Friendship centre is committed to preserving language and culture, enhancing quality of life and empowering family and community by providing supports, services and partnerships for the Aboriginal community in a urban setting.

Laurentian University School of Architecture

The Laurentian University School of Architecture is an unfolding experiment in emerging pedagogies and diverse cultures. The French, English, Métis and Anishnabek faculty and student body is unique to Laurentian's tri-cultural mandate; conducting design studios in both French and English, as well as working with Elders and gusks who are First Nations and Metis, provides a further array of cultures and educational perspectives.