

Halton Community Partners Share Ideas and Information on Supporting Youth During the Pandemic

- Overview of the Halton Youth Initiative Virtual Program.
- Ideas and strategies on supporting and working with youth during the COVID-19 pandemic from the Oakville YMCA, Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre, Oakville Public Library, Nelson Youth Centres, Milton Public Library, Canadian Gap Year Association.





Halton Youth Initiative

Updates- Transitioning to Virtual Groups

North Oakville

- OCF Grant Update- postponed
- 3 Workgroups + transitioning to online

Acton * Aldershot * Milton – with North Oakville YDC and HYI Communications Advisory Group invited

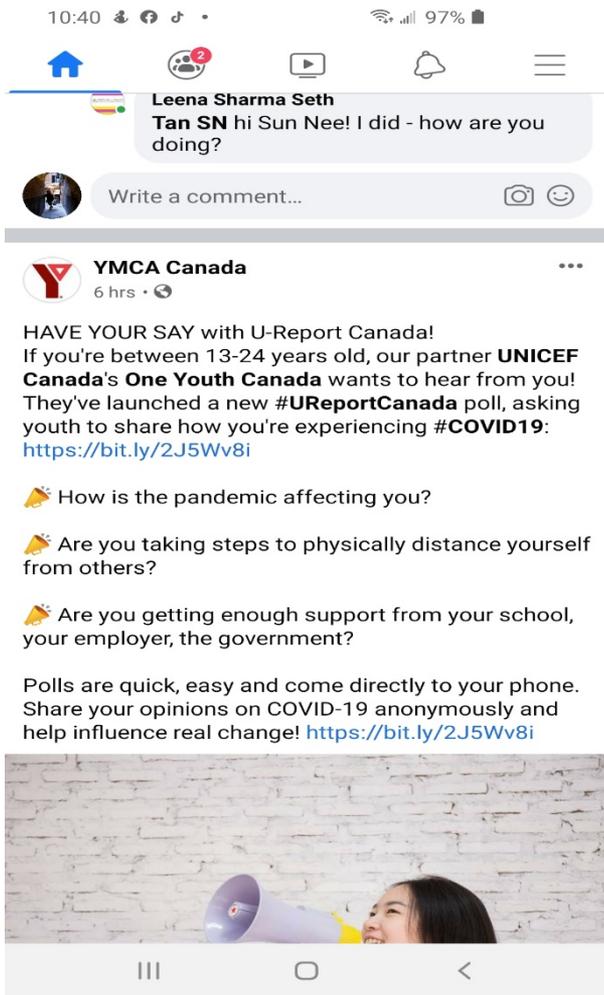
- Transitioning to online work
- **Initiative One: COVID-19 Virtual Response Team [game]**
 - Points and prizes
 - Virtual tasks to support their personal community, plus the local and online community
- **Initiative Two: “Borderless” working group**
 - **Group One:** Communications Crew (online) – OTF Goal 1: Local resources
 - **Group Two:** Community Builders (local) – OTF Goal 2: Topics that matter to youth
 - **Group Three:** Creative Spaces (youth) – OTF Goal 3: Positive youth hangout space





Providing Support During COVID-19

Navigate. Empower. Advocate. Set Boundaries.



Teresa Rinaldi – Oakville YMCA/Adult Ally

“The YMCA of Oakville has been providing the following to stay connected:

- YThrive youtube workouts that youth and adults can do at home. The YMCA of Oakville posts daily workouts and can access through YMCA of Oakville Facebook page
- YMCA of Canada has posted on their Facebook page a call out for youth to share their experiences during Covid19. See attached as I took a screenshot which you can share with your youth
- Supporting the Youth Social Innovation Fund recipients with their social impact projects and continue to mentor, advise as they develop their projects
- We have a number of youth staff and we try to stay connected with them via email, text etc.”





Providing Support During COVID-19

Navigate. **Empower.** **Advocate.** **Set Boundaries.**



Michelle Knoll – Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre/Adult Ally

“My youth staff is posting an activity everyday on our facebook page.”

Armen Svadjian – Oakville Public Library/Adult Ally

“During the pandemic our church (New City Hamilton) is continuing to run Youth Group on Friday nights over Zoom. We’ve also increased the frequency of our meetings from bi-weekly to weekly to counter the social isolation many youth are experiencing. This is an important way to foster intergenerational community as we catch up on each other’s lives and offer prayer and support.”





Providing Support During COVID-19

Navigate. Empower. Advocate. Set Boundaries.



Nelson Youth Centres

Changing Young Lives Forever

Saloni Kalia, Nelson Youth Centre – Seven Somebodies Ally

Hi Lily,

Thank you so much for checking in! I hope you are keeping well. I so appreciate all the efforts you are putting forward in continuing to support youth at this time!

One of your emails asked if we would be able to join in on a zoom meeting with the youth - I think this would be a wonderful idea! As much as this would be so great to have youth know that we are here for them, I think this is also such an important time to hear from youth directly about what we as service providers can do to be most helpful to youth virtually at this time.

Right now, the Nelson Youth Centres is working from home. All in person programs and groups are suspended at this time, though our clients are able to continue to access us as needed via phone, text, email and video sessions. We are doing our best to connect with our clients and families on a weekly basis.





Providing Support During COVID-19

Navigate. Empower. Advocate. Set Boundaries.



Lisa Portelli, Milton Public Library – Milton Youth Action Team Ally

Hi Lily,

Hope you're doing ok with everything happening in the world right now. MPL is closed to the public and staff until at least April 6, but we're not really sure what is going to happen beyond that. So, we've switched to creating digital content for all age groups. We're working around the clock to film, record, and invent anything we can think of. Here's what we've got in the works for teens at the moment:

- Launching the writing content two months early – “Put Pen to Paper” should go live Apr 1
- Arranging author webinar/writing workshop -- on zoom or Instagram live
- Using our online movie streaming service to host movie nights with a chat on Instagram
- Digital escape rooms
- Virtual trivia night using Kahoot
- Reading lists galore!





Providing Support During COVID-19

Navigate. Empower. Advocate. Set Boundaries.



Michelle Dittmer, Canadian Gap Year Association – Milton Youth Action Team & Aldershot Youth Crew Ally

Hey Lily,

I am opening my gap year certification 4 months early to those who have had to cancel their gap year spring plans. It's a big deal because now I have to build it on the fly but I am always up for a challenge and I have the platform in place so things should go okay.

I am also hosting online gap year information sessions (April 30th and May 25th) as well as some other interesting online challenges/webinars. Details to come.

Additionally, Looks like you have your hands full shifting to online. I do a lot of work here so let me know how I can help.

I am also happy to speak with any of the youth one-on-one or as a group if they are worried or anxious. Happy to be another caring adult. I am sure the grade 12s are freaking out.

