Youth-Adult partnerships: meaningful collaboration with immigrant and refugee youth

Fresh Voices Initiative
February 22nd, 2017

Ashvan Wal- Youth Advisory Team Member
Alejandra López Bravo - Project Manager
Fresh Voices Initiative - Vancouver Foundation
We are on Unceded First Nation Land
Coast Salish Territory
Importance of spaces for and by immigrant and refugee youth
What is The Fresh Voices Initiative?

• Fresh Voices from Long Journeys: Insights of Immigrant & Refugee Youth is an initiative of Vancouver Foundation.

• Began in October 2011 as a partnership with the BC Representative for Children and Youth.

• We offer a way for immigrant and refugee youth from across B.C. to engage in dialogue and action to identify and remove barriers to their success.

• Events for dialogue and action at the local, regional and national level.
Key to our process and success

- Importance of spaces that are led by racialized immigrant and refugee young people.

- The access and opportunities are different depending on your race, gender, class or sexual orientation

- Collaboration with other communities that are not racialized, importance of building bridges and work together to improve the lives of immigrant and refugee communities

Video of the Summit

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1Lf93XBc3g
Fresh Voices from Long Journeys: Insights of Immigrant and Refugee Youth
These conversation turned into 16 recommendations:

- **School and English Language Learning**
- Immigration
- Family
- Building Bridges and Working in Solidarity
• **Recommendation 1:** Allow English Language Learning (ELL) courses — also known as English as a Second Language (ESL) courses — to count towards high school graduation.

SIGN THE PETITION!
make-it-count.ca
Youth Engagement for the Fresh Voices Initiative

• Youth Engagement:
  Young people need to be involved and meaningfully represented, we need safe spaces where we can articulate our own experiences and realities. That is why throughout the planning and facilitation the focus is on engaging immigrant and refugee youth.

Other elements of the approach:
• Youth-Adult Partnership
• Coordinator/Facilitator with Strong Community Connections
• Local Partnerships
• Grassroots and Institutional Partnerships
• Taking a risk
How do we establish foundations?

Every young person has a journey that needs to be supported in regards to: Culture, Spirituality, Employment and Family

Valuing and celebrating differences; diversity is a strength

Ensuring that young people are provided opportunities to give back to the community

Workers who speak different languages, or same language as youth

A commitment to systemic change
Having young people at the center makes policy fun!
Any questions?

Thank you/ Nandri / Shukran / Ta blu / Tashakor/ Gamsahabnida/ Xie Xie / Gracias / Cam On

Social media: @freshvoicesca
Website: www.freshvoices.ca/