

# Empowering Newcomer Youth as Community Leaders

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*Presented at Pathways to Prosperity*



## **New Canadians Centre's Young Leaders (NCCYL)**

- What is NCCYL?
- Why create NCCYL?
- How did we go about creating this group?
- What are the outcomes?

## **WHAT IS NCCYL?**

It is a youth-led council of youth with newcomer experience in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong.

## **WHAT DO WE MEAN BY YOUTH LED?**

Members of NCCYL lead discussions and projects, and advocate for themselves and other newcomer youth with the guidance and resources of the New Canadians Centre.

## **WHAT IS NCCYL'S GOAL?**

To help other newcomer youth and make them feel welcome in the community, whilst gaining leadership skills in the process.

## **HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR GOAL?**

By creating meaningful experiences through projects for newcomer youth to engage with the community and integrate in Canadian culture, whilst holding pride in their own background and culture.

## WHY?

- To support youth in gaining leadership skills
- To Empower youth by giving them a platform to build, rather than attend
- To create a space where they can learn and practice self advocacy, and advocate for others
- Serves as a needs assessment for youth

## HOW?

- 1st cohort September 2020 - May 2021
- Recruitment - interested youth with newcomer experience\*
  - Social media call outs, and word of mouth
- Platform - virtual meetings weekly
- Creating a team



# The New Canadians Centre's Young Leaders



- Six members with newcomer experience
- Discussions led to organic conversations on important issues
- Projects:
  - Virtual Hangout
  - Homework Help Group
  - NCCYL Guidebook



# The New Canadians Centre's Young Leaders



- Projects:
  - Virtual Hangout
    - No attendance
    - Youth did not want to virtually engage
  - Homework Help Group
    - Successful, youth were able to directly see impact
  - NCCYL Guidebook
    - Created a resource for newcomer youth
    - Presented to Public and Catholic School Boards to circulate



# The New Canadians Centre's Young Leaders



The New Canadians Centre's Young Leaders  
Council (NCCYL) Presents:

## The Newcomer Youth's Guidebook



All artwork was created by students from the Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute International Night.



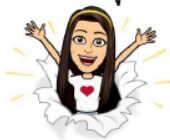
### The Newcomer Youth's Guidebook

Hi I'm Aya! If you are a newcomer youth in Canada and feel alone and confused - Don't worry! As youth with newcomer experience we know how it feels, and we hope that these resources and coping strategies can help you settle down in your new home.

My peers and I will take you through this pamphlet to share some information and resources we found useful to know!



Made by youth  
For YOUTH



### What's Inside?

Ian & Sami are going to  
guide you through  
LANGUAGE Learning

Saoirse is going to  
share some facts  
about CANADIAN  
CULTURE



Preshtha will  
introduce you to  
SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Lu is going to share  
some tips about  
navigating the Do's  
and Don'ts in Canada



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### Canadian Culture

#### SEASONAL FUN!

Speaking of snow... there's LOTS of it here. Don't worry, we find ways to make the best of it! In the winter, Canadians enjoy ice skating, skiing, tobogganing, snowshoeing, making snow forts and snowmen, the possibilities are endless! There are also lots of winter sports like ice-hockey, figure skating, curling, speed skating, cross-country and downhill skiing.



Canadians find just as much to do in the summer. When the weather gets hot, we like to visit national parks to camp, and hike. (check out some popular parks above) Canada is full of lakes and rivers which means we have lots of opportunities to swim, paddle board, canoe, kayak, and white water raft. If you're looking for something more laid back, you could try fishing, stargazing or holding a campfire.



A lot of Canadians like to spend their summers in a cottage. This is a house in nature, usually next to a lake.



Don't forget to scan this for more information! Hover your camera phone over this code until a link appears!

Summer fun can also involve trips to Canada's Wonderland! This amusement park has roller coasters, water slides, and lots of funnel cakes! (Funnel cakes are deep fried batter with ice cream and powdered sugar.)



# The New Canadians Centre's Young Leaders

## Do's & Don'ts



Hey, I'm Lu! Even though I was very young coming to Canada, visiting Egypt every so often has highlighted the basic rules on what to do, and what not to do in Canada...

### DO

Be ready for the weather. Find out where to buy winter gear and what companies to buy.



Be on time! Time is followed more closely Canada

Use please and thank you, or kind words.

Respect lines and queues, your turn will come! Don't worry and be patient.

### DON'T

Don't try to bargain prices; The price is final

Don't be afraid to reach out to your teacher or school counselor for help with anything.

Don't forget to check the windchill in the winter. The temperature you see at first may be deceiving.

Don't forget to leave a tip at sit-down restaurants. The tip is not included in the price.

## Meet the Authors

The New Canadians Centre's Young Leaders (NCCYL) council is a youth led group of high school students with newcomer experience in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong.

Founded virtually amidst the pandemic in November 2020, we came together to discuss how to support newcomer youth.

With a passion for youth advocacy, we offered homework help to newcomers, and created this pamphlet as a guide of resources and assurances to the struggles newcomer youth may face.



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# The New Canadians Centre's Young Leaders



- 2nd cohort September 2021 - May 2022
- Recruitment
  - Interviews were conducted by outgoing NCCYL members
- Platform - weekly meetings in person (yay!)
  - Adapting as COVID restrictions change
- Creating a team
  - Roles (President, Media coordinator etc)



# The New Canadians Centre's Young Leaders



- Projects:
  - Virtual Hangout
    - Well attended - used to it?
  - The NCCYL Show
    - Collaboration with Trent Radio, published podcast on Spotify
  - Arcade Night
  - Policies & Procedures

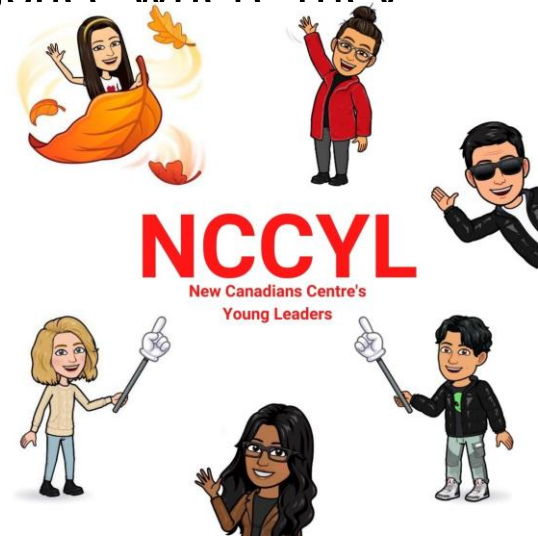




# The New Canadians Centre's Young Leaders



- Building something from the ground up
- NCCYL evolved as a youth led project, and became what it is because of their work, and what they wanted it to become
- Amplifying voices by giving them a platform and a space where they feel safe, confident, and heard



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