



Y4Y Québec

# Annual Report

2020-2021

**A Year**

**for the Books**

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**Du fond du cœur,  
merci !**

# A Message from Our President

Dear members, friends and partners,

Reflecting on a year like no other, I am proud of the resilience and innovation that our young-yet-growing organization has demonstrated. The impacts of the global pandemic on Québec's youth further highlighted the need for an organization that is dedicated to voicing the concerns of young English-speaking Quebecers and providing them with a supportive network.

The past fiscal year provided new challenges and new opportunities for Y4Y. Events had to be adapted to virtual platforms and we had to find creative ways to transform our outreach. Despite these changes, we held several successful consultations, which addressed the ways in which COVID-19 had impacted young people. Chief among these consultations were a Montréal regional chapter webinar in July 2020 on employment prospects with federal Members of Parliament, and a roundtable open discussion on mental health for post-secondary students with several Members of the National Assembly. In times of social isolation, it is extremely important to feel connected. Our Say La Vie podcast, as well as the You are Here project, fostered a sense of belonging for youth within the English-speaking community through new relationships and collaborations despite the physical distance between us.



The upcoming year will focus on continuing to manage our growth by formalizing the processes that will ensure the stability and longevity of the organization. Through increased membership across the province and diversified funding, Y4Y will be in a great position to further connect and elevate the voices of young English-speaking Quebecers within our community and within our province.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Madeleine Lawler".

Madeleine Lawler  
President

# A Message from Our Executive Director

Community organizations have never worked harder to find creative solutions in pursuit of maintaining the vitality of their constituencies. As interim Executive Director, it has been a true privilege to serve Y4Y and work alongside a collective of fervent community leaders.

This past year, the generosity of our supporters was unparalleled. Policymakers, community partners and governmental agencies pulled together to ensure we could continue to engage the English-speaking minority of Québec. It wasn't seamless, but it was impressive and encouraging.

Campaigning was at the forefront of our work. We urged the government to prioritize infrastructure that would ensure all Quebecers have reliable access to the internet and advocated for sustained inter-regional travel. We brought together thousands of youth from across the province and kept mental health / well-being at the heart of community discourse.

## **Behind all the success? Youth - *point final*.**

In the face of a strange year that required re-learning everything under the sun, youth fulfilled their civic duty of respecting social distancing while simultaneously demanding connection, resources,



services and most importantly - *acknowledgement*. They showed up, even when staying in bed was more palatable. And, when attention was required elsewhere, they *spoke up*, despite feeling as though their voices weren't being heard.

The past year has exposed frailties in our social fabric, but also countless windows of opportunity. One thing's for sure - building a stronger tomorrow is contingent on our ability to cultivate resiliency in the youth population of today. They have been and continue to be our most precious resource.

Giving them a seat at the table has never been more important. Wouldn't you agree?

Kathleen Mulawka  
Executive Director

## Mission



Y4Y is a provincial non-profit youth network committed to addressing the issues facing English-speaking youth (ages 16-30).



# Our Approach to Community Development



## **Share**

information on resources, training and employment/career opportunities via outreach;

## **Support**

our audience in connecting with other English-speaking youth with the help of regional ambassadors;

## **Create**


networking opportunities across both linguistic communities;

## **Offer**

a vehicle for youth to become leaders while inspiring their peers to become civically engaged;

## **Assist**

our audience in influencing public policy to ensure all language groups are equally represented in Québec society.



# Our Leadership 2020-2021

*September 17, 2020 - September 29, 2021*

## **President**

Madeleine Lawler

## **Vice President**

Jonathan Patton

## **Secretary**

Hayley Campbell

## **Treasurer**

Jessica O'Doherty

## **Directors**

Christina Eyangos

Jamie Fabian

Alexander Gordon

Joanna Kanga

Luca Manglaviti

Caleb Owusu

Amber-Chantelle Regier

Shae-Lynn Roberts

## To Our Outgoing President and Board Members - thank you.

The time and energy each of you has given to Y4Y has helped create a springboard for all English-speaking youth to become changemakers in their communities and to feel connected to the province they call home. Y4Y would not be the strong organization it is today without your enthusiasm and advocacy for our community.

## **Retiring Directors**

Malcolm Lewis-Richmond, Former President & Co-Founder

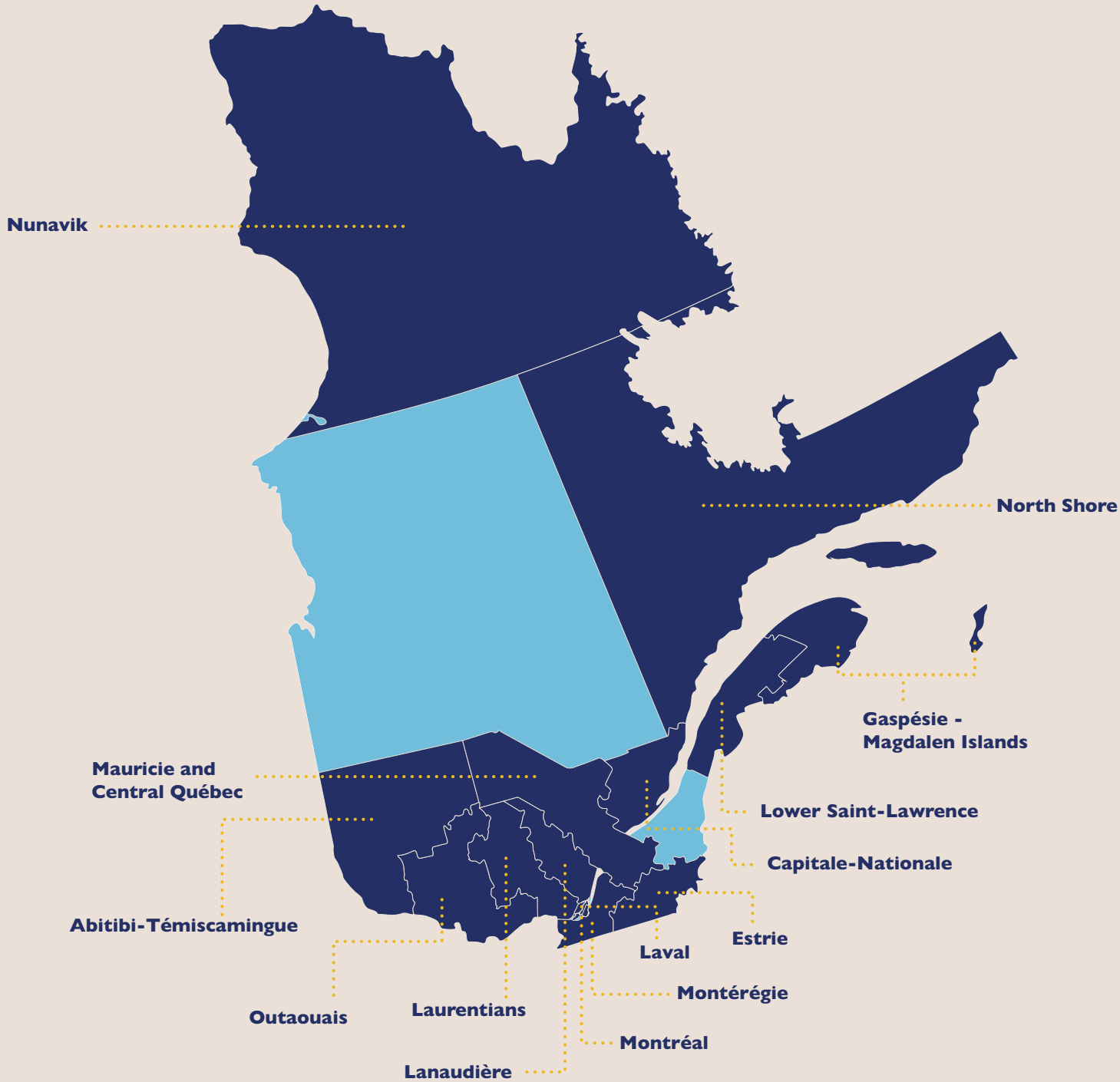
Edward Lai, Director

Connor Macordin, Director

Armani Martel, Director

Gabriela Navarrette-Rolls, Director

# Our Outreach







## Magda Szyszko

Volunteer

“No one could have predicted a global pandemic that would completely change life as we know it. As hard as it was for everyone to adjust, I had just left Alberta, leaving behind my friends and family for a province with a language I wasn't entirely fluent in. Lonely and scared would be an understatement. When I started volunteering with Y4Y, it helped me realize that there's a place for everyone in Québec. ***The community I have built through Y4Y has encouraged me to not give up and has helped me learn about all the beautiful things the province has to offer.***”



**5,000+**  
Youth Reached



**70+**  
Volunteers



**60+**  
Activities



**30+**  
Consultations



**80+**  
Partner  
Organizations



**7**  
Publications



**10+**  
Media  
Appearances



# The Future Is Bright





# Activity Report

## Symbolism Project

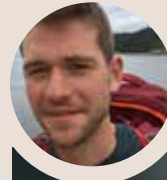
Concluded

Inspired by the flags of minority French-speaking communities throughout the rest of Canada, our Symbolism Project led the creation of an official flag for our organization.

After months of consultation with thousands of Quebecers from across the province, a winning flag co-designed by Coco Wang and Muriel Smith was selected. The flag was inaugurated at last year's AGM and shared with our key project supporters.



The winning flag



**Alexander Pettem**  
Project Manager



# Project Aliana

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● *Concluded*

**Project Aliana focused on addressing life promotion and suicide prevention in communities across Nunavik through artistic expression and civic engagement.**

Led by creative guru Nigel Adams and a dedicated Advisory Committee of youth from the North, Project Aliana wrapped up a year of hard work with the release of a Community Resource Guide and interview series featuring Crystal Martin-Lapenskie (President of the National Inuit Youth Council), Sarah Midanik (President of the Downie Wenjack Fund), Scott Wabano (Ambassador of Hope with WeMatter) and Dr. Arlene Laliberté (Psychologist and Consultant in Community Well-being).

## Project Coordinators



**Misé Johns**



**Kathleen Mulawka**



# Nunavik Mental Health Resource Guide

There is always someone there to help



# You are Here: The Belonging Project

Ongoing

## Project Coordinators



**Holly Nadeau**



**Nolan Godin**

## Youth Cultural Ambassadors



**Honlee Hobbs**  
North Shore



**Rayana Speede**  
Montréal



**Michael Golveo**  
Québec City



**Irmak Taner**  
Montréal



**Danika Lambert**  
Eastern Townships



**Holly Campbell**  
Outaouais



**Emma McGinnis**  
Gaspé-les-Iles

With the help of seven youth cultural ambassadors from six different regions, Y4Y extended its reach across the province like never before. Following months of youth-led local activities, the You are Here project culminated in a virtual forum that brought together five speakers and more than 50 participants to celebrate culture, heritage, history and everything in between.

**You are Here is back for a second consecutive year thanks to renewed funding from the Secretariat for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers.**



# Bead the Way

Ongoing

Spearheaded by Kangirsuk local Susieanne Kudluk, Y4Y launched a micro beading project in collaboration with the Qarjuit Youth Council at the start of 2021. **Bead the Way was designed to help young women in Kangirsuk learn new creative skills** through weekly workshops on beading and jewelry making, while strengthening economic opportunities for youth in the North.

**“There were a number of young women who really liked beading, but very few of them knew how.”**



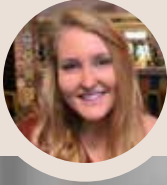
**Susieanne Kudluk**  
Project Coordinator





# Priority-Setting Summit Project

Ongoing

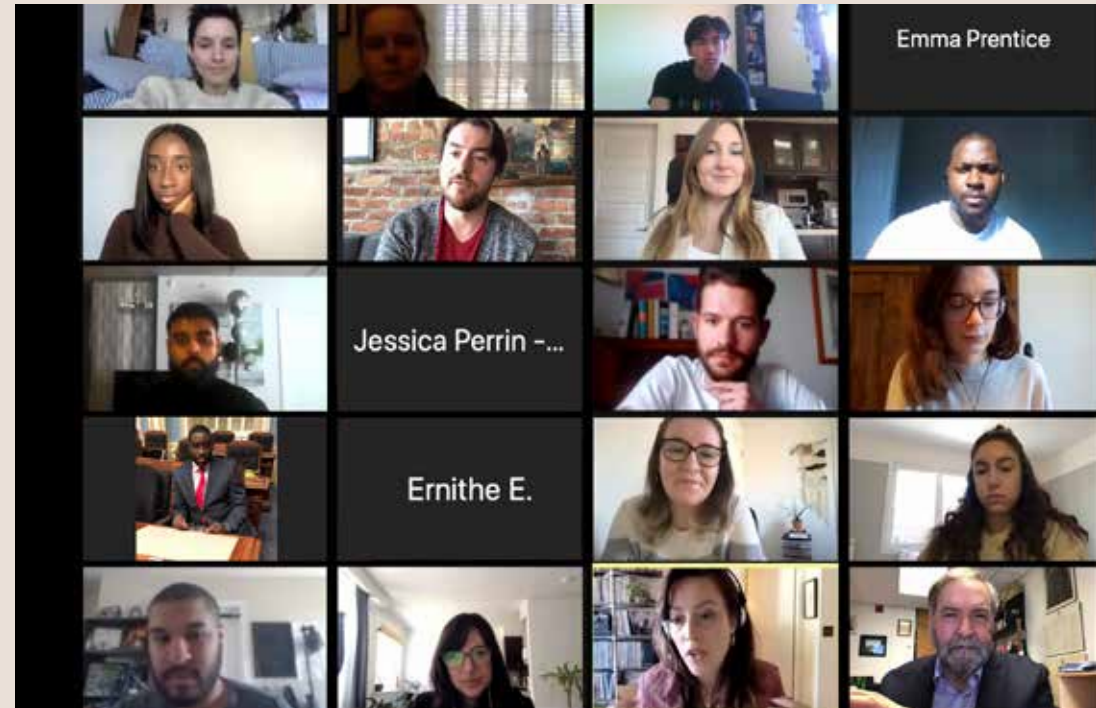


**Émilie Bérard**  
Project Coordinator



During the first year of PSSP, youth joined forces to identify the collective needs and priorities of their respective communities. Through a two-day summit held in March, participants deepened their understanding of the key issues facing the English-speaking minority and developed their ability to become change makers through a series of workshops led by community partners including Institut du Nouveau Monde, Yes Montreal, and Apathy is Boring, as well as by Professor Mike Teed from Bishop's University. **Y4Y was honoured to have keynote addresses from Chistopher Skeete, Gregory Kelley and Thomas Mulcair.**

Year 2 of PSSP will carve out the framework for a five-year action plan that puts youth priorities front and centre of our ongoing work across Québec.







**Sampreet Arneja**  
Project Coordinator



# Say La Vie

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● *Ongoing*

From the Gaspé to the Outaouais, Say La Vie brought new (and much needed) visibility to the diverse experiences, cultures and perspectives of Québec youth. Through a series of conversations with homegrown talent and professionals, **Y4Y's first podcast brought together thousands of listeners curious to rediscover what it means to be an English speaker in Québec.**

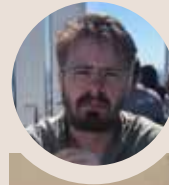
Whether it be access to services or networking, employment or education, Say La Vie established a multi-faceted platform for listeners of all ages to enjoy, all while showcasing the impressive talent of local musicians, poets, actors and more.



# Regional Chapters & Volunteering

**At the heart of every community organization, is the enthusiasm and hardwork of volunteers** eager to make a difference in their communities. Nothing could be more true for the team at Y4Y.

Over the past year, we welcomed 23 new youth onto our committees, with more than 50 others giving their time and energy on an ad hoc basis! Throughout the pandemic, our volunteers helped coordinate activities in the regions, published policy briefs, developed promotional materials and organized webinars focused on work ethic, online professionalism and mental health.



**Nolan Godin**  
Volunteer Coordinator



**Team Work**

**Makes**

**the Dream**

**Work.**



# Hearing Out the Youth

As with everything we do at Y4Y, **youth perspective** is the driving force behind it all.

As the impacts on post-secondary education became increasingly apparent, **Y4Y connected with 15 high schools, cégeps and universities** to investigate how students were adjusting to virtual learning, social distancing and life in lockdown. **We held six focus groups with student unions, a community-wide consultation with elected officials, and a follow-up discussion with academic advisors and support staff.**



**Milla Lopes-Luchak**  
Intern, Junior Community Relations



**Gustavo Andrade**  
Volunteer

“As a newcomer to Québec with no previous knowledge of French, Y4Y provided me with the opportunity to create close relationships and participate in a supportive environment in my new beginning. ***It has been an honour to join this exceptional team and contribute to Y4Y’s work across the province. For me, Y4Y is the quintessential definition of the sense of belonging.*** As co-Chair of the Policy Committee, I have numerous opportunities to network with others, to learn about the history and hardships of English, French and Indigenous communities of Québec, and to discuss ideas on how to develop a better and more inclusive future for all.”



# 10 More Things to Celebrate

01

Board Member Caleb Owusu **attended a round-table hosted by Cabinet Minister Bardish Chagger** on federal investments in antiracism, diversity and inclusion initiatives.

02

Wapikoni Mobile facilitated a workshop on **Indigenous cultures, issues and rights** for Y4Y Staff.

03

Our **Live Cooking Fundraiser** for AMI Quebec brought in \$600 for their Young Carers Initiative.

04

Y4Y received **new three-year funding** from The Secretariat for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers.

05

Taking the organization to new heights, **Madeleine Lawler** stepped up as **President of our Board of Directors**.

06

**A new report on community vitality** of English-speaking International students was released.

07

**New Year, New Office** - Y4Y left our cozy space in the NDG Community Centre to accommodate our growing team.

08

Intern Milla Lopes-Luchak **hosted focus groups with student unions** at eight post-secondary institutions to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on education.

09

**A three-part virtual COVID-19 series** was held throughout the summer of 2020 to discuss “the new normal”, mental health and political engagement.

10

President Madeleine Lawler underlined the importance of having **strong women in leadership** during an International Women’s Day Celebration hosted by CAMI.

# A New Year & A New Look

**Have you seen our new website?  
We designed it for you.**

After months of hard work behind the scenes, Y4Y kicked off 2021 with a complete revamp of our communications, starting with our website. The goal was to highlight who we are and what we care about, while providing a more intuitive and user-friendly experience for our audience. We've diversified our content, polished our newsletters and refreshed our activity across social media to better advocate for English-speaking youth.



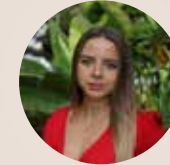
**Maria Mahdessian**  
Communications Manager





# A Seat at the Table

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Forum



**Maria Morais**  
Grant Writer

Following a last-minute cancellation in March 2020, Y4Y went back to the drawing board and partnered with QUESCREN, BCRC and CEDEC to host Forum for Youth Insights. **More than 60 participants came together** in October of last year, for breakout sessions with industry experts and to explore orientations for life beyond lockdown.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Forum

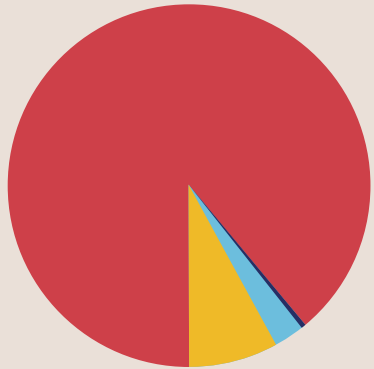
The impacts of the pandemic on the overall well-being of our communities have been undeniable, especially for youth. With the goal of **strengthening our individual and collective resiliency**, Y4Y's 4th annual forum was all about self care. For this event, Y4Y partnered with the Musée nationale de beaux arts du Québec, Vent Over Tea, CBC, Portage and AMI Québec. Participants learned how to develop their own mutual support group and turned inwards through an interactive art therapy session. We welcomed MNA David Birnbaum for a keynote address, and closed the event with a panel of youth and health care professionals, facilitated by CBC.



# Financial Report

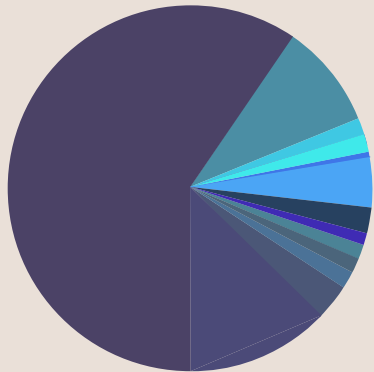
(YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021)

## Revenues



		(not audited)	
		2021	2020
		\$	\$
92.2 %	Government grants	390 848	178 600
4.67 %	Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy - COVID-19	19 815	-
2.87 %	Project contributions to operations	12 181	2 241
0.26 %	Other revenues	1 104	1 247
		423 948	182 088

## Expenses



62.2 %	Salaries & social benefits	232 549	92 217
12.7 %	Consulting fees	47 471	21 391
3.24 %	Rent	12 125	4 891
1.35 %	Activity expenses	5 052	16 960
1.37 %	Travel & accommodation expenses	5 103	19 304
0.5 %	Insurance	1 755	1 079
9.1 %	Office expenses	33 877	10 171



(not audited)

		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		\$	\$
1.17 %	Communication & translation costs	4 380	240
1.2 %	Annual dues & membership	4 492	3 239
1.6 %	Advertising & promotions	5 852	4 061
0.1 %	Youth Forum	499	2 503
4.5 %	Professional fees	16 985	8 600
0.97 %	Training fees	3 642	48
		373 782	184 704
	<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses</b>	50 166	2 616

# BALANCE SHEET


(not audited)

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	137 440	33 269
Contribution receivable from SRQEA	8 658	3 500
Miscellaneous receivable	-	5 979
Expenses chargeable to the next fiscal year	19 562	328
	165 660	43 076
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	55 890	16 680
Due to government	10 371	4 483
Deferred contributions	13 320	26 000
	79 581	47 163
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT</b>	40 000	-
	119 581	47 163
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	46 079	4 087
	165 660	43 076

# Du fond du cœur, merci !

The countless successes Y4Y has made over the past year would not have been possible without generous support from all levels of government. In particular, we remain incredibly grateful to our friends at Canadian Heritage and the Secretariat for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, who continue to invest in the culture, identity and vitality of our ever-changing community.

We are also incredibly grateful for the immeasurable contributions from elected officials, community partners and individuals both near and far. Together, we have moved mountains to elevate the upcoming generation of leaders during a year like no other. Without your devotion and camaraderie, Y4Y wouldn't have a place to call home.

Canada  Québec 





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