

ANNUAL REPORT 2020: A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER



YORK U-TD
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTRE



YURA
York University
Retirees' Association

LAND

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek [a-nish-na-bek] Nation, the Haudenosaunee [ho-dee-no-sho-nee] Confederacy, the Huron-Wendat, and the Métis. It is now home to many Indigenous Peoples. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.



A Land Acknowledgment is a way of recognizing the First Nation, Inuit and Métis land we are on. A Land Acknowledgment is a basic way of expressing gratitude and also a fundamental step in regards to reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and settlers. We must learn the history of the land we are on and honour Indigenous peoples. We must also recognize how the land has been traditionally used and/or occupied by Indigenous People.

MANDATE

The York University-TD Community Engagement Centre supports the University's commitment to building a more engaged university by facilitating mutually-beneficial collaborations between York University and Black Creek Community.

THE CEC

- Fosters academic innovation in teaching and learning through community-engaged teaching and experiential education opportunities
- Supports post-secondary educational attainment among community residents and the development of academic pathways
- Facilitates collaboration between University faculty/students and community organization to do work within communities



A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

2020 has been a year of monumental global impact and change, this is exceptionally true for the Black Creek, Jane and Finch community facing one of its most challenging health crises in decades. Our connection to the community had to be one of shared concern, respect and action for us to respond accordingly. York University - TD Community Engagement Centre has adapted to the growing need to transition from an in-place working and learning environment to a remote virtual space for online collaboration. As we embarked on this journey, we ensured those we collaborated with were also able to make the transition along with us. Some examples of this were to begin conducting online remote learning preceptory tutorials for mature student learners or celebrating the achievements of our graduating classes from the local high and middle schools. We provided not-for-profit and grassroots groups access to video and telecommunication technologies for them to meet, engage and provide services to community residents. The dedication and commitment of the staff and students at the CEC demonstrate York University's commitment to have an engaged University that wants to work and grow to be a strong anchor for the local community. Our community taught us so much about the best ways to engage and support them throughout the pandemic, and we are extremely grateful for all of their contributions and involvement. We will continue our efforts to lend awe to the past, existing in the present and remain hopeful for the future as we begin the process of building back better.

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HIGHLIGHTS

JANE FINCH WALK OF EXCELLENCE

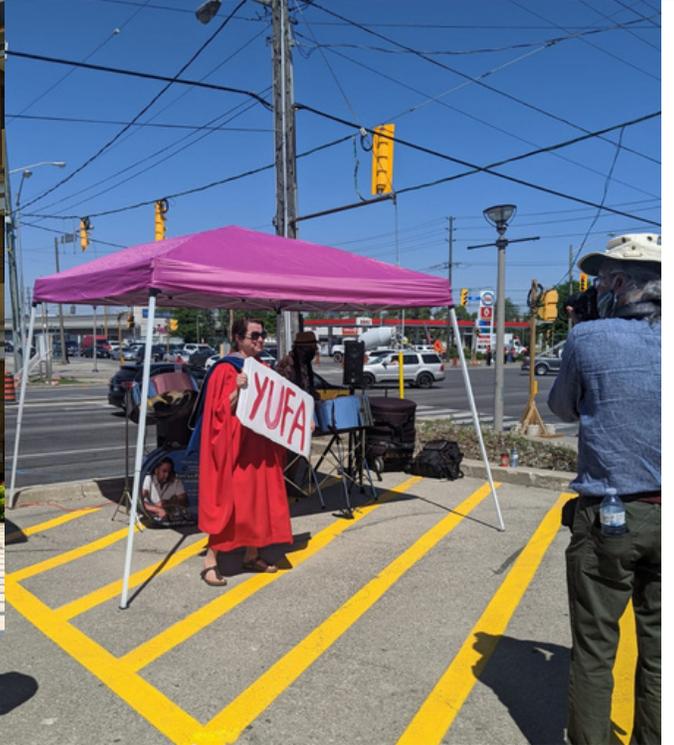
This year we celebrated our 8th annual Walk of Excellence on June 18th. While things may have been different than any other year, our Walk of Excellence still held great value in support of students and staff. Students from Brookview Middle School, C. W. Jefferys Collegiate Institute, Westview Centennial Secondary School, Downsview Secondary School, Emery Collegiate Institute, James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic High School and Emery Adult Learning Centre participated in the Walk of Excellence either live or online. This event is considered a rite of passage for students in the Jane and Finch community who are moving onto post-secondary education.

Black Excellence

Leadership Forum

An African Canadian Leadership group at Emery Collegiate whose mandate is to explore important issues such as; anti-black racism in education, Afrocentric curricula, the eradication of negative stereotypes and Black youth and Black solidarity. It also includes; confidence building and leadership development, intercultural understanding and community service.





PRE UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

University is a different environment than high school, complete with its own demands and expectations. Most students successfully make the transition, but keep in mind that it is a process, with bumps in the road for many. With a common goal in mind the YorkU-TD Community Engagement Centre worked with Emery high school students in their transition to post-secondary and answered any questions they may have.



COLLABORATE



SHARE



MENTOR

ADULT DAY SCHOOL

Adult Day School outreach has worked in collaboration with post-secondary institutions and adult learners by providing support, guidance and insight on the transition from high school to post-secondary. This project focuses on mature students and promotes further education by implementing resourceful information and sharing skills to equip adult learners and transition into a successful university experience.

Some workshops included:

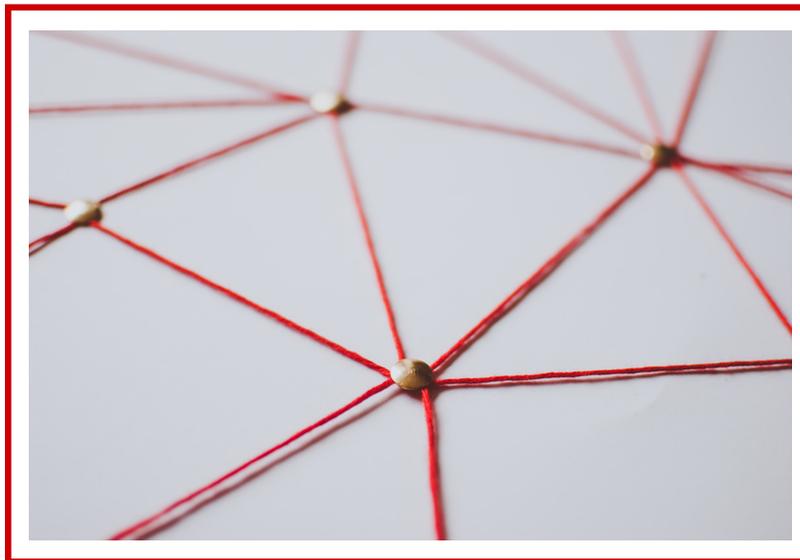
Tips for Successful Online Learning

Understanding the First Steps to Post-Secondary



CATALYST GRANT

One of the ways that the YorkU-TD Community Engagement Centre (CEC) is working to deepen university-community partnerships in Jane Finch. Since 2014, we have awarded approximately \$100,000 in partnership projects promoting access to post-secondary education, supporting community-based research and creating experiential education opportunities for students.



JANE FINCH COMMUNITY RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

The Jane Finch Community Research Partnership challenges in accessing research conducted in and about the Jane Finch community setting up the foundation for a community based research collection and a community based ethics process, guided by a central community-based steering committee.

YOUTH COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Youth CI works with communities across Ontario learn, develop and launch collective impact projects with a common goal to create changes within the community.



JANE FINCH COLLABORATIVE BRIDGING EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT

This project seeks to fill the gap between education and employment by bringing together community partners and youth to address systemic barriers to post-secondary education and training.



SOCIAL INNOVATION HUB

The innovation Hub enabled the Jane-Finch community youth to experience academic disciplines and applications that would otherwise go unnoticed.



AGREEMENTS



**INDUSTRY
ENGAGEMENT**



**KNOWLEDGE
MOBILIZATION**



COMMERCIALIZATION



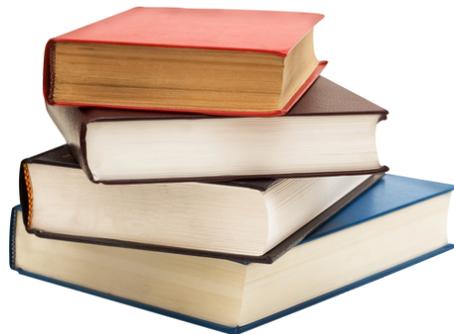
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Hub offers a safe space for the Jane Finch Community and provides access to resources, support and informal mentorship. Committee partners of The Hub include:

- York University Faculty Association's Community Projects Committee
 - Success Beyond Limits
- The Department of Sociology, York University
- The Resource Centre for Public Sociology

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Being a placement student at the CEC has been a unique experience. I've worked on many projects and got to gain more knowledge by attending meetings and focus groups. The circumstances have been a little different for my placement as I never actually got to meet the staff physically. However, zoom has done a great job in making us connected.



The CEC has provided us with great insight and gave us the opportunity to work closely with different agencies and work collaboratively on various projects. While this year has been different compared to any other year, staff at the CEC ensured to maximize our learning. Although we have never met the staff physically, our team stayed connected through online platforms.

Hyper-local Community Involvement

YorkU-TD Community Engagement Centre incorporates both qualitative and quantitative methods. This approach encourages recognition of the strengths of the community institutions and individuals and encourages people and groups to build on those strengths. The CEC is involved in many networks, groups and committees. Below is just a few that have made a difference within the community



- JF research partnership
 - Youth CI JFBEE(Jane Finch bridging education to employment)
- Youth CI YEP (Youth employment)
- Conferences (CUMU, ABLE, C2U)
- JFERT (Ranch Finch economic round table)
 - and many more,,,,,

CONTACT US!



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