

Youth Leadership Program

Now in its sixth year, the ASI Youth Leadership Program has been continually strengthened by participant feedback, and is designed by a committee that includes youth and representatives from organizations serving youth. The 4-day Youth Leadership Program (August 18-21, 2019) will be held during the ASI 2019 Forum, and will provide an opportunity for young people to have a voice in shaping the future agenda for children and youth in Atlantic Canada. ASI has learned from previous events how important it is to foster intergenerational learning, so there will be time for youth to both participate in the full ASI Forum and convene separately to develop long lasting connections.

The Youth Leadership Program has a unique intergenerational aspect. Youth selected for the program will begin with leadership training designed specifically for their demographic, and continue the week by participating in the Forum along with representatives from fields such as: government, education, health care, justice and community development. Youth are given an equal voice at the table, allowing policy makers and community leaders to appreciate the value of youth voices and consider youth perspectives when developing policies and programs.

Past participants have represented diverse communities and a wide range of experiences as leaders and mental health advocates. Many delegates have been actively involved with youth councils; others empower their peers through art and music, or are creating new initiatives to improve awareness and mental health literacy.

ASI 2019 will support at least five youth from each Atlantic province to come together in Charlottetown for this event.

Thank you to TD, the Title Sponsor of the ASI Youth Leadership Program.



Coordinator

Esther Li is this year's Youth Leadership Coordinator for the Atlantic Summer Institute. She is currently in her third year at the University of Western Ontario studying Psychology. Esther has worked at the PEI Newcomers Association for two consecutive summers as a Program Assistant, bringing with her experience in planning, coordinating, and implementing the activities for the Youth Summer Camps, as well as with translating for the clients. Because she can speak both English and Mandarin fluently, she has also worked at iTang Trading Inc as an Office Assistant and Translator. Esther is enthusiastic about working with the Youth Leadership Program at ASI 2019 and has the goal of making it the best yet!



Facilitators

Jillian Kilfoil is Executive Director of Women's Network PEI (WNPEI). WNPEI is a feminist organization with a provincial mandate and a 35-year history of supporting Island women. Jillian is originally from western Prince Edward Island. She has an undergraduate degree in political science and women's studies and a certificate in Adult Education from St. FX. She is a facilitator, feminist, and community advocate. Jillian has previously worked with Katimavik, Girls Action Foundation and Apathy is Boring. She has lived and worked across the country in various locations and has most recently returned to PEI from Montreal. Jillian has an expertise in experiential learning programs, youth civic engagement, and gender issues. Jillian is passionate about creating equity in society and spends a lot of time thinking about the intersections of power and privilege and how we can unlearn behaviours and ways of thinking that lead to exclusion, stigma and violence. Jillian is currently a member of PEI's Regional Economic Advisory Council, is part of Status of Women Canada's Gender Equality Network and recently represented PEI as part of the Canadian NGO delegation at the UN Commission on the Status of Women.



Rachel Morgan works at the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation as the Youth Program Manager. She is an experienced international development practitioner, youth educator and facilitator. Her work has ranged from kickstarting leadership development programs for over 1000 youth in Kosovo, to creating a nursing and midwifery HR assessment framework for the WHO Collaborating Center in Jamaica. She has designed curriculum in collaboration with Indigenous communities for schools across the country, and has worked with over 100 immigrants in Nova Scotia to help them build job skills and find employment. She holds a Masters of Science in Global Health from McMaster University, and a combined honours degree in Political Science and International Development Studies from Dalhousie University.



Keynote Speaker

My journey as a Wolastoqew nurse

Isabelle Wallace is a Wolastoqew (Maliseet) Registered Nurse from the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation. She completed her Bachelor of Nursing degree at the Université de Moncton, and her Master's in Nursing at the University of Ottawa.

She has been involved within her own community and with various associations such as the Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association (CINA) and the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA). She also took part in the "One Million in One Year for Indigenous Nursing Education & Research" fundraising campaign of the Canadian Nurses Foundation (CNF). In 2018, she appeared as a witness at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health (HESA) for the Diabetes strategies in Canada and abroad.



Her devotion and commitment towards Indigenous health were recognized from various organizations. In 2016, she was recognized from Health Canada for her volunteering, leadership, interest in innovation and academic excellence in undergraduate studies. Finally, she was nominated as one of Canada's 150 Nurses for Canada and as one of 200+ Francophone Women Leaders in Global Health.