



WHO WE ARE

- Non-profit, registered charity
- Founded in 1990 after the Mt. Cashel Orphanage closure
- Professional services agency
- Multiple service and housing sites in St. John's and CBS
- 130+ staff members
- 1200+ youth served annually

Through innovative programming and social enterprises, we help at-risk youth secure stable housing, education and employment, while working toward family stability and better health.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MOTTO

“Youth breaking down barriers to Youth”

- History of YLC: Organic, grass roots, responsive to needs in the community.
- Mandate to remove stigmas
- Growth with workshops and response to workshops like self harm. Colt story.

THE YLC TODAY

- Expansion; goals to recruitments
- PIT count involvement, digress.
- Trainings and workshops we attend to further our education and understandings
- National recognition and work with MHCC anti-Stigma campaign, COH, Various other organizations.
- Reiterate Mandate; Stigmas and example (Colt-bus)

BUILDING TOOLS

Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

Partnership with the COH to develop 3 toolkits

1. Youth Count Readiness kit – Sets standards and best practices when conducting surveys of youth.
2. Youth Leadership – How to start your own YLC.
3. Youth Magnet Events – How to host a successful youth "Magnet Event."

AVOIDING TOKENISM

- Difference between the YLC and basic 'token' groups that use lived experience in the wrong ways.
- Success at PiT-Count because of a 'PLE first' approach.
- Peer to peer approach = less of a power dynamic



Token PLE
vs
PLE First

PLE WITH THE YLC

- Our approach is very different*
- PLE first – Describe (meetings, events, examples)
- shout out to S Brown

WHAT WORKS FOR US?

- Shared leadership
- Project based ideas
- Reflection of challenges
- Peer support group
- Safe space for all

SHARED LEADERSHIP

- Stepping out of traditional 'council' dynamics
- No pressure, no designated people
- Whoever is able and willing can work at their own pace
- When we took roles away, pressure was reduced and we had a lot more attendance.
- When someone "falls out" the ball isn't dropped
- Everyone is included

CLOSING REMARKS

- Q and A