

C38.

Communication

CW(2) – June 18, 2024

Pres. 1

VAUGHAN, ON ENGAGING YOUTH



Hello!

My name is Wasib Dheendsa.

AT A GLANCE

VAUGHAN, ON

Youth Ages 10-24
make up **20.1%** of
the total **Vaughan**
population.

That's **1 in 5** people
in our community.

POPULATION (2021) : 323,103

YOUTH POPULATION (2021) :

AGES 10-14 : 20,970

AGES 15-19 : 22,300

AGES 20-24: 21,695

CENSUS 2021

ENGAGEMENT MODELS IN CANADA



HOW CAN YOUTH BE ENGAGED?

- **Advisory Committees of Council**
 - Focus on engaging youth in development and planning, and Community and Public services, and ensures a youth perspective on ongoing city projects (Sustainable Neighbourhood Action, Community Centre Accessibility Initiatives, etc.).
- **Working Committees of Council**
 - Youth led initiatives (summer youth nights, career fairs, highlighting youth excellence in Vaughan) which could include new committee or youth appointment to existing committees, taking actionable steps to contribute to major future decisions
- **Youth Councillor Appointment**
 - Typically 1 or 2 youth who are appointed to sit alongside Council at the decision making table
- **Volunteer Hours in Return for Engagement**
 - Encourage all departments to promote the availability of volunteer service hours for youth who attend open houses, complete surveys, or participate or attend meetings

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN CANADA

THE PRIME MINISTER'S YOUTH COUNCIL

An engaged and diverse group of youth from across Canada who provide non-partisan advice to the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada on key issues affecting Youth.

“Almost all government policies and decisions have an impact on young people’s lives and youth have the right to influence these decisions, both individually and collectively.” - Canada’s Youth Policy

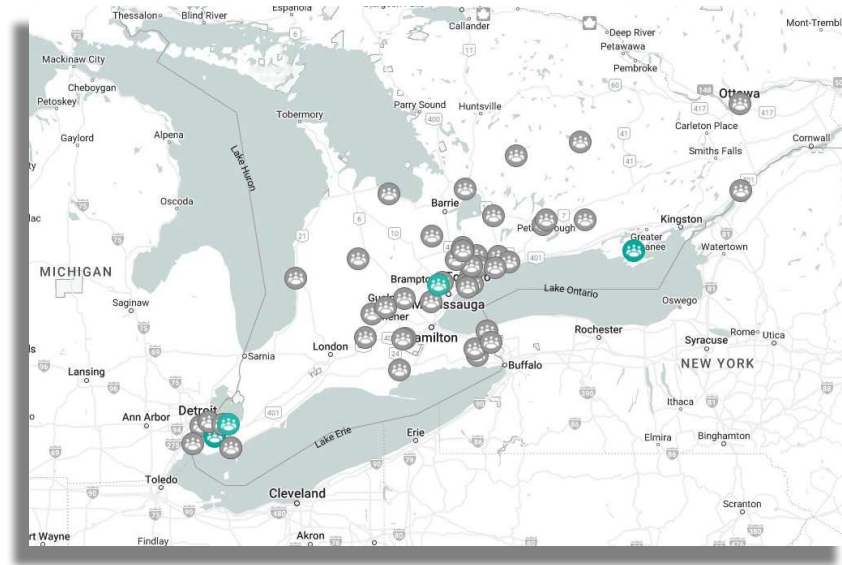


THERE ARE EXAMPLES ACROSS ONTARIO & CANADA

EXAMPLES OF MUNICIPAL YOUTH COUNCILS

Toronto Youth Cabinet - Established in 1998, Youth led organization promoting youth participation in municipal affairs and policy development.

Mayor's Youth Action Team Of The Township of King - Established in 2015, young individuals who support and recognize their fellow youth and ensure their voices are heard around the township.



Council can inform their own youth engagement strategies and committees, based on present needs and priorities.

In all cases, Council can choose whether to establish a working budget for the committee or have them act strictly in an advisory capacity.

WHAT ABOUT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING?

- Council could also consider supporting more experiential learning opportunities within the City's various departments
- This can include:
 - Hosting co-op students, interns, apprentices
 - Offering staff to speak to local schools about their work in local government
 - Offering tours of municipal facilities to raise awareness about services, work environments, etc.

63% of people who took a paid experiential learning placement during their post-secondary education found employment after graduation. (*Casabeer, Eger, Waters*) and higher starting wages have been reported due to having relevant work experience and increased knowledge retention from learning in the workplace (*Hoachlander*).

An aerial night photograph of a city skyline. In the foreground, a large parking lot is visible with several cars. A modern, multi-story building with a glass facade and a curved section is illuminated from within. To its right, a tall, slender skyscraper is under construction, with a crane visible at the top. The background shows a cityscape with lights and a sunset sky with orange and blue hues. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text "OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION".

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

THE ASK

1. That Council move to appoint a Youth seat in all working committees of council
2. That Council move to create a youth advisory or action committee of Council to support youth engagement and youth informed decision making in the City of Vaughan.

YOUR COMMITMENT TO YOUTH

- Administrative support for initial recruitment and committee meetings
- Engaging youth at the planning level for various ongoing projects
- Financial support for youth-led initiatives (should council choose to provide a working budget)

How does Council benefit?

- A Youth Council boosts representation of over 20% of the City population
- Informed advice and decision making through appropriate consultation
- Training the next generation of Vaughan's leaders and public service officials

BUILDING THE FUTURE

An aerial night photograph of a city skyline. In the foreground, a large parking lot is visible with several cars. A modern, multi-story building with a glass facade and a blue roof is illuminated from within. To its right, a tall, slender skyscraper is under construction, with a crane visible at the top. The city lights and a sunset sky are visible in the background.

QUESTIONS?