

Legacy & Evaluation in a Global Youth Work Context

YouthREX | March 25, 2021

YOUTH WORK

increasingly guided by a commitment to:

- youth engagement / youth-adult allyship / youth-led programming
- anti-oppressive, anti-racist practice
- adhering to and advancing principles of equity, social justice

broadly defined:

- youth workers are often young people
- practitioners with varied academic, professional, lived experience
- diversity in professional accreditation

This Is Youth Work

Voices from the Frontlines of Ontario's Youth Sector (2018)

Seven focus groups with 58 frontline youth workers in five cities:

1. youth worker identity and lived experience as a resource
2. youth work as numbers work
3. youth work as rule bending and unauthorized work
4. marginality of youth work and invisibility of youth workers

ABOUT YOUTHREX

OUR VISION

An Ontario where shared knowledge is transformed into positive impact for all youth.

OUR MISSION

To make research evidence and evaluation accessible and relevant to Ontario's youth sector through knowledge exchange, capacity building, and evaluation leadership.



**GRASSROOTS
YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**



**YOUTH SECTOR
COLLECTIVES**



**LARGE YOUTH
ORGANIZATIONS**



YOUTH



**YOUTH SECTOR
FUNDERS**



**POLICY
DECISION-MAKERS**

OUR PRINCIPLES

01. We embrace a **Critical Positive Youth Development (PYD) Framework**.
02. We acknowledge **the impact of 'isms'**.
03. We ground our work in **community** and **context**.
04. We use **multiple approaches**.



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



YOUTHREX ED



**YOUTH PROGRAM SUPPORTS
(RESEARCH + EVALUATION)**

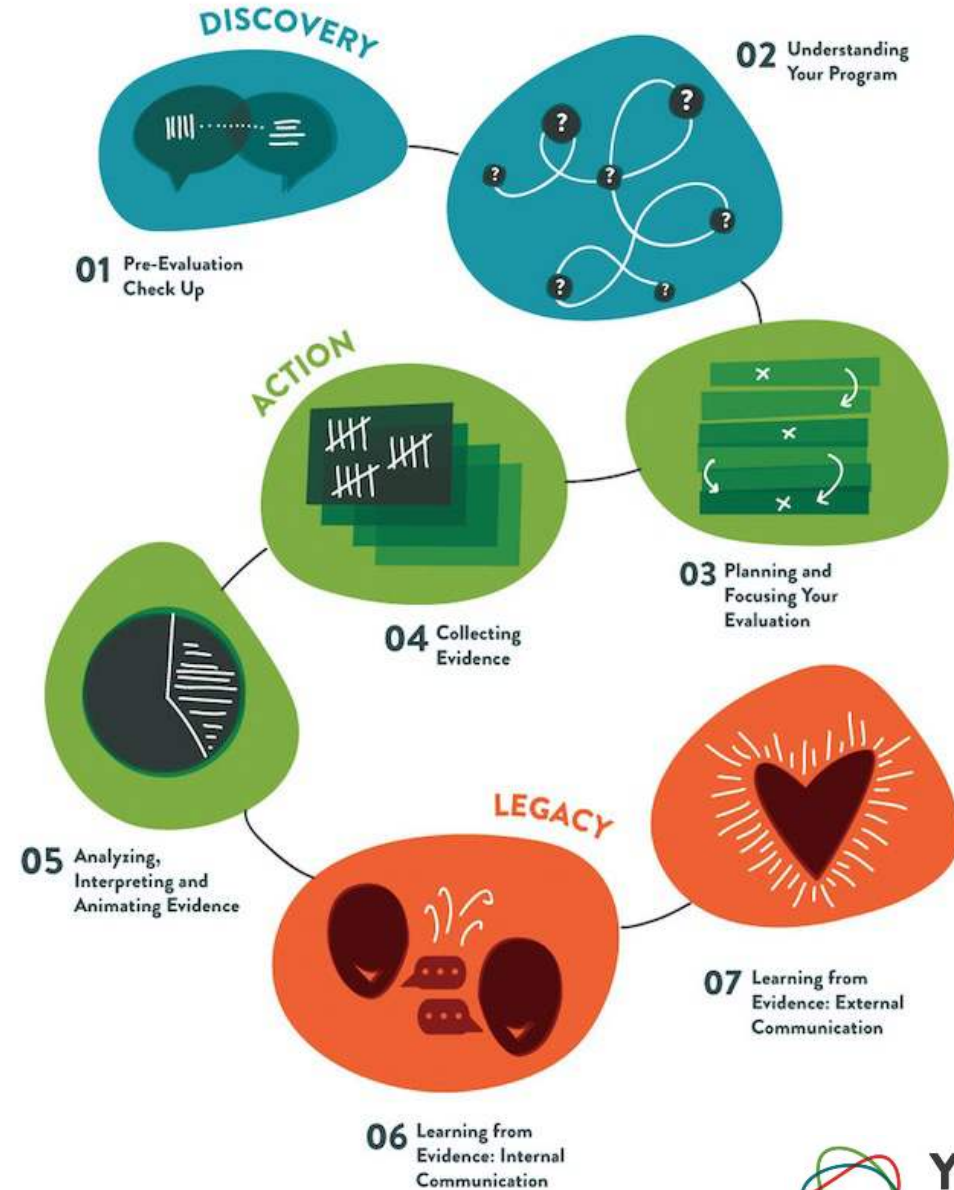
Beyond Measure?

The State of Evaluation and Action in Ontario's Youth Sector (2016)

Survey of 197 youth-serving & youth-led organizations across Ontario and 60 key informant interviews with youth sector stakeholders:

1. understanding of & enthusiasm for the benefits of evaluation
2. urgent need for more efficient, less burdensome processes & practices
3. missing opportunities for evaluation to inform strategic learning
4. youth involvement is important for youth wellbeing, but a work in progress
5. organizations require distinct understanding & approach

Framework for Evaluating Youth Wellbeing



Legacy: Learning from Evidence

STEP 6 – INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

- How can you use what you learn when designing/developing your program?
- What are the benefits of communicating your evaluation results internally?
- How can ensure that everyone learns from the evidence?

STEP 7 – EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

- What is the ideal platform to share your impact with groups of stakeholders?
- What are the outcomes you want to share?
- How can simple design principles amplify the impact?

OUR SERVICE PLEDGE

1. Understand a youth program's capacity – and start there.
2. Be responsive to a program's needs.
3. Work collaboratively with a youth program.
4. Adhere to high ethical standards.
5. Meaningfully engage youth.
6. Commit fully to equity, diversity, and inclusion.
7. Listen. And listen more.

Thank You!

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