



Ethnic and Cultural Identity: its role in successful youth engagement

"I liked hearing different viewpoints that were said. It made me realize that a lot of us are on the same page." - Youth Participant in Cross-Cultural Talking Circle

Projects

- Ethnic Identity Development: Research Project in partnership La Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française (FJCF) across Canada.
- CEYE Partnerships with Meadow Lake Tribal Council
- CEYE Partnerships with Kainai Children's Services - Blood First Nation (Southern Alberta)

Knowledge Transferred

Youth engagement promotes connection to cultural identity by engaging with parents, teachers, adult leaders, Elders, and systems in communities.

Cultural identity and cross-cultural communication amongst diverse groups promotes positive youth development and social cohesion.

Youth engagement leads to strengthening cultural identity and inclusion, reducing risky behaviors such as substance use, criminal activity, early pregnancy, school drop out, gang violence, suicide, and racism.

Outcomes

- New linkages of youth-adult partnerships toward common goals and activities within their communities - sharing the journey through written, visual and oral communication.
- New linkages, partnerships of diverse groups toward social cohesion (e.g. northern, rural, urban)
- Prevention, intervention of risky behaviours and social fragmentation amongst diverse groups (e.g. Youth leaving northern communities for post-secondary education in urban centres are developing social networks which are sustaining success to complete schooling).
- Minority youth explore and express their ethnic and cultural identities through youth engagement

Linkages

The partnership has created linkages between youth and elders in different communities, as well as linkages with First Nations researchers from the University of Regina and First Nations University of Canada, who are supporting young people to identify and conduct their own research projects. Shared leadership training for youth and adult allies is also occurring between nations and communities and other Centre partners in different parts of Canada. Alliances between supporting adult allies in the north and in the south, between rural and urban settings, are helping support youth leaders as they move between their home and school communities.