

2025
Annual
Report

Hope Works Here





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Please make a donation today and
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President and CEO Message

This year has been a defining one for Canada's youth. Across the country, young people are facing historic levels of uncertainty. Tariffs and inflation have strained family budgets. Mental health needs have surged. And youth unemployment continues to rise, leaving too many young Canadians behind at a critical moment in their lives.

Yet at YES, we know that with the right support, hope is not lost.

We are proud to have helped over 13,000 youth this year find meaningful paths through our employment, entrepreneurship, mental health, and inclusive hiring programs. We've embraced innovation by using AI for career guidance, expanding green jobs training, and building employer partnerships to make work more inclusive for persons with disabilities and those with mental health concerns.

YES' free services for youth have helped pave the way for careers in almost every sector. Our wide range of programs and job placement opportunities span from cyber security to the trades, from entrepreneurship to helping youth with

mental health disabilities find meaningful employment. YES' national programs help organizations and Canadians nation-wide understand and enhance working conditions for persons with disabilities and help service organizations provide expert training in critical areas.

YES is working across Canada to positively impact youth and create safer, stronger communities. In this time of uncertainty for all Canadians, it is more important than ever to work together to help those in need. Our passionate team continues to do life-changing work that will have an effect for generations.

Every young person we serve is more than a number. They are tomorrow's leaders, creators, and changemakers, with many already leading today.

To our funders, partners, staff, and youth: thank you. Your trust and support have fueled our mission. Together, we are responding to crisis and building careers and confidence, all while fostering a more inclusive and resilient Canada.



Timothy Lang
*President & Chief
Executive Officer*

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Lang'.

Board Chair Message

As Chair of the Board of Youth Employment Services YES, I am incredibly proud of the resilience and leadership this organization continues to demonstrate in the face of rising challenges.

The past year has underscored how deeply interconnected employment, mental health, and equity are for young people across Canada. At YES, we see these connections every day and our teams take action. From pioneering new digital learning tools to scaling inclusive hiring initiatives, YES has delivered meaningful progress and lasting change.

We are especially proud of how YES brings together government, private sector, and community partners to form a united front in support of our youth. This cross-sector collaboration is essential for building a stronger, more inclusive economy.

Thank you to our donors, employers, partners, and youth themselves for believing in YES. Your support is a catalyst for opportunity, innovation, and dignity for thousands of young Canadians.

By taking a collaborative approach to preparing youth for the future of work, we are playing a critical role in helping them shape it. Thank you to those who have helped us this year to change lives.... forever.



Rami El Jurdi
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rami El Jurdi'.



Overview

Current Challenges for Young Canadians

At Youth Employment Services (YES), we imagine a world where every young person has the resources to overcome barriers to employment and reach their full potential. Our team is working hard to achieve this vision but is facing an uphill battle as the Canadian economy experiences threats of tariffs, economic uncertainty, and rounds of layoffs in multiple industries.

Youth in our communities are facing a labour market downturn exacerbated by the current cost-of-living crisis affecting all Canadians. This means that young people are struggling more than ever to not only thrive, but just to make ends meet. This financial stress is taking a toll on their mental health as they attempt to navigate an increasingly competitive job market while meeting their basic needs. The most vulnerable individuals in our community are more greatly affected by economic uncertainty and YES has a commitment to support them.

Breaking the cycle of unemployment and underemployment for young people is complex as studies show that youth who experience unemployment early in their careers often face lower wages and income throughout their working lives. Prolonged unemployment can result in a lack of skills development and marketable experience, making it difficult for individuals to re-enter the job market.

**As of May 2025,
Canada's youth
unemployment rate was
12% – nearly double the
national average**

Many youth, particularly those from marginalized communities, face multiple systemic and socio-economic barriers to entrepreneurship and meaningful employment.

These barriers include:

- Lack of entrepreneurial education and foundational soft skills, such as resilience, teamwork, and problem-solving, which are increasingly in demand by employers.
- Limited access to paid work experience and mentorship, which are critical for developing employability and entrepreneurial competencies.
- Inadequate access to jobs that pay enough to cover the cost of basic needs. The increased cost of living means that some individuals cannot afford food, rent, transportation or mental health support they desperately need.

Low self-perceived capabilities, even among youth who recognize opportunities is a challenge identified in the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) report, which shows a significant gap between opportunity recognition and confidence in ability among Canadian youth.

These barriers are compounded by current economic conditions. As of May 2025, Canada's unemployment rate rose to 7%, the highest since 2016, with youth unemployment at 12% – nearly double the national average (Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey). Summer job opportunities for returning students, particularly in accommodation and food services, have fallen sharply; down 22.1% year-over-year, further limiting youth access to early work experiences. These challenges are negatively affecting youth across Canada. YES is committed to improving the lives of young Canadians as they face these barriers. Our work throughout the 2024–2025 fiscal year demonstrates the care and intention our team takes to improve the lives of every young person who comes to YES.

Now more than ever, we need to work together as a community to put in place the solutions that are vital to help our youth through this ongoing crisis and ensure they are set up for success.

Barriers to Entrepreneurship and Meaningful Employment for Youth



Lack of **entrepreneurial education** and foundational soft skills



Limited **access to paid work experience** and mentorship



Inadequate access to jobs that pay enough to cover the cost of basic needs

Youth Employment Services Overview

YES was the first specialized youth employment and counselling centre in Canada, and we quickly become the model for development of similar employment programs throughout Ontario, Canada and the World! YES is working across Canada to provide employment, entrepreneurship and empowerment programming to disadvantaged youth.



13,447

YES clients

5 provinces of impact

with 768 clients served nationally



83%

Employed, self-employed, or returned to school or training at exit of program



6,133

Clients in our assisted programs



5,908

Clients participated in drop-in services or accessed the resource centre



99%

Client satisfaction rate



638

Students who attended job search workshops at YES or in high school



Empowerment Award

“Before YES, I didn’t see myself as someone who could be confident. I kept trying to find a job, but every time I reached the interview stage, I felt like I scared off potential employers. Add to that the fact that I have ADHD, so staying focused on the job search was tough, and that made things even more frustrating. It felt like I was stuck in a cycle.

YES staff helped me realize I had the potential to improve, especially when it came to communication during interviews. Through mock interviews and career counselling, they helped me practice how to talk about my strengths and skills in a way that showed I was the right fit for a job. It felt great to have someone who cared, someone who really listened to my problems and was there to help me work through them.

Looking back, if it weren’t for YES and the Lighthouse Project, I don’t know where I’d be. I probably would’ve ended up homeless and left my family because I didn’t want to be a burden. But thanks to the job that YES helped me secure, I was able to get stability and keep my head above water during a tough time.”



Spencer

Lighthouse Program Participant

Thriving Through Change

Embracing Inclusion and Advancement in the Evolving Workplace

On March 6, 2025, an innovative and collaborative event took place “Thriving Through Change: Embracing Inclusion and Advancement in the Evolving Workplace”. The event brought together two groundbreaking National Initiatives: The WorkAbility Project and the newly launched YESNet project.

The WorkAbility Project, established in 2023, is committed to promoting mental health awareness in the workplace. It empowers employers and HR leaders with critical education on inclusive hiring practices through a range of comprehensive training sessions, roundtable discussions, and hiring events across multiple provinces.

The newly unveiled YESNet initiative complements this mission by focusing on digital upskilling, entrepreneurial skills training, financial literacy resources, and micro-credentialing opportunities for youth. By facilitating online access

to essential resources and increasing the capacity of other service providers through shared educational tools, YESNet aims to equip the next generation with the skills they need for success in an evolving job market.

The event also featured a job fair centred around mental health and employment. Kicking off the festivities was Timothy Lang, YES President and CEO, who set an inspiring tone for the day. He was followed by an address from The Honourable Steven Mackinnon, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, and remarks from Member of Parliament Greg McClean of Calgary City Centre, who highlighted the importance of collaboration in promoting inclusive workplaces.

Throughout the day, Kofi Amoama and Liana Jadoonat provided a detailed overview of the YESNet initiative, explaining its objectives and





Panel speakers

Dr. Mahadeo Sukhai

The world's first congenitally blind geneticist and Chief Operating Officer of IDEA-STEM, brings over two decades of expertise in accessibility and inclusion.



Roger Zhang

A dual-qualified litigation lawyer at TZ LAW, provided a unique insight into the legal frameworks that underpin inclusive workplaces.

Juanita Desouza-Huletey

Founder, CEO, and Lead Coach of Dynamic Solutions International Inc. (DSI), is recognized for her work advocating for women in STEM and marginalized professionals and championing significant policy changes to support immigrant professionals and underrepresented leaders.



Melissa Oblea

A Manager in the People Advisory Services practice at EY, has extensive experience in organizational change management. She is passionate about fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.



anticipated impact, particularly in communities like Winnipeg. YESNet is expanding its reach by sharing its resources with partner organizations such as The Spence Neighborhood Association, Seed Winnipeg, Connect Employment Services, and more. Teresa Wesz and Stacey Brookes followed with insight into the WorkAbility Project's mission and accomplishments.

A key highlight of the day was the keynote address delivered by Bailey Parnell, who addressed the intersections of AI and employment, offering a valuable perspective on how technology is shaping the future of work. The event also featured a video message from Dr. Jutta Treviranus, Director of the Inclusive Design Research Centre at OCAD University, who stressed the importance of inclusive practices in the workplace. The event culminated in a thought-provoking panel discussion on "AI and Accessibility," which provided diverse viewpoints on ensuring fairness and equity moving forward. The event drew

a diverse range of attendees, including representatives from local community organizations, employment service providers, and youth participating in the job fair. Notable employers present included Sheraton, Dollar Detectives, Canada Post, and March of Dimes. Sinead McCarthy concluded the event with stirring final remarks that underscored the significance of the discussions.

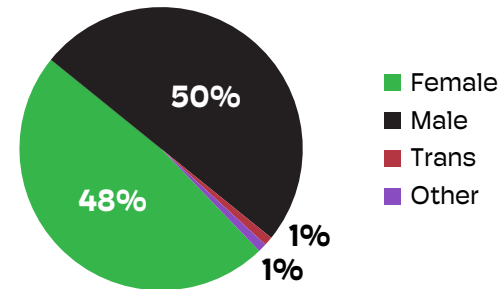
Overall, the "Thriving Through Change" event served as a landmark occasion, emphasizing the crucial role of inclusive practices in today's labour market. It provided a platform for constructive dialogue and collaboration, reinforcing YES' commitment to creating equitable and supportive environments for all employees. As we look to the future, these initiatives exemplify dedication to advancing mental health awareness and accessibility in the evolving workplace landscape.

By the Numbers 2024-25

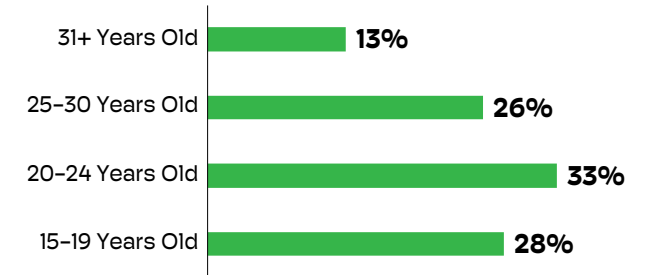
In 2024-25, Youth Employment Services YES helped **13,447 youth**, including 12,041 in our programs and services, 638 students who attended our workshops, and 768 youth served nationally. We achieved a **success rate of 83%** of youth gaining employment, becoming an entrepreneur or returning to further education or training.

Demographics

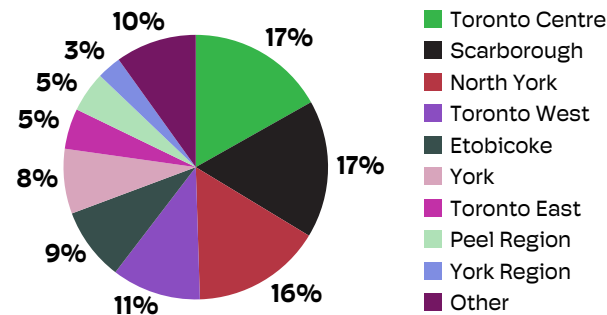
Gender



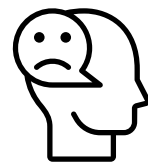
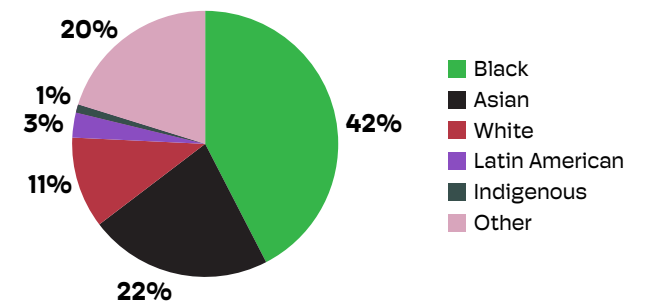
Age of Participants



Location



Heritage



21%

Disclosed a mental health issue



34%

Are a new Canadian



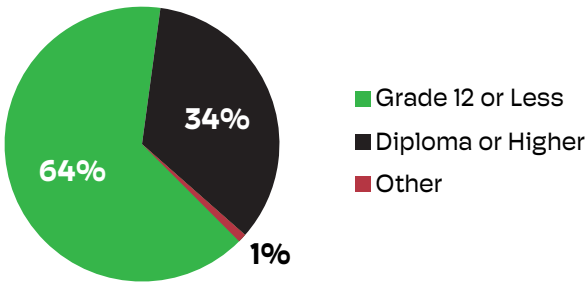
18%

Person(s) with disabilities

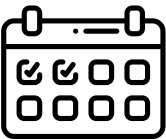
Key Challenges

In a climate of high youth unemployment, YES programs are a lifeline for young people shut out of the labour market.

Highest Level of Education

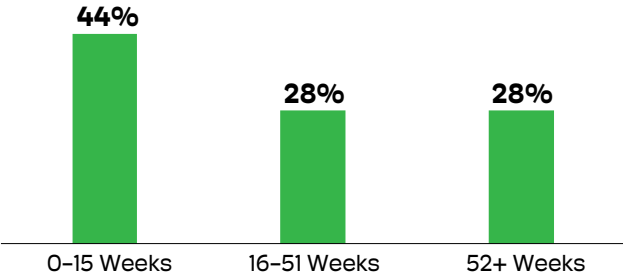


64%
Highest level of Education is Grade 12 or less

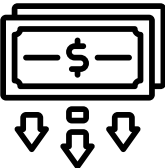
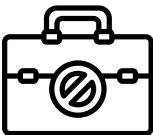


48%
Not in employment, education, or training for more than 6 months

Time Out of School, Work or Training



24%
No work experience

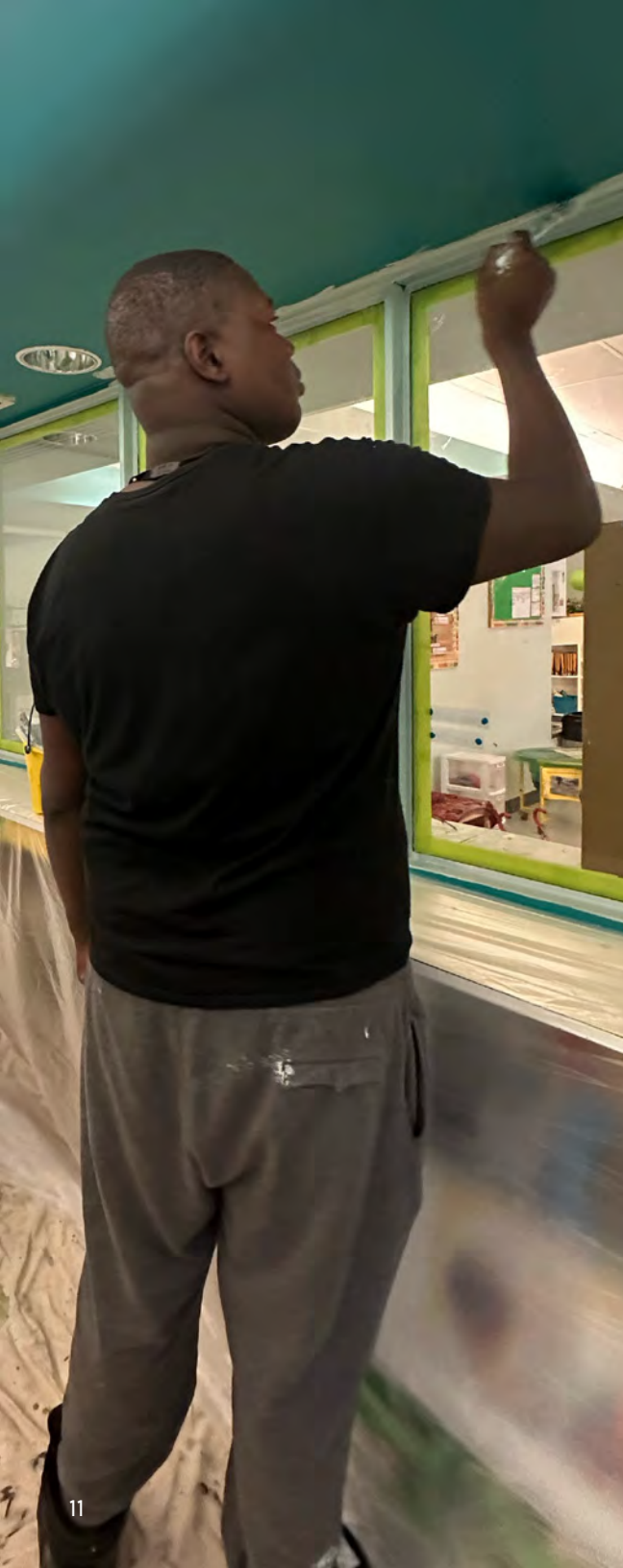


89%
Low or no income



14%
Housing/living instability or homelessness





Initiative

Innovating for the Future: Empowering Canadian Youth

As Canada grapples with significant economic challenges, including rising tariffs, fears of recession, and increasing layoffs, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment.

These challenges necessitate innovative solutions grounded in collective effort and resilience. Against this backdrop, entrepreneurship and initiatives like the EY & Microsoft Green Skills Passport emerge as crucial avenues for empowering our youth and rejuvenating our economy.

Entrepreneurship has consistently been a vital component of Canada's economic framework. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the lifeblood of our economy, driving job creation and innovation. Nonetheless, the current economic environment poses significant obstacles for these businesses, stressing the pressing need to cultivate a new generation of adept entrepreneurs. Programs like the BizStart Employment and Entrepreneurship project are leading

this charge, providing young Canadians with essential resources to thrive.

BizStart delivers thorough training in key business disciplines, including marketing, management, finance, and strategic planning. What truly differentiates this program is its emphasis on mentorship, connecting participants with seasoned professionals who offer invaluable advice and support. The outcomes are remarkable; graduates reported an average hourly wage of \$28.50 last fiscal year, and a striking 97% remain employed three months after finishing the program. This initiative not only fosters job creation but also fortifies our economy, demonstrating that investing in youth yields significant returns for Canada's future.

In the context of economic uncertainty, YES recognizes that developing in-demand skills can help youth stand out in the job market. Our team is always searching for new partnerships and opportunities to give youth an edge in their job search. We are proud to be the first Canadian partner for EY and Microsoft for their Green Skills Passport, offered through the EY Ripples platform.

This forward-thinking initiative prepares young Canadians for careers in the rapidly expanding green economy, an area poised for remarkable growth. The Green Skills Passport offers essential training through a comprehensive curriculum focused on sustainability, renewable energy, and eco-friendly business practices. The flexible learning format allows participants to engage with content at their own pace, making it easily accessible for those with various competing commitments.

Upon completing the course, participants receive industry-recognized certifications from EY and Microsoft, significantly boosting their employability in the green sector. Additionally, the program connects individuals to a global network of peers passionate about sustainability, facilitating

collaboration and the exchange of ideas. This initiative exemplifies how united efforts toward sustainable practices can yield innovative solutions and promote collective progress.

In tandem, programs like BizStart and the EY & Microsoft Green Skills Passport showcase the importance of investing in Canadian entrepreneurship and sustainability. These initiatives pave the way for success during challenging times, equipping youth with the skills essential for thriving and making meaningful contributions to society. By nurturing innovation and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship, we can address the ramifications of tariffs and economic instability while concurrently cultivating a more robust and inclusive economy.

As Canada confronts economic threats, it is vital for us to unite to support and invest in our future leaders. Programs like BizStart and the EY Green Skills Passport serve as shining examples of how we can harness innovative approaches to empower our youth. Collaboratively, we can create a sustainable and dynamic economy that positions the next generation of entrepreneurs to lead Canada into a prosperous future.

Through collaboration and a commitment to progress, we can overcome obstacles and emerge stronger, creating unity and opportunity for all Canadians.



Entrepreneurship Award

“Before YES, I was at a crossroads. I had no income, was recovering from mental health challenges, and my husband had recently been laid off. Although I had creative skills and passion for hand embroidery, I lacked the direction, resources, and confidence to turn that into a sustainable business.

The program gave me the tools and confidence to take my business seriously. I worked closely with mentors who provided guidance and support, helping me set clear goals and create a structured plan for long-term success. I also received assistance with branding, digital marketing, and expanding my customer reach beyond in-person markets.

The financial support and mentorship from YES have been invaluable, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities they provided.

Thanks to BizStart, I feel empowered to take my business to the next level and turn my passion into a sustainable career.”



Safna

BizStart Employment and Entrepreneurship Program Participant

YES In the Media



'CBC Listen' Podcast features YES CEO Tim Lang Speaking on Employment Struggles for Youth

December 16, 2024

CBC Podcast with host Paul Haavardsrud and reporter Ellis Chief discuss the struggles youth are currently having with finding employment. YES President and CEO, Tim Lang was interviewed to outline the current challenges in the market and why youth unemployment is higher than we've seen in a decade.



Youth Employment Services/ YES: Critical Part of Canada's Social Services Network & Creating Safer, Stronger Communities

December 9, 2024

In a recent episode of Global Heroes Podcasts, the hosts explored the potential to replicate YES's transformative work, emphasizing that

YES is a beacon of hope and a powerful story of triumph. They highlighted how YES's initiatives can uplift entire communities, creating pathways to brighter futures for young people facing significant challenges.



Tackling high youth unemployment in Canada

November 24, 2024

In a panel discussion on CBC's "The Current," YES President & CEO Timothy Lang and Economist Armine Yalnizyan addressed the rising youth unemployment rate in Canada. Both speakers underlined that investing in youth employment not only drives economic growth but also transforms lives, yielding significant returns for the economy.



Youth unemployment is near decade-highs. What will it take to fix it?

November 19, 2024

This Global News article titled featured an interview with Timothy Lang, the President and CEO of YES. The discussion focused on the pressing issues surrounding youth unemployment and potential solutions, emphasizing the need for increased support for organizations like YES. Lang highlighted the significant impact of YES on the economy.



Some Gen Z adults spend no money on dating as costs rise, BofA survey shows

October 10, 2024

In a recent feature by CTV, YES President & CEO Timothy Lang offered valuable insights on how parents can support their youth in navigating the challenges of landing their first job amidst rising unemployment rates. The interview highlights practical tips and strategies to empower the next generation in their job search.



The 2024 Canadian HR Awards

September 23, 2024

We are proud to share that YES President & CEO, Timothy Lang, played a prominent role at the Canadian HR Awards held in September 2024. During this esteemed annual event, Lang presented one of the awards, recognizing organizations that exemplify excellence in human resources practices across Canada.



YES CEO Timothy Lang Discusses New Impacts on Youth Seeking Employment

August 14, 2024

In this segment, YES President & CEO Timothy Lang discussed the youth unemployment rate in Canada and the increased competition that arises from the recent influx of new Canadians entering the workforce. He highlighted the effectiveness of YES's complimentary programming, while also recognizing the positive contributions of the Ford Government's initiatives in supporting youth employment.

Bloomberg

Cheap Foreign Labor Soars in Canada as Young Workers Are Left Jobless

August 12, 2024

In a recent Bloomberg article, it was highlighted that Canadian youth are facing increasing challenges in securing employment due to the rise of inexpensive foreign labor. Tim Lang from Youth Employment Services (YES) and

several YES clients were interviewed, shedding light on how this trend complicates the job search for young Canadians.

CBC LISTEN

Young people are having a hard time finding work

July 12, 2024

In this informative session with host Rebecca Zandbergen, YES President & CEO Timothy Lang discussed youth employment strategies and addressed listener inquiries.

FINANCIAL POST

Jobless summer: Why youth unemployment is at a decade high

July 10, 2024

In the article, YES CEO Tim Lang discusses youth challenges in finding summer jobs amid increased competition from new Canadians. He emphasizes the value of YES's free resources for resume and interview preparation, highlighting their role in helping young people connect with employers. Lang notes the balance

between short-term job competition and the long-term economic growth driven by new Canadians.

CBC

YES Interviewed by 25 Cities Canada-Wide

YES CEO Tim Lang and Senior Manager DiAnne Brooks were featured in a series of 25 interviews conducted by CBC Radio across Canada. During these interviews, they discussed the challenges and solutions related to youth unemployment.

CBC

Toronto youth struggling to find work amid high unemployment

May 28, 2024

The article discusses the rising youth unemployment rate in Canada, which hit 12.8% in April, the highest since 2016, with Toronto's rate at 16.8%. Statistics Canada notes that these trends reflect a broader national pattern, while emphasizing the need for continued support for youth in the labor market.





Initiatives

Celebrating a Decade of Mental Health Services

YES at the Forefront of Youth Employment and Wellbeing

Since its establishment in 1968, Youth Employment Services YES has unwaveringly dedicated itself to empowering young individuals across Ontario and Canada who face barriers to employment. A pivotal moment in this mission came in 2015 with the launch of the Lighthouse Project, a groundbreaking initiative that has steadfastly integrated mental health support into workforce development. Over the past decade, YES has positioned itself at the forefront of addressing the urgent mental health challenges faced by today's youth, demonstrating a profound commitment to holistic empowerment.

Mental health issues are on the rise, and the statistics reveal a concerning reality. The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) highlights that 1 in 5 Canadians will grapple with a mental health problem in any given year, with young people aged 15 to 24 experiencing these issues at alarming rates. According to

Statistics Canada, nearly 26% of youth in this age group reported their mental health as "fair" or "poor" in 2023. These figures underscore the critical need for effective and timely interventions that integrate mental health services with employment opportunities. In response to this growing crisis, YES has proactively expanded its programming to ensure that every young person has access to vital mental health support while pursuing career development.

The Lighthouse Project stands as a beacon of hope for individuals struggling with mental health disabilities, offering immediate access to Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and group counseling. This innovative approach not only meets the urgent mental health needs of participants but also equips them with the skills to secure stable employment—eliminating the exhausting waitlists that often characterize conventional mental health services.

As YES marks a decade of impactful mental health programming, its mission to empower youth remains resolute. By taking a comprehensive approach that positions mental well-being as essential to career success, YES is leading the way in fostering healthier, more resilient future generations.

Moreover, YES took a significant step in training service providers through its YES on Demand program, which shared valuable mental health resources and curriculum. This initiative empowered a broader community to support youth effectively. Building on this foundation, YES proudly introduced the Career Jumpstart Cybersecurity program, uniquely integrating a CBT counselor into its framework, ensuring that mental health support is seamlessly embedded within essential skills training.

Creating inclusive workplaces is more crucial than ever, and YES is at the forefront of this movement with its innovative WorkAbility Project, launched

in 2023. This initiative equips employers with the indispensable tools needed to foster supportive environments for individuals living with mental health disabilities. By advocating for inclusion, the YES WorkAbility project not only promotes equitable employment opportunities but also champions the rights and dignity of those navigating the intersection of mental health and work.

As YES marks a decade of impactful mental health programming, its mission to empower youth remains resolute. By taking a comprehensive approach that positions mental well-being as essential to career success, YES is leading the way in fostering healthier, more resilient future generations. Through transformative initiatives like the Lighthouse Project, YES continues to illuminate the path toward dignity, stability, and success for young people across Canada, addressing the pressing mental health challenges of our time with unwavering compassion and commitment.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2023:

25%

**of 15 to 24
year olds**

reported their **mental health as “fair” or “poor”.**



The Canadian Mental Health Association reports:



1 in 5

**Canadians
experiences a
mental health challenge
every year.**



Programs and Services

All job seekers can access a variety of services and supports at YES to aid them in their career planning, job search, and job maintenance

Ability to Thrive

Ability to Thrive is a full-time 18-week program focused on entrepreneurial training for youth experiencing mental health challenges.

BizStart Employment and Entrepreneurship

BizStart is a program designed to provide entrepreneurial and business skills training to participants, paired with pre-employment skills training to help them find a job.

Canada Ontario Jobs Grant

Canada-Ontario Job Grant (the Job Grant) provides an opportunity for employers to invest in their workforce, with help from the government.

Career JumpStart: CyberSecurity Analyst Project

Career JumpStart works in partnership with IBM to match young job seekers with the skills and connections needed to fill the shortage of cybersecurity talent in the Tech field.

Digital Literacy Program

The Digital Literacy Program assists youth to strengthen their computer skills. Participants take part in 13 weeks of training and quality employment placements.

Employment Services

Employment Service provides employment

services for all job seekers, including students.

Job Central

Job Central assists youth living in the under-served neighbourhood of Keele/Eglinton to find employment.

Lighthouse Project

The Lighthouse Project assists job seekers living with mental health issues who are looking to obtain and maintain full-time work.

Ontario Works Career Discovery

Career Discovery provides career testing and assessment services for those receiving social assistance.

Ontario Works Career Opportunity

The Career Opportunity Program assists job-ready individuals to find and maintain employment. Individuals must be on social assistance and be referred by a TESS caseworker.

Prep IES (Integrated Employment Service)

This is a one-week paid training program designed to equip youth up to 30 years old with essential skills for employment success.

This Way ONward Program

This Way ONward, presented by Gap Inc., is a life skills and paid store internship program to help teens and young adults from low-income communities land their first job. Graduates of YES' job readiness training programs apply their learning through

paid internships at Old Navy stores in the GTA.

Truth to Youth Program

This video-based program—with leading experts in media, law and politics discussing the various pitfalls of believing false information and spreading fake news, along with ways to use social media for good.

YESAbility

YESAbility is an employment program for youth and adults with disabilities.

YES-IES Program (Integrated Employment Service)

IES is a free program that helps youth find and keep jobs through career counselling, skills assessment, job search tips and more.

YES Mentorship

This program connects YES clients to Industry Leaders (expert mentors) in order to build capacity, employability, networks and foster entrepreneurship in young people.

YESNet

YESNet is a national initiative dedicated to helping young people overcome youth employment challenges through targeted training and education. The program offers entrepreneurial training, financial literacy education, and digital skills development.

YES2Trades

This program allows participants to attain the hard skills training, certifications and workplace readiness skills needed to enter the Painter/Decorator trades.

YES WorkAbility Project

This project is designed to assist employers in creating

inclusive and accessible workplaces for persons with mental health disabilities.

Youth Collaboration

Youth Collaboration assists youth to find employment through group-based employability skills training and work experience.

Youth Job Connection

Youth Job Connection is a program to help youth find and keep jobs. It is a paid program with several components.

Youth Job Connection Summer

Provides summer, part-time and after-school job opportunities to high school students, aged 15 to 18, who are facing challenging life circumstances and may need support transitioning between school and work.



Employment Award

“Two summers ago, I got a concussion at work and had to stop everything that brought me joy and purpose, including working and socializing. The accident exacerbated my existing struggles with anxiety and depression, and I was left disabled and without stable housing.

Additionally, being a young trans man and having experienced discrimination in the workplace added another layer to my job search struggles.

I was unemployed for almost a year and living off my savings before I joined YES.

The YES2Trades program taught me the fundamentals needed in the painter/decorator trade. I learned a lot about painting and had a great time in the program where I met new people that encouraged and helped me enhance my skills. Working on site with the team helped create the gradual return to work I needed for my concussion recovery.

I am now working part time and working towards financial stability. I am happy to be working in an environment where my coworkers see me as equally able to succeed and are willing to mentor me further.

This program was just what I needed to help me get back on my feet and into stable employment.”



Antel

YES2Trades Program Participant

Donors

YES gratefully acknowledges all the individuals, businesses and foundations that have donated and helped empower our youth during this challenging year. None of this great work would happen without you. Thank you for helping us to change lives.

Visionary Donor

Northbridge

a FAIRFAX company

Champion Donors



Hero Donors



Gordon and Ruth
Goeder Charitable
Foundation

Leader Donors



Fondation J. Armand
Bombardier



The Catherine and Maxwell
MEIGHEN FOUNDATION

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Foundation



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Government Support

Without government support and recognition of the employment needs of young people, many of our programs and services would not be possible. We thank the City of Toronto, Provincial and Federal governments for their various contributions.



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Funded by the
Government of Canada's
Community Services Recovery Fund





Entrepreneur Spotlight

“Before joining YES’ BizStart program, I had just moved to Canada as a newcomer and was navigating the challenges of establishing my fashion brand in a new environment. Unsure of my next steps, I reached out to a friend to share my dilemma and she recommended YES. I was encouraged by her experience and the potential benefits, so I took a leap of faith and signed up. That decision marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter in my career.

Before the program, I had the vision, but I wasn’t sure how to build a solid foundation for my business in Canada. Through YES, I learned how to properly structure my brand, manage my finances, and develop strategies to increase sales. The financial support I received during the program was also a game changer. I’ve gained confidence in myself as an entrepreneur and no longer feel stuck or unsure about my next steps. YES gave me the tools and mindset to move forward, and I’m excited for what’s ahead!

This program has given me a strong foundation, and I’m excited to build on it and turn my vision into reality.”



Abiodun

BizStart Employment and Entrepreneurship
Program Participant

Volunteers

We thank the extraordinary people who give of their time and energy to volunteer in our programs.

Abbas Hirani	Elynn Kwok	John Moon	Memma Uponi	Rob Phillips
Alanna McRae	Epscha Zulfiquar	Karim Nehme	Michael Brawn	Rodney Quadros
Amandeep Kaur	Eric Sleeth	Kate X. Kablash	Mickey Mi	Roger Perryman
Amanda Tuma	Erin Wood	Katelyn Illegan	Midhun Harikumar	Sarah Willock
Amey Newaskar	Eugene Kim	Katie Symons	Mohit Thakur	Sharjeel Ashraf
Ashin Khan	Frank Lin	Keisha Gregory	Mojtaba Qardashomran	Sharmeen Shahidullah
Bahareh Moradian	Gary Zadik	Kelli Wight	Nabeela Hooda	Shaun Pingitore
Brandon Wittet	Giri Raj	Ketan Punde	Nadeem Ghausy	Shefali Gupta
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We appreciate the dedication and professionalism of our staff in helping our clients each and every day.

Joshua Aaron	Anik Dave	Aisha Isaac	Adith Mathew	Sophialigaya Santos
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Lorna Daley	Delice Irankunda	Daniel Maluka	Sonia Sanghera	

Financial Statements

Youth Employment Services YES – Statement of Financial Position

Year Ended March 31

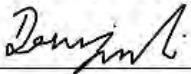
	2025	2024
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$2,731,481	\$1,997,754
Investments	7,897,818	7,788,004
Accounts receivable	758,628	1,033,050
Prepaid expenses	56,756	78,170
	<u>11,444,683</u>	<u>10,896,978</u>
Leasehold improvements and equipment		
	<u>160,377</u>	<u>102,879</u>
	\$11,605,060	\$10,999,857
Liabilities and fund balances		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$2,388,599	\$2,465,790
Deferred revenue	<u>1,716,753</u>	<u>1,631,299</u>
	4,105,352	4,097,089
Deferred capital contributions		
	<u>160,020</u>	<u>102,522</u>
	4,265,372	4,199,611
Fund balances		
Operating fund	-	-
Special Projects Fund	<u>7,339,688</u>	<u>6,800,246</u>
	\$7,339,688	\$6,800,246
	<u>\$11,605,060</u>	<u>\$10,999,857</u>

Youth Employment Services YES – Statement of Changes in Fund Balance

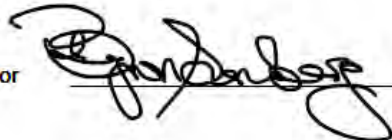
Year Ended March 31

	2025	2024
Fund balance, beginning of year	\$6,800,246	\$6,275,909
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	539,442	524,337
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$7,339,688</u>	<u>\$6,800,246</u>

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Director



Director

A copy of YES' full audited financial statements are available [on our website](#).

Youth Employment Services YES – Statement of Operations

Year Ended March 31

	2025	2024
Revenue		
WCG Services funding	\$6,568,517	\$ –
Provincial Government funding	3,867,873	10,991,778
Federal Government funding	4,142,013	4,544,767
City of Toronto funding	583,737	1,219,374
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	65,516	66,069
Less: deferred funding for leasehold improvements and equipment	(123,014)	(88,489)
Interest income	66,104	126,806
Miscellaneous income	6,007	172,065
Restricted donations	1,283,080	1,052,258
Investment income	553,570	457,890
Unrestricted donations	244,051	367,706
Restricted donations – Citi Foundation	67,407	245,971
	17,324,861	19,076,195
Expenses		
Staff salaries and benefits	9,067,107	9,355,005
Participants' stipends, training allowance and benefits	5,768,431	7,217,755
Program operating costs	1,851,827	1,885,825
Amortization of leasehold improvements and equipment	65,516	66,069
Other expenses	718	627
Investment fees	31,820	26,577
	16,785,419	18,551,858
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$539,442	\$524,337

A copy of YES' full audited financial statements are available [on our website](#).



Empowerment Award

“When I came to Canada from Nigeria in 2022, I moved into a shelter with other women, and I stayed in the shelter for about 3 months until I moved into transitional housing. I came here on my own as a student with hopes of having a better future.

I am now so glad to tell you that since my stay in Canada, Youth Employment Services (YES) is one of the reasons my head is high and I have the strength to continue going.

The Youth Job Connection program helped me with the training of how to face the outside world, the opportunity to work because of the paid placement after the training, and opportunity to meet amazing people. The organisation has wonderful employees who understands the term serving the community.

I was lost, but YES found me when I couldn't find myself.”



Chinenye

Youth Job Connection Program participant

