



THE YOUTH HARBOUR

Youth Steering Committee (YSC) Brief 2024





**The Youth Harbour is a project of
Finance Engage Sustain (FES)**

FES is a youth-led, youth-serving registered charity with a mission to empower youth to take bold and meaningful climate action.

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Charity Registration Number:
801430307 RR0001

INTRODUCTION

We are reaching out to you as a potential member of The Youth Harbour's Youth Steering Committee (YSC) because we value your insights on the youth climate movement to inform our ability to better serve and advocate for youth across what is currently Canada. Our small team at The Youth Harbour cannot possibly "represent" youth in all its rich diversity. The YSC team has been in place since The Youth Harbour's inception to advise about the structure of our youth-for-youth climate action program. The YSC remains integral to advising on the program's direction and assessing incoming grant applications.

CONTEXT

Time and time again youth are under-estimated, under-appreciated, and under-supported by the previous generations which caused the climate crisis. Traditional philanthropy has failed to support youth in this effort. Often, foundations provide insubstantial seed grant amounts, have exclusive networks that prevent youth from accessing the funding, or feature overly complex application processes that act as gatekeepers to funds.



Philanthropy itself was built on colonial and extractive practices, othering themselves from the movement.

Finance Engage Sustain (FES) is committed to challenging old philanthropic ways of “giving” with a key focus on reimagining new ways in which funds can be distributed using a more community-centric approach. As a registered charity and fiduciary partner, FES works in consultation with the philanthropic industry and the youth-led climate sector to administer its flagship program, The Youth Harbour, to empower the youth-led climate movement by sharing financial, technical, and networking skills. The YSC has been crucial to the development of all aforementioned aspects of The Youth Harbour, and continues to bring ideas forward for new programs and decisions at FES.

The Youth Harbour’s impacts can be found on our website’s [Our Impacts page](#) and through our most recent [Impact Report](#).



PURPOSE

The core purpose of the YSC is to provide direction on The Youth Harbour's identification of youth priorities and act as key assessors in reviewing applications and selecting grantees for the distribution of grant funding.

This committee will be made up of 11-13 youth representing diverse identities and initiatives across what is currently Canada, with some returning committee members and some new faces.

PRINCIPLES

The Youth Harbour principles can be found [here](#).

RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the Youth Steering Committee are broken down into 4 items:

1

Prepare feedback for sessions based on questions and documents provided in advance of each meeting.

(estimated 30 minutes per month)

3

Provide direction and advice to FES staff by reviewing application summaries, as part of the granting process.

(estimated 90 minutes during the final month)

2

Participate in discussion meetings and design sessions to support FES as it continues to adjust its granting and application process.

(estimated 90 minutes per month)

4

Perform outreach to potential applicants, when possible.

(throughout)

OUTCOMES

1

Discuss relevant challenges and successes about The Youth Harbour program so far

2

Inform the criteria and priorities for which applications The Youth Harbour may prioritize its funding efforts

3

Share regional and industrial knowledge to strengthen The Youth Harbour's policies, working documents, and granting process

EXPECTED TIME COMMITMENT

The expectation is that the Youth Steering Committee will be able to commit 2-3 hours per month per term. There are two terms per calendar year:

1. **January - June**

2. **July - December**

Meetings will be held on Zoom, on weekday afternoons or evenings, depending on the time zone in which the committee member is based. There are no anticipated meetings in June or July.

Communication will be through email and/or Slack updates during the entirety of the term.

If a member is not able to attend a meeting, they are asked to prepare feedback in advance of that meeting in order for their insight to be included in the live discussion.

REPRESENTATION

FES is committed to providing equal and equitable opportunity for youth regardless of identity to sit on the Youth Steering Committee. Although there are no target “quotas” for representation based on gender identity, gender expression, age, race, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexuality, sexual orientation, ability, language, size, status or social class, a preference will be given to interested parties with the following identities, perspectives, and regional representation:

Identities:

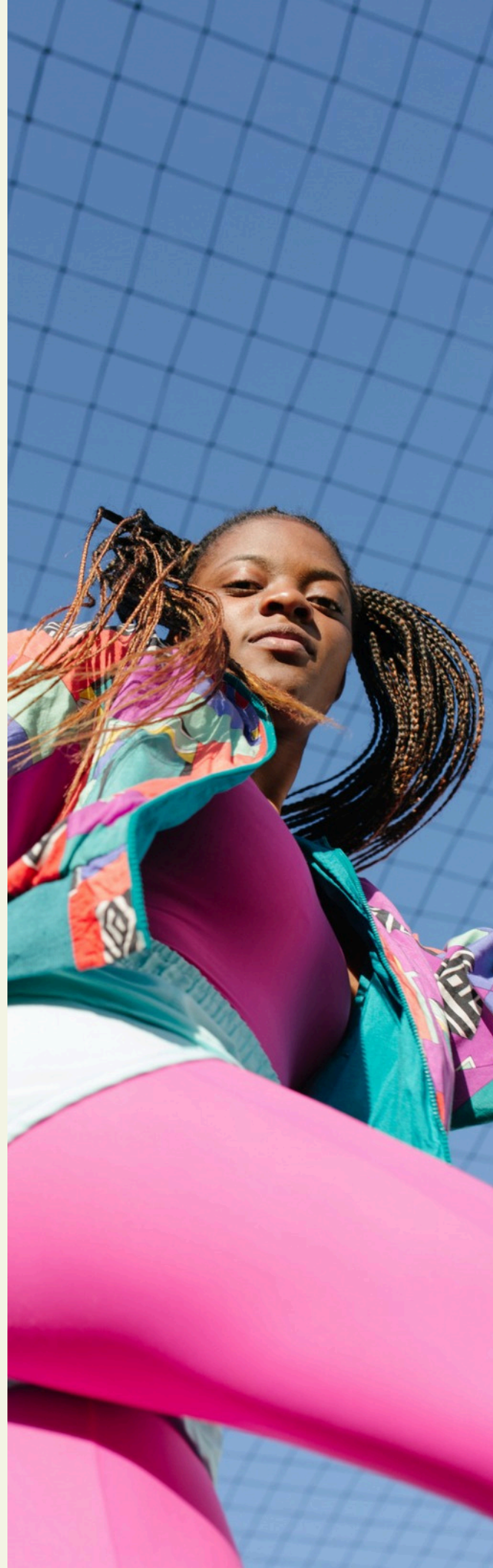
- Reserving, at minimum, 2 seats for members who are Indigenous
- Reserving seats for members who are part of equity-seeking groups, such as 2SLGBTQ+, Black, racialized, Francophone, and disabled communities

Perspectives:

- Reserving seats for grassroots, regional and national organizers; academics; those who work in the not-for-profit sector; government; social enterprises; etc

Regional Representation:

- Reserving seats for members from diverse regions from all provinces and territories in what is currently Canada



COMPENSATION

Youth Steering Committee members will be provided with honoraria of \$650 CAD per term.

TIMELINE

FES will continuously recruit potential members for the Youth Steering Committee, and will confirm new members at the end of each term. Feel free to take a look at who our current members are [here](#).

