

TRCA Youth Council

Opportunities for TRCA to engage further with the Youth Council

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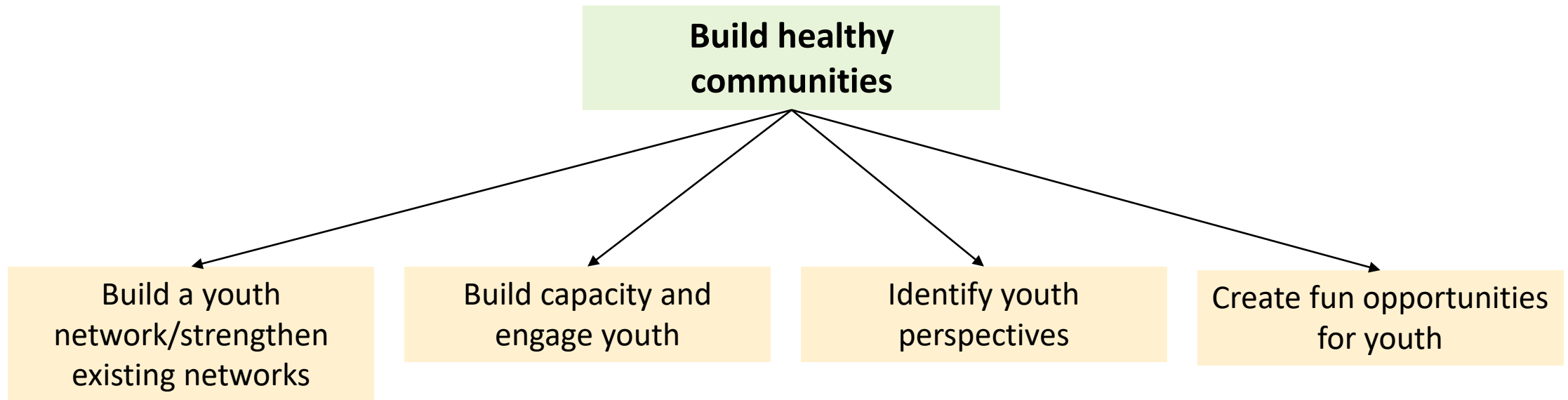
What is the TRCA Youth Council?

Goals:

- Build healthy communities through improved connection to greenspace and nature
- Inspire, empower and engage youth



TRCA Youth Council Program Framework





Who is the Youth Council?

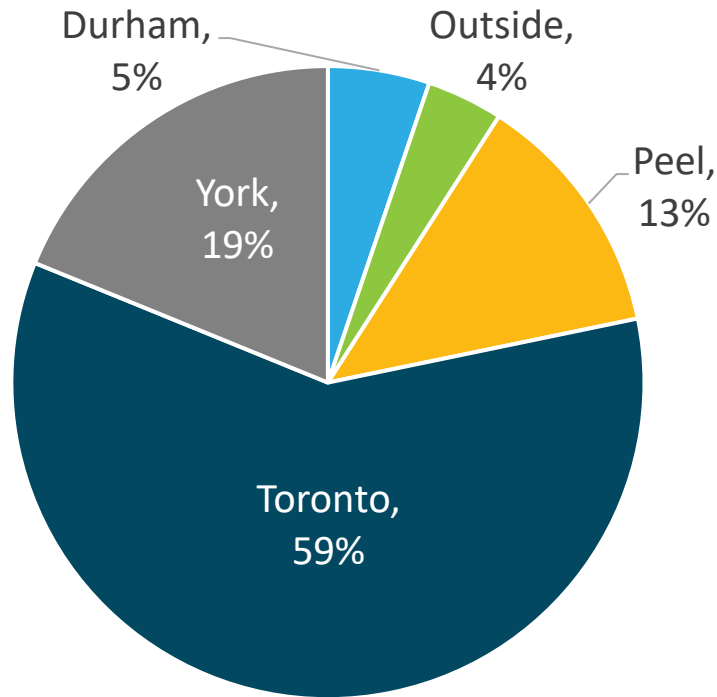
- Network of youth 16 to 30
- Must live or attend school within TRCA's jurisdiction



Two ways to participate:

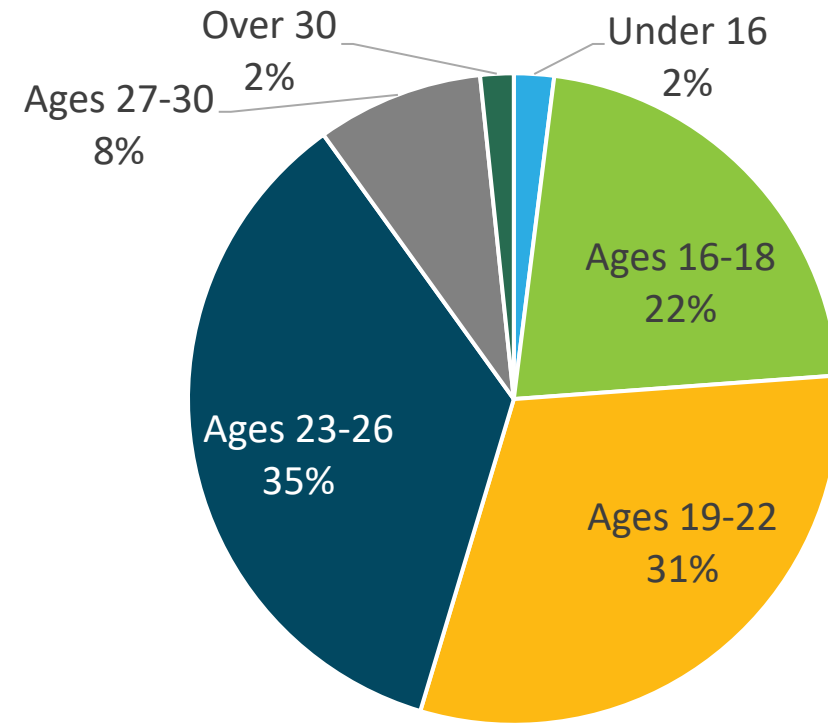
- **General members** are passive, intake is open year-round. Currently at 320+
- **10 Executive members** volunteer for one-year terms (2 years maximum). Application opens annually
- Youth Council Executive meets monthly and determines programs

Membership Demographics



Location of Members

n.b. some members may live outside jurisdiction but attend school within the jurisdiction



Age Composition of Youth Council Membership

Why Engage with the Youth Council?

- TRCA projects, programs, and initiatives can benefit from youth perspectives and involvement
- **The TRCA Youth Council provides opportunities to:**
 - Engage and strengthen our networks with youth
 - Cultivate future environmental professionals
 - Incorporate youth perspectives into TRCA work
 - Expand the impact of TRCA's work

Engaging Youth and Strengthening Networks

- Collaborating on events and initiatives
 - E.g., Patagonia and Toronto Zoo documentary screenings
 - Internally with Conservation Youth Corps, Community Learning Programs
- Inviting individual Youth Council speakers for presentations
- Alignment with other youth organizations



Cultivate Future Environmental Professionals

- Executive members gain leadership experience, organizational, event planning and public speaking skills through their terms.
- Executive Members:
 - Suggest, plan, and implement event ideas
 - Bring in their own expertise
 - Toronto Islands history tour
 - Upcoming workshop at the Conservation Youth Corps' climate action retreat
 - Have gained employment at TRCA and other environmental organizations





- Career-oriented opportunities for General Members increase connections to TRCA
 - Summer Challenge prize includes meeting a TRCA staff member
 - Careers webinars with Youth Council Executives and/or TRCA staff
 - Opportunity to experience TRCA roles
 - Job shadowing possibilities

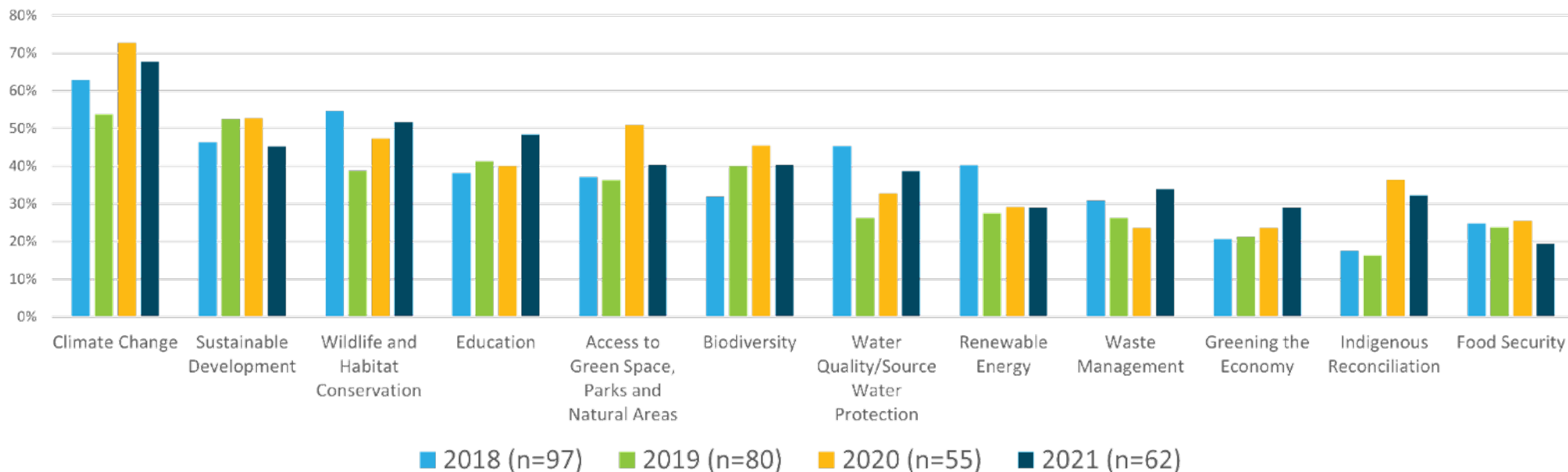
Youth Perspectives and Involvement in TRCA Work



- Participation in Youth Council events
- Monthly newsletter promotes surveys, upcoming events, job and volunteer opportunities
- Youth Council presence at TRCA events
- Surveys and research projects:
 - Youth Council Executive invited to sit on Oak Ridges Trail external advisory committee → Trails survey
 - Research project on barriers to youth in conservation spaces
- Within TRCA:
 - Regional Watershed Alliance participation
 - How to incorporate youth perspectives further into TRCA work?

Youth Council Interests Over Time

Top 12 Interests Identified by Year



Expanding the reach of TRCA's work

- Youth Council members can be advocates for TRCA work to outside organizations
 - E.g., presentations at Ontario Science Centre and Brampton Environmental Alliance
 - Cultivating environmental champions
- Access to a ready-made forum for youth engagement and advocacy for TRCA work
 - Can be more targeted (Executive) or can have access to a broader youth network (General Membership)



Check Out Current and Upcoming Events!

- Discover TRCA Summer Challenge
- Toronto Islands environmental and flood history tour (August 13)
- Youth Council Executive retreat
- Stewardship event at Tommy Thompson Park
- Indigenous cultural competency and knowledge sharing workshops
- Documentary screening with Toronto Zoo
- Careers webinar(s)
- Potential collaborations and presentations



Questions or Discussion

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