

HOW YOUTH FRIENDLY ARE YOU? AN ASSESSMENT TOOL

So you want to be better at engaging youth. A good starting point is to assess how well your organization is doing and where it might be able to improve. The checklist below uses established best practices to help you to determine how youth friendly you are as an organization.

A Quick Guide to Youth Friendly Practices:

	Youth are given the opportunity to speak on and become involved in all issues, not just those directly related to youth.
	Youth are given the information they need to develop informed opinions on issues beyond their current experience.
	There are opportunities for informal networking between youth participants.
	A support system is in place for both adults and youth to facilitate the development of successful youth-adult partnerships .
	An orientation system/program is in place for new youth participants.
	Adults and youth are considered equally important to decision making, policy formation and policy development.
	Your Department seeks feedback from youth on how it could serve them better and takes their recommendations seriously.
	Youth engagement is a key part of your department's long term and strategic planning .
	Youth are given the opportunity and support to develop employability and other skills and experience.

Adapted from: *Youth Making a Difference. Nova Scotia Youth Secretariat and HeartWood Centre of Community Youth Development.*

For more information and ideas on youth engagement contact the Youth Secretariat.

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