

# Annual Report

2025-2026

**y**es

YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT  
SERVICES



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# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The offices of Youth Employment Services Manitoba (YES Manitoba) occupy the stolen ancestral territories of the Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Ithiniwak, Denesuline, Anishininiwak, Dakota Oyate and Nakota Peoples and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. The land falls under Treaty 1, which was signed in 1871 and facilitated the theft of this land from several local Anishinaabe First Nations.

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, and learn on these lands. However, a land acknowledgement is only a small step in the right direction when moving towards learning the truth and committing to reconciliation.

The work we do at YES Manitoba often interacts very directly with the processes and lasting impacts of colonial violence. The lives of many of our clients have been very directly and personally impacted by the residential school system; the disproportionate violence that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA individuals face; the police and prison system; violent extraction of resources; and intergenerational systemic oppression. Many of our clients have been wards of CFS. Many might not need our services if not for the lasting traumas of colonization. Many of the jobs available to our clients do not encourage or allow them to resist systems of colonial violence, and some of them perpetuate and continue it. YES Manitoba is dedicated to expanding our knowledge related to the ongoing colonization taking place in Canada, and continuing to learn its impact on our participants and community.

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**ERIKA SEIDLER**

The close of the fiscal year offers a natural pause to reflect on our successes, the challenges we've navigated, and the evolving direction of YES Manitoba. Looking back over the past twelve months fills me with both gratitude for our community's support and excitement for our organization's future.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role is collaborating with such a supportive team. I lead YES Manitoba with the belief that my colleagues are the experts in their fields. By empowering team members to pitch ideas, solve challenges collectively, and develop innovative programming, we effectively support youth across Manitoba.

Meaningful growth happens when people are given the space, trust and support they need to succeed. I have seen this approach in action across our teams, directly witnessing how it empowers staff and strengthens the vital supports we provide to the community.

There is no denying that this line of work can be discouraging where some days it feels like we are trying to solve an impossible puzzle. The changing labour market has introduced additional barriers for young people who are trying to secure their first job. But here at YES Manitoba we see youth differently: they are Manitoba's greatest unrealized potential. For over fifty years, our teams have sat on the front lines of Manitoba's labour market, working directly with hundreds of young job seekers every year to build their resiliency, workplace skills and connecting them to training and skill building opportunities.

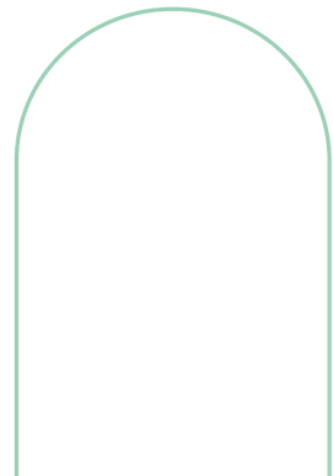
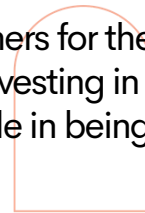
# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year, our team has committed to finding new and innovative strategies to engage and empower the youth we serve. We have focused on creating a sense of community, where youth can feel connected to each other and to our teams. We want youth to know they are not alone in their journey to finding employment.

While the labour market is changing faster than any single organization can keep up with, our commitment to resilience remains the same. Entering a new fiscal year, we are proactively partnering with employers, community-based service providers, and government supporters to build sustainable, long-term supports. By combining our resources and expertise, we can ensure the youngest of the workforce is ready for whatever comes next.

I sincerely appreciate all our funders, stakeholders, and partners for their vital support that keeps YES Manitoba a cornerstone of our community. Investing in the growth and development of young people is unparalleled, and I take pride in being part of an organization that champions their support in our province.

ERIKA SEIDLER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# MEET OUR TEAM

## CURRENT STAFF

**Erika Seidler** Executive Director

**Ashley Demery** Office Manager

**George Abdou** Employment Facilitator

**Sophia MacIntyre** Employment Facilitator

**Evan Forest** Employment Facilitator, Training Instructor

**Debora Carvalho** Resource Area Assistant

**Kyla Willms** Communications Coordinator

**Francesc Amara** Education Program Coordinator

**Madison Doerksen** E.C.H.O Program Assistant

**Devin Bray** Program Manager, Futures Forward

**Alex Klassen** Outreach Coordinator, Futures Forward

**Jason Fillmore** Student Support Case Manager, Futures Forward

**Jade Richardson** Post-Secondary Education Advisor, Futures Forward

**Erinn Wigston** Employment Facilitator, Futures Forward



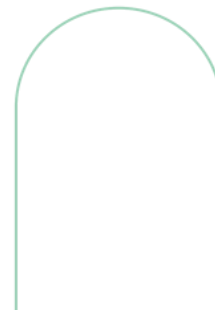
## PREVIOUS STAFF: 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

**Nikki Alvarez:** Employment Facilitator

**Angelika Tria:** Employment Facilitator

**Elizabeth D'Alessio:** Communications and Special Projects Coordinator

**Jill Recksiedler:** Summer Student



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

**Ty Kushnir** Chair

**Christopher Boiteau-Marr** Vice Chair

**Spencer Libbrecht** Secretary/Treasurer

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

Meghan Reid

Vanessa Rozmus

Kevin Williams

Laura Forsythe

Taiwo Luro

Maria Godoy

Amy Lilien

Bevona Bynum

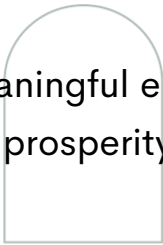




# WHO WE ARE

## OUR VISION

To empower Manitoba's youth to secure meaningful employment and contribute to our province's growth and prosperity.



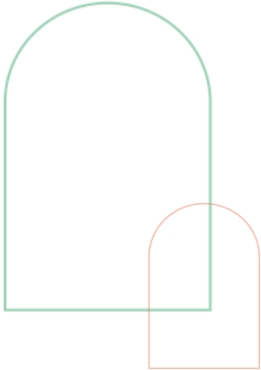
## OUR MISSION

YES Manitoba provides inclusive employment services for youth between 16 and 29. Our purpose is to prepare youth in realizing their potential to become self-sufficient.

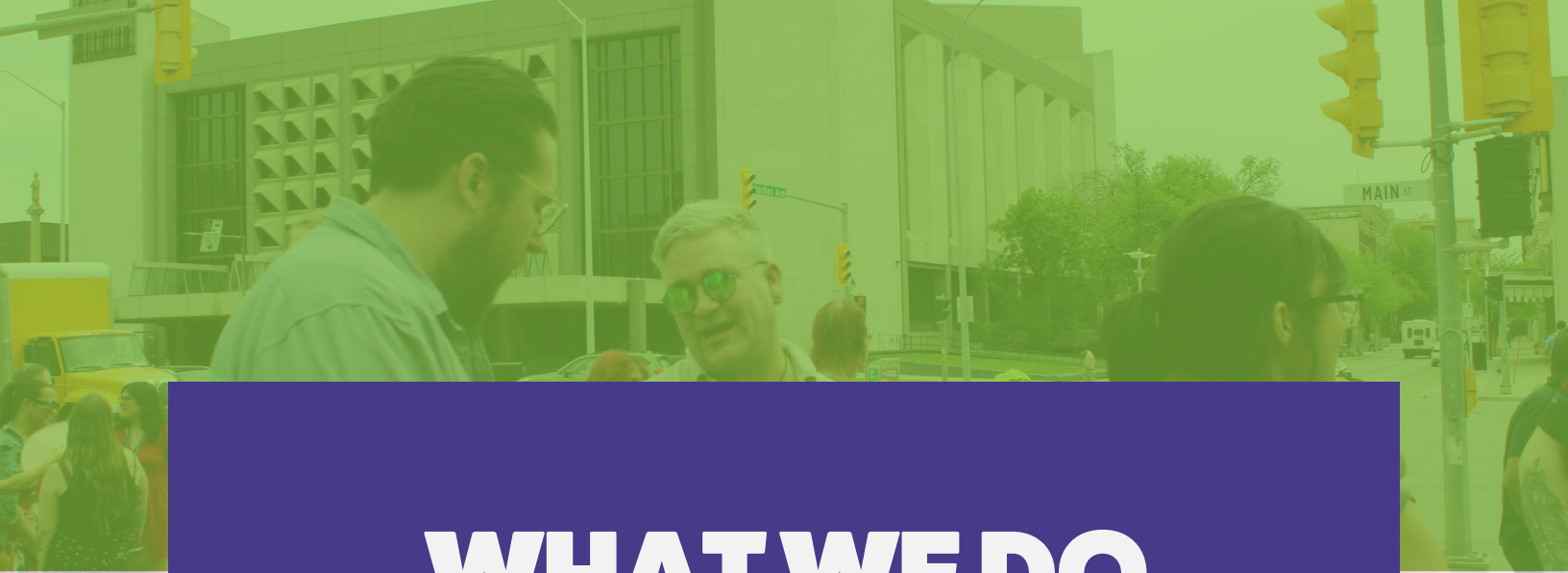


## OUR VALUES

- Collaboration
- Community-enabled self-sufficiency
- Support
- Respect
- Relevance in service





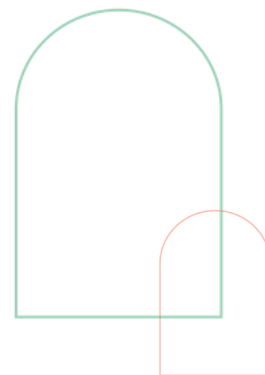


# WHAT WE DO

## EMPOWERING YOUTH ON THEIR EMPLOYMENT JOURNEYS

YES Manitoba offers free, inclusive employment and education support services to young Manitobans between the ages of 16 to 29. We empower youth by providing a safe and supportive environment where they can learn new skills, develop confidence in themselves, and feel supported during their transition to meaningful employment. We help create opportunities for youth to become engaged members of their community, and contribute to our province's growth and prosperity.

Read about our core programming, as well as about our partnerships with community organizations.

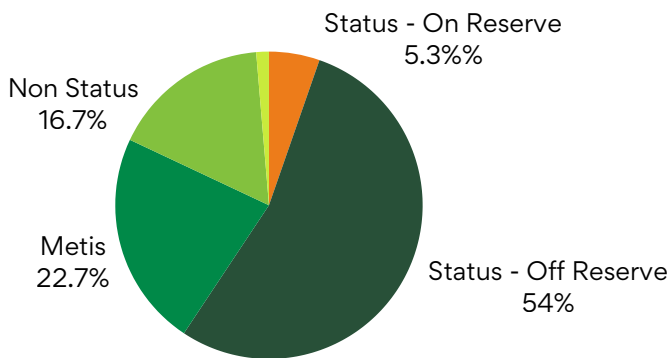




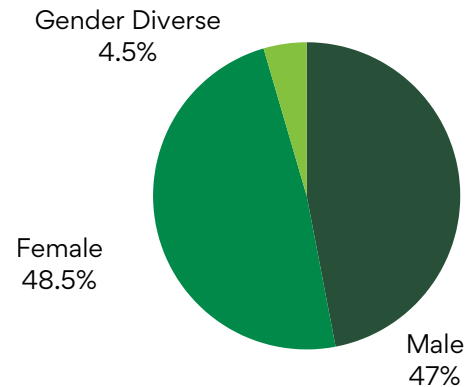
# MEET OUR CLIENTS

YES Manitoba helps a variety of clients between ages 16 to 29, from many different walks of life. We welcome clients who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+, as Indigenous, as a visible minority, new to Canada, or living with a disability. Our clients have received a variety of education levels, from no formal education to Master's degrees. We take our clients' unique situations and offer assistance specific to their needs.

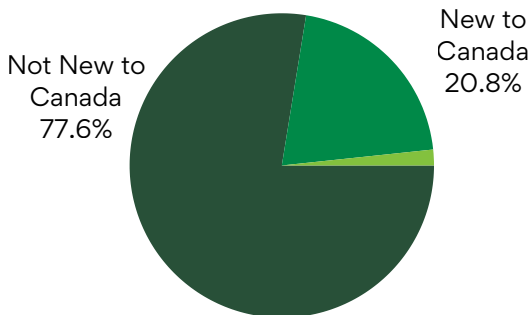
## INDIGENOUS STATUS



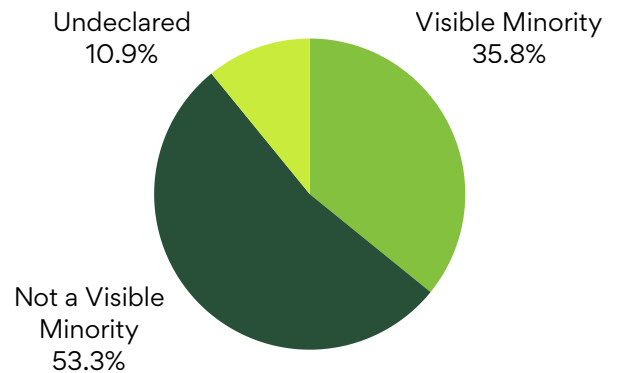
## GENDER



## NEW TO CANADA



## VISIBLE MINORITY



**25%**

ARE INDIGENOUS

**36%**

ARE PART OF A VISIBLE  
MINORITY

**21%**

ARE NEW TO CANADA

**5%**

IDENTIFY AS  
GENDER DIVERSE

**15%**

IDENTIFIED LIVING WITH  
A DISABILITY

**21%**

ARE RECEIVING EIA  
ASSISTANCE



# CLIENT SUCCESSES

Like many clients who come through our doors, Matthew had not worked in several years. Matthew shared that the anxiety and stress of returning to work had hindered his motivation in the job search, which reflects the sentiment of many youth facing the job market.

Matthew was connected with an Employment Facilitator (EF) at YES who helped him update his resume and cover letter, and begin the process of exploring volunteer opportunities to gain some recent experience.

Matthew's EF knew about Matthew's interest in administration and customer service, so when an upcoming Hotel Front Desk Clerk training program at the Manitoba Tourism Education College popped up, it seemed like the perfect fit! After discussing with Matthew, the EF submitted a referral to MTEC, smoothing the process of applying, and Matthew successfully enrolled.

## **MATTHEW**

"I've completed the in-class portion of the course, and in a few days will begin the practicum, training in a hotel environment. Once I've confirmed I've fully completed the course, I will be eager to jump right in with the new beefed-up resume. Thank you again for your help, this has been an excellent opportunity."



# CLIENT SUCCESSES

Rohan came to YES facing a common challenge; despite their education and training from back home, they struggled to find a company willing to hire them due to lack of work experience in Canada.


Thankfully, Rohan came to the right place and made great use of our services. Through one-on-one job coaching, Rohan updated their resume and cover letter, gained tailored job searching strategies for their career goals, and prepared for job interviews. Rohan also obtained free training certificates at YES, including WHMIS, SMART Choices, and Food Handlers.

As a result of Rohan's hard work and dedication, they landed a job that met their needs! Rohan has reported back that they were grateful for the support they received during their time with YES.



## ROHAN

"I truly appreciate all the guidance and support you and your team provided during my critical situation. Your help made a big difference, and I am very thankful for everything you have done for me."



# YES MANITOBA CORE PROGRAM

YES Manitoba provides a range of employment and training services for youth aged 16-29. For participants in our program, success is defined by securing employment or enrolling in education or training.

Youth seeking employment support can register by filling out an intake form and requesting to meet with an Employment Facilitator (EF). The EF conducts assessments of each participants unique needs and collaborates with them to develop a personalized action plan tailored to their goals and circumstances.

This year, we welcomed 593 new youth to YES Manitoba for services. Of our participants, 158 enrolled in further education or training, and 172 achieved full- or part-time employment.

While engaging in community outreach, YES Manitoba delivered 284 information sessions, workshops and presentations. Through these efforts, we connected with 8, 979 individuals who had never heard of YES Manitoba before.

**593**

NEW CLIENTS

**158**

ENROLLED IN FURTHER  
EDUCATION OR TRAINING

**172**

ACHIEVED FULL OR PART  
TIME EMPLOYMENT

**284**

COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

**8,979**

UNIQUE TOUCH POINTS

# EDUCATION PROGRAM



The Education program delivers career development and pre-employment workshops directly to classrooms within Manitoba, supporting youth as they begin to explore the world of work and define their goals and aspirations. Workshop content is designed to complement the provincial curriculum, offering practical information and resources that help students better understand their career paths and opportunities.

While the material teaches key employment concepts, the true value often lies in the meaningful connections our Education Program Coordinator builds with students - meeting them where they are and engaging them in a relatable and accessible way.

Community outreach plays a vital role in raising awareness about YES Manitoba and building connections with future participants. As a consistent presence in high schools, whether workshops or career fairs, YES Manitoba proudly showcases its programs and resources to support the workforce of tomorrow.

Over the last fiscal year, we partnered with 50 schools and community agencies and delivered 170 presentations, engaging with a total of 2,356 students. These efforts continue to strengthen our reach and impact among Manitoba's youth.

**50**

PARTNER SCHOOLS  
AND AGENCIES

**170**

INFO SESSIONS

**2,356**

PARTICIPANTS

# FUTURES FORWARD

Futures Forward is a collaborative program that provides comprehensive support and services to youth transitioning out of the child welfare system. The program is delivered through a partnership between YES Manitoba, the Canadian Mental Health Association - Manitoba and Winnipeg, and Community Financial Counselling Services.

Though modest in size, Futures Forward is a powerful initiative. At full capacity, a dedicated team of 10 staff members across the three partner organizations work to support the hundreds of young people exiting care each year.

In collaboration with our partners, we provided the following services:

- 316 low-barrier individual counseling sessions
- 599 education-related sessions
- 300 financial appointments, including tax filing and financial counselling
- 427 service navigation sessions, supporting youth with service planning, ID acquisition, or referrals to community resources
- 73 cultural ceremonies
- 218 community outreach events

YES Manitoba provided employment services to 177 youth through a single Futures Forward Employment Facilitator. This year, 984 youth registered for the program with 75% identifying as Indigenous.

This year, **42 youth** reported gaining employment and **220 youth** registered for education or training.

**150 new applications** were submitted for the **Youth-in-Care Tuition Waiver Program**, with **47 awards and renewals** received by students.

Most proudly, **25 Tuition Waiver recipients graduated** from their programs over the year, which we were happy to celebrate during our annual graduation party.

**316**  
INDIVIDUAL,  
COUNSELLING SESSIONS

**599**  
EDUCATION RELATED  
SESSIONS

**300**  
FINANCIAL RELATED  
APPOINTMENTS

**73**  
CULTURAL CEREMONIES

**218**  
OUTREACH EVENTS

**514**  
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE  
APPOINTMENTS

**42**  
FOUND EMPLOYMENT

**220**  
REGISTERED FOR FURTHER  
EDUCATION OR TRAINING

# OTHER INITIATIVES

## HUDDLE MANITOBA

Huddle Manitoba is an initiative of the Government of Manitoba, together with United Way Winnipeg and other philanthropic partners. Huddle locations provide a safe space for youth to access services from a range of providers in areas of mental health, substance use, and more, with the intent to get youth more connected to the support they may need. YES Manitoba's Employment Facilitators provide drop-in job-searching, resume, interview and career planning advice to participants of Huddle Broadway on a regular basis.

## HARVEST MANITOBA - WAREHOUSE TRAINING PROGRAM

Harvest Manitoba's Warehouse Training Program combines classroom learning, hands-on work at their warehouse facility and exposure to practical work environments over the course of 6-weeks. Trainees graduate with industry-standard warehouse skills required for entry-level employment in distribution centres, warehouses and the retail sector. YES Manitoba staff provide workshops and assistance with resume and cover letter creation, as well as host mock interviews with trainees of the program. YES Manitoba is also one of the organizations that can refer participants into the program.

## PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS

YES Manitoba continues to support post-secondary institutions in hosting students for their practicum placements. These are mutually-beneficial partnerships where students can gain work experience in their program of study, while also supporting the organization in day-to-day operations or new projects. This year, we welcomed students from the University of Manitoba, MITT, Booth UC and RRC Polytech.

# OTHER INITIATIVES

## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHTS

YES Manitoba works with employers to connect them with potential employees and to help YES staff better understand the job market. This past fiscal year YES increased employer partnerships, inviting employers to present to clients about their current opportunities, application processes, preliminary interview questions, and more. These partnerships help clients make connections they may not have access to in their daily life. In a world of increasing social isolation, bringing job seekers together to network directly with employers not only helps them find meaningful employment, but also creates a space to build relationships with folks in similar life circumstances.

## MANITOBA ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT: LET'S GET TO WORK CONFERENCE

MACD's Let's Get to Work Conference brought career development workers together to discuss the current challenges, successes, and hopes for career development in Manitoba. YES Manitoba staff had the privilege of both organizing and attending the conference. Ashley Demery, Office Manager, was a panelist at the launch where she discussed her career path and experiences in career development. Ashley was also the Sponsorship's Chair on the Let's Get to Work 2025 Planning Committee. Erika Seidler, Executive Director, sits on the Career Workforce and Development Month Committee and helped bring the launch to life.

## OFFICE REFRESH

YES Manitoba's office at 294 Portage Avenue has been repainted, redecorated, and reorganized! Brand-new informational posters and client testimonials are hanging throughout the office to inspire and uplift folks who come visit us in person. We strive to create a welcoming and safe environment for everyone who walks through our doors.

# LOOKING FORWARD

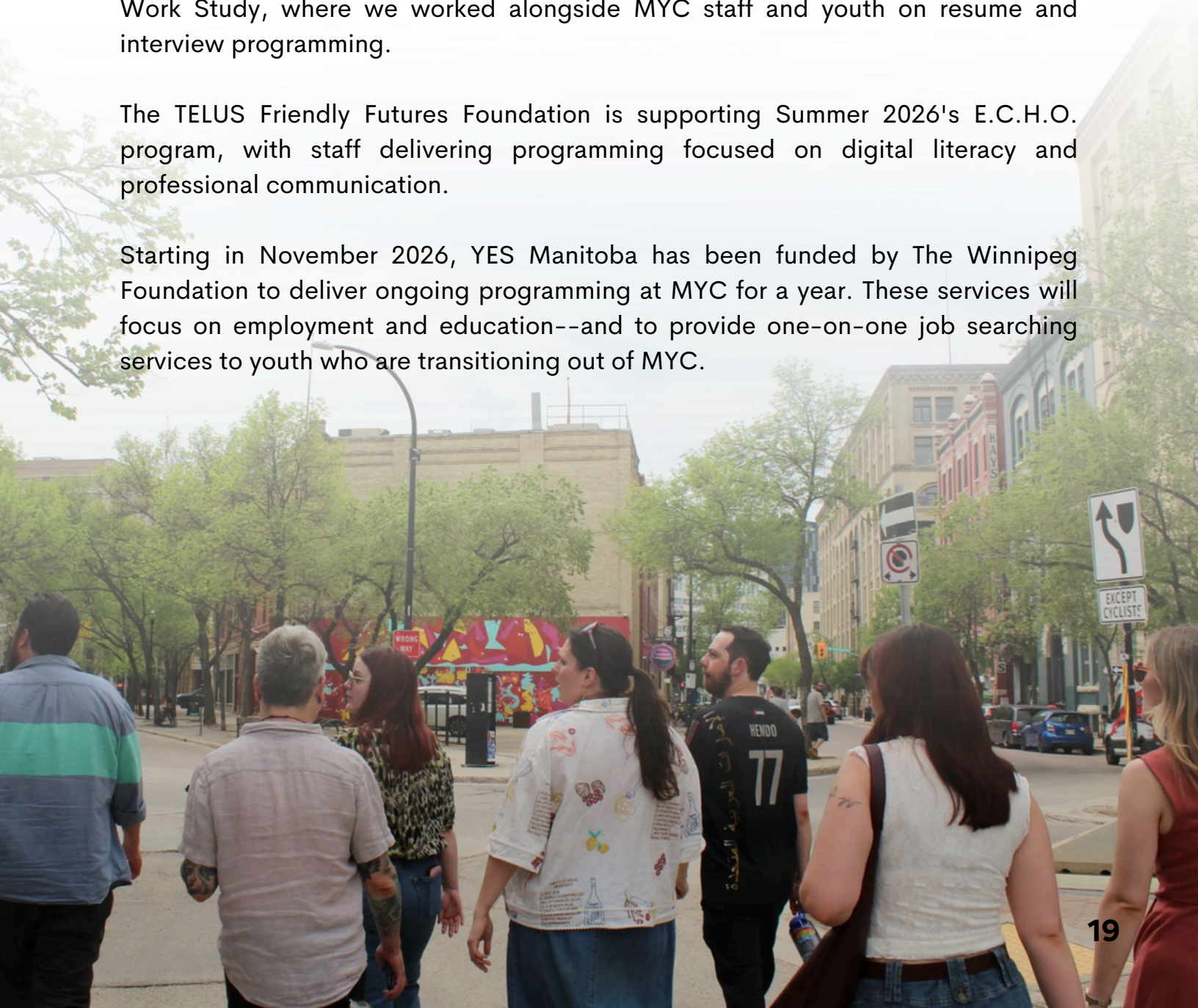
## E.C.H.O. PROGRAM

YES Manitoba's E.C.H.O. (Education, Careers, and Healthy Outcomes for Justice-Involved Youth) program provides youth, aged 12 - 21, in custody at the Manitoba Youth Centre, with practical and inclusive pre-employment and job readiness programming designed to set them up for post-release success in school and work.

E.C.H.O. began in 2025 with the support of The University of Winnipeg Inner-City Work Study, where we worked alongside MYC staff and youth on resume and interview programming.

The TELUS Friendly Futures Foundation is supporting Summer 2026's E.C.H.O. program, with staff delivering programming focused on digital literacy and professional communication.

Starting in November 2026, YES Manitoba has been funded by The Winnipeg Foundation to deliver ongoing programming at MYC for a year. These services will focus on employment and education--and to provide one-on-one job searching services to youth who are transitioning out of MYC.





# THANK YOU!

## **OUR DONORS:**

- Children's Aid Foundation of Canada
- Winnipeg Foundation
- Telus Community Board
- Assiniboine Credit Union
- A&B Mechanical Ltd.
- Canada Life
- Bird Construction Group
- Costco Wholesale Canada

## **FUNDING PROVIDED BY:**

The Government of Canada

The Manitoba Government





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