



Youth  
Employment  
Services

# 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**EMPOWERING  
MANITOBA'S  
YOUTH**

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As YES began the fiscal year in April 2020, the youth unemployment rate in Manitoba peaked at 24.6%. To say the past year has been difficult for our communities and the youth we serve would be an understatement.

But as I write this message today, the youth unemployment rate in Manitoba is almost half of what it was just over a year ago. And YES is more prepared than ever to help youth reach their personal, professional, and academic goals.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of our services were offered in-person or in-community. Like many organizations, public health restrictions forced quick and creative shifts to our service delivery model.

Staff started leveraging video conferencing and telephone meetings for one-on-one client appointments. Workshops and presentations were offered virtually and in new ways so clients learn and access at their own pace. Online versions of YES resources sprung up overnight and we made more information than ever accessible on our website and social media channels. We focused on engaging with our clients and community in new ways. Heck, we even started a podcast!

Today, no matter where youth are located in Manitoba they can access YES services virtually. While stable internet access is still a barrier for many of the youth we serve, we've seen the immense value a dual-service delivery model can have for our clients across Manitoba and there is no going back.

The pandemic and corresponding public health restrictions also increased our community's understanding of how economic challenges often disproportionately impact young people.

Job loss was concentrated in key sectors such as retail and hospitality and many entry level positions that youth use a spring board for gaining work experience and launching their careers were the first to be lost. With the release of every new edition of labour market statistics, folks took note of the high youth unemployment rates. Many started asking, "Why?" And, more importantly, "What can be done to support young people?"

The unique barriers youth face finding and maintaining meaningful work have never been more apparent. At YES, we have always recognized the important role we play in a young person's network of support to help them realize self-sufficiency. While the way we offer our services and support has shifted this past year, the challenges of the pandemic have only made our commitment to being a consistent and reliable presence in our community even stronger.

With the support of our funders, partners, and community, we remain committed to empowering Manitoba's youth. As we head into a new year at YES, I am so excited to see what the future has in store for our organization, for our province, and for our young people!

With appreciation,



Kelsey Evans  
Executive Director



# STAFF

**Mariam Abdelmessiah** *Administrative Assistant*

**George Abdou** *Resource Area Assistant*

**Zach Allard** *AYA Case Manager*

**Melissa Chambers** *Employment Facilitator & Social Media Coordinator*

**Kelsey Evans** *Executive Director*

**Alexander Ferrer** *Education Coordinator*

**Jasmin Geling** *Employment Facilitator*

**Nathan Grammatico** *Resource Area Assistant*

**Laura-Lynne Hildebrand** *Tuition Waiver Coordinator*

**Hafiz Jatto** *Project Manager*

**Charity Leonard** *Executive Director*

**Morag Morison** *Employment Facilitator*

**Sam Olea** *Education & Outreach Coordinator*

**Kelly Otutuama** *Employment Facilitator*

**Sam Pothier** *AYA Case Manager*

**Sasha Prince** *Resource Area Assistant*

**Latrissa Steinke** *Special Projects Coordinator*

**Megan Sumner** *Resource Area Assistant*

**Mike Tarleton** *Employment Facilitator*

**Victoria Verhoek** *Employment Facilitator*

# BOARD

**Rob Ferguson** *Chair*

**Selena Maharajh** *Vice-Chair*

**Nicole Waldner** *Treasurer*

**Bonnie Chwartacki** *Member at Large*

**Wayne Davies** *Member at Large*

**Brittany Livingstone** *Member at Large*

**Shawn MacDonald** *Member at Large*

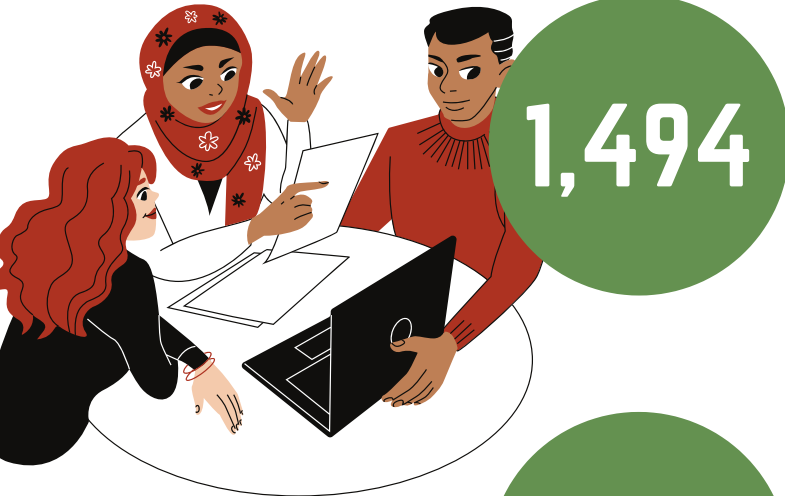
**Saheed Olawoyin** *Member at Large*

**THANK YOU**

Funding provided by:

The Manitoba government

“Thank you all again for helping my students practice their interviewing skills! They all did much better this second time around it was great to see their desire to improve. The experience will surely help them in “the real world”; Thank you also for providing immediate feedback to the students, and then taking the time to fill out and email me feedback forms. I am sure we will work together again in the future.” - Teacher



### ONE-ON-ONE APPOINTMENTS

Our Employment Facilitators held **1,494** one-on-one virtual or in-person appointments with clients.



### PRESENTATIONS OR WORKSHOPS

Staff provided **116** presentations or workshops in-office, in-community, or virtually for clients, community members, and organizations.



### COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED

Over **2,000** community members reached through presentations and workshops in-community.

### EMPLOYED OR ENROLLED

**144** youth secured employment or were enrolled in training or education opportunities.

# HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT YES?

39%

of clients heard about YES through **friends or family**

17%

of clients heard about us **online** (social media, website)

27%

of clients were **referred** by provincial assistance program

17%

of clients heard about us in **other ways** (other agencies, ads)

“Wow, I didn’t know that there are lots of different ways to apply for a job. I’ve always just tried to apply in person but you can’t really do that now.” - Client, 18



“I have the Aboriginal Nursing Cohort Initiative interview today. I’m pretty prepared and ready. I just wanted to thank you for everything you have done for me. It really means a lot. I was so scared I was going to have to do it alone. I’m actually sincerely grateful for you. Wish me luck!” - Client, 18



**59%** of clients identified as **Indigenous**

**19%** of clients identified as a **visible minority**

**47%** of **Indigenous** clients identified as **status**

**16%** of clients identified as an **immigrant or refugee**

**12%** of **Indigenous** clients identified as **non-status**

**9%** of clients are living with a **disability**

**25%** of clients identified as **Métis**

**5%** of clients declared they had **dependents**

I really appreciate your patience and encouragement, I feel a lot more confident applying for this job." - Client, 23

# YOU'RE HIRED!

## Y.E.S. clients hired in 2020-2021

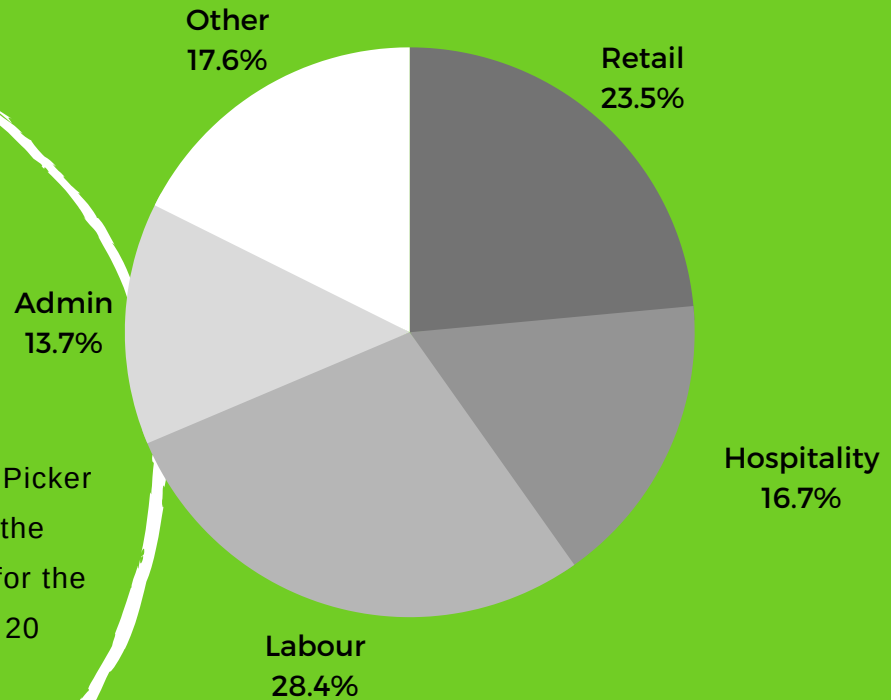


Earned an average of **\$14.57 / hour**



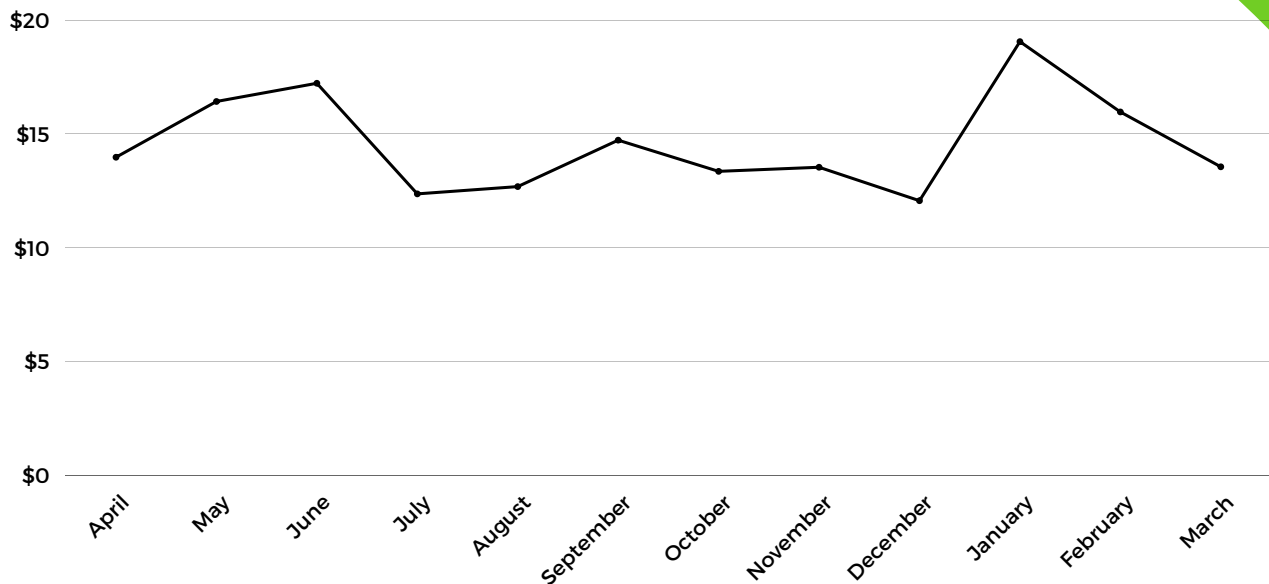
Worked an average of **32 hours / week**

## Sectors YES clients hired in throughout 2020-2021



"I wanted you to know that I got a job as a Part Picker at Balcaen and Sons. I got the top wage for the position as well at \$14.50. I want to thank you for the help getting me where I am today." - Client, 20

## Average wage earned per hour by YES clients hired throughout 2021-2022





Futures Forward offers a range of services and support including housing supports, mental health counselling, career and education planning, financial counselling, and system navigation.

Today, the Futures Forward team consists of ten front-line staff working across all three partner agencies.



## **Futures** Forward **TOGETHER WITH**



**Canadian Mental  
Health Association**  
Manitoba and Winnipeg  
*Mental health for all*

**PROVIDING WRAP-AROUND SERVICES TO YOUTH IN OR FROM  
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES CARE IN MANITOBA.**

"A year ago, I was stuck in an office job I had been at for five years. Getting work experience and advancing, sure. Today, I actually see an entire far-reaching future for myself, just one year into my degree in Criminal Justice, with great grades on the record I was not used to seeing. I got the bursary letter this morning, after many emails to Laura-Lynne, after this crazy life transition having a support network like Futures Forward is invaluable. "Futures

Forward" does what it says on the label, it pushes us forward to take experience and networking and get ourselves right into the paths for our

futures." Futures Forward Client, 22



**Futures** Forward

# TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM

**164**

Tuition Waiver applications received

**55**

Tuition Waiver students completed the school year

**42**

AYA Tuition Waiver students were transitioned to SEP support

**13**

Tuition Waiver students graduated

## EMPLOYMENT READINESS

**104**

employment plans with Futures Forward participants

**39**

in-person employment readiness workshops delivered at Y.E.S. and in-community

**30**

Futures Forward participants reported gaining employment

In the last project year, the Futures Forward team supported **514** new and returning Futures Forward participants and helped **240** participants develop individual transition plans to assist with their transition to interdependence.\*

\*Please note, the Futures Forward project year runs from September to August, annually. To align with YES's fiscal year, stats noted are from the 2019-2020 Futures Forward project year.



## Empowering Manitoba's Youth

Our offices are located on Treaty One Territory, on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dene, and Dakota Peoples, and the Homeland of the Metis Nation.