

Youth Council Coalition of Canada
Coalition des conseils jeunesse du Canada
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THE HOUR FOR HOUR CHALLENGE

The Youth Council Coalition of Canada / Coalition des conseils jeunesse du Canada (YCC/CCJ) has launched a challenge to Canadian municipalities.

The "Hour for Hour Challenge" encourages municipalities to formally establish a mechanism to provide volunteer hour compensation for students who engage in civic activities in all forms: surveys, open houses/forums, town halls, viewing or participating in council meetings, and watching relevant webinars.

The Town of Essex has taken on the challenge and is seeking support to share this exciting news within your school board so that more students are aware of the opportunities and benefits that await them should they choose to participate.

BACKGROUND

The YCC is a non-profit organization based in Ontario that supports the development, success and influence of Canadian youth councils. They are non-partisan and are committed to providing tailored resources, professional development opportunities, and a peer networking platform specific to youth councils.

The YCC recognizes the looming retirements that municipalities are facing in the coming years, and the need for new talent to consider positions in the public sector. They also recognize that, due to COVID-19, many volunteer opportunities for youth, who need 40 hours of community service to graduate, have been cancelled.

This has created the perfect opportunity for municipalities and other organizations to leverage their social media platforms and ongoing activities to drive youth engagement in the municipal sector and provide community service compensation.

METHODOLOGY

Municipalities and elected officials have several ways that they can participate, all of which require little to no overhead spending and a low burden on your administrative and communication teams. This challenge is designed to be sustainable and to continue well past COVID-19.

The YCC encourages school boards to work with their local government bodies in order to promote these opportunities for students residing or studying in participating municipalities. This can be a collaborative effort between student body governments, guidance offices, teachers or students themselves. In all cases, however, the YCC recognizes the importance of promoting these opportunities in schools.

QUOTES:

“The Hour-for-Hour Challenge provides youth with an opportunity to learn more about local government structures, practices and policies and provides local governments with an opportunity to inform, engage and inspire young and future generations. The YCC recognizes that leveraging digital volunteer opportunities is the best way to adapt to COVID-19 and we hope that this provides a lasting impact on youth and the organizations that serve them.”

- Kelsey Santarossa, YCC Founder & President

“The Hour-for-Hour Challenge creates a space for Canadian youth to gain socio-political empowerment and see themselves represented in politics.” -Samantha C. Dalo, *Youth Civic Engagement Specialist*