



# Halton Youth Initiative

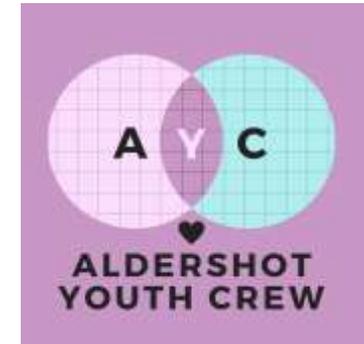
A Story of Journey, Relationships, and Opportunity



Funding for the Our Kids Network Halton Youth Initiative is provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

# A few things you need know about our story

- Started in 2017, Grew in 2019
- Funded by Trillium
- Cast of characters:
  - HYI Coordinators
  - Youth
  - Supporting adults



# The Essence of our Story

- Developmental Relationships (DR) are at the core
- Why are Developmental Relationships important?
- What would happen if we intentionally built the structures and relationships necessary for youth to contribute?



*“It’s great to have a structure (climate) built so that when you share your ideas there is someone else to guide you through and help you. That’s when I realized that youth voice really matters here and people are really listening to you.”*



# Challenges – *every story has them*

- ***Start-up:*** *community buy-in, understanding*
- ***New kid on the block:*** *starting three new tables when new in town*
- ***Recruitment:*** *making the right connections, school support*
- ***Team structure:*** *creating safe and engaging spaces (power balance between adults and young people)*
- ***Transition to virtual:*** *new tech, online fatigue, lack of devices/wi-fi*

*Challenges addressed - Solutions shared*

*Feel free to add your thoughts and ideas **in the chat***



# Story notes

## Survey

- Completed by youth actively involved in Oct 2020
- Online survey
- Length of survey: 5 minutes
- 65 youth sent the survey
  - 53 completed surveys
- Response rate - 82%

## Interview

- Used Appreciative Inquiry methodology
- Completed by outside consultant familiar with the project
- 16 interviews were completed
- Length of interviews: 15-30 minutes

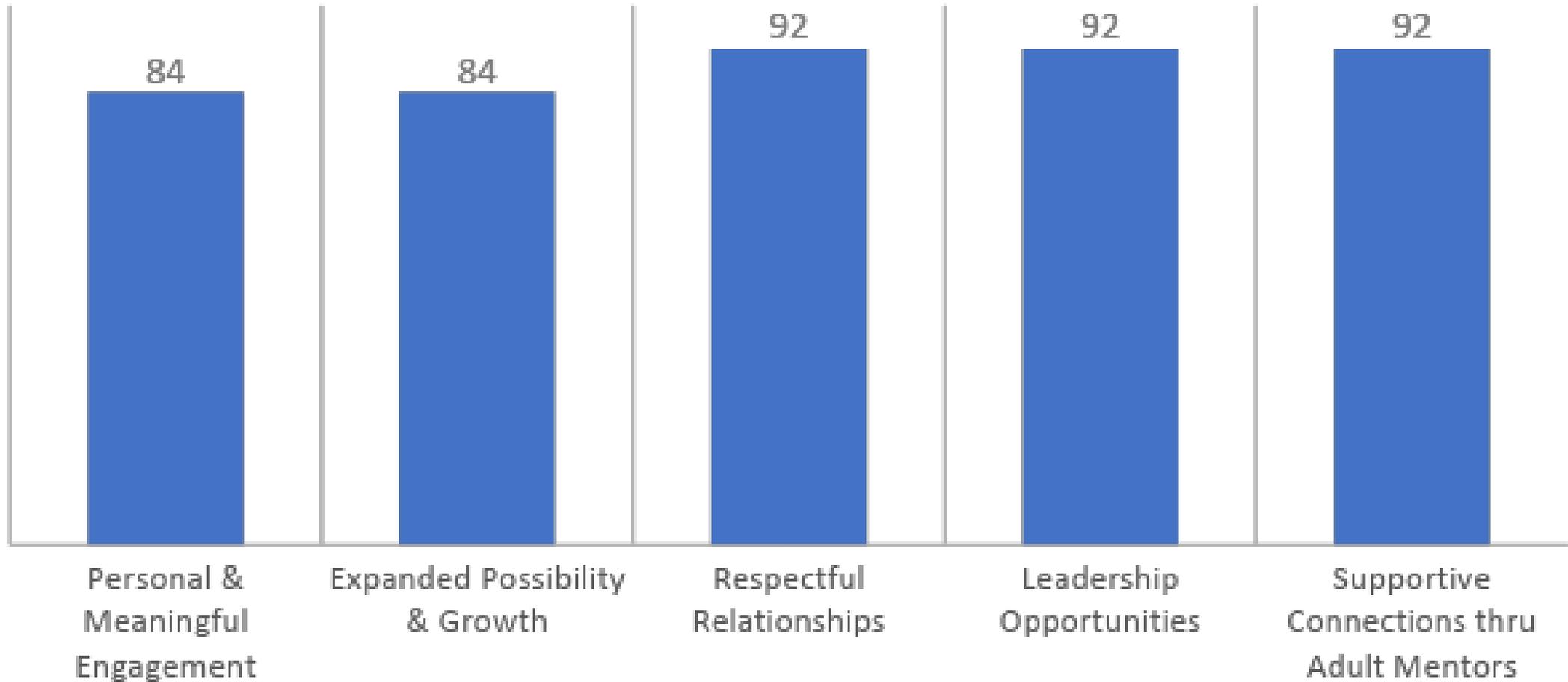


# Plot of our story- How the Evaluation Measure aligns with DR Pillars

- **EXPRESS CARE** *“Show me that I matter.”*
  - Respectful Relationship measure
- **CHALLENGE GROWTH** *“Push me to keep getting better.”*
  - Leadership Development measure
- **PROVIDE SUPPORT** *“Help me complete tasks and achieve goals.”*
  - Meaningful Engagement measure
- **SHARE POWER** *“Treat me with respect and give me a say.”*
  - Supportive Connections thru Adult Mentors measure
- **EXPAND POSSIBILITIES** *“Connect me with people and places that broaden my worlds.”*
  - Expand Possibilities and Growth measure



# Did the plot stay on script?



# Respectful Relationships

# 92

**LEGEND**

Most of the Time

Always

I am treated with respect



We joke around and have fun



Others value my ideas



I feel my work is appreciated



# Express Care “Show me that I matter”

## Respectful Relationships measure



*I made a video for IGTV about how to help with Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls epidemic and I saw how someone can spread awareness can create change based on information that they learn. By using social media platforms I felt like I was really doing something in the community.*

*Me, who is an average person, who can't really do anything and have much power, I was able to create this video to help others. I felt really alive and I was like, "Yeah, I think that I can make change." I wanted to inspire others to do the same.*



# Leadership Development

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Consider input from others

Can listen effectively

Show a responsible attitude

Can clarify my values

Can use info to solve problems

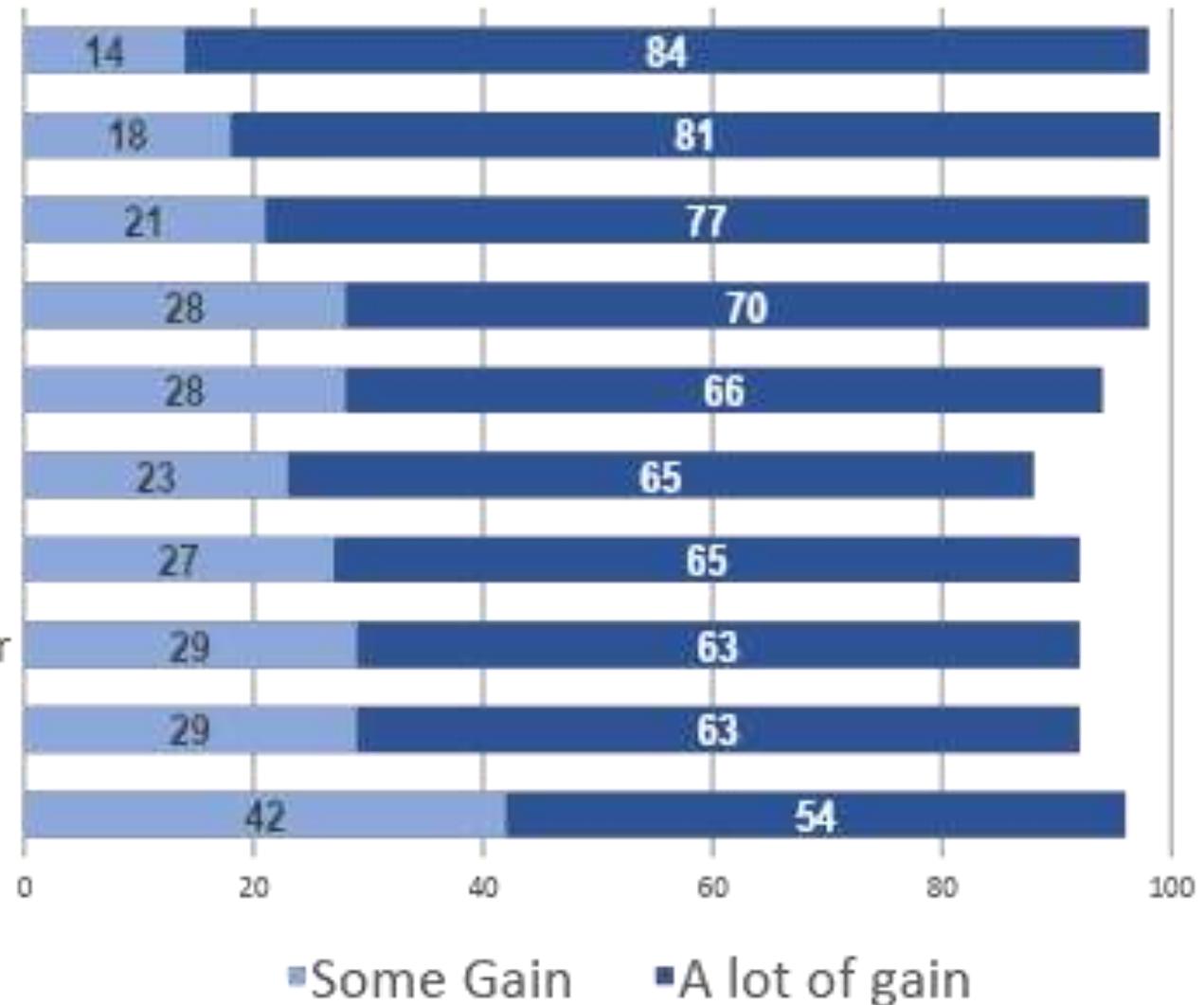
Willing to speak up for my ideas

Can be honest with others

Understand what it takes to be a leader

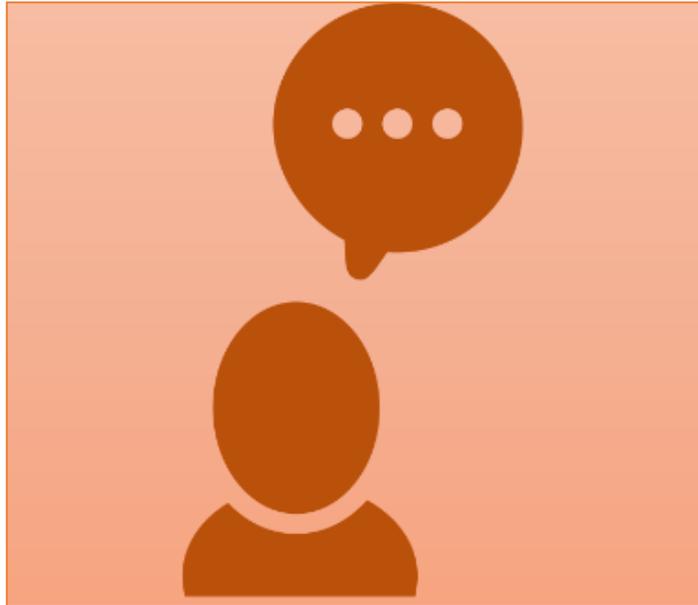
Can set priorities

Am able to rely on my strengths



# Challenge Growth *“Push me to keep getting better”*

## Leadership Development measure



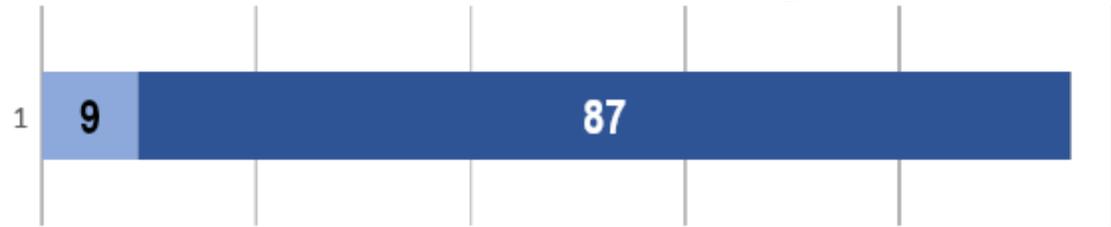
*It was the first time in another country where I took the lead myself and I actually saw the good result of it. People really recognize what I'm doing and that is on the right track. That motivates me to do more things and apply what I am learning here to other youth-led organizations I'm involved in - our council has helped me move forward.*



# Meaningful Engagement

# 84

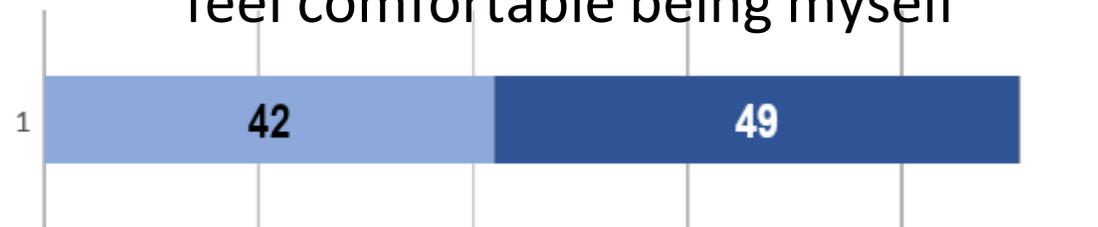
I complete tasks that help the council/team reach its goals



I feel aware of what's going on in the council/team



During the council/team meetings, I feel comfortable being myself



**LEGEND**

Most of the Time

Always

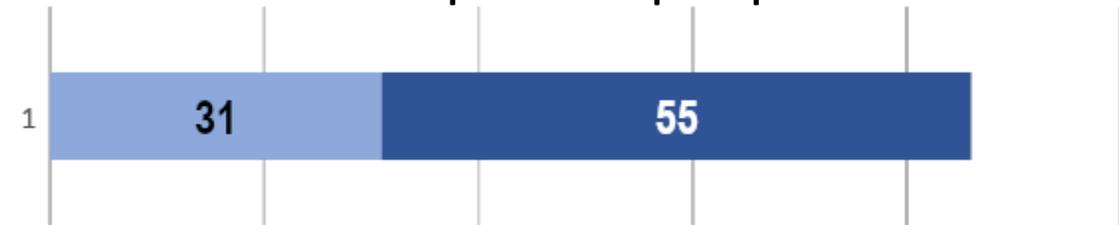
# Meaningful Engagement

84

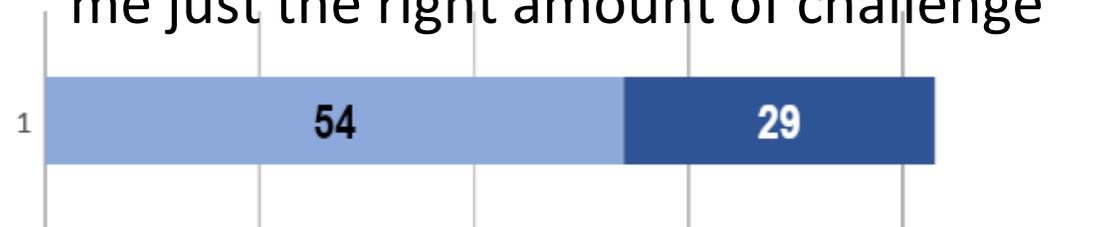
The council/team activities we do give me a sense of accomplishment



The council/team activities we do help other people



The council/team activities we do give me just the right amount of challenge



# Provide Support - “Help me complete tasks and achieve goals”

## Meaningful Relationships measure



*I really like having someone listen and take in the information so you can see them absorbing it. I've had many experiences when adults say, "you're just a kid, you don't know anything" when we are rather informed so actually having them (adults) take our opinion in and use our ideas makes us (young leaders) feel like we are a person.*



# Supportive Connections through Adult Mentors

92

Youth and adults trust each other



There is a good balance of power between the youth and the adults



Youth and adults learn a lot from working together



# Supportive Connections through Adult Mentors

It is clear that and adults respect each other



Adults can learn a lot from youth

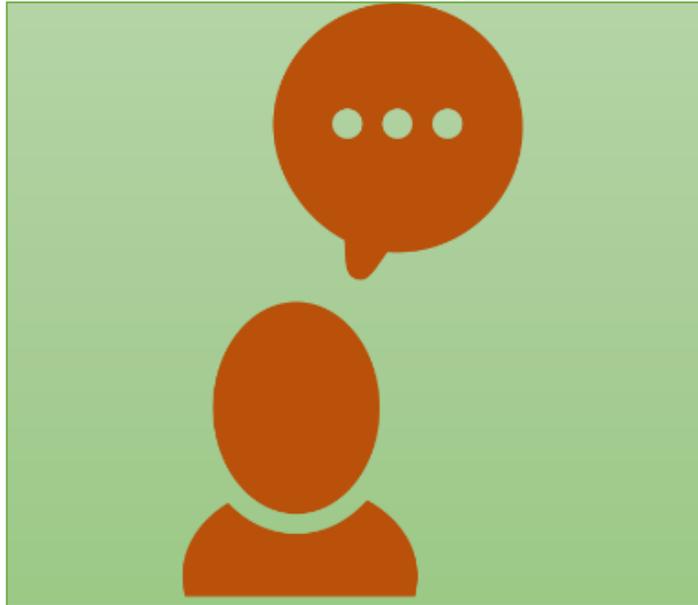


LEGEND

- Agree
- Strongly Agree

# Share Power - “Treat me with respect and give me a say.”

## Supportive Connections measure



*I took a lead in this project with the Indigenous artist because I came up with the idea and then Siobhan picked up on the idea and took me on a journey that helped me make some changes and adjustments to slowly make this come true. I learned a lot from her and her way of organizing the whole thing that I believe will help me a lot in the future.*



# Expanded Possibilities and Growth 84

**LEGEND**  
Most of the Time  
Always

My council/team connects me with people and places that I didn't know about



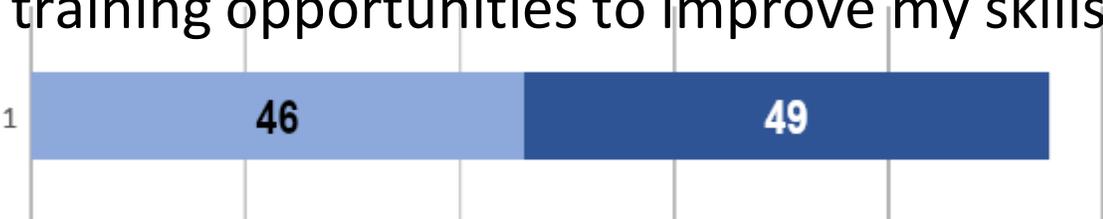
When possible, my ideas are used on the council/team



I can participate in leadership roles on the council/team

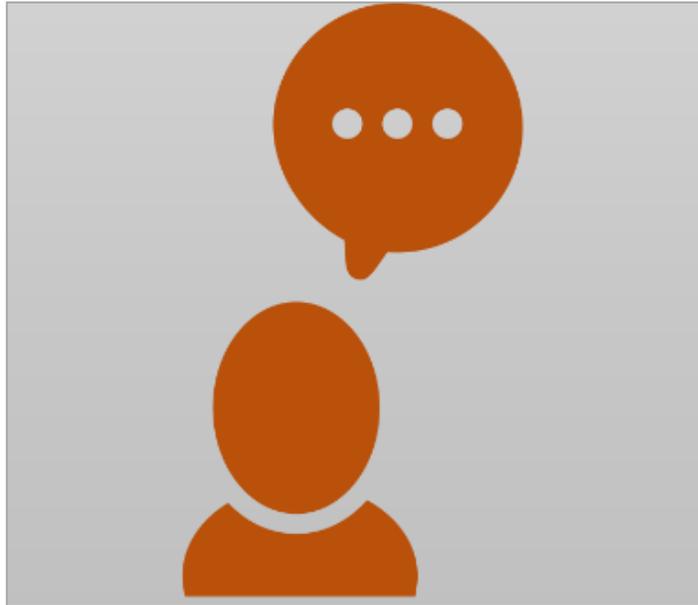


The council/team provides me with training opportunities to improve my skills



# Expanding Possibilities

*“Connect me with people & places that broaden my worlds”*



*I found the First Nations Knowledge Keeper interview really interesting about how First Nations view health and medicines. I'm a big fan of science and hearing someone else's view on it made me want to do research on First Nations methods to see how they compare to and have shaped scientific methods.*



# Moral of our story

- Youth voices have told us that relationships matter (**TRUST**)
- Focus on implementing the research and data into our work--**ASSETS to ACTION**--in order to provide community partners with an example of how assets can be intentionally applied and the results of this
- Our next chapter is still unfolding, and we are excited to write this story with you and our community ... Stay Tuned.

