

Background

Launched in 2015 by the Foundation Fighting Blindness, the National Young Leaders Program provides mentorship and resources to young people aged 17-30 affected by vision loss, empowering them to become leaders in their communities. The Summit is the Program's premier event, an opportunity for youth across Canada with vision impairments to meet face-to-face to build relationships, experience mentorship, establish networks, and develop leadership skills. The event's programming is directed by members of the Young Leader community who take the role of Chair or Co-Chairs, with support provided by staff at the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

Primary Objective

The overarching objective of the Summit is to enable attendees to become Young Leaders, individuals who can mentor others and bring knowledge and resources back to their own communities. Young people living with vision impairments are underserved in Canada, often left on their own to face the same challenges as those who are fully sighted; the community established by the network of Young Leaders—a community that will grow as they influence and mentor others—is intended to fill this gap. Learning objectives and outcomes relate to this central goal and are summarized below.

2018 Summit

The theme for the Summit in March of 2018 will be “finding a rewarding career.” We know that young people will steer the future of Canada and the world. But we also know that they are underserved, overburdened by debt, and challenged by an uncertain and highly competitive job market. Programming in 2018 is designed to help attendees navigate the complexities of finding a career in this turbulent and precarious landscape, with opportunities to interact with industry leaders and sessions focussed on the development of concrete skills. Insights gained during the Summit will be summarized by participants in a post-event survey; attendees are also asked to offer mentorship to 2 additional youth within a 4-month period, and to contribute to the development of an online Hub—rolled-out over the course of 2018 and hosted on the FFB's website—that will collect stories and resources emerging from the Summit.

Summary of Deliverables

1. Complete a post-event survey within two weeks of it being made available
2. Identify and offer mentorship or insights to 2 young people within a 4-month period
3. Contribute to the development of an online Hub (details TBD)

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

(Items are also associated with units on the agenda, which are detailed in a section below)

1. Increased awareness of challenges and opportunities in Canada's job market, including strategies to address challenges
2. Improved aptitude with resume and portfolio development
3. Improved aptitude with navigating online networks and social media in relation to careers

4. Creation of relationships and connections with peers and mentors
5. Development of leadership skills

AGENDA: National Young Leaders Summit

CNIB Community Hub, 1525 Yonge St, Toronto, ON M4T 1Z2

Friday, March 9

6:00PM – 10:00PM: GREETINGS, PIZZA, and LIME CONNECT

- Meet new and returning participants
- Meet FFB staff and CNIB partners
- Lime Connect talk (Time TBD)

Objectives and outcomes:

- ❖ Increased awareness of challenges and opportunities in Canada's job market, including strategies to address challenges
- ❖ Creation of relationships and connections with peers and mentors

Saturday, March 10:

9:00AM – 10:00AM: BREAKFAST and OPENING COMMENTS

- Co-Chair introductions and outline of the Summit's theme

10:00AM – 12:00PM: JOB HUNTING, RESUMES, and CAREER STRATEGIES

- Workshop 1: Navigating the job market (workshop leader TBA)
- Workshop 2: Determining career goals and finding the career you want (workshop leader TBA)

Objectives and outcomes:

- ❖ Increased awareness of challenges and opportunities in Canada's job market, including strategies to address challenges
- ❖ Improved aptitude with resume and portfolio development
- ❖ Improved aptitude with navigating online networks and social media in relation to careers
- ❖ Development of leadership skills

12:00PM – 1:00PM: LUNCH

1:00PM – 3:00PM: LEADERSHIP and FINDING A REWARDING CAREER

- Keynote Speaker 1 (speaker TBA)
- Keynote Speaker 2 (speaker TBA)

Objectives and outcomes:

- ❖ Increased awareness of challenges and opportunities in Canada's job market, including strategies to address challenges
- ❖ Development of leadership skills

3:00PM – 3:45PM: BREAK

3:45PM – 6:00PM: OPEN NETWORKING SESSION

- Meet community members and industry leaders
- Develop networking skills
- Build relationships and leadership skills that will impact your career

Objectives and outcomes:

- ❖ Creation of relationships and connections with peers and mentors
- ❖ Development of leadership skills

6:00PM: WRAP-UP and CLOSING COMMENTS

6:30PM: DINNER (details TBA)