

WE BELIEVE..

..In the capabilities and potential of youth.

..Learning is an adventure.

..Young Canadians need to know their own country's diverse histories, cultures and challenges first to better understand the world.

..The most memorable experiences are shared experiences.

..Exposure to new places and ideas will enable youth to see their world differently.

..Every youth deserves the opportunity to participate.

..Every youth deserves to be respected and included.

..The safety and security of youth is paramount.

..Everyone learns differently.



Experiences Canada student exchanges and forums develop community leaders and informed citizens of tomorrow.



Experiences Canada is a national registered charity that helps young Canadians to explore their country in ways they may never have imagined through reciprocal exchanges, forums, conferences and other opportunities to travel and connect with one another.

Every year, participating schools and youth organizations send 10-30 youth (ages 12- 17) on exchange somewhere in Canada. On average, 4,500 youth and their chaperones per year are chosen, representing just under 200 groups. That's hundreds of thousands of young Canadians who have benefited from a student exchange experience since we began over 80 years ago.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF EXPERIENCES CANADA



As another program year comes to an end, and we have this opportunity to travel our country through the photos and stories of our youth participants, I am reminded of the first time I went on a trip without my family. I was 16 and joined the militia as a summer job and headed to Camp Aldershot in Annapolis Valley NS a couple of hours from my home. I lived in a compound with 30 people I had never met before, females and males, immersed in an extremely intensive week-long training program assembling rifles, building lean-to's, camouflaging-trucks, radio equipment and of course ourselves, crawling fully geared on our bellies and elbows... Besides getting my tooth shot off by a spent casing during target practice, I have many other memories I've never forgotten.

This experience opened my mind to many things, including people from different cultures, experiences and backgrounds from myself. It gave me life-long friends, it gave me confidence in my abilities and those of others, it developed my interest in our military, and it helped me stretch in ways that I may never have done otherwise. Later in my career, as Deputy Minister responsible for intergovernmental, Indigenous and military relations, I

drew upon that experiential learning as it had provided me with a deeper respect and understanding for the complexities they faced.

Today, technology makes it a lot easier to build communities and cultivate connections online, but nothing can replace face-to-face contact, or as kids are fond of saying, "IRL."

My story isn't very different than those of the thousands of youth who have participated in our reciprocal exchanges this past year. While our exchanges and forums don't include loaded guns and ammunition, we nonetheless recognize our responsibility to ensure that these first time adventures are always positive ones. In addition to the safety and security measures we have in place, we also provide planning resources on our website for both parents hosting youth and teachers and group organisers leading the excursion.

This past year, we also implemented a new evaluation procedure in partnership with the Student's Commission of Canada. Not only will we be able to measure the many ways in which these experiences immediately impact our participants, but we will be encouraging parents

to give permission for the youth to opt into a multi-year survey that will benchmark that impact over time, and relative to other similar youth programs. This, in addition to the continuous feedback we get from group organizers, parents and youth via email helps us to continue serving the needs of today's youth to the best of our ability.

We deeply appreciate the support of our funding partners, including Canadian Heritage, the RBC Foundation, Canada Life, and Westjet; as well as the hundreds of volunteer group organizers who devote so much of their personal time and effort to facilitating these adventures for the youth in the their schools and communities. Together we help thousands of young Canadians explore a part of their country they otherwise might never see, and in so doing, we hope, help them feel more connected to it as they take their first steps in exploring a wider world with more confidence and curiosity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Judith Sullivan-Corney".

Judith Sullivan-Corney

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



When I was in grade 5, I came home from school with a permission slip that I was certain my mother would never sign, but to my delight she agreed. With a stroke of a pen, she launched me on an amazing journey to Okazaki, Japan. I still remember every detail of that trip – the moments that I felt thrilled and worldly, and the moments that I felt homesick, exhausted, or confused. Most of all I remember the people I met, the kids my age as well as their warm and welcoming families. Back then we didn't have the advantages of today's communications, but we kept in touch for many years, right through high school until one too many moves resulted in our falling out of touch.

I know now that you don't have to travel across the world to have that experience. There is so much diversity right here in our own country, and I am proud to support youth having these first-time-alone travel experiences right here at home, be it through group exchange or individual travel opportunities.

We were pleased to bring back our Youth Leadership Forums this year, involving a group of 75 youth participants and youth leaders in a

week-long program to learn more about diversity and inclusion – a key priority identified by the youth involved in our Canada 150&Me program. This event was the first in a planned series of annual Leadership Forums that will tackle a different theme each year. In June 2020, we head to Winnipeg with a dynamic program focused on building knowledge and leadership in the area of advancing Reconciliation, and plans are already underway for a 2021 Youth Leadership Forum on the Environment.

We have also made a commitment to developing educational and planning resources to support our group organizers. The first such resource, a classroom poster detailing Canada's Treaty and Land Claims territories, was released last November. We will be supplementing our resources related to Indigenous history and Reconciliation with a series of pre-trip planning activities and classroom resources to aid those planning cultural exchanges, and launching a special group organizers' training weekend in Winnipeg next June.

While there is a steady growing interest in exploring the diversity of Canada's Indigenous cultures and

communities, still fully half of the exchanges we support are between French and English communities seeking opportunities to further their second language education. This was the founding purpose of our organization over 84 year ago, and remains a very important part of what we do. To commemorate Canada's official languages, we have published a new classroom resource map illustrating the history and cultural contributions of Canada's minority language communities. The new wall-sized map will be distributed to all group organizers involved in a linguistic exchange in the coming year, with additional copies available for purchase through our website.

Our goal every year is to offer more opportunities for more youth to travel to parts of the country they otherwise might never see. In so doing, we hope after their experience they see their own country differently – in some ways, we hope their perspective of Canada is broader, but at the same time, we also hope they see it as a little smaller than they imagined.


Deborah Morrison

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR, AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Audit and Finance Committee of Experiences Canada I am pleased to report the financial results for the 2018-19 fiscal year. This report is derived from Experiences Canada's audited financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2019, which are available on our website or upon request.

Experiences Canada completed its final year of a three-year funding agreement with the Federal Government's Exchanges Canada Program. We wish to thank the Minister and staff at the Department of Canadian Heritage Exchanges Canada for their steadfast support and commitment to our program and are pleased that a new three-year agreement for the 2019-2022 period has been renewed.

In 2018-19 revenue was up by 12% at \$5.80 million compared to the previous year's revenue of \$5.18 million. Net expenditures also increased by 12% from last year, from \$5.22 million to \$5.84 million. Special measures funding of \$95,650 was provided as additional financial assistance to ensure equal access to the exchange program.

Experiences Canada's Youth Leadership Forum on Diversity and Inclusion contributed to the increase in revenues and expenses. Experiences Canada invested \$56,725 from its own reserves towards the project. Overall, Experiences Canada ended the year with a net deficit of \$38,777.

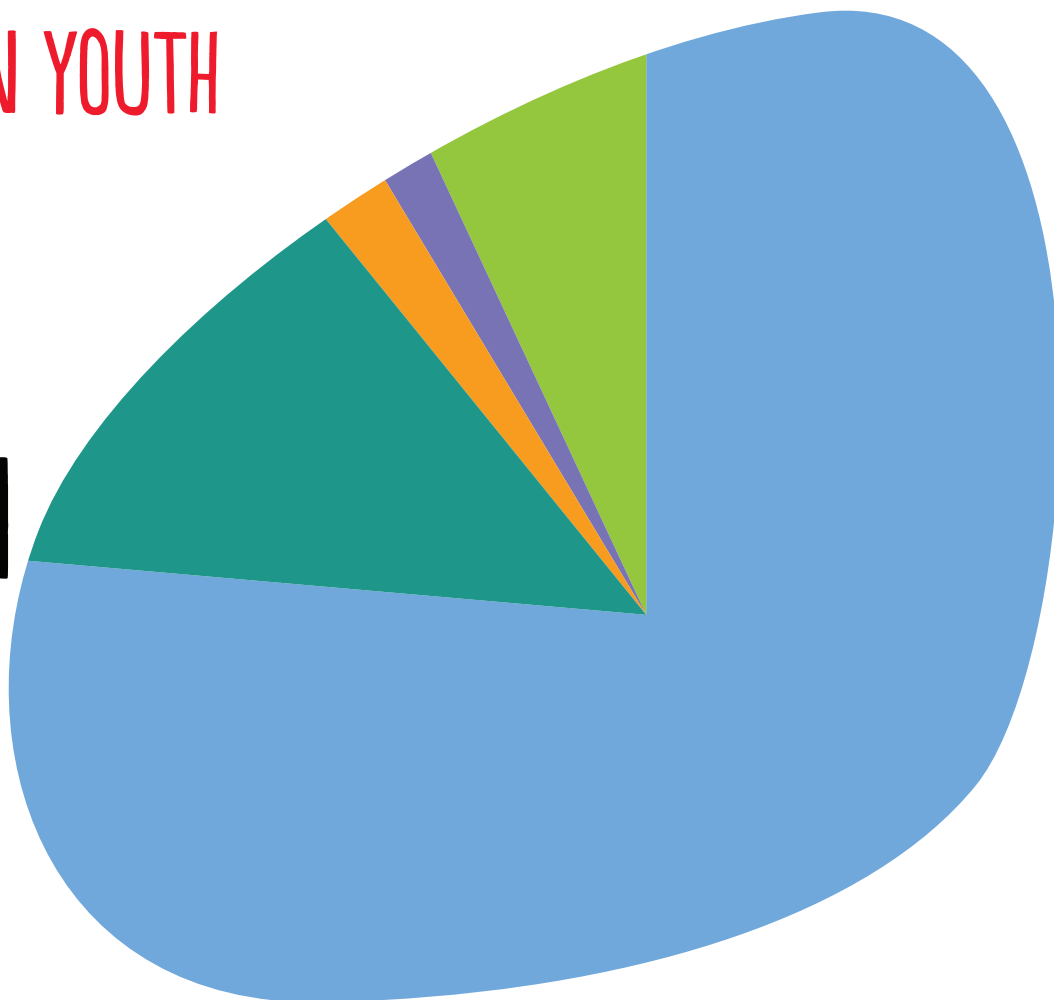
We would like to thank our individual contributors and funding partners RBC, Canada Life, Uniglobe, Westjet and Air Canada, for their generous support of this year's programs.

Denise Nawata

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Nawata".

INVESTMENT IN YOUTH EXCHANGES:

\$5,843,661
IN 2018/19



76%

Youth Travel
\$4,472,330

2%

Marketing/PR
\$124,800

7%

Corporate/Other
\$400,850

13%

Program Delivery Nat'l
Coordination
\$750,031

2%

Special Measures
\$95,650