

FINAL REPORT OF THE 2023 CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE Y20



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Overview

The Youth 20 (Y20) Summit, as part of the G20 summit process, is a pivotal platform where youth delegates from G20 economies collaborate to develop policy recommendations for global leaders. The 2023 summit, hosted by India, focused on themes such as the Future of Work, Peacebuilding, Climate Change, Youth in Governance, and Health, Wellbeing, and Sports. Managed by Young Diplomats of Canada (YDC), the Canadian delegation played a significant role in shaping the summit's outcomes.

Key Highlights of the Report

- **Pre-Summit and Final Summit Experiences:** The Canadian delegation actively participated in both the Pre-Summit in Leh Ladakh and the Final Summit in Varanasi, India. These events offered a blend of policy discussions and cultural immersion, providing a comprehensive understanding of global youth priorities across the G20.
- **Negotiation and Policy Development:** Delegates engaged in rigorous policy analysis and negotiations, contributing significantly to the Y20 communiqué. The process involved virtual and in-person discussions, focusing on consensus-building across diverse socio-economic realities and priorities.
- **Engagement, Outreach, and Advocacy:** The Canadian delegation's approach was rooted in inclusivity and diversity. Extensive research, consultations, and stakeholder mapping were conducted to ensure that the voices of Canadian youth were accurately and effectively represented.
- **Guiding Principles and Policy Framework:** The delegation adhered to core principles such as inclusive consultation, diversity in decision-making, and equity impact assessment, ensuring that the advocacy conducted by Canadian youth was aligned with our core values of diversity and inclusion.

Post-Summit Advocacy: Following the summit, the delegation has been actively involved in advocating for the adoption and implementation of the Y20 communiqué's policy recommendations at the national level.

The Canadian delegation's involvement in the 2023 Y20 summit was marked by a commitment to representing the diverse voices of Canadian youth. Despite the challenges encountered, the delegation's efforts in policy development, negotiation, and advocacy have contributed to shaping a more inclusive and sustainable future for youth globally.

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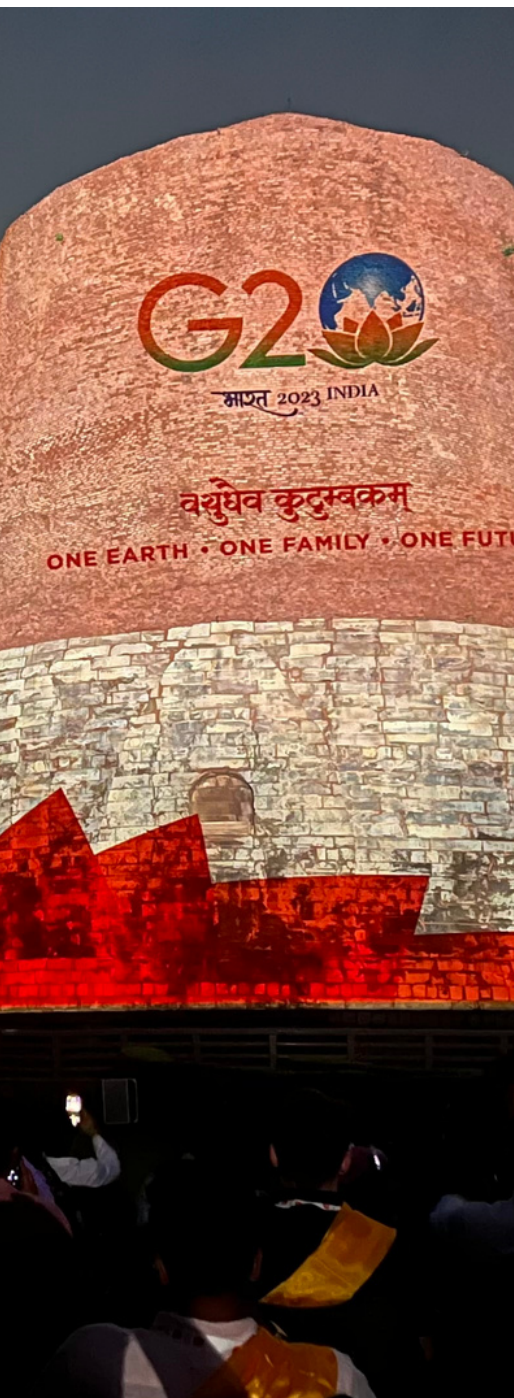
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INTRODUCTION



The Youth 20 (Y20) Summit is the official youth engagement group of the Group of 20 (G20). The Y20 is a forum where delegates from G20 economies gather annually to formulate, negotiate, and agree upon policy recommendations. These recommendations, reflecting the priorities and aspirations of global youth, are subsequently presented to G20 political leaders in a communiqué. The Y20 is a critical part of the G20 summit process, offering a youth perspective alongside other civil society engagement groups such as the Labour 20, Parliament 20, Science 20, Think 20, Women 20, and more.

In 2023, India assumed the G20 presidency, adopting the theme “One Earth, One Family, One Future.” Under this presidency, the Y20 focused on five key thematic tracks:

- **Future of Work:** Industry 4.0, Innovation, and 21st Century Skills.
- **Peacebuilding and Reconciliation:** Advocating for an Era of No War.
- **Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction:** Championing Sustainability as a Way of Life.
- **Shared Future:** Focusing on Youth in Democracy and Governance.
- **Health, Wellbeing, and Sports:** Setting an Agenda for Youth.

The Canadian Y20 delegation is managed by [Young Diplomats of Canada \(YDC\)](#), a national, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young Canadians through international delegations, research projects, and advocacy initiatives. Detailed information about current and past Canadian Y20 delegates [can be found here](#).

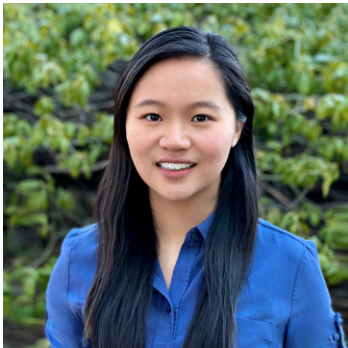
Participating in the Y20 process offers young individuals a distinctive platform to influence policy development, projecting the demands and concerns of youth to global leaders. This involvement not only empowers young people to voice their issues actively but also paves the way for them to engage in research, advocacy, and stakeholder consultations, effectively representing the youth of their nation.

During Y20 meetings and summits, delegates partake in rigorous discussions and negotiations, honing skills in policy analysis, engagement, and diplomacy. This exposure to the varied realities, perspectives, and ideologies of their G20 counterparts fosters a deeper understanding of global issues. Delegates navigate through complex policy details and challenging conversations about differing values, striving to find common ground. The Y20 experience transforms participants into not just future leaders but active contributors to the global political and socio-economic fabric, of which they are an essential part.

The objective of this delegation report is to provide an overview of our experience as Canada's Y20 delegation of 2023 and disseminate the lessons learned from this rewarding journey. We hope this report will help improve the accessibility and visibility of the Y20 experience for future delegates and prospective applicants, highlighting the support and kindness we received in walking this path.



CANADA'S 2023 YOUTH 20 DELEGATION



Angela Minyi Hou was the Head Delegate of Canada's Youth 20 Delegation and the negotiator in the "Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century Skills" track. As head delegate, her responsibilities included overseeing the delegation's coordination and work plan, liaising with the Y20 Secretariat and executives of Young Diplomats of Canada, organizing delegation-wide consultations with external stakeholders, negotiating with other Y20 head delegates at the final summit and more. During her time as a Y20 delegate, she worked as a policy advisor in the Government of Canada. Angela is enthusiastic about international policy challenges relating to environmental sustainability, trade and investment, and development partnerships.



Michael Lecchino served as a Substitute Delegate and Organizing Committee Representative for Canada's Youth 20 Delegation at the 2023 Y20 Summit in Varanasi, India. In this dual role, he contributed to the Peacebuilding and Reconciliation track and liaised with other Y20 organizers, playing a vital part in enhancing the summit's framework for collaboration. Michael's diverse experiences, ranging from local youth councils to international summits, and his work with Parks Canada, highlight his dedication to participatory leadership and environmental stewardship.



Aubrey-Anne Laliberte-Pewapisconias served as the Communications Coordinator of Canada's Youth 20 Delegation and the negotiator in the "Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life" track. The Communications Coordinator was responsible for producing content and visuals to promote the delegation's activities before, during, and after the summit. She was also in charge of producing and distributing the Youth Policy Survey. While serving on the delegation, Aubrey was a graduate student in her Master of Sustainability and worked with various organizations that specialized in programming for Indigenous Youth and clean energy. She is an avid advocate for the protection of Mother Earth and passionate about ensuring that Indigenous Peoples are acknowledged and enabled to lead in their role in climate action.



David He served as the Co-Engagement Coordinator of Canada's Youth 20 Delegation in the "Shared Future: Youth in Governance" negotiation track. In this role, his responsibilities encompassed organizing stakeholder meetings and planning the delegation's engagement strategies. As a negotiator, he prioritized building bridges and uniting diverse perspectives to create collaborative solutions for increasing youth participation in government across the G20. Serving concurrently on the Prime Minister's Youth Council, he is passionate about connecting stories, culture and numbers to drive impact in public policy.



Linxi Mytkolli played a key role as the Co-Engagement Coordinator by developing a comprehensive engagement strategy and principles, as well as integrating an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) lens into the team's consultations and policy advocacy. In her capacity as a delegate in the "Health and Wellbeing" track, Linxi brought a unique blend of professional expertise and personal lived experience, enriching the discussions with her insights. Her work at Diabetes Action Canada, where she champions patient engagement and participatory research, underscores her commitment to inclusive and community-driven healthcare. As a first-generation Canadian and a person with a disability, Linxi's contributions to policy-making are deeply informed by her diverse background, embodying her dedication to creating a more inclusive and equitable future in healthcare and beyond.

THE Y20 COMMUNIQUÉ

The Y20 2023 communiqué, a consensus document adopted by G20 youth representatives, is accessible [here](#). This communiqué represents a significant achievement of the Y20 summit, encapsulating the collective voice and policy recommendations of young leaders from across the G20 nations.

The Y20 platform offers a unique opportunity for young people to collaborate and influence the G20's agenda. The communiqué calls upon G20 leaders to embrace and implement policies that resonate with and address the concerns and aspirations of young people globally. This initiative is pivotal in ensuring that the voices of the next generation are not only heard but also integral in shaping policies across various spheres, from government to grassroots movements.

The Canadian delegation's policy priorities were meticulously crafted based on comprehensive inputs gathered through online surveys, research, consultations, and other means, ensuring that they accurately reflected the perspectives of Canadian youth. As Canada's Y20 delegates, we diligently worked to incorporate as many of these viewpoints as possible into the final communiqué. We take pride in the fact that, despite the inevitable compromises, the essence of our policy proposals is evident in the final communiqué. Our efforts were focused on aligning with and advancing Canada's national priorities, steering policy-making towards sustainable development and inclusive growth that truly encapsulates the needs of youth.

Following the adoption of the communiqué, Y20 representatives, including our delegation, have embarked on the crucial post-summit advocacy phase. This involves presenting our collective policy recommendations to political leaders and officials at the national level, advocating for their adoption and implementation. This phase is critical in translating the outcomes of the Y20 summit into tangible policy changes.

[Read the 2023 Y20 Communiqué here.](#)

Y20 PRE-SUMMIT

The Y20 Pre-Summit, hosted by the Indian Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs in Leh Ladakh from April 26-28, 2023, brought together over 100 delegates from around 30 countries, including G20 members and invited nations and organizations. This event set a constructive tone for the final summit scheduled for August 2023.

Beyond its role as a preliminary event, the Pre-Summit offered a unique opportunity for cultural immersion into the heart of northern India's spirituality. Our delegation's journey commenced with an exploration of Leh, a town nestled in the Himalayas at an elevation exceeding 12,000 feet. The tranquil beauty of Ladakh provided a contemplative environment for delegates to discuss our collective goals for our Y20 policy recommendations.

The Pre-Summit facilitated invaluable knowledge exchange and networking opportunities. The Indian presidency organized round-table discussions, enabling each delegate to present their initial policy positions and research insights. These interactions allowed for a foundational understanding of the diverse priorities of G20 youth, subsequently enriching the Canadian delegation's approach to domestic consultation and engagement.



Our cultural experiences, such as visiting the Hemis Monastery and witnessing the Cham dance, a vibrant expression of Tibetan Buddhism, fostered informal interactions with fellow delegates. These moments in Ladakh's high mountain passes were instrumental in building professional relationships and understanding the host country's societal dynamics.

The decision to organize two in-person summits was a special one by the Y20 host, and we are thankful for India's hospitality. For future delegates, we recommend embracing the local culture, actively engaging in discussions to identify common ground, and participating in both formal and informal events. Such an approach not only enriches the delegate experience but also fosters meaningful connections and advances Canadian youth priorities.



Y20 FINAL SUMMIT

In-Country Experience

The Y20 Final Summit in Varanasi, held from August 16-20, 2023, was a profound blend of diplomatic dialogue and cultural immersion. Situated in one of India's most spiritually significant cities, the summit brought together global youth representatives to finalize and sign the communiqué amidst the sacred ambiance of the Ganges River.

Adapting to the host country's culture and political context was crucial. Respecting local customs, dressing appropriately, and maintaining an open mindset were key to our successful engagement. We learned the importance of flexibility and preparedness for unexpected situations, which fostered more authentic interactions with the local environment and communities. Small gestures, like offering Canadian lapel pins, facilitated warm introductions and lasting impressions.

The Y20 journey, while enriching, presented its challenges. In Leh, delegates faced altitude sickness, and in Varanasi, we dealt with health issues and intense negotiation sessions. Adhering to strict security protocols as directed by the Y20 Secretariat added another layer of complexity. These experiences taught us about the value of resilience and mutual support. We advise future delegates to embrace these challenges with a positive outlook and a growth mindset.

In this regard, we are especially grateful for the guidance and advice of officials at Global Affairs Canada, both in Ottawa and Delhi. Their insights into India's political landscape, diplomatic priorities, and G20 presidency were invaluable for navigating the Y20 negotiations and understanding the broader context of our engagement.

Negotiations

The Y20 presidency of India in 2023 envisioned a concise and actionable structure for the final communiqué. Each of the five negotiation tracks was tasked with producing one page of policy recommendations by consensus, complemented by an additional page of cross-cutting proposals addressing youth priorities at the intersection of multiple tracks. The Indian host outlined the scope of each Y20 track through white papers published in early 2023.

In preparation for the pre-summit in April, delegates were requested to submit a 50-word synopsis of their policy priorities. These synopses formed the basis for preliminary roundtable discussions at the pre-summit. Under the guidance of track facilitators, the delegates in each track co-developed a negotiation process, incorporating a compilation of these delegate submissions to aid the discussions.

The bulk of negotiations occurred virtually between May and August 2023. Delegates, drawing from domestic consultations and desk research, presented policy recommendations in the form of proposals and solutions. Negotiation tracks then strived to reach consensus on communiqué language through text-based discussions, often structured around 3-4 sub-themes set by the Indian host or collectively by delegates. Often, proposals were initially developed in smaller working groups before being presented to the entire track for endorsement. Throughout this process, delegates utilized creative and transparent collaboration tools for drafting and editing, navigating challenges such as uneven participation across Y20 delegates and time zone differences.

The final stage of negotiations took place offline in Varanasi in August 2023. Each track dedicated a full day to resolving remaining divergences, with complex issues escalated to the head of delegation level, alongside cross-cutting policy proposals. Head delegates engaged in intensive negotiations, finding alternative wording and making trade-offs to address the diverse concerns of the youth collective, ultimately reaching consensus on the adopted text.

The Canadian delegation's active participation in track and bilateral meetings, working groups, and summits provided us with a deep understanding of our G20 counterparts' positions and agendas. This knowledge was instrumental in planning our interventions, contributing to debates, and leading consensus-building efforts. Our delegates played pivotal roles across the Y20 negotiations, shaping the direction and wording of policy proposals in collaboration with other delegates. We proactively proposed negotiation modalities, mediated disagreements, and spearheaded organizational planning for virtual negotiations.

Internally, our team of Canadian delegates exchanged information and strategies on policy proposals that faced opposition, engaging non-like-minded counterparts in individual negotiation rooms and at in-person summits. The Canadian stance on equity, inclusion, and sustainability was well-recognized and prominently featured in our negotiation approach. We remained open-minded yet steadfast in our commitment to diversity, despite the varying socio-economic landscapes of other G20 countries.



Summit Reflection

Reflecting on the 2023 Y20 process, we acknowledge some disappointment with the level of ambition in this year's communiqué and its reflection of Canadian values and priorities. However, we recognize that consensus-building necessitates compromise, which can at times dilute the boldness of action. To enhance the impact of future policy proposals in Y20 negotiations, we suggest the following:

- Draft actionable, evidence-based policy proposals following SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) goal-setting principles. Express ideas clearly and concisely in text-based negotiations.
- Consider the best policy instruments and levers for your objectives, ensuring relevance across diverse G20 economies and their different political structures.
- Sensitize counterparts to your policy rationale, and engage them early with a view to understanding how your position aligns or diverges from the challenges of other G20 members.
- Present draft proposals to like-minded representatives first, adjusting based on their feedback before sharing with all Y20 counterparts.
- Prioritize and triage proposals, understanding that not all your ideas will make it to the final communiqué.
- Agree on Canadian team priorities and integrate them into Canada's negotiation position in each track, notably with respect to mainstreaming equity considerations.
- Keep the head of delegation informed on individual track discussions for consistent representation across the team.



ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY



As the Canadian delegation embarked on the Y20 journey, our focus was clear: to advocate and reach out effectively, ensuring that the voices of Canadian youth influenced global youth policies. In the sections that follow, we outline our guiding principles, our stance on equity, diversity, and inclusion, as well as the comprehensive engagement plan that guided our efforts.

Guiding Principles and Policy Framework

The strategies outlined below serve as the foundational principles and aspirations of the delegation. Recognizing the inherent constraints of a youth delegation, including limited funding and the voluntary nature of our roles, these principles have been instrumental in steering our efforts. While the full realization of each principle was at times hindered, they collectively functioned as a 'North Star', consistently guiding our ongoing endeavors and informing our policy positions in alignment with our core values of diversity and inclusion.

- 01. Inclusive Consultation and Engagement:**
Committing to seek and incorporate input from a diverse array of stakeholders, ensuring that a multitude of voices are heard and considered in policy-making.
- 02. Representation and Diversity in Decision-Making:**
Striving for varied perspectives in decision-making processes to foster inclusivity and equitable representation.

- 03. Assessment for Equity Impact:** Evaluating policies for their potential impact on equity, aiming to identify and address disparities.
- 04. Awareness and Education on Diversity:** Promoting an understanding of diversity through educational initiatives and direct engagement, emphasizing the importance of appropriate compensation.
- 05. Data-Driven Approaches to Inclusion:** Utilizing data collection and analysis on diversity and inclusion metrics to inform and guide decision-making.
- 06. Cultural Competence and Respect:** Emphasizing the importance of understanding and respecting diverse cultures and perspectives.
- 07. Partnerships with Communities:** Engaging in equitable partnerships with community organizations to foster inclusion and support for underserved communities.
- 08. Advocacy for Inclusive Language and Symbols:** Promoting the use of language and symbols that are inclusive and non-discriminatory.
- 09. Support for Inclusive Legal Frameworks:** Advocating for legal frameworks and policies that enhance diversity and inclusion.
- 10. Diversity in Public Procurement:** Encouraging the inclusion of diverse suppliers and businesses in procurement processes.



Equity Statement

The Y20 Canadian Delegation emphasizes the paramount importance of equity, particularly for women and girls, racialized peoples, visible minorities, Indigenous peoples, newcomers and immigrants, individuals with disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA+ persons, low-income communities, and other groups deserving of equity. This commitment extends to addressing discrimination based on age, ethnicity, race, linguistic expression, cultural background, nationality, immigration status, marital status, caste, religion, and economic status.

In advocating for inclusive policy-making, the delegation recognizes its critical role in fostering a just and equitable society. Inclusive advocacy ensures the incorporation of diverse voices, needs, and perspectives in the formulation and implementation of policies. The following are key reasons underscoring the importance of this approach, accompanied by aspirational strategies that have guided the delegation's work:

- **Representation:** Advocacy for the inclusion of underserved groups in policy discussions is essential to address their unique challenges and needs.
- **Equity:** Policies that acknowledge and aim to reduce disparities in access to resources, opportunities, and services are crucial for diverse communities.
- **Innovation:** Diverse perspectives are invaluable in driving innovation to address complex societal challenges.
- **Social Cohesion:** Policies that promote a sense of belonging and participation for all citizens are fundamental to enhancing societal harmony and unity.
- **Human Rights and Social Justice:** Aligning advocacy with Canada's commitment to human rights and social justice is imperative to address historical and ongoing injustices.



Engagement Principles

Building upon our Guiding Principles and Policy Framework, the Canadian Y20 delegation's engagement strategy was underpinned by specific principles that guided our advocacy journey. These principles not only reflect our commitment to diversity and inclusion but also demonstrate the practical application of our overarching policy framework.

01. Reciprocity: Honoring Generosity with Generosity

We recognized the significant request we made of youth and experts who generously shared their time and expertise. In response, our commitment was to honor their invaluable contributions by reciprocating with transparency—sharing what we advocated for and how their insights shaped our advocacy.

02. Co-Creation: Shaping Policies Together

Our engagement strategy was deeply rooted in the belief that the most effective policies emerge from collaborative efforts. Every voice and perspective held equal weight in our consultations, where contributions from youth, experts, and stakeholders directly influenced our policy positions. This approach ensured that our advocacy genuinely represented the diverse needs and priorities of Canadian youth.

03. Balancing Forms of Expertise: Lived, Learned, and Laboured

Expertise takes on various forms—lived, learned, and labored. We placed equal value on the wisdom derived from lived experiences, the knowledge stemming from academic sources and thought leaders, and the insights gained by those actively working in the field. Our approach was inclusive, recognizing and integrating all these forms of expertise into our advocacy efforts.

ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Preparatory Phase

Our engagement strategy during the preparatory phase was meticulously crafted to align with both our Guiding Principles and Engagement Principles:

- **Research and Policy Analysis:** To uphold the principle of evidence-based decision-making, we conducted extensive desk research to understand the state of play and future trends of our respective negotiation topics. Across the Y20 delegation, research tasks were equitably and thoughtfully assigned to team members based on their availability and expertise. Delegates drew from a variety of sources, including publications by international organizations, youth NGOs, civil society organizations, government and academia. In particular, we examined Canada's current international obligations and agreements to understand how G20 counterparts may see Canada in these spaces to date.
- **Design of Consultation Framework:** Our delegation developed an online consultation framework that facilitated asynchronous participation. Utilizing platforms such as online surveys, discussion boards, and collaborative documents, we provided time-bound opportunities for stakeholders to provide input. This approach allowed team members to collate and analyze feedback within available timeframes.
- **Stakeholder Mapping and Consultations:** We identified and initiated discussions with organizations operating in each of the five Y20 track themes across Canada. For example, we engaged with federal government departments with related portfolios and agencies focused on youth-related matters. Through virtual meetings and collaborative online platforms, we collected insights and policy priorities.
- **Gender Mainstreaming and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Considerations:** To understand the unique needs and priorities of diverse youth groups in Canada, including Indigenous youth, newcomer youth, international students, young people not in school, rural and urban youth, we organized virtual focus groups and an online survey. Existing equity research and reports also informed our gender mainstreaming strategies.

ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Consultation Phase

The consultation phase brought our engagement strategy to life, enabling meaningful connections and insights:

- **Regional Consultations:** Collaborating with regional youth organizations, schools, and community centers, we organized virtual consultations. Sessions were scheduled in the evenings and weekends to accommodate diverse participant availability. Virtual meeting platforms with flexible scheduling options were utilized.
- **Online Engagement:** Leveraging online platforms and existing digital channels, we engaged a broader audience asynchronously. Our efforts were bolstered by social media campaigns and an online survey to gather youth insights and priorities.
- **High-Level Policy Dialogue:** Engaging with policy-makers and high-level decision-makers such as Ministers and Deputies allowed us to learn from the Sherpa track of Canada's participation in the G20 and other policy leaders in the federal government.
- **Synthesis and Analysis:** Our team synthesized input from consultations, surveys, meetings, and secondary literature to inform our policy positions as we entered Y20 negotiations. Collaborative online platforms and virtual meetings facilitated discussions and the consolidation of findings. We also dedicated ourselves to understanding the intersections between policy priorities and the five Y20 themes, recognizing that climate, labor, health, peacebuilding, and governance are not topics that can or should be addressed in silos.

The above engagement phases laid the foundation for our advocacy journey, informing the policy recommendations we ardently championed at the Y20 Summit on behalf of Canadian youth. Our steadfast dedication to equity, diversity, and inclusion guided us throughout this process, enabling us to genuinely acknowledge and prioritize the perspectives of marginalized communities who often encounter systemic obstacles.



Strategic Discussions and Meetings

Throughout the Y20 cycle, our delegation engaged in strategic discussions with decision-makers at various levels:

- **Consultation with Canada's G20 Sherpa:** We shared youth priorities and exchanged ideas with Canadian representatives in other G20 engagement groups during a virtual consultation.
- **Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs:** Our interaction with David Morrison prior to the Y20 pre-summit provided insights into his experiences and priorities in representing Canada at international summits.
- **Engagement with Canadian Diplomats in New Delhi:** Both virtual and in-person meetings with diplomats at the Canadian High Commission offered invaluable advice on bilateral relations, India's G20 presidency, and strategies for effective negotiation at international summits.
- **Virtual Meeting with the Office of the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth:** This meeting helped us understand Canada's initiatives and policies related to youth and gender equality.

TRACK-SPECIFIC OUTREACH AND CONSULTATIONS

The Canadian delegation's approach to the Y20 Summit involved comprehensive outreach and consultations across various tracks. These efforts were aimed at gathering diverse perspectives and insights to inform our policy recommendations and advocacy strategies.

Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation, and 21st Century Skills

For the Future of Work track, insights were gathered from representatives across government agencies, academia, and industry. This included representatives from Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED), Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and Horizons Canada. Researchers from the University of Toronto and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) also contributed their perspectives.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Championing Sustainability as a Way of Life

In the Climate Change track, a diverse range of experts and stakeholders were consulted to deepen understanding of environmental issues. Connections were made with Stephen de Boer from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Tyson Acoose (lawyer specializing in clean energy), and Skw'akw'as Sunshine Dunstan-Moore (Indigenous Climate and Policy Advisor). Janna Wale from the Canadian Climate Institute also provided valuable insights. Additionally, survey results from various demographics offered a broad overview of public opinion on climate issues.

Shared Future: Focusing on Youth in Democracy and Governance

In the Shared Future track, perspectives were sought from two high school teachers, one from a public school and another from a private institution, in British Columbia. Their insights contributed to a deeper understanding of civic education. Engagement also included discussions with seven youth activists from Colombia, Zimbabwe, and Canada, who brought valuable knowledge on grassroots movements. This was complemented by expertise from Global Affairs Canada officials and direct interactions with a Canadian Senator, a Parliamentary Secretary, and a Member of Parliament.

Health, Wellbeing, and Sports: Setting an Agenda for Youth

In the Health track, a comprehensive approach was taken to understand and address the multifaceted aspects of youth health and wellbeing. This involved engaging with a diverse range of organizations and leveraging extensive research to inform policy recommendations.

Youth Perspectives and Data Analysis

- **Youthful Cities' The Grid:** Utilized as a key resource, The Grid offered an extensive database of youth voices and data points. This open-source portal provided insights from thousands of survey responses and interviews, enabling a nuanced understanding of youth needs and preferences across various Canadian cities.
- **Young Canadians Roundtable on Health (YCRH):** Consultations with YCRH helped in understanding the healthcare concerns and policy needs of young Canadians, particularly in the realm of health insurance and efficient health cost management.

Mental Health and Substance Use

- **Center for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH):** Insights from CAMH, a leading mental health research center, informed the understanding of mental health and addiction issues among youth.
- **Frayme:** This national network's vision and mission of transforming youth mental health and substance use systems in Canada provided a framework for advocating accessible and timely care for youth.

World Health Organization (WHO) Youth Delegate Focus Groups: Discussions on mental health, healthcare workforce strengthening, and climate health offered a global perspective, enriching the Y20 policy recommendations.

Chronic Health Conditions

- **Diabetes Action Canada:** Engagement with this network brought forward the health concerns of those living with diabetes, emphasizing the need for patient-centered research and care.

Leveraging Research and Reports

- **Canada Health Infoway and Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI):** These organizations' work in promoting digital health infrastructure and providing health data analysis was instrumental in understanding the current landscape and future needs of Canada's health systems.
- **Kids Help Phone and Mental Health Commission of Canada:** Their focus on digital and mobile health services for youth, and advocacy for mental health improvement, respectively, provided valuable insights into the mental health needs and resources available to Canadian youth.
- **First Nations Health Authority and Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (ISPARC):** Their emphasis on traditional Indigenous approaches to health and wellness, including sport and physical activity, was crucial in formulating inclusive health policies.
- **Spirit North and Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities:** These organizations' work in promoting physical activity among Indigenous and other youth populations helped in understanding the role of sports and physical activity in youth wellbeing.
- **Black Health Alliance:** Engagement with this organization provided insights into the specific health needs and challenges faced by Black communities in Canada.

This comprehensive approach to consultation and research ensured that the health track's policy recommendations were informed by a broad spectrum of perspectives and data, encompassing mental health, chronic conditions, digital health, and the unique health needs of diverse youth populations, including Indigenous and racialized communities.

POST-SUMMIT ADVOCACY AND MOBILIZATION



The Canadian Y20 delegation's commitment to amplifying youth voices did not end with the adoption of the Y20 communiqué at the final summit. Rather, concluding the negotiation process marked the beginning of an equally vital phase of our advocacy journey.

- **Sharing the Communiqué with Stakeholders:** Returning from the summit, our first order of business was to close the loop with the groups, experts, and communities that had generously supported our consultations and advocacy efforts. We shared the communiqué, demonstrating the tangible results of their invaluable input.
- **Mobilizing Outcomes** - Webinar, Highlight Video, and Article: To ensure that the outcomes of our advocacy reached a wider audience, we shared our reflections via the following channels:
 - **Public Webinar:** We organized a public webinar to discuss the key policy recommendations our Canadian delegation brought to and from the Y20 Summit. This interactive platform allowed us to engage with a diverse audience and shed light on the youth-centered policies we championed. **[Click here to see the webinar slides.](#)**

- **Highlight Reel:** Recognizing the power of visual storytelling, we created a highlight reel of our Y20 Summit journey. Incorporating photos and videos from the summit, as well as our pre-summit consultations and behind-the-scenes moments, this video served as a captivating snapshot of our advocacy journey and a way to encourage future delegates to apply.
- **Article Publication:** We penned an article that encapsulated the essence of our experience at the Y20 Summit. This article, intended for a broader readership, shared insights on the importance of involving youth in policy-making and highlighted the impact of youth-led advocacy at the global, national and local levels.
- **Seeking Follow-Up Meetings with Policy Leaders:** Our commitment to youth priorities did not stop at sharing outcomes; it extended to actively seeking follow-up meetings with policy leaders. In these meetings, we aim to report back on our negotiations and highlight the significance of incorporating youth-centered policies into their portfolios and decision-making processes. Since returning from the final summit, we have also met with Canadian representatives to other G20 engagement groups, such as Business 20 and StartUp 20.

The culmination of our engagement, outreach, and advocacy efforts is reflected in the policy recommendations we developed. These recommendations, influenced by our consultations across various tracks are more than just a collection of ideas. They represent a concerted effort to bring about meaningful change. As we move to discuss the specific policy outcomes by track, it is clear that our efforts were not just about raising awareness, but about creating actionable solutions.



POLICY TAKEAWAYS BY TRACK

As we transition from our collective acknowledgements to the specific policy takeaways from the 2023 Y20 Summit, it is important to recognize the diverse areas of focus that each delegate from our Canadian team passionately advocated for. These policy takeaways represent the culmination of our research, discussions, and negotiations. Each of the five track summaries below highlights unique perspectives and solutions that we, as the Canadian delegation, brought to the international stage.

Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century Skills

In addressing the future of work, the Canadian delegate's advocacy was instrumental in shaping the G20's approach. The delegate emphasized the importance of a comprehensive strategy for lifelong learning and human capital investment, prioritizing equity, diversity, and inclusion. This aligns with the communiqué's emphasis on lifelong learning, particularly in digital and green skills, to ensure no one is left behind in the evolving job market.

The delegate also highlighted the necessity of quality employment and robust social safety nets for gig economy workers. The communiqué echoes this sentiment, recognizing the need for quality employment and social protection for all workers, including those in non-standard forms of employment.

Further, the Canadian delegate advocated for enhancing systems-level readiness for the future of work, in addition to cross-cutting skills like digital literacy and gender-responsive training. The communiqué supports this through its call for inclusive and equitable education and training systems that cater to these all-encompassing skill sets.

The Canadian advocacy for labor mobility and cross-border innovation, such as talent-sharing, is reflected in the communiqué's encouragement of international cooperation and the exchange of best practices in labor and employment policies.

Lastly, the Canadian delegate's push for mobilizing public and private financing for the youth start-up ecosystem finds resonance in the communiqué's highlight of the critical role of entrepreneurship and innovation in job creation, especially for youth. This comprehensive approach aims to prepare the workforce for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, fostering a more inclusive and sustainable economic future.

Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Ushering in an Era of No War

In the realm of peacebuilding, Canada's advocacy focused on policies that respect and empower diverse groups, including youth, women, racialized and minority groups, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ+ individuals, and populations with disabilities. This approach recognizes that these populations face disproportionate and heightened threats both during and outside of wartime. In alignment with this stance, the communiqué calls for the integration of topics such as female empowerment, reduced inequalities, and Indigenous knowledge systems into school curricula and non-formal education.

Addressing the intersection of gender and conflict, the Canadian delegate emphasized the need to learn from systemic patterns of gendered violence in war. This is crucial to reduce gender disparities and ensure gender equity during both war and peacetime. Correspondingly, the communiqué advocates for the proper implementation of Women, Peace, and Security principles, focusing on integration, inclusiveness, and integrity. It underscores the importance of women-led processes in conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peacekeeping, and post-conflict reconstruction efforts. Additionally, it recommends adopting culturally sensitive strategies for repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration, and post-conflict reconstruction that reflect the needs, realities, and perspectives of women and girls. It also calls for the implementation of reporting mechanisms, alongside the formal justice system, for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

Lastly, on youth mainstreaming in peacebuilding processes, Canada put forth recommendations for youth involvement in peacebuilding initiatives and international cooperation. The communiqué supports this by advocating for the implementation of frameworks that eradicate prejudice towards younger generations and enable youth to assume leadership roles in peace-related decision-making. This approach is aimed at fostering lasting peace through active and meaningful youth participation.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Championing Sustainability as a Way of Life

Indigenous communities, which constitute approximately 5 percent of the global population, are instrumental in the stewardship of an extraordinary 80 percent of the world's biodiversity. This stewardship has a profound impact on the global environment. In recognition of this, our Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction delegate was steadfast in advocating for policy priorities that not only acknowledged but also actively safeguarded Indigenous knowledge and governance structures.

Central to our advocacy within the broader framework of the Action for Climate Empowerment sub-theme was a commitment to ensuring that climate policies are intrinsically linked with the rights of Indigenous peoples. A key achievement in this area was the emphasis on embedding the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in all climate policies. This focus ensures the necessity of free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous communities in climate-related actions and decisions.

This strategic emphasis underscores our delegation's commitment to respecting and integrating the voices and wisdom of Indigenous peoples in the formulation of global climate policy. It reflects a deep understanding of the critical role Indigenous communities play in preserving biodiversity and combating climate change, and it reinforces the need for their active participation and leadership in these global efforts.

Shared Future: Focusing on Youth in Democracy and Governance

In the Shared Future track, the Canadian delegate's contributions were notable in shaping discussions around youth in governance at the G20. The delegate advocated for the representation and empowerment of youth, particularly those marginalized by structural barriers. This advocacy is reflected in the communiqué's emphasis on inclusive and equitable quality education, which aligns with the delegate's focus on ensuring access to learning opportunities for all youth.

The importance of formal strategies for youth participation in governance, such as youth councils or representative bodies, was also highlighted by the delegate. This perspective finds resonance in the communiqué's encouragement of young people's inclusion in governance structures and decision-making processes, acknowledging the significant role of youth in policy development.

Additionally, the Canadian delegate stressed the right to quality education for all youth, advocating for equitable access to higher education. The communiqué supports this view by emphasizing lifelong learning opportunities and skills development, echoing the delegate's emphasis on fair and inclusive educational pathways.

Overall, the Canadian delegate's input contributed to the broader dialogue on youth governance at the Y20, aligning with the communiqué's focus on empowering young people and recognizing their rights in education and governance.

Health, Wellbeing and Sports: Setting an Agenda for Youth

In the health track, we championed a transformative shift in the approach to alcohol and substance use, advocating for a focus on prevention rather than abuse. Consultations with Canadian youth underscored the need for accessible, non-judgmental, and culturally relevant mental health and substance use healthcare. This transformation starts with language, promoting human-centered and non-stigmatizing policies that lead to patient-centered, non-stigmatizing care.

Canada's leadership in participatory research and policy in mental health was central to our advocacy. We stressed meaningful consultations and the inclusion of diverse voices in policy development. We also highlighted the critical role of the healthcare workforce, recognizing the contributions of youth and women. We advocated for enhancing global cooperation and capacity-sharing during crises, including through healthcare expertise exchanges and strengthening healthcare systems' resilience.

Additionally, the Canadian delegate voiced her commitment to building more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive health systems, focusing on achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Our goal was to ensure that healthcare systems are not only accessible but also culturally and socially sensitive, meeting the diverse needs of the communities they serve. As a result of our advocacy, these priorities were included in the final communiqué, reaffirming our dedication to a healthier and more inclusive global future.



Policy Takeaways Conclusion

In summarizing the policy takeaways from each of the five Y20 tracks, it is evident that our delegation's efforts at the Y20 Summit were driven by a deep commitment to inclusivity, sustainability, and forward-thinking solutions. The policies we advocated for not only represent the myriad of voices and needs of Canadian youth; they also reflect our broader vision for a global community that values equity, environmental stewardship, and collaborative governance. These policy takeaways will serve as a guiding light for our continued advocacy and efforts in shaping a more equitable and sustainable world. We hope that our reflections and insights will inspire future delegates and leaders to continue this important work with the same spirit of dedication and innovation.

FUNDRAISING

Another integral part of our journey was navigating the financial aspects of attending the Y20 Final Summit. Participating in international forums such as the Y20 Summit often comes with significant financial challenges, a reality faced by many youth delegations. For our team, this meant finding ways to cover individual travel expenses, as our roles as delegates did not include funding for flights, despite accommodation and meals being provided at the summit.

In response, we developed a sponsorship package aimed at schools, employers, community organizations, and corporations whose missions aligned with our goals. This package outlined the potential value return for sponsors and the impact of our involvement. Our outreach included personalized emails and a detailed flyer, designed to engage potential sponsors and highlight the importance of our participation in the summit.

Despite our diligent efforts, the financial support we received was frankly limited. However, we were fortunate to gain non-financial assistance, such as time off from employers, connections, and research support. These contributions were invaluable in enabling our participation.

This experience has highlighted a significant barrier to participation in such global forums. The financial constraints not only affected us as delegates but also limited our ability to conduct more inclusive and equitable youth consultations. Adhering to our principles of equity, we recognized the importance of compensated focus groups and incentivized surveys to ensure diverse and representative participation. Unfortunately, our limited resources restricted our capacity to implement these inclusive approaches fully.

In sum, our participation in the Y20 Summit was impactful; the skills and knowledge we gained are a testament to the value of our involvement. Despite navigating these financial challenges with resilience and creativity, our fundraising journey was also a lesson in the realities of international youth advocacy. It underscored the need for more accessible and equitable platforms for youth participation, especially for those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. It reinforces the importance of developing more inclusive and supportive structures to ensure that all voices, regardless of financial capability, can contribute meaningfully on the global stage.

DELEGATE REFLECTIONS

Angela Minyi Hou

Serving as Canada's Y20 head delegate and youth representative to the "Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills" track this year has been an immense privilege and a growth-inspiring challenge. I am humbled to have been granted this opportunity by Young Diplomats of Canada, and I am grateful for a role and experience that meaningfully pushed the boundaries of my professional and intellectual comfort zone.

First and foremost, the Y20 experience sharpened critical skill sets that augmented my professional competencies, career aspirations, and analytical growth. As a policy advisor working for the Government of Canada during my time as a Y20 delegate, I appreciated the hands-on opportunity to participate in policy negotiations, conduct comparative research across national jurisdictions, and meet with key stakeholders in the field of future-oriented labor policies. Preparations for and attendance at Y20 meetings improved my analytical and advocacy skills, ultimately making me a better public servant and engaged citizen.

Second, the Y20 process witnessed my growth as a leader. In addition to representing Canada in the Future of Work track, I also held the responsibility of leading the Canadian delegation. Internal to the Canadian team, this responsibility taught me invaluable lessons about managing people, expectations, project timelines, and priorities. Externally, Y20 heads of delegation were responsible for liaising with the Indian Y20 Secretariat at summits, unlocking key areas of negotiation stalemate, and negotiating cross-cutting policy proposals that spanned multiple thematic tracks. During the last days of the final summit, the heads of delegation persisted through a

30+ hour negotiation marathon to reach a consensus on the communiqué. From democracy to climate change to decolonization, the grueling process of compromise across an array of topics made me realize how much I loved the art of negotiation and policy leadership.

Third and most importantly, reflecting on my Y20 experience, I am most grateful for the meaningful connections with my Team Canada and fellow Y20 delegates. The people were the best part. I found immense value and joy in reaching out to my Y20 colleagues and particularly loved getting to know my Future of Work peers. Unlike several of the other tracks, most Y20 delegates in "Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century Skills" did not enter the discussions as subject matter experts, per se. This provided us with the opportunity to learn from each other and conduct research while exchanging findings and views. My fellow Future of Work delegates straddled the dual identity of a youth representative of their country and a productive, collaborative contributor to the negotiation track. I have all the respect in the world for their collaborative spirit and genuine passion. Their interdisciplinary and diverse lived, academic, and professional experiences made every interaction an enriching one. I am in awe of the commonalities we found despite our differences.

If I had to distill my takeaways: compromise can be found, dialogue is rewarding and worthwhile, and multilateral diplomacy works. To future Y20 delegates and prospective applicants: do it. Apply, engage, and make your voice heard. I encourage you to put yourself in unfamiliar spaces of policy dialogue, and challenge yourself as a listener, writer, and negotiator. I hope that you will have as enlightening of an experience as I did.





Michael Lecchino

Representing Canada at the 2023 Y20 Summit in Varanasi, India, was an experience that expanded my horizons in numerous ways. As a delegate in the Peacebuilding and Reconciliation track and an organizing committee representative for Young Diplomats of Canada, this opportunity was a blend of cultural immersion, collaborative diplomacy, and a platform for constructive dialogue.

The journey was an eye-opening adventure, placing me amidst a mosaic of cultures, ideas, and perspectives. It was truly enlightening to witness the youth of various nations converge, each passionately advocating for their ideals. Being in a country as diverse and dynamic as India added depth to the experience, allowing me to appreciate the rich tapestry of this country and the warmth of its people. The hospitality of our hosts was something I will always cherish.

One of the most rewarding aspects was the camaraderie formed within the Canadian delegation. Angela, Aubrey, Linxi, David, and Laurence each brought a unique perspective and skill set, fostering a cohesive team that beautifully represented Canada. The unity and support within our delegation were invaluable, creating an environment that nurtured collaboration and shared learning.

As an organizing committee representative, I had the privilege of engaging with organizers of Y20 delegations from across the G20 members. We discussed concerns and brainstormed ways to enhance the Y20 process. It was an opportunity to voice not just the perspectives of Canadian delegates but also to contribute to the collective improvement of the Y20 Summit experience for all participants to come. Identifying areas for improvement and recognizing successful strategies employed during the 2023 Y20 Summit will undoubtedly contribute to ensuring well-organized summits in the future. The experience also served as a valuable preparatory ground for the upcoming G7 Youth Summit in 2025, when Canada receives the G7 presidency.

This experience has not just broadened my global perspectives but also equipped me with invaluable insights and relationships that I am excited to bring back to Canada. It has reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation and youth representation in global forums. I am immensely grateful to the YDC leadership team for giving me the opportunity to represent Canadian youth internationally.

To fellow Canadian youth, I encourage you to seize such opportunities as they offer a window into the world's intricate dynamics of diplomacy. These experiences not only provide global perspective but also allow you to contribute significantly to shaping our shared future. My time at the Y20 underscored the potential we as young leaders possess in influencing positive global change. Embrace these chances: they are not just about personal growth but about our collective ability to make a meaningful impact. Additionally, stay engaged in your communities; it is where the ripple effects of change often begin, and your local involvement can resonate globally.



Aubrey-Anne Laliberte-Pewapisconias

Summarizing my journey as the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction delegate is a formidable task, as it encompasses a multitude of impactful moments. The privilege and honor of representing Canadian youth in this capacity was not taken lightly. My paramount takeaway from this experience is the realization that our generation stands at the forefront of transformative change, fostering solutions that will ensure a more sustainable future for forthcoming generations while safeguarding our planet. It was profoundly heartening to witness a global cohort of youth delegates advocating fervently for decolonization frameworks, the endorsement of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, and equitable solutions that address the needs of women, youth, individuals with disabilities, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, Small Island Developing States, and more. The sheer dedication and passion of these young leaders made me wish they were leading our nations today.

Drawing from my lifelong teachings about the land, waters, and our kinship with nature, passed down by my family and Elders, I recognize the imperative to fiercely protect and preserve Mother Earth, just as she has done for us. The principles of reciprocity, interconnectedness, stewardship, and the necessity to adapt our lifestyles to sustainable consumption were reinforced during this experience by my fellow track delegates. The powerful calls for "Indigenous land in Indigenous hands" and the acknowledgment that the path to net zero is through Indigenous lands resonated deeply. Witnessing youth from diverse backgrounds unite to champion this cause on a global scale was a revelation that we can stand together. Within the cohort of Climate Change delegates, I am profoundly grateful to have been in the company of those who I believe will lead our climate solutions in the years to come. The emergence of the fifth sub-theme, "Action for Climate Empowerment," within our track was a direct result of the collective resolve of climate delegates, underscoring the imperative for equitable solutions.

Beyond the purview of the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction track, the Y20 showcased solidarity, strength, tenacity, and courage among the youth participants. The culmination of the final Communiqué was a testament to months of rigorous research, meetings, negotiations, policy development, relationship-building, diplomacy, and leadership undertaken by young individuals, with the aim of presenting a document that calls upon G20 leaders to enact the changes that young voices have been advocating for. Collaboratively, we devised ambitious, intergenerational, intersectional, and multilateral proposals that can be realized through unified efforts.

When I first undertook this opportunity, I was admittedly unaware of the magnitude of commitment and responsibility it entailed. It is essential to acknowledge that the Pre-Summit, logistical planning, consultations, delegation meetings, bilateral engagements, fundraising initiatives, research, working groups, policy development, and negotiations during the Final Summit were no small feats. Representing Canadian youth alongside this dedicated and compassionate team elevated the significance of our policies and advocacy. I am deeply thankful for the numerous youth contributors across the country who informed my policy priorities, as well as the invaluable insights provided by Indigenous Youth. Extensive research was supported by a multitude of reports and publications that guided my preparations.

Although the calls for action and priorities articulated by each individual were diverse, a common thread emerged: the urgency of the moment. It is imperative right now for policymakers to enact climate policies that phase out fossil fuels, cut emissions, facilitate Indigenous leadership in climate action, invest in green technologies, and mandate the inclusion of youth and underserved communities in decision-making processes. The resounding principle remains: nothing about us, without us.

David He

As I reflect on my time as a Y20 delegate in India, I am deeply moved by the rich tapestry of diversity and unity that has been the cornerstone of this experience. With delegates from around the world, this unique experience has been one of the few moments in life that granted me the opportunity to meet such a diverse cohort of people who share the same passion as I do for global issues. Although my time with the Y20 is over for now, the connections forged here, rooted in shared goals and a collaborative spirit, are not. I found these to be lifelong ties that continue to grow beyond the conference rooms.

Within our Shared Future track, the journey was both exhilarating and complex. Productive negotiations were occasionally hindered by asymmetrical information, partly due to the virtual negotiations conducted between the pre-summit and the summit which unfortunately not everyone could attend. This led to challenges as there was a lack of consensus on the outlines agreed upon online.

Nevertheless, through arduous negotiation sessions and with the steadfast support of our head delegates, we succeeded in drafting a communiqué. I take immense pride in the work we accomplished. This cooperative spirit is needed today more than ever, especially with ongoing geopolitical challenges that divide governments.

To those whom we consulted, thank you for opening up about your stories, challenges and hopes for the future. Your advice and perspectives have had a real impact on our negotiations. To YDC, thank you for your support every step along the way, and for creating this incredible opportunity. For those who will take on the torch in the future, remember the importance of understanding viewpoints that are not our own. Approach negotiations with an open heart and inclusivity — because great things can happen when we come together.





Linxi Mytkolli

Participating in the Y20 as Canada's Health Delegate held profound significance for me. My motivation stemmed from a deeply held belief that healthcare systems should be built by us and for us, the young people who rely on them. To me, this means that young individuals should not only provide the vision but also wield the tools and occupy the seats where critical healthcare decisions are made. This core value and vision drove me to apply for the Y20 delegation. I yearned to witness young people, fortified with a unique blend of professional, academic, and lived experiences, sitting at the global policy-making table. Together, we could reimagine and construct a global health policy sphere that truly works for us and by us.

Upon entering the role, I was acutely aware that achieving this vision required a specific approach. For me, the paramount approach was centered on relationships. I understood that fostering connections with young people across our vast nation, with organizations and frontline healthcare workers tirelessly delivering care, with policymakers, and, most importantly, with our team was foundational. Drawing from personal experience, I recognized that advocacy work could be arduous. When challenges loomed large, these relationships provided the solid foundation on which everything rested.

Reflecting on our Y20 journey, I am immensely proud of the specific actions we took to make a lasting impact. As a team, we functioned with remarkable dynamism and resilience, but above all, we remained firmly rooted in our shared values of empathy and reciprocity. Among our accomplishments, one that stands out prominently is the extensive consultations we conducted with numerous healthcare providers, researchers, and patients, the majority of whom were under the age of 40. It was a profound honor to be entrusted with their stories and to carry them with me to the international stage.

However, what fills me with particular pride is our successful advocacy for the importance of person-centered language, even in policy documents. Witnessing policy language that truly recognizes that healthcare is "for the people, by the people," and should, therefore, reflect humanized language, was deeply gratifying. From a personal perspective, this change allowed me to see myself and my experiences authentically represented in these global diplomatic spaces – a reality I had not experienced before. This transformation affirmed that policy can be a mirror reflecting the lived experiences of individuals like me and that healthcare is indeed a service designed to serve people with compassion and dignity.

As I reflect on this incredible journey, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the people who have made my Y20 experience a life-changing one. Your contributions have been instrumental, and I look forward to carrying the lessons and inspiration gained from you into my future chapters.



CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we conclude our reflections on the 2023 Y20 Summit, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the myriad of individuals and organizations who have enriched this transformative journey.

To Our Mentors and Guides: We are deeply thankful for the mentorship and unwavering support provided by you, each other, our fellow delegates, and the Young Diplomats of Canada team. Your guidance has been instrumental in broadening our perspectives, enhancing our skills, and inspiring us to strive for excellence.

To the Community of Supporters: Our sincere appreciation goes to the individuals, especially youth, who shared their insights, and to the organizations, charities, and non-profits that provided us with resources and wisdom. You have significantly enriched our advocacy efforts and deepened our understanding of global issues.

To Policy Leaders and Government Officials: Thank you for guiding us through the complexities of governance and for illuminating paths to impactful change. Your mentorship has been crucial in our professional and personal growth.

To Our International Counterparts: We are grateful for the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with delegates from over 20 countries. The diversity of your cultures, experiences, and perspectives has been a source of invaluable learning and inspiration.

To the Indian Y20 Secretariat: Your hospitality and warmth have left an indelible mark on our hearts, and we thank you for welcoming the world's youth with open arms.

To Future Delegates and Youth Leaders: We encourage you to embrace opportunities like the Y20 Summit. Engage in intellectually challenging spaces, and contribute your voice to shaping our shared future. Remember, great things can happen when we come together with open hearts and inclusivity.

In Closing: Our journey at the Y20 Summit has been a testament to the potential and impact of youth-led advocacy. Through determination, collaboration, and a commitment to our values, we have navigated a complex path to amplify youth voices in global policymaking. This experience has not only broadened our global perspective but has equipped us with invaluable insights and relationships that we will carry forward in our ongoing endeavors.

We recognize that our journey is part of a broader movement toward a more inclusive and sustainable future. As we move forward, we carry the lessons learned, the friendships formed, and the commitment to continue advocating for the voices of youth in shaping a better world. Together, we look forward to a brighter, more inclusive, and sustainable future for all.



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