YOUTH ACROSS CANADA SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ABOUT IDENTITY, MIGRATION, AND BELONGING
ABOUT CFRAC

For over 20 years, the Edmonton Centre for Race and Culture has been bringing together diverse groups of people who are dedicated to promoting and supporting individual, collective, and systemic change to address racism and encourage intercultural understanding.

Our staff, board, and members bring a unique range of expertise and experiences to our organization. Our expertise spans from workplace development and community building to research and education.

ABOUT THE PODCAST

Through the medium of storytelling and audio recording, youth across Canada share their experiences with identity, migration, and belonging. Host Rose-Eva Forgues-Jenkins travels from Edmonton to Fort St. John, Toronto, and Montreal to feature the voices of youth who are often unheard in mainstream media.
GLOSSARY

Here are a few terms that appear throughout the podcast and this toolkit

**Ally:** someone who makes the commitment and effort to work in solidarity with oppressed groups in the struggle for justice

**Performative Allyship:** when allyship to a marginalized group is enacted for the purpose of social recognition

**Colonization:** a practice of direct political and ideological domination through declarations of law with cultural, social and economic impacts

**Colourism:** the prejudice or discrimination against individuals with a dark skin tone, typically among people of the same ethnic or racial group

**Immigrant:** someone who, to a certain extent, chooses to settle in another country permanently

**Newcomer:** a new resident of a country
...and here are a few more!

**Racism:** a system of power and prejudice that structures opportunity and assigns value based on the social construct of race

**Racialization:** the process through which groups come to be designated as different and subjected to unequal treatment. Racialized groups include people who might experience differential treatment on the basis of race, ethnicity, language, religion or culture

**Refugee:** someone who is forced to flee their country because of persecution, war or violence

**Settler:** Chelsea Vowel defines settlers as “the non-Indigenous peoples living in Canada who form the European-descended socio-political majority”

**Privilege:** unearned social power accorded by the formal and informal institutions of society to members of a dominant group

**Visible Minority:** used in Statistics Canada census and other surveys to identify persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are Non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour
Welcome to Unheard Youth

You are listening to the very first episode of the Unheard Youth Podcast! After a compilation of what’s to come in the next 13 episodes of the podcast, we hear a conversation between host, Rose-Eva Forgues-Jenkins, Jamelie Bachalaani, and Noelle Jaipul where they discuss some of the terms that are used throughout the podcast.

Quick facts discussed in this episode...

- 68.5 million people are displaced worldwide and 25.4 million of these people are refugees
- There are 36.7 million people living in Canada
- 21.9% of Canada's population was born outside of Canada
"I think that's the point that we're at in Canadian history, where we see and acknowledge and respect the benefits that immigration brings to us today."

**Migration Stories**

Episode Two features the second half of the discussion between Jamelie, Noelle and Rose-Eva where they share their own migration stories while discussing the history and evolution of Canada's immigration policy. You can follow along with our timeline on the next page as they discuss some important dates in Canadian history.
Indigenous & Newcomer Relationships

Rose-Eva sits down with Nêhiyaw language instructor Reuben Quinn to learn more about his thoughts on Indigenous and newcomer relationships. Reuben discusses the impact that colonization has had on Indigenous ways of being, and we hear a sample from one of his Nêhiyaw language classes.

"There were 600,000 words in the Nêhiyaw language prior to European contact. Today, the Canadian government will make a claim that we have about 30,000 words."
Africville, located just outside of Halifax, was settled by black Americans who dug out roads and built much of the city.

The first mosque in Canada is built in Edmonton, Alberta.

Revisions to the Indian Act were passed. Indigenous peoples gained full privileges of citizenship and considerable authority over reserve lands.

The Immigration Act of 1906 aimed to restrict and control the amount of immigrants from countries deemed undesirable by the government.

Japanese Internment camps were implemented after the attack on Pearl Harbour and lasted until 1949.
The Immigration Act of 1978 outlined the objectives of Canadian immigration policy and defined refugees as a distinct class of immigrants.

The last residential school operated by the Canadian government, Gordon Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan, is closed.

1967
- A shift in immigration policy resulted in the government lifting restrictions on Chinese immigration. Toronto city council still planned to demolish and relocate Chinatown.

1978
- The implementation of the Black Action Defense Committee promoted the wellbeing of Black Canadians and led to the creation of the Ontario Special Investigations Unit, which still exists today.

1988
- For a timeline with even more events, visit www.cfrac.com
Students at North Peace Secondary School receive certificates for participating in the podcast project.
"I don’t really have any complaints, but you really can’t replace what home is."

The football & other stories from NPSS

Rose-Eva is joined by co-host Emily Lennon to talk about their time in Fort St. John, British Columbia. They discuss the workshops they co-facilitated at North Peace Secondary School, and the students at NPSS share their stories. We also hear about the Settlement Workers in Schools Program.

continue the discussion...

Some youth discuss moving to Fort St. John with their family. How do you think youth were involved in this decision? How and when do you think that youth should be involved in the decision to move elsewhere?
In 2016, approximately 21,000 people lived in Fort St. John.

9% of those 21,000 people were a visible minority.
What Am I?

In Episode Five, we hear more from the youth at North Peace Secondary School in Fort St. John. Four groups of newcomer and non-newcomer students ask each other questions based on the topics of identity, migration, and belonging.

continue the discussion...

What stereotypes exist about small towns and the people who live in small-town Canada? Were any of these stereotypes challenged while listening to the youth from Fort St. John?

"I can’t really say that I feel part of Korean culture because I’m not exactly familiar with it anymore but I also cannot say that I’m Canadian... so sometimes I question, what am I?"
Quick Facts

There is a population of approximately 1 million people in Edmonton.

Between 2011 to 2016, visible minorities rose from 21% to 37%.
“I immigrated to Canada after the war that's happened in Syria. I was so comfortable in my country and I wasn’t thinking that I would leave.”

Balancing Cultures

Episode Six features newcomer youth in Edmonton. First, we hear from youth at McNally High School and facilitators at the Action for Healthy Communities program. Afterward, members of newcomer youth group SKY Club talk about their experiences with balancing cultures.

continue the discussion...

We learned about what some organizations are doing to ensure schools are a welcoming place for newcomers to Canada. What changes can you think of that would make your environment (e.g. school, home, workplace, organization) more welcoming for newcomers?
Youth From SKY Club who contributed their voices to the Edmonton-based episodes
Learning to Appreciate Your Skin

The youth at SKY Club talk about how they came to appreciate their skin, and we hear a story that involves a racial slur. This leads us to consider — which words do we censor on the podcast? To find out, Rose-Eva talks to Bashir, Andrew, and Barnabas about some of the history behind the uses of these words.

continue the discussion...

In this episode, we heard stories about racial discrimination. How would you respond to a situation like this if it happened to you or a friend? What community supports should be in place when these incidents occur?

“We’re not going to move forward by ignoring what has happened. We’re going to move forward by talking about it so that everybody else understands the impact.”
With a population of approximately 2.7 million people, Toronto is the largest city in Canada.

47% of people living in Toronto were born outside of Canada.
"My goal is to make my parents proud...now that I’m here, my first goal that I focus on is making them proud."

Injera Vs Burgers & more from the YIA program

Episode Eight features Toronto’s Youth in Arts Program. We learn about the program through conversations between youth participants and program facilitator, Nour. Then, we hear more from the youth as they interview each other and share their stories.

continue the discussion...

In this episode, we learned about youth engaging in art-based activities. Do you have a favourite piece of art created by youth? What opportunities are available to you to be exposed to art created by youth?
Participants from the Connecting Culture and Childhood Project Symposium
A Beautifully Imperfect Mosaic

This episode features an interview with Andrea Emberly, the organizer of the Connecting Culture and Childhood Symposium. Andrea talks about the symposium as well as how to be an ally to young people. Afterward, we hear the sounds of the symposium itself as Maggie, Linda and Saana discuss racialized identities in Toronto.

continue the discussion...

In this episode, we learn about the history of Chinatown in Toronto. How has the landscape of your community changed over the years? Who has benefitted from this change, and who has not?

“The language I know best is English, and yet English does not understand my experience or what it’s like to be an immigrant.”
A poster seen in Montreal during the time of the SLAV resistance. The poster reads "support black artists."
“Just because other people don’t see us as what we are, doesn’t mean that we can’t all come together and see each other as we are.”

Organizing together

In this episode, we explore how spaces for marginalized voices are created at two different community events. First, Rose-Eva attends the MTL vs Racism Festival and talks to event organizers and performers. Afterward, youth from SKY Club attend the Stay WOC (Women of Colour) event in Edmonton and discuss the impact of the event with each other and organizers.

continue the discussion...

What spaces exist in your community to celebrate and highlight the voices of Indigenous and racialized people? Whose voices are still missing, and how could spaces for these voices be created?
Quick Facts

- Montreal has a population of 1.6 million people.
- In 2011, 23% of this population were immigrants.
Je Me Sens Pas Québécois / I don’t feel Quebecois

Welcome to our first French-language episode! We talk to a group of youth at Collège Ahuntsic to learn more about Quebecois nationalism and identity. Collège Ahuntsic is a ‘Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel’ which is known as a "General and Vocational College" in English. The English translation of this episode can be found at www.unheardyouth.ca.

continue the discussion...

The youth talked about identifying as either Canadian or Quebecois, depending on where they are. Do you introduce yourself differently based on where you are in Canada? Does this change when you’re outside of Canada?

“La raison pour quoi, moi, je me sens pas comme un Québécois, c’est du sens que on a toujours tendance à coller un étiquette sur un immigrant.”

”The real reason I don’t feel Quebecois is because they always tend to put a label on immigrants.”
Rose-Eva and a student from Collège Ahuntsic, who contributed her voice and her skills as a translator to the podcast project
In our second French-language episode, Jean-Yves Sylvestre moderates the second group discussion with the students at Collège Ahuntsic. The English translation of this episode can be found at www.unheardyouth.ca.

continue the discussion...

The youth talked about what a typical Quebecois person looks and sounds like. Picture a typical Canadian person. What does this person look and sound like? Does this represent all the Canadians that you know?
The language of power: Youth Media Representation

In the final episode of the Unheard Youth Podcast, Rose-Eva talks to professor Yasmin Jiwani about her research on representations of youth in mainstream media. Dr. Jiwani discusses the challenges that newcomer youth face, and the ways in which adults can actively support and connect to youth culture.

“Essentialism is the idea that everyone who looks a certain way or shares a particular characteristic is the same... it is a form of leveraging power.”
THANK YOU

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TO OUR PARTNERS

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Thank you to all of the youth and guests who contributed to the creation of Unheard Youth! For citations and additional resources please visit our website: www.unheardyouth.ca.
CONTACT US

If you have any questions about the Unheard Youth Podcast or would like to get involved please contact us:

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