



## LIMITLESS POTENTIAL

FOR YOUTH AND THEIR ALLIES  
TO CHANGE THE WAY WE  
APPROACH OUR COMMUNITY.

## 100'S OF PARTNERSHIPS

WITH PROVINCIAL AND  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS,  
SCHOOL BOARDS AND SCHOOLS.

## 1000'S OF STUDENTS & ALLIES

WORKING TO RESHAPE  
THE CULTURE OF THEIR  
SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES  
ACROSS ONTARIO.

Ontario  
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COMMUNITY LIVING  
Ontario







# **EMPOWERING YOUTH** FOR OVER 8 YEARS

**RE:ACTION4INCLUSION** is a youth engagement initiative of Community Living Ontario that puts **youth voice and experience** at the center of **social justice, community change and school culture**.

It is a **movement of youth for youth** wanting to challenge society to change the way it approaches diversity and inclusion. Lead by a Youth Advisory Committee, the Re: Action4Inclusion Movement specifically seeks to raise the consciousness of Ontario's citizens to question their perceptions of disability. Recognizing the negative perceptions of disability, held by our society, give citizens an understanding of the impact these perceptions can have on an individual's life. As we change the narrative on disability, Ontario's citizens have developed a new appreciation for the contributions made by all members of the community. Students do this by **educating their peers** on societal misconceptions of disability and by becoming **models of authentic inclusion**. This is assisting youth and their allies to build communities that embrace a culture of equity and equal access for youth who have an intellectual disability. In collaboration, youth with and without disabilities are **becoming leaders** in their schools and community, **activists for social justice** and **ambassadors of change**.

Through their leadership, youth and their allies are continuously learning from one another.

Re:Action4Inclusion has created spaces to support youth to have discussions that reframe the understanding of what inclusion is and requires from all of us individually and as a community. The impact is clear that **stronger communities** are the result of; bringing youth into decision making circles, attentively listening to young people and by giving them the opportunity to see their vision, for their community, become a reality.

This not only affects youth while they are in high school but into the future. When students work to be community builders in high school, they know what it takes to be community builders as adults. **Civic engagement** thus becomes a **natural course of action and way of thinking**. Doctors, teachers, police officers, industry specialists and engineers will all look and live with inclusion in mind, knowing where gaps in society exist. They will therefore be able to work at creating a society where individuals who have an intellectual disability are recognized as active and contributing citizens because communities will be built by leaders who successfully come together to show what is possible when people value and expect each other to contribute in a meaningful way.





# WHY JOIN?



Become a community leader that recognizes and empowers youth

Set a standard for better communities where diversity and inclusion are embraced and authentically practiced

Collaborate with a provincial body of youth and their allies who are building a better Ontario

**BE CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY BUILDERS, FUNDERS AND STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS ONTARIO**

**SHOW YOUTH THEIR IDEAS MATTER**

**BECOME INFORMED**

**TAKE ACTION**

## WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- >> Support a Community Change Project!
- >> Sponsor Students to attend the Re:Action4InclusionConference from your Community
- >> Make a donation to fund youth work
- >> Become a Community Partner or Join our Provincial Network
- >> Collaborate with us on youth Initiatives



## MOVEMENT CONCEPTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- >> YOUTH LEADERSHIP
- >> YOU CANNOT STRENGTHEN A COMMUNITY WITHOUT TAPPING INTO AND ENGAGING ITS YOUTH AND THEIR LEADERSHIP.
- >> COMMUNITY AND INCLUSION
- >> COMMUNITY OFFERS THE RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS THAT RECOGNIZE AND VALUE INDIVIDUAL'S CONTRIBUTIONS.
- >> CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
- >> INCLUSION IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT AND BENEFITS EVERYONE



# OUR WORK

"Inclusion is something I've always believed in but never really actually advocated for it or talked to people about; I just knew what my beliefs were and tried to apply them in my own life. Re:Action4Inclusion really got me involved in teaching others and inspiring others to create change and make a difference"— Becky Alves

## CONFERENCE:

The Re:Action4Inclusion conference has been an annual piece of the movement since 2009. It brings students, educators, and community allies together for three days. Throughout the weekend, Youth Advisors coordinate activities that help participants become more familiar with the movement, foster thoughtful conversations around disability, and enhance the abilities of the larger group to recognize their capacity to transform the schools and communities they return home to. Engaged student leaders are then inspired to use their voice having been empowered by their connection to a movement ready to create change.

## CHANGE PROJECTS:

Community Change Projects create the opportunity for high school aged youth to move from idea to action in order to address the injustices they identify in society. They provide the space for youth to creatively address inclusion, channel their passion and develop a local project that feeds into the province wide inclusion movement.

## CURRICULUM:

The activities provided in the Curriculum have been specifically designed to act as a tool kit for youth serving organizations, teachers, and students alike. Each set of lessons outline a specific learning goal and provide a set of instructions and a variety of activities you can use to begin conversations on topics related to advocacy, leadership and inclusion. Each activity can be adapted to suit your audience and meet the needs of the individuals teaching the module. It is an easy and fun way to start conversations with others.

## PROVINCIAL NETWORK

Connect your school, community, business or organization to a provincial network of like-minded individuals who are eager to learn, model and contribute to an important cause. Together we CAN make a difference and empower youth now and into the future!

**COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS, MOTIVATIONAL YOUTH SPEAKERS, INCLUSION TRAINING AND SO MUCH MORE!!**

## CONTACT US

Getting involved with the movement is really easy! Whether you are a youth, an adult ally, a community leader or organization there is a place for you in this work! The first step is to contact us and let us know how you would be interested in being involved.



**CHECK OUR WEB SITE: [www.reaction4inclusion.com](http://www.reaction4inclusion.com)**



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**@r4inclusion**

**1-800-278-8025**

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