




ROOTED AND RISING

Welcoming in the World We Desire





Supporting a generation of confident young leaders who have the skills, networks, and imagination to deliberately create healthy, just and joyful futures for all.

VISION



THE PROBLEM

“Young people feel powerless and betrayed and do not feel cared for, valued, or protected when it comes to climate change and Canada’s response.”

- Galway and Field (2023, p.6)

**Climate change
is getting worse
(IPCC, 2023)**



**Schools teach the science, without
providing the skills or opportunities
necessary to take action and cope
with a changing world**



**Young people are under-
supported, overwhelmed,
and unsure how to act**

THE OPPORTUNITY

Youth are aware, ready, and willing to act. Both youth and educators agree that young people need and deserve more investment and education when it comes to climate change.

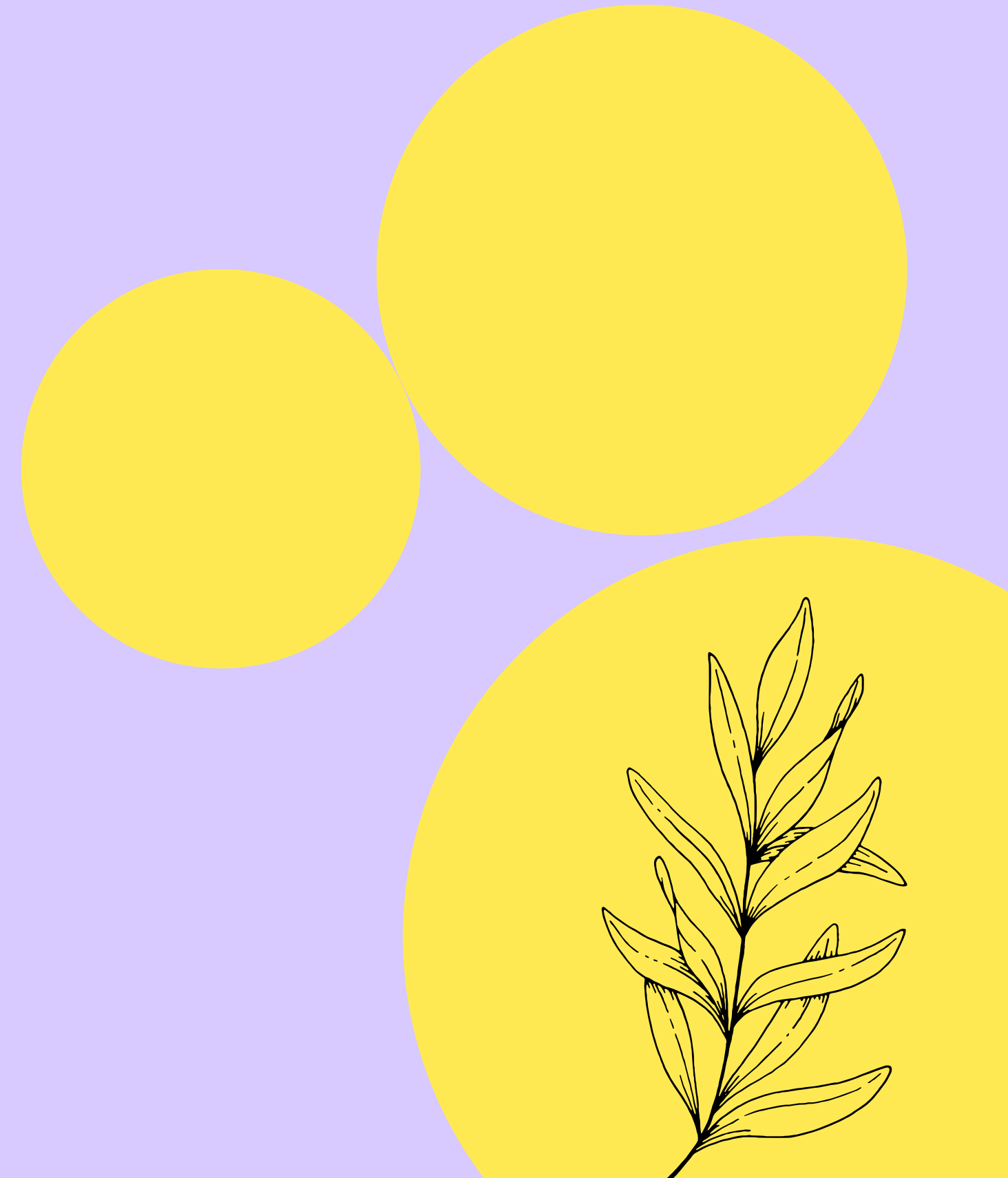
64% OF [CANADIANS] AGREE THAT THE CANADIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM SHOULD BE DOING "A LOT MORE" TO EDUCATE YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE (LSF, 2022).

62% OF CANADIAN YOUTH CONSIDER CLIMATE CHANGE AS A KEY ISSUE, AND A MAJORITY OF YOUTH AGREE THAT CANADA HAS AN OBLIGATION TO LEAD ON INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE (STATISTICS CANADA, 2021)

OUR SOLUTION

Rooted and Rising is a leadership program that:

- Connects young leaders to a community of peers and intergenerational networks
- Mentors young leaders through project-based learning
- Offers exposure to multiple frameworks for conceptualizing the problem and solutions
 - including 21st century & Indigenous frameworks
- Holds space for emotional and spiritual growth
- Engages in skills-building for cooperation, living well and joyfully, and finding peace in the storm



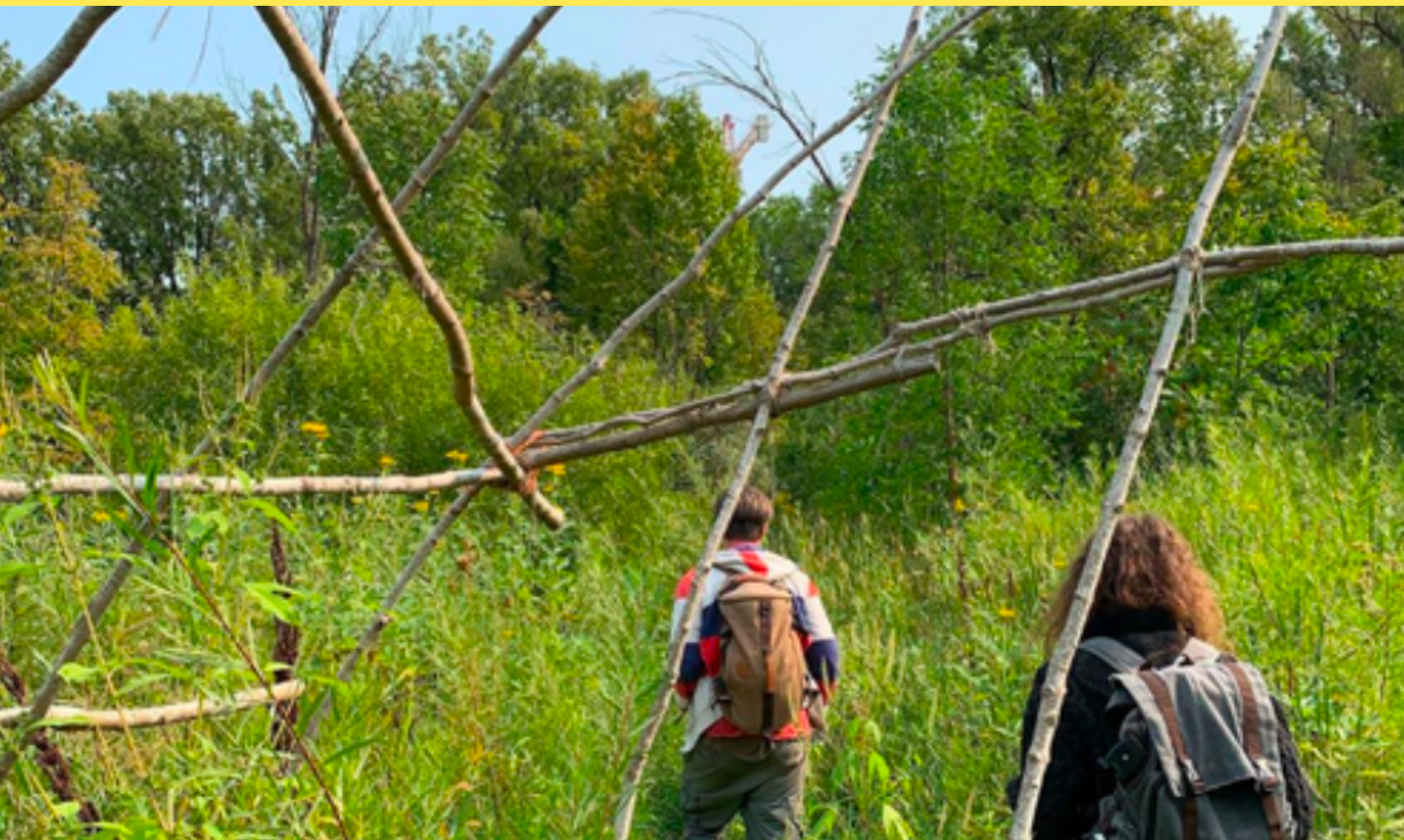
| OTHER CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION | ROOTED AND RISING |
|--|---|
| Often takes a narrow disciplinary focus | Practices interdisciplinary and intergenerational learning |
| Focuses on scientific causes with little opportunity for individual or collective action | Supports youth in taking collective action to address the systemic causes of climate change |
| Emphasizes consumer & technical solutions at the expense of structural change | Emphasizes the possibilities of this moment to create healthier, more just, thriving futures + living well now. |
| Accepts funding from fossil fuels and major banks investing in fossil fuels | Will never accept funding from fossil fuels or the big 5 banks (until after divestment) |
| Many non-profit programs end in pitch competitions for individual student project ideas with only a few winners. | All students have access to a shared fund for collaborative projects executed in the program |

WHAT MAKES US DISTINCT?

WITH A PLAN TO OFFER OUR CURRICULUM DIRECTLY TO YOUTH AND TEACHERS, R + R BRIDGES FORMAL AND GRASSROOTS EDUCATION

THE DETAILS

- © 12-WEEK PROGRAM
- © 25 YOUTH CLIMATE LEADERS
- © BLEND OF ONLINE CLASSES (9) & LAND-BASED LEARNING (3)
- © FUNDED COLLABORATIVE STUDENT PROJECTS
- © UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY CERTIFIED



“We wish we got to do this kind of work in school.”

- 2 PARTICIPANTS ON R+R'S
STUDENT PROJECT MODEL

PAST SUCCESS

12-WEEK PILOT:

- 22 youth age 13-30 certified
- 8 external experts, elders, and community activists
- 7 funded student projects
- 7 certifying partners including York University
- 81% of pilot students were BIPOC youth
- Ranging from grade 8 to PhD level schooling in 6+ disciplines



screenshot from student video project

STUDENTS REPORTED INCREASES IN:

- personal & collective efficacy
- clarity of purpose and leadership strengths
- self-awareness
- skills and attitudes for cooperative leadership
- a sense of belonging
- wellbeing

PAST SUCCESS

"I REALLY LIKE THE NON-JUDGEMENTAL ENVIRONMENT AND THE STRONG DETERMINED PERSONALITY THAT EVERYONE HAS. IT REALLY INSPIRES ME TO WANT TO BE A GREATER LEADER FOR THE FUTURE" - R+R PILOT STUDENT



LOOKING AHEAD

- YEAR 1** Run the youth certificate, reaching 25 youth. Produce 1 workbook and 1 set of webinars released for a general audience that generates revenue towards program subsidization.
- YEAR 2** Develop an educator certificate. Consult and nurture existing relationships with partners, graduates, and community members. Run youth certificate again (25 youth).
- YEAR 3** Pilot a blended (synchronous & asynchronous) train-the-trainer & educator certificate. Run youth certificate again (25 youth).

Total youth certified over 3 years: 75
Total educators in year 3 reached: 75

64% OF EDUCATORS
AGREE THAT THEY NEED
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT TO LEARN
HOW TO EFFECTIVELY
TEACH ABOUT CLIMATE
CHANGE. (FIELD, 2022)

MARKETING & OUTREACH PLAN

TRUSTED NETWORKS:

Our partner organizations endorse and promote R+R, building a trusted link to youth passionate about climate change who can be weary of institutions.

UNIVERSITY CERTIFIED:

By the Department of Education and Dahdaleh Global Health Institute at York University. Offers enticing credentials and pathways to post-secondary education.

ACCESSIBILITY:

This program is offered at no cost to climate leaders that are dedicating their time to the pursuit of our collective wellbeing. Transportation costs for in-person classes are covered. Snacks are provided. These measures ensure all youth can access R+R.

How Do We Reach Youth Climate Leaders?

FINANCIALS (YEAR 1)

Provide a scholarship!

Invest in a healthy future, help us fund that last 25%!

Program Cost Per Student: \$2,300

What We Have:

In-Kind: \$12,000

Cash: \$43,600

What We Needed: \$20,000

A detailed cost breakdown can be provided upon request.



75%
FUNDED!

2020 PILOT BUDGET: \$11,225 FROM 3 FUNDERS + \$65K IN-KIND FROM TEACHING TEAM AND PARTNERS NETWORK

BENEFITS TO INVESTORS

- © High impact investment in change: youth leaders share knowledge, skills, and networks gained in R+R with their communities/ organizations, strengthening individual, organizational, and community capacity.
- © Find hope for the future by connecting with youth climate leaders.
- © Build awareness and credibility with the youth market, the majority of whom see climate change as a major issue (Stats Canada, 2021).

- © Be listed on a dedicated investors page on our website and program report (with option for anonymous donation).
- © Access an investors-only post-program keynote presentation on lessons and important messages from program graduates.
- © Get charitable receipt for your taxes

SOURCES:

[HTTPS://WWW150.STATCAN.GC.CA/N1/PUB/42-28-0001/2021001/ARTICLE/00005-ENG.HTM](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/42-28-0001/2021001/article/00005-eng.htm)

[HTTPS://LSF-LST.CA/INFOGRAPHICS/](https://lsf-lst.ca/infographics/)

[HTTPS://WWW.SCIENCEDIRECT.COM/SCIENCE/ARTICLE/PII/S2667278223000032](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667278223000032)

THE TEAM

Our 11-person multi-generational, multicultural, and multi-racial teaching team brings together diverse lived and professional experience as university professors, graduate students, artists, educators, activists, organization leaders, ecosystem restorers, & more.

THE TEAM

CO-ORDINATORS & LEAD FACILITATORS:



Roxy Cohen:

- PhD research in re-storying climate change education
- 10+ years experience founding (4), leading (3), & consulting grassroots organizations
- Facilitator in mental health, communication, and leadership through change



Bella Lyne:

- Youth grassroots climate activist
- Extensive experience in youth non-profits
- Experience as program coordinator, evaluator, facilitator



Kristen Alaan Sison:

- Filipina artist-healer, community choreographer and storyteller
- Co-founded 3 collectives on culture, healing, and climate justice
- Self-published 2 arts magazines with over 70 contributors

THE TEAM

ADVISORS & SPECIALIST FACILITATORS:



Andrea Bastien

- Serial Community Builder - 10+ Indigenous-led organizations
- Experienced Program Facilitator
- DJ & Artist



Dr. Joseph Smith:

- TDSB Vice-Principal
- Founder of successful non-profit GenerationChosen
- Board Member and Advisor for multiple civic engagement projects



Dr. Blake Poland:

- Professor in Public Health, Geography, Education
- Leads Multiple Specialized Programs and Hubs
- Community Resilience, Sustainability Transitions, and Social Change

THE TEAM

ADVISORS & SPECIALIST FACILITATORS:



Dr. Kate Tilleczek:

- 6th generation Irish settler on Turtle Island
- Grandmother, mother, & Professor in Education
- Canada Research Chair in Youth, Education & the Global Good
- Founder and Director of Young Lives Research Lab



Doug Anderson (Bungee Métis):

- Creative and Strategic Director at Invert Media
- 30 years consulting on Indigenous education and community development
- Curriculum Writer and Educator translating Indigenous perspectives into education, media, and policy

THE TEAM

ADVISORS & SPECIALIST FACILITATORS:



Dr. Steve Alsop:

- Professor in Education, Science and Engineering, and Environment and Urban Change
- Former Associate Dean in Education
- Co-created another community-university partnership certificate still running 5 years later



Laura Pen:

- Masters in Environmental Studies
- Research in Climate Change Future Imaginaries
- Urban Outdoor Educator



Dr. Sarah El Halwany:

- PhD research on climate science education and emotions
- Supported teachers in various school boards to bridge climate science education and activism

CERTIFYING PARTNERS

