



4Rs YOUTH MOVEMENT

# IMAGINING CANADA IN THE NEXT 150 YEARS

The 4Rs Youth Movement (Respect, Reciprocity, Reconciliation, Relevance) has evolved over the past 3 years as a youth-led, national collaborative, seeking to change the country now known as Canada by changing relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people.

In 2017, as a Canada 150 Signature Initiative, 4Rs is tapping into the innovation and potential of young people to host a series of regional and national gatherings. Through our Signature Initiative, *Possible Canadas*, we hope to highlight Indigenous contributions to Canada, and engage Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people in meaningful conversation in support of taking action on reconciliation. In doing so, 4Rs will discover a possible Canada based in equity and social justice for Indigenous people, grown from the seeds of truth, relationships and a new kind of youth leadership.

## **Change the conversation. Change the relationship. Change can happen.**

4Rs believes that in order to change these relationships, young people will need to engage in critical dialogue on who we are, and the paths that have brought us to where we are. To be true and consistent to the land where we all find ourselves—on Turtle Island, in Canada—the starting point of these conversations are in relationship to Indigenous people. We see our approach as contributing to a foundation for capacity and knowledge in support of action on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action 66: We call upon the federal government to establish multi-year funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices.

## **A New Kind of Leadership**

Canada is experiencing a wake up call, which will require a new kind of leadership; we require leaders that organize to foster empathy across cultures and generations in support of social change. In a time of truth and reconciliation in Canada, in order to help shape new understandings and relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, our leadership must be grounded in respect, reciprocity, and relevance. These values center the needs, voices, and perspectives of Indigenous people, communities, and nations in the process of talking about, and working towards reconciliation.

As young people across diverse nations, we believe in the power of conversation to transform relationships. This starts by finding the strength that is deep within us as individuals, to carefully support and create brave spaces for dialogue and healing between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

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*-TRC Call to Action #66*



## Nothing About Us, Without Us

4Rs has been seeded and continues to grow through the leadership of, and collaboration between, Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people and adult allies. We are a youth-led initiative from our governance to our staff and are supported by 14 founding partners: five national Aboriginal organizations; five national youth-serving organizations; and four foundations.

Our work brings together a collective of facilitators, contributors, participants, and leaders who seek to weave reconciliation into our everyday lives. We are a group that draws from many cultural, professional, and personal experiences and as a community, we have learned much about what it means to be in dialogue with one another. Each time we come together, we learn new things about ourselves, about each other, and about what a community of reconciliation can really look like across Canada and Turtle Island.

## Reconciliation starts from where you're standing.

Reconciliation starts from where you're standing, meaning that we have the power and influence to begin to shift the narrative from where we are, exactly in this moment. From how we build relationships with the land we call home and our neighbours nearby, to the words we use, the books we read and the stories we tell to others; together our collective actions have the power to shift culture in Canada.

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and share what  
you're learning

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