



CHECK YOUR HEAD

Educate
Activate
Empower

2018

ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Reflecting on our past year's work and impact leaves me feeling heartened, humbled, and frankly – in awe.

Amidst considerable changes among our small and dedicated core team, Check held the space to educate, activate, and empower more than 2,500 youth in schools with more focused program offerings, including a newly developed Youth Civic Voices offering. Our key projects this year saw more youth still to meaningfully engage migrant youth in leading the way, and youth voice centered in important dialogues around Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations headquarters, among many notable milestones.

Our board held space to critically reflect and deeply question the foundations and fuel of our work, in the evolving context of social, environmental, and economic justice in the work of our collective commons. I am deeply proud of our Board and Staff for staying with a process that has yielded a refined and agile strategic framework to guide our work in the years to come.

We turn 20 years old as an organization in 2019 (mark your calendar for our birthday party summer 2019, details to be announced!), and will remain committed to listening as deeply as we can, representing and responding to youth voice, and having fun as we do the big work together.

We are so grateful for to each of you and the role you have, and will continue, to play. To our continued courageous work in community, learning with open hearts and critical minds.

In solidarity and with hope,

Humaira Hamid,
Board Chair

"I always knew I had a passion for volunteering with various organizations that dealt with our everyday society, however my time with Check has truly ignited a fire within me and helped me channel my efforts in a more specific way. I am so grateful that I have become part of such an amazing and dynamic team."

– Priyanka Krishna, Communications Intern

STRATEGIC GOALS 2017-2020

1. Achieve and maintain financial sustainability
2. Build and maintain flexible, resilient and adaptive organizational structure
3. Collaborate with diverse partners, community organizations, initiatives, businesses and funders to ensure youth voice is centred in the work
4. Increase public awareness of check your head
5. Ensure accountability to youth and for youth voice
6. Maintain programming to be accessible, responsive and relevant to youth

FINANCES

September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018
Total Revenues: \$165,044
Total Expenses: \$175,741

IN 2018

95	2,500	47	3,300
WORKSHOPS FACILITATED	YOUTH PARTICIPANTS	ACTIVE YOUTH VOLUNTEERS	VOLUNTEER HOURS

SINCE 1999

2,650+	73,500+
WORKSHOPS FACILITATED	YOUTH ENGAGED

TO DATE

19	4,600+
YEARS OLD	SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

ENGAGING YOUTH IN POVERTY REDUCTION

This year offered many opportunities for engaging youth in poverty reduction work in the province. We made sure youth voices were heard by the Fair Wages Commission and also leveraged our partnerships to place youth in leadership positions during community consultations around provincial Poverty Reduction Plan. We surveyed 731 youth about the financial pressures they are facing and the impact of the high costs of living on their lives. The findings and the stories collected informed our submission to the government, highlighting youth experiences and priorities for poverty reduction in BC. We also organized a meeting between youth and Shane Simpson, the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, as well as other decision-makers.

SUPPORTING BC YOUTH TO SPEAK UP AT UNITED NATIONS

In July we travelled to the UN Headquarters in New York to support the work of the youth delegation from BC around Sustainable Development Goals. Partnering with the BC Council for International Cooperation and the Canadian Mission at the UN, we also hosted an event on meaningful youth engagement and leadership.

ELEVATING YOUTH CIVIC VOICES

We partnered with the City of Vancouver Election Office to develop a new workshop called Youth Civic Voices which explores the role of young people as stakeholders in the democratic system, with a focus on municipal politics. In the lead up to the municipal election, our youth peer facilitators delivered this workshop to more than 500 grade 12 students around Vancouver.

MIGRANT YOUTH LEAD THE WAY PROJECT

This project created safe, open, supportive and creative space for racialized migrant youth to come together, learn and share stories. These young people led the delivery of Migrant Justice workshops and organized community events to raise awareness and challenge migrant racism. We gratefully acknowledge the support from Coast Capital Savings that made this project possible for two consecutive years.

YOUTH-LED PROJECTS WE SUPPORTED

Amplify - a student-led initiative out of UBC focused on educating high schools students around poverty.

AdvocacyVancouver.ca - an online platform created by two young women with a mission to “build awareness in Vancouver about local social justice, economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and educational events by providing digital marketing support for organizations who are bettering Vancouver.”

IceBreakers: DePolarizing Politics - engaging events for young people around political issues.

Bridging the Gap - a student-led social innovation project out of SFU which explored the intersection of asian cultures and mental health, and the systemic and individual-level influencers of mental wellbeing in Asian youth. Their team won the third place in the prestigious Map the System competition held by the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford University that challenges students to think differently about a social or environmental issue.

Several **Social Justice 11** student-led projects.

SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our monthly donors, organizational supporters and funders, and the following individuals and business for their contributions:

Gayaki Yarba Mate
Paul Shore
PressPoint
Scope Creative
Scott Nelson
BC Federation of Labour
BC Government and Service Employees' Union
BC Health Coalition
BC Teachers' Federation
Canada Labour Congress – Pacific Region
Coast Capital Savings Credit Union
CUPE BC
Friends of Check (monthly donors)
Health Sciences Association of BC
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Individual donors
The Boag Foundation
The Hamber Foundation
The Province of British Columbia
The Walsh Foundation
UFCW Local 1724
Unifor BC Regional Council
Vancity Community Foundation
Vancouver Foundation

PROGRAMMING PARTNERS

Access to Media Education Society
BC Council for International Cooperation
BC Health Coalition
Broadway Youth Resource Centre
Burnaby North Secondary School
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
CityHive
Dogwood BC
Ecole Secondaire R.A. McMath
First Call BC
Gordon Neighbourhood House
Health Sciences' Association Young Workers Conference
Inner City Exchange
Killarney Secondary School
Lach Klan School - Gitxaala Nation
Leave Out Violence BC
Lord Byng Secondary School
MEC Outdoor Conference
PeerNet BC
Poverty Reduction Coalition of BC
Prince of Wales Secondary School
Reclaiming Common Ground: A Cross Border Social Justice Conference
Richmond Food Security Society
Sands Secondary School
Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School
St George's School
The CHILL Foundation
UBC F-Word Conference
UBC Centre for Engaged Learning
UBC Uniquely You Camps
United Church of Canada
University Hill Secondary School
Windermere Secondary School
Windsor House
York House

VOLUNTEERS

Allison Welk
Alysha Seriani
Anita Shen
Anna Everett
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Asmaa Heban
Ayan Ismail
Carmina Sahota
Celeste Tait
Dakota Shelby
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