

# Your **VOICE** matters

## Guiding Principles for Youth and Researchers Working Together

### **VOICE**

**V**oice of all team members in a flexible, respectful, authentic, and ethical environment

**O**pportunities to use individual strengths to guide research

**I**ntegrated and collaborative engagement based on clear communication and transparency

**C**ontributions are fully recognized by wages, honorariums, references, co-authorship or co-presenting

**E**volving process that will continue to grow as more youth get involved



**Youth and researchers build bridges and connections by collaborating throughout the entire research process. Through this we optimize the research process and improve the value and impact of research.**

# OUR VOICES TOGETHER

**V: Voice of all team members in a flexible, respectful, authentic, and ethical environment**

**Youth Researcher**

We appreciate our contributions being authentically valued

We may have a varied level of participation - from project co-lead to minimal involvement determined ourselves and agreed by the team

**O: Opportunities to use individual strengths to guide research**

**Youth Researcher**

We have individual experiences of living with disability as well as unique skills to help shape the research

**I: Integrated and collaborative engagement based on clear communication and transparency**

**Youth Researcher**

Communicate in a way that is easy to understand

We need research terms to be explained in order to include us in your conversation

Please account for our needs and accessibility requirements

**C: Contributions fully recognized by wages, honorariums, references, co-authorship or co-presenting**

**Youth Researcher**

Our contributions feel valued if we are appropriately paid for our work based on level of involvement

Opportunity to be involved as co-authors or co-presenters emphasizes equity as team members

References matter to our short and long term development as students, researchers and employees

**E: Evolving process that will continue to grow as more youth get involved**

**Youth Researcher & Researcher** Through our work together we will increase the impact of research. We can develop a network of youth together, which will strengthen the research to community connection

**Researcher**

We value and recognize youth feedback and participation and avoid tokenizing youth

We adjust our practice to maximize youth contribution

**Researcher**

We recognize every team member has unique strengths and contributions that they bring to a research project

**Researcher**

We are flexible in how we communicate with youth

We welcome youth advice and suggestions on how they would like to work together in conversation

We use methods of communication based on youth needs and experience and will keep youth informed throughout all phases of research

**Researcher**

Youth contributions are valued and paid depending on level of involvement. At minimum references will be provided for youth researchers as requested

# REFERENCES

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2. YouthCan IMPACT Youth and Family Engagement McMain Model for Maximizing and Retaining Youth Engagement (2014) Retrieved from [youthcanimpact.com](http://youthcanimpact.com)
3. Tip sheet on Engaging Youth in Research. Child-Bright Network. National Youth Advisory Panel Retrieved from <https://www.child-bright.ca/new-blog>
4. Powers JL, Tiffany JS. Engaging youth in participatory research and evaluation. *Journal of public health management and practice : JPHMP*. 2006;Suppl:S79-87. Epub 2006/10/13. doi: 10.1097/00124784-200611001-00015. PubMed PMID: 17035908
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