



# The Next 150 Vision

## Youth Report On Their Vision for Canada's Future

**WorldVuze**



Canadian  
Heritage

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**"Diversity is what makes all human beings unique, our different interests, our likes, our dislikes. It would be a shame not to represent that, nobody wants to be the same as their neighbour, it would be awful. It's very important to be yourself!!"**

**"It's really important to respect other people since a lot of kids commit suicide from not getting respect from others. Kids committing suicide is major problem right now."**

## **CANADA'S YOUTH SPEAK UP**

**"This is very important Canada can grow as a country as a safe place for all the citizens to live and work regardless of their sexual orientation, gender, or their culture or religion."**

**"Canada is already one of the most inclusive places in the world."**

**"It's important to understand the past in order to move forward as a society. Learning about the colonization of Canada and the country's path to independence can shed light on the social and political structures of today."**

**"The environment is dying and intolerance is spreading like wildfire. We need to care more about others and go the extra mile to help the planet - and it won't be easy."**

**"The world is in so much turmoil right now, it is important that Canada sets an example of unity and peace right now, because when there is peace and union in the world, we can focus on what is important, together."**



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## The Next 150 Discussion

This past fall 2017, in light of Canada's 150th anniversary, young Canadians from diverse communities across the country joined together in a national and bilingual online discussion on WorldVuze called 'The Next 150/Les Prochaines 150 Années'. This discussion, supported by Canadian Heritage, focused on key issues under these five topics:



**Responsible  
Citizenship**



**Canadian  
Identities**



**Rethinking  
Our Past**



**Sustainable  
Future**

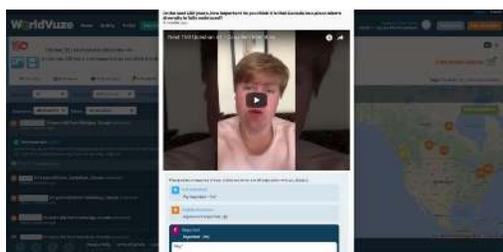


**Canada's  
Leadership**

During the discussion students shared, compared and explored perspectives with their peers on Next 150 questions posted on WorldVuze, under each of these topics, and in the process expanded their knowledge of each other, their communities and their country.

### About WorldVuze

WorldVuze is a free global discussion platform for K-12 students to safely share their own perspectives, as well as explore and compare the multiple and diverse perspectives of other students across Canada and around the world.



WorldVuze hosts hundreds of discussions, including the Next 150, as well as on a wide variety of topics from the environment, culture, to current events.



[www.worldvuze.com](http://www.worldvuze.com)



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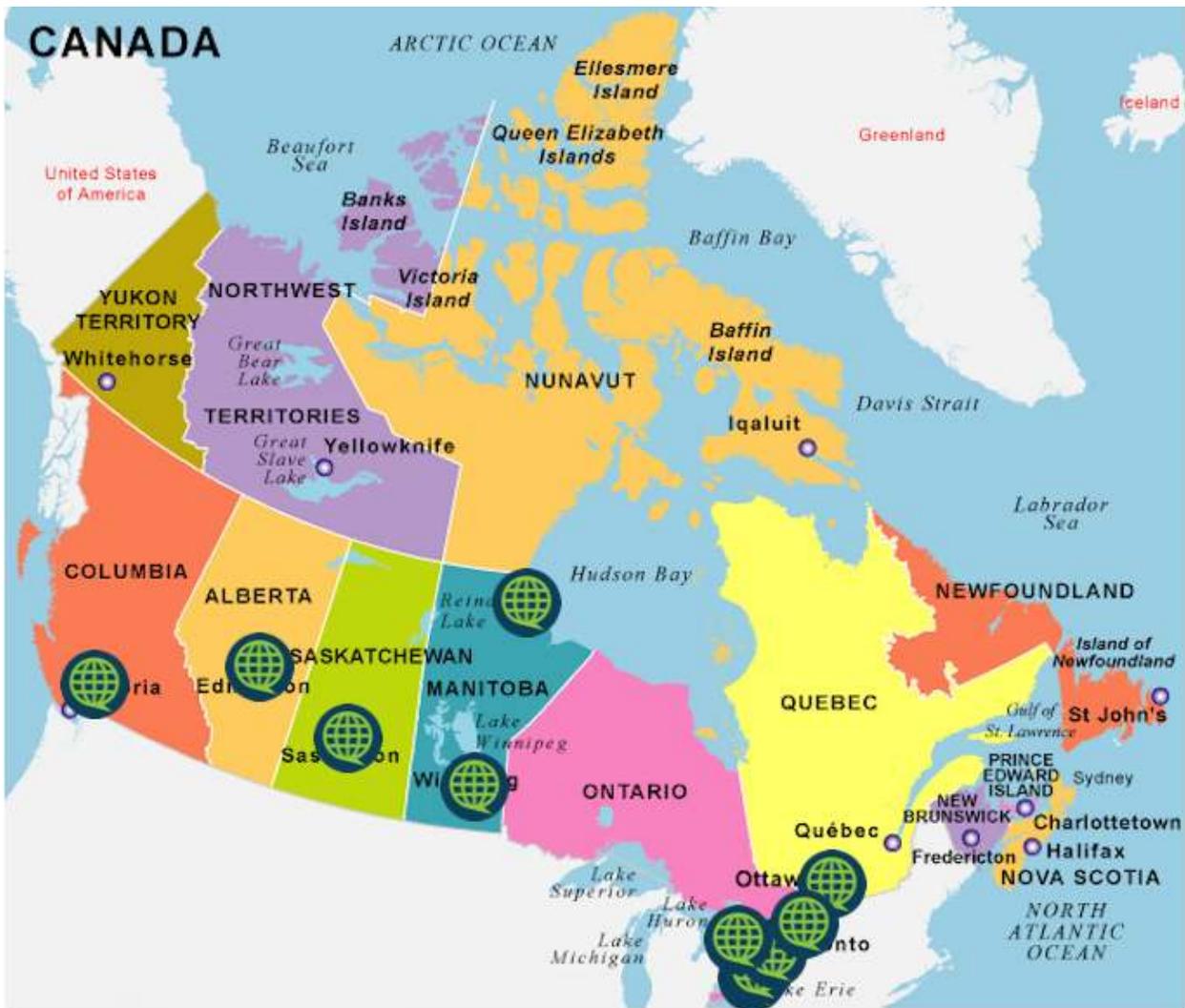
### WorldVuze Mission

Our mission is to help build a generation of critically thinking global citizens. By connecting a diversity of K-12 students around the world together through technology that opens their minds to new ways of thinking, young people are able to build a new set of 21st century skills so they can more effectively tackle complex local and global issues.



## Who Participated

652 perspectives were shared on the Next 150 questions posted on WorldVuze from Canadian youth aged 9-17 years old from the following 11 cities/towns in 5 provinces: Vancouver, British Columbia; Edmonton, Alberta; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Churchill, Manitoba; Cambridge, Ontario; Waterloo, Ontario; Ottawa, Ontario; Howick, Ontario; Guelph, Ontario; and Toronto, Ontario.



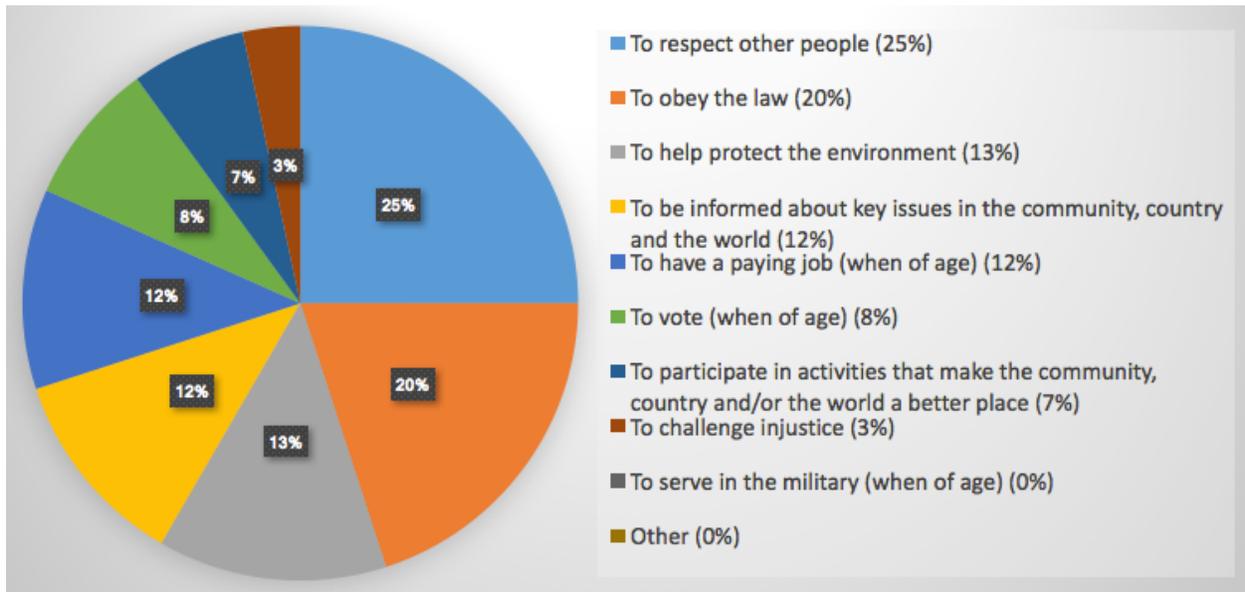


## The Next 150 Vision Report

As the discussion progressed, key issues emerged within the five Next 150 discussion topics. What youth had to say about these issues were compiled together into this 'Next 150 Vision' report. The purpose of this report and accompanying infographic, is to represent *their* vision for the Canada *they* want to see in the next 150 years. By identifying what's important to them this report can be used to generate further discussion and as a blueprint to help them and future generations take action to get us to the Next 150 they envision!

## Youth on Citizenship

**Discussion Question: What do you think the most important role of a responsible citizen should be in Canada?**



### What Youth are Saying...

55% of Canada's youth had different opinions of what the most important role of a responsible citizen in the Next 150 years should be, however almost half (45%) chose either respecting other people (25%) or obeying the law (20%).

#### To obey the law

*"Because a civilization cannot work properly without laws and regulations." - 14 year old Winnipeg, Manitoba*

*"Because I think we need less crime" - 12 year old Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

#### To be informed about key issues

*"If we are all informed of the issues that occur within our community, country and our world, we can all work together to fix this issue and solve the problem." - 15 year old Cambridge, Ontario*

#### To respect other people

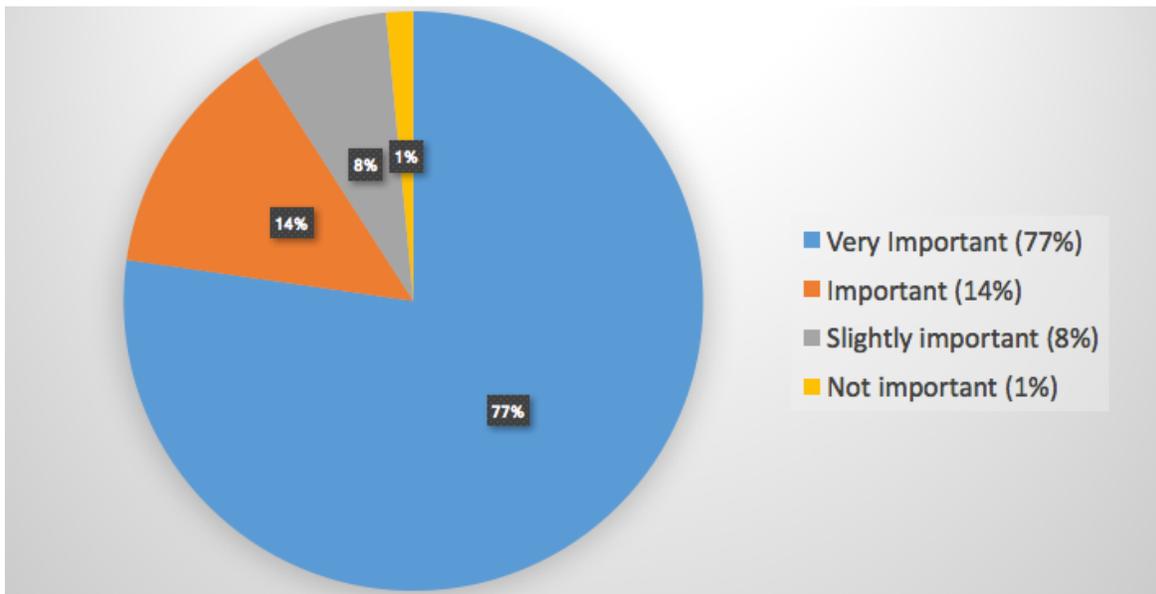
*"It's really important to respect other people since a lot of kids commit suicide from not getting respect from others. Kids committing suicide is major problem right now." - 14 year old Winnipeg, Manitoba*

#### To help protect the environment

*"If everyone can do something to help the environment then that will reduce pollution and even global warming massively. We all need to start thinking about the environment and the impacts that damaging the environment will cause." - 15 year old Cambridge, Ontario*

## Youth on Canadian Identity

**Discussion Question: In the next 150 years, how important do you think it is that Canada be a place where diversity is fully embraced?**



### What Youth are Saying...

91% of Canada's youth overwhelmingly felt that embracing diversity is important (14%) or very important (77%) for Canada in the Next 150 years.

#### Slightly important

*"Well i think its important but not fully embraced, but yes we do need diversity"* - 14 year old Winnipeg, Manitoba

*wants to be the same as their neighbour, it would be awful. It's very important to be yourself!!"* - 14 year old Winnipeg, Manitoba

#### Important

*"The more diversity we have, the more welcoming we can be. we won't be ashamed of our race, culture, colour, gender and relationship."* - 11 year old Vancouver, British Columbia

*"This is very important Canada can grow as a country as a safe place for all the citizens to live and work regardless of their sexual orientation, gender, or their culture or religion."* - 15 year old Cambridge, Ontario

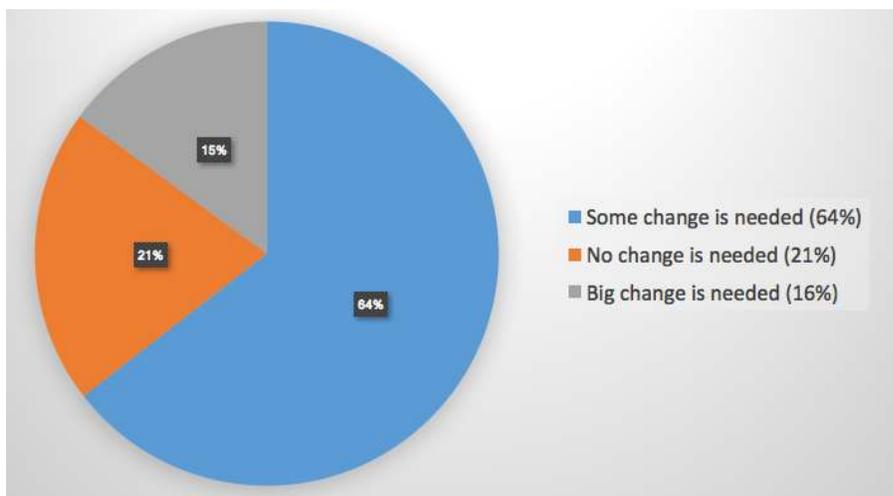
#### Very Important

*"Diversity is what makes all human beings unique, our different interests, our likes, our dislikes. It would be a shame not to represent that, nobody*

*"Because it would be a better place in the world, people don't have to be racist and sexist. People are being sexist and racist because of a choice not because they have to."* - 12 year old Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

## Youth on Belonging

**Discussion Question: How much change do you think is needed for the people in the city, town, or community where you live to feel they belong in Canada?**



### Mindshifts

*"I used to think that Canada was perfect but nothing is perfect and we still need to improve."*

*"I used to think that Canada was the best place ever, but now I think that no place is perfect. And there are a few changes that need to change."*

### What Youth are Saying...

Canada's youth shared quite a range of perspectives on belonging in the community they live in from 21% thinking that no change is needed, 64% thinking some change is needed, and 16% thinking big change is needed in the Next 150 years.

#### No Change is Needed

*"I think where I live is a pretty good place because I live outside of a small town and nothing really goes on there."* - 12 year old Howick, Ontario

*"Canada is already one of the most inclusive place in the world"* - 16 year old Vancouver, British Columbia

#### Some Change is Needed

*"People often just talk to people who speak the same language as them. Often, new immigrants aren't used to Canada's style and feel isolated. I think that neighbours and classmates should often help, and make them feel more connected to the community."* - 15 year old Vancouver, British Columbia

*"We needed some change in my city because sometime when I look around I see people being rude, racist, and sexist. I would like my city to be safe for everyone who lives in it, not mean. I hope my city changes a lot in upcoming years."* - 12 year old Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

#### Big Change is Needed

*"I think a big change needs to be made for people in this country to feel like they belong. Some people just need to start accepting people for who they really are, and not judging people for their culture, skin colour, language, etc..."* - 14 year old Winnipeg, Manitoba



## Kids' Meet Canadian Identities Webcast

Young Canadians also explored this Canadian Identity topic further in a national K-8 'Kids' Meet Canadian Identities' webcast held December 4, 2017 in partnership with WorldVuze and [A Kids' Guide to Canada](#). During the webcast, classrooms across Canada were able to meet and interact with students representing the following three diverse communities in Canada: Vancouver, BC; Gorrie, Ontario; and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. In addition to answering the questions on WorldVuze, these three classrooms were asked to also present their thoughts on the [Next 150](#) Discussion question: **"How much change do you think is needed for the people in the city, town, or community where you live to feel they belong in Canada?"**. [Watch the webcast recording](#).

Here are just some of the thoughtful perspectives shared by these classrooms:



**The WorldVuze Group at York House School in Vancouver, British Columbia** shared how being able to read perspectives of other students from outside of their community helped them to understand and appreciate that even though there were no real problems with belonging in their own community, not all regions of Canada have the same perspectives and experiences when it comes to belonging in Canada.



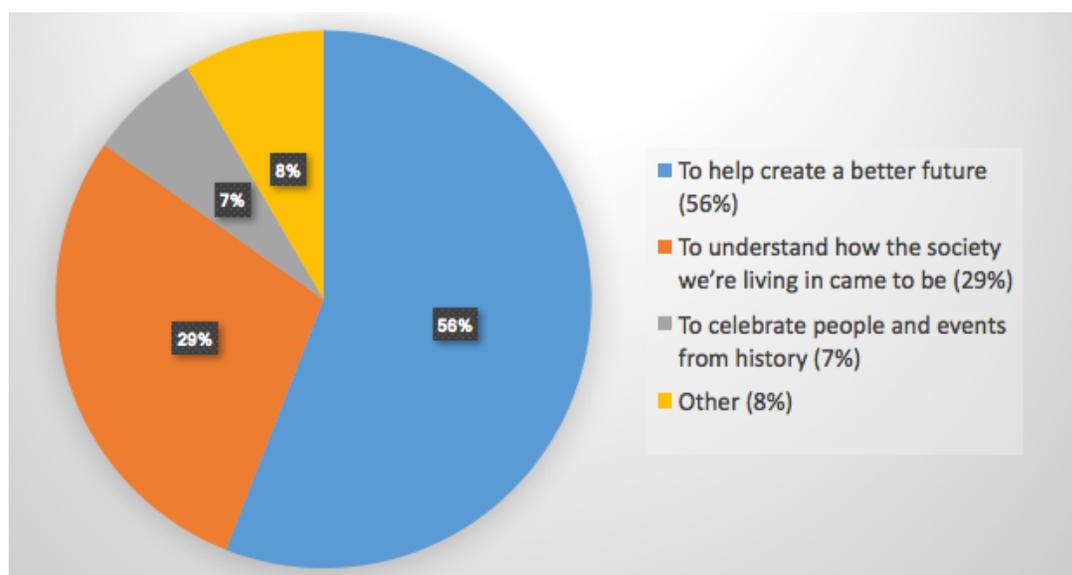
**The Grade 7/8 class from Howick Central Public School in Gorrie, Ontario** shared their perspectives around diversity which they found were unique to their experience of coming from a rural community in Canada.



**Students from St. Luke School in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan** shared how mindsets about diversity and belonging can be learned and unlearned, ***"You can learn to discriminate, so you can learn NOT to discriminate"***.

## Youth on Learning from Our Past

**Discussion Question: What do you think is the most important reason to learn about the history of Canada?**



### What Youth are Saying...

In the Next 150 years, Canada's youth are interested in learning about the history of Canada primarily as a way to help create a better future (56%) and to help them understand how the society we're living in came to be (29%).

#### To Help Create a Better Future

*"Je pense a Aidez nous créer un avenir meilleur est a en savoir plus sur Résidentiel écoles et combien ils étaient horribles pour tout ces enfants devait passer par."* - 11 year old Ottawa, Ontario

*"I believe we should strive to understand and use our knowledge of Canadian history to aid in avoiding future conflicts (ensuring that we do not repeat mistakes) and help in advancing in different areas, such as scientific studies."* - 14 year old Winnipeg, Manitoba

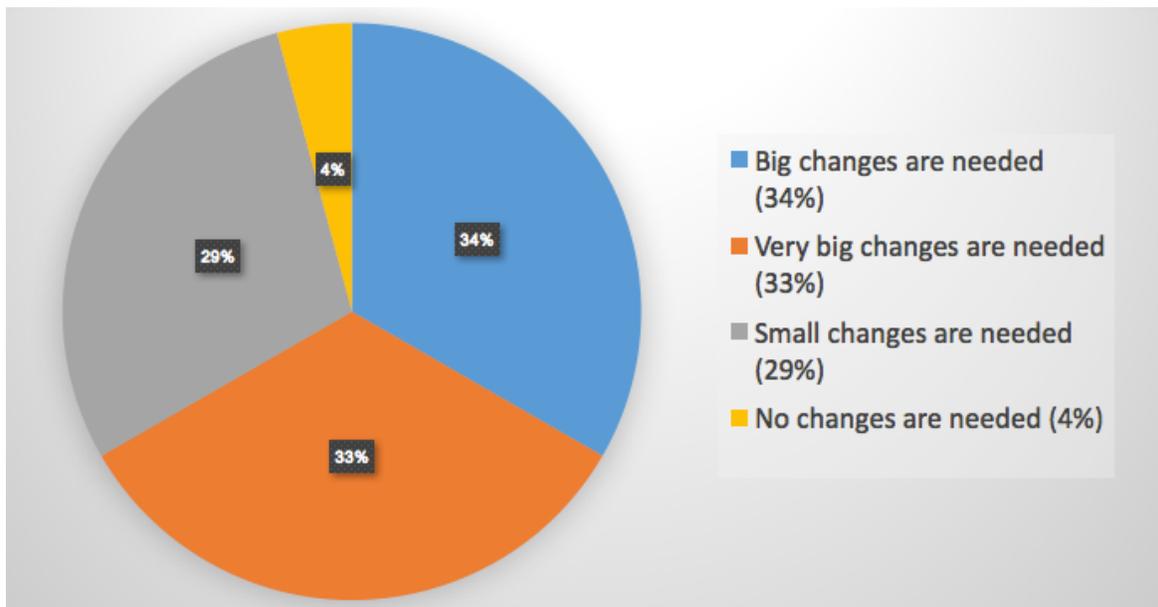
#### To Understand How the Society We're Living in Came to Be

*"It's important to understand the past in order to move forward as a society. Learning about the colonization of Canada and the country's path to independence can shed light on the social and political structures of today."* - 17 year old Vancouver, British Columbia

*"We need to learn from history, continue with things that made us great, learn from our errors like how we treated the indigenous peoples. As much as many people would rather forget it, it's still an issue that needs to be dealt with."* - 15 11 year old Cambridge, Ontario

## Youth on Sustainability

**Discussion Question: How much change do you think people from your community in Canada will need to make to the way they live to ensure a sustainable environment for future generations?**



### What Youth are Saying...

96% of Canada's youth feel that change is needed to ensure a sustainable environment for future generations with 67% feeling that big (34%) or very big change (33%) is needed over the Next 150 years.

#### Small Changes are Needed

*"Because if we all do one small thing to help the environment it will eventually help a lot over time instead of just one person doing everything because they wouldn't be able to do enough and then its not a whole community coming together."* - 12 year old Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

#### Big Changes are Needed

*"Maybe future generations need the train and our rail line is flooded."* - 10 year old Churchill, Manitoba

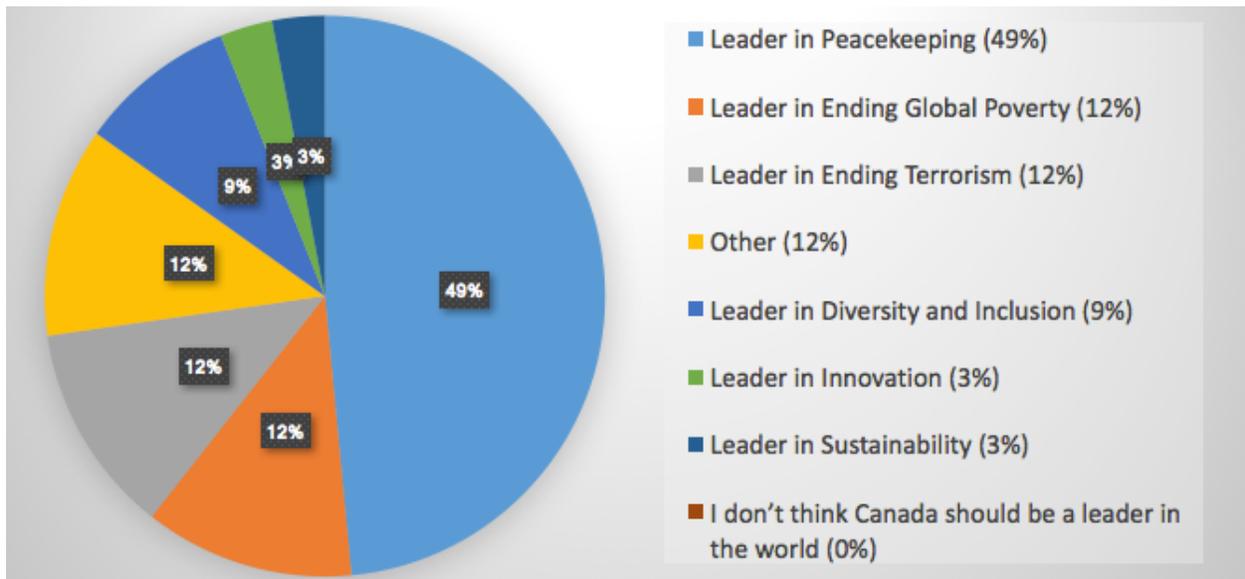
*"The environment is dying and intolerance is spreading like wildfire. We need to care more about others and go the extra mile to help the planet - and it won't be easy."* - 17 year old Waterloo, Ontario

#### Very Big Changes are Needed

*"With the current green house gasses in the atmosphere increasing rapidly, burning fossil fuel should be decreased as much as possible, and be replaced with renewable energy. There is however a huge problem, huge companies refuse to lose money."* - 15 year old Cambridge, Ontario

## Youth on Canada's Leadership

**Discussion Question: In the next 150 years, what do you think Canada's most important role should be as a leader in the world?**



### What Youth are Saying...

Canada's youth envision Canada as a leader in the world in the Next 150 years, especially in the area of Peacekeeping (49%), but also in helping to end global poverty (12%), end terrorism (12%), lead in diversity and inclusion (9%), and in other areas (11%).

#### Leader in Peacekeeping

*"The world is in so much turmoil right now, it is important that Canada sets an example of unity and peace right now, because when there is peace and union in the world, we can focus on what is important, together."* - 14 year old Winnipeg, Manitoba

*"Because if we keep having war then kids wont have a safe environment"* - 12 year old Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

#### Leader in Ending Global Poverty

*"Canada is one of the wealthiest countries in the world and it can easily help the world with ending poverty. it can use all it's wealth with help from other countries to end poverty in this world."* - 14 year old Winnipeg, Manitoba

#### Other

*"I think Canada should be a good role model of being a peaceful country."* - 11 year old, Edmonton, Alberta

*"I think they are all important, not just one. I think we can help in each area and not just be a leader in one thing."* - 12 year old Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



## **What Youth Had to Say - Conclusion**

It's clear from the insightful ideas and perspectives shared by students on WorldVuze and in this Next 150 Vision report that Canadian youth have high expectations for the future of our country. It is also evident that while their opinions were more divided on some issues, such as what it means to be a responsible Canadian citizen and Canada's role as a leader in the world, but they were quite unified on other important issues such as making our environment more sustainable and the importance of embracing diversity in Canada.

We would like to express our thanks to all of the young people across Canada and their teachers for their participation in this important national discussion.



## Additional Next 150 Resources

### **The Next 150 Resources and Activities**

The Next 150 discussions will continue to be available on WorldVuze, as well as the accompanying background resources and deep learning activities created for all 5 of the Next 150 themes.

 [worldvuze.com/150](http://worldvuze.com/150)

### **'Kids Meet Canadian Identities' Webcast**

Watch the recording of the live national Kids Meet Canadian Identities webcast with classrooms across Canada reflecting on The Next 150 discussions.

 [Kids Meet Canadian Identities Webcast](#)

### **IDELLO**

IDÉLLO presented a series of background resources in French on each of the five themes Next 150 themes to help classes take part in WorldVuze discussions.

 [Responsible Citizenship](#)

 [Canadian Identities](#)

 [Rethinking Our Past](#)

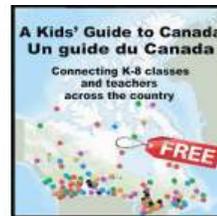
 [Sustainable Future](#)

 [Canada's Leadership in the World](#)



## Partners and Supporters

This project was made possible thanks to a grant from Canadian Heritage. We would also like to thank Groupé Media TFO's IDÉLLO, A Kids' Guide to Canada, The Critical Thinking Consortium, The Digital Human Library and The Students Commission.



**The Students Commission**  
*Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement*



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