

Reaching Out & Building Networks

Bridging the Generation Gap
&
Engaging Young Leaders



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Inspired by my work with the youth of Toronto & around the world, and by
the support of organizations & adults with whom I've served

Reaching Out & Building Networks: A Youth Perspective



The Young & the Restless – what's in it for us?

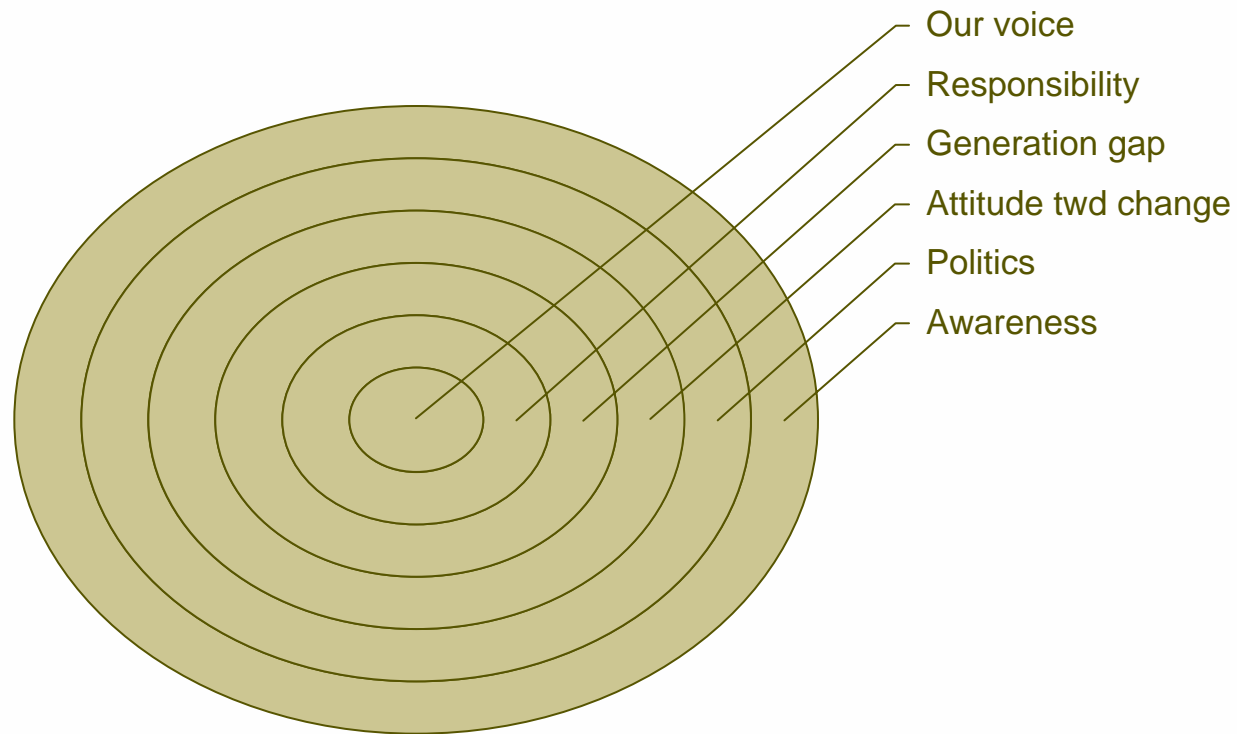


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Obstacles - What's holding us back?



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Why is youth involvement is vital?


- It's in the numbers
 - In 2001, 40.8% of Vietnamese in Canada were under the age of 25
- Sustainability of Vietnamese programs, services, traditions

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- Are we ready to take over the responsibilities of our “elders”

- While older may be wiser, younger is characterized by fresh ideas, a willingness to take risks, and dream a new dream



*When youth move
forward, the world
moves with them.*

*Together we can
all move in the
right direction*

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How to break down the barriers...

- Work collaboratively
- Give & take attitude
- Open communication
- Learn to speak Vietnamese
- Try to use English

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Hints to the older generation:

- Be consistent but flexible
- Practice respect, tolerance, patience
- Time
- Non-judgmental

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Hints to the older generation:

- Trust
- Empowerment

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Suggestions to the Y & R:

- Attend meetings
- Ask questions
- Learn about the history of a group/organization – but don't hold it against them
 - Open mind
 - Needs assessment

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Suggestions to the Y & R

- Don't be afraid to have a voice
- Don't be afraid to express new ideas; a fresh perspective
- Don't take it personally *(key to community involvement)

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Coming together as a team...

- Network
- Friendships
- Pick your battles – is it worth the energy? to resist or fight?

“Whenever you are in conflict with someone, there is one factor that can make the difference between damaging your relationship or deepening it. That factor is...”?

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Teamwork...

- Show your appreciation; say thank you
- Validate, celebrate, recognize community leaders
- Admit your faults; weaknesses
- Give praise/credit where it is worthy
- Don't do it for the limelight or the gratitude

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Team...

- **Evaluate!!!**
 - Key to bridging the generation gap
 - Discuss weaknesses & areas of improvement together
 - Put it in writing
- **Dance a good dance**

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Secret to successful leadership:

“Follow up & follow through
...People will follow you”

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“Only passions, great passions, can elevate the soul to great things”

Denis Diderot, 18th Century French man of letters & philosopher

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