

# Fresh Voices Process and Impact Evaluation Request for Proposal

## Background

In 2011, Vancouver Foundation and B.C.'s Representative for Children and Youth launched Fresh Voices from Long Journeys, a partnership initiative to engage immigrant and refugee youth from across the province in dialogue and action to identify and remove systemic barriers to their ability to thrive. In 2014, Vancouver Foundation decided to make a significant commitment to the Fresh Voices Initiative until 2018 by assigning program resources and dedicated staff.

Fresh Voices is an initiative within the Youth Engagement team of the Grants & Community Initiatives Department at Vancouver Foundation. The initiative works closely with partners and their programs that provide services or leadership opportunities for immigrant and refugee youth. In order to achieve its goals, the initiative engages diverse young people from migrant communities, and their allies, and collaborates with policy makers. Fresh Voices also takes on campaigns, promotes policy changes, does research and builds partnerships in order to address the unique needs of immigrant and refugee youth in B.C.

The outcomes the Fresh Voices initiative seeks to influence are:

- Increase public awareness of policies & practices that impact immigrant & refugee youth.
- Increase opportunities for racialized immigrant & refugee youth to influence key systems that impact their lives.
- Increase community capacity to support settlement process of immigrant & refugee youth
- Develop a sustainable youth-adult partnership/network model made of immigrant and refugee youth and allies.

Fresh Voices from Long Journeys is led by the Youth Advisory Team (YAT): a diverse group of racialized immigrant and refugee youth age between 14 to 24, who provide feedback, recommendations and community leadership to the initiative overall. This team also includes youth workers who are migrants themselves, and who are connected to different sectors in community (immigrant service organizations, neighborhood houses, schools, etc.) The YAT is supported by Vancouver Foundation staff.

## What's Happening in 2016?

For the last five years, the Fresh Voices Initiative has grown significantly as a movement connecting grassroots efforts and institutions. It also builds on partnerships with the immigrant services sector and engages a diverse range of stakeholders (including elected officials). The community engagement and advocacy work has garnered much attention and created space for some successful public policy changes, as well as positioning itself as a legitimate voice for immigrant and refugee young people. We would like to build on that momentum.

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In order to continue building, Fresh Voices needs to further articulate its focus, and better understand its impact to date.

For more information on Fresh Voices, please visit [www.freshvoices.ca](http://www.freshvoices.ca)

## Scope

Vancouver Foundation staff and the Youth Advisory Team have done some initial thinking on the evaluation. We envision the evaluation work taking place in two phases.

### Phase One:

Help staff and youth to articulate the model of the Fresh Voices Initiative, including the following:

- Principles
- Approach (how the work is done)
- Theory of Change (including desired outcomes)
- Strategies
- Key stakeholders and their roles

**Deliverables:** A short and youth-friendly document describing the model of the Fresh Voices Initiative. This must include a graphic representation of the model/Theory of Change. We are open to proposals for other deliverables as well.

### Phase Two:

Evaluate the impact of Fresh Voices to date. Given the model, theory of change, and desired outcomes articulated, how effective has Fresh Voices been at achieving its outcomes? What has been the impact of Fresh Voices at the individual, community and systems levels? What types of work between youth and adults has produced learning and growth?

How and to what extent has Fresh Voices impacted public policy and/or practice? What can we learn from the implementation of Fresh Voices that can inform its work going forward? What are the particular strengths of the initiative, and what are some areas for improvement? This evaluation is being driven by a desire for learning and strengthening the work moving forward.

**Deliverables:** Evaluation report accessible to multiple stakeholders, including youth. Open to proposals that describe deliverables beyond, or in addition, to a written report.

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## Who will be involved?

- Small advisory group of staff, youth workers and young people will act as a reference group.
- The Youth Advisory Team, this team is made of 25 members, mostly young people from racialized migrant communities. This also includes 6 youth workers who support the overall initiative and the young people
- Key partner organizations
- Vancouver Foundation staff

## Proposed Timeline

**Phase One: June – August 2016**

**Phase Two: September – November 2016**

## Project Budget

There is a budget of up to \$20,000 maximum for the evaluation process. This does not include printing and production of materials.

## Request for Proposal

We are requesting a basic proposal to be submitted by Friday, May 20th, 2016. The proposal should include:

- 1 - 2 page description of proposed approach to the work.
- Short description of relevant experience.
- CV or resume.
- One sample of an evaluation or applied research study authored (or co-authored) by proponent.
- Proposed budget.

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## Considerations

The ideal candidate will have the following experience:

- Participatory and utilization focused evaluation methods
- Developing evaluation products for diverse audiences, particularly youth. Products beyond written reports are of particular interest.
- Work with youth
- Work with marginalized communities
- Lived experience of being a refugee or immigrant, and/or knowledge of refugee and immigrant issues

**Please email your submission by May 20th to: [freshvoices@vancouverfoundation.ca](mailto:freshvoices@vancouverfoundation.ca)**