MAYOR'S COVID-19 YOUTH SUPPORT TASK FORCE



Brampton is one of the youngest cities in Canada with more than 130,000 youth within the ages of 14-29.

COVID-19 has deeply impacted Brampton youth.

The Youth Support Task Force was established to ensure youth were engaged with and provided with the necessary resources and supports during this challenging time.





THE TEAM

Council Co-Leads

- City Councillor Harkirat Singh
- City Councillor Charmaine Williams

City Staff Lead

Yvonne Sinniah

City Staff Members

- Recreation
- Strategic Communications
- Office of the CAO
- Brampton Fire
- Human Resources
- Brampton Transit
- City Clerks Office
- Emergency Management Office
- Planning, Building and Economic Development





MANDATE

- Provide Brampton youth (14-29) with the necessary supports, resources and social engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Work closely with school boards, 40+ community organizations/groups, Region of Peel and other stakeholders to provide youth access to mental health, learning and growth, food and shelter, employment and financial resources.
- Keep youth up-to-date on COVID-19 information and programming/service updates.
- Provide virtual activities for youth to stay social, active and entertained at home, while encouraging physical distancing.



APPROACH

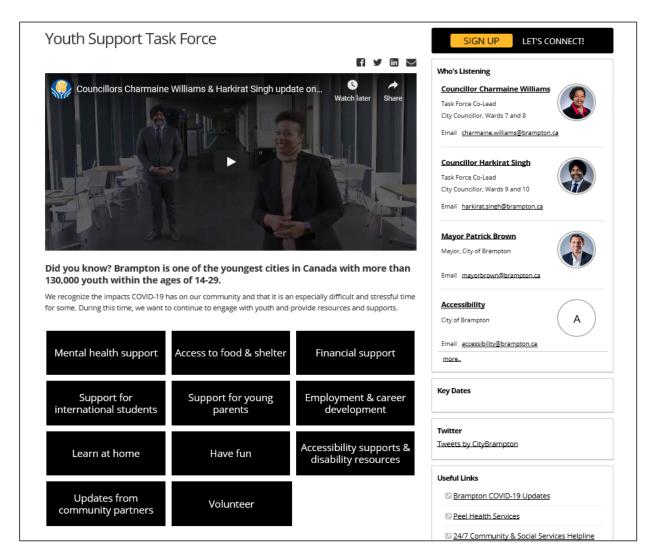
- Share critical resources and information for youth, youth support workers, and young parents.
- Engage with youth-serving organizations and groups in Peel.
- Create virtual engaging events and activities to inspire youth.
- Connect with school boards on timely information and supports for students and families.
- Provide access to mental health resources, supports and services to ensure youth are not isolated and disengaged during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Bridge the gap between higher levels of government to share funding/financial supports with youth and youth-organizations, including for international students.



WEB PAGE

A one-stop-shop for youth to access resources and information on:

- mental health and wellbeing
- access to food and shelter
- financial support
- government funding
- support for international students
- support for young parents
- employment and career development
- learning at home
- accessibility and disability
- volunteering





YOUTH SURVEY

Surveyed more than 250 Brampton youth to determine how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting them and to help identify the required supports they need.

Key findings:

- COVID-19 was negatively impacting the health of youth
- Schooling was a major concern
- Looking for at-home entertainment support





BUILDING CONNECTIONS

40+ Youth-Serving Organizations

Regular calls with organizations to receive insight on the current needs of youth, the role each organization is playing to meet those needs and gaps that may exist.

Public School Boards

Collaborated with PDSB and DPCDSB to disseminate information and ensure youth supports are accessible.

Private Sector

Worked with Brampton Economic
Development team to disseminate
information on subsidized programs offering
high-speed, low-cost internet to eligible
Brampton residents.

- Rogers Connected for Success
- Telus Mobility for Good

Connecting Youth to Volunteer Opportunities

- Via the Social Support Task Force
- Volunteer opportunities in the community



INSPIRATIONAL & EDUCATIONAL SPACES FOR YOUTH

With in-person events cancelled and amenities closed, we organized virtual events to keep youth engaged, connected and socialized:

- National Youth Week
- Brampton Youth Day
- Inspirational Youth Speaker Series







VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

Internal

Collaborated with internal City divisions to share youth-related programming, such as:

- Brampton Fire and Emergency Services – fire education modules via Google Classroom
- Performing Arts virtual creative arts programming
- Recreation virtual craft tutorials and free Fitness in the Park programming
- Economic Development free skills building and entrepreneurship programs

External

Shared information on programming from youth-serving organizations/external partners, such as:

- Brampton Multicultural Centre virtual employment training and mentoring workshops
- Sheridan College Academic Upgrading Program and Virtual Faculty Days
- One Voice One Team virtual leadership summer camps



SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Connecting with youth via social media continues to be key priority.

Social activities included:

- Tik Tok "Put a Finger Down" Challenge
- My Brampton Hangout Contest
- Brampton Bingo Instagram Challenge
- Let's Spread Positivity Twitter Challenge
- Instagram live chats with Mayor Brown, Councillors Singh and Williams, and community experts/school boards











WHAT'S NEXT?

- Monitor COVID-19 pandemic and share up-to-date facts and information with youth.
- Continue to post up-to-date, relevant information on the Youth Support Task Force web page.
- Keep youth engaged through free virtual programs and events provided by the City and external organizations.



Thank you!

