

We had a **BIG CONVERSATION** and **this is what happened!**

More than 50 people comprised of youth, diverse working professionals, and sector leaders gathered together for one-day event to launch an intergenerational dialogue about the connections between current global issues and the role that public education could play if it were working to its fullest potential.

A panel discussion featured the following speakers:

- Stacie Smith, Executive Director, Youth Canadians Roundtable on Health
- Maxime Crawford-Holland, Project Manager, Communities Building Youth Futures Yukon
- Khalil Z. Shariff, Chief Executive Officer, Aga Khan Foundation Canada

Key Discussion Takeaways



Purpose of education:

To prepare young people for the future by fostering the hard and soft skills and competencies that they need to be happy, healthy, and engaged citizens of a pluralistic society.

Challenges faced by education:

- It is currently travelling several paces behind what the world needs.
- It has been built according to the needs of our economy rather than the needs of our society.
- There is too much focus on test scores and not enough connection to what is happening in our world.

Changes that could benefit education and ultimately, the world:



- Engaging youth throughout decision-making about system processes (starting from the beginning and not just a checkmark at the end!)
- An upstream decision about how to teach students about governance and government to foster civic engagement, then support for schools to implement the plan.
- Embedding the value of cross-sectoral collaboration into our organizational structures. In education system, this could look like an interdisciplinary approach to meeting graduation requirements. In government, this could look like funders requiring projects to have multi-sector collaboration and consultations.

The next steps?

The next time you hear about a global emergency or a societal crisis, ask yourself and those around you: what is the connection to education and how could education have made a difference?