

# Acting with RESPECT

## Quick Reference Guide

Prepared for the Town of New Glasgow by Adrienne McCurdy Consulting & Bullrush Communications, June 2017

The Town of New Glasgow chose to adopt and incorporate the RESPECT Model for Youth Engagement in the formation and mobilization of its Youth Leaders Action Committee. RESPECT is an approach based on 7 principles for effective, meaningful, and sustainable youth and community engagement.

Each letter of R-E-S-P-E-C-T is a principle of authentic youth engagement.

These seven principles are aligned with the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse's Components of Ethical Youth Engagement.



### What did we do together?

- **Real Empowerment:** Youth were involved in establishing the balance of power between young people and town supporters and informing the Terms of Reference;
- **Environment is Youth Friendly:** Together we set our Group Agreements;
- **Support & Guidance from Adults:** The town made a pledge to RESPECT youth and identified resources and opportunities available to the committee;
- **Participation is Meaningful:** We discovered our shared purpose as a committee and as individuals;
- **Establish Goals:** We shared our dreams for our community as well as the things we'd most like to learn more about and brought these together to identify our first three projects.
- **Community Matters:** We created action plans for our #NGRandomActsofBeauty placemaking projects;
- **Together We Learn:** We named the perspectives each of us brings to the committee, the skills we have to share, and our learning needs.

### Workshop Outcomes & Upholding RESPECT:

As both the town and committee embark on respectful youth engagement and outreach activities in the community, it is important to recognize that each principle applies equally to the town and the committee. Where appropriate, summaries of the important committee outcomes are also listed. More information is found in the full report.

**R REAL EMPOWERMENT:** We will strive to achieve, whenever possible a balance of power between youth and adults when it comes to planning, implementation evaluation, management, and decision-making. We will ensure there is a clear understanding of the roles, responsibilities, expectations, and decision-making power.

#### Roles & Decision-Making Power (expressed as ranges, TBD per initiative)\*:

<b>Committee Roles:</b>	<b>Committee's Decision-Making Power:</b>
Committee Governance & Administration	→ Committee is... <b>Consulted</b> or <b>Involved</b>
Advisory	→ Committee is... <b>Consulted</b> or <b>Involved</b>
Youth-Led Engage & Empower Initiatives	→ Committee is... <b>Involved, Collaborating</b> or <b>Empowered</b>
Town-Led Engage & Empower Initiatives	→ Committee is... <b>Involved, Collaborating</b> or <b>Empowered</b>

\* See Terms of Reference

**E ENVIRONMENT IS YOUTH FRIENDLY:** We will adapt our processes whenever possible to lower the barriers of participation for youth. We will embrace diversity, use inclusive language, take time to build trust, learn what safe, inclusive environment means to youth and other participants, and will strive to uphold our Group Agreements.

## Group Agreements:

Confidentiality

Create Safer Spaces

Honesty

Be Considerate

Establish Expectations

Respond to Emails

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**SUPPORT & GUIDANCE FROM ADULTS:** We commit to providing our youth leaders with the right balance of support and guidance in order to help them succeed as they take on responsibilities and leadership. We are prepared to prioritize youth needs and be flexible with our expectations. We will help the youth leaders learn to think critically about their actions and decisions. We will work to provide a clear understanding of roles and expectations and when things do not go as expected we will use an appreciative lens so that everyone can learn.

The Town of New Glasgow pledges to uphold the seven guiding principles of RESPECT, including several specific pledges, which can be found in the Acting with RESPECT Final Report.

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**PARTICIPATION IS MEANINGFUL:** Sustained participation and engagement is possible when participation is personally meaningful to those involved. This means if youth are being asked to participate they should have the opportunity to set the agenda and pursue interests that are enjoyable, build healthy relationships, and provide youth with a sense of self-worth and value. We commit to supporting the committee in its purpose:

**Our Purpose as a Committee  
& as Individuals:**

Learning from others.

Sharing our perspective.

Being a voice for youth.

Building a more attractive, healthy, vibrant community.

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**ESTABLISH GOALS:** We will assist and support the committee in establishing and pursuing goals that apply RESPECT principles and are SMART: Specific, Measurable, Agreed Upon, Realistic, and Timely. The committee will build from their dreams and learning objectives to help establish committee goals.

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**COMMUNITY MATTERS:** We will work to identify and provide the resources to support the outward focus of the committee. The youth leaders want to make a difference in the lives of other youth, the greater community, and the natural environment. The youth leaders will be given opportunities to establish connections and build relationships in the community. **The committee's first three projects are:**

### #1: Marina Placemaking

**Level of Empowerment:**

The Youth Leaders will **COLLABORATE** with Town Council and Staff.

### #2: Trail Clean Up

**Level of Empowerment:**

The Youth Leaders are **EMPOWERED** to run with this project.

### #3: Youth Coffee Houses

**Level of Empowerment:**

The Youth Leaders will **COLLABORATE** with Town Council and Staff.

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**TOGETHER WE LEARN:** Our youth leaders and their adult supporters will build upon their strengths and learn new skills. They will learn from each other, support and mentor each other, and support and mentor other youth in our community. Feedback is intended to support learning and skill development. Everyone is encouraged to take risks and move beyond comfort zones. **Identified skills and learning needs:**

- Partnerships
- Community Engagement
- Facilitation
- Leadership Skills & Team Building
- Orientation to Municipal Government & Community Development
- Project Management & Event Organizing

- Placemaking & Wayfinding
- Communications:
  - Writing/Grant Writing
  - Social Media
  - Public Speaking, Presentations
  - Photography, Video
- Research
- Board Governance/Chairing/Minutes