A BETTER FUTURE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN CANADA



REIMAGINE PLAYBOOK 2025

Youth views about:

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
EDUCATION
GOVERNANCE AND SYSTEMS CHANGE
HEALTHCARE
CLIMATE CHANGE

A UNICEF Canada
Youth Advocacy Initiative

UNICEF Canada extends our gratitude to:

The young people who contributed to writing this Playbook.

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BGC Canada, Campaign 2000, Children's Healthcare Canada, Equitas, Inspiring Healthy Futures, Jack.org, Plan International Canada, Results Canada, the Students Commission of Canada, and YMCA Canada.

Special thanks to:
Overlap Associates

UNICEF Canada recognizes that our work takes place on Indigenous territories across Turtle Island and pledges to work in reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. UNICEF Canada's national office is situated on the ancestral, traditional territory of many nations including the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca and, most recently, the Mississaugas of the New Credit. This territory is part of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement for all people to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. This territory is also covered by the Upper Canada Treaties. It is home to diverse First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples today, and we are grateful to live and work on this territory.

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ABOUT THIS PLAYBOOK

This Playbook represents the work of youth advocates who came together throughout 2025 to learn and share knowledge and skills about their human rights and how to advocate for them. These young people identified four interconnected issues that unite them in their passion for shaping a better country and a reimagined world: **Children's Rights, Education, Governance and Systems Change, Healthcare** and **Climate Change**.

Each group statement summarizes how young people are experiencing these issues in Canada and around the world, in their own words. Each section includes recommendations from the youth for decision-makers, adult allies, and other young people on how we can support them in their advocacy. While these words are their own and may not represent positions of UNICEF Canada or our partner organizations in National Child Day, we are proud to provide this platform for the views of young people on the issues that matter to them. Please read and share them widely to amplify youth voices and experiences and help reimagine a better future for young people in Canada.

The Playbook was formally released at the Youth Advocacy Summit on November 20, 2025, in recognition of National Child Day and World Children's Day (November 20).

A digital version of this Playbook is available at
www.unicef.ca/reimagineplaybook

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SPOTLIGHT: MEGATRENDS AFFECTING
THE FUTURE OF CHILDHOOD

UNICEF's 2025 *State of the World's Children* Report explores how children and youth are experiencing poverty worldwide. Drawing on first-person accounts from young people, the report looks at how five megatrends – climate and environmental crises, rising levels of conflict and fragility, demographic shifts, the digital divide and economic shocks - are shaping child poverty and demanding new solutions. As part of this work, each group considered how poverty impacts their topic, reflecting on how differences in family income shape the way young people experience their topic.



Climate and Environmental Crises

Rising global temperatures, extreme weather events, pollution and loss of natural resources are reshaping ecosystems around the world. These crises disrupt access to food, water and shelter and create growing risks to safety, stability and future opportunities. Recent summers in Canada have been marked by record-breaking wildfires, floods and heatwaves that damaged homes and communities.



Rising Levels of Conflict and Fragility

Armed conflicts, political instability and weak institutions are disrupting daily life, forcing people from their homes and straining social and economic systems. These situations can make it harder for communities to access services like healthcare, education, and stable work and slow progress toward building safe and hopeful futures.



Demographic Shifts

Populations are changing as people age, move and bring in diverse backgrounds and traditions. These shifts shape what communities look like, what resources are needed and how services like schools and healthcare are planned.



Digital Divide

Unequal access to technology and the internet means that while some people will benefit from rapid innovation, others are excluded from opportunities to learn, work, and connect. This divide deepens existing inequalities and makes it harder to achieve fair and inclusive progress.



Economic Shocks

Global and national economies are vulnerable to sudden disruptions such as recessions, inflation and job losses. These shocks undermine stability, reduce access to basic needs and can leave lasting impacts on livelihoods. Rising costs of food and housing in Canada are one way these shocks are experienced day to day.

SPOTLIGHT:
U-REPORT CANADA

U Report by UNICEF

U-Report is a polling platform developed by UNICEF for youth ages 13 to 24. It provides quick, real-time pulse checks of young people's views about issues they care about; to understand how different groups of youth are affected by decisions, policies, services and events; and to involve youth in decisions that affect them. There are more than 3,000 U-Reporters in Canada, and they reside in every province and territory.

Visit **www.ureportcanada.ca** for more information and to sign up for U-Report Canada.



OUR PLAYBOOK FOR A STRONGER CANADA

We are 30 young people from every corner of Canada, united by one vision: a country where youth are actively included in shaping our collective future. We call on Canada's leaders to open the door and make space for us at the decision-making table.

Over the past year, we came together regularly to research, share perspectives, and evaluate what's working and what isn't for children. The result of this work is the **Reimagine Playbook**, a roadmap and an invitation for leaders ready to partner with youth and envision a Canada that works for every child and young person.

Our recommendations are organized into five key areas of focus:

Children's Rights: We believe children's voices deserve to be heard, valued, and protected. By integrating youth into advisory councils and conducting child- and youth-led impact assessments, policies can reflect their lived experiences. Adults and policymakers must be trained in trauma-informed and culturally sensitive practices to create inclusive and accountable spaces.

Education: Schools must improve the curriculum to include better resources, and practical life skills training to improve sexual health education for children and youth. We are calling on increased opportunities to learn from an improved curriculum to prepare students for a future where they feel equipped and supported.

Governance and Systems Change: Decision-makers hold the responsibility to ensure governance systems are inclusive, accountable, and transparent. We advocate for a mandatory consultative process that meaningfully includes youth and individuals with lived experience in shaping policy to strengthen the design and implementation of policies across Canada.

Healthcare: More than ever, we notice Canadian youth face increasing healthcare challenges in Canada. Policies need to ensure that all Canadians have access to adequate healthcare services. Investments in rural infrastructure, mobile services, telehealth, and Indigenous healthcare providers can bridge existing gaps and deliver timely, culturally appropriate care.

Climate Change: Youth are growing increasingly aware of the negative impacts of climate change with corporations' exploitative practices threatening sustainability. By combining advocacy, regulatory pressure, and incentives for smaller companies, we see a future where the market shifts toward responsible production and repairable products.

Child rights do not change with geography, whether in Canada or around the world, and Canada's commitment should not either. Millions of children face crises globally, and Canada must continue to uphold every child's rights.

Here's how you can make that happen:

- Endorse the **National Strategy for Children and Youth** and support it with sustained, targeted development and humanitarian investments that protect the world's most vulnerable children.
- Meet us where we are. Children and young people across Canada are ready to work with you, share our Playbook, and turn these ideas into real change.

Canada's story is still being written, and championing children and youth should be part of it.

Are you ready to listen, to act, and to lead with us for a stronger Canada?

Sincerely,

Youth Advocacy Program, UNICEF Canada (2025)

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



The Current State of Children's Rights

Children's rights are fundamental to ensuring every young person can grow up safe, healthy and empowered. Yet, in Canada and globally, these rights are not fully realized. Despite being a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Canada is underperforming in achieving children's rights compared to its peers. UNICEF's Report Card 19 ranked Canada 19th out of 36 wealthy countries for children's well-being, with especially poor outcomes in mental health, life satisfaction and adolescent suicide (UNICEF Canada, 2025).

Young people today are voicing that their rights are not adequately protected in areas such as healthcare, education, climate action and digital safety. According to a 2024 U-Report poll, 68 per cent of Canadian youth felt their voices were not meaningfully considered in decisions that affect them (U-Report Canada, 2024). These concerns are even more urgent for Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQI+ and newcomer youth, who all face systemic inequities that compound violations of their rights (Children First Canada, 2021).

Globally, the challenges are just as stark. Over 333 million children live in extreme poverty, and crises such as conflict, climate change and economic instability are deepening inequalities (UNICEF, 2023). These realities make it clear that children's rights are not just a matter of policy – they are a matter of justice, survival and dignity.

Ensuring that all children can enjoy their rights equally must be a national and global priority. Governments, communities and young people themselves must work together to reimagine a future where children's voices are heard, their rights are respected and their full potential is realized.

How Young People Are Experiencing Issues Surrounding Children's Rights

Children's rights include the right to share thoughts freely. Yet many children who advocate for meaningful change – often drawing on deeply impactful lived experiences – are excluded from policy discussions. How can children inherit this world if they are not allowed to be part of the conversations shaping it? Young people frequently hold the most relevant perspectives to inform decision-making, but they are too often dismissed as lacking knowledge or maturity. In reality, youth advocacy is grounded in lived experience and strengthened by innovation, passion and research.

In Canada, opportunities for youth participation often exist in name only. As Lily reflects: "I first got involved in politics at 11 or 12 [years old] through canvassing and phone banking, and later through campaign management. What I never had was a chance to shape policy itself. In four years on two constituency youth councils, we rarely met with MPs [Members of Parliament] or discussed policy in depth. Friends across Canada have had similar experiences. While these councils are good learning opportunities, they fall short of meaningful inclusion. Children are directly impacted by government decisions, yet our voices are often absent."

Juliette's experience further illustrates these challenges: "As a young person, I've found it extremely hard to access opportunities without social media or networks. Even when [we] do, adults often don't take us seriously. These challenges impact our day-to-day lives. Policies on school, food programs, healthcare, Indigenous heritage and climate change affect both our present and future, and youth deserve to have a voice in shaping them. Access to participation also depends on many factors: economic differences, social identity (religion, immigration status, gender), geography (more opportunities in big cities than in smaller communities), and even personal traits like confidence or public speaking skills. These inequities mean that not all youth are equally heard, even though all of us have the right to participate."

Violations of children's rights occur across continents, countries and even within Canadian communities. Globally, nearly one in six children lives in conflict-affected areas, 52 million lack access to education, and 84 per cent express worry about the climate crisis (UNICEF, 2023). Children in conflict zones such as Gaza are deprived of food, education, shelter, and even the right to life itself (Human Rights Watch, 2023). At home, inequities are also stark: Many children lack sufficient social and economic support, which affects access to food, clothing, safe housing and healthcare. Indigenous children on reserves in Ontario continue to live without guaranteed clean drinking water (UNICEF Canada, 2025).

Yet Canada and much of the world still lack meaningful mechanisms to include children in decision-making. Children are rarely consulted, and the federal Ministry for Children and Family has been consolidated with three other ministries, reducing the visibility of children's rights on the government agenda (Children First Canada, 2021). This dismissal reflects a broader global pattern, where children's perspectives are routinely minimized or ignored. Policymakers often discount youth contributions due to assumptions about their age or education, but this exclusion denies children the opportunity to influence decisions that directly shape their lives (Hart, 1992).

> **"One change I would like to see is more youth engagement around the decision making table. […] We need to work together in advancing into the next generations"**
>
> – U-Reporter, July 2025

U Report by UNICEF

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS RECOMMENDATIONS

YOUNG PEOPLE

Across Canada, youth wish to build confidence, learn advocacy skills and find ways to make their voices heard in a world led by adults. When given the right tools and opportunities, young people have the power to make change happen. Even without formal power, youth can lead movements, shape narratives and hold systems accountable.

- **Get involved in youth-led groups or councils.** Whether it's through your school, local community or national initiatives like UNICEF Canada's Youth Advocacy Program, your participation matters. Volunteering with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), big or small, can amplify your voice and help drive meaningful change (UNICEF Canada, 2025).
- **Use social media and digital tools** to share your story, connect with other youth and mobilize around issues that matter to you. Platforms like U-Report Canada are designed for youth input and have influenced policy decisions (UNICEF Canada, 2025).
- **Learn about your rights and how policies are made** through civic education workshops, peer-led initiatives or resources like *UNICEF's Engaged and Heard!* Guidelines (UNICEF, 2020).
- **Participate in public consultations and forums**, such as the Government of *Canada's State of Youth Report*, which invites youth perspectives on national policies and helps shape government priorities (Government of Canada, 2025).

ADULT ALLIES

Parents, teachers, coaches and community members all play key roles in helping young people feel heard and supported. When adults shift from gatekeepers to facilitators, they help build trust and safe spaces, and empower youth to lead. Supporting youth doesn't require formal power – it starts with everyday actions that show respect and trust.

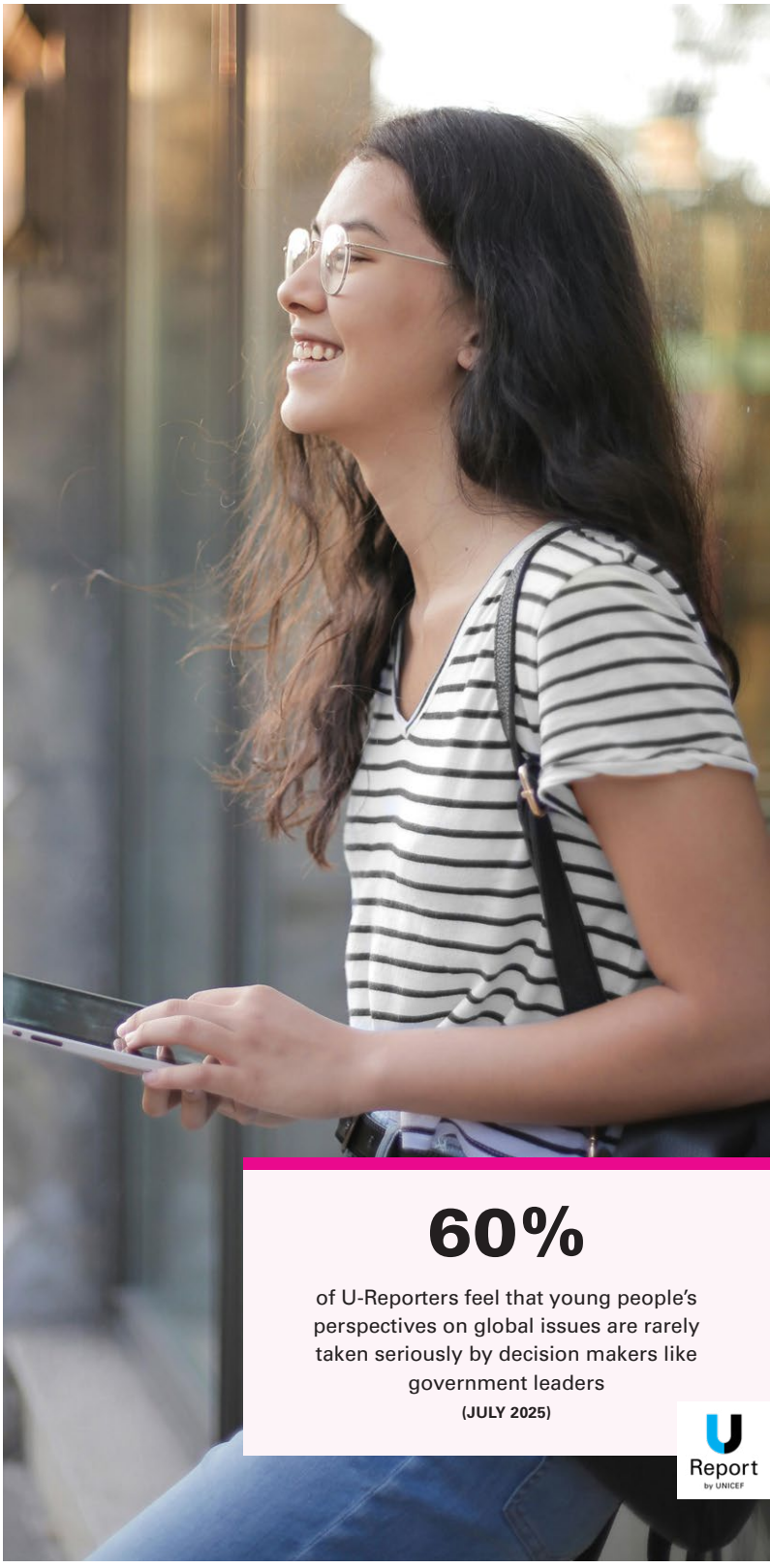
- **Ensure youth participation is accessible, equitable and recognized.** Make time for youth to share their ideas in classrooms, homes and community spaces. Encourage youth to speak up and take the lead by creating environments where their ideas are welcomed and valued (Edutopia, 2024).
- **Show youth that their voices matter** by following up on their suggestions and letting them know how their input made a difference (UNICEF, 2020).
- **Connect youth with opportunities** (local councils, workshops, advocacy programs, etc.), help them bring projects to life and cheer them on as they get involved.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS RECOMMENDATIONS

DECISION-MAKERS

Decision-makers have the power to embed youth participation into the structures that shape policies. Young people want more than token consultation – they want to lead change on the issues that affect them most. UNICEF Canada and international models show that when youth are meaningfully involved in decision-making, policies are more effective, inclusive and trusted by the public (UNICEF Canada, 2025). Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Canada ratified, guarantees children the right to express their views freely in all matters affecting them and to have those views taken seriously (Justice Canada, 2016).

- **Establish youth advisory councils or committees** at municipal, provincial and federal levels to regularly gather youth input and ensure representation in decision-making.
- **Mandate youth-led impact assessments** for policies directly affecting children and youth, ensuring decisions are grounded in lived experience (Kids Impact Initiative, 2023).
- **Invest in youth engagement programs**, including training, facilitation and outreach to marginalized communities to ensure inclusive participation (UN News, 2023).
- **Implement trauma-informed and culturally responsive training and policy frameworks** to create inclusive spaces where youth feel safe, respected and empowered to contribute.



60%

of U-Reporters feel that young people's perspectives on global issues are rarely taken seriously by decision makers like government leaders

(JULY 2025)

U Report by UNICEF

UNICEF'S STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN REPORT

From a youth perspective, how might differences in family income shape the way young people experience Children's Rights?

Family income plays a major role in shaping how young people experience their rights, including the right to be heard and taken seriously in decisions that affect their lives. Children from low-income families often face barriers to accessing basic rights such as education, healthcare and safe environments, all of which are fundamental to participating in civil life. According to UNICEF, over 900 million children globally experience multidimensional poverty, meaning they lack access to essential services like food, water and education (UNICEF, 2024). These deprivations directly impact their ability to thrive and participate fully in society.

Income inequality also impacts young people's ability to engage in advocacy and decision-making. Youth from wealthier families may have access to extracurriculars, digital tools and mentorship that provide access and influence in decision-making, while those from lower-income households may take on caregiving roles or work to support their families, leaving little time or energy for civic participation (UNICEF Europe and Central Asia, 2024). This means the voices of youth most affected by policy decisions are often the least heard. Moreover, the intersection of poverty with other factors such as ethnicity, disability, immigration status, or family structure can multiply these barriers. Marginalized youth often face systemic exclusion, making it even harder for them to access platforms where their voices influence policy (UNICEF, 2024).

To ensure inclusive and equitable policymaking, decision-makers must recognize how poverty limits youth participation and create spaces where all youth can share their experiences and shape the policies that impact their lives.



EDUCATION



The Current State of Education

In Canada, we understand that health education is essential to the social development of today's youth. It creates safer workplaces, supports healthy relationships and encourages youth to develop a strong sense of self. However, health education has always been viewed and treated as unessential, often leaving young people to educate themselves through friends, parents, social media or entertainment. This leads to misinformation, incomplete knowledge and confusion.

The quality of health education varies drastically across Canada, as provinces all have their own curriculum. The curriculum must be taught based on facts to highlight reproductive health, gender equality, healthy relationships, mental health, prevention of sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBI), drug safety and 2SLGBTQI+ topics. However, this is not our reality for many students across Canada. Canada does not have a system to monitor delivery, results and needs of health education, which means that understanding what students need to learn and what they are actually taught is almost impossible.

Education in the modern world encompasses more than a syllabus – it should involve practical life skills that could shape the very future of a child. Without changes to the curriculum, we risk leaving too many young people unprepared and unsupported, for the real world.

NEARLY 2 IN 3

U-Reporters believe the biggest downside of too much screen time is experiencing sleep issues and feeling anxious or low.

(SEPTEMBER 2025)

U Report by UNICEF

How Young People Are Experiencing Issues Surrounding Education

Young people spend most of their waking hours at school, yet the education system often feels disconnected from the real challenges young people face. They have ever-growing access to the internet and the online world. Worldwide, youth spend an average of around six hours a day on screens – scrolling, comparing and being fed misleading or harmful content (Backlinko, 2025). Misinformation spreads faster than facts, shaping opinions before we even realize it. Social media sets impossible standards for how we should look and live, fueling bullying and hate (Tuhin, 2025). In 2022, 71 per cent of Canadian youth reported seeing hate comments online (Statistics Canada, 2024). This takes a toll on mental health: Anxiety, depression, eating disorders and self-harm are becoming far too common. Youth aged 10 to 19 years have the highest rates of self-harm (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2025). Education about online literacy and safety is crucial to ensuring that youth are prepared to participate responsibly in this digital age.

Too often, people move through life without clear practical guidance on consent, boundaries, healthy relationships, respect and situational awareness. This leaves youth unprepared to navigate difficult situations involving sexual assault or peer pressure. Young people aged 15 to 24 are more than twice as likely to experience sexual assault than people aged 25 to 34 (Department of Justice, 2019). Being educated on how to give and respect consent encourages a healthy society. Lessons on these skills are ignored, overlooked and taught too late. Boundaries and consent can easily be taught early in a child's education to build healthy relationship skills. For many young people, especially those who are marginalized, education on respect for themselves, others and their surroundings can provide the tools needed to build safer and healthier relationships throughout their lives.

Sexual health affects young people in profound ways, yet they often do not receive the standard of education they deserve. A student-led survey in New Brunswick reported that more than a third of students in grades 6 to 8 were not confident in their knowledge of STBBIs, sexual assault, online sexual activity, consent, gender identities or sexual orientations (Rudderham,2024). There should be comprehensive and interactive education about these and other topics, such as healthy sex practices, abortion services, maternity care and gender-affirming healthcare. Young people, especially 2SLGBTQI+ youth, are going through a time of discovery and are at risk of making dangerous mistakes. Sexual health education saves lives and should be standard across Canada.

Drug abuse is a reality in Canada we can't ignore. Vapes, cannabis and other substances are common in our schools and communities. Nearly 40 per cent of Canadian students in grades 7 to 12 report trying a substance like alcohol, cannabis or vapes (Health Canada, 2025). Drug education that focuses only on warnings rather than educating students about harm reduction and what to do in an emergency doesn't help in real life. We need to educate young people on how to recognize an overdose and what to do in that situation. Without this information, youth may hesitate to seek help or step in when someone's life is at risk. It is also important to understand the correlation between substance abuse and poverty, along with the impact stigma around substance abuse has in our society. Drug safety education is essential, particularly for marginalized groups, who may already face systemic barriers to healthcare and resources.

EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

YOUNG PEOPLE

We know that change in education doesn't just come from adults — it comes from youth, too. Students and young advocates have power in their voices, choices, and how they support each other.

- **Speak up and get involved.** If your school lacks mental health support, cultural education or honest conversations about safety around substance use or online risks, bring it up with the student body, teachers or your principal. Advocate throughout your school and community.
- **Educate yourself.** Learn about topics that matter, from understanding harm reduction to recognizing misinformation online, and share what you know. You and your friends can contact a sexual health clinic, and as a group ask a specialist your questions.

ADULT ALLIES

Young people notice when the adults around them stand up for what's fair. The way adults support and advocate for students can change how schools feel every day. When adults listen and act, schools can become safe and empowering places for everyone.

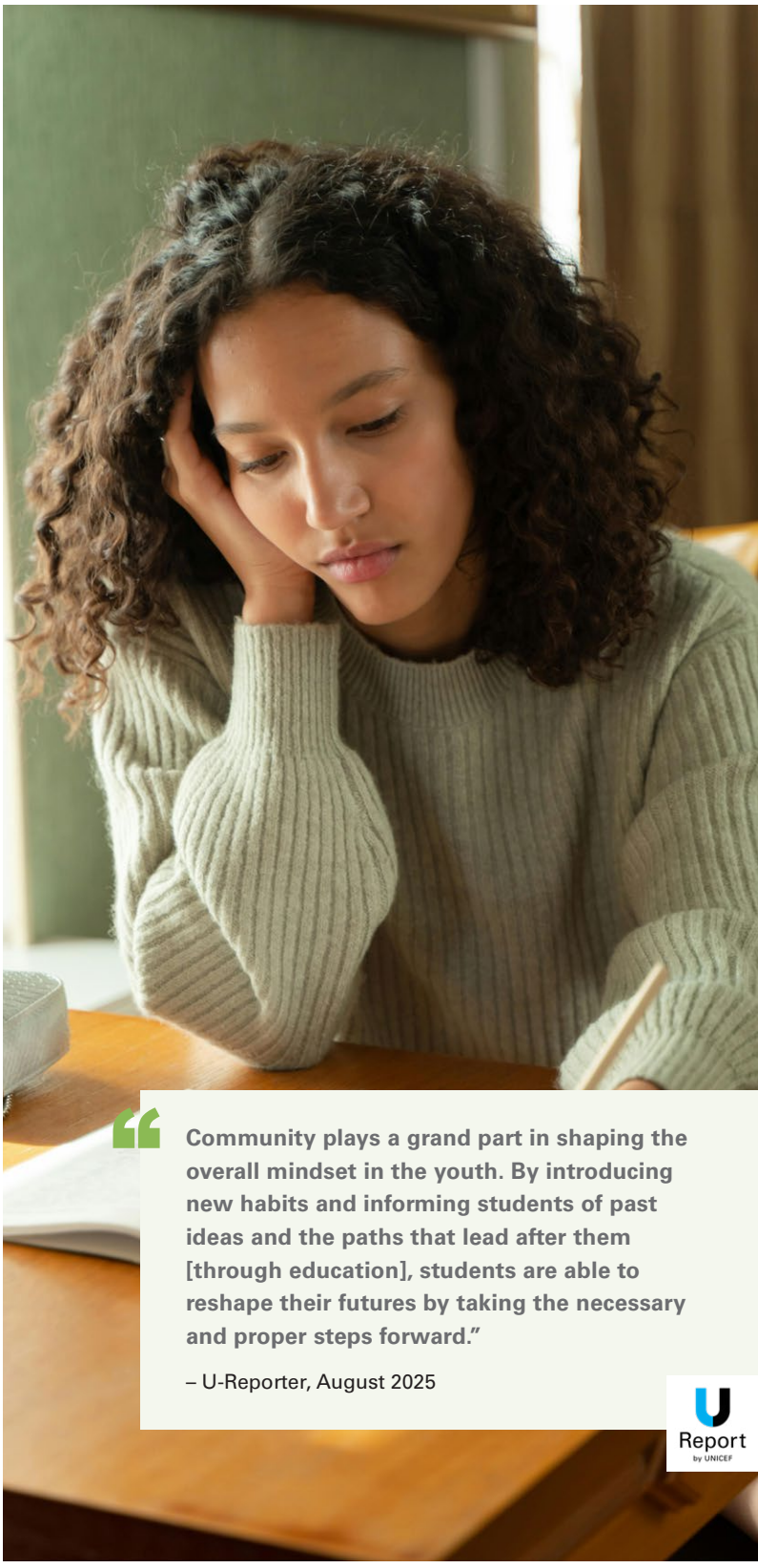
- **Normalize the taboo.** Teachers, parents and public figures are responsible for talking about sex, mental health, reproductive health, drugs, sexuality, gender and abuse in clear and educational contexts. Discuss and correct misinformation, instead of leaving youth to figure it out alone.
- **Educate others.** Teachers rarely have the funding or expertise to deliver the quality of health education students deserve. Health specialists and professionals can deliver workshops in schools that provide young people and teachers with the knowledge to feel confident in themselves.
- **Bridge the language barrier.** Bilingual experts can provide the same workshops to support francophone schools, which often have fewer resources on these topics. With proper resources, we can bridge the language barrier and provide the same access to education in both languages.
- **Provide interactive education.** Youth learn best through practice, interaction and real-life experiences. These important subjects should be discussed openly. Use real-life stories from the media to support difficult conversations and encourage questions.

EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

DECISION-MAKERS

Decision-makers need to understand that education is more than grades – it shapes safety, identity and opportunity. Many school communities lack the resources to help young people thrive. National platforms, policies and funding choices can change that.

- **Provide funding for workshops.** Teachers are not expected to know everything about sexual health, as they are not experts, but young people still deserve a quality education in these topics. Funding should be given to schools for the sole purpose of having experts deliver educational workshops that focus on real life skills. Funding should also be available to educate teachers and improve their confidence when teaching taboo topics. By directing resources to underfunded communities, students will have access to updated material, mental health support and safe learning spaces.
- **Implement a national standard for overall wellbeing in Canada** that includes sexual, mental and emotional health. Students across Canada all deserve a proper education to support healthy development. Actual knowledge of sexual health education across Canada needs to be understood. The implementation of a system that monitors the delivery, comprehension and needs of this education is essential to grow young people's confidence.
- **Listen to youth.** No one knows more accurately what youth are living through than youth themselves. Listen to their concerns, ensure their voices are heard and answer their questions. Dedicate platforms to allow youth across Canada to express their opinions in safe environments.



> **"Community plays a grand part in shaping the overall mindset in the youth. By introducing new habits and informing students of past ideas and the paths that lead after them [through education], students are able to reshape their futures by taking the necessary and proper steps forward."**
>
> – U-Reporter, August 2025

UNICEF'S STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN REPORT

From a youth perspective, how might differences in family income shape the way young people experience Education?

When you grow up in a family that's struggling to make ends meet, school doesn't always feel like the place it's supposed to be. We have seen firsthand how kids in lower-income homes often end up in schools that have older textbooks, fewer clubs or sports, low-quality learning equipment, inexperienced teachers and little space for the things that matter to us. It's not because we don't care; it's because the resources just aren't there (Olwan, 2025).

Students from lower-income families are unable to gather the same resources available to those who have high incomes. Some students have fast internet, support from parents and tools to stay safe. Others are left to figure it out alone, facing misinformation, cyberbullying and risky spaces. Students with an income gap might have added responsibilities such as childcare, financial issues and food insecurity that can affect their mental health and limit their learning.

Poverty shouldn't decide whether you get a safe, supportive education – but right now, it often does.



GOVERNANCE & SYSTEMS CHANGE



The Current State of Governance and Systems Change

Some policies in Canada may not fully address the realities of those they aim to serve, partly because the perspectives of directly affected communities are not always incorporated. Decisions made without lived experience often lead to policies that fall short and youth know this firsthand.

For example, millions of children and youth are in out-of-home care across Canada. The Government of Canada estimates that one in ten shelter users are youth between the ages of 13 and 24 (Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, 2024). When youth "age out" of the system, many face abrupt transitions that increase their risk of homelessness and poor mental health (Sansone et al., 2020). This shows how systems designed for youth, but not with youth, can unintentionally deepen inequities.

The same pattern occurs in other systems. Newcomers often cannot access settlement services due to language barriers or lack of information (Social Research and Demonstration Corporation), and people with disabilities are frequently excluded from accessibility planning affecting daily life (Accessibility Standards Canada, 2025). These examples reveal a broader governance issue: When lived experience is excluded from policymaking, gaps between intention and outcome widen.

Canada has tools meant to guide inclusive policymaking, such as the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) framework (Women and Gender Equality Canada, 2024) and the Cabinet Directive on the Strategic Environmental and Economic Assessment (Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2025), as well as the Official Languages Act. Yet none systematically includes people with lived experience, and information about effectiveness of these tools is not publicly available. Without active promotion and accessibility, especially for youth, these policies risk being symbolic rather than transformative.

We envision a mandatory consultative process in policymaking that meaningfully includes individuals with lived experience. Together, we can highlight gaps that data alone cannot capture, foster collaboration, and strengthen the design and implementation of policies across Canada.

How Young People Are Experiencing Issues Surrounding Governance and Systems Change

Young people in Canada and around the world experience the challenges of governance and systems change in ways that are both immediate and deeply personal. Policies that directly affect youth are often created without fully incorporating their perspectives, resulting in a mismatch between their lived experiences and institutional responses. Systems such as foster care, housing and education tend to respond to youth after crises have emerged, rather than taking preventative measures. This leads to youth feeling excluded from decisions that shape their lives. Many young people report feeling that their voices are tokenized or ignored (Max Bell Foundation, 2025), suggesting a broader governance concern: Policies intended to support youth may not fully address their real needs when their input is limited.

The consequences of these governance gaps are tangible and significant. Poorly informed policies can contribute to homelessness, unemployment, mental health challenges and barriers to education. These examples suggest that governance and policy shortcomings disproportionately affect youth who are already facing structural disadvantages. Globally, youth encounter similar challenges: Limited access to education, inadequate youth-centered mental health services and underrepresentation in policymaking leave many feeling powerless to influence change (United Nations, 2023).

Marginalized youth – including those who are Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQI+, newcomers, youth with disabilities, or aging out of care – face distinct barriers that reflect broader systemic inequities. For Indigenous youth, ongoing inequities in education and child welfare intersect with colonial legacies (Statistics Canada, 2023). Youth with disabilities are frequently excluded from consultations, and 2SLGBTQI+ youth may lack accessible and relevant protections such as mental health support services (Representative for Children and Youth, 2023). These examples reinforce the observation that governance systems that do not engage marginalized youth risk perpetuating inequities and reducing the effectiveness of policies.

At the heart of these issues is a disconnect between governance structures and the realities of youth. Effective systems change requires authentic youth participation, equitable consultation and frameworks that are transparent, accessible and inclusive. When youth are meaningfully engaged, policies are more likely to be responsive, preventive and impactful. Young people worldwide are eager to contribute to solutions, but governance systems must meet them where they are and provide the necessary tools, knowledge and space for them to be active participants. Bridging this gap is not only fair, it is essential for creating systems that better serve everyone.

GOVERNANCE AND SYSTEMS CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people's voices and energy are essential in shaping fairer systems and stronger governance. By learning, engaging and leading with their values, young people can help drive meaningful change.

- **Use your voice to advocate.** Pair your lived experiences with storytelling to make data and evidence more compelling, showing both the need for change and the potential for public benefit.
- **Create momentum.** Build public pressure by starting conversations, fostering respectful dialogue and keeping issues of importance visible.
- **Learn the system.** Understand how governance works at the local, provincial and national levels, and vote when you are eligible.
- **Join and lead.** Engage in civic participation by joining youth councils, student governments or advisory boards to influence decision-making from within.

ADULT ALLIES

Adult allies play critical roles in ensuring that youth voices, especially those from marginalized backgrounds, are meaningfully included in policy and decision-making processes. By actively supporting and amplifying youth participation, adults can help create governance systems that are more equitable, responsive and effective.

- **Identify gaps in current policies.** Actively participate in consultations and advocate for meaningful inclusion of lived-experience leaders in governance processes.
- **Encourage and empower young people from diverse backgrounds to express their perspectives on legislation and policy decisions that affect their lives.** Provide guidance and mentorship to navigate these spaces.
- **Create safe, accessible spaces for youth to learn about decision-making processes.** Ensure their insights are taken seriously by policymakers.
- **Amplify the voices of those with lived experiences, especially youth.** Give them platforms to share their stories, perspectives and solutions.

> **"[I believe youth should be] given real access [through embedded governance] structures […] where opportunities are created for youth to raise their voice and [see] their ideas are implemented in policy making."**
>
> – U-Reporter, July 2025

U Report by UNICEF

GOVERNANCE AND SYSTEMS CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

DECISION-MAKERS

Decision-makers hold the responsibility to ensure governance systems are inclusive, accountable and transparent. Addressing gaps in existing frameworks requires moving beyond statements of intent and creating real mechanisms for consultation, accessibility and accountability.

- **Ensure meaningful consultation with transparent methods.** Governments must show *how* input from youth and marginalized groups shaped final policies. Publishing standardized, step-by-step methodologies prevents tokenism and builds trust. For example, while the GBA+ compendium asks, "Has input from persons with disabilities been incorporated or addressed in the development of your policy?," it doesn't require organizations to explain *how* these individuals are engaged or how accountability is ensured.
- **Make youth-friendly and accessible translations of governance frameworks.** Even the strongest processes fall short if communities cannot understand them. Policies, data and frameworks should be communicated in plain language and provided in culturally sensitive and youth-friendly formats so that young people and marginalized groups can track decisions and hold leaders accountable.
- **Ensure sufficient training and resources for implementation.** Even when research identifies important findings, there is often a lack of training and resources to effectively implement these results. This gap prevents policymakers, organizations and community leaders from translating insights into concrete actions, limiting the impact of the work. Adequate capacity building is needed to ensure that recommendations are applied effectively across systems.



NEARLY 1 IN 3

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(JULY 2025)

U Report by UNICEF

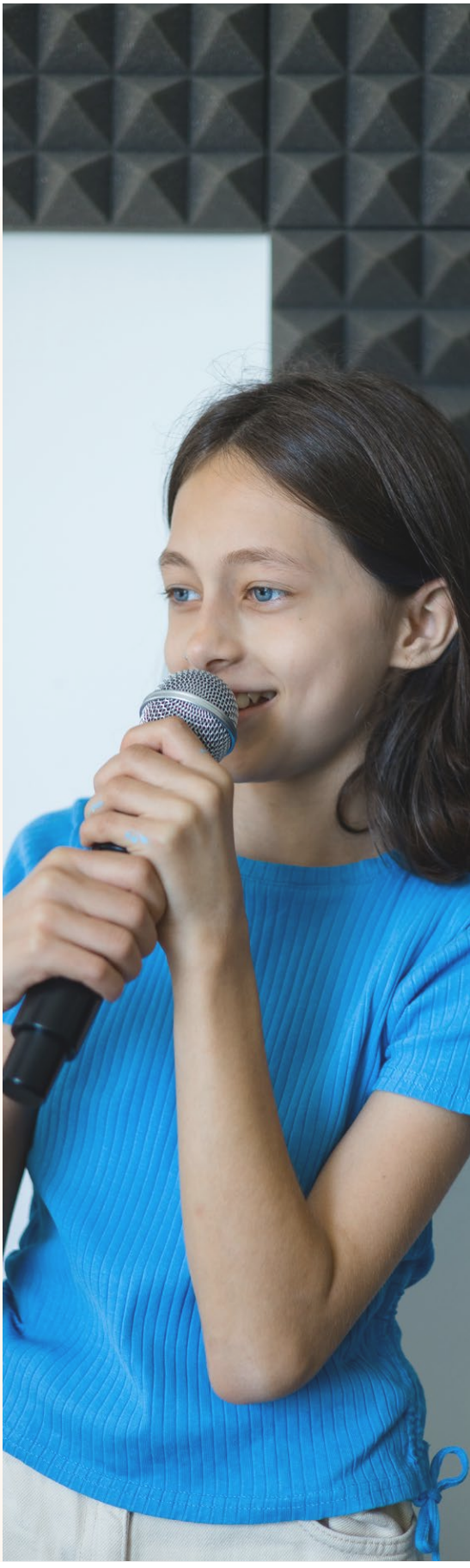
UNICEF'S STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN REPORT

From a youth perspective, how might differences in family income shape the way young people experience Governance and Systems Change?

Differences in family income significantly shape how young people experience governance and systems change. Youth from low-income families often face systemic barriers that limit their ability to access meaningful opportunities, resources, information and decision-making spaces. When youth are focused on survival and meeting basic needs, they may not have the liberty, time or opportunity to engage in governance processes. Similarly, young people from marginalized or economically disadvantaged backgrounds may lack access to knowledge and tools that help them understand how policies impact their lives, further excluding them from shaping systems that affect them.

Excluding already-underrepresented youth from governance can also take a toll on their psychological and emotional wellbeing. If young people don't see themselves represented in decision-making processes, they may experience feelings of frustration and dehumanization. As a result, the loss of connection can lead to distrust and hopelessness in institutions and governance systems that are supposed to help them and significantly impact young people's perception on other societal structures such as the education, healthcare and justice systems.

In contrast, youth from higher-income families often have more opportunities to participate in, advocate for and influence policy decisions. This disparity reinforces inequities, as those most affected by policies, such as youth experiencing poverty, remain underrepresented in decisions that shape their lives. Ensuring youth with lived experiences, especially from low-income backgrounds, are co-leaders in policy design can help create governance systems that are equitable, responsive and inclusive for all.



HEALTHCARE



The Current State of Healthcare

In a northern rural community, a patient with chest pain may need to be airlifted hundreds of kilometres away for basic tests. Meanwhile, in downtown Toronto, a patient may be able to access those same tests at a clinic just a few minutes away from where they live. Despite healthcare being a human right, rural and Indigenous communities face persistent barriers to accessing care that are rooted in geography, systemic racism and underfunded infrastructure (Canadian Cancer Society, 2023; Allan and Smylie, 2015; Statistics Canada, 2024). At the same time, a growing push toward privatization threatens to widen gaps in accessibility, undermining the Canada Health Act's principle of universal care (Government of Canada, 1985; Flood and Thomas, 2020; Fierlbeck and Marchildon, 2023).

In rural regions, distance alone may have life-or-death consequences. More than 60 per cent of First Nations communities are over 100 kilometres from a hospital equipped for advanced care, forcing families to rely on costly medical evacuations and delayed treatment (Assembly of First Nations, 2021). For Indigenous Peoples, these barriers intersect with discrimination and cultural insensitivity, fostering deep distrust in western healthcare systems and producing health outcomes that lag significantly behind the national average (Allan and Smylie, 2015; Statistics Canada, 2024; Canadian Cancer Society, 2023). For example, Indigenous Peoples in Canada live five to ten years less than non-Indigenous Canadians and face higher rates of chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular illness (Allan and Smylie, 2015).

Workforce shortages worsen the situation. Canada's rural physician-to-population ratio is about half that of urban centres, and many remote communities depend on locum doctors or part-time nurse practitioners (Canadian Institute for Health Information [CIHI], 2025; Statistics Canada, 2022). Meanwhile, private clinics are expanding under provincial legislation such as Ontario's Bill 60; expansion of privatization raises concerns about "two-tiered" care where those who can pay skip the line, while low-income, rural or Indigenous families wait even longer for care (Canadian Doctors for Medicare, 2023).

Healthcare in Canada stands at a crossroads. If we invest in rural infrastructure, mobile health units and culturally safe Indigenous-led care, we can fulfill the promise of universal access (Allen et al., 2020; Beks et al., 2020; CIHI, 2025; Public Health Agency of Canada, 2024; Savaser, 2022; Webb et al., 2023; Wilson et al., 2020). However, if we allow privatization to grow unchecked, inequities will deepen (C.D. Howe Institute, 2024; Flood and Thomas, 2020; Hedden et al., 2023; Lee et al., 2021; Marchildon, 2023). Every child deserves timely, quality and equitable healthcare – no matter where they live.

How Young People Are Experiencing Issues Surrounding Healthcare

For many young people, lack of access to quality healthcare does not just mean their illnesses are untreated in the present – it also means lost potential, compromised education and fragile futures. About 16 per cent of Canadians live in rural or remote areas, where medical specialist density and diagnostic capacity are lower and travel times to access care are longer (Canadian Cancer Society, 2023; CIHI, 2025). For instance, youth in rural and remote regions face disproportionately high barriers to accessing mental health care, with suicide rates nearly double those in urban centres and hospitalizations for self-harm up to seven times higher among young women in very remote areas—trends driven by shortages of counselors, long travel distances, and limited culturally safe services (Centre for Suicide Prevention, 2022; Statistics Canada, 2019; Mental Health Commission of Canada, 2025). National health equity summaries similarly note lower incidence but higher mortality in rural and remote regions, consistent with delayed detection and treatment (Canadian Cancer Society, 2023).

Access barriers are most acute for Indigenous youth. Statistics Canada (2024) reports that 40 per cent of Inuit, 18 per cent of First Nations Peoples living on reserves, and 16 per cent of Métis had to travel outside their community for care in the previous year. Consequently, these Indigenous communities carry additional financial and psychosocial burdens, including anxiety and lost school time, (Statistics Canada, 2024). Qualitative and mixed-methods studies from Arctic and sub-Arctic regions document long medical travel, fragmented coordination and discontinuity of care for Indigenous families, all of which undermine timely follow-up for children and youth with chronic conditions (Milligan et al., 2025). Structural racism further compounds these geographic barriers, contributing to misdiagnosis and distrust of providers among Indigenous communities (Allan and Smylie, 2015).

Disease patterns amplify the equity gap. In Canadian pediatric cohorts, 44 per cent of new childhood-onset type 2 diabetes cases were among Indigenous children, signalling a high burden that requires frequent monitoring and specialist access, which are least available in remote regions (Panagiotopoulos et al., 2013; Diabetes Canada, 2021). Physician maldistribution intensifies the problem. Although rural areas make up most of Canada and host a significant share of youth, only approximately 7 per cent of physicians serve these communities; as a result, local capacity for early diagnosis and referral is limited (CIHI, 2024; Statistics Canada, 2025).

Mental health also remains an urgent concern; suicide rates among First Nations youth are five to six times higher than among non-Indigenous youth, and Inuit youth have suicide rates close to 11 times the national average (Centre for Suicide Prevention, 2022; Statistics Canada, 2019). The broader problem is that culturally safe, timely healthcare services simply do not exist in many regions of Canada, and youth must either travel long distances to unfamiliar institutions to receive care or simply go untreated (Assembly of First Nations, 2021).

Healthcare privatization trends risk widening the equity gap. Comparative policy analyses warn that allowing private payment for medically necessary diagnostics and treatments creates a two-tier system in which those with means purchase faster access while public queues lengthen for everyone else, disproportionately affecting low-income, rural or Indigenous youth who already face longer travel times and healthcare provider shortages (Flood and Thomas, 2020; Marchildon, 2023). Consequently, wealth and postal code, rather than clinical need, may determine who receives timely imaging, surgery, and life-saving care and treatments.

For youth in Canada today, equity in healthcare is not an abstract principle; it is the condition that allows children – regardless of geography or income – to survive, recover, pursue education and work without preventable disability or loss. It is the condition that allows children to grow up.

HEALTHCARE RECOMMENDATIONS

YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth have the power to advocate for equitable healthcare by raising awareness, building solidarity and holding leaders accountable. Across Canada, young people are already leading grassroots campaigns for mental health, reconciliation and social justice. Their voices matter in shaping the future of healthcare.

- Use social media to share stories of healthcare inaccessibility and highlight disparities.
- Join or create local advocacy groups (e.g., youth health councils, student associations) to push for equitable healthcare policies.
- Participate in petitions, rallies and campaigns to protect universal healthcare.
- Engage with Indigenous-led organizations to amplify calls for culturally safe care.
- Educate peers on the dangers of privatization and the importance of defending the Canada Health Act.

ADULT ALLIES

Parents, educators, healthcare professionals and community leaders play vital roles in supporting youth advocacy. Adult allies can amplify youth voices, mentor emerging advocates and challenge systemic barriers.

- Mentor youth in advocacy skills such as writing policy briefs, organizing events and speaking to the media.
- Support Indigenous-led health initiatives by volunteering, fundraising or partnering with Indigenous communities.
- Amplify youth voices in policy spaces, ensuring young people are included in consultations and committees.
- Speak out against privatization that undermines healthcare equity.
- Use professional platforms (schools, clinics, workplaces) to educate others about the importance of universal, accessible care.

DECISION-MAKERS

Governments at all levels hold the power to shape healthcare policy. Ensuring equitable access requires concrete investments, systemic change and a firm defense of universal healthcare.

- Invest in rural healthcare infrastructure, including clinics, mobile units and telehealth expansion.
- Train and retain Indigenous healthcare providers through targeted scholarships, mentorship and community-based programs.
- Enforce the Canada Health Act to prevent privatization of medically necessary services.
- Increase funding for mental health and reproductive health services in rural and remote communities.
- Implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action #18–24 on Indigenous health.

> **"[To improve overall health in a community, there should be an] openness to understanding individual experiences and non-judgemental, safe spaces for people to talk about their issues in."**
>
> – U-Reporter, April 2025

U Report by UNICEF

UNICEF'S STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN REPORT

From a youth perspective, how might differences in family income shape the way young people experience Healthcare?

Family income profoundly shapes young people's access to healthcare in Canada. For low-income families, the hidden costs of travel, accommodation and time off work often make healthcare effectively inaccessible (Kornelsen et al., 2021; CIHI, 2025). A child in a remote northern community requiring specialist care may need to fly hundreds of kilometres at a cost that can reach thousands of dollars, and territorial systems spend a substantial share of their health budgets on medical travel to urban centres (Young, 2019; Nunatsiaq News, 2019; Indigenous Services Canada, 2022). Families with limited resources face impossible choices between seeking treatment and covering basic needs like food or rent (Martin et al., 2024).

These inequities disproportionately affect Indigenous and rural youth, who are more likely to grow up in poverty due to systemic barriers (National Advisory Council on Poverty, 2024; Statistics Canada, 2025; Campaign 2000, 2023). Poverty compounds healthcare inaccessibility: Children in low-income families are less likely to receive timely vision, mental or dental care, which all fall largely outside Canada's universal system, despite recent partial expansions for dental care (Canadian Paediatric Society, 2013; Canadian Paediatric Society, 2025; Canadian Dental Care Plan, 2025; Canadian Medical Association, 2024).

Healthcare privatization threatens to deepen these inequities. If medically necessary services increasingly shift to private providers, families with financial means will receive faster care while lower-income families wait longer in the public queue, undermining equity and entrenching a cycle where poverty dictates health outcomes from a young age (Flood and Thomas, 2020; Hedden et al., 2023; Fierlbeck and Marchildon, 2023).

Healthcare should not depend on income, geography or identity. By addressing poverty alongside healthcare accessibility, Canada can ensure every child's right to grow up healthy and supported.



CLIMATE CHANGE



The Current State of Climate Change

Climate change has taken the world by storm. There is a growing problem of unsustainable manufacturing practices by large corporations that deliberately restrict repairs, shorten product lifespans, and push consumers toward constant replacement. In fact, only 35 per cent of Canadian companies publicly disclose information related specifically to biodiversity loss, which is one aspect of environmental/manufacturing-related practices (Canadian Manufacturing, 2022). In a 2018 survey of Canadian consumers, 80 per cent of respondents reported that they bought their devices new (not secondhand), creating lots of waste (Girard et al., 2018). These tactics not only exploit consumers financially but also harm the environment and stifle smaller, ethical businesses. Canada needs to spotlight its industrial changes in planned obsolescence and anti-right-to-repair.

Why should people care about their consumer rights?

How companies manufacture their products directly impacts consumers and the environment. When companies cut corners, product quality suffers. For example, a phone might be intentionally designed to wear out quickly, forcing users to replace it sooner than they would like. Some companies also restrict repairs to their own services, leaving consumers with few options when the product no longer works, other than purchasing the latest model. These practices not only exploit customers but also generate more electronic waste. In Canada alone, more than 1 million tonnes of e-waste, much of which could have been used for years, end up in landfills (Griffins, 2023). This waste releases harmful toxins into the surrounding water and land, killing the native flora and fauna and further accelerating the deterioration of our environment.

The Environmental Cost

Our current path fuels an affordability and environmental crisis. Modern cars that are packed with electronics and software locks show this clearly: Even simple repairs need dealer tools, and average dealership service costs in Canada have risen to $456 from $432 last year. This also adds waste, since many cars are scrapped early while still drivable (Canadian Auto Dealer, 2024).

Fair rules and sustainable businesses can change this environmental crisis and create markets that work for people and the planet. Québec's Bill 29 proves change is possible. It bans planned obsolescence and requires durable, repairable products with warranties. It protects consumers, supports repair jobs and sets a model for nationwide action.

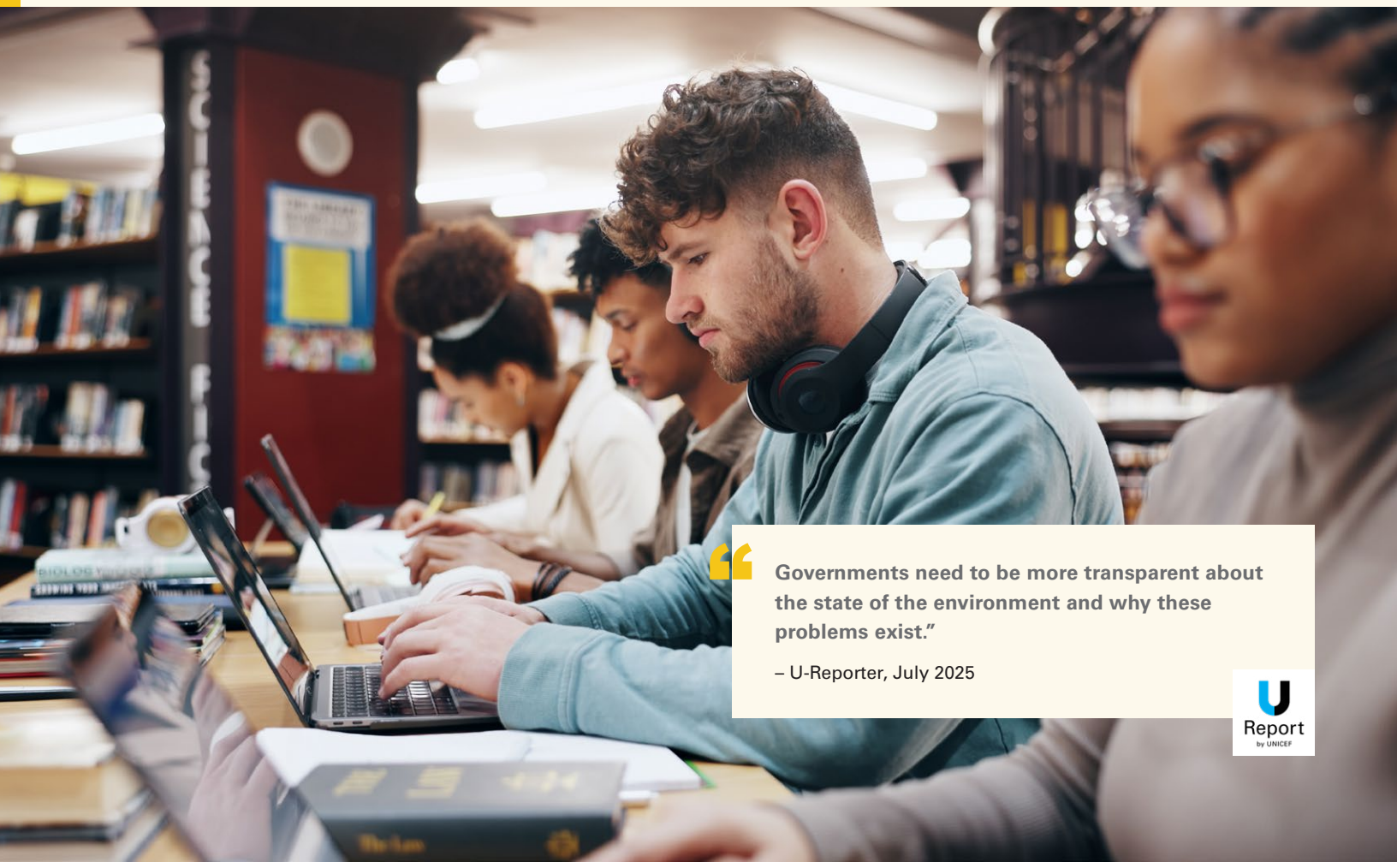
How Young People Are Experiencing Issues Surrounding Climate Change

Modern youth, both globally and domestically, have a large stake in climate change resulting from increased consumerism brought on by planned obsolescence and similar practices, as they often promote the unsustainable cycle of consumerism that plagues our modern-day life.

First off, youth in Canada who are just entering the workforce will end up paying more for goods that are designed to be replaced rather than repaired. For example, various technologies that have become critical to success in both school and the workplace have become more expensive as older devices and software become obsolete. This ends up costing more, especially when repairs are softlocked or gatekept, and youth are forced to make new purchases. This disproportionately affects youths in poverty.

Secondly, many goods that are subject to these practices are manufactured in lower-income countries using exploitative labour policies, often implicating youth. Increased demand for these products can thus sustain such policies, and contribute to harm for youth abroad.

Lastly, the greater effects of anthropogenic climate change will likely have effects on youth all over the world. This could include daily impacts like more expensive groceries to extreme events like natural disasters that threaten infrastructure and safety.



> **Governments need to be more transparent about the state of the environment and why these problems exist."**
>
> – U-Reporter, July 2025

U Report by UNICEF

CLIMATE CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people are at the forefront of social change, and the impact of youth transcends generations as their influence carries heavy weight. Their efforts not only reduce waste and costs but also establish youth as leaders in driving a shift toward fairness, affordability and sustainability.

- **Push school boards and administration to purchase technology that abides by right-to-repair principles** with warranties that reflect standards similar to Québec's Bill 29.
- **Organize repair cafés** in community centres and schools, where local volunteers teach students how to repair their own technology and other items.
- **Lobby student unions** to adopt procurement policies that require durable, repairable devices for use in labs, libraries and residences.
- **Advocate** by writing letters, launching petitions and submitting briefs to provincial consultations to adopt nationwide legislation similar to Bill 29.
- **Form a national Right-to-Repair Canada Network**, uniting students, activists and young professionals across the country.
- **Support local and sustainable small businesses** by directly buying from them or by volunteering in marketing and outreach.

ADULT ALLIES

- **Help youth draft policy briefs, petitions and analyses that add credibility.** Adults with legal expertise can also sue corporations for purposefully contributing to climate change, enforce accountability for large corporations and teach others how to use the law to defend the climate.
- **Study the financial impact of planned obsolescence** and show how repairability reduces long-term costs, supports local jobs and strengthens small businesses. Promote financially sustainable ways to support the environment and design policies that make solutions economically viable.
- **Identify companies that exploit planned obsolescence** and publish findings that reveal the economic and social harm of these practices. Ensure that climate action can actually be enforced, advise on existing policies, and put companies who actively block climate progress in the limelight.
- **Showcase the benefits of Bill 29** and share its outcomes across Canada.
- **Discuss planned obsolescence with colleagues** to raise awareness and restore accountability.

CLIMATE CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

DECISION-MAKERS

As Québec's Bill 29 on anti-planned obsolescence and the right to repair has passed, the Canadian government could amend this bill to be implemented across Canada; however, this legislation alone is not enough.

- **Adopt the European Union Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD).** Many companies now include product lifecycle or circular economy commitments in their disclosures (e.g., recyclability, durability).
- **Mandate reporting to the public and government.** Companies should disclose their manufacturers, give an educated estimate for the expiry of their products and state their product quality. Auditors for manufacturing can audit companies at any time, and companies should be held accountable to disclose their manufacturing practices, any planned obsolescence and their right-to-repair regulations.
- **Use consumer outreach** to discern any clear violations, resulting in strict fines.
- **Hold industries accountable** by compiling data from the provinces and creating a public chart that lists industry standards for certain industries like automobiles, appliances and industrial equipment and what companies are doing to meet these standards.
- **Encourage larger companies to fight planned obsolescence** and support the right to repair by providing incentives. Subsidies based on an economic tier system could encourage companies to improve their manufacturing practices. The goal is to influence larger companies to change their manufacturing design to limit planned obsolescence and anti-right-to-repair in the short run by neutralizing incremental costs.



62%

of U-Reporters strongly agree that "Climate change and environmental sustainability should be a top priority for government and corporate leaders"

(JULY 2025)

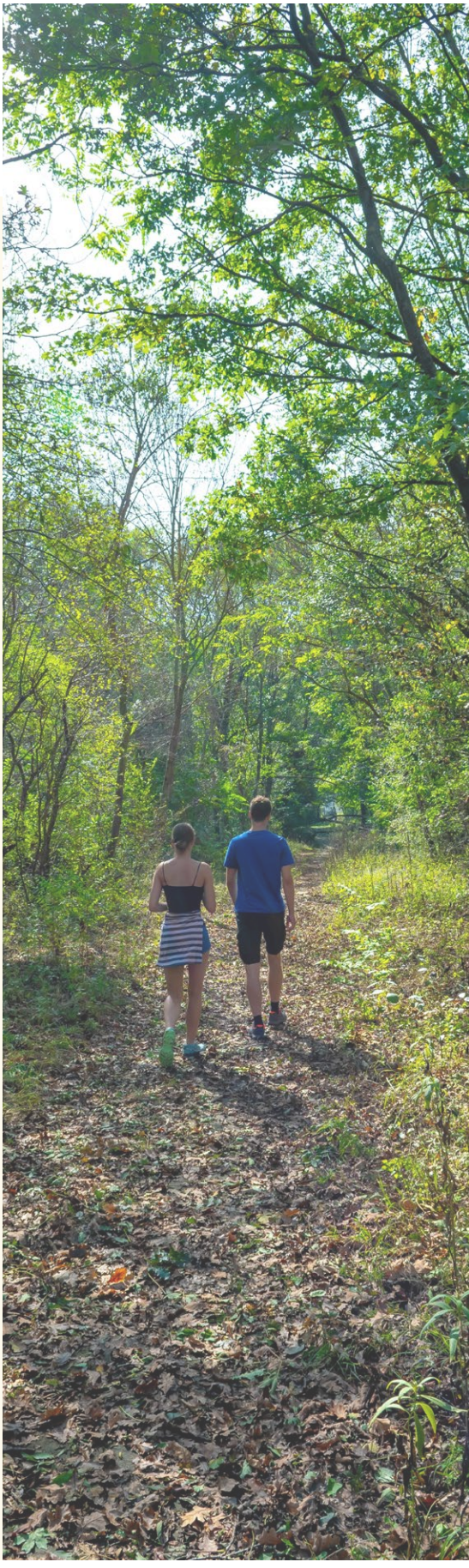
U Report by UNICEF

UNICEF'S STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN REPORT

From a youth perspective, how might differences in family income shape the way young people experience Climate Change?

A large part of maturing as a young person is finding one's place in society; however, due to the inevitable effects of climate change accelerated by planned obsolescence of certain products, this pivotal transition is only going to get harder. Unfortunately, a large factor in the success of transitioning into the workforce is the socio-economic standing of the youth's family. Climate change also plays a key role in how people in poverty, including youth, are often harmed by malicious planned obsolescence practices.

As essential goods become more expensive due to inflation and increased shareholder prioritization, an individual with a smaller budget is often forced to choose between two real options, neither of which can properly satisfy their product utility demands: They can either invest heavily in a product with a higher upfront cost or use a cheaper option that will not last as long. Oftentimes, they are forced into the latter option. This phenomenon is perfectly summed up in Sam Vimes Boots Theory, which uses the example of buying cheap or expensive boots to draw connections to greater socio-economic issues (Goldsmith, 2022). While the theory ultimately discusses ideas of the cost of poverty and its effects on the working class, it also perfectly encapsulates how planned obsolescence directly affects marginalized economic groups by making them pay more for a product in the long term under the guise of a cheaper upfront cost.



FROM WORDS TO ACTION

Our youth advocates have spoken up, powerfully and passionately, about issues that matter most to them. Their statements reflect not only the challenges they face but also a clear vision for a more just, inclusive and sustainable future.

Young people have highlighted:

Children's Rights: Calling for meaningful youth inclusion in decision-making processes and the right to participate in shaping their own futures.

Education: Encouraging for health curriculums that include practical life skills that could shape the future of children and youth

Governance and Systems Change: Drawing attention to the need for consultative processes where individuals with lived experience are included in shaping policies

Healthcare: Demanding investments in improved healthcare systems and solutions that make healthcare equitable and accessible to all

Climate Change: Advocating for sustainable solutions and practices to costs of consumerism brought on by planned obsolescence

What unites these statements is a clear message: Canada's youth are ready for change. Youth are key leaders, advocates and partners in shaping solutions, bringing their recommendations rooted in lived realities, creativity and a strong commitment to equity.

But they cannot do it alone.

The responsibility now lies with **governments, organizations, and communities** to act. That means:

- Amplifying youth voices in policymaking spaces.
- Resourcing youth-led advocacy initiatives.
- Creating accessible platforms for young people to co-design solutions to issues that directly affect them.

YOUR ROLE IN THE NEXT STEP

By supporting and centering youth in our collective efforts and taking their calls to action in this year's Playbook seriously, we can reimagine a future that is fairer, more sustainable and filled with hope.

Start today: Share this Playbook, engage in conversation with youth in your community, or connect with organizations already doing the work. The path ahead holds promise, and it begins with the choices and conversations we make today.

unicef | for every child
CANADA

About UNICEF Canada

UNICEF is the world's leading organization for children and adolescents. Created by the United Nations, UNICEF is one of the few organizations that works in Canada and internationally. UNICEF Canada is the face of UNICEF in Canada. We secure young people's rights and well-being by mobilizing resources for children and youth, advocating forever-improving policies and practices and engaging diverse young people as rights-holders and advocates. We are calling on Canadians to take action and do better for children and youth.

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