



# Annual Report

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2019 - 2020



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# Message From the President & CEO

Mona Forrest, the president and CEO of Code Youth, constantly sees the distress and financial instability of youth as a long-time foster mother. This moved her to create Code Youth, in hopes of realizing a new resource for youth in the local Ottawa community.

Code Youth Canada is an Ottawa-based not-for-profit start-up which caters to **the 12.2% of Canadian youth** who have dropped out of high school and who see an **unemployment rate of 57.5%**. With a lack of activities, training and resources designed for at-risk youth, Code Youth Canada strives to empower and support at-risk youth aged 17 to 24 in accessing jobs within technology companies.



Since its founding in July 2017, Code Youth has been working hard to execute its mission as an organization.

# The Code Youth Pilot Project

Code Youth Canada summer project 2019 continued to develop the code training project: an 8-10 week program that will provide on-site/ online training for youth aged 17-24 who have dropped out of high school, or who are at-risk of dropping out, and cannot afford expensive commercial training programs.

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The program will also support participants in finding jobs in technology companies. This 8-10 week program will not only teach youth programming skills, including computer languages and literacy, but it will also assist the students in interview preparation (such as mock interviews), portfolio building, as well as provide cover letter and resume building workshops. At the end of the ten weeks, the program will then connect students with employers in the IT sector.

# Our Team 2019

## Rachel Smith

Our Grant Writer; Rachel Smith conducted research and outreach to corporate, foundation and government to seek partnerships to support the implementation of the Code Youth program.



## Mela Setijoso

Our Website Administrator/Content Creator; Mela Setijoso updated the website. She wrote material to interest and motivate youth in technology trades. She used website analytics to determine what works best for the site's visitors

# Our Team 2019



**Jenita Zhang**

The Youth Engagement Coordinator; Jenita Zhang interacted with youth serving agencies including education, social services and recreational organizations.

# Website

Through our team, Code Youth has optimized our website to include major features and resources for those who need it. Our site features event calendars, showcasing various coding events and programs offered in our community, blogs with relevant tips and tricks to progress through your coding journey and lastly, our list of free coding learning resources for those who wish to start learning code before our program starts.



# Social Media

Code Youth has continuously worked to promote our message and valuable information to the social media communities, which have resulted in a large growth in our audience. Some examples of this are our **800+ Twitter followers and 150 Instagram Followers.**



# Corporate Support

Code Youth Canada has contacted over **30 companies** in the technology sector in the past, in order to establish relationships and receive support from the community. Code Youth would like to thank the companies Rebel Canada, EnvisionUP, WomenCAN and Kinaxis for providing support to Code Youth.

## Impact of COVID 19

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected youth, who are now **three times more likely to be unemployed** than those aged 25 or above. Canada's Youth **Unemployment Rate** is expected to stand at **19.5% in 12 months time**. This is a stark contrast to the pre-pandemic rate of 10.3%.

COVID-19 has devastated many businesses that provide job opportunities for youth who only meet the skill requirements of low-paying, entry-level jobs. For example, **Canada is experiencing a closing of over 1800 retail stores in 2020**. On top of this, young people who have kept their jobs have seen drastic reductions in the number of hours they are able to work.

Thank you to all Code Youth  
staff, supporters and  
followers that made this  
year a great one!

