



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

A YEAR IN REVIEW



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## Message From the President & CEO

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## Mission

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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.

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

Code Youth Canada is an Ottawa-based not-for-profit start-up which caters to the 12.6% of Canadian youth who have dropped out of high school and who see an unemployment rate of 46.1%. 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.

# The Code Youth Pilot Project

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Code Youth Canada is developing a new pilot project: an 8-10 week program that provides on-site training for youth aged 17-24 who have dropped out of high school, or who are at-risk of dropping out from grades 10 to 12, to learn IT code, and to support them 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.

## Governmental Support

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Code Youth has not shyed away from reaching out to governmental offices for support. In 2017, Code Youth visited the office of Anita Vandenberg, the MP for the Nepean area, who showed immediate interest to the project being developed by Code Youth. Anita Vandenberg has since been a supporter for the Code Youth initiative, and the Code Youth staff team thanks her for her constant support.

The Code Youth team has also met with Ottawa's mayor, Jim Watson, to speak about the Code Youth organization, and to provide a certificate for the organization's official founding.

Code Youth would also like to thank the Minister of Employment and Social Development, which provided funding necessary to begin executing Code Youth's project.



*Code Youth staff team meets with Ottawa mayor, Jim Watson*



*Code Youth 2017 Student Team*

## Welcome Students

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Through the funding acquired from the Minister of Employment and Social Development, Code Youth has been able to employ 5 different students who have tirelessly worked on the Code Youth project.

The students, who include Mei Li, Keylan Musto, Karina Dmitrieva, Ana Baquero, and Hadi Tehfe have established relationships with organizations in the community, performed research, attended events, and amplified Code Youth's social media presence.

Code Youth would like to thank the student staff team for helping Code Youth get closer to achieving its objectives and mission.

## Research

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Code Youth executed several research studies to determine the feasibility and availability of an IT program for at-risk youth in Ottawa.

The Code Youth 2017 Feasibility Study was designed to determine whether implementing on-site training for at-risk youth (which leads to employment) would be feasible in the Ottawa community. The Feasibility Study was composed of a budget, a SWOT analysis, an interview with youth and employment agencies, and the cost-efficient Code Youth coding program in the community.

The Code Youth 2017 Environmental Scan was designed to determine whether implementing on-site training for at-risk youth (which leads to employment) was necessary in the Ottawa community. The 2017 Environmental Scan included: a search for the availability of free IT training within and outside Canada, surveys with IT employers in the community, and a study on best practices and curriculum design.

*Code Youth 2018 Student Team*



## Website Redesign

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With the help of Code Youth's Website Content Creator, the Code Youth website has seen drastic changes the past year. From the layout of the website to the content available, the website is now more user-friendly for at-risk youth, adults, and organizations alike.

The website, which can be accessed at [code-youth.ca](http://code-youth.ca), is filled with many resources. Youth can find the registration form to apply to the Coding Cohort, as well as events and fun activities to do in Ottawa. Students interested in learning how to code can similarly find free courses on the website as well.

## Social Media Presence

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Code Youth has recently opened up several accounts over various platforms of social media. Code Youth has begun interacting with the community through Twitter, Facebook, Youtube and Instagram. Feel free to visit our different platforms too see what new things Code Youth has to share and say.





## Corporate Support

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Code Youth Canada has contacted over 30 companies in the technology sector over the past year, 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 Code Youth with crucial in-kind support. With this crucial support, Code Youth is inching closer to being able to execute the Code Youth pilot project in the near future.

## Code Youth in the Community

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Code Youth has not shyed away from participating in technology events in the community.

The iTech Conference, a technology conference held annually in multiple Canadian cities, had arrived to Ottawa, Ontario. With technology companies from all over Canada and the United States attending the conference, Code Youth was thrilled to attend the conference too. The Code Youth staff team was able to learn from other organizations, speak with individuals who had expertise in the technology industry, and partake in community activities.

Code Youth is excited to participate in more events in Canada in the coming future.



*Code Youth staff team attend the Ottawa iTech Conference*

## Code Youth Canada

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