

# YOUNG FEMINIST RECOVERY

August 2022  
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18

Young people  
interviewed

130

Young Leaders  
connected

## PURPOSE

We conducted qualitative research to gain insight on how young women and gender diverse individuals can be concretely placed at the centre of the economic recovery.

This project engaged with youth' **perspectives** and **lived experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic**. We sought to understand whether they had access to shape recovery measures and how decision-makers can **rightfully give them space to lead the change**.

## CONTEXT

The Covid-19 pandemic had a disproportionately impact on the lives and livelihoods of young women and gender diverse individuals with **intersecting inequalities**.

They are systematically excluded and disenfranchised as their experiences are neglected. Young people are **underrepresented** in all levels of decision-making across political and professional spheres.

## LEADERSHIP FORUM 2022

## FORA: NETWORK FOR CHANGE

The Forum brought together young women and gender diverse youth from across Canada for a full day of connection, sharing and learning.

At the heart of Toronto, we gathered for a series of workshops, talks and panels, to exchange experiences and learn to be better equipped to break down the barriers that hold us out of decision-making spaces.



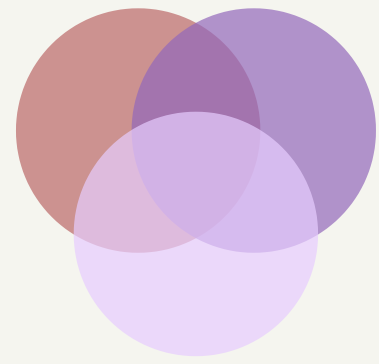
90%

YOUNG PEOPLE  
DO NOT FEEL HEARD  
IN DECISION-MAKING  
SPACES

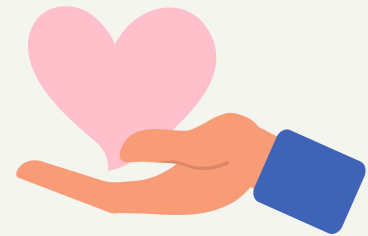
# Young people experience *concrete* barriers to access spaces of power



- 1 LACK OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION
- 2 LACK OF RESOURCES
- 3 LACK OF SAFE SPACES
- 4 STEREOTYPES "THEY LACK EXPERIENCE"
- 5 NO WILLINGNESS TO MEANINGFULLY ENGAGE THEIR EXPERIENCES



**Overlapping** crises and systemic inequalities uniquely condition their lives. The Covid-19 crisis is **interconnected** with other systemic issues.



**Care-led relationships** are central - ranging from individual to collective care and care for the environment - as relationships were transformed due to the pandemic.

## HOW DO YOUTH ENVISION A FEMINIST ECONOMIC RECOVERY?

Prioritize **care** and **mental health**

Advance a **sustainable** economy

Reimagine productivity and 'value'

Sponsor Young Women and Gender-Diverse youth

Build Ties with the **community**



## Why a feminist economic 'recovery'?

Feminist economics **broaden the scope of classical economics** to include those activities and life experiences that are not counted on market-driven approaches. They propose a more **integral approach** that advances **gender justice, belonging, and societal well-being**.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

1

**Invest in the care economy and social infrastructure.**

Revisit how 'value' is **measured** in our economy to integrate the vast contribution of care and other forms of unpaid work performed by women and gender diverse individuals.

2

**Invest in jobs for young women and gender diverse youth.**

**Develop** more paid internship opportunities with competitive salaries, especially targeted to support the professional development of underrepresented youth.

3

**Increase representation of youth in leadership positions across institutional spaces**

Invest in **paid training and mentorship programs** to sponsor young people, especially targeted to underrepresented youth - by consulting with civil society organizations (CSOs) to ensure programs are non-tokenistic.

4

**Actively engage communities and sponsor community-based solutions**

Increase **core funding for and commitment of resources** to CSOs supporting young women and gender diverse individuals.

Develop partnerships with local grassroot organizations, universities and communities **to reach more young people**.