

# Max Bell Foundation

## Youth Civic Engagement Open Call for Applications

**Letters of Intent due before October 31, 2025**

In early 2024, Max Bell Foundation supported the Consortium on Electoral Democracy at the University of Western Ontario to undertake research on Youth Civic Engagement (YCE) in Canada. The research sought to understand the state of YCE in Canada, its drivers, examples of what has been done to improve it, and promising directions for future work.

The project [report](#) provides a set of recommendations for activities that could contribute to an inclusive and participatory civic environment that empowers young Canadians to shape the future of their communities and the nation. Those recommendations include:

- 1) *Build National and Regional Youth Engagement Networks* to facilitate partnerships and informal collaboration, regular communication, and the sharing of lessons learned and best practices among existing and new organizations entering into the area.
- 2) *Create a Comprehensive Civic Engagement Resource Repository* to serve as a one-stop accessible bank of vetted civic engagement tools and educational content for educators, youth, and community leaders.
- 3) *Engage Youth Where They Are* by supporting diverse forms of engagement including but not limited to online activism, creative expression, volunteerism, social movements, place-based learning.
- 4) *Expand Youth Leadership Training and Mentorship Opportunities* so that youth can mobilize and empower other youth.

Max Bell Foundation is issuing this open call for applications for projects that respond to these recommendations.

Five grants of up to \$50,000 each will be awarded that match 2:1 support by other funders. For every \$1 of already committed support from other sources, successful requests will receive \$2 from Max Bell Foundation.

To apply, complete an online Letter of Intent and submit it [here](#). In the online application portal, please be sure to click “Youth Civic Engagement” as the stream in which you are applying.

The Letter of Intent will answer questions related to:

- The project name, duration, amount requested and amount confirmed from other funders.
- Project goals, activities, and assumptions.
- Indication of which of the four recommendation the project would respond to.
- Budget, including personnel, contracts, travel, general and administrative expenses

If your Letter of Intent is approved, you will be invited to submit a full proposal by January 15, 2026. Proposals will undergo an internal and external review process and grants will be awarded in May 2026.