

Background

There is growing consensus that more effort needs to be placed in preventing radicalization and violent extremism instead of only reacting¹. ReDirect is a program that works to prevent Calgary youth and young adults from being radicalized to violence through education, awareness, prevention and intervention. ReDirect is a collaborative initiative, with partners including the Calgary Police Service and The City of Calgary, Calgary Neighbourhoods. Informed by community engagement and modeled with best-practice in mind, ReDirect has two main approaches. This includes individualized early intervention services provided by police officer and social worker partnership teams as well as facilitated educational and awareness initiatives that develop and strengthen resilience. ReDirect recognizes that preventing radicalization can only be done by utilizing multi-disciplinary approaches, and achieves this by including a variety of representatives from government, non-profit, and educational organizations in monthly multi-agency panel meetings. More information can be found at www.redirectprogram.ca

ReDirect's Youth Innovation Group

The Calgary Police Service and The City of Calgary, Calgary Neighbourhoods are excited to launch the first ReDirect Youth Innovation Group (YIG), starting October 16, 2018. YIG are a collection of youth, age 16-19, who are engaged in the community, are creative, and want to make Calgary an even better place to live. Youth will receive a series of educational sessions which will encourage them to identify and work on an initiative that builds resilience to radicalization. YIG seeks to build a youth-led grassroots effort, focused on building strong communities.

Recruitment

A call for applications (see attached) was sent during the early summer of 2018 to community organizations and professionals who interact with a diverse and representative sample of Calgary youth. To apply, youth are required to complete an application and provide consent or informed consent from their parents/guardians if under the age of 18. Applications are due by September 26th 2018, and ReDirect will select a total of 10 participants.

Program Outline

YIG participants will meet once a week for 2 hours (4:30-6:30pm) at a creative space located downtown at The City of Calgary's Municipal Building. Over a period of 8 sessions, participants will be led by ReDirect facilitators utilizing a curriculum that builds an understanding of radicalization and empowers participants to create a project that builds resilience. For example, this could be in the form of art-work, videos, or cross-cultural learning event.

Objectives

- Increase understanding/awareness of radicalization and protective factors to radicalization.
- Inform ReDirect outreach initiatives by meaningfully engaging youth voices and experiences on this subject.
- Contribute to resilience to radicalization utilizing a strength-based approach.
- Increase trust and awareness of ReDirect program supports and services.

Evaluation

As this is a pilot-initiative, ReDirect will evaluate and reflect on the experiences of the YIG participants, facilitators, and impact on the community in creating resilience. To measure this, ReDirect will use survey data, debriefing, and engagement data such as attendance numbers at events that YIG plans. From this, a decision to expand or revise the program will be determined.

More information

Please contact John Acheson, ReDirect's Family Liaison Outreach Worker and YIG project lead at jacheson@calgarypolice.ca or 403-428-2412.

¹ "Preventing Violent Extremism". United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, <https://en.unesco.org/preventing-violent-extremism> (2018).

ReDirect YOUTH INNOVATION GROUP

JOIN US!

We are looking for a team of youth to join our ReDirect Youth Innovation Group. Participants will get the chance to learn about how communities can help prevent radicalization by working closely with the Calgary Police Service and City of Calgary, Calgary Neighbourhoods.

You will also get a chance to build your leadership skills by working with other youth to plan and present a project that will help make Calgary's youth less vulnerable to radicalization.



Are you...

- Between the ages of 16 to 19?
- Interested in making a more inclusive and safer Calgary?
- Someone who enjoys working with others?
- Someone who can commit to meet every Tuesday, from 4:30PM to 7PM (October 16 to December 4)?

Then apply!

- To request the Application Form, please contact John Acheson, Family Liaison Outreach Worker, ReDirect, at jacheson@calgarypolice.ca or call 403-428-2412.
- The deadline to apply is **September 26, 2018.**

Successful applicants will be scheduled for an interview before confirming participation. YIG participants will be required to complete a Police Information Check, Liability/Informed Consent Waiver, Terms of Reference and Confidentiality Statement, and a Media Release Consent Form. YIG meetings will take place in the Calgary Municipal Building (800 Macleod Trail S.E) located across from City Hall LRT Station.

Calgary



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For more information on the ReDirect program, visit www.redirectprogram.ca.