

(or your organization, department, team etc.)

ARE YOU PRACTICING MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT?



STUDENTS ON ICE
FOUNDATION • FONDATION

Take the quiz to find out...

START

Does your policy making consult youth in some way and integrate their opinions?

Yes!

Totally!

Nope...

Do you consult more than one youth from a variety of different backgrounds?

Do you actively integrate their advice, considerations, opinions and more?

Ya, of course, that's why they're here!

Well, yes, but also we as professionals make the decisions how we would ultimately like to.

Do you agree that youth participation in policy-making processes allows them to have control over resources that affect their lives and futures?

Yikes...

The bad news is your policy is completely missing a youth perspective.

The good news is things can only get better from here!

Why consult youth? Well, not only do they bring a fresh perspective, but youth are actually the largest demographic in many countries. Additionally, many youth have intersectional perspectives, meaning that they are not only bringing their youth perspective to the table, but can also hold community, scientific, indigenous perspectives. Therefore your policy will be much richer and more effective!

Not to mention, many organizations are already pushing for meaningful space in policy and decision-making arenas. It is already successfully being done, so you should catch up. These organizations include but are not limited to National Inuit Youth Council, Saami Youth Council, Arctic Youth Ambassadors Program, Arctic Youth Network, and more.

Just one...

Room for Improvement

We give you a solid B- grade for effort. If you are not harnessing the full power that a diverse group of youth can bring then you are missing out on an authentic and inclusive improvement to your policy!

Some things to consider...

- When there is only one youth representative, they feel pressure to represent 'all youth'.
- When they do NOT see their contributions implemented, but DO see their photo used for social media and for organizations to show youth involvement, young people can feel like they were tokenized / not actually listened to...

FIX THIS BY: Including multiple youth, at different times, from different backgrounds.

Yes!

Oh ya!

For sure!

That's What We're Talking About!

You know first-hand how much policy improves when you consult youth. We are thankful that people/organizations/teams like you exist in world that is moving towards integrated youth representation in policy spaces. This ultimately results in richer and more effective policy.

Way to go!!!

Students on Ice Foundation Alumni Program

The Students on Ice (SOI) Foundation brings youth on expeditions to the Polar Regions for unique, immersive learning experiences. Following an expedition, SOI welcomes all participants into our renowned Alumni Program. The SOI Alumni Program is committed to fostering and supporting the life-long learning journey of alumni. We support them in making positive change in their own lives, in their communities and across the globe!

• We Connect Alumni to Meaningful Youth Engagement Opportunities

Many of the programs we run for alumni include authentic and meaningful youth engagement opportunities. These are located in workplaces, academia, at conferences and events, and more. This conference is a great example - we currently have a youth delegation of SOI alumni from across North America attending Arctic Futures 2050! We are presenting posters, sharing our perspectives on the big screen, networking and more. We look for spaces where youth can learn and grow by engaging and contributing - not just listening and looking! Again and again we find the most impactful spaces for youth to be those where change is in action.

• We Create our Own Opportunities for Youth

Not only do we seek and connect alumni to opportunities elsewhere, but we do our best to create opportunities within our own organization. For example, SOI hires youth for internships, with the possibility of further employment, on both the HQ staff team, and on the expedition staff team.

1 youth is a token

2 two is a minority

3 means we are getting there!



studentsonice



StudentsOnIceExpeditions



SOIExpedition