

Pushing beyond youth engagement and into youth empowerment, YouthTalk provides youth with a unique opportunity to formally advise decision makers. Through open discussions, youth share their opinions on issues important to them and brainstorm ideas as to what they feel could be done to enhance our communities, support children/youth, and improve our government structures/systems.

YouthTalk uses both online and offline mediums to interact with and engage youth in the decision making process and is organized into various levels including: Division Councils, District Councils, National Councils, and an International Assembly. This structure allows for maximum participation in issue-based discussions, encourages cooperation, and provides youth with an opportunity to display and build upon their leadership skills.

YouthTalk is governed by a set of Bylaws, defined and interpreted by the International Assembly. Each National and District Council also operate under their own set of bylaws. All of the advocacy and engagement work conducted by YouthTalk is supported by an Administration composed of adult volunteers.

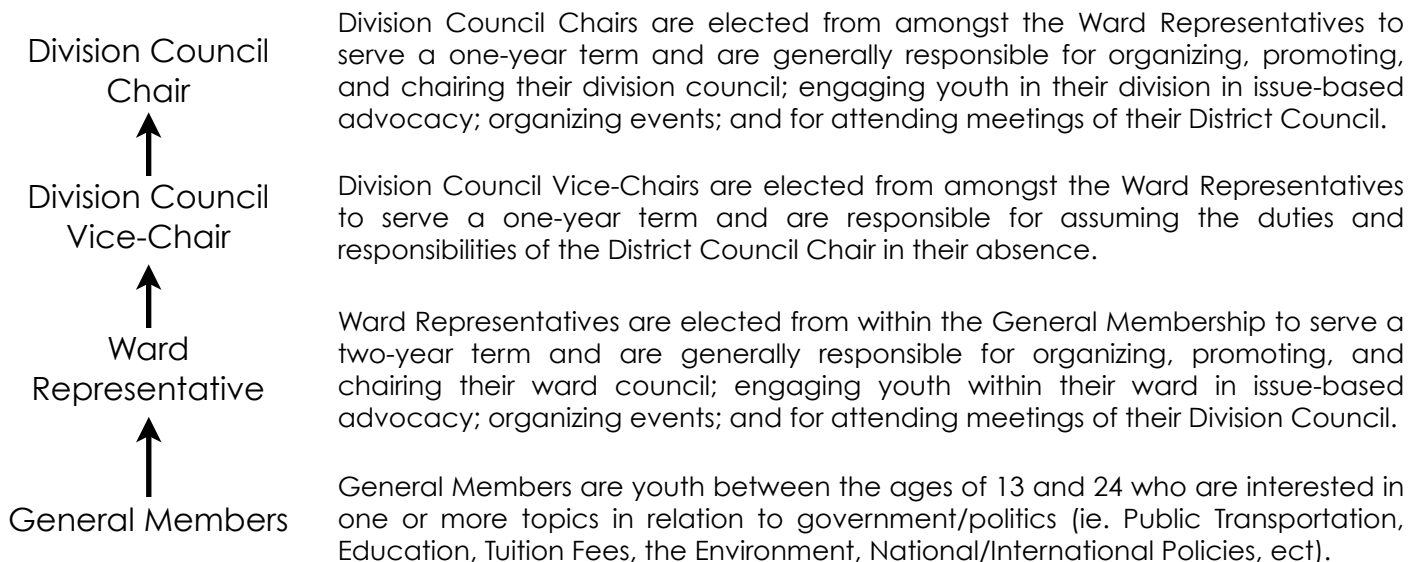
YouthTalk.ca BETA

YouthTalk.ca Beta will be released in January 2011. Between now and December 31, 2010 Youth between the ages of 13 and 24 can [apply to become a founding member](#). Space will be limited to 50 youth; the administration will review all of the applications and select members based upon two factors: 1) their objective for joining and 2) equitable representation (geographic, age-range, and visible minority representation).

Selected founding members will be invited by email to create an account at YouthTalk.ca by January 8, 2011 and will begin bylaw discussions right through to January 31, 2011. On February 1, 2011 YouthTalk will officially launch to the public, the provisional bylaws will come into effect, and the countdown to the elections will begin. Elections for all of the positions outlined in this document will be held on March 26, 2011.

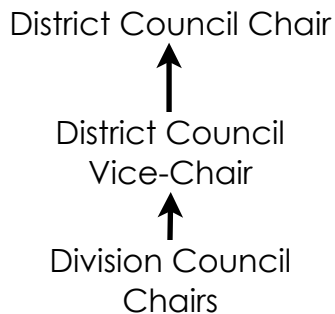
DIVISION COUNCILS

YouthTalk Division Councils are organized using the boundaries of Cities/Townships. The goals and advocacy priorities are determined by the council which is lead by the Division Representative. The Division Councils are responsible for communicating the opinions and concerns of the General Members to the local political representatives (ie. City Councillors, School Trustees).



DISTRICT COUNCILS

YouthTalk District Councils are organized by Province/State and are occasionally split into North/South/East/West in geographically large areas. The goals and advocacy priorities are determined by the council which is lead by the District Representative. The District Councils are responsible for communicating the opinions and concerns of the General Members to the provincial political representatives (ie. MLAs/MPPs).



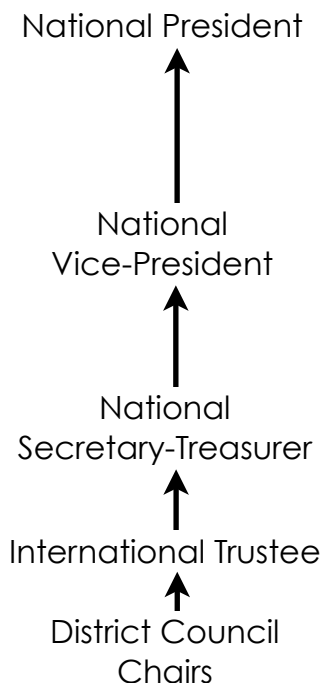
District Council Chairs are elected from amongst the Division Council Chairs to serve a one-year term and are generally responsible for organizing, promoting, and chairing their division council; engaging youth in their district in issue-based advocacy; organizing events; and for attending meetings of the National Council.

District Council Vice-Chairs are elected from amongst the Division Council Chairs to serve a one-year term and are responsible for assuming the duties and responsibilities of the District Council Chair in their absence.

See "Division Council" for the description of a Division Council Chairs.

NATIONAL COUNCILS

YouthTalk National Councils is the coordinating body of their nation. The national bylaws, goals and advocacy priorities are determined by the council which is lead by the National President and Vice-President. The District Councils are responsible for communicating the opinions and concerns of the General Members to the federal political representatives (ie. Members of Parliament).



The National President is elected from within the General Membership to serve a two-year term and is responsible for developing and executing an annual work-plan in collaboration with the National Vice-President and International Trustee; organizing, promoting, and chairing their national council; and maintaining a working relationship with the International Trustee to ensure national priorities are being advocated for at the international level.

The National Vice-President is elected from within the General Membership to serve a two-year term and is responsible for working with the National President and International Trustee to develop and execute an annual work-plan; for representing the National Council at events; for chartering new districts and divisions; and for assuming the duties of the National President as may be required.

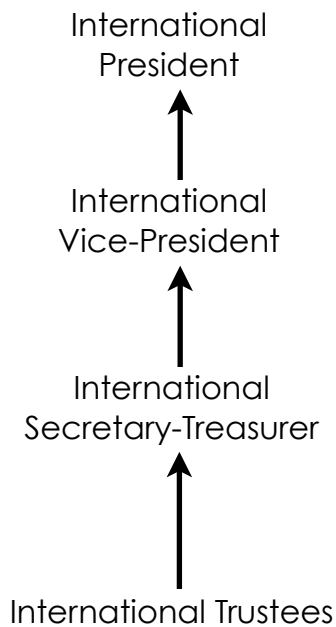
The National Secretary-Treasurer is elected from within the General Member to serve a two-year term and is responsible for managing all financial matters; accurately recording and distributing meeting minutes of the National Council; and compiling and publishing the Districts Annual Report.

See "International Assembly" for the description of an International Trustee.

See "District Council" for the description of a District Council Chair.

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The YouthTalk International Assembly is the governing and coordinating body of YouthTalk in its entirety. The governance and structure of YouthTalk, the overall direction, and the goals and advocacy priorities are all determined by the International Assembly. The International Assembly is responsible for communicating the opinions and concerns of the General Members to international political representatives (ie. Federal Governments, the United Nations, etc). Due to the nature of the work that the International Assembly does, members of the International Assembly must be at least 18 years of age.



The National President is elected from within the General Membership to serve a four-year term and is responsible for developing and executing an annual work-plan; organizing, promoting, and chairing the International Assembly; and for maintaining a working relationship with the Lead Facilitators to ensure their plans are understood and supported by the administration.

The International Vice-President is elected from within the General Membership to serve a four-year term and is responsible for working with the International President to develop and execute an annual work-plan; for representing the International Assembly at events; for the chartering of new nations; and for assuming the duties of the International President as may be required.

The National Secretary-Treasurer is elected from within the General Member to serve a four-year term and is responsible for managing all financial matters; accurately recording and distributing meeting minutes of the International Assembly; and compiling and publishing the International Annual Report.

International Trustees are elected from within the General Membership to serve a four-year term and are generally responsible for working with the National President to develop and execute an annual work-plan, maintaining a working relationship with their National Council President to ensure national priorities are being advocated for at the international level, and attending meetings of both their National Council and the International Assembly.

YOUTHTALK FORUMS

Upon request, agencies and organizations can contract YouthTalk to host forums internally, in communities, and/or schools/school districts. YouthTalk provides facilitators, the technology, and the resources necessary to engage the youth (and adult) attendees. We work with local agency/organization to develop a multiple conference plan and schedule appropriate to the needs of the agency/organization. Upon the conference(s) concluding, YouthTalk compiles and publishes a report with all of the sections/content as determined during the development discussions.

During our pioneering stage, YouthTalk partnered with the Toronto District School Board to host 4 student forums, 2 for elementary students and 2 for secondary students, in collaboration with their Student SuperCouncil with the purpose of providing 300 students with a unique opportunity to formally advise decision makers (School Trustees and Senior Staff) and allow the board to communicate policies relevant to student life. At the conclusion of all 4 conferences, a report card was presented to the Board of Trustees and Director of Education which outlined all of the concerns, ideas, and survey results of the students in attendance.

Contact us at www.YouthTalk.ca for more information.