



**OPPORTUNITY FOR  
ALL YOUTH**

## **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Joins Coalition of Leading Companies in Canada To Host Hiring Fair to Provide Meaningful Employment to Vulnerable Youth in Toronto**

*The Prime Minister attends and hosts town hall with hundreds of  
NEET (Not Employed, In Education or Training) Youth*

- *Opportunity For All Youth - an unprecedented coalition of Canada's leading companies - Starbucks, Walmart, Chipotle, HMSHost, Tridel, The Source, Teleperformance, Coast Capital Savings and TELUS - supported by MaRS Discovery District, government and community employment agencies to host a day-long job and resource fair to provide opportunities to youth who need it most.*
- *Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and business leaders on-hand in Toronto kickstart a series of hiring fairs across Canada aimed at improving the national NEET (Not Employed, In Education or Training) Youth unemployment rate*
- *More than 500 NEET Youth attended and 350 job interviews conducted*

**TORONTO (June 27, 2018)** - Opportunity For All Youth, an unprecedented coalition of leading companies in Canada - Starbucks, Walmart, Chipotle, HMSHost, Tridel, The Source, Teleperformance, Coast Capital Savings and TELUS – joined forces with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and community service agencies to host the organization's first hiring fair for vulnerable youth yesterday. The day-long hiring fair at the Albion branch of the Toronto Public Library – a community hub in Rexdale – welcomed more than 500 youth and hosted 350 job interviews as part of a long-term effort to bring jobs and economic opportunity to young people facing systemic barriers to employment.

In addition to conducting interviews and connecting every single participant to the tools and resources they need to become job ready, youth had a once-in-a-life-time opportunity to participate in a town hall with the Prime Minister.

This marked the first in a series of job fairs the coalition will host across the country to achieve its ambitious five-year goal of providing meaningful employment to 40,000 NEET Youth (aged 16 to 29) with a focus on those who have been disconnected from the employment market for four months or longer.

### **TALENT IS DISTRIBUTED EQUALLY. OPPORTUNITY IS NOT.**

Nearly one million young Canadians are not in school or holding down a job according to Statistics Canada. Of those nearly 400,000 are actively seeking jobs. Low-skilled youth are particularly challenged in the labour market. Those who face one or more barriers to employment and educational development opportunities can be unemployed at three times the national average or more.

In Toronto youth have faced troubling long-term trends with unemployment rates hovering between 15-20% for more than a decade and an estimated 10% of youth (83,000 people) are not in education, employment or training.

"Tackling youth unemployment has been a major focus for City Council over the last few years," says Toronto Mayor John Tory. "Through Partnership to Advance Youth Employment (PAYE), the City has connected thousands of young people to great employment opportunities with hundreds of employers across Toronto. I am pleased that a national campaign based on our successful PAYE model is being launched to create more opportunities for young people that need them the most in Toronto and across the country."

### **CLOSING THE OPPORTUNITY DIVIDE**

"The Opportunity For All Youth coalition recognizes that corporations play a unique role in helping tackle this societal challenge, and that they must work together with community organizations and governments to achieve maximum social impact" says Richard Derham, Lead Executive, Opportunity For All Youth. "We want to ensure that every young adult has the chance to join the workforce, pursue their ambitions, and improve our shared future."

What has been missing to date is a coordinated effort by employers interested in connecting youth to meaningful employment opportunities that is national in scope. The Opportunity For All Youth coalition addresses this and will make it easier for employers to learn from one another, share best practices, and accelerate what is working.

"We're appealing to the business community to join forces and take action to transform lives," says Richard. "Experience tells us vulnerable youth are a remarkable source of untapped talent and possibility. They consistently demonstrate high engagement and tenure."

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