

Youth Leadership Program

Now in its fifth year, the ASI Youth Leadership Program has been continually strengthened by participant feedback, and is designed by a committee that includes youth and representatives from organizations serving youth. The 4-day Youth Leadership Program (August 19-22, 2018) will be held during the ASI 2018 Forum, and will provide an opportunity for young people to have a voice in shaping the future agenda for children and youth in Atlantic Canada. ASI has learned from previous events how important it is to foster intergenerational learning, so there will be time for youth to both participate in the full ASI Forum and convene separately to develop long lasting connections.

The Youth Leadership Program has a unique intergenerational aspect. Youth selected for the program will begin with leadership training designed specifically for their demographic, and continue the week by participating in the Forum along with representatives from fields such as: government, education, health care, justice and community development. Youth are given an equal voice at the table, allowing policy makers and community leaders to appreciate the value of youth voices and consider youth perspectives when developing policies and programs. Their suggestions will be used to strengthen the 'Call to Action on Promoting Child and Youth Mental Health' that was created in 2017.

Past participants have represented diverse communities and a wide range of experiences as leaders and mental health advocates. Many delegates have been actively involved with youth councils; others empower their peers through art and music, or are creating new initiatives to improve awareness and mental health literacy.

ASI 2018 will support at least five youth from each Atlantic province to come together in Charlottetown for this event.

Thank you to TD, the Title Sponsor of the ASI Youth Leadership Program.



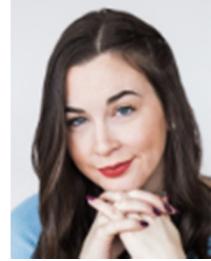
Coordinator

Hillary Abbott is a music therapist working with the Catholic Family Services Bureau in both Charlottetown and Montague, PEI. She works with diverse populations on the island, recognizing the value of mental health promotion through all stages of life. Her work with children and youth illustrates the importance of empowering young people to reach their full potential and the ability to do this creatively. Hillary is a past participant with the ASI's Youth Leadership Program and is so excited to return as Coordinator, bringing together another fantastic group of young people.



Workshop Facilitator

From a functionally homeless high school drop-out reliant on social services, to founding and building a non-profit organization with an international reach, 22 year-old **Chelsey Hicks** credits her thirst for warmth, unique perspective and experiences of privilege for her growth, success and sustainable recovery living with PTSD. As the executive director of Dance Thru It, Chelsey wears many hats, as a keynote speaker, workshop and programming facilitator, community consultant and advocate. Her work with Dance Thru it has led to several unique experiences and training opportunities, what began a simple idea to share a love of dancing grew into anti-oppressive programming that has since grown a life of its own.



Keynote Speaker

Born and raised in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, **Derrick Biso** is now located with their wife Janet and plant children in a cozy apartment on the Windsor-side of the Detroit River. Derrick graduated from the University of Prince Edward Island with a Bachelor of the Arts in Philosophy and Diversity and Social Justice Studies. They also attended Holland College, partially completing the Graphic Design program, and are now continuing their studies in Visual Arts at the University of Windsor. Derrick works professionally as a graphic designer and assistant event planner with Nouveau Event Planning and independently freelances. They also coordinate a Gender + Sexuality Alliance at the Windsor Youth Centre and teach yoga with the City of Windsor. Derrick volunteers with the Windsor Tandem Bike Club and Windsor-Essex Transgender and Allied Support community centre.

