



Orientation to Ontario

YOUTH

There are many special services for children, teenagers and young adults in Ontario. Many organizations and government agencies provide assistance with education, employment, volunteering, health, and social issues.

- NewYouth.ca is an online community for newcomer youth with information on school, work, health and immigration. It also lists events for young people across the province and lists a number of scholarships, grants and bursaries available to newcomer youth newyouth.ca
- Youth Opportunities Ontario provides information on employment, education, social programs and volunteering across the province youthconnect.ca

EDUCATION

Youth in Ontario must attend school until the age of 18, or until they have completed a high school diploma. There are different educational paths available in Ontario. High schools in Ontario cannot ask you for your immigration status when you enroll.

The high school Cooperative Education (co-op) program allows students to earn credit towards

their diploma while gaining work experience. Co-op students can also begin an apprenticeship in the trades through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) ontario.ca or findlink.at/oyap

Ontario has over 40 publicly funded colleges and universities. There are also more than 400 private career colleges in the province.

Learn more about post-secondary education at ontario.ca or findlink.at/findschool

The Canadian Armed Forces offer a wide range of education and career opportunities to young men and women. However, you must be a Canadian citizen to join the armed forces.

EMPLOYMENT

Youth employment is a major concern in Ontario. There are many organizations and agencies that assist youth in finding both part-time employment and exploring career opportunities.

The Youth Jobs Program website lists the jobs, skills training and entrepreneurship supports that may be available to youth based on their age and status in Ontario ontario.ca or findlink.at/yjprogr

RIGHTS AND SAFETY AT WORK

Young people are almost twice as likely to be injured in the workplace. Learn more about workplace safety on the government

1-855-626-0002
<https://settlement.org/o2o>



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of Canada Services for Youth
website: youth.gc.ca or
findlink.at/jobsafe

The Ontario Ministry of Labour
provides information on your rights
as a worker: ontario.ca
or findlink.at/youngwork

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

Many community centres offer
programs for youth, including
clubs, social gatherings, sports and
fitness activities and civic
involvement.

- Look online for organizations in
your area or contact your local
settlement agency:
newyouth.ca or findlink.at/youth
- To learn about advocacy
groups, visit newyouth.ca
or findlink.at/youthadvoc

Volunteering is a good way to meet
people, learn new skills, and get to
know your community.
Learn more on volunteering at the
Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge:
ctw.ovcn.ca

YOUTH CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The youth justice system is separate
from the regular court system.
When youth between the ages of 12
and 17 break the law, the police can
use different strategies to deal with
the situation. Youth who commit
crimes may get a warning or
caution from the police or be
referred to a community program.
In serious cases, youth may be
charged with a crime and will go to
court.

GETTING HELP

KidsHelpPhone is an anonymous and
confidential counselling service for young
people of any age. You can call their 24-hour
hotline or post questions online.
KidsHelpPhone can help with every day
issues like dating, peer pressure and more
serious issues such as mental health, abuse,
and bullying. Call 1-800-668-6868 or visit
kidshelpphone.ca

To learn more about how KidsHelpPhone can
help children and youth, visit [New Youth at
newyouth.ca](http://newyouth.ca) or findlink.at/kidshelp

DID YOU KNOW?

- You can apply for a G1 driver's license
when you are 16 years old.
- You can apply for Ontario Works at
age 16, provided you meet certain
conditions.
- You can apply for the Ontario
Student Assistance Program (OSAP)
student loans if you are a full-time
post- secondary student.
- You can vote in municipal, provincial,
and federal elections when you are 18
years old.
- You have to be 19 years old to buy
tobacco products in Ontario.
- You have to be 19 years old to buy
and consume alcohol in Ontario.

