

Part C: Local Youth Input

**A SUMMARY OF INPUT RECEIVED FROM A CROSS SECTION OF MISSISSAUGA'S
YOUTH.**



Part C: Local Youth Input

A SUMMARY OF INPUT RECEIVED FROM A CROSS SECTION OF MISSISSAUGA'S YOUTH

University of Toronto Mississauga students conducted a qualitative study surveying a diverse group of Mississauga's Youth to get a sense of whether the youth were in support of the statement that Mississauga is Youth Friendly. Students were directed to express their findings in a summary report with a creative multi-media presentation.

Summary A

A Dodd, C Essue, and N Tsangarides

Our group interviewed 110 youth throughout Mississauga. We were able to interview youth from both low income and middle class areas. The areas we canvassed were South Common Mall, Father Gonzaga Catholic High School, Mount Carmel Catholic High School, Meadowvale High School, Meadowvale bus terminal, Square One Shopping Center and Square One bus terminal. Out of the 110 youth interviewed 45 of them were male and 65 of them were female, ranging in age from 14 – 19. We talked to people of all races to avoid marginalizing anyone. We chose areas around Mississauga where we could get a wide variety of youth; we talked to skate boarders, youth shoppers, high school students, hip hop dancers, youth engaged in a community program and youth using Mississauga transit. We definitely spoke to a wide variety!

After talking with the youth in Mississauga our group believes that Mississauga is a youth friendly city.

- The skate boarders we talked to said although there are no designated skate areas downtown, they don't really get hassled too much when they use City Hall as their own skate park. Besides, skate boarding isn't as fun without a little risk. (Note: There is now a skate park at City Hall)
- The students at Father Gonzaga Catholic High School told us they feel they are involved with the community because they have so many options available to them through the community centre, which is attached directly to their school, like swimming and use of the public library. The students also like being close to a mall where they can socialize and eat lunch in the food court.
- The youth in Meadowvale enjoy living in Mississauga because of all the options they have for recreation close to home such as The Dam, the pier just outside The Dam, the basket ball courts at Mount Carmel Catholic High School, the drop – in dances at the Meadowvale community center (the younger youth 13 – 15 engaged in the dances)

and the drop in youth programs offered at Meadowvale Community Centre, just to name a few.

- The youth we talked to around South Common Mall were satisfied with the programs they were able to participate in, their only complaint was the shopping mall its self! They liked having a community centre so close to their schools.
- Square One Shopping Centre is where we found a lot of diversity. We were able to speak to younger and older youth, males and females and people of all races. We talked with some youth who felt Mississauga wasn't youth friendly but for the most part everyone agreed that Mississauga was youth friendly. Several community centers had easy access to their programs, volunteer opportunities offered through their school, the numerous sports leagues throughout Mississauga, Celebration Square and drop in programs were positive feedback they gave us.

What do youth consider being youth friendly? When we asked them they told us a variety of answers ranging from safety, parks and recreation and leisure. The main answers we received were:

- Neighbourhoods who participate in neighbourhood watch, places where youth feel safe
- A community or city with lots of parks
- Easy access to community centers
- A community that listens to their youth through formal organizations
- Lots of options for sports
- Lots of options to practice arts
- Cool and "hip" festivals and concerts for young people
- Recognition of the youth in the community
- Easy access to places, like fast and reliable transit
- Multicultural festivals
- Programs set up to help youth in lower income neighbourhoods succeed

To sum up these answers in one sentence would be, youth consider a youth friendly community to be somewhere they are safe and given every opportunity to excel and thrive regardless of their sex, age and race.

We asked the youth we interviewed "What can Mississauga do differently to be more youth friendly?" They said: More...

- Pools
- Dance workshops
- Swimming
- Math competitions
- Athletic competitions
- Spelling bees
- Outdoor basketball courts near south common

- Jogging
- Park or clubs
- Mountain bike path
- Hockey leagues
- Cycling trails
- Curling, sledding
- Darts and chess clubs
- Street hockey leagues
- Cosmetology classes
- Canoeing
- More volunteer opportunities
- More physical activities
- Taekwondo
- Basketball courts
- More parks

Some of the programs designed for youth that Mississauga excels in are all of the community centers the city has. The youth we talked to seem to love the fact there is easy access to these centers. Within all the community centers the city has launched a program called the Mississauga Youth Movement which allows youth from the ages of 12 – 24 to meet once a month and discuss issues within their communities. Another positive youth program initiated by Mississauga is all the options for play such as parks, skate parks, theatres, drop in centers, recreational activities. Mississauga also offers lots of volunteer programs in a variety of areas which the high school students love because of the mandatory 40 hours to be completed before graduation.

The aspects of Mississauga which are the least friendly are the transit system also there are not a lot of places where youth can go and relax with friends without feeling like they are loitering or breaking some rule. The transit system takes a long time to get anywhere. Close to half of the youth we researched were under the driving age which means they have to take public transportation. To get anywhere in Mississauga takes anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour, for young people engaging in activities after school taking the transit can seem like more of a chore than a mode of transportation. Some youth told us they do not feel comfortable taking the transit, especially in the winter time when the night comes quickly. The other aspects Mississauga can improve on according to youth are more places where youth feel comfortable going and hanging out with friends. Youth usually get kicked out of any where they are seen loitering so they want more spots designated youth chill zones.

Our group conducted our research by asking the youth to fill out a survey we developed. We talked to youth who were relatives, lived in our neighbourhoods and also by going to places we thought youth hang out like shopping malls and bus terminals. While we were out in the city we took a few pictures of youth engaged in activities. We also wrote on 10 Facebook pages that focus on youth (like the Mississauga Youth Plan page) asking youth to answer a few questions to help us out with our research. Unfortunately we did not have any youth respond on Facebook which was disappointing.

Here is a percentage break down of our research

100 youth interviewed

60 males 40 females

Ages 14 – 19

Level of engagement on 0-5 scale

0 = 5%

1 = 12%

2 = 14%

3 = 44%

4 = 20%

5 = 8%

Do you participate in activities outside of school is 86 yes 14 no

Athletic activities - 70 Yes 30 No

Leisure Activities- 88 Yes 12 No

Educational Activities - 40 Yes 60 No

Local community Activities - 70 Yes 30 No

Actively participate in:

41/100 go to the Gym

47/100 participate in Sports leagues

34/100 participate in Swimming

47/100 go to Chill Zones

84/100 go to the Movie theatre

14/100 Volunteer (some volunteer options written: school, church, food bank, coach soccer, YMCA, pool, nursing homes)

69/100 go to the local library

10/100 go to skate and public parks

5/100 go to the Drive In

90/100 go to the Malls

16/100 participate in the community or workshops

Low Income Youth

10 youth surveyed

Ages

8/10 : rated a 3 on level of engagement with the community

9/10 participated in outside of school activities

9/10 in athletic activities

7/10 in Leisure activities

6/10 in educational activities

9/10 attend local community centres 1/10 replied sometimes

10/10 felt that Mississauga is a youth friendly community

4/10 felt that Mississauga should have more educational activities in relation to preparing the youth for university

** Some of the other activities that the youth participate in where school and church

Supporting Evidence: See reference C-1

Summary B

A Brazgal, K Egan, N Ionno, Z Iwachow

Youth are integral members of the community and represent the future of a city, which is why their views and opinions are important for decision-making. In order for youth to become more engaged in city affairs it is imperative that there are available opportunities for them to actively participate in activities and decision-making opportunities in their community.

Through the course of our qualitative study on youth in Mississauga we have interviewed and surveyed 74 youth between the ages of 13 to 19 years old. The youth, both males and females, who participated in our qualitative study all resided within the City of Mississauga. The level of participation of the youth who were surveyed and interviewed ranged, between those individuals who were very active in activities and groups outside of school, while other youth were not as engaged in activities outside of school.

Those youth that were engaged in programs outside of school participated in a range of activities, which suit their interests whether they are athletic or artistic.

Through our interviewing process our group had an opportunity to engage in many discussions with a variety of youth from different genders, ethnicities and cultures. Although we tried our best to interact with a broad spectrum of youth, we did notice that there were certain groups of youth that we did not get the opportunity to engage with. Through our research and interactions with youth we had difficulty engaging with youth that were 17 to 19 years of age. When visiting the community centres in Mississauga there was a lack of youth that represented this particular age category (17 to 19 years old). When conversing with a Clarkson Community Centre employee she stated that she has noticed a significant decline in the participation of this particular population of youth due to societal factors. Through their maturation many youth in this age category start to consider themselves to be adults; therefore, they are not interested in participating in programs at the community centre in groups with young teenagers. Another group of youth that was not fairly represented within the qualitative study were youth with disabilities. While interviewing teenagers at the community centres, youths with noticeable disabilities did not seem to be present. We assume, with the knowledge that we have accumulated through our research, that there may be a lack of activities that accommodate the needs of this youth population.

Throughout our qualitative study our group interacted with youth in a variety of settings and through a number of mediums. In order to gather information for the qualitative study, we attended the "So you Girls" program at Clarkson Community Centre. At the Frank McKechnie Community Centre, we interviewed youth participating in the Wal-Mart at Play free basketball, drop-in program. Moreover, we also attended the Youth Games event where we spoke to several youth participating in the sports activities.

From our exploration with youth, our overall impressions were that a significant number of youth interviewed, felt that Mississauga is a youth friendly city. Precisely, 61 youth out of a total of 74 interviewed, believed that Mississauga was youth friendly while 9 out of the 74 believed that it was not youth friendly and 4 of our respondents were unsure as to if the city was or was not youth friendly.

From our surveys and discussions with youth we found that those youth who believed that Mississauga was not youth friendly felt so for a variety of reasons. Many of the youth that we interacted with desired a place to hangout that they can call their own where they can independently hangout with their friends and engage in unstructured activities. Many of the youth stressed the fact that they want a sense of independence from their parents as well as employees of facilities. When asked, in our survey, "What would you change or add to Mississauga to make it more youth friendly?" one 14-year-old female responded, "More places to just hangout with friends where your parents cannot stalk you!"

Another factor as to why Mississauga was not considered to be youth friendly, which was stressed by youth that we interviewed, was that activities and programs were too expensive to participate in. These activities would appeal more to youth if they were free. When we interviewed several females they felt that programs and activities

offered through the City of Mississauga did not represent the interests of girls. Many of the free activities, such as Wal-Mart at Play offer athletic activities, which appeal more to male youth; however, the females we spoke with felt that there was a lack of free or reasonably priced artistic programs available that would be interested.

Furthermore, when asked why they felt Mississauga was youth friendly one of the significant responses that we received was that the programs that are offered allow youth to engage in activities in a bully-free, safe environment. This means that "You can act like you!", "It's free to be the way you want to be!" and "No one judges you!". These were just a few of the quotes that were gathered during the free drop-in program called "So you girls" at the Clarkson Community Centre. Another reason why youth felt Mississauga is youth friendly is because there are a lot of places where youth can meet new people and a lot of opportunities to gain new knowledge. A number of programs provide different levels of expectation, which allow youth to push and challenge themselves to acquire new knowledge as well as skills. Also, youth felt that Mississauga offers multicultural programs, which gave equal opportunity for all youth to participate. Most importantly, these programs and activities provide youth with a fun outlet to keep them engaged and off the streets. In addition, youth also stated: there are lots of places to go, there are a lot of activities and services for youth, community centres are available for youth, and there are many organizations.

Our group used several methods in order to solicit input from youth. We created a survey in order to gather the opinions of youth between the ages of 13 to 19. This survey was distributed to youth at local high school by the name of Stephan Lewis Secondary School as an optional survey to fill out. Those youth who participated in the qualitative survey were males and females between 14 to 19 years old. The survey asked youth a number of questions such as what kind of activities they participate in outside of school, where they spend their leisure time with friends, where do they meet new people, if Mississauga is a youth friendly city and lastly, what they would change or add to make Mississauga a more youth friendly city. In addition, our group also took the time to create a Facebook group called "Voice your opinion Mississauga Youth" where we incorporated the survey online so that youth were able to fill it out and post their responses onto the group's wall, where six responded to the survey. We initially added all youth we knew in that age category and encouraged them to add their friends, eventually totalling 49 members, in order to get as many opinions as possible. Furthermore, for our qualitative study we also interviewed youth who were between the ages of 13 to 19 years old. Our informal interviews took place at Mississauga Community Centres such as Clarkson, Frank McKechnie, and South Common as well as at Erin Mills Town Centre and the Civic Centre Skate park where we approached youth and asked them a number of questions about their involvement in Mississauga activities, such as: what activities they participate in, if they think that Mississauga is youth friendly, what they enjoy or dislike about programs and activities in Mississauga, and what they consider a youth friendly city to be.

Supporting Evidence: See reference C-2

Summary C

R Siddiqui, N Qayumi, A Saeed, A Marasigan

In order to accurately judge whether Mississauga is Youth Friendly based on criteria 5, 7 and 12, a qualitative study was conducted to voice the opinions of youth themselves. In this study, 90 youth from various areas in Mississauga were surveyed and interviewed and creative methods of voicing their opinions were used. Our findings varied across different areas in Mississauga where youth found some areas more youth friendly than others.

The 90 youth that were interviewed and surveyed included youth from wide varieties of backgrounds including Caucasians, Indians, Pakistanis, Chinese, Sri Lankan, Russian and Arab (from the youth that were willing to disclose their nationality). A variety of age groups between 13-18 year olds were interviewed in order for the results to be accurate; however, majority of the participants were from the ages 15-17. Youth of younger ages and parents were less willing to participate in the study/let their children participate. The studies were conducted at South Common Community Centre, YMCA, Erin Meadows Community Centre, Loyola Catholic Middle School, Square One, and Meadowvale Community Centre. Locations were chosen because of the traffic of youth based on the types of youth programs; however, neutral locations such as Square One and Loyola Middle School were also chosen in order to voice the opinions of youth who might not be exposed to or participate in youth programs.

Several methods and techniques were used by our group in order to solicit input from youth in the city of Mississauga. We began our research by contacting over forty organizations and gained valuable information including: how many youth participated? How successful was the event, etc. Then, we decided to visit the facilities to observe its location and programs as well as talk to youth who participated in events and activities offered by the different organizations. We used different techniques when approaching young people, such as, focused group discussions in the community centers which took place right after an event, individual interviews targeted towards their viewpoints about Mississauga as a youth friendly city, surveys and questionnaires evaluating the safety of the city, we attended and participated in several events offered by the selected organizations during which we took pictures and videos of youth in action.

At the beginning, our group tried to video tape as many video testimonials as we could because we felt that it would be most effective to record what youth have to say about the community. However, after a short period of time, we realized that many youth did not feel comfortable in front of a camera and were shy, and many parents did not want their children to be filmed. Next, we constructed surveys, which asked questions such as "Do you think Mississauga is a safe city", and "What extra curricular activities are you involved in". Moreover, we provided youth who participated in our study with rewards and treats such as peanut free chocolates and goods, school supplies (i.e. pencils, pens, paper, etc.) brochures and flyers to events and facilities in their area. This attracted many youth and we got the positive response we were looking for. In addition, we told youth to hold signs saying "I love Mississauga because -

_____ ", and we allowed them to fill in the blank. This drove very interesting responses as well as adding great value to our research.

Overall, from our findings, we established that youth feel Mississauga is a youth friendly city depending on the location. From our interviews with youth, we realized how much youth appreciated all the extra-curricular activities and services offered to youth. For example, a group of youth mentioned they really enjoyed the swimming programs along with skating and sports facilities offered by the various organizations in Mississauga. They also mentioned that the services provided by Safe City Mississauga contributed to growth in their knowledge and understanding towards the prevention of crime in Mississauga. In addition, the programs they took part in offered by Safe City Mississauga provided them with effective leadership and interpersonal skills. Furthermore, youth also acknowledged the services offered by the local ethnic and public community centers in the city of Mississauga, including community centers such as Erin Meadows, South Common and the Vietnamese Community center. In general, youth mentioned that services offered by such facilities empower them to be a positive force in the community and it also allows them to add their voice in the overall well-being and improvements of a community as the programs offered helped youth build channels of communication between youth and other members of the community.

In contrast to the above findings, we learned through our study that certain areas/locations in Mississauga are unfortunately not very youth friendly. While we were interviewing youth at the South Common Community center, we asked youth if they feel comfortable in their own community. We were happy to hear some positive feedback, however, many youth complained about store owners in south common mall including the convenience store called "Gateway". The owner of this store does not allow students/ youth to enter his store unless they show him that they have money. Moreover, we learned that this made youth feel very neglected and marginalized from the rest of the community members as they were being discriminated against by some businesses in the mall. Interestingly, a youth mentioned that when stores and community businesses place such rules on youth it makes them feel very angry and aggressive and it also enhances opportunities for crime to take place. Furthermore, the policies placed by this store owner evidently neglects the rights of youth as stated by Peel Youth Charter which clearly believes that young people are significant members of the community, therefore they contribute substantially to a safe and supportive environment. Consequently, we believe that if store owners and businesses continue to place such policies on youth in the community, the work and effort of organizations that enhance youth play towards building a youth friendly city will be put to waste.

Another question we asked our youth in the interview process was, "What do you consider a youth friendly community to be?" Many youth mentioned that the community should provide them with opportunities to interact with others in a positive and mutually respected way, businesses (i.e. malls) and community centers should treat youth with equality and voices of youth should be heard when putting in place a safety policy such as crime prevention strategies. In addition, we learned that youth considered a youth friendly community a safe place where everyone works together and supports activities and services provided to all community members including children, youth and seniors. As a result, in such a community, youth should have equitable access to services and opportunities offered and they should be allowed to

play an active role in making decisions, setting policies and influencing outcomes on matters relevant to their lives at the different organizations levels. Furthermore, we learned that one of the most consistent concerns of youth is that their voices are not heard by other members of the community. For instance, during our interview a student mentioned,

"Youth should have a say in the things that happen in the community and governments should talk to the youth, see what they want and look into it more and come to our schools and ask us our opinions and involve us in community meetings and decision processes just like you are asking us about our views right now; the government should do that before they allow business owners to make us feel marginalized".

In order to further explore how youth feel comfortable in their own community, our group decided to ask youth what "comfortable" meant to them. Through our interactions with the youth participants at several events, we learned that youth define "comfortable" as violence-free and safe environment where they can interact with one another in a friendly manner. We also grew in our understanding that youth do not like to be looked upon as a marginalized group, as they believe they are active members of the society hence, they play a unique and important role in our community.

Moreover, after thoroughly analyzing our group interviews with youth, we have learned that youth feel Mississauga is a youth friendly city for the most part, however, when they were asked what changes they would make to make it even more youth friendly, they had several interesting points and suggestions. To begin with, youth are the leading experts on their experiences, needs and interactions within their community; hence engaging youth in decision making processes relevant to their lives (i.e. education, health, public issues etc.) will promote Mississauga as a safe, responsive and appropriate to youth needs and interests city. This is because we believe that young people possess great energy and creativity as well as unique perspectives which should be heard and taken into consideration as it will prove beneficial for the rest of the community in the future. Furthermore, youth also stated that the activities and programs offered by the organizations must be relevant and meaningful to their lives as well as easily accessible. They stated several suggestions that the city should consider towards improving and maintaining a youth friendly title. These include, creating mechanisms to connect with marginalized youth groups and communities, reducing discrimination against youth in public places such as malls, providing transportation to services offered, consider school schedules when organizing events, provide child care for youth with children, partner with schools so that youth can earn a credit for participation (i.e. leadership/entrepreneurship programs), the community should help youth develop positive identities and share roles and responsibilities, and finally the city should increase the opportunities dedicated towards the celebrations of youth contributions to the community.

Interestingly, it is important to keep in mind that the opinions and views of youth differ greatly across the city, as youth in one area will find a certain location more youth friendly than others in different areas within the city. For instance, we interviewed youth in different locations across the city of Mississauga and we learned that youth in Square One and YMCA areas felt a lot more positive about youth programs compared to

youth in Meadowvale as they did not know about any programs available for them. We believe that this could be due to the location of Square One; it is located in the heart of Mississauga, surrounded by intriguing residential and commercial institutions, whereas Meadowvale area attracts less traffic due to its location and surroundings. Overall, we believe that our study adds significant value towards the application process of labeling Mississauga as a youth friendly city, as it evidently provides evidence for the effectiveness of criteria 5, 7 and 12.

Supporting Evidence: See Video C-3

Summary D

I Singh, Rola E, K Patel ,B Patel

The youth interacted with for this assignment was quite decent in numbers, an approximate of 34 youth were approached. To gather the required information, youth were interviewed face to face on the streets and interviewed at various youth centers. Pictures were taken at the various centers after gaining permission from the authorities. However, some organizations did not give us the authority to take pictures nor interview the youth that were part of the program due to their privacy policy.

In terms of gender, the youth interviewed were quite balanced, that is, no one gender outweighed the other. Two demographics of youth were however not included in this study, these being the youth that belong to the upper class families of Mississauga, typically those youth cannot meet at centers or on the streets, and, the disabled youth of Mississauga. The latter could not be included as no encounter occurred with these youth during the exercise. All interviewed youth do reside in the city of Mississauga. The level of engagement of these youth with the community of Mississauga ranges from low to high.

To gather data for this study, youth were approached at various locations, these being Square One shopping mall, the streets, skateboarding rinks, Nexus Youth Center located in the Central Library, Citizens for the Advancement of Community Development (CACD), YMCA, and Work Readiness for Youth. Ethical considerations were observed and therefore neither names, the address nor the age were asked from the youth being interviewed. As we found it unethical to ask about the age, we did however determine the approximate age of the youth being interviewed by asking them what grade in school they were in. They were then clustered into age groups for example a student in grade 11 on a normal basis would be from age range 16-17.

To better summarize the data collected, the youth interviewed will be divided into two different groups - the ones that find Mississauga youth friendly and the ones who do not. Of the approximate 34 interviewed, 23 believe that the city of Mississauga epitomizes the concept of youth friendliness.

At Square One shopping mall, one youth interviewed while she was there shopping with her elder sister staunchly believed that Mississauga's a youth friendly community. She

mentioned how she is involved with sports activities that the school advertises on behalf of the City of Mississauga. Her elder sister, a student at a teachers college went on to say that over the years from her personal experience, high schools in Mississauga have improved by integrating such programs amongst others that engage teenagers. A group of youth, in grade 12, both boys and girls who were on their way to the Central Library after taking a detour through the mall, also agreed to the notion that Mississauga is a youth friendly community. They were appreciative of the fact that the library has different sections that cater to their different needs; some of them were involved in dance classes held by the City of Mississauga. These dance classes gave them a chance to express their artistic abilities. While, others were involved in volunteer opportunities during various functions which they claimed were a lot of fun.

A teenager, in grade 11, involved with the Work Readiness for Youth program, and who during the summer season worked with one of the group member, was very thankful that such a program is in existence. He comes from a large family with a poor economic background. He was elated about the fact that he got a chance to work over the summer and believes that he acquired the right set of skills that will help him while seeking a job. He was also rewarded monetarily and felt he was not a burden on his parents at all. He hopes the program would expand to include more youth over the years.

At the Nexus youth center, two male youth, approximately 17 – 19 years of age, were happy with the fact that the Nexus youth center is located in close proximity to their school. Even though one lives in the Erin Mills area, they did not find commuting to the Centre a pressing issue. They were also happy that the center allowed them to check their emails and surf the net for free, play billiards for free instead of going to a bar or a billiards hall where they would have to pay to play for a limited time. They liked that they could come to the center and relieve some stress by talking to others and cracking jokes. They did voice the concern, and said that the center should expand and include more locations to encourage youth participation.

A few youth, grade 11 and 12 students at John Cabot Secondary School, who were studying at the library, were also approached. Of them, one girl claimed that she has moved with her family from the City of Toronto to the City of Mississauga because her parents felt Mississauga's a safer city. When she was asked if she likes Mississauga, her response was: "I love it, its people are friendlier, and being smaller there's a better feeling of closeness". She is involved with the swimming and skating programs for youth that are run by the City of Mississauga. Another girl said if she could, she would build a center that has everything a youth would need, and not charge anything as some families cannot afford some programs. Other girls mentioned that they were involved with the dance and drama programs that the City of Mississauga holds for youth when they were in grade 10 but now being in grade 12, they have shifted their focus into getting good results at school so they can enroll in universities.

Youth interviewed at CACD varied in ages (13 – 17). A 13 year old claimed that he loves Mississauga, and loves to spend time at the Square One shopping mall. He exclaimed that if more space was dedicated to larger and better skate parks in Mississauga, like the one at Hershey's center, it would be for the better as during summer time, some of these rinks get overcrowded, but loved the fact it exists. Another

14 year old that is involved with CACD also expressed his view in favor of Mississauga. He was glad that CACD has these music programs that allow him to express himself, while having fun at the same time. He heard of the program via his high school and now encourages other youth and his friends to get involved as well. A 13 year old girl mentioned that the activities at various centers are fun, affordable and dedicate themselves to the teenagers. She mentioned of this teen cafeteria that gives teens free food, allows access to video games such as Wii, and holds writing workshops that allows teens to enhance their talent and nurture themselves, both physically and mentally.

Youth from Father Michael Goetz Secondary School and Philip Pocock Catholic Secondary School were also interviewed, ranged from the ages of 14 – 17. One of these youth, a 15 year old girl, also involved with the Newcomer Center of Peel (NCP), has lived in Mississauga for a year now and said that there are so many options available for youth in Mississauga. Furthermore, she continues to explain that if youth are willing, they can get involved in a variety of programs. The others unanimously agreed that Mississauga's definitely a dynamic and interactive community.

Needless to say, the youth that found Mississauga not youth friendly numbered few. They were mostly at the shopping mall. One youth, a grade 11 student, claimed that Mississauga's boring and that more malls should be put up, he claimed Playdium has not been renovated in years. When the group informed him of the various programs the community offers, he claimed that none of them interested him.

A boy and girl were approached, both students of Xavier Secondary School, grade 12 students. They agreed that they do know of the various programs the community offers, as their school keeps mentioning them, but they said the programs fail to intrigue them and that the LGBT campaign is meaningless to them. The boy went on to add that the community should have more basketball nets that do not have the option of being rented out so individual boys can play instead of being marginalized by teams willing to pay for the court use. One 16 year old boy claimed that Mississauga's not a safe community as a lot of violence and accidents occur. He was aware of the programs run by the community but simply, without shame claimed he was too lazy to make an effort to join any. When asked if he had any hobbies, he chirped up and said video games, pointing to the new Call of Duty game he had just purchased.

A 14 year old boy was asked what he and his friends like to do after school, his response: "we hang out here", (at the mall), "and sometimes go smoke under the bridge". When asked what bridge, he said the Burnhamthorpe Bridge. (Credit River)

All in all, Mississauga has been evaluated as a youth friendly community by the majority of the youth interviewed but with a slight feedback that if these programs were publicized in a manner that intrigued all youth, Mississauga would not have this handful of youth, which are ignorant of the vibrancy Mississauga offers.

Supporting Evidence: See Reference C-4

Summary E

S Aumeer, J Chung, and A Vohra

Cross sections of youth in the city of Mississauga were studied in order to better understand their opinions and views on the community. Youth within the age range of 13-19 years were questioned in the form of a survey, interview, and a random selection of youth testimonials within the community were incorporated into the qualitative study.

Youth In Mississauga

The voice of youth within Mississauga was selected from random neutral hubs within the city. Youth from three locations were studied; the Woodlands School, the Credit Valley Hospital, and the University of Toronto-Mississauga campus. Due to the general location, we assumed the pool of youth selection would be randomized for age, gender, place of residence, and their level of engagement within the community.

The local middle and secondary school, the Woodlands School, students were surveyed to gather their outlook on Mississauga. The Woodlands School is located in the Erindale area (at the corner of Dundas St. and Erindale Station Rd.). On a regular school day, about 85 students were surveyed between the ages of 12-16 years with an equal division of males and females. Among the students surveyed, the secondary school students (Grade 9 and 10) had a higher level of engagement (around 6 to 10 ranking on a 1-10 scale) within the community due to their forty-hour community service requirement in comparison to the middle school students (Grade 7 and 8). Due to their diploma requirement, more awareness was allocated to the secondary school student's volunteer opportunities. The only group of students that were not surveyed from this school was the Grade 11 and 12 students, due to schedule and time conflicts. The Erindale area is an urban zone with a wide range of extracurricular opportunities from recreational to community service activities for youth to engage in.

The local hospital, the Credit Valley Hospital, provides a wide range of volunteer and leadership development opportunities for youth within the community. The Credit Valley Hospital is located in the Erin Mills area (at the intersection of Erin Mills Pkwy. and Eglinton Ave. W). From a thorough application and interview process, a handful of youth (13 years of age or older with an equal division of males and females) are selected and trained to volunteer within various areas of the hospital. Due to their involvement within this volunteer organization and survey results, they have a higher level of engagement within the community (around 7 to 10 ranking on a 1-10 scale). A random selection of about 30 youth volunteers from various areas of the hospital, as well as about 10 youth volunteer team leaders were interviewed and surveyed for the qualitative study.

The students at the University of Toronto-Mississauga campus were studied within and outside the classroom setting. The University of Toronto-Mississauga campus is located in the Erindale area (at the intersection of Mississauga Rd. and Dundas St. W). In the afternoon lunch rush, approximately 30 students between the ages of 17-19 years were surveyed with a random selection of males and females at the campus cafeterias, Spiegel Hall and Meeting Place. Within the classroom setting, GGR117 course students (approximately 160) between the ages of 17-19 years of both genders were surveyed in their Wednesday morning class at the Kaneff building on campus. The students ranged in their residence within and outside of Mississauga. Also, their level of engagement ranged from high to mid to low (on a 1-10 scale) as some students tend to only focus on their academic studies, others enjoy involvement within the community, and some prefer a combination of both academic and community service life. Within the campus setting, only students within the criteria age range were surveyed with randomly selected genders.

Impression of Mississauga

I. Mississauga as a Youth Friendly Community (Refer to Figure 1)

From the survey results, the majority of youth reported they felt the community of Mississauga was youth friendly (82% of 285 students). Some of the reasons as to why they felt Mississauga was youth friendly have to do with the many recreational centers and the wide range of activities offered by the city. The community provides many programs catered towards youth and their needs, such as Kids.Now, MY Games, Boys and Girls Clubs of Peel, etc. Another aspect of the community that supports a youth friendly community comprises of friendly people who respect, support, and positively interact with youth on a day to day basis. As well, the community has a diverse cultural and ethnical background of individuals' who help bring new and different ideas to the table. In addition, the libraries and the community centers have many representatives who lead youth into the right directions. The teachers, family, friends and parents are the most supportive and responsive which makes the community youth friendly. However, 18% of the youth population reported the community of Mississauga was not youth friendly. Some reasons they mentioned was due to the fact that some areas of the city placed stereotypes on youth and they felt that they were judged by others at times.

Youth Play (Refer to Figure 2)

The majority of youth surveyed answered that the Mississauga community does provide an ample amount of opportunity for youth to participate in youth play activities. They found the most popular amongst all youth play oriented activities were those that were sports related. Youth felt that schools and community centers offer a great number of sports programs for youth to choose from. They

explain that youth are given the choice to join a number of different sports teams such as soccer, basketball, baseball, etc. that hold tournament events throughout the year. In addition, the many parks and public spaces available through schools and recreational centers provide the space needed for these youth play events to take place. Youth conclude that in the end, it is the choice that youth must make to get involved with their community so that they can take advantage of the benefits in youth play.

Youth Volunteerism and Leadership Development (Refer to Figure 3)

The majority of youth studied within Mississauga felt the community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development. Youth can volunteer in many different settings from fundraising events, sports/recreational clubs, religious organizations, senior programs, educational assistance programs, hospitals, camps, etc. They felt there were many websites and bulletin board postings of volunteer and leadership work within their school and community centres. From sports programs to religious organizations there was a constant promotion for volunteerism for youth to become an active member within the community. Some of the organizations that accept volunteers yearly are Narrow Road Athletics, Sauga Stroke Breakers, Credit Valley Hospital, Trillium Health Centre, ISNA Canada, Erindale Bible Chapel, etc. Many secondary schools are also emphasizing leadership development and are providing opportunities for these youth to grow. For example, organization such as Skills for Employment Life and Family, MICBA Forum Italia Community Services, Junior Achievement of Central Ontario, Camp UTM, Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee, etc. focus on leadership development amongst youth. Some opportunities are even offered within the summer months when youth can actively participate in these activities. A small number of youth felt that not enough awareness of these opportunities was provided to youth, thus the prospects of volunteerism and leadership development diminishes. The students who felt these opportunities were not advertised within the community were between the ages of 13-14 years (middle school students) for whom volunteerism is not a diploma requirement.

II. Consideration of a Youth Friendly Community

There are many aspects of a youth friendly community that the surveys revealed. Youth consider a youth friendly community to be one with a safe and clean environment (low crime rate, safety precautions and measures enforcement, etc.). This will allow them to freely walk and participate within the community without fear or concern. It is a community where everyone works together, respects, and helps one another. Youth would like there to be a positive relationship between themselves and adults. One consistent key point amongst the surveys was that of no discrimination or stereotyping amongst youth. Some

even felt that the most a community can do is include its youth and make them feel needed, as oppose to neglecting them. A youth friendly community should offer free education and recreational programs for youth to grow and succeed. These programs will help youth stay out of trouble and keep them busy and occupied in their interests. As Mississauga is a diversified city, it is essential for the community to not only provide diverse programs but also offer ethnical food and living options. Youth feel space is very important for their growth, they would like specific places within the community restricted as "youth friendly" hubs. Thus, a city that gives youth opportunity for positive development and helps them brighten their future is one considered "youth friendly".

III. Change in Mississauga to Make More Youth Friendly

When asked what changes youth would make in order for the community of Mississauga to become more youth friendly, they had a wide range of suggestions that cover the social, cultural, and psychological aspects of a youth. The most popular suggestions included the addition of more spaces within the community for youth purposes. This includes parks, recreational centers, and community centers that have social events that are more sport and play related. In addition, the services and programs offered through these outlets should be made accessible for all youth by making them affordable and free if possible. Due to the existing high tuition fees that generally lead to a large student debt, a youth friendly Mississauga community should give special deals and discounts for any purchases they make, whether it be out of self-interest or educational purposes. Lastly, public transit systems should be more efficient for youth to use as a mode of transportation because students are very reliant on these to get to other youth friendly areas of Mississauga, such as malls and schools.

IV. Youth Friendly Aspects of Mississauga

In replying to this question, the surveyed youth answered that the most youth friendly aspects of Mississauga are schools, parks, community centers, and shopping centers. They found that these areas invited youth to participate in activities and were most youth friendly because they felt welcomed. As a result, the areas that would be most appealing to youth would be the ones that allowed youth to be freely active within their social space without social constraints that went against their interests. On the other hand, youth found that the least youth friendly aspects of Mississauga specifically included residential areas, fast food restaurants, and convenience stores. Due to the discrimination that adults have towards youth, they felt shunned from these areas in fear of

theft and social disturbance. Youth feel that, social areas that are adult specific make youth feel excluded and filtered out.

Methods/Technique of Data Collection

The methods and techniques our group used in order to solicit input from youth within our age group were through our qualitative surveys and video interviews. Our surveys consisted of 8 questionnaires that were based on criteria 9 and 10. However, in order to obtain a more personal opinion from youth, our group wanted to video record personal statements and reflections upon the subject matter directly from youth.

One of our group members came in contact with the principal and the vice principal of the Woodlands middle and secondary school by meeting in person with them, emailing, and phoning them in order to obtain permission to conduct our in-class surveys. The vice principal helped us conduct our surveys for youth in grades 7 and 8, while the principal helped us conduct our surveys for youth in grades 9 and 10. However, due to lack of time we were unable to survey grade 11 and 12 students. Furthermore our group approached four youth outside of school time in order to conduct video interviews to obtain a more detailed report.

One of our group members already volunteered with the Credit Valley hospital and contacted the youth volunteer coordinator to help support getting youth opinions. Our group sought out youth leader volunteers who were interested and willing to share their own ideas and experiences, relating to the topic of Mississauga's volunteerism/leadership and youth play, through video recording. In addition, we were able to survey youth volunteers and video record their opinion regarding the subject matter.

Lastly, at the University of Toronto-Mississauga, our group approached Professor Dana Wilson who notified Professor Johnston of our group's joint effort to approach first year Mississauga students attending the campus. This allowed us the opportunity to conduct our survey at the beginning of Professor Johnston's GGR117 lecture to further complete our qualitative study. Outside of lecture times however, our group targeted popular locations across the university campus so that we could approach a wide range of youth within our age group. As a result, we were able to seek out willing participants for our survey as well as a video component which included personal opinions and lead a separate group discussion amongst youth.

Data Analysis

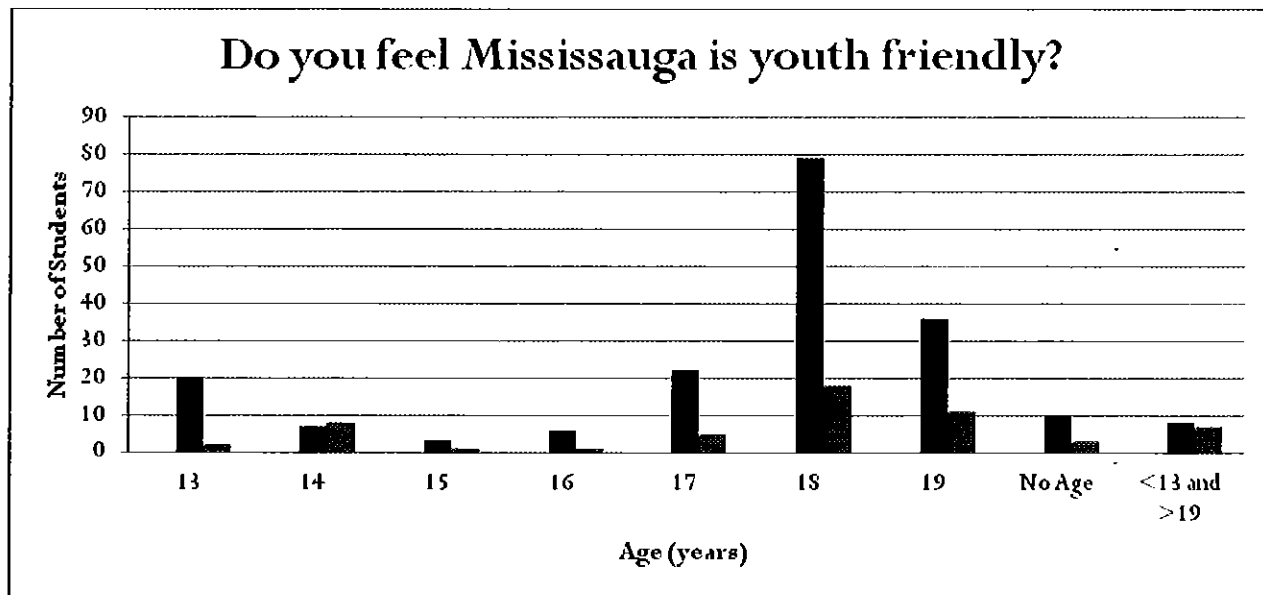


Figure 1. Youth's opinion of Mississauga as a Youth Friendly community. Orange bars represent yes, while blue bars represent no.

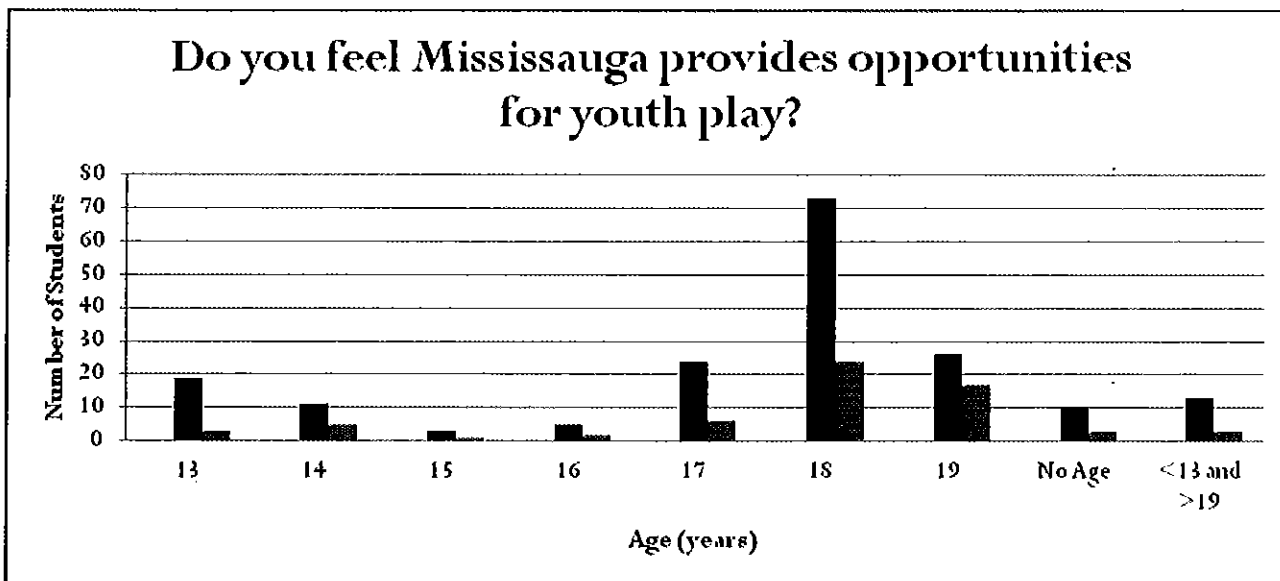


Figure 2. Youth's opinion of Mississauga providing opportunities for youth play. Orange bars represent yes, while blue bars represent no.



Figure 3. Youth's opinion of Mississauga providing youth volunteerism and leadership development opportunities. Orange bars represent yes, while blue bars represent no.

Supporting Evidence: See Video C-5

Summary F

T Patel, CMacMillan, F Nieh, and D Hsieh

For the qualitative portion of our application process, our group visited various places in Mississauga to find out about youth's opinions on some of the programs that exist. We used our three criteria (youth can get to the play programs offered, schools support the youth friendly approach, adults champion the cause for youth play) as guiding factors to help us decide who to talk to and what types of questions to ask. We visited Nexus Youth Services (located in the Central Library), and the Newcomer Information Centre (located near Square One shopping mall), who have a youth division in their centre (NIC Youth). We used these places as outlets to access youth, with the permission of the counselors at each location. We picked these two places because they have a strong degree of adult championship towards the youth cause, and the leaders whom we spoke to were very passionate in their work and in making youth in the community feel comfortable.

The youth that we interviewed were between the ages of 14-19, and we accessed them through a number of ways and in various places, in both formal and informal settings. In terms of numbers, we spoke to two youth who were at the Nexus centre when we visited (we also spoke to a group of youth leaders and counselors at the

centre, who told us about the program). We also sent out a Facebook message to 10 youth that one of our group members knew, within the target age for this project. Out of the 10, two youth replied (Please refer to the Facebook Questionnaire at the back of the assignment for one youth's responses). We compiled a questionnaire similar to the Facebook one, which was given to one of the Don's of a residence on campus (a friend of one of our group members). She gave the survey to other Don's, but could not give it to students living in the residence because of university policy. Five of the 20 surveys we sent out were applicable (when taking age into consideration). We also attended an event that the NIC Youth was holding, called Fashion on a Budget. The event was open to youth ages 14-21 and was held on a Wednesday evening from 5-6:30pm. With the permission of the NIC counselors and the consent of the youth, we held a small focus group with five of the youth, at the end of the event. We asked them questions relating to both the youth program at the NIC and also about their knowledge of any other one's in Mississauga that they knew of or were involved in. We also asked them questions regarding the role that their schools play in disseminating information about play events and programs in the city. Lastly, our group visited the bus terminal at Square One and spoke to six youth there (both individuals and groups of youth) and we asked them questions regarding the transit system and if it effectively allows them to travel around the city.

The youth that we spoke to were a mix of females and males, with 55% of them being females and the remaining 45% being males. All of them resided in Mississauga at the time of enquiry, but some had lived here all their lives while others were only recent residents. The newest youth to Mississauga that we spoke to had only been residing in the city for about three months, but were already very involved (they were some of the youth who put together the fashion show that we attended). In terms of level of involvement, youth were diverse in their experiences and involvement, but a higher proportion of youth were more involved in youth programs as opposed to less involved. On average, the youth that we engaged with at the Nexxus centre and NIC Youth, knew more about other community youth programs such as MYAC, Big Brothers Big Sisters, MY Games, etc, and all except two had utilized or been part of at least one other program or event in addition to the one that we spoke to them at. The youth that we spoke to at the terminal were less involved in such programs, and on many occasions were not even aware of the services and programs that many youth organizations offer. One surprising thing that we found upon speaking to the young population in general was that not a single one we spoke to knew about the MIWay Transit Ambassador Program, even though there are various flyers in the terminal and in busses across the city. Perhaps more exposure in schools or in the terminals would motivate more youth to join, especially if they felt that their voices will be heard.

Majority of the youth that we spoke to were 17-19 years old, but there was not too much representation of the younger age groups (14-16). This is something important to

consider when compiling our findings, because it may skew our representation of youth opinions, since those of the younger youth were not as readily noted.

The overall impression that our group got from our exploration from youth within Mississauga in regards to how youth friendly Mississauga was, resulted in mixed emotions about the city being youth friendly. When it came to transportation the youth we interviewed felt that Mississauga's public transit system was at times youth friendly because the bus routes offered by Mississauga's public transit allowed the youth to get to where they needed to go and perform whatever task they needed to do. On the other hand, the youth felt that the public transit system could become more youth friendly by having longer transfer times, seeing as current transfer times do not allow youth to complete their activities in a timely manner. Another issue that a few youth told us about, regarding transit, was having buses that are on time, considering that the youth are dependent on the bus to get them to school and , so if they were time would be extremely beneficial (many youth told us about their experiences with late busses). The youth interviewed also felt that having more frequent buses would improve the system, especially in the winter, because of the cold weather.

The youth we spoke with at the Nexus centre and NIC Youth, said that they heard about play events from their schools, through parents who were using the centre (Newcomer Centre), or by searching online for certain programs. These youth usually walked or bussed to Nexus or the NIC Youth. The youth felt that Mississauga is friendly, since they are able to meet other youth, gain confidence in these play program, learn English and practice their language skills, as well as have access to computers, internet, a place to hang out and have fun with other s. Nexus also offered the youth with informal and formal counseling to the youth who came to the facility. The youth considered a city "youth-friendly" if it provided services that met their needs, allowed them to meet new people at different event, and also if there were services or programs (Sports, art, drama) that they could access in a cost-effective manner.

In order to make Mississauga more youth friendly, the youth felt that some of the play programs could be advertised better within their schools or held at their schools since it would give them easier access to the events. Youth felt that the most youth friendly aspects of Mississauga was public transit, the programs they participated in, and also the nature and landscape within the city, because of the many parks and outdoor facilities (the tennis courts, soccer fields) that they had access to. Youth felt that their schools lacked effective communication to them, regarding the promotion of play events in the community, since there were no posters or advertisements around the school to provide them with such information. NIC also echoes this, and said that schools are difficult to collaborate with because they usually are not willing to post up flyers in their schools, and are only sometimes willing to announce their events (and other events being held by youth organizations). One of the main barriers for many organizations is to get out and have their organization noticed and to show that these

programs exist within our community. For example, NIC said that they are not allowed to do BBQs or other types of neighborhood fundraisers (since they are a non-profit governmental organization), so it makes it difficult to access a large population of the youth in the city.

The methods and techniques that our group used are qualitative. We used personal interviews, surveys/ questionnaires, focus group, and engaging with youth through visiting youth centers. We also took various pictures at the Nexus centre and created a collage to capture this, because we found this location to be exceptionally youth friendly. The walls were adorned with youth artwork; there were board games and "hangout" spots for youth to interact with each other, and also many services available to them. In addition, we also made a video of our interaction at the bud terminal, and included only those youth who were comfortable with being taped.

Survey questions were used as a tool to collect descriptive opinions and recommendations from youth. We distributed our survey a variety of ways, the first one being handing out hard copies for participants to fill up in Erin dale resident (permission were distributed by Residence council, and all the participants were volunteered Don's). The second way that we used was using Facebook as a medium for youth to answer questions regarding the city. Thirdly, we incorporated many of our survey questions in the focus group which we carried out, and also asked the youth at the Nexus centre about their opinions. The questions we came up with were meant to capture the way youth felt about the city, and we compiled them using guiding factors from our assignment and the three prescribed criteria that we were given, as well as from our own personal experiences as youth in the city.

Overall, our group visited a variety of places in Mississauga, to engage with youth and talk to them about their perceptions of the city, its level of youth-friendliness, the play programs it offers and their personal involvement. We found that there was a mixture in terms of the level of involvement, as well as various perceptions about the city, both which were related to the how informed the youth were, of programs that are offered in the city. The qualitative research with the youth of Mississauga will allow us to add valuable information to the research that we have compiled thus far, regarding the accessibility and availability of youth and play programs in the city.

Supporting Evidence: See Reference C-6

Student Biographies

In addition to the qualitative study component, Students were asked to submit a brief reflective biography on their experiences as a youth in Mississauga.

ANAM F VOHRA

I was born in Ahmedabad, India on April 28, 1989. At the age of 7, my family and I immigrated to Canada (Mississauga, Ontario). Since 1996, my family and I have lived within the community of Mississauga. We initially moved into the Square One area, where I completed my elementary school years. At the time, this area was the hub for many immigrant families and having individuals by one's side going through similar difficulties makes the process less intimidating.

Upon entering middle school, my family moved into the Cooksville area, which the hustle and bustle of the city lies. At the time, my grandparents had arrived from back home and were enjoying the lively atmosphere of the new community area. The local hospitals Trillium Health Centre and The Credit Valley Hospital, have provided a great deal of service to my family members; my little sister's birth, my grandfather's Osteoporosis surgery, my dad's accident, and recently, my grandmother's sudden heart attack.

During my high school years, we moved into the new Lisgar area. My teenage years were divided amongst the old (Cookville) and new (Lisgar) areas. Even though I lived in the new Mississauga area, I went to Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School for their credited International Business and Technology program, which was in the Dixie-Dundas Cooksville area.

Apart from the academic world, my high school memories were divided amongst plenty of extracurricular activities, volunteer work, and a whole lot of commuting. I was extensively involved in after school life, from the ambassador's club to the volleyball team. Meeting new people, learning new skills and challenging myself were some of the key reasons why I use to participate in these activities. The importance of leadership and networking were essential aspects of my high school program and played a key role in my involvement. The forty hour community service requirement as per the high school diploma became my stepping stone. Once I got involved within the community and saw the difference it was making, my fondness grew and I wanted more involvement.

Upon graduation from high school, I had accumulated more than 500 hours of community service in a range of organizations; from library helper to hospital volunteer in the local three hospitals-Trillium Health Centre, The Credit Valley Hospital, and Milton District Hospital. From each of these organizations, I grew as a person and acquired some of my dearest memories which will never leave my heart. The value of volunteering has allowed me to grow as a person and is the sole reason for the happiness I get from this community involvement.

The Youth Friendly criteria emphasize some important aspects of growing up in the city of Mississauga. Criteria 1- youth have options for play, has been an integral part of my involvement within and outside of school in a range of organizations and activities. This diverse city has created opportunities to reach various cultural, ethnic, religious, and socio-economic groups. Criteria 9- the community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development has been an essential experience of my intellectual development. I grew up valuing the community involvement through the volunteer opportunities, as well as programs and activities that have sharpen my leadership skills. Criteria 12- youth feel comfortable in their community, is the key to community involvement. Being accepted within the community, regardless of physical aspects is so essential in this multicultural society. This Youth Friendly application process allows a community to improve the opportunities, from all aspects- research to recognition. As a result to satisfy these criteria, many communities may be developing better programs for youth. The sixteen criteria are an essential part of youth development and will result in the betterment of youth's future lives. Youth Win a Fine Day benefit from this process.

As a result of participating in this Youth Friendly application process, I have met some inspirational people and hope that I have the opportunity to meet even one thing from these well-rounded individuals. For example, through Louroz Mercedes the founder of Mississauga Youth Games one sees how an individual goes for the betterment of the future generations. Thus, the Youth Friendly criteria have been a great aspect to my life. I have seen endless opportunities for my future.





Samiihah Aumeer

My name is Samiihah Aumeer. I was born in Canada at the Mississauga Trillium Hospital on June 26, 1990. I am raised by two wonderful parents and a sister who is two years younger than me. I am currently a student in my fourth year studying at the University of Toronto Mississauga. I am majoring in Psychology with a double minor in French and Geography and hoping to become a successful teacher after my studies. I have a part time job at the medical centre. I am very friendly, organized, punctual, and love to help others.

My entire teenage years were spent here in the southern part of Mississauga. Between the ages of 13-19 my education years were spent at the Woodlands Secondary School. Outside of my educational life I participated in many activities that were offered here in Mississauga in a recreational centre at the Huron Park. The activities involved were swimming, skating, soccer, badminton, creative arts, etc.

Some of the experiences that I have growing up here in the city of Mississauga is that, as a student I have volunteered in many different organizations such as the library, food bank, schools, medical centre, senior homes, etc. The volunteering experiences have broadened my knowledge, gained social interaction and interpersonal skills. Another experience that I have encountered was my first year entering university. First year of university was a whole new experience for me. I met new friends, learnt how to take the transit bus, and experienced the life of sitting in a lecture with about 500 students. Moreover, another experience that I had was from this course GGR354, I participated in the neighborhood cleanup in Cooksville where we picked up garbage, removed graffiti, assisted with the maintenance to green spaces and other fun activities. This was an unforgettable experience in helping my own community to become a safe and green space environment.

The three youth friendly criteria that meant the most to me in my teenage years are: Criteria 9- The community support youth volunteerism and leadership development, Criteria 1- Youth have options for play, and Criteria 4- It is easy for youth to find information about play activities in the community. I believe that criteria 9 made a huge difference in my life due to the time when I was a student in high school I volunteered in many different organizations for the 40 hours community service involvement. The types of activities that I volunteered were walk-a-thons, food bank, helping with special events at a mosque, library, schools, tutoring, and helping to meet the needs of seniors. By volunteering it opened the doors of gaining self confidence, creating networks and exploring the career opportunities. The community of Mississauga offered a variety of play opportunities for me during my teenage years. I participated in various after school activities in my former high school which included drama club, badminton club, MSA social club, arts and crafts club, participating in international bazaar, and volunteerism. I feel that criteria 1 had a great affect on my life during those teenage years. During my childhood years I was more of a shy little girl but as I joined the wonderful clubs that were offered to me I stepped out of my comfort zone and learned the importance of interacting and communicating with a positive attitude within the community. I consider criteria 4 to some degree were meaningful to my teenage years. As a teenager I was able to access the youth friendly information that was seen from the bulletin board from schools, library and recreational centers. My parents were able to contact the organizations and get additional information so that I was put safely into the clubs. However, not much information was provided at that time on websites

for play activities. I guess during that period of time websites were not much of a use compare to today's society where everything is done online rather than on paper.

As a UTM student I think that gathering all the information (brochures, adds, internet searches, etc) that are provided within the community from the assigned criteria is the most meaningful. This is because as a student I am learning more of what the city of Mississauga has to offer for youth and it is useful to me as I have many cousins around the age of 13-19 that I could share the information with and get them involved within the community to enhance their knowledge and communication skills.

The most enjoyable experience in participating in this youth friendly application process is learning about the city of Mississauga and getting to know what Mississauga offers for youth. I also enjoy working on the assignments with my group members as I enjoy sharing and collaborating my ideas with my classmates. Lastly, all the guest lecturers were amazing and it was really interesting to hear what they had to say about the city of Mississauga and how it connects to youth development.

Camilla Essue

I was born in Toronto Ontario and as a child I moved around Ontario frequently with my parents. I only resided in Toronto as I grew into my toddler era. I was then relocated to Pickering Ontario. I resided in Pickering Ontario during my adolescence. During this point my parents were in the midst of separating i.e. Divorce. During this transition my mother moved to Oakville Ontario while my father remained in Pickering Ontario. During my later adolescence years I thus was spending time in both cities. My week days were with my mother and my weekends was with my father.

As I began to grow into my early youth days I was able to make executive decisions as to when and where I wanted to spend most of my youth. By this point my mother relocated to Burlington Ontario and I was building a great foundation there with friends from school and my neighbourhood. In so far my father would travel to Burlington to spend time with me rather than me travel to Pickering. This arrangement worked out great for me.

It important to note that although my early youth years were spent in Burlington Ontario my parents decided to get back together when I was 15 years old. Furthermore they decided to move to Mississauga Ontario. From 15 plus I spent my remaining youth located in Mississauga.

In so far I had a phenomenal experience as a youth in Mississauga. I was a very physically active and a very social youth. Mississauga met my requirement and facilitated a positive character building which has actively shaped the person I am today.

As such I am able to identify with the youth criterions. Firstly, "Youth have options for play" this criterion I definitely felt the city of Mississauga provided an abundance of play options. During my youth I felt that I had many options available to me, these options also varied to meet different aspects of my youth. I was employed and working at a variety of establishments (Licks, Mattamy Homes) as a youth and therefore I was able to afford some of the play options that required fees. When I was 13 I participated in the Babysitting Certificate offered through YMCA. There was a small fee to enrol. Babysitting allowed me as a teenage to gain more money by babysitting local kids, it also gave me an advantage because I completed this program and parents felt that I was more reliable than others who did not have the certificate. On a personal level I learned valuable lessons. It helped build my character, by making me more responsible, it also showed me that by taking initiatives in the progression of my future pays off! Literally pays off!!

Other activities I partaken in where offered through local community centres. I used to go to fitness classes with my friends that we would have to sign up for. I also completed arts and crafts courses during the holiday seasons, as well as generic sewing and food classes. To be specific the sewing and food classes became beneficial to me in my adult years and taught me how to cook meals for myself which in turn made me more self-efficient. "Facilities are dedicated to youth play" correspondingly relate to what was mentioned above. If the community centres did not offer youth courses I would not be able to gain those life experiences. I am grateful that courses and facilities were made readily available to me. In addition I also was actively attending the skate parks (to watch the boys...hehe) and would go to the movies quite often with my girlfriends.

Lastly, the criterion "It is easy for youth to find information about play activities in the community" was successful for me as a youth. Where my home was located in Mississauga was a family orientated community, thus information was constantly circulated around the community. Local community centres would often mail program or flyers to our neighbourhood. Thirdly, programs and other events became known through the grape vine.

Upon completing this youth friendly application one of the criterions I feel could have made more of meaningful experience for me as a youth is criterion 2, "Youth are formally connected to the community". I feel that I was not aware of how youth could actively participate in program planning, or community changes. I would have loved to have been on a youth advisory committee and played a more active role in my local community. However know that I am aware of such opportunities I will definitely pass this knowledge to my family members and my children.

Natalie Ionno

My name is Natalie Ionno and I am a fifth year student enrolled at the University of Toronto Erindale campus. Although I was born in Toronto, I have lived in the City of Mississauga for my whole life. Throughout my childhood I engaged in a number of play activities, such as soccer, swimming, piano lessons, and girl guides, all of which took place in Mississauga. Participating in Mississauga's Youth Friendly application has been an extremely rewarding and exciting experience for me because; I too have experienced being a youth in Mississauga. I think it is extremely important for youth to maintain an active role in their city by engaging in a variety of exciting activities, events, programs and groups designed for and dedicated specifically to youth.

During my teenage years, my family and I also resided in the city of Mississauga. I attended Holy Name of Mary Catholic Secondary School where I participated on the schools' swim team all four years. Throughout my teenage years there were certain locations where my friends and I would mainly spend our leisure time. Outside of school and our study time my friend's and I would often spent our free time at one another's homes but we often, also, went to the mall, the movies, and the park where we would play sports and hangout. Through our research for the youth friendly application it is exciting to learn that there are a number of facilities in Mississauga, which specifically dedicate their spaces to youth providing them with a comfortable place to spend their leisure time.

As a resident and student in Mississauga I have had a number of experiences throughout the city which have provided me with a greater knowledge of Mississauga. I feel that my involvement in registered activities, during my childhood and teenage years, maintained an important role in shaping my early social experiences in Mississauga because they provided with an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities and engage with other youth, in Mississauga, who shared my interests.

Moreover, volunteering in Mississauga has also provided me with wonderful experiences in the city and demonstrated the importance of community involvement. During high school I volunteered at the South Common library in Mississauga where I assisted by cleaning and organizing book areas, putting away returned books and helped individuals when they required assistance locating a book or a specific area . I currently volunteer at an elementary school where I have assisted teachers in several classrooms by helping students with their class work and with classroom activities. Moreover, I also have recently begun volunteering with Erinoakkids where I assist with their Respite Camp. Through my volunteer experiences I have had the opportunity to meet wonderful new people and learn exciting things. Through my volunteer experiences in Mississauga I feel I have become a more involved member of the community. It is such a wonderful feeling to be able to assist individuals and organizations in your community, even if it is just in a small way. By getting involved in a variety of activities and groups it helps to broaden one's knowledge on the city that you live in and helps to inform individuals about different opportunities, which are available in the city.

Each of the Youth Friendly criteria maintains very significant importance, however, there were several, which I felt maintained significance for me when looking back at my youth. Criteria four, states that, "It is easy for youth to find information about play activities in the community", emerges with great significance. Youth today are much more technologically savvy than ever before, with access to more online resources than ever. Thus, there are a number of ways that young people can learn about different activities within Mississauga, aside from their family and friends. However, for youth, "word of mouth" is also an extremely important way to find out about different activities and events taking place in Mississauga. I think it is important to provide youth with knowledge as to where they can

Rola El-Roz

Born and raised in Mississauga until the age of 17, with slight memories of living a few years in between in Lebanon, I had a wide range of experiences. I moved to Etobicoke at the age of 17 but still attended UTM and worked as a cashier in Mississauga. Throughout this time period there was one experience that I will never forget. It took place 7 years ago.

On Halloween night, October 31 2004, as a student at Philip Pocock Secondary school in Mississauga, I had made plans with family and friends to celebrate Halloween by dressing up and going trick or treating in the area of Mississauga valleys community center. This group included almost all youth with a chaperon around the age of 20. A few others decided to drop us off and go grab coffee, "When you are done call us, and if there is any emergency call us". So it began. After a few hours of knocking on people's doors, a group of kids across of the street were spotted making eye contact with some of our group members. Based on my recollection, the chaperon informed all the children and teenagers to avoid trouble by not starting back and to keep walking straight on the path. "Don't show fear, because that will cause a scene, we do not need trouble." A few minutes later, these young individuals started to cross the street walking towards us. Due to his fear for the lives of the others, the chaperon panicked. Following his instructions, the "gang" began to run as fast as possible. As the chaperon looked back to make sure nobody was left behind, he realized that he has failed. One of the young ones has been surrounded by these "hoodlums" as our parents called them. The rest of the gang turned back creating a scene to scare off the enemy and save the helpless child. To our surprise, this so called gang of young kids initiated this attack because they were upset about being judged as gangsters and did not get any candy. So they referred to plan B. They decided to take it from us. As a young 15 year old, my first reaction was to act tough and refuse to share because it was a form of protecting my property. I have marked my territory and vowed to protect it. An individual decided to call the police and exaggerate that somebody is going to die if the police does not show up. As she made the call, she informed all the young ones to beware because they are going to end up in jail. Things got out of hand and the police got involved. 6 police cars showed up for a silly fight between young kids over candy. As a normal protocol, the parents had to come get the children which has engraved into most of these parents minds that Halloween is a dangerous night that only leads to trouble. The advantage from this experience is that these issues were left behind and most of the members of the opposing "gangs" are friends and play basketball together every Sunday. Play has solved these issues.

At the age of 16, I had decided to put on the religious head scarf that symbolizes Islam which caused a strong fear of being excluded from my community. I was worried of not attaining that feeling of belonging which links to one of the criterion that youth feel comfortable in their own community. Another criterion that I began to search for was that play is inclusive. Taking a new step, I needed the feeling of people who shared the same background and same religion to feel that I belong. This is where I lucked out and found The Muslim Youth of North America (MYNA). MYNA offered a camp for the young Muslims in Mississauga. This camp was targeting youths between

Tasnim Patel

Youth. Such a nostalgic word and one that holds so many memories, regrets and warm feelings when one thinks about it years later. Fortunately, I have not yet had to stray too far from the memories of my youth, as I am currently 20 years old. But there are many things I would do differently if I had the chance to, and many things I learned and enjoyed in my youth.

I was born in South Africa in 1991, and at the age of five, my family and I moved to Mississauga, because my parents wanted to provide myself and my older brother with a better future, as the violence and remnants of Apartheid in South Africa led them to believe that moving to a different place was the best option for us. We settled in the Square One area in 1996 (and have lived here ever since), and found it to be a wonderful place for my young brother and I, because we lived in an area with many young families, and went to school close to home.

Throughout my years living in Mississauga, I have been a proud citizen of the city, because I believe that it is one of the safest and friendliest cities that I have been to. I lived close to the City Centre when I was growing up; across from the Central library and close to Square One. As a young person, I was involved in the community from a young age, and my parents made sure that my brother and I utilized many of the services offered in the city. I remember visiting the library on many occasions, and taking part in the reading buddy programs and well as other play programs that were offered there at the time. We also visited many of the festivals held at the City Hall in the summer time, including the fun fairs and movie nights on the lawn.

As I got older, I remember actively participating in the community, both as a way to get to know other people and also because of the 40 hours of volunteer service that every Ontario high school student has to complete in order to graduate. I served as a reading buddy for the Central library for two summers, because I remembered the joy it gave me when I was young, and I felt that it would be a fun way to encourage other youngsters to read more. I also was involved with MYAC, the Mississauga Youth Advisory Committee, and I remember distinctly one of the projects we were involved in, and that was to promote the Mississauga Transit system to youth, by having a scavenger hunt around the city, and requiring youth to use bus maps and public transit to get around and find clues. This was especially fun for me, because up till that point (I was around 14 years old), I had not been a frequent user of the transit system, because it seems too confusing and complicated to learn! But participating in the MYAC event, I was able to properly understand how to use the system, and realized that it wasn't as difficult to use as I had previously thought! Another event that I often found myself involved with in the city, were the Mississauga marathons, which usually took place in the spring time. I would, along with many of my friends, volunteer to put together care packages for the runners of the marathon or to be present on the day of the marathon to give water to the runners or be a volunteer at the finish line. These experiences were always a lot of fun for me, because it felt like I was doing a good deed for the community and it also gave me a chance to meet many high schoolers my age and make new friends. These experiences, among others, that I've had within the city, were the highlights of my youth years, because they enabled me to feel like I was a part of the community at large, and also gave me a chance to explore and experience events in the city, firsthand.

Three of the most important criteria for the youth friendly application for me, are criterion 9 (the community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development), 12 (youth feel comfortable in their own community) and 14 (schools support the youth friendly approach). In terms of criterion 9, I feel that my personal experiences in the community were very positive overall, and I was able to get involved in many leadership experiences in a variety of niches within the community. I already mentioned my involvement in MYAC above, but in addition to that, I was also an active member of FMW, which is a grassroots organization called the 'Federation of Muslim Women', and it's main goal is the empowerment of women and children in the community. My Mother was an active member in the federation, and it therefore impacted me considerably when I was young. I took on various leadership roles, including being involved in sporting activities for younger people, as well as promotion of the organization at various events. The federation also provided a number of volunteer opportunities at

Zoriana Iwachow

I was born in Toronto to Ukrainian parents who came to Canada from Poland. At age three we moved to Mississauga, to a townhouse complex where I met many friends. There was a high population of Polish and Ukrainian people in my community, so it was very easy and comfortable for my parents and I to settle into the neighborhood. Since there were so many young families with kids in the complex, we quickly became a tight-knit group, playing outside from morning until night. Among the regular childhood activities like tag, hide and go seek, hopscotch, jump rope and catch, we spent much of our time splashing around in the complex pool and hanging out on the playground. I was a very active child, and belonging to this group of friends was great for exercise and energy! In the winter we would go to the skating rink, and spend a lot of time in the library at our local community center (Mississauga Valley community center)—Sundays there were always live readings of children's books, which we loved attending as they were most often accompanied by puppets. The complex where I lived was only minutes away from a beautiful park where we would take walks almost every day whether it was with my friends, or my family. The neighborhood was so safe that we rarely needed supervision, and everyone looked out for one another. Belonging to CYM (Ukrainian Youth Association) and Girl Scouts allowed me to learn social values from a young age. The local community centre also provided great opportunities for me to join gymnastics classes, competitive swim teams, soccer leagues, and take piano lessons. I was also involved in Ukrainian dancing at my local church and took Ukrainian language lessons which helped me identify with my parent's ethnic roots and strengthen my cultural identity.

At age 15 I moved to my current neighborhood, which is also in Mississauga. At the time I was sad leaving behind my childhood memories, but I found happiness in recognizing that these memories instilled many good morals in me. Moving into my new neighborhood helped me grow and discover more of who I am as I progressed from child to pre-teen to teenager. I attended St. Joseph's Secondary School which was only a ten minute or less walk from my house, which I conquered rain, snow, or shine! In high school I participated in many of the extracurricular activities offered including flag football, assisting the coaches for the boy's football team, student council member, volunteer for Earth Day clean up's and recycling initiatives, both the yearbook and prom committees, and I was also involved in various charity talent and fashion shows. In this area as well there were two community centers in close proximity to where I live, some days my friends and I would walk over to the River Grove community center to take dance classes or would travel by bus to Frank Mckenie to go to the local library to hang out. In addition, I continued to remain active in Ukrainian dancing, Ukrainian Saturday school, and CYM.

I continued my post-secondary schooling at UTM, where it has opened my eyes to many incredible opportunities such as volunteering, being part of clubs that are important to me as well as keeping myself healthy and happy with the various facilities that are available to my friends and I to take part in. I have been fortunate enough to have a free Mississauga Transit pass which has made commuting around Mississauga very convenient.

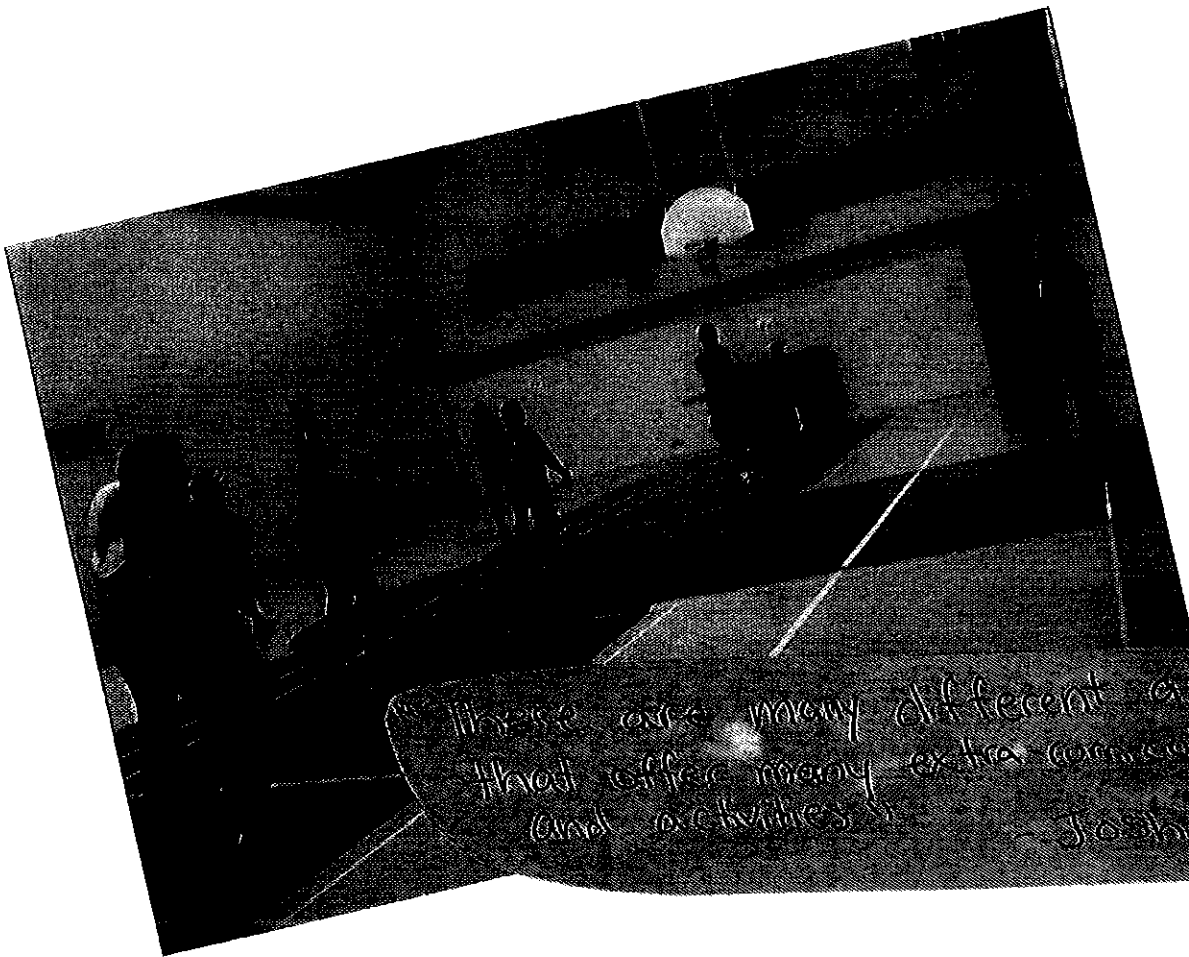
There are several criteria's that I have found in the 16 youth friendly criteria's to be the most important in my teenage years. The first would have to be "youth feel comfortable in their own community", I believe this is important because everyone wants to feel wanted as well as included in all aspects of their life, especially in the vulnerable teenage years. Teenage years are considered to be a huge transition for youth and one that builds a great foundation to what will be transitioned into adulthood. I feel like in the areas of Mississauga that I grew up in, it always consisted of many children in the same age range as me, we were always eager to explore the world and what it has to offer. I think its important to have the community including recreational centers, businesses, malls and theatres where youth prefer to hang out to be inviting and allows youth to feel comfortable enough to enter these facilities as often as they want. The second criterion that I considered vital was "youth have options for play". As a youthful teen my friends and I were always very curious in many activities, we never wanted to limit ourselves to just one. Therefore, we liked to take on

- a) My name is Alina Brazgal and my parents and I were born in Tashkent Uzbekistan. I lived in Tashkent for about 2 years and immigrated to Israel in the city of Bat-Yam. I resided in Bat-Yam for about 7 years and then moved to Toronto in Canada. Unfortunately, due to my illegal immigration status in Canada, I had to go back to Israel leaving my mother behind. She stayed in Canada to continue to fight for my immigration papers. As a consequence, I ended up residing in Bat-Yam for one more year with my grandmother. I officially became a Canadian landed immigrant at the age of 10 and have been living in Toronto now for 12 years.
- b) It was very difficult to come to a large country like Canada with a totally different environment, weather, culture and language. Prior to learning how to speak English, I spoke Russian and Hebrew respectively at home and with friends. My mother and I specifically lived in the Jane and Eglinton area where I attended a nearby public school. At the age of 13, I entered grade 8. At the time, it was the ideal grade where many students tended to join extra-curricular activities and all other types of youth programs. Unfortunately, English was a large language barrier that did not allow me to join multiple programs offered within my community. The friends that I had made from school and my neighbourhood were also immigrants who also were not part of any community organizations. The only program I remember being part of was an ESL program held during after school hours. Sadly, I was unaware of the newcomer organizations that were available within my community. It is only now after working on the Mississauga Youth Friendly application that I have learned about the numerous free programs that are offered for new youth immigrants. During the age of 14 to 17, I ran at various recreational parks and rollerbladed on lakeshore. I also hanged out with friends in community parks, movie theatres, and shopping centers. I was in high school when I started to participate in various sport clubs and after school activities. I also started to volunteer for the CIBC run for the cure, the United Way CN tower climb and the World Vision 24-hour famine.
- c) After graduation, I decided to go to the University of Toronto Mississauga campus so that I could explore the city of Mississauga. Unfortunately, I was unaware of the various youth organizations that were available in the city of Mississauga. Therefore, I only hanged out at Square One, Huronontario and Dundas and Dixie outlet mall. Overwhelmed with school and the long commute, I did not find myself being part of any extra-curricular activities or sports the way I used to be back in high school.
- d) Out of the 16 youth friendly criteria's for ages 13 to19, there are three that meant the most to me in my teenage years. I remember in high school, there were not enough different types of activities to get involved in. Therefore, youth were restricted to only enjoy the type of activities that were available for them. One of the most important criteria is for youth to have numerous options for play. Youth who are not athletic or don't enjoy

- f) I have enjoyed participating in this Youth Friendly application process because I have a 13-year-old stepsister named Ariel who was raised and currently lives in the city of Mississauga. Prior to this project Ariel would tell me that there were no outside school activities available for her. Ariel felt that there were not many organizations that provide programs for youth. This application process was exciting for me to work on because I got a chance to show Ariel that there are numerous organizations which provide different types of activities including athletic, artistic and many more. I am glad that I was able to inform Ariel at a young age so that she could share her knowledge and continue to have positive participation in youth programs throughout her youth life. I had so much fun going to all the different organizations and their facilities that it made me wish I was once again a youth. I am now able to feel at ease knowing that my stepsister has options in the activities and programs available for her and her friends. I feel pleased knowing that my stepsister will grow up in a youth friendly community with plenty of opportunities to build important skills, all while having fun and enjoying her youth.

The Youth Of Mississauga feel





"There are many different associations that offer many extra curricular sports and activities."
Josh, 17



"It's youth friendly because we have a lot of activities and services."
Neha, 14



"No one bullies you"
-Alena, 15





"It's a
Good place
because you
don't get into
drugs and
stuff"

- Jessica, 17



"It's a safe place to live and
is very multicultural"
- Vallish, 16



"You're free
to be
the way
you want
to be!"
- Nadia, 14



"Create more places to just hang
out with friends where your
Parents can't stalk you"

-Brittanie, 14



"Missauga already has many parks, movie theatres, and malls but I think that it should have more facilities where the youth can have fun and do what they like"

-Cassandra, 13



"There are places where
you can meet new people"

- Amanda, 14

"You can act like you!"

- Lucy, 15



"We are often ignored
by the city"

- Maria, 18



Youth Friendly Definition: various places for youth (aged 13-19) to hang out, feel welcome and have fun. You are able to voice their opinion within the city, be a part of extra-curricular activities and have fun!

What is your Age? 14

Please Circle answer and when asked provide written answer

Are you male or female? M F

Do you live in the City of Mississauga? Yes No

Are you a part of any activities/events/clubs outside of school? Yes No
If yes then list activities/events/clubs/groups:

Skateboarding.

Do you feel Mississauga is youth friendly (based on the definition above)? Yes No
List reasons for your answer:

- Food
- Clubs
- Sports

Where do you hangout with friends and meet new people (outside of school)?

- Clubs
- Skate park
- Math Labs
- Parties

What would you change or add to make Mississauga more youth friendly?

- Add more skateparks
- More youth clubs.

Add group on facebook:

"voice your opinion Mississauga Youth"

For chance to win PRIZES, just for joining and expressing opinion!

The University of Toronto Mississauga Geography of Youth class and the City of Mississauga would like to thank you for your time with this survey.

Youth Friendly Definition: various places for youth (aged 13-19) to hang out, feel welcome and have fun. You are able to voice their opinion within the city, be apart of extra-curricular activities and have fun!

What is your Age? 11

Please Circle answer and when asked provide written answer

Are you male or female? M F

Do you live in the City of Mississauga? Yes No

Are you a part of any activities/events/clubs outside of school? Yes No

If yes then list activities/events/clubs/groups:

football team	music lessons	Basketball
cadets	soccer team	Kumon
taekwondo	comps	swimming

Do you feel Mississauga is youth friendly (based on the definition above)? Yes No

List reasons for your answer:

Her care parks
community centers
football fields

Where do you hangout with friends and meet new people (outside of school)?

Parks, sports games

What would you change or add to make Mississauga more youth friendly?

+ more fields

+ more parks

+

Add group on facebook:

"voice your opinion Mississauga Youth"

For chance to win PRIZES, just for joining
and expressing opinion!

The University of Toronto Mississauga Geography of Youth class and the City of Mississauga would like to thank you for your time with this survey.

Qualitative Study of Youth in Mississauga

Name: Fiona M. Gender: female Age: 14 (optional)

Area of Residence: Lisgar Meadowvale Streetsville Erindale Square One Cooksville Dixie Other (please specify):

1. Rate your level of engagement within the community of Mississauga. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. From your experience, do you feel the Mississauga community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development? Yes No

For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?

limited volunteering options; not too many activities offered at community center

3. From your experience, do you feel the Mississauga community provides opportunities for youth play? Yes No

For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?

there are activities offered; i.e. david ramsey pool

4. Do you feel the community of Mississauga is youth friendly? Yes No

5. For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?

sort of. there are activities for us to do, but the community is also very geared to a much older age group.

6. What do you consider a youth friendly community to be?

one that offers a wide range of activities for students, ways for them to become involved in the community.

7. What would you change to make Mississauga more youth friendly?

more volunteer opportunities; wider range of sports offered

8. What aspects of Mississauga are most/least youth friendly?

least -> mall / stores offered is geared to an older age group

most -> community center?



Qualitative Study of Youth in Mississauga

Name: Cynthia Barachus Gender: Female Age: 15 (optional)

Area of Residence: Lisgar Meadowvale Streetsville Erindale Square One (circle which apply)

Cooksville Dixie Other (please specify):

1. Rate your level of engagement within the community of Mississauga. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. From your experience, do you feel the Mississauga community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development? Yes No

For the above question, please explain why you feel this way? I believe they do because there are so many options for youth dem to be involved.

3. From your experience, do you feel the Mississauga community provides opportunities for youth play? Yes No

For the above question, please explain why you feel this way? Because over the years I've been part of many different things.

4. Do you feel the community of Mississauga is youth friendly? Yes No

5. For the above question, please explain why you feel this way? The community looks for youths to take part, & we're given many opportunities.

6. What do you consider a youth friendly community to be? A youth friendly community is when youths are welcomed every where & given many opportunities to be involved.

7. What would you change to make Mississauga more youth friendly? Maybe giving youths a chance to work & have jobs.

8. What aspects of Mississauga are most/least youth friendly? I think sports are most youth friendly. I think hospitals are least youth friendly.

Qualitative Study of Youth in Mississauga

Name: _____ Gender: FEMALE Age: 16
(optional)

Area of Residence: Lisgar Meadowvale Streetsville Erindale Square One
(circle which apply)

Cooksville Dixie Other (please specify): _____

1. Rate your level of engagement within the community of Mississauga. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. From your experience, do you feel the Mississauga community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development? Yes No

For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?

Because there are many opportunities for youth to get involved.

3. From your experience, do you feel the Mississauga community provides opportunities for youth play? Yes No

For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?

There are lots of clubs & activities that youth can participate in.

4. Do you feel the community of Mississauga is youth friendly? Yes No

5. For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?

They organize events to attract youth & get them engaged & involved to participate

6. What do you consider a youth friendly community to be?

A community that provides opportunities for youth to showcase their talent, meet new people & have fun!

7. What would you change to make Mississauga more youth friendly?

I wouldn't change much because the recent development of Celebration Square has promoted more youth engagement.

8. What aspects of Mississauga are most/least youth friendly?

MOST- recreation centres

LEAST- none.

Qualitative Study of Youth in Mississauga

Name: _____ Gender: F Age: 17
(optional)

Area of Residence: Lisgar Meadowvale Streetsville Erindale Square One
(circle which apply)
Cooksville Dixie Other (please specify): Residence

1. Rate your level of engagement within the community of Mississauga. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. From your experience, do you feel the Mississauga community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development? Yes No

For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?
There are programs such as big brothers big sisters of Peel that help give university students leadership and relationship opportunities.

3. From your experience, do you feel the Mississauga community provides opportunities for youth play? Yes No

For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?
There are many parks and playgrounds in some residential areas.

4. Do you feel the community of Mississauga is youth friendly? Yes No

5. For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?
Parks, Recreation centres, etc

6. What do you consider a youth friendly community to be?

A community, isn't too industrial that poses minimal danger that to young children, good schools, and sports /rec. programs for kids.

7. What would you change to make Mississauga more youth friendly?

More parks/playgrounds in high end residential areas.

8. What aspects of Mississauga are most/least youth friendly?

Most: school programs /opportunities, recreational programs, parks

Least: high industrial development

Qualitative Study of Youth in Mississauga

Name: _____ Gender: Female Age: 18
(optional)

Area of Residence: Lisgar Meadowvale Streetsville Erindale Square One Cooksville Dixie
(circle which apply)

1. Rate your level of engagement within the community of Mississauga. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. From your experience, do you feel the Mississauga community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development? Yes No

For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?
- Lots of programs available
- From my experience, I've found a lot of volunteer opportunities which have helped me find jobs.

3. From your experience, do you feel the Mississauga community provides opportunities for youth play? Yes No

For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?
There are many recreational events that community centres host.

4. Do you feel the community of Mississauga is youth friendly? Yes No

5. For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?
I base my answer on my experiences at community centres. If I ever need any help, there are always representatives to lead me in the right direction.

6. What do you consider a youth friendly community to be?
- Have good expectations of the youth and always encouraging

7. What would you change to make Mississauga more youth friendly?
- engage w/ youth through social networking

8. What aspects of Mississauga are most/least youth friendly?
- Bus Terminal

Qualitative Study of Youth in Mississauga

Name: _____ Gender: F Age: 19
(optional)

Area of Residence: Lisgar Meadowvale Streetsville Erindale Square One
(circle which apply)

Cooksville Dixie Other (please specify): _____

1. Rate your level of engagement within the community of Mississauga. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. From your experience, do you feel the Mississauga community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development? Yes No

For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?

They have many volunteer programs around the city which allows the youth to gain experience.

3. From your experience, do you feel the Mississauga community provides opportunities for youth play? Yes No

For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?

They have many sports programs & extra-curriculars for young kids/teenagers to participate in

4. Do you feel the community of Mississauga is youth friendly? Yes No

5. For the above question, please explain why you feel this way?

They encourage and set up many programs for the youth.

6. What do you consider a youth friendly community to be?

lots of activities/programs/locations for the youth.
ex. community centres, parks, malls.

7. What would you change to make Mississauga more youth friendly?

Nothing

8. What aspects of Mississauga are most/least youth friendly?

Most - Community centres, libraries.

least - gyms