



WHAT IS LEADUP?

BGC Canada's LeadUp program supports BGC Clubs across the country to build a culture of service while encouraging youth aged 12-19 to give back to their community through meaningful service opportunities. Supported by Club staff, youth develop volunteer projects that focus on one of the following themes: building an inclusive Canada, reconciliation, preserving the environment or youth resilience.

Over the course of 120 hour placements, youth receive training and certifications focused on mental health, resilience, and leadership, and 1:1 coaching from Club staff to bring their projects to life. Youth are also provided with wrap around supports like transportation and meals to ensure they can participate.

Participants Report:

- better mental health skills and strategies
- increased sense of belonging in community
- better understanding of education and career options

Breaking Down Barriers:

- 55% of participants are from rural areas
- 51% are from an equity-deserving group, including racialized and 2SLGBTQI+

Youth Who Go to Club:

- build positive relationships
- decrease risky behaviours
- improve confidence & skills
- make better choices

BGC Canada has helped more than 360 youth create volunteer projects from coast to coast to coast, in both official languages.

WHY NOW?

Data from Angus Reid shows that less than half of young Canadians feel a sense of belonging in their community. Feelings of belonging help mitigate stress and mental health struggles (per the Mayo Clinic), both of which have been sharply on the rise among youth since the pandemic.

In addition, the youth employment rate has been falling steadily since May 2023. Providing young people with skill-building opportunities is crucial in launching their careers and ensuring they enter the workforce.

OUR PROPOSAL.

BGC Canada is requesting \$9M in funding over four years through the Canada Service Corps to continue and expand LeadUp.

With additional funding, BGC Clubs will reach up to 1000 new participants and grow the program from 24 to 30 locations by the end of 2027. Youth in the program will be drawn from diverse communities, and will have additional opportunities to travel across Canada to meet youth and elected officials and share their projects.

BGC Canada's national programs are tailored to the needs of communities nationwide and tackle social issues, encourage and empower children and youth, and help them set a path for success. When youth participate in BGC Canada programming, they acquire new skills. They are empowered to take control of their lives and make positive choices, setting them on the path to success and a bright future.

For more information, please contact Gwendolyn Moncrieff-Gould, Director, Public Policy and Engagement, at gmoncrieffgould@bgccan.com.

Opportunity Changes Everything.