

FBC's Young Leaders Program Creates Opportunities for Youth Living with Vision Loss



Do you have blind or visually impaired patients between the ages of 17 and 30? Are they striving to find meaningful employment and a community of peers? If so, Fighting Blindness Canada's Young Leaders Program could be a great opportunity for them!

Did you know that 70% of working adults living with vision loss are under- or unemployed? Young people will steer the future of Canada and the world, yet they are underserved, overburdened by debt, and challenged by a precarious job market. It's a tough world for today's youth – and those with vision loss are expected to meet those same challenges without the additional guidance and support they need to succeed.

Fighting Blindness Canada's **National Young Leaders Program** aims to change that. Bringing together blind and visually impaired participants from across the country, the Young Leaders Program gives people aged 17-30 the tools they need to have a successful and rewarding career.

The Young Leaders Program is centered on yearly Summits, where participants from across the country come together to share insights, build friendships, learn from mentors, and discover concrete opportunities across a range of careers. In 2019, Fighting Blindness Canada is hosting three national Summits: the first took place in Vancouver this past April. The second will be held in Toronto in September, and the third will be in Halifax in October.

The 2019 Young Leaders Program is looking for new participants. Thanks to the generosity of RBC Future Launch, all participants will be given a travel scholarship that will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, and transportation for themselves and for a sighted guide to join us in:

September 14-15: Halifax
October 5-6: Toronto

This program is a unique opportunity for young people living with blinding eye diseases to envision a bright future. Whether someone is newly diagnosed or has been living with a disease their entire life, the Young Leaders Program provides a supportive atmosphere for personal and professional growth.

"As I see it," said Conrad Eder, who attended the 2019 Young Leader's Summit in Vancouver, "we all face challenges in life. But what defines our character is our resilience in the face of that adversity. Without a doubt, the Young Leaders Program has strengthened my resolve."

Learn more about the Young Leaders Program and how it can benefit your patients at <https://www.fightingblindness.ca/get-involved/young-leaders/>.