

Background on the Canadian Mentoring Partnership

In November 2016, [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada](#) (BBBSC), in collaboration with the [Alberta Mentoring Partnership](#) (AMP) and the [Ontario Mentoring Coalition](#) (OMC), brought together youth serving organizations, mentoring leaders, funders and various Government representatives for a one-day Canadian Mentoring Leadership Summit held in Banff, Alberta. During this summit the foundation was laid for the development of the Canadian Mentoring Partnership (CMP), a coalition of organizations committed to expanding and improving the use of mentoring to help youth fulfill their potential.

The formation of CMP spoke to the interest expressed by leaders in working collaboratively to address gaps in mentoring for Canada's most vulnerable young people. Members would work cooperatively towards common goals so that no single organization has to shoulder the burden on its own. The outcomes of its collaborations would be shared with its members and with anyone else who has an interest in adopting, advancing or funding mentoring. The ultimate purpose of the CMP would be to be the rising tide that lifts all boats in the world of youth mentoring in Canada

The formation of the Canadian Mentoring Partnership would allow for sector stakeholders, including foundations, corporations, youth-serving organizations, mentoring service providers, governments, Indigenous communities, other underrepresented communities (e.g. ethno-racial, LGBTQ2+, etc), and most importantly young people, to collaborate in order to holistically support youth across Canada.

Taking a systems approach, this coalition of leaders in the field of mentoring will work together to set a common agenda that will better support youth, in particular those facing barriers through both in-person and virtual mentoring opportunities. Together they will leverage existing tools, best/promising practices and co-create new tools and resources in an effort to fill gaps in programming such as the creation of digital platforms.

The Objectives of CMP are to:

- Discuss emergent trends, challenges, successes, innovative practices and collaborative opportunities with regards to mentoring;
- Expand the knowledge base about mentoring and the importance of supporting mentoring;
- Serve as a voice for the mentoring community across the country;
- Increase information, current research, emerging trends and accessibility to mentoring organizations as well as those organizations providing mentoring services;
- Share strategies, disseminate information and increase awareness of mentoring in Canada; and
- Develop and implement a strategic plan to enhance mentoring within Canada.