



# FOCUS FORWARD

For Indigenous  
Youth

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Focus Forward's mission is to collaborate with Indigenous communities across Canada to empower their youth through applied focus programs that give back to their community.

As program facilitators, we provide Indigenous students with the opportunity to develop hands on skills by working on community projects from start to finish. Project specifics are strategically selected by the community, ensuring the community can find their own unique solution. As a non-for-profit organization, we help communities find their solution and deliver the required resources.

Focus Forward will source teachers, contractors, and resources bringing everyone together to build the shared project for the local community. In building the project, students will gain hands-on work experience, obtain high school credits, earn apprenticeship hours, and even receive a compensation package for their work. Throughout the process, students will cultivate leadership skills, work ethic, and a sense of confidence that will help them focus forward on a positive and engaged future.

## The Focus Forward Vision – 5 Pillars

Focus Forward was created on **5 pillars** that make up the structure of the organization:

1. Empowerment
2. Collaboration
3. Empathy
4. Innovation
5. Sustainability

Our process and these pillars is best explained from the perspective of the youth and the communities themselves.

For the youth, these programs can be an opportunity of a lifetime. Far too often Indigenous youth fail to complete their education because they neither enjoy it nor understand its importance – as a result they become disengaged and isolated. This program is an opportunity to re-engage and **empower** the youth through hands-on learning opportunities that can invoke a passion they never knew existed. Through close mentorship and hard, satisfying work the students will have the opportunity to learn more about themselves, their capabilities, and what their future can be like. These students will walk away inspired by the idea of building themselves and their community a brighter future.

These programs will require **collaboration** of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, tradespeople, developing youth, generous sponsors and partners within the community that are involved in the process. Throughout the process, Focus Forward aims to foster an appreciation for other people's perspectives and culture to create **empathy** from everyone.

We aim to establish a more complete understanding of the issues that communities and cultures are facing; housing and food security concerns, the ensuing health impacts, and the problems with appropriation. We encourage the appreciation of incredibly unique culture and history – there is so much to learn and enjoy. Overall, we will achieve improved mutual consideration of everyone's unique perspective, where people genuinely appreciate and recognize the situation fully; this will enable growth forward for everyone involved.

For these projects to tackle complex housing and food challenges faced by numerous communities throughout Canada, our approach cannot be ordinary. Drawing on **innovative** and **sustainable** technologies, we can implement solutions that will create lasting change. At Focus Forward, our collaboration with the communities is just the beginning – we make sure whatever solution we helped to implement remains functioning to the exact standard desired by the community.

So long as we stay true to the five pillars of Focus Forward we will be able to help make permanent brick and mortar changes in communities across Canada. These changes will result in communities with empowered youth, where all people involved can appreciate the unique cultures that exist in the country and work together to make the world a more positive place for all.