

**SEMINAR**

# Supporting Youth-led Community Organizing: Infrastructure, Capacity, and Collective Leadership

Ana Skinner

**February 24, 2009, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**  
**LM-157 - Lash Miller Chemical Labs**  
**80 St. George St.**

[www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/communitydevelopment.html](http://www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/communitydevelopment.html)

In recent years, there has been an increase in funding and support to youth-led initiatives, especially in Toronto.

Youth-led organizations and initiatives are working to address critical issues that affect the health and well-being of young people and the community as a whole. However, young people continue to face barriers to engagement and their role as active community stakeholders and decision makers remains marginalized.

Funding sources and guidelines shape what kinds of projects young people are supported to implement and also how these initiatives and priorities are framed.

This seminar will explore youth-led community organizing; how young people are orga-

nizing themselves and community stakeholders to advocate for and implement programming that improves individual and community well-being; and infrastructure considerations to support this work.

Based on personal reflections, collaborative research, and illustrative examples, this seminar will break down how and in what ways individuals and organizations can work to support and move towards more sustained youth-led community organizing.

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*Ana Skinner is a program manager with the Laidlaw Foundation, a private foundation that promotes positive youth development by increasing supports available to young people to effect change.*