IMPACT REPORT 2019
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A journey. We shared one, and now will take you on one too. One that extends from woods of the Sunshine Coast to the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. One that shook how we interact with ourselves and the world around us, and transformed us, a group of young strangers to a true family. One whose impacts will be felt at the local, national and international level...and in our own lives, forever.

Never before have I been in a group able to connect so authentically, challenge so lovingly and care so deeply. It is my joy to share this story of our ongoing personal, collective and systemic transformational change as we bootcampers continue to act on what we have learned from this experience.

I hope you find what you are looking for. Now, and always.

Always ready to juice it up,
Anjali
A grateful SDG Bootcamper
The first retreat of the bootcamp took place at Camp Byng on the Sunshine Coast, B.C. Twenty young people met, many for the first time, but with a common objective to make change. The introductory days comprised of setting the expectations for the days and the months to come, to learn about the SDGs and of course to get to know each other. The bootcampers were challenged to explore their personal connection to the SDGs and why they wanted to make change in the world. They embarked on a journey of transformational change, learning about activism and how to use the self as a tool for change. Being challenged to explore a range of topics, including their own motivations for joining the program, connection to the SDGs and the potential and limitations of the SDGs as a framework for changemaking, emotional mastery and their personal theory of change, the bootcampers were able to find their voice both as individuals and as a group. Sharing stories, experiences, concerns and hopes sparked moments of connection and relationship building for the group. With the support from the facilitators from BCCIC and each other, the retreat served as a catalyst for the final two retreats and set the group up to succeed in the remainder of the bootcamp.
During the second bootcamp retreat, the delegation shifted attention away from individual factors and toward working within a community of change makers.
Throughout the retreat, some of the topics that were explored in workshops were power and privilege, leadership and team building, conflict resolution, and systems change, which were grounded in an Indigenous perspective. After working in these areas, the delegation split into small teams and facilitated classroom workshops at local schools, ranging from the elementary to the university level. Particularly inspiring were the well-informed elementary students who understood concepts relating to the SDGs and wanted to do something to help achieve them.

While everyone experienced the bootcamp in different ways and had different individual highlights, a strong sense of community and camaraderie emerged throughout the retreat that benefitted each delegate. This was at least in part due to the time spent travelling together and the opportunities for socializing in the evenings. This positive environment promoted rich engagement with the workshops, which were in general very well received by the delegation as a whole. The value of this cannot be overstated, as it set the stage for effective teamwork in both the classroom workshops and at the High-Level Political Forum.

As the second retreat closed, the delegation split into three teams – Youth Engagement, Political Engagement, and Media. These teams were convened to prepare the delegation for the HLPF and to have the greatest impact possible while there. The delegation’s departure from the second retreat was filled with gratitude for the opportunity, and determined resolve to make the most of it.
Lead up to the HLPF

The lead-up to the HLPF was a hectic blur that had many of the boot campers feeling stressed, and constrained by time, but above all determined and ready to tackle the tall task that was the HLPF. Following an intense week long boot camp on the Sunshine Coast, Squamish, and Pemberton the boot campers met in the hall of the Squamish United Church, which they had called home two days prior. During the final meeting, the group split into three separate subgroups focussing on: youth, political, and media engagement. Over the month of June and early July the three groups collaborated amongst themselves reaching out to local politicians, and media outlets, creating surveys, designing graphics, and brainstorming ideas on how to reach individuals young and old in a meaningful and engaging way. Individuals from each of the three subgroups worked toward completing the goals set out with the group members, but also had their own personal responsibilities vital to the success of the entire group as a whole. In order to foster an environment for ideas to flow the groups commonly met on video conferencing platforms for in depth discussion and to delegate tasks and responsibilities to one another. The HLPF preparations were a large step for the group as in the lead-ups to the first two boot camps the work was less collaborative and much less demanding. At first the month and a half leading up to the HLPF seemed like a sufficient amount of time, but as always life’s challenges are always present and whether or not it be school, work, or life enriching activities there were many hurdles along the way. After working so diligently and quickly, before the group knew it they were landing in the whimsical, bustling, and sweaty city that is the big apple.
The Youth Team focused primarily on youth engagement and on mobilizing Canadian youth voices to shape collective messaging about where they thought Canada stood overall with regards to the SDGs. Their goal was to shape calls for action and to promote and uphold accountability.

The team recognized that youth voices are one of the most underrepresented groups when it comes to big decision making and saw that their exclusion was a critical gap in shaping a future where their generation would enter and feel impacts in. They saw this as an issue of intergenerational inequity and recognized that there has been no other time where intergenerational partnership is needed more in order to tackle the world’s most pressing issues.

After the first two retreats, the youth team learned to embrace the SDGs as an opportunistic framework to help leverage issues and to shape calls for action. In June, the team put together a survey asking Canadian youth about their knowledge of the SDGs and what they think Canada’s priorities should be. The team hoped to circulate the survey to as many youth across Canada as possible, which required a week of researching and building a list. Contacts included youth councils, community centres, youth programs, schools, non-profit organizations, and more. As the team was collecting and then analyzing responses, they also reached out to other youth networks such as the UN Major Group for Children and Youth and YOUNGO to promote their side event, advocating that.
The HLPF Youth Team Continued

One particular finding that stood out was that over 60% of youth identified SDG 13: Climate Action as one of the most concerning goals to them and what they think Canada should make a priority.

“Our government cannot declare a climate emergency and then pass the Trans Mountain Pipeline [in BC].”

“I’m 18 and for the first time, I’m questioning whether or not I should have a child later in life. I’m terrified for my future. I demand equitable, aggressive, immediate climate action.”

“All the goals work together! And while Canada has a diverse and vibrant grassroots community that is supportive and acts upon the SDGs, the government and its policies need to strengthen its top-down support for the SDGs.”

The team distributed the finalized summary of the survey findings at the side event at the HLPF to inform Canadian government, stakeholders, as well as the international community that Canadian youth are aware, watching, evaluating and keeping their government accountable. The team is hopeful to find more ways in the future to strategically utilize the survey findings in creating a unified youth-centred message to push forward Canada’s commitment and implementations towards the Global 2030 Agenda, and to keep leaders and government accountable.
The HLPF Political Team

Our group, the Political Team was Shayan, Alexandra, Camille, Landon and Veronika. Our aims for the group were to engage our federal and local politicians in our respective area about the Sustainable Development Goals and try to include them into their platforms - as this year, Canada is going through a federal election. Other means of engagement with political leaders was asking support of this year’s youth delegation to the 2019 HLPF in New York. The letters also were a way for politicians to know that the youth does support the SDGs and are watching whether politicians take action of the SDGs. The Politics Team also had scheduled meetings with our politicians in British Columbia and asking them whether they are aware of the Sustainable Development Goals and if they are aware of them, how do they include them in a community framework or localize them in each community?

In British Columbia, some politicians have interacted with the Sustainable Development goals framework but this is sometimes not as explicitly said. The Politics team also asked politicians what they are doing to include youth at the decision making table and was met with answers of future projects for youth engagement committees. The team kept in mind, that sometimes when it comes to decision-making stakeholders, youth are not included at the table and if we are, it’s more to be a “token.” With this, we hope that there will be more of a push to have a mindful, open and accessible space for all.
The HLPF Media Team

The Media was integrated by Adrienne Ahn, Alex Lukey, Avianna Clempson, Davida Paul, Eily Ooh, Mauricio Trujillo, Nicole Lee-Kauer and Spencer Dawson.

Our mission was to facilitate access to information while increasing awareness of the occurrence and relevance of High-Level Political Forum. We also explored the SDGs being discussed during the HLPF, who were the main actors around those goals and their perspectives on them. Our target audience was people who were followers of BCCIC’s on social media and the bootcampers’ social media followers.

We did this by creating and posting content that reflected the above mentioned information on BCCIC’s Instagram Account and our personal accounts. In order to make the information more digestible and easily shareable we decided to post pictures of the stakeholders in the events (Country’s delegations, Major Groups’ representatives and other institutions) together with quotes that summarized their positions regarding different goals. Engagement was also encouraged by using polls and requesting comments from our audience.

In order to be exposed to as much information and be able to spread as much relevant content as possible, each of the media team members prioritized at least one of the dates at the HLPF to attend as many side events as possible and be responsible for the majority of the content created that day.

Ultimately, our goal to increase awareness was met positively as the issues shared also reflected worries from our audience and they responded to our polls, questions or even messaged our social media accounts to find out more information.
Since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015, countries around the world meet once a year at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) to discuss their progress on the respective Sustainable Development Goals. Each year, five goals are selected to be reviewed. There are numerous ongoing events during this two week long forum. There were the main events everyday, that entailed Voluntary National Reviews, or a discussion on one of the five SDGs selected.
At the same time, there are side events that were often hosted in a more intimate setting, allowing individuals across all sectors to have an open dialogue. To name a few, these events ranged from the SDG Film Festival, Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda, to Intergenerational Equity.

As a British Columbia Youth representative, 18 of us attended the HLPF under observer status in the non-profit section. We were part of the Children and Youth Major group, which gave us an opportunity to do an intervention on the main floor. All of us attended different events, and shared our insights at the end of the day. Through doing so, we have expanded our networks by meeting representatives from various sectors. At the Permanent Mission of Canada, we hosted an event on Intergenerational Equity.
Our Side Event

The BCCIC Youth and CCIC hosted their own side event called “Intergenerational Equity and the SDGs” at the HLPF. The objective of the side event was to explore the ways that all generations are implementing Agenda 2030. The BCCIC youth facilitated this event by sharing research findings and personal connections, and facilitating roundtable discussions.

The event started with an acknowledgement from BCCIC youth Eden Murray of the indigenous peoples, known as the Lenape, and their lands called Lenapehoking, on which the HLPF events were held. Following the acknowledgement were four presentations on various SDGs. Each presentation discussed the importance influence of intergenerational equity (IE) on the SDGs, and vice versa. The first presenters, Alex Lukey and Kevin Bouliane, used their knowledge of the medical field to speak about SDG #3 “Good Health and Wellbeing”. The following presenters were Alanya Dhalla and Adrienne Ahn, who made personal and professional connections to speak about SDG #5 “Gender Equality”. Thirdly, Melissa Lee and Shayan de Luna-Bueno presented on SDG #4 “Quality Education”. Lastly, Andrea Byfuglien, Henrique Fernandes, and Veronika Gukova presented on the importance of intergenerational equity in SDG #13 “Climate Action”.

Planning the event entailed meeting and doing extensive research in a collective effort to deliver strong and factual ideas from the BCCIC youth. Leading up to the event, some youth felt apprehensive about the extent to which they would be heard. However, with everyone’s involvement, the event was a huge success. The BCCIC youth reflect on the meaningful conversations they had with participants (who ranged from age 20-70) in their roundtable discussions.
The BCCIC Youth Delegation found the HLPF a life-changing experience. As we navigated the corridors of the UN Headquarters in New York (and other grassroots events in the city), we underwent a lot of learning as we unpacked the Sustainable Development Goals. In the two previous bootcamps, the group learned and reflected on sustainable development, change-making, and our personal connection to the SDGs; at the HLPF, we saw how those concepts play out in practice.

One of our key experiences was the continuous process of pushing ourselves to elevate our voices as youth delegates and stand up for what we believe in. Regardless of our initial concerns about not being taken seriously as youth, the members of the BCCIC Youth Delegation were able to engage in a variety of different ways. Some, such as Anjali, Nicole, and Kevin even took the floor to deliver speeches about topics they felt passionate about. Our delegation also made connections with other youth delegates from Ghana, Estonia, Hungary, the US, among other countries. Together, we have kept in touch and shared resources about our actions and thoughts on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Another highlight of our participation as a youth group was our side-event about Intergenerational Equity in the SDGs held at the Canadian Permanent Mission. With a turnout of over 50 attendees, the event was a great success as members of the Canadian government, civil society, and our delegation collectively reflected on intergenerational equity in the SDGs. On top of that, the group learned a lot from attending a variety of different side-events organized by NGOs and governments on the 17 SDGs – knowledge that we will be able to carry into our community engagement projects and future endeavors.
Takeaways from the HLPF

As a group of youth coming to a venue as prominent as the United Nations, it was initially daunting to wonder how we might make an impact at an event such as the HLPF. It was both an empowering and sobering experience. There were several key takeaways that were evident by the end of the conference. The group felt an intense sense of responsibility to contribute meaningfully to the conversations that were happening at the United Nations. We were in a unique position of power to collaborate with world leaders.

In the side event that BCCIC hosted we made a strong call to action to leaders to collaborate with young people. We talked about representation and the importance of bringing young people into decision-making discussions; particularly those that will influence future generations. Many of us also contributed to conversations in official UN meetings. Overall, we found that the framework that the sustainable development goals provide creates common goals to work towards. This kind of unity has power because of the momentum it creates which we will all bring back to the respective work that we are doing.

The group left with a sense of urgency. The challenges that were discussed in those basement rooms were not a thought exercise. These are problems that are affecting people every day. The trip to the United Nations allowed us to collectively realize that each of us has the ability to make a meaningful impact to create change.
Connections with NGOs, Youth, Government, and Advocacy

During the entirety of the HLPF, the BCCIC Bootcamp delegation made many valuable connections with non-governmental organizations, government officials, and youth attendees from around the world. Bootcampers spoke on SDG progress at various side events and meetings, while making connections with panelists and youth speakers throughout the week. Among the numerous HLPF official meetings and events, BCCIC’s side event at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations was the only primary Canadian event focused on youth engagement and intergenerational equity in the implementation of the SDGs. During this intergenerational equity side event, youth had an opportunity to network and engage with government officials.

Following the networking session, members of BCCIC’s youth delegation spoke about SDGs 3, 4, 5, and 13 and the interrelation with intergenerational equity, which was well-regarded and received positive feedback. A special moment was when Ambassador Blanchard extended a welcome and gave a short talk to the bootcampers. In addition to the formal presentations and panel, the bootcampers hosted roundtable discussions with other youth and fellow HLPF attendees. This provided the youth delegation with an opportunity to discuss the current status of the SDGs and advocate for faster progress and accessibility to the HLPF. They also discussed SDG progress across different countries and came up with different ways to ensure that intergenerational equity remains a priority in SDG-related policies. The bootcampers had a set of predetermined questions and each bootcamper facilitated the roundtable discussion using colourful post-it notes that were gathered by BCCIC at the end.

After the side event, the BCCIC youth delegation were given an opportunity to meet with Assistant Deputy Minister Elissa Golberg who shared her experience working in the public sector through a Q&A session. Bootcampers asked questions on topics such as cross-regional alliances, partner states, and valuable skills during her career. Bootcampers were able to take their
experiences, learnings, and frustrations from the United Nations and branch out by networking with other youth, advocating for youth voices, and discussing loopholes in a bureaucratic system at side events and in their personal circles.

Bootcampers Alexandra Ages, Adrienne Ahn, Camille Ancessi, Shayan de Luna-Bueno, and Davida Paul also attended the Ground Level Peoples’ Forum (GLPF), which was a movement to join civil society and grassroots activists and advocate for development justice during their time in New York City.
The Impact on Us as Bootcampers

We created an environment where we began to embody what transformational change is and means. The concept of transformational change catalyzed a process amongst ourselves to break down the limitations we had of our present lenses and perspectives. Regardless of where we were in the stages of our own respective lives, processes, and readiness - it was through the honouring of our truths, lived experiences, and vulnerabilities that we were able to witness and truly initiate a shift amongst our individual selves. This shift and change was then reflected in our ability to tackle systems change as a collective. The support that we provided each other within and outside of the Bootcamp created an open resilient space that reminded us that we don’t have to take on these systems completely on our own. It was through the harnessing of our personal connections to the SDGs that allowed our respective work and calls to action to be woven in together through our intersected passions.

There is something truly precious, unique, and powerful about the bond we created over the past few months. We fostered a nurturing, yet stimulating space that continuously strengthens the reminder to ourselves about our privileges, and how we can shift conversations on the dynamics, and distribution of ‘power’ amongst our respective communities. Addressing conversations such as power and privilege underpinned the foundations on discussing the effects of the climate crisis, colonialism, globalization, and patriarchy that continually dominate our world, and history.

Recommendations to Future Bootcamps

This section will be informed by the post-retreat survey feedback, focusing specifically on the important emerging themes brought forward by bootcamp participants. One observation noted by a majority of participants was that there could have been improvement in making certain things more explicit. Some participants noted that presentations could have been “densified,” meaning that they could have covered the same material in less time, while also being less vague and more specific. Consequently, this would have given more time and space to focus on the “less tangible material” that some participants wished to have more guided instructions for. “Being strategic at the UN”, storytelling, networking, engaging with high level politicians, speaking and creating
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**Action Lab Projects and Personal Development**

**Moving Forward**

Using and utilizing the knowledge and tools learned from all three retreats, the bootcampers have begun to take initiatives in various projects. Projects that range from the individual to systemic capacities that will entail conversations surrounding how the SDGs can be incorporated into their respective areas of work, school, life, and activism. The bootcampers are engaging in projects that involve various sectors of all political, social, and environmental justice. Some focused on the political and environmental justice sphere, especially with regards to the Federal elections taking place in October 2019 and the growing concern of the climate crisis.

Two bootcampers are currently reaching out to political candidates running in the Federal elections asking about further inquiries about how they will be implementing SDGs into their political agenda. Several bootcampers plan on facilitating and hosting informational workshops informing about the SDGs, including empowerment and social justice.

Some bootcampers will be trying to start sustainable initiatives at their post-secondary institutions surrounding the SDGs and climate action, and others will be getting involved in trying to engage educators to incorporate SDGs into more of the school curriculum. While most bootcampers are taking initiative within their local communities, others will be travelling abroad to begin initiatives alongside with a NGO and compiling a report to implement back into Canada.

**Personal Development as a Collective**

With each transition coming back from the three retreats and returning back to the actualities of our own individual lives, becomes a dissociative experience. We came back from each retreat with feelings of hope and change but a question that was presented that really allowed for further development was; what does it mean to be authentic to yourself and to the people around you? How does that authenticity translate and look like without it coming off as performative or fake? Definitions of change and authenticity is subjective in the eyes of the holder with the circumstances around it.
There is a nature of conformity in the society we live in when we look at the instability of political, social, and environmental injustice that holds us back. The lack of intergenerational equity, youth and racial tokenization, a system built on colonial reign, makes us feel hopeless. We feel empty, silenced, powerless with no voice.

What we all found in ourselves as each retreat passed is how 20 people from diverse backgrounds, lived experiences, and lives can come together for less than 17 days and being authentic to our vulnerability. Vulnerability is often in societal perspective, seen as a weakness and not shown to the people around us, because it’s intimate and so personal to our own grief, pain, and struggles. Some of us had no choice but to be strong, to not show emotions, and often dissociate from our emotions in order to survive. But what we often forget is that these emotions, the vulnerability, and authenticity is a fundamental element of what makes us humans, it is a strength that empowers us to continue to be the change and what we’ve found in our personal development, collectively.
Thank Yous

Our deepest gratitude goes to the BCCIC team and everyone who contributed to making this bootcamp happen.

Specifically, Diane Connors for being a phenomenal fearless leader, providing an immense amount of emotional support, and for sharing her profound wisdom with the group; Laurel Wayne-Nixon for her incredible organizing skills and being an amazing leader throughout the retreats; Dan Harris for hosting the first retreat and providing a great grounding; Mike Simpson for leading several transformative workshops; and Orton Mak and Luke Mennigke for supporting the bootcampers in the second retreat.

The BCCIC team was also supported by several volunteers and past participants. Sara Owen was the greatest ‘bootcamp mom’ who made sure that we were always nourished and healthy; Anjali Mishra provided huge support for the side event among a ton of other tasks; and both Alexandra Ages and Landon Reeves supported the BCCIC staff throughout the retreats and provided valuable insights to the bootcampers on expectations and formalities.

Additionally, throughout the first two retreats the bootcampers participated in several profound workshops. Special thanks to Ajay Puri, Tressica Truong, Sushant Shrestha, Monica Davis, David Hatfield, Anastasia Gaisenok & Gary Hutton, for sharing their knowledge with the group. Furthermore, in New York participants had to opportunity to learn from JP Bervoets, Jon Beale, and Lynn Wagner.

The bootcamp was subsidized by grants and funding from Kenoli Foundation, Economic and Social Development Canada and Global Affairs Canada. We are very appreciative as the subsidy allowed for more bootcampers to participate in this experience. Finally, our appreciation goes out to the Canadian Mission to the United Nations, the Canadian Government, and all the schools and communities that allowed us to meet and learn with them.
Adrienne Ahn is currently completing a major in International Relations and a minor in Commerce at the University of British Columbia. She combines her passion for sustainable development, community animation and gender equality by organizing and digitally marketing events that shape vibrant experiences in the community. A believer in the power of youth engagement and mentorship, she has led a team of young journalists in a newspaper publication and taught debate to students living in various countries. For the past year, Adrienne has been volunteering for the BC Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) to promote the SDGs, and speaking to youth as an Ambassador for the Young Entrepreneurship Leadership Launchpad. Having grown up in Canada and South Korea, she loves learning languages and strives to incorporate a global perspective in her work, whether it is with her co-op at Transport Canada or Global Affairs Canada.

Alanya is currently finishing her undergraduate degree with a double major in Gender Studies and Environmental Studies. Her passion for social change has led her to running the Human Rights Education Volunteers in Victoria, completing an internship with the Global Alliance Against the Traffic in Women at their International Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand, and working with youth advocacy and women’s rights groups in BC and Alberta. She is particularly driven and motivated by systems thinking and frameworks that embody a more holistic approach. Currently, she is working with KRD Consulting Group to support non-profit organizational development and is completing the last semester of her undergrad at Utrecht University in the Netherlands!
Alex is currently a graduate student at UBC Okanagan in the Master of Science in Nursing program. She is also currently practising as a registered nurse. Alex has practiced both in hospital and community settings including cardiology, surgery, public health and pediatrics. Prior to starting graduate studies, Alex became involved in research and has held various research positions but is currently focussing on a primary health care reform project. Alex is a passionate advocate for gender and sexual health equity. She sits on the board of the Kelowna and District Pro-Choice Society and is also a trainee in the Women’s Health Research Cluster out of UBC. Alex has recently accepted a new cardiology position at St. Paul’s hospital and is looking forward to new adventures in Vancouver!

Andrea is a Master of Science student in Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia (UBC). She grew up on the Norwegian countryside and has been in close contact with nature from a young age. This undoubtedly contributed to her keen interest in people’s perceptions of the natural environment and motivations to care for the planet. She went on to study these relations at The University of Melbourne, from which she holds a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Geography. Her current research at UBC is in collaboration with UBC Botanical Garden and focuses on behavioral interventions to motivate meaningful climate action. Andrea is interested in advancing sustainable development through applied behavioral science. To her, there is nothing more worthwhile to spend time on than to contribute to making the world more inclusive, just and sustainable. Andrea is recognized as an UNLEASH Global SDG Talent, and has worked with multiple NGOs and CSOs on projects related to refugee rights, women empowerment, environmental sustainability and mental health. She is motivated to work for a socially just and environmentally sustainable future, and believes in breaking down systemic barriers to allow for equal opportunities and an inclusive environment for all.
Personal Bios

Anjali Mishra was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta to two immigrant parents. Always dancing to her own rhythm, she found her beat in a transformational high school social studies course, where she developed a deep interest in human rights and sustainability. Though she wasn’t yet aware, this forever altered her path, causing her to switch degrees days into her time as a student at the University of British Columbia in favour of studying what she truly cared about: the creation of a better world. In the SDGs she saw a vision to get there. Since then, she has travelled around BC and Alberta, engaging various communities on the Goals. An impassioned advocate for youth engagement in Agenda 2030, she has spoken on youth’s power at events such as Together 2018, Canada’s major multi-stakeholder dialogue on the SDGs, co-organized Canada’s National Youth Debate on the SDGs, as well as played a leading role in organizing BCCIC’s side event on Intergenerational Equity at the HLPF. As co-author of the Good Practice in 2030 Agenda Implementation Series, funded and used by Canada’s SDG Unit, she is proud to be shaping national policy on the SDGs, and didn’t mind being quoted in the interim strategy either. She cares about ethical trade, compassion, balanced lives and the arts. She is a speaker, performer and someone always ready to break out into dance, who lives knowing joy is not a finite resource.

Avianna Clempson resides as a settler learning and playing on the unceded territories of the Stó:lō First Nations. At a young age Avianna was introduced to sustainability, and her interest peaked in 2016 when she spent a year as an exchange student in Bolivia, South America. She is passionate about reduced inequalities, climate action and gender equality, which spurred her interest to attend the 2019 BCCIC Bootcamp and the HLPF. Avianna is attending her second year at the University of the Fraser Valley, she is currently working towards a Bachelors of Global Development with and Extended Minor in Latin American Studies. In the future Avianna hopes to start grassroots movements empowering women in South America, continue to learn more about being an ally for the beautiful people around her, and learn about the resilience and balance within nature.
Camille is completing her final year at UBC with a major in Political Science and a Minor in International Relations. The work that she has been involved with throughout her degree reflects the interdisciplinary nature of her interests. With the global Climate Crisis being one of the most significant threats to her generation, she is passionate about continuing to explore and understand the economic alternatives of her time, and their role in establishing more equitable, sustainable and just systems for all. Prior to going to New York, Camille completed the Semester in Dialogue Program through SFU which explored the Housing challenges faced in Vancouver through the medium of dialogue and public engagement. This experience reaffirmed the invaluable necessity of personal transformation in the context of global change. Following the UN HLPF, Camille will be involved with EQWIP HUBS, an organization working towards global youth capacity building and will be travelling to Indonesia where she is keen to continue her learning.

Davida Paul is an Indigenous woman from the Pijao Nation of present day Colombia. Born, and raised in Sydney, Australia, Davida has resided as a settler on The Great Turtle Island for the past 11 years. In contrast to most traditional pathways to education, and knowledge, Davida has dedicated these past 3 years learning through life experience, and voluntary work with the Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA) in communities in South America and Indonesia. Passionate about systems change and participatory development, Davida’s focus is to bring Indigenous knowledge and perspectives to capacity building initiative spaces. Most recently, she has become a facilitator and co-coordinator of The Human Force Camp (HFC)- Volunteering for Social Change, housed under SDIA. An important part of The Human Force’s Global Learning Adventure Program is global, and local specific education. This is where Davida’s role and participation in this year’s Bootcamp was to not only build upon her skills as a facilitator with the HFC, but also to continue to meaningfully engage their participants on the SDGs.
**Personal Bios**

**Eden**

Eden Murray is a Yoga Teacher and student at the University of Victoria. She spent 4 years supporting local food systems engagement through running a school garden program, being on the board of Lifecycles Project Society and founding and coordinating a non for profit program called the Youth Food Network. Whether deep in conference planning or facilitating a relaxing yoga class, Eden believes deeply in change-work; on the level of self and society. Her most recent project entails combining her love of activism and yoga to create a tool for activists to look inward- in support of themselves and their work.

**Emily**

Emily Ooh is currently a student at the University of Victoria studying International Development on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen speaking peoples, Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ nations. She is motivated and passionate about creating sustainable transformative change through the individual, collective, and systemic levels through her knowledge, lived experiences, and privilege. Prior to joining the SDG bootcamp hosted by BCCIC, Emily always had a lingering question to what change would look like and what it means to change and be changed. How would she, just a single individual, be able to create the change in this world and even in herself through the system that constrains her? She has dedicated much of her education in continuing to learn to unlearn, decolonize, and acknowledge her privileges as a settler. Her experience at the UN may have not answered the question she has been looking for, but it has given her the tools, framework, and hope that she needs to be to create the change.
Henrique Fernandes is a fourth-year student of International Relations at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Originally from Brazil, he plans to focus his studies on global environmental politics to explore how Global North and Global South countries can collaborate on effective, robust, and fair climate action. This year, he was involved in a variety of climate-related projects, such as working for the UBC Climate Hub, volunteering for the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC), being a part of the Climate Guides Mentorship Program, and attending UNFCCC SB-50 and the HLPF. He hopes his Brazilian background, combined with these experiences and academic studies, will provide him with a well-rounded view of climate justice.

Kevin is a graduate student at the University of British Columbia in the School of Population and Public Health. His research focuses on the provision of accessible post-secondary education to healthcare workers around the globe using a zero-carbon online platform. He is also passionate about evidence-based wellness policy, which prioritizes the health of populations over the one-dimensional pursuit of economic growth. Following his public health training, Kevin hopes to lend his academic expertise to political decision-makers – advocating for the prioritization of health in policy – while simultaneously serving individual communities as a member of the healthcare workforce. He has been inspired by the relentless pursuit of intergenerational equity, in its many forms, by his peers in the BCCIC Youth Delegation.
Mauricio Trujillo is a passionate, curiosity and hope driven person seeking to unveil patterns and paths to a brighter future for everyone. He is currently pursuing a finance major at the University of British Columbia to further understand the financial sector and how to use its leverage for environmental, social and governmental change. Growing up as a restless young boy in Peru, Mauricio developed interests in fields that ranged from performance arts such as dance and acting, to biophysics and psychology. Pursuing different sides of knowledge allowed him to have an interdisciplinary and emphatic view of issues together with their stakeholders, that can ultimately flourish into sustainable viable systemic changes. He received the Vantage College Entrance Award for his academic excellency. Mauricio is currently a student, an active stock market investor/analyst in the energy and technology sector, avid health sciences and organizational behaviour research reader, and an aspiring musician.

Nicole

Having recently graduated from the Environment and Sustainability program at UBC, I am interested in a career in sustainable business management. As a youth voice, we have the power and privilege to inspire a global movement to immobilize change from a systemic level. Most of my experience regarding policy analysis was during my academic experience. I’m experienced in research and analysis of current provincial environmental policies, city council decisions, and international climate agreements. I hope to use my learnings to incorporate our human connections with our environment as I transition into work life.
Melissa is a UBC Graduate in Human Geography and International Relations and has a strong interest in community development and systemic change through research and advocacy from a social justice lens. Melissa is currently serving as Executive Assistant and Policy Analyst to Pacific Community Resources Society, a non-profit society providing social services across the Lower Mainland including youth and family support, employment, housing, education programs and more. She is also the Volunteer Coordinator for Pathways to Education in Vancouver and Surrey, a non-profit program working to break the cycle of poverty through education—a mission she feels connected to through lived experiences in her family. While she is passionate about community work she is also interested in engaging with higher levels of power and frameworks such as the SDGs to drive systemic change. She believes that collaboration, education and partnership are key to solving some of the world’s most pressing issues. Melissa finds relief from the capitalistic world through reading, cooking, photography, journaling, practicing her electric guitar and traveling.

Shayan is a second-generation Filipino-Canadian, from Victoria, B.C and is the Women’s Director at the Camosun College Student Society. Her focus is primarily on equity-based practices, decolonization of institutional barriers and community engagement. Despite the many challenges of being a part of many intersections, she likes to use her privileges being educated to help the communities she’s been a part of. Using her voice to empower others has led her to be a part of the many community-based cultural initiatives and understanding the many different aspects and impacts of community; as she recognizes that many marginalized people are still being left behind today. She also helps around University of Victoria’s Student Society’s Students of Colour Collective with projects to help racialized students on campus and to create an environment that also include people of colour. Shayan completed her Arts and Sciences Diploma at Camosun College and is now a third-year Political Science at the University of Victoria and hopes to pursue a career in policy-making decisions or law. Helping those being left behind at the decision making process and being mindful of understanding people has been an important part in the work she does.
Personal Bios

Spencer is a recent graduate from the University of Victoria and is currently pursuing a career in the field of Law. Before attending the BCCIC bootcamp Spencer was blind to the challenges, problems, and injustices present in every collective of which he is a part of; whether it be locally, nationally, or globally. Spencer is incredibly grateful to all who were involved in the bootcamp and cannot thank the organizers and fellow boot campers enough. Following the bootcamp and time in New York at the UN, Spencer has made it his goal to advocate for renewable energy sources as a lawyer and to play a part however small in the battle against fossil fuels. In the meantime he is in the process of introducing the Sustainable Development Goals into local teachers of school district 68’s curricula in order to inform and educate the youth to important issues that are so commonly avoided.

Veronika Gukova is a conservationist who aims to contribute to environmental protection and management. In doing so, she aims to foster sincere connections with people within her own community, and outside of it. She attended the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (UN HLPF) as a BCCIC Youth Delegate in order to see the interconnectivity of the SDGs in different countries, as well as speak about her own experience as a youth battling climate change in Canada. She was born in Almaty, Kazakhstan and moved to Canada at a young age. At the University of British Columbia, Veronika completed a Bachelor’s of Science in Natural Resource Conservation (with Global Perspectives). During her degree, she joined the Social-Ecological Systems research lab where she studied the impacts of land policy change on the livelihoods of different stakeholders in BC. In her career and personal life, Veronika hopes to contribute to meaningful land reclamation and reconciliation for the Coast Salish Peoples as a settler on unceded territory. She also plans on seeing Canada reach a zero-emission energy economy. She loves cooking and photography.