



Fondation  
Rideau Hall  
Foundation



## FAQs for Forum 2026

### Context

#### **What is the Rideau Hall Foundation and how is it connected to Forum for Young Canadians?**

The Rideau Hall Foundation is a national charity that promotes learning, leadership and civic engagement across Canada. Forum for Young Canadians joined the RHF's roster of national programs in 2020 as part of its mission to strengthen civic participation among Canadians. Forum is a unique, hands-on experience for young leaders to connect with peers and explore Canada's democracy.

### Safety

#### **What safety measures and accommodation measures are put in place at Forum?**

Youth are **fully supervised** throughout the week. RHF staff, including the Forum team, have extensive experience running youth programs. All staff and program support personnel undergo vulnerable sector checks and complete youth safeguarding training. Full safety details are shared with accepted participants and their parents/guardians.

#### **What do you have in place to support the diverse cultural, religious and neurological needs of participants?**

Forum is committed to creating a positive learning environment and welcomes youth of all backgrounds and identities. We will provide accommodations for attendees and participants to ensure that all are able to fully participate.

### Application Inquires

#### **How are successful applications assessed and selected?**

Forum participants are selected based on the responses they provide in their applications and information provided by their reference(s). Selection also considers a balance in



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representation across regions, genders and a number of other factors to ensure a diverse and well-rounded group of participants in each cohort.

### **What is the application review process?**

Applications are reviewed by a panel of adjudicators drawn from the RHF community. Each application is carefully assessed against the published rubric, and references may be contacted as part of the review process.

### **When should I expect to hear if I have been selected to participate in Forum or not?**

Applicants will be notified of their application status **before December 31, 2025**. We anticipate a high volume of applications, so we ask that once you have received confirmation that your application has been submitted, you can assume we are working on it and there is no need to follow up.

### **How old do I have to be to participate in Forum? Is there a strict age limit?**

Forum for Young Canadians 2026 is for youth in Canada between the ages of 15-18 years old. So, your 15<sup>th</sup> birthday must be before the first day of your assigned Forum session, and your 19<sup>th</sup> birthday must be after the last day of your assigned Forum session. It is a strict age range with no exceptions.

### **How do I apply?**

Visit [forum.ca/apply](https://forum.ca/apply). **Applications close on October 26, 2025.**

## **Data**

### **Why are you collecting my personal information? How will it be stored or used to assess my application?**

Forum for Young Canadians is a national program committed to reflecting the diversity of youth across Canada. We collect demographic information—such as age, gender, and race—to support equitable and inclusive selection and ensure a diverse group of participants. It is reviewed confidentially, stored securely and is an essential part of our selection and program design process. For more information on our commitment to your Data Protection and Privacy please read our Privacy Statement for more information:

[Privacy Statement - Rideau Hall Foundation](#)



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## **Programming**

### **What is included in the program fee?**

The program fee you pay is a contribution toward the overall cost of your participation in the Forum summit. Overall costs include travel to and from Ottawa, accommodations, meals and all other Forum activities. Full and partial bursaries are available for accepted participants as part of RHF's commitment to ensuring that cost is not a barrier to participation. Contact the RHF directly to enquire about a bursary if you think you may need one at [forum@rhf-frh.ca](mailto:forum@rhf-frh.ca)

### **When and where does Forum happen?**

**Forum takes place in Ottawa, Ontario during the following weeks:**

- **Week 1:** February 8–13, 2026
- **Week 2:** March 8-13, 2026
- **Week 3:** March 22-27, 2026

### **What types of activities will happen during Forum?**

Activities will include simulations on how aspects of Canadian democracy works, lectures, panels, and discussions, group work, and more. There will be visits and tours of some of the institutions of Canadian democracy, such as the House of Commons, Senate, and Supreme Court of Canada.

There may also be more social and team building activities including outings to restaurants, theatres, arcades, and other social activities. All activities are fully supervised.

### **How does my child benefit from participating in Forum?**

- **First-hand exposure to Canada's democratic institutions** — Guided visits to the House of Commons, Senate, and Supreme Court of Canada, including opportunities to meet MPs, Senators, and other national leaders.



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- **Active learning through simulations** — Multi-day role-play activities that simulate elections, Cabinet meetings, and decision-making processes.
- **Skill-building workshops** — Sessions on media literacy, Indigenous governance, public speaking, and ethical leadership, reinforcing competencies in critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.
- **Diverse perspectives** — Panels and discussions with political leaders, activists, and public servants that broaden students' understanding of civic engagement and public service.

### What languages is the program run in?

Forum sessions are delivered in Canada's two official languages: English and French. Simultaneous interpretation is available in sessions taking place at our primary location, and guides at national institutions like the House of Commons are bilingual.

Youth are encouraged to participate in either English or French. If you are comfortable in both, this is an opportunity to work in the language you don't get to use that often.

### What is the outcome of Forum for participants?

There are no examinations, marks, or individual reports. The result of participation is what youth take home with them and what they pass along to others. We encourage youth to share their experience at Forum with us and their community (school, sponsors, parents, friends etc.) during and after the week in Ottawa.