

Should Canada make Youth Service Mandatory?

Yes

Here are some of the reasons why people might argue that Canada **should** make youth service mandatory.

Building social cohesion through fostering a sense of national identity

We are a very diverse country, and we are also geographically very spread out. A year of mandatory service would help to build a sense of cohesion amongst Canadian youth from across the country: instead of simply serving their own respective local communities, this opportunity would be framed as service towards one's country as a whole. This opportunity for collaboration amongst a diverse population of youth could help to build bridges between youth with very different backgrounds.

Professional development for young people

A year of mandatory service serves as an opportunity for youth to build strong resumés. Mandatory youth service would provide every Canadian youth with the opportunity to gain employable skills, and have one year of work experience on their resumés before entering into Canada's competitive labour market. This opportunity could also give youth the experience necessary to make more informed career decisions.

Addressing the labour shortage

Right now, there is a labour shortage across our country. Through placing youth in jobs that are currently unfilled, mandatory youth service would be a good way to address Canada's labour shortage.

Read More:

- [Canadians like the idea of public service for young adults. Should it be mandatory? | CBC](#)
- [Canada Needs a Mandatory National Service | Macleans](#)
- [Listen: Should Canada Make Young People Do a Year of Service? | CBC](#)