

DR. MELANIE DOUCET

PROJECT LEAD FOR EQUITABLE TRANSITIONS TO ADULTHOOD AND A JUST PANDEMIC RECOVERY FOR YOUTH IN CARE

Hello! My name is Melanie Doucet and I am the Project Lead for Equitable Transitions to Adulthood and a Just Pandemic Recovery for Youth in Care project. In my role, I take the lead on research, writing, project management and coordination, while working in collaboration with my colleagues from the National Council of Youth in Care Advocates. In addition, I accompany the National Council members at meetings with key decision makers in their home province/territory to amplify and support their ongoing advocacy work.

I am highly motivated by the opportunity of the National Council's work to change the mainstream child welfare system for the well-being of current and future youth in and from care. I truly feel privileged to be working along-side like-minded advocates and peers with lived experience towards a common goal.

I bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to my role in the National Council. I hold a PhD in Social Work, and as the Senior Researcher and Project Manager at the Child Welfare League of Canada, I support the organization's focus of promoting the safety and wellbeing of young people - especially those who are marginalized.



"In my lifetime, I hope that I get to live in a society where the term 'aging out' completely disappears from our vocabulary, mandates, policies and legislation; and that each and every young person in care is fully supported to heal, grow and become a thriving and fulfilled adult."

My lived experience in the child protection system has been a significant driver and motivator for the work I do. Beyond my job title, I advocate (persistently!) for youth in care to be equitably and humanely supported through public awareness efforts, engaging with key policy decision-makers in government and interacting with the community.

In life, I am inspired by courage, strength, authenticity, creativity, uplifting others and doing the right thing. I hope to leave a positive legacy striving to make the world a better place for this generation of youth in care and the generations to come.

Outside of work, I have been an electronic music DJ for the last 20+ years and enjoy attending music festivals, concerts, and local drag shows. I also enjoy traveling and discovering new places around the world with my loved ones.



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ABOUT THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF CANADA

The Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC) is a national charitable organization dedicated to promoting the safety and wellbeing of young people and their families, especially those who are vulnerable and marginalized. We advocate for and promote legislation, policy, research, programs and services that address the underlying causes of precarity and trauma. We convene leaders, organizations, researchers, governments and people with lived experience to learn and improve our practices. As a national organization, we leverage any opportunity to help create equity across Canada for children and youth. Learn more about CWLC here.