

# Rooted & Rising

## Our Team

At Rooted & Rising, we are a bunch of people and community groups diverse in age, ancestry, experience, and education. Our team is a combo of Millennials, Gen Xers and Baby Boomers all passionate about empowering young leaders.

## Steve Alsop

a professor in the Faculty of Education and the Department of Science and Technology Studies at York University. He has experience of working in different university and community contexts and settings around the world. Steve has held a series of visiting professorships and received a number of academic awards, he has published widely in education, science and sustainability. He is passionate about education in diverse places, and researches and engages with schools, universities, community groups, museums, science centres and environmental organizations. Steve teaches in the undergraduate and graduate programmes and supervises masters and doctorate students. His pedagogical interests explore environment and climate change education, place and learning, and science and technology studies. He believes in the central importance and possibilities of collaboration, knowledge and education in building more wondrous, humane and diversely equitable worlds. He is delighted to be part of this youth-led initiative.



## Kate Tilleczek

has been examining the lives and times of children and youth for nearly three decades. As a SSHRC-funded Canada Research Chair in Young Lives, Education, and Global Good, and a Professor in the Faculty of Education at York University in Canada, Kate aims to witness and make space for dialogue across generations, place, and time about the ways in which young people (at 1.8 billion, now the largest global youth cohort in history) negotiate, experience, and teach us about their global and local contexts.

Kate currently leads and collaborates on projects all across Canada and the Americas. As founder and director of the Young Lives Research Laboratory (CANADA) she is pleased to work with interdisciplinary and international teams of wonderful and talented people around themes of education with, for, and by young people; pathways into and out of wellbeing; emerging theories and methodologies; and how young people navigate the Anthropocene and digital tech.



# Roxy Cohen

has been active in climate action and care since she first learned of climate change in grade 11 and started the school's eco club. Roxy took part in social movements in university, and in that experience understood a big gap: she and her friends were missing spaces to explore, learn, and practice the solutions they were fighting for –so she set out to create some. Roxy co-started a free'scool in Toronto; and then, co-founded Conscious Minds Camp & Co-op, a summer camp developed by and for youth to learn, heal, and practice intergenerational solutions for environmental and social justice. Roxy is also active in food sovereignty efforts through the OASIS Food Hub - a model for an urban food hub that engages the full food cycle from growing to composting/energy production, producing healthy and affordable food managed democratically by the community. Roxy went into education to continue to carve out spaces for youth to activate the futures they want. Now, in her PhD of Education, she is working with a team of educators and grassroots organizations to develop a university-certified climate change leadership program for youth.



# Andrea Bastien

has an extensive, continuous, and evolving relationship with music and community engagement, one that brings her to a variety of cultural and educational projects and events. This led her to work with organizations such as Redwire NYM, UMAC, Indigenous Media Arts Group, Raven Spirit Dance, imagineNATIVE, Toronto Aboriginal Youth Council, TDSB Aboriginal Education, Naadmaagit Ki Group, and Indigenous Climate Action along with many others. These endeavors resonated in youth work, leading workshops, programming, planning, mentorship, and land-based initiatives. Andrea has been a: youth advocate, advisor, administrator, performer, program facilitator, and communications coordinator, to name a few of her past roles.



# Bella Lyne

a white settler born on Dish With One Spoon Wampum Covenant Territory, in Tkaron:to/Toronto, ON, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Wendat Peoples. I have a Bachelor of Arts and Science from Quest University Canada where I studied how people create and experience their relationships to race, place, and ancestry. After graduating in 2017, I worked for 2 years as a program coordinator/artist facilitator at Arts4All, a non-profit, community-engaged arts organization based in Toronto's Davenport-West neighbourhood. I have a background in facilitation, story gathering, and collaborative creation. Including 2 years as co-designer and co-facilitator of weekly workshops exploring community accountability through Forum Theatre and, more recently, my role as youth leader and facilitator for the Tkaron:to branch of CRE's Youth Reconciliation Initiative (YRI). CRE is a youth-led organization building relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth by supporting youth as leaders in their own communities. Since completing the program, I have been hired by CRE as the YRI Administrative Assistant. I am currently organizing with Climate Justice Toronto, a youth-led collective that seeks to address the climate crisis through grassroots organizing, solidarity-building, and working to dismantle systems of oppression by mobilizing a broad-based youth movement across the GTA.



## Blake Poland

is a professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, with cross-appointments in Geography & Planning, and Adult Education (LHAE/OISE). He is the Director of the Collaborative Specialization in Community Development ([www.cscd.utoronto.ca](http://www.cscd.utoronto.ca)), and co-lead of the Healthier Cities & Communities hub at DLSPH. His work focuses on community development, community resilience, civic engagement in sustainability transitions, social change, dialogical methods, critical social theory, and qualitative research methods.



## Doug Anderson

(Bungee Métis) is the Creative and Strategic Director at Invert Media ([www.invertmedia.com](http://www.invertmedia.com)). He has consulted on Indigenous education and community development across Canada for over 30 years. Since 2001, he has devoted much of his energy to the translation of Indigenous perspectives into diverse education systems, media, and environmental policy and practice, and has been consulted widely in all these areas. Doug enjoys the challenge of designing and building new platforms for reflecting Indigenous knowledge. He is committed to helping preserve these forms of knowledge within indigenous communities, and to ethically presenting them as crucial models for thinking and problem solving in the 21st century and beyond. He has many years of front line experience in designing and delivering courses for people of all ages and levels of learning, from kindergarten to the post-graduate level. In 2013, Doug founded Naadmaagit Ki Group (NKG), which has led significant developments in urban Indigenous land-based learning, cultural resurgence, and community re-integration.



## Joseph Smith

is a Senior PhD student at York University majoring in the Humanities. His doctorate is interdisciplinary and encompasses philosophy, psychology, religious studies and literature with a focus on the philosophies of self-consciousness within the west and the intellectual background of black consciousness. He is a T.A. at York University within the Humanities department; a professor at Tyndale university within the English department; a TDSB high school teacher; co-founder of the non-profit organization Generation Chosen which focuses on Mental health and Emotional intelligence within inner-city communities; a narrative ambassador with the Black Experience Project housed/funded by Environics Research Institute; and sits on the board of Operation Black Vote Canada as the Director of Youth Outreach.



# Kristen Sison

@bonesthrown, Filipinx artist, community choreographer, leader, and healer born in Scarborough and rooted in Tkaronto / Toronto. She is a founding member of Conscious Minds Co-operative, Kapwa Collective, and Seven Waves. Kristen's writing and organizing work is centred on creating spaces to remember and reimagine ways of Being that heal our connection to Earth and Spirit. It's Bigger Than All of Us - a magazine + archival project she curated, with the intent of re-storying reverence - launches Spring 2020. She believes in the power of storytelling to transform our world.



# Sarah El Halwany

is a PhD candidate at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto. She has supported teachers in various school boards in implementing pedagogies aimed at social and environmental justice through science education. Her research looks at emotions as central to ways students relate to science and environmental issues. You can reach her at e-mail: sarah.elhalwany@mail.utoronto.ca follow her on Twitter @HalwanySarah, or find her on ResearchGate Sarah Halwany.



# OUR PARTNERS ROOTED & RISING IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

## Generation Chosen

<https://www.generationchosen.ca/>



## Conscious Minds Co-operative

<https://www.consciousmindcoop.ca/>



## Fridays for Future Toronto

<https://www.fridaysforfutureto.org/>



## David Suzuki Foundation

<https://david Suzuki.org/>



## Youth Climate Report

<http://youthclimatereport.org/>



## DUCA Impact Lab

<https://ducaimpactlab.com/>



## The Young Lives Research Lab

<https://younglivesresearch.ca/>

