

New programs at The Chang School of Continuing Education engage Indigenous youth workers and decolonize fashion

The new fully online certificate programs are built around inclusion, sustainability and strengthening community partnerships.

June 23, 2021, TORONTO – The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University is offering two new certificate programs in the fall term, the Certificate in Indigenous Youth and Child Engagement and the Certificate in Fashion Innovation. The certificates will increase access to post-secondary education and greater career opportunities for Indigenous community youth workers, and nurture students to systemically transform Canadian and global fashion by advancing the principles of inclusion, decolonization and sustainability.

The [Certificate in Indigenous Youth and Child Engagement](#) was developed with Ryerson’s School of Child and Youth Care. With funding from [Future Skills](#), the first year cohort will be supported by a partnership with [Right To Play](#) that provides Indigenous child and youth workers a free of cost pathway-to-degree program taught through an Indigenous lens.

The certificate provides Indigenous community youth workers the opportunity to participate in post-secondary education and still continue their work and activities in their community, applying what they learn in the program to their practice in real time.

The [Certificate in Fashion Innovation](#) was developed with Ryerson’s School of Fashion and will empower students to be game-changers in the fashion industry with specialized skills needed to thrive in a crowded, media-rich environment.

Programming will be centred around radical inclusion, equity and diversity, gender fluidity, sustainable production and consumption, digitalization and data analytics. It also factors in the ever-changing fashion landscape, especially since the onset of COVID-19 and the ongoing impact on entire product categories and processes.

“The new certificate programs offered by The Chang School reflect two of our top priorities – making higher education more responsive to continuous learners, and developing curriculums that align with industry trends, the current cultural landscape, and help our continuous learners get career-ready,” said Gary Hepburn, Dean of The Chang School. “Our commitment to building strong community partnerships, and providing socially meaningful and professionally relevant programs means that we’re always looking for ways to advance new opportunities and fill systemic gaps. That’s what differentiates our programs and defines our progress.”

Ryerson University is Canada's leader in innovative and career-oriented education. What our students learn in the classroom is enhanced by real-world knowledge and experience. Urban, culturally diverse and inclusive, the university is home to more than 44,600 students, including 2,600 master's and PhD students, 3,100 faculty and staff, and nearly 185,000 alumni worldwide.

The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University is on a mission to redefine continuous learning by listening to our learners and developing programs, certificates and support services that respond to their goals and the challenges they're facing — through every learning stage of their life. With more than 1,500 courses and 86 certificate programs (including virtualizing 350 courses and offering 427 online courses since Spring 2020), The Chang School of Continuing Education is doing more than providing innovative programming; we are building relationships with our learners so they feel supported in taking the next step in their career journey. For more information, visit continuing.ryerson.ca.

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