



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

TO THE SENATE

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MINISTER OF YOUTH, CULTURE AND SPORT

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

17th November 2021

Madam President, the 2020 Throne Speech committed the Government to developing a National Youth Policy to “foster direct engagement of our youth”.

Madam President, the development of the strategy followed by extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including youth representatives from a number of organizations is complete, and today marks the launch of a Policy aimed at providing an overarching, high-level position outlining the goals that we wish to uphold as country with respect to our youth.

Madam President, the Policy is available to download at www.youthpolicy.bm.

Madam President, the vision of the Policy is “to develop and empower Bermuda’s youth” and its mission is “to form a unified approach to tackle issues faced by Bermuda’s young people and provide them with the support to have positive and productive futures.” Both are vital in guiding the Policy to successful completion.

Madam President, the National Youth Policy sets out eight (8) specific goals for Bermuda’s young people:

1. Keep young people safe and protected from harm;
2. Achieve full potential in learning, development and education;
3. Minimize anti-social behaviour;
4. Increase employment and entrepreneurship opportunities;
5. Engage youth in sport, culture and recreation;
6. Support young people to be active and healthy;
7. Enable participation in civic engagement; and
8. Encourage diversity and inclusion.

Madame President the next step is to establish a National Youth Policy Working Group that will drive implementation and will report annually on progress made. Expressions of interest for participating in the Working Group are being accepted now until 17th December at <https://forms.gov.bm/youth-policy-working-group>. The final composition of the Working Group will be decided in February 2022 and the Group will commence construction of a detailed plan of actions and deliverables.

Madam President, Bermuda's future belongs to our young people and we look forward to the Working Group's progress and the fulfilment of the Policy vision and mission through implementation of these 8 goals.

Thank you, **Madam President**.