

MICHELLE DAGNINO



BIO

Michelle is one of Canada's best-known Millennial engagement experts. As a speaker, writer, lawyer, and serial social entrepreneur, Michelle has influenced and impacted hundreds of youth-serving and youth lead programs across North America to support the success and empowerment of young people into positions of leadership.

Michelle was born in and spent her early years in Toronto's Jane and Finch neighborhood, before moving out to BC for much of her early schooling. While still in high school Michelle started a mentorship program for young women, which sparked a life-long passion in social entrepreneurship focused on creating opportunities for hard to reach and vulnerable communities.



Michelle is currently the Executive Director of the Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre, a social services agency in West Toronto, dedicated to supporting the local community through service delivery and resident capacity-building. She is a senior associate with Lura Consulting, focusing on engagement of hard to reach populations and ensuring a strong citizen voice in public engagement processes. Prior to this, Michelle held positions as the Canada Director for Ashoka's Youth Venture, Executive Director of Youth Action Network, and was in private practice with one of Canada's leading labour and human rights law firms.

Michelle holds a Masters of Arts in Political Science, and Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Osgoode Hall Law School. She was called to the Bar in 2007. Michelle is a Loran Scholar, a recipient of the Toronto's YWCA Young Woman of Distinction award, and was named by The Globe and Mail and the Women's Executive Network as one of Canada's Top 100: Most Powerful Women. She is a frequent commentator in the media on matters related to engagement of Millennials and workforce development strategies.

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