

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



The Sanctuary Students Support  
and Solidarity Collective



# Welcome!

The Sanctuary Students Solidarity & Support Collective (S4) was formed in the fall of 2018 to address several challenges identified by precarious migrant and newcomer students (Sanctuary Students) at the threshold of post-secondary education in Ontario. Our main objectives are to support Sanctuary Students with navigating various levels of education in Ontario; and to support programs and institutions to increase equitable access for these populations. As such, the group works to identify and respond to ongoing and emerging barriers that prevent the full and equitable participation of Sanctuary Students in existing educational institutions

We host weekly meetings, seasonal picnics, workshops, and many more activities to allow our members to feel welcomed and establish a sense of belonging through skill-building, knowledge dissemination, and community connections. While we continue to grow, we recognize that there is a long road ahead...



# OUR VISION

A world in which immigration status is not a barrier to accessing meaningful and equitable education



COLLECTIVE

# OUR MISSION

Increase equitable access to education for sanctuary students in Canada by fostering community-led support, solidarity and capacity building

# What we've been up to...

## Weekly Meetings

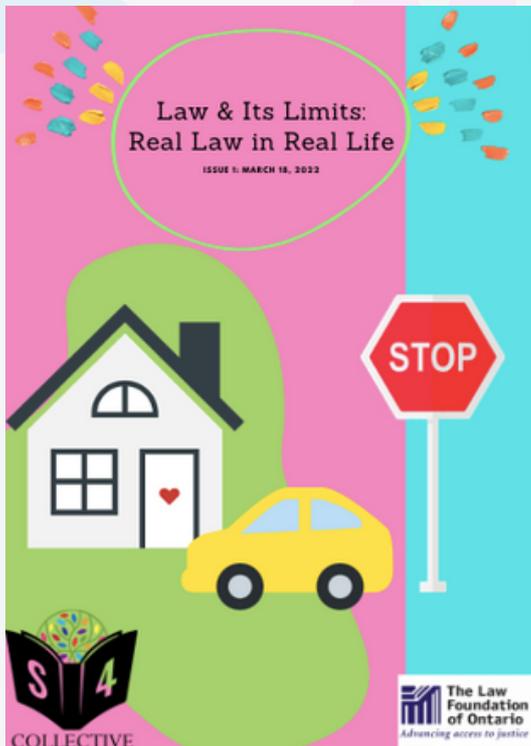


You know the drill! Click the zoom link every Tuesday at 6:30 pm to join our call and get the chance to connect to other S4 members. Although COVID prevented us from meeting in-person, we still continue to be consistent without a physical space. We have hosted workshops, movie nights, and event rant sessions! We want to thank everyone for making the effort to see us and be in this (virtual) space with us. Ain't no party like an S4 Tuesday night party!



## Law Foundation Workshops

During these months, we met with community lawyer, Swathi Sekhar, who informed us about the law and how to navigate it when facing various intersectionalities, including precarious immigration status. We acted out scenarios to practice our learned skills and newly acquired legal knowledge regarding police interactions and tenant rights. Check out the toolkit we made called “Law & Its Limits: Real Law in Real Life” as a community resource so you can know your rights too!



(Generously supported by the Law Foundation of Ontario)

# Big News!



We have created a new partnership with Black Creek Youth Initiative and Justice for Children and Youth for a project that will work to increase access to education for students with precarious immigration status. This multi-year project is being funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Youth Opportunity Fund, and will allow us to focus wholeheartedly on achieving our mission and vision.

This youth-led project will increase access to all levels of education (primary, secondary, college and university) for sanctuary students. We also want to consider the ways immigration experience intersects with race, religion, gender, sexuality and ability to work towards a more inclusive and equitable school system.

We aim to bring youth, community organizations and educators together to address the current barriers facing students to create a truly inclusive education system at all levels.

Thanks to the funding we received, we have hired two S4 members to work on this project and we have been able to rent office space! We are very excited for this giant step forward!



**THE BLACKCREEK  
YOUTH INITIATIVE**



## **Know-Your-Rights: Barbara Schlifer Commemorative Clinic**

We welcomed the BSCC to help us understand how to navigate workplace sexual harassment as folks who have faced, or are currently facing, precarious status. This workshop allowed us to understand what resources are available to us, and how to navigate legal processes when advocating for a safe, and harassment-free workplace.



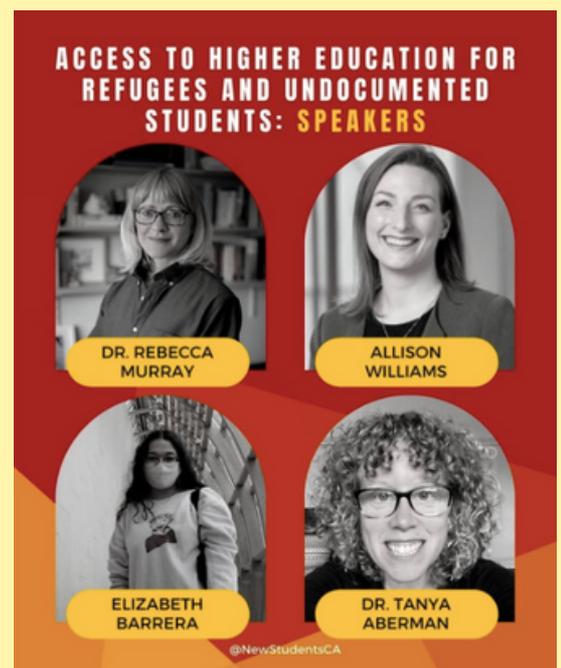
## **Gender and Colonialism Workshop**



Gender, diaspora, and societal expectations? We would like to thank Julia Eden (she/they) for sitting with us and unpacking gender dynamics within a settler-colonial context. This was a great night for us to map out our gender identities and explore what makes us "us"!

## **Access to Education Summit: Access to Higher Education for Refugees and Undocumented Students**

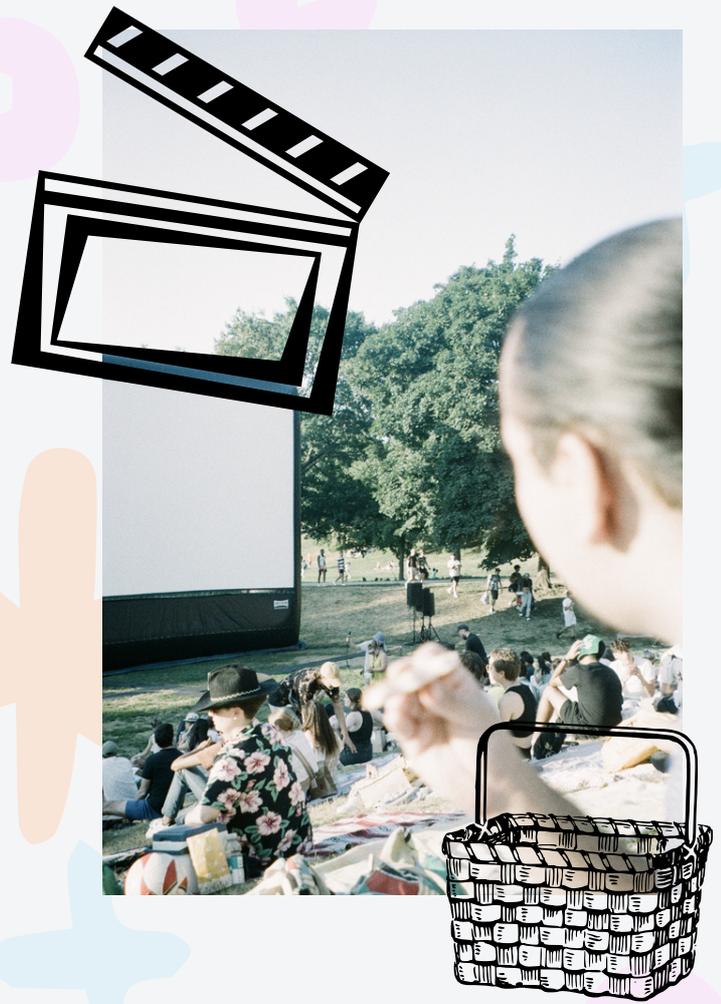
S4 was invited to participate in the International Education Week Summit, hosted by the Newcomer Student Association! We joined Dr. Murray from the UK and Justice for Children and Youth staff to discuss the current barriers affecting students with precarious status. We know that barriers, such as: limited economic opportunities, lack of connection to the community, language barriers, and so many more, are things we must fight against.



## Picnics

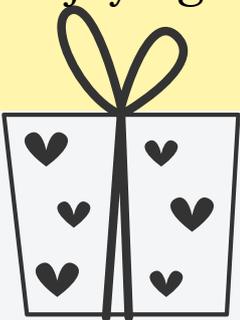
This summer, we got the chance to meet in person once again by attending the Christie Pits' Film Festival and catching a film during the summer, where we watched "A League of Their Own", and "Paris is Burning". We also hosted a High Park Picnic to celebrate our growth and welcome new community members.

Shout out to that Uber Driver who was able to deliver our 20 plates of jerk chicken!



## Holiday Party

Another Holiday Season to celebrate all our achievements! We got together via zoom to welcome the seasonal festivities and had lots of fun playing emoji games while enjoying a warm meal.





## Annual “What’s Next” Workshop

We’re back, back, again!  
Our annual high school  
information session  
regarding access to post-  
secondary opportunities  
invited community  
members to explore the  
various options available  
to continue their  
education.



S4 COLLECTIVE PRESENTS:

### WHAT'S NEXT?

EXPLORING EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRECARIOUS  
MIGRANT AND NEWCOMER YOUTH

An information session and workshop led by young  
people for youth and allies! Come and hear about  
what opportunities exist for newcomer youth with  
diverse immigration statuses for higher education.  
Gain support to plan your future!



COLLECTIVE

FEBRUARY 22ND, 2022 | 6:00PM-7:30PM  
ZOOM  
WWW.S4COLLECTIVE.ORG  
TO REGISTER, PLEASE EMAIL THE S4  
COLLECTIVE AT  
S4COLLECTIVETO@GMAIL.COM

## Bursaries

In the Summer of 2021, we received funding to give out 27 bursaries to students with precarious status who have no access to OSAP. We know options to obtain funding are very limited, so we hope to have this chance again in the near future. Thank you to YUFA Community Projects for providing the funding for these bursaries!



# Let's take a look at some of our financials during this past year

<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Donations	\$6,000.00
Grants/Surplus from 2020	\$10,850.78
Grants	\$12,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,850.78</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Bursaries (\$500 x 27)	\$13,500.00
Salary	\$6,175.00
Consultant Fee	\$4,000.00
Honoraria	\$1,250.00
Food	\$400.00
Administration	\$515.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,840.45</b>

<b>Surplus/ Carry over for 2022</b>	<b>\$3,010.33</b>
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