



# MICHELLE DAGNINO

-- Youth Culture Expert and Social Entrepreneur

Michelle Dagnino is committed to youth activism and empowerment. A social justice advocate since her teen years, she has founded and lead several award-winning organizations, including Aspire, a mentorship program for young women in high school, and Where is the Love, a national media literacy program using images and examples from hip hop and pop culture to teach engagement, global issues awareness, and leadership.

As a role model to young people across Canada, Dagnino's work as an advocate, speaker, author, consultant, and social entrepreneur inspires individuals to take action in their communities. She teaches audiences to create solutions that are sustainable, inclusive, and focused on positive change.

Dagnino is currently the Executive Director of Youth Action Network, a for youth, by youth, national charitable organization, with over 10,000 members across the country dedicated to civic engagement and social justice education.

She has been recognized with numerous awards highlighting her capacity to inspire others through creative thinking, including the 2004 YWCA Woman of Distinction, being named one of Maclean's "top 25 leaders under 30."

Dagnino's work focuses on providing organizations with the information and resources they need to develop and grow high-performance teams. Her experience in creating models of youth engagement has lead her to speaking engagements and consulting opportunities around the globe, in recognition of her world-class expertise in the area.

Bright, articulate and inspirational, Dagnino motivates listeners to get involved and shows them they have the power and opportunity to influence change.

"You spoke at our Mission Possible conference a year ago and I haven't stopped thinking about your presentation since. You were an inspiration." -- *Hamilton Wentworth District School Board*

"I went to the meeting because my friend had asked me to drop off something for her. I walked in just as your speech was beginning and spent the rest of the hour riveted. I'm not sure why I'm writing, but I guess I just wanted to let you know that listening to your talk on leadership was a life-changing moment for me. -- *Wilfred Laurier Student Public Interest Group*

## Speaking Topics --

### Understanding Generational Diversity in the Workplace

Hiring, engaging and retaining staff is a serious issue for us at all times, but even more so today with our robust economy and highly competitive job market. How do employers ensure that young, committed, emerging leaders in their field connect with opportunity and receive the recognition they deserve?

### Connecting With Youth

Connecting with youth on a meaningful level will help ensure the future health and success of our country. Michelle lays out a plan to inspire, engage and encourage young people.

### Hip Hop Culture: Why it Matters

Michelle talks about the rise of hip hop and its unprecedented influence on youth. She sets out strategies for engaging young people through hip hop, pop culture and the media.

### Waiting on the World to Change: Creating Leadership Now!

Michelle discusses the need for youth to become involved in affecting social change - but argues it can't happen without making important changes in their own lives first.

### What Motivates Millennials - The Factors that Affect your Workplace

Providing specific techniques and strategies, Michelle provides a 6 point system for motivating and managing Generation Y, developed from front-line surveys and thousands of interviews with young entrepreneurs and successful workplace leaders. Based on her second book.

## Client Testimonials --

"Wow! You're the first speaker I've heard that left me feeling empowered – feeling like I can achieve great change. No one has ever talked to me about leadership in a way that I thought applied to me. You have truly inspired me." -- *University of Saskatchewan*

"It was such a pleasure to meet you and to hear your inspirational presentation today. Your achievements are truly amazing. I also appreciated your stories, which were very down-to-earth and approachable." -- *Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration*

"Thank you for your energy. Your presentation was targeted, enlightening, and provided information that was both eye-opening and inspiring." -- *York Region District School Board*

"Your words were very inspiring and undoubtedly touched many students hoping to make a difference in our community and the way things work in our world!" -- *Pro Bono Students Canada*

"Thank you for your speech this past Saturday. Your words reaffirmed my commitment to sustainability, youth leadership, and my own ability to change the world." – *UBC Student Leadership Conference*