

2019 -
2020

Five Good Ideas

about building power for change



**Michal Hay, Founding Executive Director,
Progress Toronto**

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 - 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Our cities are becoming increasingly unaffordable and income inequality is widening faster than ever before. People, communities, and an entire generation are being squeezed out. The decisions made in the halls of power can either take us down a more progressive path or deepen the divide. Unfortunately, many decision-makers are removed from the day-to-day experiences of the people they represent. So how can we influence and shape the decisions being made? What power do we have to create meaningful change and transform our cities? In this Five Good Ideas session, Michal Hay, founder of Progress Toronto, shares her experiences on building power, winning, and making change. She offers five good ideas for building democratic power to win.



Michal Hay is the Founding Executive Director of Progress Toronto. Her focus in organizing, whether through an issue-based or electoral campaign, is bridging the gaps between people and the political power needed for progressive change. She hopes to create the space for people to advocate for the city they need.

Michal was the 2017 Campaign Director for Jagmeet Singh's successful NDP Leadership Campaign, and one of Chatelaine's Top Women in Canada of 2017. She is on the Board of Directors of the Broadbent Institute and the Toronto Environmental Alliance.

Michal was Chief of Staff to Toronto City Councillor Mike Layton for six years, and in 2014, she was Field Director for Olivia Chow's Toronto Mayoral Campaign. Through her work and activism, she has had leading roles on a number of issue-based and electoral campaigns at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels across Canada.



Five Good Ideas

1. The power we have is people
2. Our power increases as our numbers increase, and for that to happen we need distributed leadership
3. Invest in building power. That means training people and giving them the opportunity to apply skills and lead
4. Share your strategy, goals, and priorities with people to help train and motivate them
5. Every campaign is an opportunity to build power, and ideally, to build on what was built before

Resources

Organizing is a changing space, despite being based on age-old principles. In addition to following what is happening in Canada, I often look to what is happening in other countries for inspiration. These are a few examples of training programs, organizations, and campaigns that I am trying to learn from.

- Movement School's Campaign Fellows: www.movementschool.us/campaignfellows
- Our Revolution: www.ourrevolution.com
- Barcelona en Comú: www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/jun/22/barcelona-comun-guide-how-win-city-elite
- Make the Road New York: <https://maketheroadny.org>
- Push Buffalo: www.pushbuffalo.org/mission

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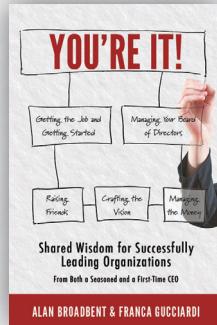
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