


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOMESICK: PEC Youth Take the Mic to Sing for Change

 [#homesickPEC](#)

Featuring original music and stories, the event gives PEC youth a platform to share their voice and spark change.

Prince Edward County, ON — Local youth are stepping into the spotlight at HOMESICK: PEC Youth for Change, a free public showcase presented by the Greater Than County Youth Collective (GTYC) and award-winning, County-based non-profit Darkspark. The event takes place **Wednesday, June 11, 2025, from 5:30 – 7:00 PM at The County Arts Lab in Picton.**

The event features the premiere of an original song and short films co-created by Darkspark and PEC youth during a recent creative residency. Known for using music and film to tackle tough social issues, Darkspark guided youth through a process of transforming lived experiences into powerful art—centering themes like housing insecurity, food access, and social isolation.

“Our message in the song and videos is a reminder: the history of our town matters and shouldn't be erased, sold out, or built over,” says youth participant Samantha Mudie. “We poured our hearts into this song hoping it would reach the community. We don’t want to be forgotten or left behind in the very place we call home.”

Darkspark co-founders Mel Larkin and D’Ari Lisle led the residency. “After years of taking our work around the world, it was incredibly meaningful to create something right here in our own backyard,” says Larkin. “These youth taught us so much. Their message to the PEC community is urgent, heartfelt, and deserves to be heard.”

The program included guided discussions, helping participants build trust, share stories, and find solidarity. As Kiydan Zachariah, GTYC Steering Committee member and program participant, describes: “It wasn’t just about songwriting—it was about creating space for vulnerability, connection, and leadership. Watching these youth transform their shared experiences into art was deeply moving.”

Event Highlights:

- Live premiere of an original youth-written song
- Short film screenings on urgent youth issues in PEC
- Q&A with youth creators
- Live performances by local artists
- Free refreshments

HOMESICK is free and open to the public. Community members are encouraged to attend, listen, and support local youth in shaping the future of Prince Edward County.

Media Contact:

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Greater Than Steering Committee Member

www.greaterthancyc.ca / @greaterthan__cyc

www.darkspark.org / @wearedarkspark

About the Organizers

Greater Than County Youth Collective (GTYC):

GTYC is a community-powered initiative working to raise high school graduation rates in Prince Edward County by 2026. GTYC supports youth through empowerment, mental health care, and connecting education to future employment.

Darkspark:

Darkspark is an award-winning non-profit using music, pop culture, and digital storytelling as tools for social change. Founded by PEC-based musicians and media creators, Darkspark engages youth to tackle prejudice, share their stories, and spark real, lasting impact.