



# Maine Youth Power Late Spring 2023 Newsletter

Maine Youth Power has been taking action and makes waves at the state and local level this winter and early Spring!

## Legislative Fellowship

In January, we onboarded our Legislative Organizer Anna Lyons who has been working hard to track legislation and follow up with Representatives and Senators sponsoring our bills. We launched a legislative fellowship as a way to build our organizing capacity around the session. Kevin Craig, Angie Tehuitzil and Liz Morrison joined us from Waterville, Farmington and Bar Harbor, respectively. The fellow team has taken our movement to the next level through outreach, testimony training and educating our base on what we have been up to! It is very exciting to watch them take the lead and grow our capacity.

## Legislative Session

Our legislative team (made up of staff, fellows and volunteers) has been testifying and talking with our politicians at the State House to push for policies that promote racial justice, environmental justice, equality, LGBTQ+ rights, voter rights, and education.

- We went to the state as a team and individually **over 4 times** this session to testify and talk with legislators.
- We met with politicians across Maine to hear about their proposed bills and gave feedback and ideas
- We ran 4 trainings with our base on how to testify in the Maine State house
- We recruited young people to our testimony team which met and testified throughout the session.

To see more of what we have been up to, [check out our instagram!](#)

Just last week, we emceed and spoke at Youth Day of Action 2023 at the statehouse at the end of April, rallying youth from across the state along with youth lead organizations across the state. [We made the news here!](#)

We testified in the Statehouse on:

- **Fighting for housing justice through updates to Eviction transparency law**
- Securing a 30 minute lunch break for all Maine public school students
- **An act to create a farmland Land access grant for Black Mainer farmers.**
- We opposed a bill banning ballot drop boxes and requiring a government ID in order to vote
- **Wabanaki Sovereignty, the Pine tree Amendment and more!**





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## Hiring Updates

We are also excited to welcome our new full-time Operations Director Angela Mavrich! Angela is the newly appointed Operations Director for Maine Youth Power. She is excited to be a part of the MYP network to help further progress towards achieving a more liveable Maine through power-building and meaningful organizing. With a background in education policy and nature-based learning, Angela enjoys collaborating with and learning from others in her work. Angela's greatest joys are spending time outside, collaging, and playing with her cat, Cowboy. *"Young people are, and will continue to be essential decision-makers who impact their communities far and wide - organized youth power builds a collective force that is loud and determined."*



## 🎉🎉 Our Gender Neutral Bathroom Campaign Victory! 🎉🎉

Over the past six months, MYP has been working hard at kickstarting our statewide gender neutral bathroom campaign, led by Saga Hart. Since then, we have talked to hundreds of students and are actively working on campaigns in about 12 schools. Just last week, Cape Elizabeth High School became the first school in the MYP campaign to win gender neutral bathrooms! If you're interested in learning more about the campaign, and potentially starting one yourself to get OR improve gender neutral bathrooms in your school, contact us! We must ensure safe and accessible bathrooms for all.

## Convening with the Funders Collaborative on Youth Organizing

Phoebe and Shukri prepared to head to Miami for FCYO Genpower Labs convening April 23-26, 2023. This convening was three filled days of sharing knowledge, creating strategies, thinking collectively, and arming organizers with skills to win power. Maine Youth Power Co-Directors, Shukri and Phoebe left inspired, grounded and ready to launch a next big program in the coming months!

**Our movement** is growing and we are starting to see material shifts in our communities due to the work we have put in building our base and creating a strategy to win. We are growing and becoming more powerful and prominent each day that we base build, organize and work to win! Thank you for being part of our youth movement!

[Become a monthly sustainer here](#)

Follow up on [Instagram](#) and [Tiktok!](#)

[Join our newsletter](#), if this was forwarded to you!

In Solidarity,

Phoebe Dolan and Shukri Abdirahman

