



I am excited about building this program and to see how it integrates within the structure of our early-stage startup. Having this cross-section between for-profit and non-profit worlds to create social impact is something that I look forward to!

Nivatha Balendra

McGill University

Bridging the Gap in CleanTech: Youth Empowerment Platform for Underrepresented Groups, Quebec, Canada

This initiative focuses on building a sustainable long-term empowerment program for underrepresented groups in CleanTech, such as girls, Indigenous groups, and BIPOC. The initiative will provide an enriching platform that youth can leverage to learn more about CleanTech careers, create mentorship connections, and expand their professional network with supportive resources. This program will be structurally integrated within Dispersa, an early-stage CleanTech startup that I founded in 2019.

My connection to the community is through my personal experience as a youth minority founder of a CleanTech startup. As someone who is deeply passionate about science & innovation, it is important for me to also see equal representation and diversity in voices within STEM and STEM-centred sectors, such as CleanTech. I hope to create a program that will help bridge the gap in the CleanTech sector by encouraging more minority representation in the future generation of scientists and business minds alike.

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