

26 May 2023

**Re: Tromsø's Candidacy for European Youth Capital 2026**

To whom this may concern,

This letter acknowledges the Arctic Youth Network's support for Tromsø's bid to become European Youth Capital in 2026.

Since the inception of European Youth Capital designation in 2009, no Arctic municipality has yet been represented. While the human population in the Arctic is relatively small, youth in these regions are disproportionately affected by impacts of climate change and their voices are frequently overlooked by the dominant southern culture. We thus applaud Tromsø's ambition to increase youth participation and young citizenship in both the city and surrounding region.

The Arctic Youth Network is a youth-founded and youth-led non-profit organization headquartered in Canada that supports a global network of youth through international cooperation and capacity-building. Many among our network of 775+ members have benefitted from the youth services of Tvibit (Culture Section, Municipality of Tromsø) with whom we are currently exploring opportunities for cooperation toward increasing European youth participation in Arctic matters.

Kind regards,

Zoe Okleasik  
**Co-Chair | Arctic Youth Network**

*Zoe Okleasik*