



**A Social Research & Development  
Approach to Preventing Youth  
Homelessness and Fighting  
Intersecting Forms of Institutional  
Exclusion**

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**20.09.2019**

The background of the slide is a repeating pattern of light-colored flowers and leaves on a teal background. The flowers are stylized with multiple petals and a central cluster of stamens. The leaves are simple, oval-shaped with a central vein. The pattern is dense and covers the entire slide.

# **A Canadian/Québécois Context**



Red graffiti on the building wall, including a dollar sign (\$) and a cross (+).



1664

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Helping youth on the street  
From 12 to 25 years old

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# **Our Approach:**

**Institutional history**

**Participatory**

**Youth-led interview structure**

**Focus on institutional policy and processes**

## **Phase 1: October-December 2018**

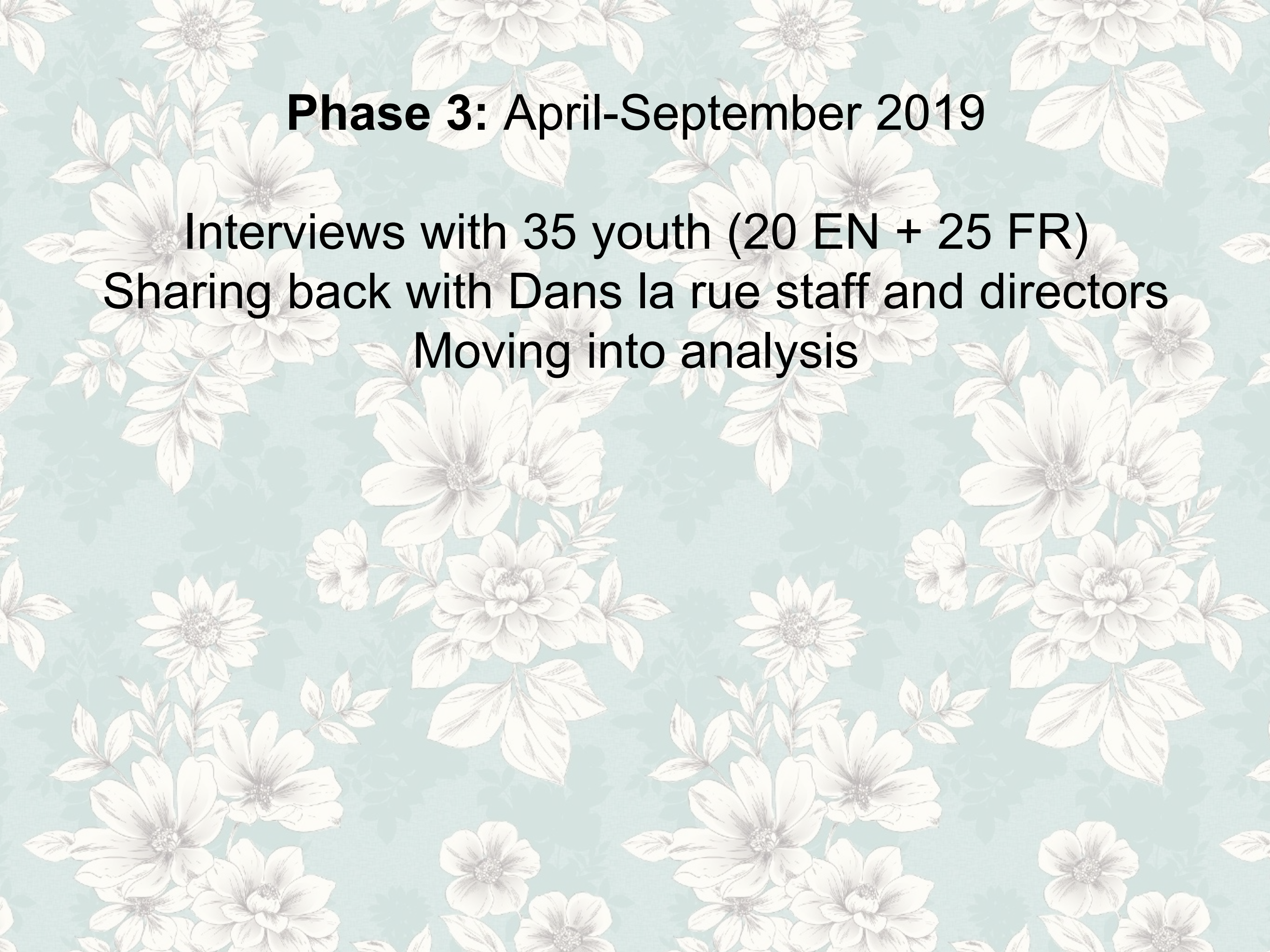
**Meetings at Chez Pop's, getting to know each other,  
and chatting with the legal students  
Training in research methods, development of  
interview questions and prompts**

## **Phase 2: January-March 2019**

**Development of a “team protocol”**

**Participated in collecting responses for the Without a Home survey**

**Began speaking on panels, in workshops, at conferences**

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## **Phase 3: April-September 2019**

**Interviews with 35 youth (20 EN + 25 FR)**  
**Sharing back with Dans la rue staff and directors**  
**Moving into analysis**

# **Interviews have involved young people telling us about:**

**Police**

**Private security companies**

**STM**

**Judiciary system**

**Hospitals and the health system**

**Elementary and Secondary schools**

**CEGEP**

**Shelters**

**Day Centres**

**Child Protection**

**The family**

**Libraries**



## **Emerging Themes:**

- **The rule/spirit of the law seems to often contradict or be at-odds with how it's understood and implemented**
- **Young people expressed a need for different types and options for housing**

## **Emerging Themes (cont.):**

- Schools are often identified as actively playing a role in young people's lives before they became homeless -- and in many cases (although not all), they became less relevant the longer a young person was homeless.
- Many young people talked about experiencing punitive and/or pathologizing interventions in schools

## **Emerging Themes (cont.):**

- Young people's stories suggest that there is a general capacity or resource issue across government systems.
- Young people talked about hiding, lying or simply not telling certain details about their lives. This falls among the things young people may do to survive/cope which are at odds with the systems' rules, norms and functioning.

## **Emerging Themes (cont.):**

- Many young people also talked about interpersonal conflict in their families
- Some young people highlighted the important role that activist networks, friendships, community and solidarity networks can play; others expressed the opposite sensibility, focusing more on independence and self-reliance

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# Next Steps

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