

Gabriel's family emigrated to Canada from his native Guatemala in the early 1980s. Adjusting to a different and challenging lifestyle he embraced the value of the educational experience. After graduating from John Abbott, he completed a degree in Communication Studies at Concordia University.

Then, travelling through many countries, particularly in Africa, and experiencing the challenge of difficult social conditions he returned with a commitment to values of community and sharing.

In 2009, he founded Youth Fusion, an award-winning charity that works to lower dropout rates, employs over 250 people in Québec and Ontario, and works on a weekly basis with over 15,000 students, including 4,500 Indigenous youth in Inuit and First Nations communities. The charity specifically focuses on experiential learning. Gabriel launched, among other educational programs, a video gaming creation project with Ubisoft as well as a fashion design project with ALDO Group. Moreover, he also co-founded FIRST Robotics Québec and the annual Robotics Festival, two initiatives implemented in collaboration with Bombardier. In 2015 and 2016, Gabriel was President of the *Jeune Chambre de commerce de Montréal* (JCCM), the largest youth chamber in the world, and led a successful two-term mandate that contributed to transforming the JCCM into a key player for emerging leaders. Under his leadership, the JCCM created an innovative – and its first – micro-financing fund with *Aéroports de Montréal* to support 375 entrepreneurial ideas.

## GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION

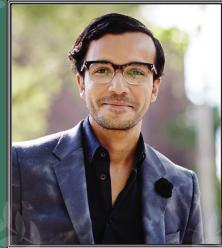
- Governor on the Council of Montreal's 375th Anniversary
- Contributed to the development of the *JE VOIS MTL/JE FAIS MTL* movements
- Member of the provincial Committee on Economy and Innovation
- Special Advisor to the Minister of Culture for the renewal of Québec's cultural policy
- Member of the eight-member Expert Panel on Youth Employment

Gabriel is a former director of the boards of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal (CCMM) as well as Oxfam Québec. He is currently a director on the boards of Concordia University and the Bombardier Foundation.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Mercuriades by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Québec (FCCQ)
- Peace Medal by the YMCAs of Québec
- Social Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young (EY)
- Personality of the Week by La Presse/RadioCanada (CBC)
- Emerging Leader Award by the Public Policy Forum of Canada
- Ashoka and Jeanne Sauvé Foundation Fellow

Gabriel has maintained his role as president of Youth Fusion.



*Gabriel Bran Lopez*

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