



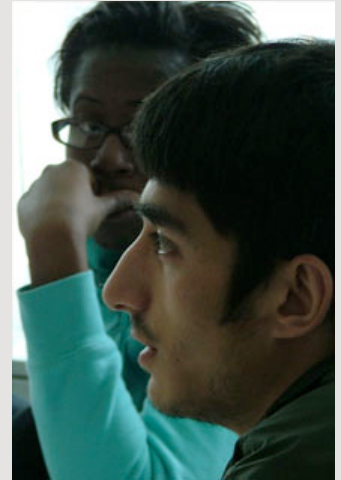
The Students Commission

Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement

Annual Report Highlights 2010

Programming Highlights

- 2010 was filled with many highlights and accomplishments for The Students Commission, and brought us one year closer to our 20th anniversary! The Students Commission was founded in 1991. More details are available at www.studentscommission.ca
- The Students Commission continues to lead The Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement, with new partners joining the network of organizations, communities, and universities. Our partners include Brock University, St. Thomas University, Town Youth Participation Strategy/Youth Centres Canada (TYPS), St. Mary's University, YouCan and Youth Launch. The Centres offers resources, research and evaluation, training and consulting to organizations wanting to improve their work with youth.
- The "This is Canada" Project brought awareness to issues facing Aboriginal youth across the country, specifically in remote, fly-in communities. This will continue to be a focus of our work.
- Project PEACE completed its 3rd year with a grand total of 2063 workshops delivered to 61,890 youth over its three-year funding period. The workshops are continuing with the support of the Toronto Police Service and The Toronto District and Toronto Catholic District school boards in the 2010-2011 school year.
- The Young Decision Makers (YDM) Network's 4th national meeting took place in Cornwall, Ontario from February 11 to 14, 2010. We had nationwide participation from various organizations, age groups, races and topics of interests. The 115 participants were divided into seven groups, which used the YDM Model to work through their topic. Topics included poverty, drugs, healthy lifestyles, youth involvement and discrimination. Over a period of four days, teams learnt more about the topic, discussed it amongst themselves and consulted others, made decisions on how they wanted to address the issue, and finally made recommendations on how to best move forward. These recommendations will help shape the work we do. The project helped incorporate young people in the development of the National Advisory Group on Youth Prevention for the Canadian Council on Substance Abuse. The group was



"Chance? What was the chance that I had been selected to be a part of something much greater than me? This is my first time to be exposed and participate in a youth focused assembly and finally have a voice that is willing to be heard. This chance is something I am grateful for and value because not only is my voice being heard but it should be celebrated that many other youths from different backgrounds, cultures, personal experiences are as well."



"For a change, it's not a adult who thinks that they exactly know what we experience in the present day. For a change, youth across the province are being recognized for their opinions for social change based on their own personal experiences."



"This chance is opening doors for a more intimate level for youth to create social change face to face. I never thought I would have this opportunity because I'm from a small priority neighborhood in Toronto... Now I can take action at (my) school for student engagement to transform it to prove students are more than works in progress. I can be the artist to the master piece we all illusively share together."

charged with the task of helping to influence a national strategy on drug prevention for youth.

- 4 national conferences and 6 regional were held in the year, serving approximately 1,000 youth.
- In addition to the Peace workshops, another 260 workshops across Canada were delivered for the year, reaching approximately 12,000.
- In-depth programming was given weekly to approximately 50 youth.
- Ten youth were supported in work placements and co-op programs.
- 4085 youth supported directly (with repeated contact), 2397 adults were trained, 1251 organizations advised, and 3686 volunteer hours donated to the organization.
- The fundraising book *Loonatic Perspectives* made the connections between nurturing the environment and nurturing youth. The fundraiser book launch raised \$8,000 for our programs.

The National Summer Employment Program

Working with local partner organizations, the Students Commission hires, trains, and supports young people to work in local community-based organizations each summer. In 2010 we had 18 young people and organizations participate in the Summer Employment Program, including a three-day training at the Geneva Park YMCA Conference Centre in Orillia, Ontario. There were several goals that were accomplished through the face-to-face training:

- Participants were trained in the *Influence in Action* model, as well as how to implement the model in their communities;
- Each partner was provided the opportunity to share information about their individual organizations, local issues and the work being done in their communities;
- Participants developed confidence, skills and relationships that created an effective national team for the rest of the summer employment program.



The National Summer Employment Program was a success with the support from; Allied Youth (PEI), Alta Care (AB), Finally (NFL), iHuman (AB), The Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre (MB), Meadow Lake Tribal Council (SK), Regional Multicultural Youth Centre (ON), St. Thomas University (NB), YNOT (ON), and Youth Launch-The Students Commission (SK)

Influence those who influence youth

- Extensive consulting was provided this year to the YMCA and Girl Guides re their youth engagement strategies.
- The Students Commission worked provincial governments in PEI, New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and federal government departments.
- Students Commission provided leadership of the Youth Engagement aspect for the North South Partnership (Aboriginal communities in northern Ontario)
- The Students Commission provided leadership of Youth Engagement initiative re Building a Better Canada campaign for the National Youth Serving Agencies.

The full annual report is available at www.studentscommission.ca