

The Scoop on the Scape

The National YouthScape Gathering Report Released!

Are you curious about what inspiring discussions, creative achievements, and new initiatives occurred at the YouthScape National Gathering in Victoria? Didn't get a chance to experience the energy of all the YouthScape communities coming together for the last time? Well now you can re-live the most influential and significant moments of this three day conference through the YouthScape Gathering report. This report outlines the key messages, collaborations and action inspiring conversations of the gathering. It is a great way to get a sense of what this final YouthScape gathering was all about.



From November 26-29, 2009, 50 individuals gathered in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia, to re-live the achievements of the YouthScape national initiative and engage young people, policy makers, educators, practioners and funders towards a common goal of advancing the YouthScape "community based. youth paced" movement. The Gathering was co-hosted by the International Institute for Child Rights and Development and LifeCycles.

See the full story [here](#).

Wii are All Unique



Embrancing and understanding our differences is a key message of Megan Beaudoin's YouthScape HRM project, iUnique. She saw that many of her peers were struggling with bullying because their behavior was misunderstood as being 'weird' or 'crazy' - when really these youth were facing tough life situations. Megan decided these youth needed a safe place where they could

open up and share what is going on in their lives. She hoped this would allow peers to have a better understanding of each other.

iUnique offered this safe space and has since given youth a place where they can tell their stories and support each other.

Read the full story about [iUnique](#).

Behind the Scenes - Q & A with a YouthScape Grantee

Coming up with a idea for a grant is only the beginning of the journey towards making a project come to life! There are many steps for youth to take when applying for a grant. Sometimes everything works out perfectly, and sometimes there are challenges along the way.

Taryn Danford of the YouthScape National office sat down with YouthScape Spark Grantee Ronnie T to find out exactly how her 'Age to Engage' project went from a little idea to a big event. Ronnie talks about what her project is about, challenges she faced and her next steps.



Check out the [full interview](#).



Check out these opportunities and resources!

- 1) Youth are taking over the Olympics!
- 2) Use your Creativity to Explore Multiculturalism
- 3) Say Something, Stop Impaired Drivers - MADD Contest
- 4) If Youth Could Redesign the World...
- 5) Act NOW! National Playwriting Contest

1) Youth are taking over the Olympics!



With the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics just around the corner, more people than ever are getting into the spirit of the games - and now youth have the opportunity to actually take part in this international event. From the August 14th to 26th 2010, Singapore will be hosting the inaugural Youth Olympic Games (YOG). This event promises to bring 5,000 athletes and officials from the 205 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), along with an estimated 1200 media representatives, 20,000 local and international volunteers, and more than 500,000 spectators.

To learn more about the Youth Olympic Games check out their [website](#).

2) Use your Creativity to Explore Multiculturalism

If you are between the ages of 9 and 18, the Canadian government is looking for you to use your creativity for the Mathieu Da Costa Challenge - an annual creative writing and artwork contest launched in 1996. The contest is encouraging youth to explore how cultural diversity has shaped Canada's growth and why it continues to be an important part of our society.



To learn more about how you can participate, check out their [website](#).

3) Say Something, Stop Impaired Drivers! - MADD Canada's Annual Multimedia Contest



Mothers Against Drunk Driving are looking to youth for innovative, creative ways to talk about an important message: don't drink and drive. They are asking youth up to 24 years old to create a short film, presentation or public service

announcement to show how youth can take action and 'Say something, stop impaired drivers.'

The first place winner will have their entry published on MADD's national website, as well as a \$500 prize and local award presentation. For more information on the contest check out their [website](#).

4) If Youth Could Redesign the World...

On January 27th 2010, youth from over 20 countries were able to express their concerns about the future of the world they will inherit at the World Economic Forum. For six months leading up to the forum, more than 2000 youth from the ages of 8 to 25 expressed their concerns regarding the future state of our world at series of 30 town hall meetings and active online discussions. They explored and offered opinions on issues ranging from values and government, to healthcare and climate change.



All of these thoughts, concerns and opinions were gathered to create a report to give to the leaders of the World Economic Forum. The youth have now asked the leaders to respond to the report and acknowledge the importance of the youth voice. To read the full report, check out the link.

5) Act NOW! National Playwriting Contest

The Act NOW! Playwriting competition is asking youth to create a one-act play on environmental sustainability. The entire contest is run by youth for youth and gives the winner a chance to have their play performed across Canada for more than 10,000 people and aired on Sustainability Television. If you love writing and have a passion for the environment, this is your chance to create something original to display what Canadians, and the world, could be doing to protect our planet. For more information check out this [link](#).



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