

THE **Ripple** **EFFECT**

Ontario

A United Nations
Association in
Canada Project



This project has
received funding
support from the
Ontario Ministry of the
Environment



Background YAC

- 2007 *Canada, Youth and the Right to Water* – Toronto
 - Canadian International Development Agency
- Developed a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) for the GTA
 - Called **Youth4Water**
 - 15 members: Toronto Community Housing & Havergal College
- *The Ripple Effect*



Youth4Water

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- Meet twice /month
 - Explore water issues of local & international importance
 - E.g. conservation, sanitation, degradation, distribution, and the human right to water.
- Educate peers & community via online forums, workshops, presentations, film screenings and art installations.

- Conducted research
- Youth Perceptions Survey
- Youth Statement
- Findings:
 - Not enough education
 - Canadians misconception of our own water sources: clean & plenty

Youth Survey & Statement



- Survey target youth living in Toronto
- Between 14-29 years of age
 - Majority were between 14-19 years old
- Working from a total of 509 completed surveys (to meet the required sample size)
 - 95% confidence rate within 5-6%
- Statement was informed by results from the survey & Y4W's active learning over past 2 years.

Statement

1. *Youth4Water believe in the right to water, ensuring access to clean water and sanitation for all and that governments are accountable for delivering access to clean water & sanitation to its citizens.*
 - 88% of respondents agree/strongly agree that ‘access to clean water is a basic human right’.
 - Y4W understand the complexities and challenges inherent is access to water & sanitation.
 - CANIMUN, Expo Zaragoza

Statement con't

2. *Y4W calls on all levels of government to increase curriculum in water & sanitation.*
 - Preliminary understanding
 - Canada more fresh water than South Africa (62.1%) & India (55.9%); Russia (26.5%) and Brazil (40.3%).
 - 68.9% agree/strongly agree that these water issues will be of more importance to gov's in the future
 - 44.7% have taken at least one course in school & recall learning something about water
 - Water cycle & chemical make up.
 - 42.7% interested in learning more
 - 83.2% internet
 - Challenges: knowing what is factual, what sites to go to, etc.

Statement – conclusion

- Exposure to this information / learning has influence
 - Y4W career focus, studies, etc
 - Exposure to service providers, policy makers, environmentalists, etc.
- Educated promotes good global citizenship.
 - If supported with complementary skill development
- Actions to take at home
- Youth as active water stewards

World Water Day 2009

- Approx 20 in attendance
- Mural on display
- Opened with 'get-to know you' lunch
- Followed by 'Waterville' scenario, crisis resolution.

Ministry of the Enviro.



- Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection – funding till March 2010
- Objective:
 - To Establish YAC in Hamilton; Kingston/Belleville; Walkerton; (Toronto)
 - YAC engage in dialogue and exchange perspectives with community leaders, elders, subject matter experts, and SPC on source water protection, the Clean Water Act & other water issues in ON.
 - YAC will engage their peers & surrounding community – become clean drinking water stewards
 - Creation of Provincial wide network

Project Activities

- Establish Youth Advisory Committee
- YAC Orientation session
- Peer-to-peer & participatory research workshops
- Model International Joint Commission
- Commemoration of International Days
- Provincial Roundtable
- Youth Statement
- Water Protection Contest
- Website Development

Mural

- Two facilitators + Y4W.
- Workshop in partnership with SPC.
- 2 Weekends of painting.
- Unveiling at World Water Day Event.
- Havergal, other local backdrop opportunities.
- The ROM: launch of water exhibits across Canada (Ottawa – Canadian Museum of Nature, Montreal: Aqua (One Drop Foundation), West.
- Toronto events; multi-media.
- Next?