

# 2005/06 MB4Youth Advisory Council

## Annual Report

*Encouraging young people to get involved is a priority for Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth. With advice from the Youth Advisory Council, we are developing new opportunities for youth to be informed and involved members of their communities.*



## **MB4Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2005/06**

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### **Background**

In April 2003, the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth announced the establishment of the MB4Youth Advisory Council. The Youth Advisory Council was created to provide feedback to the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth through the MB4Youth Division on issues relating to youth, such as jobs, education, leadership and citizen engagement. The Youth Advisory Council is managed by staff at the MB4Youth Division, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth.

### **Mandate**

The MB4Youth Advisory Council:

- Facilitates and participates in youth conferences and events;
- Recommends policy direction and suggests adaptations to youth programming in the areas of education, training, employment, career development, volunteerism, citizenship and leadership to the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth to make programming more youth-friendly, pertinent and accessible;
- Collaborates with government-wide Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) Committee on Youth and other intergovernmental agencies on strategies and action plans focusing on key youth issues;
- Reviews and provides feedback on the Division's communication strategy and communication products like the MB4Youth web-site;
- Increases awareness of programs and services to all youth.

### **Membership and Selection 2005/06**

- The MB4Youth Advisory Council is made up of youth who are leaders in their communities and schools. The Council is made up of a minimum of twelve and a maximum of fifteen Manitoba youth ages 15 – 24. In 2005/06, there were 13 members on the MB4Youth Advisory Council.
- The Department's selection committee released an annual call for applications in Spring 2005. Selection of the Council was made to reflect the population of youth in Manitoba and to include diverse perspectives: gender, regional, ethnicity and language.
- Council members committed to a one year term beginning September 1, 2005 and ending August 30, 2006. (Council members could indicate their interest in a second or third consecutive term by March 31, 2006.) Any member who reached their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday by September 1, 2006 was not eligible to re-apply.
- In the future, the MB4Youth Advisory Council will have a working group focused on recruitment and selection of future MB4Youth Advisory Council members.

**The members of the 2005/06 MB4Youth Advisory Council were:**

Ashly Larson, Brandon, Chair  
Khang Pham, Winnipeg  
Nicole Sadler, Winnipeg  
Albert Cater, Thompson  
Nathan Peto, Brandon  
Ashley Lavallee, St. Eustache  
Allison Smith, Winkler

Andrea Berger, Winnipeg  
Robert Pankhurst, Winnipeg  
Angele Faucher, Winnipeg  
Andrea Guimond, Winnipeg  
Ryan Wong, Winnipeg  
Chris Roehl, Dauphin



*(For Members' Profiles, refer to Appendix A)*

Over the past year, the focus of the MB4Youth Advisory Council has been career development, citizenship and youth engagement. The Youth Advisory Council had the opportunity to participate in various meetings, conferences, planning committees and events.

## **1. Meetings and Workshops**

### **Winnipeg Meeting, October 7, 2005**

The first in-person meeting took place at the Legislative Building on October 7, 2005. The meeting began with opening remarks by Veronica Dyck, Executive Director, MB4Youth Division and an introduction of the new MB4Youth Advisory Council Coordinator, Lindsay Williamson. The Youth Advisory Council evaluated previous council activities, reviewed and approved the terms of reference and planned proposed activities for the 2005/06 Youth Advisory Council. The Youth Advisory Council also looked at best practices to providing input at conferences and events.

Over lunch, the Council met with Honourable Minister Peter Bjornson in the private dining room and had the opportunity to ask questions and talk with the Minister about previous council activities and future council plans. Council members also had the opportunity to speak one on one with the Minister and had their photograph taken with him.

In the afternoon the Youth Advisory Council elected Ashly Larson as the new Chair for the 2005/06 MB4Youth Advisory Council. A cross-cultural awareness training workshop was led by Clayton Sandy, Aboriginal Consultant, MB4Youth Division. The Youth Advisory Council indicated that the workshop gave them some insight and understanding into Aboriginal Issues, healing practices and Aboriginal role models.

### **Teleconference / Winnipeg Meeting, November 21, 2005**

Youth Advisory Council members provided feedback on the brochure "*Think Again: Sex – Get the Facts, Get informed*". Ashly Larson led the Youth Advisory Council through a discussion about having a powerpoint presentation about the MB4Youth Advisory Council to be used in high schools across Manitoba. The Youth Advisory Council also discussed access to post-secondary education, specifically for youth in rural Manitoba.

### **Winnipeg Meeting, February 10, 2006**

The Youth Advisory Council participated in two focus groups. The first focus group looked at the role of Sustainable Development from a local, national and global perspective. The second focus group discussed the "*Reporting to Manitobans on Performance Booklet*". The Advisory Council provided feedback and ideas towards the next report to be distributed to Manitobans.

### **Teleconference, April 3, 2006**

The primary purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers happening in Brandon, Manitoba on April 28, 2006. The Youth Advisory Council reviewed the agenda and their roles as facilitators and recorders at the event.

### **Facilitator Training, April 27, 2006**

The Youth Advisory Council met before the Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers for facilitation training focusing on the role of the facilitator and facilitation

troubleshooting. The Youth Advisory Council considered potential problems such as silence, conflict, conversation dominance and agenda hi-jacking.

### **Teleconference, August 3, 2006**

The Youth Advisory Council discussed completed and potential council activities and gave feedback on the Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers. The Youth Advisory Council also had the opportunity to revisit the terms of reference and make recommendations and changes.

## ***2. Planning and Facilitating Conferences***

### **Thompson, Second Annual Youth Citizenship Conference, February 3 – 5, 2006**

Youth Advisory Council members were involved in the planning of the Youth Citizenship Conference and one Youth Advisory Council member presented at the conference on citizenship, leadership and the MB4Youth Advisory Council.

### **Brandon, Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers, April 28, 2006**

Since 2003 Council members have been on the planning committee for the Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers and have helped to facilitate at the event. Youth Advisory Council members facilitated youth discussions ensuring that all youth participants had the opportunity to express their point of view and have their questions asked to the Ministers. While questions were being asked to the Ministers the Youth Advisory Council recorded group discussions for the final report.

Participating Ministers included Peter Bjornson, Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth; Diane McGifford, Minister of Advanced Education and Training; Tim Sale, Minister of Health; Scott Smith, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade; and Rosann Wowchuk, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

## ***3. Attending Conferences on behalf of the Council***

### **2005/06 MB4Youth Advisory Council Activities included:**

- Cross-Canada Mapping of Youth-Led Initiatives – Khang Pham
- YOUCAN – Albert Cater Attending/ Khang Pham on Board/ Nicole Sadler, Facilitating
- Forum for Young Canadians – Andrea Berger
- Manitoba Education for Sustainable Development Working Group – Nicole Sadler & Khang Pham
- Taking it Global Youth Forum – Khang Pham
- Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers – MB4Youth Advisory Council
- Resolve it! National Youth Symposium – Albert Cater
- Citizenship Education Seminar – Nicole Sadler
- World Urban Youth Forum – Turning Ideas into Action – Khang Pham
- Moving Ahead in French Immersion Conference – Angele Faucher

- Sixth Annual Youth Aboriginal Conference and Second Annual Youth Citizenship Conference – Albert Cater & Ashly Larson

#### **4. Future Projects**

Youth Advisory Council members were given the opportunity to contribute ideas to the Youth Advisory Council for upcoming years. Priority projects included exploring the issue of after-school community programs for rural Manitoba, accessibility of post-secondary education and increasing awareness of programs and services provided through the MB4Youth Division. The MB4Youth Advisory Council would also like to develop a powerpoint presentation to be used as a recruitment tool for educational institutions that outlines activities of the MB4Youth Advisory Council.

## **Appendix A - Members' Profiles**

### **Albert Cater**

Albert is a 22 yrs old Cree from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. He has dedicated most of his time to the advancement of First Nations youth. From the beginning as a First Nations Youth activist with the Manitoba First Nations Youth Council, Albert has been an advocate for First Nations youth rights and advocating on their behalf on issues facing aboriginal youth in Northern Manitoba. In 2004 he was appointed to the Liberal Party of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples Commission for the Manitoba Region as the Vice President for Youth.

### **Angèle Faucher**

Angèle is french immersion high school student who is actively involved with many global issues. She is a member of Afrique 2007, which is a youth-lead organization that helps with sustainable development in Africa. She also does speeches on related issues. She likes to do lots of volunteer work in her community such as the Festival du Voyageur. Angèle enjoys snowboarding, spending time with family and friends, traveling and dancing.

### **Ashly Larson**

Ashly is a farm girl originally from Erickson currently studying in her second year of Media Production at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon, Manitoba. Ashly has attended many conferences dealing with environmental issues and leadership. She has won many awards for her involvement with her community and issues facing youth including the Top 20 Under 20 National Award, Local Hero award, Young Woman of the Year, Striving for Excellence Award from the U of M, and various scholarships. Ashly also has her own organization called, "Supporting Agricultural Youth" and has given away two bursaries for students affected by an agricultural crisis. Ashly enjoys clubbing, hanging out with friends and regularly attends Country Fest.

### **Robert Pankhurst**

Robert is a grade 11 student in Winnipeg. He is currently an academic major with a focus on english, science and geography. Robert is a two term student council representative, a member of the debate team and the Student Lead Advisory Meetings Group Leader. He is a political buff who enjoys finding ways of getting youth more involved in the political process. Robert enjoys music, reading, canoeing, kayaking and most other water sports.

### **Khang Pham**

Khang has recently completed his Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Marketing and Human Resource Management at the University of Manitoba. He currently works at Investor's Group as a National Marketing Coordinator. Khang is very active in his

community and involves himself in projects such as the Canadian Peace Train and the United Way Youth Engagement Steering Committee.

### **Chris Roehl**

Chris is a grade 12 student in Dauphin, Manitoba. He is involved in numerous school and community activities including school treasurer, drama, hockey, snowboarding, golf, Westman Youth Choir, and the Philanthropy Committee of Dauphin. Music has always been a large part of Chris's life and he has trained in seven different instruments since the age of three. His current musical focus is in guitar and voice. Chris is undecided on his post secondary direction but is considering the fields of music and engineering.

### **Nicole Sadler**

Nicole is a second year Education student at the University of Winnipeg. She keeps herself busy with a part-time job and a few different projects. She currently holds a spot on the United Way of Winnipeg's Youth Connections Council and is starting to work with the National Children's Alliance of Canada on building a national youth agenda. She also works with PLAN Canada, who she went to Uganda with last summer on their Youth Advisory Council. In her few minutes of spare time she enjoys coffee with friends, walking her dog, exercising and watching movies.

### **Andrea Berger**

Andrea is a grade 12 student living in Winnipeg. She participates in many extra curriculars within her school and community such as the debate team, yearbook staff, amnesty international team, Junior Achievement, curling, and the Winnipeg Folk-Arts Youth Initiative. She recently completed a year in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly where she worked as a Page and expanded her interest in the political process. Next year she hopes to travel to Ottawa and study international development and globalization. Her hobbies and interests include politics, curling, public speaking, art, travel and spending time with friends and family.

### **Allison Smith**

Currently finishing her last year of high school, Allison is actively involved in her 4-H club, Student Council, Grad Committee and Newspaper Committee, as well as numerous sports teams. In her grade eleven year, she was chosen from students across Canada to participate in Forum for Young Canadians in Ottawa. In her spare time, she volunteers at a local shelter for abused women, helps with the family farm, and enjoys politics, reading, traveling and learning languages.