

# 2006/07 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 2006/07**

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### **Background**

The MB4Youth Advisory Council was announced by the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth at the Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers on April 25, 2003. The Council was created to provide feedback to the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth through the MB4Youth Division on issues relating to youth, such as jobs, education, leadership and citizen engagement.

### **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, relevant 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;
- Increase awareness of Manitoba government 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 2006/07, there were 12 members on the MB4Youth Advisory Council.
- The Department's selection committee released an annual call for applications in February, 2007. 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, 2006 and ending August 30, 2007. (Council members could indicate their interest in a second or third consecutive term by March 31, 2007.) Any member who reached their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday by September 1, 2007 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:**

Nicole Sadler, Winnipeg, Chair  
Brittany Leschasin, Winnipeg  
Courtney Schwegel, Gimli  
Lainey Shrom, Winnipeg  
Vanessa Kozak, Winnipeg  
Amalia Jiminez, Winnipeg

Nathan Peto, Brandon  
Amber Darling, Rathwell  
Amanda Leskiw, Winnipeg  
Danelle Chaput, Lorette  
Richard Avila, Winnipeg  
Jean Gautier, Winnipeg



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

The 2006/07 MB4Youth Advisory Council had the opportunity to participate in a variety of valuable conferences, workshops, committees and meetings. These conferences and workshops help to provide the Council with a broad perspective on the issues impacting and affecting youth in Manitoba.

## **1. Meetings and Workshops**

### **Teleconference, September 11, 2006**

The MB4Youth Advisory Council had their first meeting by teleconference on September 11, 2007. Council members had the opportunity to share information about themselves, their education, work experience, interests and expectations of the Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council discussed the Terms of Reference and had the opportunity to brainstorm some ideas for the Youth Citizenship Conference they would be facilitating in October.

### **Winnipeg Meeting, October 23, 2006 Legislative Dining Room**

The MB4Youth Advisory Council had their first in-person meeting on October 23, 2007. Veronica Dyck, Executive Director of the MB4Youth Division welcomed council members and discussed the importance of the Advisory Council in making connections between youth and government. The Advisory Council discussed their expectations for the year which included:

- being active in their community and making a difference for youth in Manitoba;
- networking with other youth from across the province;
- being a positive role model for youth in Manitoba.

The Advisory Council discussed the terms of reference and discussed some of the activities they would like to get involved in over the course of the year. Clayton Sandy, Manager in the MB4Youth Division presented a workshop on Cross-Cultural Awareness and Diversity. Members discussed the influence of Aboriginal role models and the influence of language in our society.

The MB4Youth Advisory Council had the opportunity to have lunch with the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth, the Honourable Peter Bjornson. Minister Bjornson spoke about the importance of having a youth voice and about the importance of the Advisory Council's contributions and feedback.

The Advisory Council also received facilitator training, focusing on the role of the facilitator and facilitation troubleshooting. The Advisory Council discussed issues such as silence, conflict, conversation dominance and agenda hi-jacking. The MB4Youth Advisory Council would be facilitating at both the Citizenship Conference and Youth Town Hall.

Council members voted in Nicole Sadler to be the chair of the 2006/07 Advisory Council.

### **Teleconference, January 9, 2007**

The Advisory Council had a meeting by teleconference on January 9, 2007. Council members discussed the upcoming meetings, including the Youth Town Hall Meeting where council members would be facilitating and the Youth Leadership Seminar where council members would be assisting organizers as recorders and youth motivators.

Six council members expressed interest in participating in the Healthy Living Sub-committee.

### **Winnipeg Meeting, February 2, 2007 Partners for Careers – 510 Selkirk Avenue**

The MB4Youth Advisory Council had their second in-person meeting on February 2, 2007. Council members had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Healthy Living, the Honourable Theresa Oswald. They discussed the role of the Department of Healthy Living, the seven pillars of healthy living and identified issues of concern to youth in Manitoba related to healthy living. Some of the issues identified were: nutrition/healthy eating in schools, smoking among youth and the physical activity levels of youth.

Council members also had the opportunity to provide feedback on the new Careers in the Arts Website and the Youth Citizenship Conference to take place in November 2007. Members also reviewed the Youth Leadership and Citizenship Powerpoint presentation to promote programs and services offered by the MB4Youth Division and made recommendations for changes.

Members engaged in a discussion about what it would look like for youth to be:

- healthy, safe and secure,
- successful at learning and work, and
- socially engaged and responsible.

In addition, the MB4Youth Advisory Council reviewed the article titles for the eighth edition of the 2007 Spring MB4Youth Newsletter and suggested alternative names that were then voted on and included into the 2007 Spring edition.

### **Winnipeg Meeting, February 3, 2007 340 – 800 Portage Avenue**

In 2006, the MB4Youth Advisory Council was approached by the Department of Healthy Living about creating a Healthy Living Sub-Committee that would look at issues related to the health of youth in Manitoba. The Council had the opportunity to discuss issues such as tobacco smoking among youth, Manitoba *in motion* and other issues affecting youth in Manitoba.

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

### **Beausejour, Third Annual Youth Citizenship Conference, October 24, 2006**

The MB4Youth Advisory Council played an essential role in the 2006 Annual Youth Citizenship Conference. The Advisory Council played an important role in planning the full day event as well as assisting at the event as recorders and student motivators.

### **Gimli, Camp Arnes, Youth Leadership Seminar, February 23 – 25, 2007**

At the Youth Leadership Seminar in Gimli, Manitoba, MB4Youth Advisory Council members assisted organizers in ensuring youth participants were engaged and in the right place.

### **Brandon, Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meeting, April 27, 2007**

Since 2003 Council members have been on the planning committee for the Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers. The MB4Youth Advisory Council played a very large and important role in the planning and implementation of the 2007 Youth Town Hall. Council members spent the majority of the day facilitating groups of 20 youths through a highly interactive consultation process. Information gathered from the consultation will be used to help guide the MB4Youth Advisory Council in identifying their priorities for the following year.

## ***3. Additional Council Activities***

The 2006/07 MB4Youth Advisory Council also participated in and attended several conferences, committees and workshops on behalf of the council including the Career Development Advisory Committee, the Manitoba Prospects Development Committee, the Careers in the Arts Committee and the 2007 Global Young Leaders Conference.

In addition, on Thursday, April 12 when Minister Nancy Allen of Labour and Immigration announced that the third Monday in February would be a new winter holiday she also identified that the MB4Youth Advisory Council would be involved in the selection process related to identifying the winning name for the holiday from the submissions received. The name of the holiday will be announced in the Fall 2007.

## ***4. Next Steps***

The MB4Youth Advisory Council had the opportunity to engage in many unique and exciting activities during the 2006/07 program year. The 2007/08 Council is expected to have continued involvement in the Healthy Living Sub-Committee, the Annual Youth Citizenship Conference and the Youth Town Hall. New activities may include a Youth Making a Difference Booklet and more input into MB4Youth programs and services

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

### **Danelle Chaput**

Danelle is second year student at the College Universitaire de Saint-Boniface who would love to become a doctor one day. Danelle spends a lot of her time volunteering and in the past was vice-president of her high school, part of a committee that helped develop a mission and vision for the high school, part of an activist committee and also attended various youth parliaments locally and nationally. Currently Danelle tutors an autistic child, is part of the development and peace committee at school and hangs out with her little sister through Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Winnipeg.

### **Amber Darling**

Amber is currently enrolled in grade 12 at Treherne Collegiate. She is actively involved in school activities like yearbook, the school newspaper, Student Leadership and Trehern Collegiate's Healthy Initiative Food Program. Amber is taking a variety of different courses, of which her favorite is PreCalculus Math. She also enjoys being a part of their school's track team, on which she qualified for Rural Provincials and she enjoys being an actor in her high schools drama club and attending plays at the Manitoba Theater Centre.

### **Jean Gautier**

Originally from the small town of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Jean moved to Winnipeg to pursue his education at Red River College in the Business Administration Program. Jean is currently working in the youth sector for the Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (CDEM).

### **Amalia Jimenez**

Amalia is currently a third year Political Science student at the College Universitaire de Saint-Boniface. Social justice issues are of particular interest to Amalia and she participates in the Development et Paix committee and enjoys writing for the university newspaper. Youth employment is also a concern for Amalia after her work with Service Canada's centre for youth. Traveling the work and bettering her guitar abilities are on her to-do list.

### **Brittany Leschasin**

Brittany is in her final year of studies in Creative Communications Program at the University of Winnipeg. Aside from school, Brittany works for the Manitoba Environmental Industries Association, a non-profit professional development group devoted to connecting members of Manitoba's environment sector, including students. In her spare time Brittany has volunteered for various causes throughout her high school and post-secondary studies including the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Harvest, Boo at the Zoo, the Teddy Bear's Picnic and various student media

outlets at three of Manitoba's major campuses. Brittany enjoys traveling, music, reading, and hanging out with her friends.

### **Nathan Peto**

This is Nathan Peto's second year on the MB4Youth Advisory Council. Nathan is in his fourth year at the University of Brandon. He has been very involved in all types of community organizations such as the Student's Union, YMCA and the Brandon food bank. Nathan is honored to have the opportunity to represent young people in Manitoba.

### **Chris Roehl**

Chris is a Senior 4 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 third 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.

### **Courtney Schwegel**

Courtney is currently finishing her last year at Gimli High School. In grade 11 COurnet had the highest academic average, was head of the Student Council Social Committee and organized 4 successful dances. In her spare time, Courtney has volunteered at a seniors home delivering Meals on Wheels, volunteered at the local figure skating club, danced with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Intensive Training Program and played in the senior concert and jazz band.

### **Lainey Shrom**

Lainey is a second year student at the University of Manitoba's Asper School of Business. Lainey graduated from Joseph Wolinsky Collegite in 2005 where she was a member of various varsity sports teams and served as President of the Student Council. Lainey has acted as a member of the United Way Student Leadership Conference Planning Committee for the past 4 years and also serves on the United Way Youth Relations Council.