

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

Introduction

In 2000, the Premier's Youth Round Table was held at Rural Forum in Brandon and prompted youth participants to call for regular meetings with the Premier and Ministers. As a result, since 2001, the MB4Youth Division of Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth (MECY) have hosted eight Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meetings with Ministers in Brandon, Thompson, and Winnipeg.

Annually, the Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers brings together youth from across the province to participate in discussions with various Cabinet Ministers about a wide range of issues important to youth. In addition, youth have the opportunity to engage in a broad range of learning and leadership activities throughout the day.

The 2006 Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers

Youth participants at the 2006 Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers had the opportunity to hear Rural Forums featured keynote speaker, Susan Aglukark, hear motivational speaker Monica Coneys and were offered a unique opportunity to develop and ask questions of five Manitoba Cabinet Ministers.

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.

MB4Youth 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. The questions that were developed were asked to the Ministers by a youth and Cabinet Ministers were given the opportunity to answer and facilitate further discussion.

Youth had the opportunity to gain critical thinking, interpersonal, communication, leadership, and decision making skills.

Education Citizenship & Youth

Discussions included:

- Course options for students in rural and urban Manitoba
- Community Service Credit
- Programs & services for youth
- Healthy schools

We believe in celebrating the achievements of Manitoba youth and recognize the diverse skills and talents that each of you possess.

The Province of Manitoba is striving to educate youth on the issues that impact school safety and on getting involved and empowered to make a difference in their communities and schools.

Honourable Peter Bjornson

Check out www.mb4youth.ca for programs and services targeted at Manitoba youth!

Advanced Education and Training

Discussions included:

- University requirements and tuition fees
- Scholarships and bursaries
- Apprenticeship

To increase access to post-secondary education for youth in rural and northern communities we have campus sites in 22 communities across Manitoba. The University College of the North is also continuing to expand their course and program options.

To encourage youth to access post-secondary education, almost 11 million dollars in the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation Bursary and over 8 million dollars in the Manitoba Bursary are available to student loan borrowers in Manitoba. These bursaries keep Manitoba student debt levels at the second lowest in the country. There are also many other scholarships and bursaries available to students; information on provincial assistance can be accessed at www.studentaid.mb.ca.

Honourable Diane McGifford

**For information on apprenticeship in Manitoba go to...
<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aet/apprent/index.htm>**

Health

Discussions included:

- private healthcare
- shortage of doctors/nurses
- accessibility in rural Manitoba
- health education

Manitoba has added 15 medical students places in the last two years for a total of 100 spaces by the end of 2006. Additional places for enhanced training for International Medical Graduates is also increasing to 25 in 2006.

Honourable Tim Sale

Want to learn more about healthcare in Manitoba? Go to...
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/guide/about.html>

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade

Discussions included:

- Age of consent
- Gambling
- Passports
- Emergency Measures in Manitoba

We take Emergency Measures seriously and every municipality has a Disaster Assistance Program in place to help recover from loss of land and property. An Excessive Moisture Insurance has also been incorporated into our Disaster Assistance Program to help with flooding in Manitoba communities.

Honourable Scott Smith

Does your communities Emergency Measures Plan meet the new standard? Find out more at...
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/emo/plans.html>

Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Discussions included:

- Fuel Rebates
- BSE
- Keeping youth in farming
- Lumber disputes

Manitoba is aware of the environmental impacts of hog plants and has developed strong environmental criteria for plants to become licensed.

To assist with the BSE crisis the Province of Manitoba has spent over 150 million dollars, we can't prevent it from happening again but we can be prepared and take precautions.

Honourable Rosann Wowchuk

To learn more about the growing opportunities for young farmers go to...

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/financial/youngfarmers/index.html>

Approximately 70 students from 21 communities and 26 schools throughout Manitoba attended this year's Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers. Youth had the opportunity to hear and discuss issues that affect youth across the province. Youth took away from the event a broader understanding of the democratic process and a broader understanding of various community perspectives. The youth gave the Province of Manitoba a focused perspective of the youth issues that are affecting Manitoba communities. From their discussions we take away a greater understanding of today's youth and their views.

A special thank you goes to the MB4Youth Advisory Council for facilitating and recording the event.