

AIDS 2006 TORONTO YOUTH BULLETIN

May 2006



XVI International AIDS Conference
Toronto, Canada August 13-18th
2006

Youth Pre-Conference
Toronto, Canada August 10-12th 2006



Welcome to the 3rd Youth Bulletin!

Things are really starting to move in the Youth Programme at the AIDS 2006 Conference! The Youth Programme, in collaboration with the Toronto YouthForce, has accomplished quite a few important planning objectives.

Key Highlights:

- Official AIDS 2006 Youth Conference Website has been launched
- Colleen Patterson has been selected as the Chief Youth Rapporteur. A short bio introduces us to her!
- Information about the Youth Pre-Conference (August 10-12, 2006)

To receive up-to-date information on AIDS 2006 Youth Programme and Toronto YouthForce planning please keep checking the newly launched conference youth site at:
<http://youth.aids2006.org>

CONFIRMED YOUTH EVENTS AND SESSIONS

Youth Opening Reception, Saturday August 12th

- Information on <http://youth.aids2006.org>

Youth Plenary Speaker

- Kerrel McKay (Jamaica) August 17th, *Youth and the Future*

Youth Pavilion within Global Village, August 13-18th

- 39 Sessions
- 4 daily orientation Sessions
- Youth Opening and Closing Sessions in Global Village

Youth-related Conference Sessions

- 18 Abstract Driven Sessions, Non-Abstract Driven Sessions, Skills Building Workshops

Detailed information will be available soon on www.aids2006.org and
<http://youth.aids2006.org>

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR YOUTH UNDER THE AGE OF 18!

Registration for youth under the age of 18 is now available! All information regarding registration requirements is available at <http://www.aids2006.org/youth> including downloadable *Consent and Information Forms* required for all conference participants under 18 years old.

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AIDS 2006 CONFERENCE YOUTH SITE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

Earlier this month, the AIDS 2006 Youth Programme and the Toronto YouthForce launched the official youth website for the International AIDS Conference! The website showcases youth activities being planned for upcoming Conference including the Pre-Conference, and activities in the Youth Pavilion etc. You can check out the site at: <http://youth.aids2006.org/> Please visit the site regularly as it will be updated with expanded French and Spanish sections, discussion forums, video and audio casts and more interactive features which aim to engage youth and adult allies from all over the world.

TAKE TWO TO TORONTO!

The Toronto YouthForce has officially initiated the "Take Two to Toronto!" Campaign aimed at encouraging organizations participating in AIDS 2006 to sponsor youth in addition to their adult representative(s). Young people globally are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. In order to reduce this trend it is vital that young people are engaged in the global response. Support youth to attend AIDS 2006 and help strengthen the capacity of youth leaders in your community and organisation.

For information on the "Take Two to Toronto!" Campaign as well as a letter aimed at potential supporters, please go to the AIDS 2006 Youth Site at <http://youth.aids2006.org>

CHIEF YOUTH RAPPORTEUR SELECTED

Colleen Patterson

As part of the AIDS 2006's commitment to supporting meaningful youth participation and representation of young people's voices, this will be the first time in the history of the International AIDS Conference that a Rapporteur Team is dedicated entirely to recording the proceedings and ground-breaking presentations at the Conference from a youth perspective. The Rapporteurs' work will be shared with the global media throughout the week, shared with delegates through the Conference newspaper and during the Rapporteur Summary Session at the end of the Conference, and included in the AIDS 2006 report.

Colleen Patterson of Vancouver, Canada has been selected as the AIDS 2006 Chief Youth Rapporteur. Colleen works with the Red Road HIV/AIDS Network as the Bloodlines Magazine coordinator. Previous to joining Red Road, Colleen spent four years as an apprentice to a Micmac Elder. Traditional teachings and interactions with Aboriginal Elders and Leaders have made Colleen aware of her spiritual and cultural background, and of the political issues that Aboriginal people face. This journey led her to Trent University, where she enrolled in Native Studies, and then to Simon Fraser University, where she earned a degree in Communications and First Nations Studies. Colleen's commitment to Aboriginal communities exceeds her work at Red Road. She has also coordinated youth programs for Sunfire Aboriginal Youth Services, Helping Spirit Lodge Society and Niagara Regional Native Centre, among many other things.

Please join us in welcoming Colleen and wishing her team a successful journey as the first-ever Youth Rapporteur Team!

AIDS 2006 YOUTHFORCE PRE-CONFERENCE

August 10-12, 2006

As part of a comprehensive strategy to foster young delegates' meaningful participation within AIDS 2006, the Toronto YouthForce (TYF) is coordinating a three day Pre-Conference for approximately 250 young leaders in HIV/AIDS who are registered for AIDS 2006 from August 10-12, 2006. The Pre-Conference is supported by UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNESCO, CIDA, and the Summit Foundation.

Youth participants at the 2004 conference in Bangkok remarked that at the Youth Pre-conference they gained skills that were useful not only during the main conference, but in their HIV/AIDS work in their home countries.

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The pre-conference will consist of informative and skills-building workshops related to HIV/AIDS in the context of science, socio-economics and advocacy. Participants will also gain skills in research methodology, monitoring and evaluation, media and communications as well as updated information on treatment, care for PLWHAs and prevention strategies, among other critical topics. Participants will learn how to advocate to decision-makers on issues relevant to young people and how to deliver the YouthForce's advocacy messages (developed in an e-consultation with over 200 youth from 36 countries) at the conference and beyond.

Who can attend?

Young people (ages 16 – 26) **who are registered for the main conference**. Priority is for young people from populations that are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.

What are the costs?

The pre-conference is free to attend for any young person (ages 16 – 26) who can pay for his/her own accommodations and food during the four days. A limited number of AIDS 2006 scholarship recipients will be provided with room and food for free. Scholarship recipients will receive a form requesting confirmation about attending the pre-conference. Please submit the form to incia@youthaidscoalition.org no later than June 15. You will need to ensure that the Toronto Local Host arranges your flight arrival in Toronto for August 9th.

Young people who would like to attend the pre-conference **must have funding for the following breakdown of costs for 4 nights** from August 9 to 12, 2006 and 3 meals/day plus brunch on August 13.

Double Room: CAN\$176.40 to \$216.00 (cost per person for four nights, including food)

Single Room: CAN\$191.76 to \$258.00
(lower prices are for non-air conditioned rooms)

What are the deadlines?

If you are a youth (ages 16 – 26) who received a scholarship to attend AIDS 2006, you will automatically receive a form to fill out with your interest in attending the pre-conference. You must submit the form no later than **Thursday, June 15**. You will be notified of your acceptance to attend the pre-conference by **Thursday, June 22**.

If you are a youth (ages 16 – 26) who is registered to attend AIDS 2006 and do not have a scholarship, you will automatically receive an application form to attend the pre-conference. You must submit the complete form by **Friday, June 9th**. Once you submit the form, you will be provided with fundraising tools and ideas. You will need to confirm how you will be funded by **Thursday, June 22**.

If you are an organization and would like to fund young people to attend the pre-conference, you must reserve space by **Thursday, June 22**. Youth **MUST** be registered for the main conference and be between ages 16 – 26.

ALL PAYMENTS FOR PRE-CONFERENCE MUST BE RECEIVED BY SATURDAY, JULY 8.

For more Pre-Conference information go to <http://youth.aids2006.org>

If you have any questions regarding participation at the pre-conference, please contact the GYCA Local Toronto Youth Force Coordinator **Incia Z Khan**: incia@youthaidscoalition.org.

Pre-Conference Key Dates

June 9	Facilitators Applications Close
June 15	Scholarship Recipients Applications Close
June 22	Organizations Funding Youth Applications Close
June 22	Registered Youth Applications Close
July 8	All payments for Accommodations (meals included) Due

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ADVOCACY E-CONSULTATION REPORT

The Final Summary Report of the Toronto Advocacy E-Consultation for the Toronto YouthForce at the upcoming XVI International AIDS Conference (August 13-18, 2006) is now available.

From April 3rd – 21st, 2006, the TYF's Advocacy Taskforce organized an E-consultation to brainstorm and discuss advocacy messages and strategy to be implemented during the Conference. This report summarizes the opinions of 218 youth from over 36 countries on the most important steps to take to scale up HIV/AIDS interventions for youth, who make up over half of the 5 million people infected with HIV each year.

Respondents decided that the need for access to comprehensive sexual health education was one of the most important demands of young people faced with the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In addition, participants agreed that many health services do not target young people or provide all the necessary options for young people to make accurate and informed decisions about their sexual health. Youth need evidence-based prevention methods, voluntary and confidential counseling, testing and treatment and accurate information that is easily accessible to all those that seek it out.

The Advocacy E-Consultation Final Summary Report is available at:
<http://youth.aids2006.org> under the Advocacy Section.
