



AIDS 2006

April 4, 2006

To whom it may concern:

The XVI International AIDS Conference will be held in Toronto August 13-18, 2006. AIDS 2006 will provide an international forum for the exchange of ideas, knowledge and research to inform and strengthen HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care efforts worldwide. AIDS 2006 will feature a Youth pre-conference and youth activities throughout the main Conference. You can learn more about AIDS 2006 at www.aids2006.org.

The Youth Advisory Committee, an international body of youth and adult allies, strongly supports the efforts of young people to participate in AIDS 2006. Youth are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS: More than half of all new HIV infections worldwide are among young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Every day, 6,000 young people become infected with HIV; more than five every minute.

Young people's participation is essential to the design of an effective response to HIV/AIDS. This includes active and meaningful participation in AIDS 2006. Young leaders will have the opportunity to gain cutting-edge knowledge from the biomedical and social sciences, develop skills to design effective programmes and policies, and interact with international leaders from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. These skills will undoubtedly contribute to the work these committed young leaders do in your community to reduce HIV infections and improve the lives of those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

As you can imagine, a trip like this requires a considerable financial investment: a total of \$1,500-\$3,500 per youth delegate (dependent on country of origin) is needed for registration, travel, accommodation, and per diem. Any support you can offer to young leaders is greatly appreciated. Support to attend the Conference will contribute to both the development of youth leadership in your community and the response to the HIV epidemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex McClelland', is written over the typed name.

Alex McClelland

Youth Coordinator

On behalf of the Youth Programme Advisory Committee

youth@aid2006.org