



May 1, 2006

To Who It May Concern,

TAKE TWO TO TORONTO!
*Information on how to sponsor a young leader to attend the
XVI International AIDS Conference
Toronto, August 13-18, 2006*

Toronto will host the XVI International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2006) from August 13th - 18th, 2006. AIDS 2006 is expected to be the largest conference on a single health issue, with 20,000 researchers, government leaders, community workers, activists, and people living with HIV/AIDS expected. The *Take Two to Toronto Campaign* seeks to engage organizations participating in AIDS 2006 by encouraging them to sponsor a young person in addition to their representative. Non-participating organisations can also take part in this campaign by funding youth who are actively engaged in the fight against HIV in their communities as it is often difficult for young leaders to raise enough funds to participate.

Young people - especially young women - are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, representing over 50% of new HIV infections occurring annually, or 6,000 infections daily. However, young people are often excluded and marginalized in the global response; despite international commitments such as the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS which explicitly state the importance of young people's right to participate. The event will bring together major stakeholders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors to partake in dialogue on issues related to HIV/AIDS. It is crucial that young people, leaders of today and the future, have opportunities to participate meaningfully in international processes not only as attendees, but as legitimate actors who provide value-added information and experience to the dialogue.

The International AIDS Society and the AIDS 2006 Local Host recognize the importance of youth participation and have taken effective measures to ensure that youth are an integral part of the Conference by establishing the AIDS 2006 Youth Programme. In addition to hiring an official Youth Coordinator and expanding the youth age parameters to 16 - 26, they also established a Youth Advisory Committee, which oversees all youth-related programming at the main conference and collaborates with the Toronto YouthForce; and youth are represented on several planning committees. The Toronto YouthForce, a continuation of previous YouthForces at the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona (2002) and Bangkok (2004), is a coalition of organisations and individuals that empower youth attendees before, during and after the conference.

The Toronto YouthForce is planning a number of initiatives in collaboration with both Canadian and international stakeholders, including a three-day capacity-building pre-conference workshop. Sessions are planned to empower youth with confidence and know-how to interact with international delegates from the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

Cost to Register a Young Person for the XVI International AIDS Conference:

Depending on the country of origin, it will cost from \$150 (for just registration) to \$3,500 USD to cover registration, travel, accommodation, and a suggested per diem of \$30 USD/day for each young person to attend AIDS 2006. Young people age 16-26 can register for the Conference at any time at www.aids2006.org. Registration cost USD is as follows:

Deadline to Register	OECD Countries	Non-OECD Countries
May 15	\$200	\$150
August 13	\$240	\$180

Pre-Conference Registration and Costs: There is no cost for AIDS 2006 Youth delegates to register for the Pre-Conference training. We estimate the cost to be approximately up to \$230 USD for meals and accommodation from August 9 - 12, 2006. A limited number of participants will have the option of reserving their low-cost housing for the duration of the pre-conference and main conference, on a first come, first serve basis. Youth attending the Pre-Conference and the main conference should arrive on August 9th and plan to depart on August 19th.

If you have already registered a young person to attend AIDS 2006, they will receive an email from the AIDS 2006 Youth Programme to invite them to apply for the Pre-Conference. We ask that you arrange their flights and provide additional funding so that they can attend the Pre-Conference as well. If you plan to sponsor a young person to attend the pre-conference, you must confirm their place by June 22.

If you have not already registered a young person to attend AIDS 2006, please register him/her at www.aids2006.org. If you are considering sponsoring a young person and would like to find out more information about young leaders working in your country, please visit www.youthaidscoalition.org/profiles.html to view a directory of young leaders in HIV/AIDS.

We encourage you and your organization to take action by participating in the *Take Two To Toronto Campaign*. Your involvement will exhibit a strong commitment to partnering with young people and support them as today and tomorrow's active agents of change. Please check www.youth.aids2006.org for more information. For general information about AIDS 2006, please visit www.aids2006.org. If you have additional questions, please contact us at youth@aid2006.org.

We hope you will join us in this campaign!

Sincerely,

Toronto Youth Force
<http://youth.aids2006.org>
youth@aid2006.org