

AIDS 2006 TORONTO YOUTH BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2006



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

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



The AIDS 2006 Toronto Youth Activities Programme is working in collaboration with the Toronto Youth Force in planning all youth related Conference activities and programmes. The AIDS 2006 Toronto Youth Activities Programme is guided by a Youth Advisory Committee and will be supporting young presenters, and youth delegates of the Conference through mentorship and orientation. More information about the Youth Activities Programme will be distributed to youth delegates closer to the Conference date.

Taskforces have been formed to work on all the youth activities areas. The taskforces will focus on communications, media, website, pre-conference, main conference, mentorship, youth pavilion, and others. To get up to date info on AIDS 2006 Youth Programme and Toronto Youth Force planning please keep checking the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA) website at <http://www.youthaidscoalition.org/activities.html> you can also download a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the conference structure, youth programme and a list of planning task forces and responsibilities. For more information on the Youth Activities Taskforces contact: hivaids@takingitglobal.org

TORONTO YOUTH FORCE PRE-CONFERENCE

The Toronto Youth Force, a coalition of global youth NGOs, student groups, networks and individuals will be a collective voice of young people at the conference. The Toronto Youth Force will advocate at the conference for youth issues internationally and locally and will be a way for youth to connect with each other over common goals. The Toronto Youth Force will be preparing young people for AIDS 2006 with the Youth Pre-Conference, an opportunity to network, build capacity and skills of young people to meaningfully participate in the in the main Conference.

The Pre-conference is open to all youth delegates. If you are a scholarship recipient for the main Conference you will be able arrange your travel to attend the pre-conference as part of your scholarship.

More information about getting involved in the Pre-Conference will be sent out soon. To get up to date info on the Pre-Conference and registration please keep checking the website at www.aids2006.org/subpage.aspx?pageId=362 and The Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA) website at <http://www.youthaidscoalition.org/activities.html>

APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline February 22, 2006

For many people, International Conferences are too expensive to attend; this is especially true for younger people. Scholarships are in place to help make the Conference more accessible and ensure that diverse populations are able to attend. This year youth have been prioritized in the AIDS 2006 scholarship programmes, and the Conference Organisers have committed to expand scholarship funding by 20%.

For more information about International Scholarships and Canadian Resident Scholarships, please see www.aids2006.org or email internationalscholarship@aids2006.org or canadianscholarship@aids2006.org.

Both forms are now available on the website and are **due by February 22 2006**.

AIDS 2006 TORONTO YOUTH BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2006

If you submit an abstract you will get points towards your scholarship application. Just be sure to submit the abstract first and then apply for your scholarship. When you submit an abstract it is assigned a number, include that number on the scholarship application form when it asks about abstract submissions.

Sometimes the scholarship internet form will timeout if you take too long filling it out, meaning that it will stall on your computer. Make sure to save your answers in a document in case you timeout.

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT ABOUT YOUR WORK Deadline February 22, 2006

The website www.aids2006.org has useful information and tools to help young people participate, go to the **Abstract Mentoring Programme** page to get help writing abstracts and download the very helpful **abstract toolkit** presented by ICASO.

To download the toolkit or participate in the abstract mentoring programme go to:

<http://www.aids2006.org/subpage.aspx?pagelD=289>

Even if your abstract is accepted the Conference will NOT cover any expenses to get you to the Conference, or cover your registration fees, or accommodation. You are HIGHLY encouraged to apply for a scholarship if you plan on sending in an abstract.

YOUTH PAVILION Deadline March 15, 2006

The **Youth Pavilion** within the Global Village will be an informal permanent youth-focused space for meetings and forums; a space to highlight and showcase youth achievements, facilitate networking opportunities and engage adults in dialogue.

To apply to have your work showcased at the Youth Pavilion use the Global Village Application Form available at: <http://www.aids2006.org/subpage.aspx?pagelD=367>

Be sure to indicate that you are interested in the Youth Pavilion; **deadline for submissions is March 15th 2006**

APPLY TO THE GLOBAL VILLAGE Deadline March 15, 2006

The Global Village is accessible to all, not just delegates of the Conference. In the Global Village there will be networking zones, meeting rooms, a market place and NGO booths. To showcase your NGO or project in the Global Village is free, to apply get the application online at:

<http://www.aids2006.org/subpage.aspx?pagelD=367>

APPLY TO THE CULTURAL PROGRAMME Deadline March 15, 2006

HIV/AIDS related arts, culture, theater, music, dance, and film are all part of the International AIDS Conference for more information check the website.

To apply to have your cultural project/event be part of AIDS 2006 get the application online at:

<http://www.aids2006.org/subpage.aspx?pagelD=363>

Even if your Youth Pavilion, Global Village, or Cultural Programme application is accepted, the Conference will NOT cover any expenses to get you to the Conference, or cover your registration fees, or accommodation. You are HIGHLY encouraged to apply for a scholarship if you plan on sending in an application to these programmes.

AIDS 2006 TORONTO YOUTH BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2006

LOWER REGISTRATION FEES FOR YOUTH

In order to increase accessibility AIDS 2006 has lowered registration fees for young people under 26 years old, students and also for people from non-OECD countries. Go to:

http://www.oecd.org/document/58/0,2340,en_2649_201185_1889402_1_1_1_1,00.html to see which countries are listed as OECD. You will need valid student ID and or a birth certificate or other official ID that states your age when registering in order to get these rates.

Youth/Student Non-OECD Country: US\$ 150 ; Youth/Student OECD Country: US\$ 200

If you apply for a scholarship and are not a successful applicant, you are still eligible for the early registration fees.

VISA INFORMATION

Visitors entering Canada must clear Canada Customs border security upon entry. Prior to entry, Conference delegates may require a visa or other special documentation in order to enter Canada.

AIDS 2006 strongly advises travelers to check the visa requirements for travel from specific countries as soon as they are thinking about attending the Conference, and to begin the visa application process **at least eight to twelve weeks in advance** of August 13, 2006. According to Canadian immigration, visitors to Canada from any country who have a criminal background need to apply as soon as possible to obtain necessary documentation in time to enter Canada. Visitors to Canada should contact the nearest Canadian Embassy or Consulate, visit Canada International at www.canadinternational.gc.ca or call 1-888-242-2100 (from within Canada) or 1-800-992-7037 (from outside Canada) for more information.

The Canadian visa application has recently been revised and no longer requires disclosure of HIV status on the application form. This change is permanent, and not just for the conference period.

The updated form can be found on the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/applications/visa.html>

DISCOUNT ON AIR TRAVEL

Delegate Fare Discount Star Alliance™ is pleased to offer delegates and one accompanying companion the following discounts off any valid Star Alliance airline published fares on the their participating airlines. Quote Event Code: AC007S6 when making your booking to get up to 20% off. To find out which airlines this applies to: <http://www.aids2006.org/subpage.aspx?pageId=358>

FUNDING LETTER OF SUPPORT

If you are fundraising to attend the Conference and need a letter of support email youth@aid2006.org in the subject line put: Requested letter of support

THE RED RIBBON AWARD

Deadline to apply March 31, 2006

The Red Ribbon Award is an inaugural award, which will be presented every two years, designed to honor and celebrate outstanding community leadership and action that has helped curtail the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS. Five winners will be selected from a pool of 25 finalist communities. A representative from each finalist community will be invited to attend the XVIth International AIDS Conference in Toronto from August 13th to 18th 2006. Communities will have an opportunity to showcase their work at the Conference and contribute to international policy and research. Five winners will receive \$20,000 each, and 20 finalists will receive \$5,000 each. For more information, go to: www.redribbonaward.org

There is lots of helpful information on www.aids2006.org To find the youth section select 'Programme Overview' on the left column and then *youth activities*, or just go to www.aids2006.org/subpage.aspx?pageId=362

Check the Youth Website in April for our updated interactive page!