

AIDS 2006 TORONTO YOUTH BULLETIN

March 2006



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



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

Welcome to the 2nd Youth Bulletin!

This is a really exciting time to be a part of the Youth Programme at the AIDS 2006 Conference. The Youth Programme is working in collaboration with the Toronto Youth Force in planning all youth-related Conference activities and programmes. There are six taskforces planning for many exciting and engaging youth activities at AIDS 2006.

Key Highlights:

- Prospective youth presenter at one of the plenary sessions. (More details will follow about who been given this wonderful honor).
- For the first time in conference history, Youth will have a highly interactive website that will be launched by late April!

To receive up-to-date information 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> where you can also download a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the conference structure, youth programme, and information on how to get involved.

Youth Planning Taskforce and Programme Updates

The six Taskforces have made a lot of progress in their work: here are some highlights.

Main Conference Taskforce Update

The Main Conference taskforce includes members in the USA, Canada, Australia, Egypt, India, and South Africa. The taskforce got off to a great start with meetings on February 23 and 27. This taskforce is responsible for developing a mentorship program for first-time youth delegates; it will focus on those young delegates who do not work for large organizations, and therefore may not be as connected. It will also assist with the Youth Conference Roadmap, a document that will highlight important youth activities and sessions; and support the work of the Chief Youth Rapporteur. During the months leading up to the conference, the Main Conference Taskforce will provide assistance with presentation preparations and clarify logistical details as necessary.

Youth Reception Taskforce Update

The Youth Reception will be a key event for youth involved with AIDS2006. On Saturday, August 12th (the day before the conference officially kicks off), hundreds of youth from around the globe will gather in Toronto to recognize the role of young people in the worldwide fight against HIV/AIDS. This will be a wonderful chance to celebrate the successes we've had, charge our batteries for the challenges ahead, and demonstrate youth dedication to the conference community. Look forward to more event details as the conference approaches.

AIDS 2006 TORONTO YOUTH BULLETIN

March 2006

Advocacy Update Taskforce Update

The AIDS 2006 Youth Advocacy Taskforce is currently beginning to work on the April online advocacy e-consultation, the results of which will be used to develop main advocacy messages for the young people at the Conference. The taskforce will also be planning advocacy training sessions during the pre-conference; designing advocacy materials such as stickers, posters, and t-shirts; preparing to campaign for organizations worldwide to sponsor youth to attend the conference and to encourage adult speakers to mention the vulnerability of youth and the need to meaningfully involve us; and also ensure that young people's advocacy efforts are supported during the main Conference. To participate in the e-consultation keep checking www.youthaidscoalition.org and the youth section of www.aids2006.org for more information.

Youth Pavilion Taskforce Update

The Youth Pavilion will showcase work submitted through the Global Village application process. Some preliminary ideas from the Youth Pavilion Taskforce are: an emphasis on how youth can take action, daily programming that prepares youth for specific sessions, as well as sessions that equip youth with the tools needed to use the information they have acquired after the conference is over. Applications for the Youth Pavilion are due March 15th. The Taskforce will be meeting to select applications and look at filling in gaps based on the criteria developed by the AIDS 2006 Youth Advisory Committee.

Youth Pre Conference Taskforce Update

Pre-Conference Taskforce members are beginning to work on securing room bookings for sessions. There are two locations they are looking into: the University of Toronto and Metro Hall. The taskforce is creating a programme design and will determine the agenda and session content for sessions and speakers. The Pre-Conference Taskforce will prepare a welcome and orientation package which will include training material for the participants and relevant items. An application for the Pre-Conference will be available soon, keep checking www.youthaidscoalition.org and the youth section of www.aids2006.org for more information.

Media and Communications Taskforce Update

The Media/Communication Taskforce members were given an update on the progress made with the development of the Youth Website, which is slated to launch by the end of April. It is hoped that the website will play an important role in reaching youth that may not be able to attend the conference, through the many interactive facilities, webcasts, blogs, live chats, moderated discussions etc. Current member tasks include: developing and soliciting content for the website; developing criteria to hire a young journalist to work on more technical components of the Youth Media Strategy and; creating a Master Press Release that will be distributed widely.

FUNDRAISING TIPS FOR ATTENDING AIDS 2006 TORONTO

Good luck to all those who submitted scholarship applications! Applicants should be notified by mid-May about their scholarship status. However, even if you applied for a scholarship, you should not depend on getting everything fully paid for. Some of the scholarships will cover only a portion of the costs for attending the Conference. Also, remember that Toronto is not cheap! Therefore, if you get applied for scholarship or not it is still useful to begin to fundraise for your attendance. Here are some helpful **tips for raising funds** (Some of these tips come from www.furnituresociety.org/next/beyond/23togo.html):

1. **Create a budget.** It can be very basic. You will need a budget when you start fundraising.
2. **Think through what you expect to get out of the conference?** Do you want to network, learn more about the field, learn new techniques, etc? Clear objectives lead to successful fundraising proposals.

AIDS 2006 TORONTO YOUTH BULLETIN

March 2006

- 3. Make it easy for the funders.** Your proposal should be organized and well written. Be specific. Don't send lots of information just about yourself if the funding agency wants a 200 word description of your projects
- 4. Write letters to relevant companies, societies, and funds in your community.** Philanthropists (active members of the community, past donors to similar events), clubs (such as Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary) and corporate social investors in your community (such as local companies and larger businesses/organizations such as MAC AIDS Fund, Nike, BP, Coca Cola etc) could provide help to your endeavors if you justify the social value of your project. You will have to make your case very well! Keep the letter short and to the point, one side of paper. You do not want the person to read the first paragraph and move onto the next piece of mail.
- 5. Check and double-check every item on the proposal.** Proofread your own work. Also have someone else go over your letter looking for typos, gaps in logic or missed words. Spell-check can't catch it all.
- 6. Ask lots of people for small contributions.** There aren't many people out there who will be interested in funding your entire trip. Think about the trip in small chunks. Sometimes, it might be useful to fundraise from several small sources (i.e. local businesses, friends, etc).
- 7. Talk with your academic dean/headmaster about the availability of unrestricted funds.** Some program heads have a few discretionary dollars for young talent to take advantage of special opportunities. If you volunteer or present at the conference, you'll have a better case for tapping into this very precious resource.

AIDS 2006 SATELLITES AND AFFILIATED EVENTS

Below are some Conference related events that may be of interest to youth and adult allies. As the Conference comes closer you will be able to find more information in the Youth Bulletin about these and other Satellites/Affiliated events

International Indigenous People's Satellite

August 12, 2006

Toronto - Delta Chelsea Hotel, 33 Gerrard St. W.

Contact: Indigenous2006satellite@sympatico.ca or iips2006@canada.com

Envisioning the Future – International Symposium on Children Affected by HIV and AIDS

August 11-12, 2006

Toronto – OISE 252 Bloor St W

Keynote Speaker: Stephen Lewis

United Nations Special Envoy on AIDS in Africa

Contact: info@teresagroup.ca

More info at: www.teresagroup.ca/symposium

Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) International Satellite Symposium

August 10 – 1-5:30 pm and August 11 – 9 -5:30 pm

Contact: jmaxwell@actoronto.org

More information: <http://www.actoronto.org>

HIV/AIDS Epidemic Amongst Persons from the South Living in the North: African and Caribbean communities in western developed countries Satellite

August 13th 2006

Time/Location: TBD

Contact: esther@whiwh.com

AIDS 2006 TORONTO YOUTH BULLETIN

March 2006

Faith in Action: Keeping the Promise - International Christian Ecumenical Pre-Conference

August 10 -11

Toronto – Chestnut Hotel, Registrar, Ecumenical Pre-Conference
Christian Host Committee for the International AIDS Conference,
Canadian Council of Churches

Tel: + 1.416.972.9494 x 24

Contact : registrarpreconf@e-alliance.ch

More information: www.e-alliance.ch/iac.jsp

Red Ribbon Award

Deadline 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!