



Canada25 Tackles Civic Engagement

‘How Can Canada Become The Most Civically Engaged Society in the World?’

CALGARY, February, 2006 – From February 9 – 12, 2006, thirty-seven young people from across Canada and around the world participated in Canada25’s fourth national forum.

“Our past policy projects have addressed issues such as the Brain Drain, the state of Canadian cities and Canada’s role in the world,” says Andrew Medd, Executive Director of Canada25. “This year we decided to tackle an issue fundamental to our entire society. Civic engagement plays a vital role in creating healthy communities and enhancing personal quality of life . ”

The culmination of a year-long research and consultation process involving thirteen regional roundtables and over three hundred participants, the National Forum serves as the idea generator for a major policy document to be released in the summer of 2006. That final report will address subjects such as political engagement, religious and cultural engagement, social activism, volunteerism and play and expression.

“It was rewarding to be part of a process that values the ideas of young Canadians,” says Debbie Pacheco, a Forum delegate in the Play and Expression group who has helped develop and facilitate popular education workshops for social services agencies, community groups and public schools across Toronto. “There are so many ways that people can contribute to their community and we worked hard to present bold and innovative solutions that improve awareness of, and access to, meaningful forms of Civic Engagement.”

The forum was supported by a diverse set of partners, including Canadian Heritage, Elections Canada, the Calgary Foundation, RBC Financial Group, Manulife Financial, McKinsey & Company, CN, Aliant, the Historica Foundation, the Canadian Unity Council and Bell Canada, and took place at Mount Royal College in Calgary, Alberta.

More information about Canada25 and the Civic Engagement project can be found at www.canada25.com.

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