

2004/05 MB4Youth Advisory Council

Annual Report

Encouraging young people to get involved is a priority for Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth. With advice from the Youth Advisory Council, we are developing new opportunities for youth to be informed and involved members of their communities.



Manitoba

Building for the Future

MB4Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2004/05

Background

In April 2003, the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth announced the establishment of the MB4Youth Advisory Council. The Council was created to provide feedback to the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth on issues relating to youth, such as jobs, education, leadership and citizen engagement. The Council is managed by staff at MB4Youth Division, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth.

Mandate

The MB4Youth Advisory Council will:

- Assist and participate in youth conferences and events;
- Recommend broad policy direction and suggest adaptations to youth programming in the areas of education, training, employment, career development, volunteerism, and leadership to the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth to make programming more youth-friendly, pertinent and accessible;
- Provide the government-wide Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADM) Committee on Youth with strategies and recommendations to make departments' youth programming more pertinent and accessible;
- Review and provide feedback on the Division's communication strategy and communication products like the MB4Youth web-site;
- Increase awareness of programs and services to all youth, with emphasis on youth at risk.

Membership and Selection

- The MB4Youth Advisory Council is made up of youth who are leaders in their communities and schools. The Council is made of a minimum of twelve and a maximum of fifteen Manitoba youth age 15 – 24.
- The Department's selection committee releases an annual call for applications inviting students and youth to apply for a position on the Council. Selection of the Council is made to reflect the population of youth in Manitoba and include diverse perspectives: gender, regional, ethnicity and language. The selection committee forwards the names to the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth who does the final approval.
- Council members are committed to a one year term which begins September 1 and ends August 30 of the following year. Council members can indicate their interest in a second or third consecutive term, which must be done by March 1, 2005. A maximum of 5 members can serve a third term. Members who have reached their 25th birthday by September will not be eligible to apply. Open positions will be filled by an annual call for applications.

The members of the 2004/05 MB4Youth Advisory Council were:

Khang Pham, Winnipeg, Chair
Nathan Allen, Winnipeg
Alyssa Beardy, Gillam
David Cannon, Brandon
Albert Cater, Thompson
Claire Gilmour, Winkler
Ashley Larson, Brandon
Ashley Lavallee, St. Eustache

Robert Pankhurst, Winnipeg
Melanie Rollins, Lac du Bonnet
Amanda Rosolowski, Gilbert Plains
Nicole Sadler, Winnipeg
Elliot Sims, MacGregor
William Traverse, Winnipeg
Ryan Wong, Winnipeg



(For Members' Profiles, refer to Appendix A)

Council Activities

Over the past year, a focus of the MB4Youth Advisory Council has been citizenship and youth getting involved in their school and community.

1. Meetings and Workshops

Winnipeg Meeting, October 21, 2004

The meeting, which took place at the Legislative Building, began with opening remarks by Veronica Dyck, Executive Director, MB4Youth Division. In the morning, the Council evaluated the previous year, reviewed the current year mandate and planned proposed

activities for 2004/05. The Council also discussed how it can best support the new Citizenship portfolio.

Over lunch, the Council met with Minister Bjornson in the private dining room and had the opportunity to ask questions and talk with the Minister about previous council activities and future council plans. Council members also had their photograph taken with the Minister.

In the afternoon, a cross-cultural training workshop was led by Clayton Sandy, Aboriginal Consultant, MB4Youth Division. The Council indicated that they felt the workshop had given them some insight and understanding into Aboriginal Issues.

Teleconference Call Meeting, November 24, 2004

The Council agreed to be facilitators at the Northern Aboriginal Youth conference at R. D. Parker Collegiate in Thompson, February 2005. Members also discussed issues such as communicating with the Minister and inviting youth organizations to work with the Council.

Facilitation Workshop, January 14, 2005

Chris Leskiw, of Leskiw and Associates, led a Facilitator Training course for Council members. Topics covered included the role of the facilitator, maintaining momentum, maintaining timing and schedules, dealing with conflict and event planning. Feedback from the Council was very positive.

Winnipeg Meeting, March 7, 2005

The primary purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Youth Citizenship Conference in Brandon, April 2005. Council reviewed the agenda and their roles. One primary role was to be the facilitators for the student group discussions at the Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers.

The Council also participated in a planning session in which they identified their “dreams”, three to five year goals, one year goals, and immediate priorities. Immediate priorities included developing a power-point presentation regarding the Council and its roles and developing a Council recruitment strategy.

2. Planning and Facilitating Conferences

Brandon, Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers, April 28 & 29, 2005

Since 2001, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth have hosted eight Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meetings with Ministers located in Winnipeg, Thompson and Brandon. Since 2003 Council members have been on the planning committee and have helped to facilitate the Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers.

For the 2005 event, 5 Ministers were in attendance: Honourable Peter Bjornson, Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth, Honourable Teresa Oswald, Minister of

Healthy Living, Honourable Scott Smith, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade, Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Conservation, Honourable Rosann Wowchuk, Minister of Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives. Council members worked with the students as they prepared their questions and discussion points for the Ministers.

Council members were also involved in the following conferences:

- Council of the Federation Youth Forum held at Niagara-on-the-Lake, July 2004 (Facilitator)
- Sustainable Communities Youth Forum and Teachers Workshops 2004 (Planning Committee)
- Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers / Youth Citizenship Conference 2005 (Planning Committee)
- Northern Aboriginal Youth Conference in Thompson, February 2005 (Facilitator)
- Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Forums, March 2005 (Facilitator)

3. Attending Conferences on behalf of the Council

The MB4Youth Division provided small grants (up to \$400.00) to Council members to assist them in attending various conferences and events as follows:

- Youth Leadership Workshop in Winnipeg, November 2004
- Youth Development Workshop, November 2004
- National Rural Youth Network Meeting in Brandon, February 2005
- National Model United Nations Conference in New York, March 2005
- Forum for Young Canadians in Ottawa, April 2005
- National Children's Alliance Meeting in Kingston, April 2005
- Building Co-operative Future Conference in Saskatoon, May 2005
- World Youth Congress in Scotland, July 2005
- Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan, August 2005

4. Future Projects

Council Members were given the opportunity to contribute ideas to the Council for upcoming years. Priority projects included increasing awareness of programs and services using the MB4Youth website and development of a power point presentation outlining the MB4Youth Advisory Council to be used as a recruitment tool for educational institutions.

Appendix A - Members' Profiles

Nathan Allen

Nathan is a first year University student at the University of Manitoba. He has been active with Scouts Canada, where he has helped clean up neighbourhoods, plant trees, and package and deliver hampers for the Christmas Cheer Board. Nathan is also a volunteer Big Brother for newly landed immigrant children. He is involved in playing and coaching various sports such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, and track and field. His interests include computers, video games, and music.

Albert Cater

Originally from Norway House Cree Nation, Albert now works as a Youth Care Worker in northern Manitoba. Albert is a youth representative on many committees and boards. These include roles as a National Youth Leader with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Assembly of First Nations, member of Youth Action Manitoba Advisory Network (YAMAN), and a position on the board of directors for the local Boys and Girls Club and Health District Advisory Council.

David Cannon

Originally from the community of Waskada, David recently completed his Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in English at Brandon University where he was also the President of the Students' Union. David has a decorated history of involvement in the Royal Canadian Air Cadets where he performed as a bugler for many local Remembrance Day services. David loves to read, write and discuss movies. He loves the outdoors, especially cycling, swimming and skiing.

Ashley Lavallee

Ashley is a French immersion high school student. She is involved in many activities through her school such as chair of the of the school prom committee and co-secretary treasurer on the student council. She has just finished working as a Page at the Manitoba Legislative where she gained valuable experience and insight into the world of politics. Her interests include spending time with family and friends, listening to music, and watching independent films.

Khang Phan

Khang has recently completed his Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Marketing and Human Resource Management at the University of Manitoba. He currently works at Investor's Group as a National Marketing Co-ordinator. Khang is very active in his community and involves himself in projects such as the Canadian Peace Train, and the United Way Youth Engagement Steering Committee.

Melanie Rollins

Melanie is a University 1 student at the University of Manitoba. Melanie loves music and is an accomplished pianist and singer. She has performed at many community functions. Melanie grew up in rural Manitoba and throughout high school was an active student parliament member, drama club member and participated on various sports teams. She enjoys travelling and studying different languages.

Elliot Sims

Elliot is a student at the University of Manitoba working towards a Commerce degree. Originally from MacGregor, Elliot is an active volunteer with the Manitoba Agricultural Museum where he is on several committees and is the co-ordinator for the Community Ties Project. As a young farmer, Elliot started a small sheep flock during high school, which he still manages today with his family. Elliot's many hobbies include hockey, choral music, politics, hunting, and fishing.

Ryan Wong

After graduating from high school, Ryan spent one year in the Youth Transition program where he worked for the Government of Manitoba to help develop a Website on sustainable development. Ryan is currently in his second year of Business Administration at Red River College. He plays wheelchair basketball on three teams, including the provincial team. Ryan likes to listen to music and hang-out with his friends.

Nicole Sadler

Nicole is a recent high school graduate, and is currently pursuing the field of education at the University of Winnipeg. Nicole keeps herself busy with different projects involving the community. She has been an active member in Youth In Philanthropy, United Way Youth Connections, and various other projects around the city. Internationally she has worked with World Vision, UNICEF, and Amnesty International. Nicole is also on the Foster Parents Plan of Canada's youth advisory council. In her spare time Nicole likes to hang out with friends, shop and go to the gym.

Amanda Rosolowsky

Amanda Rosolowsky is a second year Business Administration student at Assiniboine College in Dauphin. Amanda was the Manitoba Youth Job Coordinator in Gilbert Plains this past summer where she was involved with numerous youth events. She enjoys politics and is an active member on her college student council. Amanda enjoys sports, camping and horseback riding.

Claire Gilmour

Claire is a high school student from Southern Manitoba. Claire is the chairperson of the Youth in Philanthropy program in her school. She is also a board member on her Heartland Credit Union Youth Advisory Council. Claire organized a fundraiser last year to help those children who live in poverty. She enjoys singing, jogging, playing music and hanging out with friends.

Ashly Larson

Ashly is a farm girl from Erickson currently studying Media Production at Assiniboine Community College. Ashly has attended many conferences dealing with environmental issues and leadership. She has won many awards for her involvement with her community and issues facing youth including the Top 20 Under 20 National Award, Local Hero award, Young Woman of the Year, and the Striving for Excellence Award from the U of M. Ashly enjoys clubbing, hanging out with friends and regularly attends Country Fest.

Robert Pankhurst

Robert is a grade 11 student in Winnipeg. He is currently an academic major with a focus on English, Science and Geography. Robert is a two term student council representative, a member of the debate team and the Student Lead Advisory Meetings group leader. He is a political buff who enjoys finding ways of getting youth more involved in the political process. Robert enjoys music, reading, canoeing and kayaking and most other water sports.

Alyssa Beardy

Alyssa is a grade 12 student who is an active member and Junior Chief of her local Aboriginal Youth Council. She volunteers a lot of time towards the children and youth in her community and assists the Kinsmen/Kinette's club with the annual Winter Carnival. Alyssa is an accomplished singer who has performed with the Aboriginal Early Girls Singers. She enjoys singing, drama and performing.

William Traverse

William is currently studying Early Childhood Education at the People's College in Winnipeg. He is a graduate of the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program developed by the Aboriginal Youth Career Awareness Committee. William's passion is working with youth, and volunteers a lot of his free time at the Norquay Community Centre where he coaches basketball and holds open gym for youth. William enjoys most sports and is an accomplished athlete who has received numerous awards.