



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Youth Vote: Another Made-in-Hamilton Success!

November 2, 2006 -- Hamilton Youth Vote 2006 is underway at schools across the city. The project was developed by Youth CAN, the youth branch of the Hamilton Community Action Network.

The purpose of the Youth Vote program is to involve and educate young people about civic government and elections in order to address the issue of low electoral participation among our youth. Voting records demonstrate that young people (age 18 to 25) are the least likely of any age category to vote.

The Youth Vote program involves a number of strategies to engage students:

1. A curriculum document for high school civics and politics teachers to help teach students about municipal politics.
2. A mock election, held in the high schools, just prior to the municipal election.
3. All-candidates debates in the high schools, organized by members of Youth CAN.
4. A letter writing competition, sponsored by the OSSTF District 21.

“Youth CAN was formed because we recognized a need to produce special programming directed at young people to encourage active and informed citizenship,” explains Alice Smith, founder and chair of the Hamilton Community Action Network. “As a civics teacher, I was aware of voting programs for the federal and provincial level, but nothing had ever been developed for the municipal level. It was the members of Youth CAN, mostly students themselves, who applied for the funding and spearheaded this project.”

Hamilton Youth Vote was funded by the Hamilton Community Foundation, OSSTF District 21 Political Action Committee, and the Hamilton Community Action Network.

The following schools are participating in the Hamilton Youth Vote program: Barton, Cathedral, Delta, Glendale, Hillpark, Parkside, Sir Winston Churchill, and Sir Allan MacNab.

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