

# 2008/09 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.*



## **MB4Youth Advisory Council Annual Report 2008/09**

---

### **Background**

The MB4Youth Advisory Council was announced by the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth at the Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers on April 25, 2003. The MB4Youth Advisory Council was established to provide feedback on a regular basis to the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth through the MB4Youth Division. The MB4Youth Advisory Council will provide feedback and consultative advice on issues such as education, employment, career development, citizen engagement, leadership and on broader youth issues such as environment and health.

### **Mandate**

The MB4Youth Advisory Council will:

- Facilitate and participate in youth conferences and events;
- Recommend policy direction and provide feedback to youth programming in the areas of education, training, employment, career development, volunteerism, citizenship and leadership to the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth in an effort to make programming more youth-friendly, relevant and accessible;
- Collaborate with government-wide Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) Committee on Youth and other intergovernmental agencies on strategies and action plans focusing on key youth issues;
- Review and provide feedback on the Division's communication strategy and communication products like the MB4Youth opportunities.mb.ca website;
- Increase awareness of provincial youth programs and services.

### **Membership and Selection**

- The MB4Youth Advisory Council is made up of youth who are leaders in their communities and schools. The Council is made up of up to fifteen Manitoba youth ages 15 – 24. In 2008/09, there were 15 members on the MB4Youth Advisory Council.
- The Department's selection committee including the program coordinator, MB4Youth Advisory Council chair and up to 4 more provincial representatives released an annual call for applications in February 2008. Selection of the Council was made to reflect the population of youth in Manitoba and to include diverse perspectives: gender, regional, ethnicity, education, experiences and language.
- Council members committed to a one year term beginning September 1, 2008 and ending August 30, 2009. (Council members could indicate their interest in a second or third consecutive term by March 31, 2009.) Any member who reached their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday by September 1, 2008 was not eligible to re-apply.

## **The members of the 2008/09 MB4Youth Advisory Council were:**

Amber Darling, Rathwell, Chair  
Michael Alty, Howden  
Helen Cochran, Lac du Bonnet  
Jennifer Guth, MacGregor  
Madison Hass, Brandon  
Charlotte Holmes, Garden Hill  
Bradley Johnson, Gimli  
Vanessa Kozak, Winnipeg

Jordyn Lerner, Winnipeg  
Inderveer Mahal, Winnipeg  
Jacqueline Richelle, Winnipeg  
Chris Strue, St. Andrews  
Vanja Tubin, Winnipeg  
Erin Wall, Winnipeg  
William Yeung, Winnipeg

## **2008/09 Council Activities**

The MB4Youth Advisory Council had the opportunity to participate in six in person meetings as well as various conferences, events and committees.

### ***1. Meetings and Workshops***

#### **Meeting, September 27, 2008**

The MB4Youth Advisory Council had their first in-person meeting on September 27, 2008. Council members had the opportunity to get to know each other, review the terms of reference, share their expectations for the year and identify some of the activities they would like to be involved in as members.

The Council participated in a Healthy Living Award Focus Group where they discussed the current awards process and identified areas for improvement. The Council was also given information and the opportunity to participate in the Education for Sustainable Development Conference which took place November 26 – 28, 2008.

In the afternoon, Council members discussed the priorities and key issues for youth in their communities, ways the issues are currently being addressed and what changes they would like to see happen in the future. The Council also provided feedback regarding the outline for the upcoming Engaged Learner Conference taking place on October 23, 2008.

Amber Darling was elected as Council chair for the 2008/09 MB4Youth Advisory Council.

#### **Facilitation Training, October 8, 2008**

The MB4Youth Advisory Council received a two hour facilitator training session to prepare them to facilitate at the upcoming October 23, 2008 Engaged Learner Conference. The council reviewed troubleshooting techniques and brainstormed potential issues and solutions conference participants may identify.

### **Meeting, December 6, 2008**

Council members reviewed the process for the Engaged Learner Conference and identified strengths and areas for improvement. Council members reviewed the Opportunities are Here newsletter and MB4Youth Advisory Council brochure and made recommendations to the formatting and photos used in the materials.

Representatives from EyeGo to the Arts, Careers in the Arts and Grow Creatively delivered a focus group about the EyeGo to the Arts program, website and resources. Two council members volunteered to sit on the MB4Youth Advisory Council Arts Sub-Committee and provide ongoing feedback to the project.

The Council members requested an opportunity to meet in-person with the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth. In the afternoon council members reviewed the priorities and key issues identified by the Council at the September 27 meeting. The council prioritized their questions/concerns in preparation for their meeting with the Minister.

### **Meeting, February 27, 2009**

The MB4Youth Advisory Council met with the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth to discuss issues of importance to youth in Manitoba. Council members expressed their concerns, identified potential solutions and shared stories and experiences with the Minister. The meeting with the Minister ended with a group photo.

In the afternoon, the Council participated in a focus group with a representative from Taking IT Global. The Council discussed ways of getting youth involved in their local and global communities, ways of engaging youth in meaningful dialogue and ways of increasing youth involvement in global issues.

### **Youth Town Hall Preparation, April 30, 2009**

The Council met to prepare for their role as facilitators, Masters of Ceremonies and recorders at the Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers the following day.

### **Meeting, July 11, 2009**

The MB4youth Advisory Council expressed an interest in meeting with their Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) to find out more about what a day in the life of an MLA looks like and how they determine priorities for their constituency. Council members shared their knowledge of the role of an MLA and identified potential questions for the MLAs.

The Council also discussed and brainstormed the possibility of developing a resource that could be used at divisional conferences and events to introduce participants to youth engagement.

## ***2. Planning and Facilitating Conferences***

### **Engaged Learner Conference, October 23, 2008**

MB4Youth Advisory Council members facilitated, recorded and were the Masters of Ceremonies at the 2008 Engaged Learner Conference. Council members played an important role in the conference, facilitating 2 group sessions each with diverse groups of youth from across Manitoba.

### **Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers, May 1, 2009**

Since 2003, Council members have been on the planning committee for the Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers. The MB4Youth Advisory Council played a very important role in the planning and implementation of the 2008 Manitoba Youth Town Hall Meeting with Ministers. Council members spent the majority of the day facilitating groups of 15 youth through a highly interactive consultation process. Information gathered from the consultation was used to help guide MB4Youth Advisory Council discussions throughout the year.

## ***3. Additional Council Activities***

Members of the 2008/09 MB4Youth Advisory Council also had the opportunity to participate in a variety of committees and events such as the 2010 Human Rights Conference, YOUCAN Training, ACTIVATE 2009 National Youth Leadership Conference as well as focus groups regarding bicycle safety and the 2009 Manitoba Prospects magazine.

## **Appendix A - Members' Profiles**

### **Michael Alty**

Michael spent his formative years in the village of Howden, Manitoba. His interest in politics, travel, and community service began early on, triggering a long sequence of adventures. His travels, schooling, and volunteer work have taken him abroad to Haiti, Southern Africa, China, and beyond. Michael volunteers for the Canadian International Development Agency as part of the Youth Speakers Program and works on housing issues in Winnipeg. When not at work or traveling the world, you can find Michael snowboarding, lawn bowling, volunteering, or hanging out with friends.

### **Liz Cochrane**

Liz Cochrane is currently a grade 12 student in rural Manitoba. This is her first year on the MB4Youth Advisory Council. Liz is involved in her school's varsity soccer and volleyball teams and has been on her schools student council since grade 10. She is currently serving in the position of Deputy Prime Minister in her grade 12 year. She is also involved with her schools volunteer club (LIVE). In her spare time she enjoys playing sports, being with friends and family, listening to music, and reading. She hopes this year will be a good one and is thankful and excited to be part of the MB4Youth Advisory Council.

### **Amber Darling**

Amber is a University of Manitoba student who is originally from a small rural town. Her future plans include getting a degree in environmental design in hopes of becoming an architect. This is Amber's third year on the MB4Youth Advisory Council. Her other leadership experiences include: peer helpers, student council, student leaders in high school, tutoring, camp counselor at a Co-op Youth Leadership Camp, and volunteering every year at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum's Thresherman's Reunion. Outside of university, Amber enjoys movies, scrapbooking and being with friends and family.

### **Jennifer Guth**

Jennifer is a grade 12 student at MacGregor Collegiate. This is her first year as part of the MB4Youth Advisory Council and she is very honoured for the opportunity to work with other youth from around Manitoba. Jennifer is the treasurer of her school's student council, chair of her Youth in Philanthropy group, and a peer helper. She attends Youth Parliament of Manitoba and went to Ottawa last year with Forum for Young Canadians. Jennifer enjoys travelling and is an avid reader. Jennifer is interested in studying history and pursuing an education degree.

### **Madison Hass**

Madison is a grade 12 student from Brandon, Manitoba. Madison is an active participant in her high school's Teens Against Drinking, Drugging and Driving Advisory Council, Youth in Philanthropy group, Book Club, Massey One Spirit group, Leadership Class, Peer Tutoring program, Track and Field team, and bowling team. When not in school, Madison enjoys volunteering at her local hospital and working at a local drug store. Her interests include tutoring, reading, writing, running, travelling, and

snowboarding. Her future plans include attending university to attain a bachelor of arts in human rights, before going on to law school in hopes of becoming an international affairs lawyer. Madison is very excited to be on the MB4Youth Advisory Council and to represent youth from rural Manitoba.

### **Bradley Johnson**

Bradley is currently completing his final year of high school in the Interlake. His future plans include pursuing a career in Political Studies or Economics. He is an active participant in the student body; he currently co-chairs both the Student Council and Yearbook, and for the second consecutive year chairs his School Division's Student Council. Other school groups that he is involved with include the Environmental Club, Senior Jazz Band and Senior Concert Band. Bradley was recently re-appointed for a second term as the Youth Representative on the Municipal Council in his municipality. He is one of the founding members of the Youth Community Partnership Group in his community where through volunteer efforts he is able to provide a voice to share youth opinion and concerns on issues that affect youth not only on a local level but globally. Bradley enjoys participating in a variety of sports, most particularly bowling, skiing and curling. In his spare time, he enjoys being with friends and family, learning about photography, and listening to music. Bradley is honoured to have the opportunity to represent young people in Manitoba on the MB4Youth Advisory Council.

### **Vanessa Kozak**

Vanessa is in her second year in the Aboriginal Governance Program at the University of Winnipeg. Vanessa also works as a STEP Student with Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin, in the Manitoba Conservation Aboriginal Relations Department. This is Vanessa's third year on the council and she looks forward to meeting new people and learning new things.

### **Jordyn Lerner**

Jordyn is a second year Biochemistry major at the University of Winnipeg. During his high school years, Jordyn was committed to helping others enjoy the atmosphere that a close-knit high school presented. Presently, Jordyn is secretary of the Jewish Students Association/Hillel and serves on the Canadian Blood Services Youth Council. He volunteers at the Misericordia Health Centre and helps out at community events like Boo at the Zoo. Jordyn joined the MB4Youth Advisory Council because he wants to make a difference in the community. By cultivating a greater admiration for our province and the amazing opportunities it presents for youth, Jordyn hopes to inspire his peers to appreciate Manitoba like he has.

### **Inderveer Mahal**

Inderveer is a first year university student from Winnipeg. She is currently studying sciences with a goal of pursuing a career in pediatric medicine. In high school, Inderveer played on many sports teams such as the badminton, track and basketball teams. Inderveer was also a lunch hour tutor, organized Camp Ooga Booga, co-chaired the United Way Youth Connections group, and volunteered at Cancer Care Manitoba, Victoria Hospital and the Health Sciences Centre. In her spare time

Inderveer enjoys playing basketball, running, reading novels, listening to music and relaxing. This is Inderveer's first year on the council.

### **Jacqueline Richelle**

Jacqueline Richelle is a first year student at the University of Manitoba and plans to enter the Faculty of Science next year. She has held several leadership positions as chairperson of committees that address issues related to youth philanthropy. In addition, Jacqueline has organized various events such as the 30 hour Famine and Addictions Awareness Week, as well as planned fundraisers for UNESCO where health kits and grants that were allocated to non-profit organizations. Her volunteer experience includes devoting time as a meal service companion at the City of Winnipeg's Reading Aloud Program. She currently volunteers at the Misericordia Health Centre and enjoys reading, skating, and running in her spare time. One of Jacqueline's most valuable experiences was when she travelled to Shanghai, China to work as an International model where she was exposed to the diverse Chinese culture and way of life.

### **Chris Struc**

Chris Struc is a first year university student who intends to obtain degrees in Political Science as well as Law. In the past he has had the privilege to attend the Forum for Young Canadians as well as running his school division's Youth Parliament program. In the past year he has been active in Youth Parliament, Youth in Philanthropy and various other programs. Chris looks forward to being able to represent youth in his area and discuss issues pertaining specifically to youth in Manitoba. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with friends and family, curling, camping and travelling.

### **Vanja Tubin**

Vanja is originally from the Balkans and has made Canada his home for the greater part of his life. He is a second year politics and history student with an interest in pursuing a career in diplomacy. This is Vanja's first year with the MB4Youth Advisory Council. Vanja has been active in his community through several initiatives including tutoring, volunteering at Festival du Voyageur and with Habitat for Humanity. He also co-hosts a weekly campus based political radio show. In his spare time he enjoys reading and playing sports.

### **Erin Wall**

Erin is in her second year of university studies and hopes to study Medical Radiology at Red River College in the near future. This is Erin's second year on the council and she is honoured to once again have the position and ability to represent young people in Manitoba. Her volunteer experience is widespread and includes coaching basketball, various Kiwanis and Key Club activities, bowling with seniors, and working at the local free-trade cafe. Erin also enjoys keeping fit with basketball, yoga and aquafit. She is almost always seen with a camera attached to her, and enjoys anything to do with photography.