



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

Toronto Youth speak out – “Water is a Matter of Survival”

*Youth premier documentary film and launch ‘Youth4Water National Water Strategy Campaign’
marking the United Nations International Youth Day.*

For Immediate Release

August 7, 2008.

Toronto – *Youth4Water*, a committee representing the United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) is speaking out about water and sanitation with the Toronto premier of their documentary film “*Water is a Matter of Survival*” and launch of the “*Youth4Water - National Water Strategy Campaign*.”

“After investigating water and sanitation issues for nine months and traveling to the International Exposition on Water and Sustainability in Zaragoza, Spain we are looking forward to educating and informing our peers about these critical issues,” says Youth4Water member Shiré Brandi.

The film premier will kick off with interactive workshops exposing youth to local and international water and sanitation issues. After the screening the committee will launch their campaign.

The *Youth4Water - National Water Strategy Campaign* will collect the voices of young Canadians who are passionate about addressing water issues. Over the next six months youth will sign a mural sized letter that will be delivered to Parliament Hill on March 22nd, 2009, marking World Water Day. The letter will encourage the Canadian Government to implement an effective national water strategy and reconsider signing on to the UN General Comment 15 – water is a human right.

- Where: Scadding Court Community Centre, 707 Dundas Street West Toronto
- When: Monday August 11, 2008. 7:30p.m. – 9:00p.m. (Film screening at 7:45p.m. & Campaign Launch at 8:30 p.m.)

Water is a Matter of Survival - follows Youth4Water’s six-month journey uncovering the myths and realities of Canadian water issues in preparation for their presentation at the International Exposition on Water and Sustainability in Zaragoza Spain.

Youth4Water travels to Walkerton Ontario, meets with a Nishnawbe Aski Nation elder and investigates the impact of the Don and Humber River on Toronto’s water. The film highlights past water tragedies, future concerns and solutions while presenting the thoughts and ideas of seven passionate young people on conserving our world’s most valuable resource.

‘Water is a Matter of Survival’ is a Docuvixen production



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The seven members of *Youth4Water* were selected from Toronto Community Housing Corporation and the Institute at Havergal College in September 2007 as part of “*The Ripple Effect*.” Members are 16 to 21 years old and represent a cross section of Toronto neighbourhoods.

Youth4Water meets on a weekly basis in Toronto to explore local and global water issues including, conservation, sanitation and the human right to water. They use their acquired knowledge to educate and inform their Canadian peers and fellow youth from around the world.

The **United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada)** is a national charitable organization established in 1946. A policy and programming organization, UNA-Canada supports a network of 20 volunteer branches and local contacts, with a National office in Ottawa and offices in Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. UNA-Canada’s mandate is to engage Canadians in the work of the UN and the critical global issues that affect us all through innovative projects, policy research, and on-going communications with Canadians.

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