



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

MEDIA ADVISORY

March 25, 2009

Ottawa – The United Nations Association in Canada's (UNA-Canada), Youth Advisory Committee - Youth4Water (Y4W) - is delivering its statement on The Right to Water to Parliament and press this Thursday, March 26 at 11:00, inside the Charles Lynch Press Room (room # 130 S Centre Block).

Y4W are calling on the federal government to recognize water as a human right and for all levels of government to implement water and sanitation based curriculum. Y4W worked in collaboration with a UNA-Canada research team to design a Youth Perceptions Survey targeting over 500 youth primarily between the ages of 14 and 19 in the Greater Toronto Area. The survey (with a 95 % confidence rate and accuracy within 5-6%) has informed their call for increased educational attention to global (and local) water issues; and their call for Canada to support the Right to Water globally. In this survey, 88% of respondents agree/strongly agree that access to clean water is a basic human right.

This past weekend, marking World Water Day, members of the Sanitation & Water Action Network (SWAN) met on Parliament Hill with toilet seat petitions, calling on the government of Canada to contribute to bringing relief to the global water and sanitation crisis. Y4W believe that the Canadian government can successfully implement this call to action only if it equips its citizens, (particularly its youth) with knowledge on water and sanitation issues, and signs on to the UN's General Statement 15 on the Right to Water.

Y4W is a group of 15-21 year-olds from Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC is the largest public housing corp. in North America) and from the Institute at Haverhill College. They meet on a weekly basis in Toronto to explore local and global water issues including; conservation, sanitation and the human right to water. They have been developing and sharing their knowledge with their peers in Canada and youth from around the world. .

This is a CIDA funded initiative; it served as the pilot project for *The Ripple Effect*. *The Ripple Effect* is a UNA-Canada pan-Canadian water and sanitation initiative engaging youth from youth-serving institutions and communities in exploring national and international water issues.

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Read Youth4Water's blog at: <http://www.youth4water.blogspot.com>



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