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**United Nations Association in Canada**  
**Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**March 20, 2009**

Toronto – Youth4Water (Y4W) will unveil their mural to promote the protection of Toronto and (CTC) region watersheds for World Water Day on March 21 at an event in the Northern District Library 40 Orchard View Blvd, room 224 at 3 PM. Y4W have partnered with talented Canadian artists Patrick Thompson and Jenifer Rudski to create this large, free-standing mural.

Y4W is a group of 15-21 year-olds from Toronto Community Housing and the Institute at Havergal College. Y4W acts as a Youth Advisory Committee on water issues to the United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada). 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 sharing their new found knowledge with their peers in Canada and youth from around the world.

The mural development is being supported by the CTC Source Protection Committee (local water conservation). Y4W is encouraging education around local drinking water issues, through this innovative art project. The mural features a brightly painted Lake Ontario, with images superimposed on its waves. “We played with the idea of pollution by putting pigment into fresh water,” says Thompson.

Thompson’s work is on display at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), but for many of these youth it is their first time picking up a paint brush to work on something of this scope. Y4W member Pia Johnson says, “It’s been an eye-opener, because I’m not artistic, yet I can use my emotions from what I’ve learned and my experiences with water in this mural.” The dedicated participants spent the last two weekends painting with Thompson and Rudski.

We are pleased to announce that the mural will also make its way to the ROM’s biodiversity exhibit at the new Schad Gallery later this spring. “These are a remarkable group of Toronto young leaders whose passion for water stewardship in Ontario and the world will show in their art!” says Kate White, Executive Director of UNA-Canada.

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

Visit the CTC Source Protection Committee: <http://www.ctcswp.ca/>



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