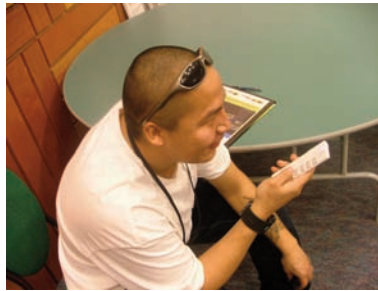


# YOUNG Decision Makers

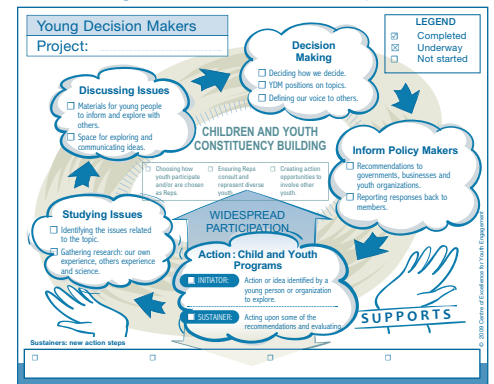
March 2010



## YDM Meeting 4 Summary Report

The Young Decision Makers (YDM) Network's 4th national meeting took place in Cornwall, Ontario from February 11 to 14, 2010. We had nationwide participation from various organizations, age groups, races and types of youth and adults. The 115 participants were divided into seven groups, which used the YDM Model to work through their topic. Topics included poverty, drugs, healthy lifestyles, youth involvement and discrimination. Over a period of four days, teams learnt more about the topic, discussed it amongst themselves and consulted others, made decisions on how they wanted to address the issue, and finally made recommendations on how to best move forward. Recommendations on the other side.

### The Young Decision Makers Project Model



## YDM Principles in Action

**Inclusive**

**Young Adult Support**

**Adult Partnership**

**Youth-led**

**Representative**

**Accountability**

**Informal Structure**

**Participatory**

# YOUNG DECISION MAKERS

## Meeting 4 Recommendations

### Here are the recommendations from the seven teams:

To address **drug** use, groups developed the following recommendations

- To Peer Influencers: "Keep it casual."
- To Youth Centres: "Involve youth in training the adults."
- To Youth: "Value your values."
- To open a safe space/youth centre in every community/town (not necessarily a physical building). Use partnerships in community to donate/support space that youth can find resources, be safe, get involved in activities. Etc.
- Create a safe space (monitored with adult allies) that promotes a healthy lifestyle with access to recreation and positive influencers.

To bring forth more **healthy relationships** in Canada:

- Bring love and trust into our relationships within our families, our group and our schools. Showcase the importance of love and trust in making relationships healthy.

To address **poverty**:

- In the short-term: Design different resource phone services of different shelters, non-profit organizations and government funded resources for the impoverished. This would be developed on a municipal basis: one for each town, and potentially province-wide. Research into costs and advertise ways into which it reaches homeless people.
- In the long-term: With this experience behind us, we could attempt to contact government bodies, corporate bodies, to really show poverty and how it could be stopped.

To address **racism**:

- Communities should invest time, space, energy, ideas, experiences, people, resources and money to make spaces for youth circle discussions about racism and other discrimination. These spaces need to be open, community-based, in the local cultural context where young people can meet peers from different backgrounds. The goal is to reduce the ignorance and silence at the root of discrimination. Adult allies play a role in opening doors and providing resources.

To increase **youth involvement**:

- Create an interactive training module that will break down barriers to youth involvement by helping youth and adults:
  - Build healthy communication
  - Understand tokenism
  - Create awareness about positive youth involvement using media/social networking sites

**Another recommendation** put forth:

- The next YDM meeting should take place in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

To get involved in turning these and other recommendations into sustainable programs, join the YDM Network today @ [HTTP://YDM.ENGAGEMENTCENTRE.CA](http://YDM.ENGAGEMENTCENTRE.CA)



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