



## Call for Youth Volunteers

The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) has set four priorities for its agenda: 1) to form a National Mental Health Strategy, 2) to build a Knowledge Exchange Centre for all Canadians, 3) to create a National Initiative to fight stigma and discrimination, and 4) to set up Homelessness Research Demonstration Projects.

The MHCC recognizes that young people are the future of this country, and can make a vitally important impact with their unique perspective. Therefore, to ensure that the voice of youth is heard and represented in the overall decision making process of the Commission, the *Children and Youth Advisory Committee* is calling for volunteers to form a **Youth Reference Group (YRG)**.

We are looking for youth between the ages 17 to 25, who have had life experience with mental illness, to form an ongoing group to advise the Commission in matters relating to youth and mental health. Individual members may be asked to join project teams, working groups and other committees to provide essential youth representation. This work would involve travelling for face to face meetings, participating in teleconferences and email correspondence. An honorarium will be provided to YRG members.

We are looking for youth representation from across Canada and from different backgrounds, such as:

Age and Gender	Province or Territory of residence
Cultural background	First Nations/Métis/Inuit
Linguistic background	Sibling or family member of persons with mental illness
Experience with Child Welfare system	Diagnosis (if any)
Gay/Lesbian/Transgender	Youth at risk: issues in housing, addictions, justice etc.

Please provide your name, address and contact information, along with a paragraph or two to describe yourself, and why you would be interested in being a part of the Youth Reference Group and the Mental Health Commission of Canada. You may also include a letter of reference or other relevant material.

You may send your application by mail, fax or email to:

Mental Health Commission of Canada  
Attn: Brenda Leung  
#800-10301 Southport Lane SW, Calgary, AB T2W 1S7  
Fax 403-385-4044  
Email [bleung@mentalhealthcommission.ca](mailto:bleung@mentalhealthcommission.ca)

Applications will be accepted until January 12, 2009. An interview process will follow, and successful applicants will be notified by the end of January, 2009.

Thank you in advance for your interest and participation,

Joe Leger

Youth Reference Group Chair  
Child and Youth Advisory Committee