



Call for Youth Volunteers

The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) is a non-profit organization created to focus national attention on mental health issues and to work to improve the health and social outcomes of people living with mental illness. The MHCC has a strong commitment to ensuring the voice of young people is heard on issues related to mental illness across the country. These include issues like: stigma reduction, education, stewardship, and awareness. In order to ensure that the voice of youth is heard and represented in the overall decision making process of the MHCC, the **Youth Council** was created. The Youth Council is now calling for volunteers to be a part of this amazing and dynamic group!

What is the Youth Council?

The Youth Council is supported by, and reports on its work through, the Child and Youth Advisory Committee (CYAC), one of eight Advisory Committees of the MHCC. Currently, the Youth Council consists of 10 youth between the ages of 19 to 29 who has experienced mental health issues in their lives.

What would I be expected to do as a member of the Youth Council?

Individual members may be asked to join project teams, working groups and other committees to provide essential youth representation. This work involves some travelling for face to face meetings, participating in teleconferences and email correspondence. An honorarium is provided and all travel expenses are covered for Youth Council meetings.

Aside from an interest in mental health, what else are they looking for?

The Youth Council is looking for youth who have had lived experience with mental illness, either personally or within their family. As well, we are looking for enthusiastic youth who would contribute to the group and provide ongoing support to the MHCC in matters relating to youth and mental health. In order to best represent the needs and opinions of all Canadians, the Youth Council is looking for youth representation from across Canada and from different backgrounds, such as:

Age 17 to 29	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/Two spirited	Youth at risk: issues in housing, addictions, justice etc.

How do I apply?

Please provide your name, address and contact information, along with a paragraph (or two) describing yourself (i.e. interests, background, etc.) and why you would be interested in being a part of the Youth Council and the MHCC. You may want to include a letter of reference or other relevant material.

Applications will be accepted until **August 15, 2010**. An interview process will follow, and successful applicants will be notified by the end of September, 2010.

Thank you in advance for your interest and participation.

Please send your application by mail, fax or email to:

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