



Mississauga • Brampton • Caledon

*The future rests in our helping hands*

---

## **CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

### **Volunteer MBC officially launches *ChangeTheWorld* – Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge**

**April 3, 2009 – Mississauga, ON** – Volunteer MBC officially launched today the *ChangeTheWorld - Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge* and the list of environmentally-themed events that the volunteer centre is co-ordinating across the Region of Peel. The announcement was held at Glenforest Secondary School in Mississauga.

*ChangeTheWorld* is a provincial event co-ordinated by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) in partnership with the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN). This is the 2nd annual call to action for youth aged 14 to 18 years by volunteering individually or in groups through a wide variety of exciting community initiatives being held during National Volunteer Week (April 18 to 26, 2009). The goal is to have 10,000 students volunteer across the entire province during that week.

As a new volunteer centre serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon, Volunteer MBC is pleased to be taking part in this initiative this year and has a target to engage 700 students across the Region.

"We've been visiting the secondary schools around the Region and have met some exemplary students who make every effort to give back to their community," stated Carine Strong, Director, Volunteer MBC. "This initiative is an opportunity for youth to gain 5 hours of recognition as a volunteer by participating in an event with their friends, or to meet new friends."

In Ms. Strong's speech during the launch she conveyed to youth, "You are the future of our community and you can make a difference – you can change the world".

The celebrity speaker who shared her own personal experience as a volunteer was Farah Nasser, Reporter for *CityTV* and alumni of Glenforest Secondary School.

All of the speakers encouraged youth to participate in the challenge and to be life-long volunteers. One such speaker, Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration stated, "Volunteering is an exercise in democracy. When you volunteer, you are shaping your community and ultimately, the society we all live in."

###

Other speakers included Councillor Peter Fonseca, MPP - Mississauga East-Cooksville and Minister of Labour; Saquib Mian, Chair of the Mississauga Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee; Eugene Wilson, Advisor of the Brampton Mayor's Youth Council; and the Principal of Glenforest, Cynthia Horvath.

Video messages were delivered from Emil Kolb, Chair, Region of Peel; Mayor Hazel McCallion of the City of Mississauga; and Rob Dyer of Skate4Kids.

Glenforest Secondary School, in its 40<sup>th</sup> year, offers an enhanced program for gifted students, as well as the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme and was an ideal location for the launch. "The students at Glenforest are so enthusiastic and really want to make a difference", noted Ms. Strong. Cynthia Horvath, Principal, echoed words of encouragement to the over 300 students who attended the launch about the benefits of volunteering.

Information, details and an on-line registration form for the five different, environmentally-themed events, with numerous locations across the Region that Volunteer MBC is co-ordinating for the *ChangeTheWorld – Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge*, is available at [www.volunteermbc.org](http://www.volunteermbc.org)

Volunteer MBC is a new volunteer centre that has been created to foster, develop and support volunteerism in the Region of Peel, serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon, by raising awareness of the power of service. The centre is located at 2601 Matheson Blvd. E., Unit #43 in Mississauga, with satellite locations planned in the future. More information on Volunteer MBC can be found shortly at [www.volunteermbc.org](http://www.volunteermbc.org) or by contacting the centre at 905.238.2622.

- 30 -

**For media inquiries and registration, please contact:**

Sharon Clark-Koufis  
Marketing & Communications Manager  
Volunteer MBC  
Phone: 905.238.2622 ext. 21  
Cellular: 416.433.0639  
Email: [sclark@volunteermbc.org](mailto:sclark@volunteermbc.org)