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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Volunteer MBC Partners with Volunteering Peel**

**March 18, 2009 – Mississauga, ON** – Volunteer MBC (Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon), a volunteer centre that fosters and develops volunteerism in the Region of Peel, is pleased to announce its partnership with Volunteering Peel, a youth-run volunteer organization.

Volunteering Peel has been entirely led by high school students since its creation in November 2005 and works with community groups and event organizers to provide youth volunteers to facilitate community and fundraising events. Volunteer MBC's partnership with Volunteering Peel provides youth in the Region of Peel with a direct connect to participate in group-based volunteer opportunities, which is lead entirely by their peers.

"By having a voice for youth working collaboratively with our centre we will be able to reach out and support youth volunteerism more effectively," states Carine Strong, Director of Volunteer MBC. "We truly believe that through peer-to-peer relations, youth will feel more engaged and will welcome the opportunity to be mentored by avid and dedicated youth volunteers who offer vast experience through their past voluntary contributions", she further notes.

Rohit Mehta, the creator of Volunteering Peel, is currently studying Environmental Management at the University of Toronto at Mississauga and is a past recipient of the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers for using his time and considerable energy to promote volunteerism and concern for the environment. He brings a multitude of volunteer experience from having lead Volunteering Peel and commented, "The partnership with Volunteer MBC has been a long-time goal of mine. As a youth-led organization with no funding and very little resources, this partnership is a fantastic opportunity to strengthen youth volunteerism in Peel." He further adds, "To date, we have engaged over 1,300 students in over 10,000 hours of work, supporting over 70 charity causes and through our alliance with Volunteer MBC, we can see this continuing to grow phenomenally."

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Volunteer MBC, in collaboration with Volunteering Peel's executive committee, will be developing strategic approaches to communicate the role and importance that youth volunteerism has in the community. Plans are to deliver their message through school assemblies, peer-to-peer presentations and various volunteer fairs held throughout the Region of Peel.

In addition, Volunteering Peel will provide assistance for youth volunteer opportunities that Volunteer MBC engages in, to include the upcoming Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge, *ChangeTheWorld*, which is being held during National Volunteer Week in late April. More details about this initiative will be announced shortly.

Volunteer MBC 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 at [www.volunteermbc.org](http://www.volunteermbc.org) or by contacting the centre at 905.238.2622 or [info@volunteermbc.org](mailto:info@volunteermbc.org). For more information on Volunteering Peel, visit [www.volunteeringpeel.org](http://www.volunteeringpeel.org).

- 30 -

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