



YOUTH MENTOR

Application Information



Rural Rights: Youth Action & Media Project

In partnership with the Alberta Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund, Change for Children (CFCA) is launching an exciting new initiative called **Rural Rights: Youth Action & Media Project**. This project will implement province wide, youth-led deliberative dialogues that address key human rights issues happening at a local and global level. Youth mentors will work with high school students across the province with the goal of generating discussion on human rights issues, problem solving, and turning ideas into action projects. Youth participants will also attend Arts for Inclusion workshops where they will learn about the medium of radio and magazine writing as tools for social change. From the workshops, rural youth will draw from their own perspectives, creative energies, and ideas for change to create dynamic radio and 'zine' resources that will form the basis of a youth-created educational campaign, reaching youth and rural communities in all four corners of the province. Between January and April 2010, CFCA will host three Regional Rural Rights Forums in Alberta, engaging hundreds of Albertan youth.

Change for Children is currently looking for Youth Mentors (age 21-30) to participate in the Rural Rights project. Youth mentors will meet with professionals already working on anti-racism, rural development, and human rights projects to share their experiences and, together, build a deliberative dialogue resource on human rights. (A deliberative dialogue is a tool used for empowering groups of people to break down barriers and address key social issues). After the publication of the resource, Youth Mentors will work directly with high school students at the three Regional Forums, facilitating dialogue on local and global human rights issues, and inspiring Albertan youth to transform their perspectives into creative resources.

Why apply to be a Youth Mentor?

- Learn more about yourself – your values, experiences, and knowledge resources
- Be exposed to a rich diversity of youth perspectives on issues of human rights, social justice, and community development
- Increase awareness and understanding of interrelated local and global human rights issues
- Network with professionals already working in fields of anti-racism and oppression, global education, social justice training, and community/rural/international development
- Directly participate in the full development (creation and implementation) of the deliberative dialogue resource on human rights
- Make connections with other Youth Mentors and tap into new activism communities
- Develop and improve upon your leadership and facilitator skills
- Learn about the challenges of rural development, travel to rural communities in Alberta, and be exposed to rural youth perspectives
- Meet and work with media professionals and learn more about using radio and magazine writing as tools for social change

- Work side-by-side high school youth to create powerful radio documentaries and informative 'zines' on the subject of human rights and youth action
- Increase your understanding of Change for Children's international projects and partners

What is the time commitment?

CFCA recognizes that interested applicants may already be engaged in their communities in various ways – studying, working, volunteering, or busy with personal commitments. Time commitment for the project duration is limited to the following:

1) October 2009: Youth Mentors must participate in a 1-day workshop to work with professionals, dialogue with other Youth Mentors on human rights topics, and assist in the creation of the Deliberative Dialogue which will be used at the Regional Forums. Workshop to be held, tentatively, Saturday, October 17th **OR** Saturday, October 24th. Final date TBA shortly.

2) November 2009: Youth Mentors will be asked to contribute ideas, knowledge, and skills to the vision, creation and production of the "Change-It Tool Kit" – a print resource that will inspire and support youth action projects in rural Alberta. (Please note: participation on this resource will be minimal via e-mail, phone conversations, and informal meetings).

3) January 2010: Youth Mentors must participate in a Facilitator's Training Session (weekday evening TBA) in order to familiarize themselves with the newly printed Deliberative Dialogue on Human Rights and prepare for facilitating at one of the three *Rural Rights Regional Forums*, which will be held from February 2010 to April 2010.

4) Regional Rural Rights Forums:

February 2010: Northern Alberta (date & location TBA)

March 2010: Southern Alberta (date & location TBA)

April 2010: Central Alberta (date & location TBA)

Youth Mentors must sign-up to facilitate at **one of the three *Rural Rights Regional Forums*** which will be held at a host-school in each region, and run over the course of 2-days – Saturday and Sunday. CFCA will arrange and cover all travel and accommodation costs for Youth Mentors.

Who can apply to be a Youth Mentor?

Change for Children is looking to build a team of diverse individuals, representing different socioeconomic, cultural, religious, and ethnical spheres of our society. Applicants should be:

- 21 – 30 years old
- Currently residing within Alberta
- Passionate about human rights issues happening in Alberta and around the world, and committed to the idea that youth participation can and *will* create positive social change

- Willing to share ideas and experiences, be open to learning from a diversity of perspectives, and actively participate in discussion and activities focussing on: human rights, anti-racism, environmental and social justice, international development, and youth action.
- Eager to cultivate and develop leadership abilities, facilitation skills, and most importantly, to inspire high school students in rural Alberta to address key human rights issues happening in their own backyards and the greater global community.
- Convinced that a better, more just and equitable world *is* possible!

How many Youth Mentors will be selected?

CFCA will select nine youth mentors to participate in the project. All applicants will be notified of results by Friday, October 9, 2009.

When is the deadline to apply?

Please submit completed and signed Youth Mentor Application Forms by 4:00 PM on Monday, October 5, 2009.

Mail:

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Any further questions?

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