



For immediate release

Katimavik celebrates recent alumni and is lining up a new cohort for 30th anniversary year

Montréal, September 12, 2007 – Over 700 Canadian youth can now officially consider themselves Katimavik alumni, while a new cohort of participants starts their Katimavik experience this month and in January 2008, developing their sense of civic responsibility and gaining self-confidence. Katimavik is a volunteer-service program for youth ages 17 to 21 who want to make a difference and try something new.

Katimavik is 30 years young

Katimavik's goal is to form responsible citizens who will contribute significantly to Canadian society. Since 1977, more than 28,000 young Canadians have taken the same route, learning valuable skills through volunteering, group living and discovering their country. Throughout 2007-2008, activities will be planned to celebrate Katimavik's 30th anniversary.

During the nine-month Katimavik experience, participants live in three Canadian communities, where they volunteer about 35 hours a week for a variety of non-profit organizations. Everyday life consists of living with ten other young people the same age and a project leader in a house rented by Katimavik. The project leader supervises the activities and ensures the program's implementation through workshops and activities pertaining to leadership skills, official languages, environmental issues, cultural discovery and a healthy lifestyle.

In 2006-2007, participants contributed the equivalent of 743,997 volunteer work hours to over 700 non-profit organizations. The value of these volunteer hours is estimated at \$11,630,000.¹

Katimavik offers young Canadians the chance to discover what kind of work they enjoy, learn new skills, contribute to communities, build their resume, meet new people, learn some French, get work and life experience and kick start their future. As a socio-economic study conducted by Malatest & Associates Ltd. in 2005-2006 revealed, two-thirds (66%) of participants claimed that Katimavik influenced their career plans. Valerie Loxterkamp, a recent participant from North Vancouver, B.C., is a fine example, demonstrating that the gap year can be very advantageous for careers in the making:

"My volunteer placement at Pembina Institute in Drayton Valley, Alberta, working on research and development on solar energy, as well as volunteering with the Nordic Ski Club, made me realize which facets of the experience I found engaging and wanted to pursue. I am now enrolled in Capilano College's outdoor recreation management program, because of what I learned during my time with Katimavik."

Applications are still being accepted for groups starting in January 2008.

For more info: www.katimavik.org

DOING. LEARNING. BUILDING A NATION... ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME.

1. Calculated using the average wage in the volunteer sector, according to Statistics Canada.

For more information

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