

Katimavik



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Katimavik participants volunteer across Canada for Global Youth Service Day

Montreal, April 11, 2005 – On April 13, more than 350 Katimavik participants living across Canada, from Caraquet, New Brunswick to Merritt, British Columbia, will take part in Global Youth Service Day, the largest youth-led volunteering event in the world. As participants of Katimavik, Canada's leading national youth volunteer-service program, these youth are very much aware of the tangible and lasting benefits of volunteer work. Not only does this event reinforce the participants' commitment to the communities they are working in, it also promotes the benefits of youth volunteer service and leads the way to recruiting the next generation of volunteers.

Katimavik Global Youth Service Day Events – April 13 (unless otherwise noted)

New Brunswick

Caraquet: Katimavik participants are organizing a benefit concert for La Maison des jeunes. The youth centre has been closed for the past year due to a lack of funding and personnel. All money raised will go directly to La Maison de jeunes, in the hopes of reopening the centre in the near future. The concert takes place from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Polyvalent Louis-Mailloux.

Dalhousie, 9:00 a.m.-4:00p.m.: The Katimavik group will hold a "rush hour" of volunteering. The group will spend one hour volunteering at six organizations, including Town Hall, the fire department, SPCA and Centennial Library.

St. Stephen, April 10, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: Katimavik participants helped build bike paths at Ganong Nature Park, in partnership with the St. Croix Estuary Project.

Lamèque, April 30, 6:30 p.m.: Katimavik participants will volunteer at the annual volunteer thank you gala dinner. They will serve meals and work in the coat check room. The gala, organized in conjunction with National Volunteer Work, attracts over 200 attendees each year.

St. John: The Katimavik group will volunteer every Sunday afternoon until the end of May at Romero House Soup Kitchen. The participants felt that Global Youth Service Day was an excellent starting point to give back to community outside of the group's regular volunteer work projects. They will accomplish a variety of tasks, including setting up, serving meals and cleaning up afterwards.

Tracadie-Sheila, April 9, 9:00 p.m.: The Katimavik group organized a dance for local youth at Célibat, raising \$200 for the Camp de jeunesse Richelieu.

Quebec

Quebec City, April 10, 2:00 p.m.: The Katimavik group participated in a clean up of Lower Town in conjunction with a local drug rehabilitation centre. The group received training on how to safely handle syringes and other dangerous objects and then proceeded to clean the streets and parks.

Mont-St-Hilaire, 1:30-5:00 p.m.: Katimavik participants will help out in landscaping and cleaning up the riverbanks at the historical building Maison Paul-Émile Bourduas.

St-Jean, April 30, 7:30-11:30 p.m.: Katimavik participants will organize a Spring Fling dance for youth from five local high schools. The participants will be involved in all aspects of planning, including decorations, publicity, security and music. The dance will take place at the Centre communautaire Notre-Dame. Tickets are \$3 each, with all proceeds going to the Maison des jeunes Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu.

Ontario

Collingwood, 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Katimavik participants will volunteer at Restore, run by Habitat for Humanity. They will clean up the store's yard as well as working materials inside.

Orangeville, 1:30 p.m.: Katimavik participants will organize the "Olympics" at Island Lake elementary school. Each participant will act as a pro in a specific area, such as volleyball, basketball, etc.

St. Thomas, 10:00 a.m.: The Katimavik group will hold a Walk-a-thon fundraiser for Animal Aide of St. Thomas Elgin. The group will collect pledges from community members and they will walk from Animal Aide to a point in Port Stanley.

Stratford, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: Katimavik participants will visit clients at Community Living. They will prepare lunch and provide games and programming. The participants will also hold a bake sale, with proceeds going to the Youth Centre.

Woodstock, 3:00 p.m.: Katimavik participants will organize a car wash to benefit various non-profit organizations including the local hospital. The car wash will take place in the parking lot of Food Basics, 868 Dundas St.

Manitoba

Lorette, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: Katimavik participants will volunteer at Siloam Mission's soup kitchen and reuse clothing store.

Alberta

Edmonton, April 18, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.: The Katimavik group will go door to door in their neighborhood to offer their services for spring clean up.

Edson: Katimavik participants are setting up a used toy drive and will distribute the items to organizations in need, including the food bank, boys and girls club and Take It or Leave It. The toy drive will take place throughout the month of April.

Canmore, April 21, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.: The Katimavik group will present the Katimavik program during a volunteer information day taking place at the Civic Centre.

British Columbia

Merritt, April 9, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.: Katimavik groups in Merritt, Princeton, Hope, Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster organized a "KatimaOlympics". The aim of this event was to highlight youth service in communities. Each group came up with their own activity for the "Olympics". The event took place at Central Park.

Qualicum Beach, April 10, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: Katimavik participants in Nanaimo, Comox Valley and Port Alberni volunteered at the Brant Wildlife Festival.

Quesnel, April 16: Katimavik groups from Quesnel and Wells will volunteer at a car and dog wash fundraiser for the SPCA. The event takes place in the Wal Mart parking lot, and there will be a complementary BBQ served during the event.

Williams Lake: Katimavik participants will host an information session for members of the community on the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system, which will be a subject of an upcoming provincial election.
Salmon Arm, April 16, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: The Katimavik group will volunteer at the Recycle Fair, sorting recyclables at the Salmon Arm Mall.

Vernon, April 16, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.: Katimavik participants will clean up Polson Park.

Revelstoke, April 16, 10:00a.m.-2:00 p.m.: The Katimavik group will organize a car wash on Highway 1 with proceeds going to the Revelstoke Food Bank.

About Katimavik

Katimavik offers youth between the ages of 17 and 21 an exciting nine-month journey of self-discovery in three different regions of Canada. The program is based on the concept of service learning, which integrates both personal and professional development through volunteer work on community projects. In addition to working 35 hours a week on community projects participants benefit from a learning program that focuses on developing leadership skills, official languages proficiency, a healthy lifestyle, cultural discoveries and protecting the environment. Each Katimavik participant contributes an average of 500 hours of community work to partner organizations. Since 1977, more than 25,000 young Canadians have participated in the Katimavik program, developing their sense of civic responsibility and gaining self-confidence. Katimavik's goal is to form responsible citizens who will contribute significantly to Canadian society.

Program application deadlines

Applications for the Katimavik program are now being accepted on-line at the program's web site www.katimavik.org. For the November 16 and 23, 2005 program start dates, the application deadline is May 1, 2005.

The Government of Canada, through the Department of Canadian Heritage, is proud to provide financial assistance to Katimavik.

-30-

For more information: Jennifer Timmons, Communications Advisor (interim)

Tel: (514) 868-0898 x. 229

Email: jtimmons@katimavik.org

Cell: (514) 707-1273

Web site: www.katimavik.org