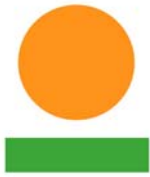


Katimavik



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Justin Trudeau visits Ottawa to talk with students
about the benefits of the Katimavik program and service learning**

Ottawa, March 9, 2005 – Justin P. J. Trudeau, Chair of the Board of Directors of Katimavik, visited Lisgar Collegiate Institute in Ottawa today to speak with grades 11 and 12 students about broadening their options upon graduation to include volunteer service work through Katimavik. Trudeau, whose father former Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau's government initiated the program, spoke about the opportunity provided for Canadian youth to travel to three destinations in Canada, doing community-based volunteer work with a diverse group of young people from across Canada.

"I believe Canada is stronger when our young people are encouraged to live in and learn about another region and devote their skills and energy to local communities in need," said Trudeau. "I'm pleased that this year close to 1,200 Canadians between the ages of 17-21 years will contribute positively to more than 100 communities across our country through Katimavik. It was great to meet with students in Ottawa today to help them become aware of this excellent option."

In the current 2004-2005 program year, Katimavik is investing over \$4 million in 27 communities in Ontario communities, with an additional investment of \$2,065,500 equivalent to 150,000 volunteer work hours.* Ontario communities benefiting from this volunteer work including Casselman, Alexandria and Hawkesbury, with program partners ranging from the Maison de la famille d'Embrun, Garderie quatre saisons, Alexandria Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Glengarry Historical Society – Pioneer Museum, École Elda-Rouleau, Bureau central des bénévoles, Loisirs Old Mill and the Prescott-Russell Recreational Trail Corporation. Close to 900 participants will volunteer in the Ontario region this year. A complete list of projects and partners for Ontario and across Canada is available at www.katimavik.org.

Since 1977, there have been over 8,000 Katimavik participants from Ontario. In the 2004-2005 program, 420 participants from Ontario are taking part in Katimavik. During these nine months they are volunteering and learning in communities in three different provinces. Each participant is a part of a group of 11 young people from many parts of Canada. By the time they return home, they will have gained new skills and perspectives, and in most cases their experiences during their gap year will guide them in planning their subsequent school or career path.

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*Calculated on the basis of Canada's average wage in the voluntary sector

About Katimavik

Katimavik provides young Canadians between the ages of 17 and 21 with a positive and diversified work experience through volunteer service as well as an exciting nine-month journey of self-discovery. In addition to working 35 hours a week on community projects, participants benefit from a learning program that focuses on developing leadership skills, official second language proficiency and healthy lifestyle, making cultural discoveries and protecting the environment. Participating in the Katimavik program develops both valuable professional and personal skills. Since 1977, over 25,000 Canadians have participated in Katimavik. April 3, 2005 is the application deadline for the program starting next September and October. To find out more visit the Web site at www.katimavik.org

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

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