

**Katimavik**



**For Immediate Release**

## **Calling Grimsby Youth: Experience Canada With Katimavik, the Country's Leading National Youth Service Program**

**Toronto, March 7, 2006** – Currently, senior high school students in Grimsby are facing a major life decision with the looming application deadline for universities and colleges. The reality is that many students do not feel prepared to make that jump and contemplate taking a “year off”. Katimavik—Canada’s leading national youth service program—provides them with the opposite, a “year on”. With Katimavik, Grimsby youth between 17 and 21 have an opportunity to participate in the experience-of-a-lifetime traveling across Canada while gaining valuable professional and life skills and making lasting friendships through volunteering. For nine months, participants have the opportunity to experience a variety of work environments with several different organizations which provides them with the chance to build their resume and discover their goals for the future.

From building hiking trails in parks to teaching children to read, Katimavik participants live in three different communities across Canada to develop leadership skills, improve knowledge of the second official language, learn more about protecting the environment and discover personal and professional abilities. Chaired by Justin Trudeau, the program accepts 1,155 applicants from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds bringing an unparalleled learning opportunity to young Canadians while helping local partner organizations complete projects.

Grimsby also has strong ties to Katimavik as this year, it is hosting three groups of young people from across Canada providing volunteer work opportunities through various local community partners organizations such as Central Elementary School, Grimsby Benevolent Fund and Grimsby Museum. Throughout its 28 year history, Katimavik has worked with thousands of communities across Canada, such as Grimsby, to give Canadian youth the opportunity to learn civic responsibility by contributing to society while helping local partner organizations complete projects.

“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,” comments Justin Trudeau, Chair of the Board of Directors, Katimavik. “I’m pleased that again this year 1,155 young Canadians will contribute positively to more than 100 communities across our country through Katimavik.”

**The application deadline for all Grimsby youth to take part in the program starting next September and October is May 5, 2006. For application information visit [www.katimavik.org](http://www.katimavik.org).**

### **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 900 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.

### **Katimavik: a solid foundation for Canadian youth**

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

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**For more information, please contact:**

Melanie Turner

Courtney Rainey Group

(416) 815-9100 ext. 224

(416) 575-4559 (cell)

[melanie@courtneyraineygroup.com](mailto:melanie@courtneyraineygroup.com)