

**KATIMAVIK BIDS ADIEU TO OUTGOING 2011 COHORT,  
THANKS COMMUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP**

**Montreal, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011** – The second cohort of the 2011 year for Katimavik volunteers and staff draws to a close this Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. More than 500 young Canadians have worked closely with local communities across the country and will be headed home with a renewed enthusiasm for civic engagement and stronger work skills to transfer to an increasingly competitive labour market.

“On behalf of Katimavik, I would like to thank and congratulate the young Canadians who joined us for their gap year,” said Katimavik CEO Daniel Lapointe, “Although we say goodbye with a heavy heart, we know they will continue to make us proud with the skills and dedication they so ably demonstrated in communities across Canada.”

The gap year is a concept that is widely accepted in Europe and the U.S. and increasingly in Canada. It is defined as break from formal education that allows a young person to experience personal growth and develop a clearer vision of what they want to do with life. According to research, young people who take a break display better results during future academic years and better employment rates as they enter the job market. Katimavik’s program encourages hands-on work experience, in a structured environment while providing assistance to marginalized and underprivileged citizens such as senior citizens, the homeless and the physically challenged.

This year alone, Katimavik volunteers have supported and contributed to the social and economic well-being of 52 communities, partnering with more than 545 not-for-profit partners to provide much-needed services. These volunteers represent participation on a truly national scale, bringing together youth from Canada’s thirteen provinces and territories to strengthen the sense of community common from coast to coast to coast.

Please visit Katimavik’s website and social media applications to learn more about the projects and initiatives worked on by the outgoing cohort, and to learn about the upcoming projects for 2012.

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**About Katimavik:**

Katimavik is Canada’s premier national youth learning through volunteer service organization. Since its foundation in 1977, more than 30,000 young Canadians have participated in Katimavik programs. Katimavik provides young Canadians with the opportunity to volunteer in community development initiatives across the country and develop valuable, transferable employment skills. Katimavik service and learning programs focus on the development of lifelong personal, professional and social competencies in the areas of civic engagement, healthy lifestyle, cultural discovery, official languages, communication, environmental stewardship and project coordination. For the 2011-2012 program year, Katimavik will be present in 52 communities in which more than 1,100 volunteers will be dispersed throughout the country.

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For more information, please visit [www.katimavik.org](http://www.katimavik.org), our blog at [www.gokatimavik.com](http://www.gokatimavik.com), or get social with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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