



Social Changemakers Conference: Thunder Bay, April 1-2, 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"We can't predict the future but we can help shape it and a good place to start is with the students. Harmony Movement has provided us with a great starting point."

*Rossella Bagnato, Superintendent,
Sudbury Catholic District School Board*

Over the past year, Harmony Movement has adapted to change and continued to grow, while demonstrating our ongoing commitment to delivering programs and resources that transform our communities.

Our program managers expanded their scope of travel across Ontario, bringing transformative school-based equity training to students and educators. In all, more than 160 programs were delivered to 51 of 60 English school boards in the province.

In April, Harmony Movement unveiled six regional Social Changemakers Conferences, bringing together hundreds of students from more than 30 school boards to raise awareness of equity and inclusion issues in their schools. The conferences gave these youth the tools necessary to become leaders for social change in their communities.

We also launched a free three-part e-learning module, available from our website, which complements our

popular Educator's Equity Companion Guide. All twelve French-language school boards have also embraced the French version of the module, as well as the French adaptation of the *Educator's Equity Workbook*.

Our work in the community continues. Funding provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation allowed us to make our programs more accessible in the Halton and Peel regions. This year, we introduced Harmony programs to parents and caregivers, social agencies and support workers.

Our newest foray is into the workplace, where we are also having a positive impact. Our diversity training is strengthening equitable and inclusive practices amongst staff in a range of organizations.



Cheuk Kwan
Executive Director

"I never go anywhere without your companion guide."

*Paula Wing, Artist-Educator,
Royal Conservatory of Music*

"I am especially impressed with the overall quality of the workshop and the preparedness of Harmony's facilitators."

*Michelle Tinker, Director,
Community Microskills Development Centre*

"Harmony definitely changed my life."

*Sarah Gordier, former student,
Paris District High School*

"Harmony is unique. It is the only organization in the province that has the full program and curriculum to make positive changes to the whole institution from top to bottom."

*Chris D'souza, teacher,
Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB*



COMMUNITY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Key Assets Canada

Our new partnership with Key Assets Canada and other foster agencies in the Peel region will allow Harmony to provide engaging programming that will have a positive impact on youth in care. Working not only with these young people, but with foster caregivers and agency staff, the goal is to create safer, more inclusive communities for youth in care. We also aim to provide them with an awareness and understanding of how their inherent gifts, abilities, identities, experiences and diverse family situations shape their unique perspectives.

Ontario Early Years Centre

Harmony ran two "Understanding My World" programs at the Caledon Parent-Child Centre, for parents and caregivers of children up to six years of age. They discussed the importance of fostering positive acceptance of oneself and others, as well as best practices in conflict resolution in the event their child is being bullied or is a bully. They also learned to become mindful of their child's growing awareness of the diverse world in which we live.

MIAG Centre for Diverse Women and Families

Harmony facilitated a four-part workshop in collaboration with the Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel, engaging youth and seniors on topics such as "Bridging the Technology Gap" and "Volunteering in the Community". The multi-generational participants shared their personal experiences and stories, and benefited from the opportunity to connect and learn from one another.

Vita Centre for Pregnant and Parenting Youth

More than 65 young parents participated in training sessions that offered a chance to speak candidly about the realities and challenges of being a young parent. They were given a voice and a safe environment to learn how to approach different situations through a weeklong Arts.4.Equity series, where teenage mothers were able to explore their artistic side. Participants created batik art that reflected who they felt they were, while rejecting the burden of stereotypes.

"I'm going to be more proactive with my daughter. I never had many discussions about racism or discrimination with her, as I thought she was too young to understand. Now I know differently."
Parent at Caledon Parent-Child Centre

"Student voices will continue to be heard and seen and we look forward to drilling deeper into this work in every one of our school communities."
*Susan Edwards, Superintendent,
Upper Canada DSB*

SOCIAL CHANGEMAKERS

Hosts: Lakehead DSB • Upper Canada DSB • Upper Grand DSB • V



REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Waterloo Region DSB • Simcoe County DSB • Sudbury Catholic DSB



SCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Camp Brebeuf

Halton Catholic's Corpus Christi started the school year with a two-day retreat for 250 of their Grade 9 students at Camp Brebeuf in Rockwood, Ontario. Harmony provided equity and inclusion workshops for students entering high school and trained student mentors from higher grades, as equity leaders at their school. One of the teachers was so empowered that she stated, "I wish all the staff could receive this training as well."

Gateway to the Arctic

In April, the Northeastern Catholic District School Board and the James Bay Lowlands Secondary School Board hosted Harmony in Moosonee, Ontario, known as the "Gateway to the Arctic". Through three days of programming, educators and students from Bishop Belleau School and Northern Lights Secondary School explored the concepts of equity and inclusion, developed the skills to create positive change in their communities, and learned that leadership can come in many different forms.

Assessing Effectiveness

Working with six school boards, including Northeastern Catholic and Upper Canada, Harmony conducted an evaluation to assess our effectiveness in developing and assisting with the creation of safe and inclusive school environments. Testimonials and data were gathered via surveys, focus groups, and interviews with administrators, teachers, and current and former students who took part in our programs. The results will be shared with the Equity and Inclusive Education Branch at the ministry.

Parents and Caregivers Engagement

A Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant from the Ministry of Education allowed Harmony to develop resources and deliver programming to more than 400 parents and caregivers in the public and Catholic boards of York region. These sessions provided core learning in diversity issues and helped identify barriers to school and community engagement.

"My daughter came back extremely pumped, telling me that the conference really impacted her and she wants to make some changes. She woke up this morning saying she felt like a different person."

*Chantal Moore, Principal,
Keewatin-Patricia DSB*

"We are excited about the possibilities of what the students choose to do as a next step to continue the work you've done today with our school as a whole."

*Sheba Joshua, ESL teacher,
York Region DSB*

BUSINESS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Regent Park Community Health Centre

Serving one of the most diverse populations in Toronto, the staff at the Regent Park Community Health Centre will be the focus of an organization-wide equity training in an anti-oppressive framework. Harmony worked with the organization's senior managers and team leaders to plan and develop a curriculum that will be rolled out in multiple sessions to the entire staff of 140, from doctors and nurses to social workers, receptionists and custodial personnel.

Mount Pleasant Group

Harmony is entering into an exciting partnership with the Mount Pleasant Group to provide integrated workplace diversity training on inclusion and anti-discrimination. A pilot workshop with senior management will allow the organization's human resources department to implement a customized curriculum for its entire staff of 300. This includes senior managers, customer service personnel, property managers and funeral management teams.

Royal Conservatory of Music

The Royal Conservatory of Music enlisted Harmony to engage artist-educators in integrating equity and inclusion into their practice. We designed a tailored curriculum of innovative and creative workshops to provoke staff, which allowed them to explore and understand equity in a way that they had not been able to do before.

MEET OUR NEW STAFF

Brittany Andrew-Amofah

Brittany has worked with diverse communities across the GTA helping marginalized individuals – including transitioning homeless adults, children and youth – overcome systemic barriers and better integrate in the community. She co-founded the Dare2b Project to help youth think critically about the world and to become aware of the various systems of oppression that persist in Canadian society. Brittany holds an Honours B.A. from York University in Social Science, specializing in Equity and Social Policy.

2015 HARMONY AWARD

Desmond Cole



Freelance journalist, radio show host, activist and community worker Desmond Cole has brought attention to a diversity of social issues, including racial profiling and immigration. Desmond's 2015 Toronto Life cover story "The Skin I'm In: I've been interrogated by police more than 50 Times - all because I'm black" started the conversation about the police carding system and has been front and centre in the movement to abolish the practice.

2014 HARMONY AWARDS GALA

Harmony Award: Jeremy Dias

Leadership in Education Award: Michael Way Skinner, York Catholic District School Board

Educator Award: Alison Carson, Halton District School Board

School of the Year Award: Eastwood Collegiate Institute



PARTNERS IN HARMONY

