

TORONTO – April 11, 2018

Voices of Canadian Youth: We Are Better Together

Harmony Movement and York Region District School Board are set to welcome 1,100 students to the *Voices of Canadian Youth: We Are Better Together* conference on Thursday April 26, 2018 at the Bill Crothers Secondary School, Unionville, Ontario.

The event in Markham, north of Toronto, is the first stop of a national project that Harmony Movement is partnering with Rick Hansen Foundation and Centennial College to deliver 13 *Social Changemakers* conferences across Canada, one in each province and territory.

The project is funded in part by the Canadian Heritage's Inter-Action: Multiculturalism Funding Program, with additional financial support from Mr. Allan Slight.

Over the next 12 months, Harmony Movement will be partnering with school boards across the country to provide youth an opportunity to help foster a socially cohesive society by: building bridges to promote intercultural understanding; promoting opportunity for individuals of all origins; and fostering citizenship, civic engagement and a healthy democracy.

Participants in these conferences will create their own multi-media stories and share them through an online portal. Through the power of cross-country storytelling, they will learn about each other's lived experiences; work towards bridging differences; and be inspired to become leaders for social change.

These shared stories will also help youth gain new insights and awareness into the unique experiences and struggles of our communities, as well as impact of discrimination in the day-to-day lives of others and on Canadian society as a whole.

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Who is Harmony Movement?

Founded in 1994 with a vision for all Canadians to value diversity and to foster a commitment to a just and caring society, Harmony Movement provides experiential education programs in diversity, equity and inclusion that empower and inspire positive social change.

In 1997, Harmony Movement launched the *Them = Us: Photographic Journeys Across Our Cultural Boundaries* national photo exhibition that reached 60 communities, from Victoria, B.C. to St. John's, Nfld.

Since 2005, Harmony Movement has delivered more than 1,000 diversity education programs to schools, workplaces and community organizations throughout Ontario, including more than 100 youth conferences.

Harmony Movement's *Social Changemakers* youth conferences engage participants in critical thinking, courageous conversations and strategy building; focusing on challenging their own beliefs; as well as taking social action against discrimination.

Harmony Movement is generously supported by its Partners in Harmony: BMO Financial Group, ETFO, OPSEU, TD Bank, and UNIFOR.

For more information please contact: Janelle Yanishewski, Project Manager
E-mail: janishewski@harmony.ca / Tel: 416-385-2660