

## OUR VIEW

# Nominate a youth for their work

We say this every year, and every year it's true - you don't have to look far to find the leaders of tomorrow.

They are at local schools, church groups and youth clubs, already making a difference by contributing to community life.

They are on sports teams and volunteering for organizations.

They are collecting donations and supporting area charities.

And they are excelling in school, maintaining top-level grade point averages.

They are extraordinary, and it's time to recognize them.

Each year, the Ontario Community Newspapers Association (OCNA) - of which the IFP is a member - co-ordinates the Ontario Junior Citizen Awards program as a way to honour and encourage youths who are involved in community life.

People are asked to nominate a youth they believe is deserving of such recognition.

It's time to move quickly, too, as the deadline for nominations is Thursday, Nov. 30.

Any Ontario resident between the ages of six and 17 years is eligible to be chosen as one of the final recipients of the award.

How can you get involved? By nominating a youth in one of five categories:

A person involved in worthwhile community service;

A special young person contributing to his or her community while living with a physical or psychological limitation;

An individual who has performed an act of heroism in the past year;

Excellence in achievement, such as the arts or athletics;

Good kids who show a commitment to making life better for others and do more than is normally expected of someone their age.

Up to 12 nominees will be chosen as the final recipients of the award who will be invited to a ceremony next spring in Toronto.

Each young person who is nominated will be presented with a certificate of recognition, and their contributions will be highlighted with an article in the IFP.

Help us pay tribute to our leaders of today and tomorrow.

Again, the nomination deadline for the Ontario Junior Citizen Awards is Nov. 30.

Visit [www.ocna.org/juniorcitizen](http://www.ocna.org/juniorcitizen) for more information and to access the nomination forms.

These young people are exceptional, with limitless potential and the OCNA wants to recognize their accomplishments. Help us celebrate the young people in our community who are making a difference.

## ● MORE ONLINE

Check out our range of social media channels serving up content from [theIFP.com](http://theIFP.com)



## ABOUT US

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## LETTERS & COMMENTARY

### Bill 163 vindictive in nature

The Kathleen Wynne government has rushed through Bill 163 to make significant legal restrictions and punishments for abortion clinic witnessing and protesting. It threatens pro-life witnesses with fines of up to \$5,000 and six months in jail. No doubt this government feels strongly supportive of abortion and expects very little blowback. They will not get it from the Toronto media.

I do not understand their urgency. Their attitude takes on the tone of vindictiveness, as if any difference of opinion is a major insult. And I suppose, to them, it is.

Maybe they sense that society is more and more trending to favour pro-life attitudes, so they must act

now. Maybe it is a play to their progressive base. Maybe it is their being anti-religion and they are giving in to bigotry. I do not know.

But, what they are not attending to are some little-discussed points.

They have not heard from the women who, as a result of the witnessing, chose to have their babies and are now so very glad that they did. They are not considering how many of the women who did have abortions deeply regret it.

Each unborn child whose life is ended would have been a joy in someone's arms if it had been allowed to live.

Each one would have been a unique human being, unique in the entire history of the cosmos, able to make unique contributions to all of us. If in no other way, by teaching us how we need to

love, how we need to nurture.

By the time you read this, it may be too late. The bill will have passed. But, at least, remember in sorrow what this Liberal government represents.

David Davies

### Scrapping Indian Act won't improve Aboriginal communities

*Re: Editorial Sept. 21, End of Indian Act worth discussing.*

Scrapping the act would do nothing to solve the problem of schooling and health care, which the act promised but has wretchedly delivered, ensuring the continued misery of many who have always deserved better. Further, it ignores the great-

er problem of the land.

If governments going back 200 years hadn't conveniently confiscated treaty lands whenever settlers cast their eyes upon them, and if Indigenous education had always matched that given to the rest of us, then our Indigenous friends might have thriving economies and healthy communities.

Their rightful lands would include oil fields, mines, and tourist areas, instead of casinos and bleak and isolated reserves in places no one else ever wanted.

A "payout to each Indigenous man, woman, and child in Canada" to settle outstanding land claims and treaty guarantees would be impossibly expensive, solve almost nothing, and be an admission of our failure as a country.

Janet Duval

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