

CITIZEN ON ASSIGNMENT: Youth forum provides opportunity for friendship, unity and education

Lessons on government from the nation's capital

BY ZARA LAM
Citizen on Assignment

"Youth are the future" was the reoccurring message during the week-long Forum for Young Canadians program.

Selected by their schools and communities, youth from sea to sea travelled to the nation's capital to participate in an opportunity of a lifetime.

Packed with seminars held by speakers from a variety of different public and government office positions, this first-hand experience proved to be invaluable to students interested in learning more about Canada's process of government. Students attended sessions at Parliament regularly and experienced what it was like to be a politician during mock election campaigns.

Grade 9 history does not do justice to the amazing and complex Canadian system of government.



Zara Lam, centre, with Sarah Fraser, left, of Nova Scotia and Christopher Sierant of Quebec.

All senior high school students should be encouraged to participate in this worthwhile educational experience. It is

also an opportunity to meet youth from across Canada.

The bond students share after spending intense moments arguing federal politics then discussing the latest songs is unbreakable.

Meeting students from all across Canada, participants felt a sense of patriotism and unity. Similar in many social aspects, yet the experiences each brought with them were different, from serious crime rates in Vancouver to closed fisheries in Nova Scotia.

Participants at the federal and provincial mock conference resolved issues such as language barriers between the Francophone and Anglophone people.

Sponsors helping Markham participants include Brother Andre Catholic High School, Brother Andre School Council, Optimist Club, Lions Club, Greyhound Canada, Sing Tao Daily Newspaper and the York Catholic District School Board.



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ELECTION

It's Different This Time!

WE'RE USING A NEW WAY TO PREPARE THE VOTERS LIST FOR THIS ELECTION.

It's called the Permanent Register of Electors for Ontario and it means that *most* Ontario residents won't have enumerators knocking at their door this time.

REVISING AGENTS MAY CALL DOOR-TO-DOOR

In some areas where there has recently been a significant change in population, it may be necessary to complete a limited door-to-door canvass to identify eligible voters. In these cases, revising agents from Elections Ontario, working in teams of two, will be calling on residences to confirm voter eligibility. If the revising agents come to your door, please make them welcome.

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION CARDS WILL BE MAILED

The names of *most* qualified voters in Ontario will already be included on the Voters List for this election as a result of information contained in the Permanent Register of Electors for Ontario. Those voters will receive a Notice of Registration card by mail. This card will confirm that they are on the Voters List, and it will provide their electoral district and the location of the poll where they will vote on election day.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A NOTICE OF REGISTRATION CARD

If you are qualified to vote and have NOT received your notification card within TWO WEEKS, contact your local returning office for information on how to protect your right to vote on election day. Returning office locations and telephone numbers may be obtained by calling Elections Ontario or by visiting our website.

THE NOTICE OF REGISTRATION WILL LOOK LIKE THIS:



NEW ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

The boundaries for electoral districts in Ontario provincial elections have changed. The number of electoral districts has been reduced from 130 to 105 and boundaries are now the same as those for federal elections.

You may confirm your electoral district by calling Elections Ontario or by visiting our website.

QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE

To be eligible to vote, on polling day a person must be:

- 18 years of age,
- a Canadian citizen, and
- a resident of the electoral district.

Persons who ceased to live in Ontario within the two years before polling day may be entitled to vote under certain conditions. Call us for further information.

If you have friends or relatives who have difficulty reading, please make them aware of the information in this notice.



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FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CALL US AT

1-888-ONT-VOTE
(668-8683)

OR TTY

1-888-292-2312

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WEBSITE AT

www.electionsontario.on.ca