



# Canadian Youth Delegation Application



**United Nations Climate Change Conference**  
**UNFCCC COP14/CMP4**  
**December 1-12, 2008**  
**Poznan, Poland**



The **Canadian Youth Delegation (CYD)** is now accepting applications to participate at the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Fourth Conference of the Parties serving as Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP14 and COP/CMP4). The UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan is a critical stage in the negotiations. The talks are a key stepping stone between the 2007 UN Climate Change Conference in Bali, where the Bali roadmap was established, and the 2009 UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen, the deadline for crafting a new global agreement to follow the first phase of Kyoto.

Youth must build on their success and involvement in establishing the Bali Roadmap and demand Canada play a constructive role in forging the new global agreement. It is imperative that this agreement is robust, equitable and ambitious enough to keep warming below 2°C and prevent dangerous, run-away climate change. Youth from around the world have mobilized a significant presence at previous COPs, and this year we intend to step it up to demonstrate that youth have an important voice on the fate of our climate. In the recent past, youth have organized participation in Montreal (COP11/CMP1 in 2005), Nairobi (COP12/CMP2 in 2006) and Bali (COP13/CMP3 in 2007). Canadian youth have a history of being one of the largest, loudest, and most effective groups at the climate negotiations. Last year's CYD to Bali was an enormously successful and influential. Canadian youth received high praise for their hard work and dedication.

**“The only good thing about the Bali conference was the youth members there.”**

Thomas Homer-Dixon, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**“We needed that counter-balance at the conference, and the youth provided it!”**

Former Canadian Delegate to the UNFCCC, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**“You guys sure kept them on their toes! And it came through in our media. ”**

Elizabeth May, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008



It is again time for Canadian youth to demonstrate leadership and mobilize our delegation to Poznan, Poland. In joining the CYD Poznan team, you will have official accreditation with the UN as a conference participant, and access to funding opportunities and resources through the delegation's fundraising efforts. As a CYD delegate to Poznan, you will have the unique opportunity to represent Canadian youth at international negotiations by developing policy platforms, lobbying delegates, engaging with media and working with international youth to affect change in climate change policy. Strong leadership skills, and more importantly, the ability to work collaboratively as a team are critical for Canadian youth delegates.

### **Mentorship**

Feeling lost with all these acronyms but still passionate about making a difference? Don't worry! CYD-Poznan is committed to welcoming and supporting those new to the process. This year, the CYD will benefit from an incredible Mentor Network, bringing the perspectives of a diverse group of experienced Canadians to delegates through a series of online trainings and an in-person capacity-building summit in Toronto just prior to departure. New delegates will also benefit from support from more experienced members of the team and regional alumni across the country ready to help you settle into the confusing but rewarding world of the climate negotiations.

Delegates will be expected to engage in substantial preparation and fundraising efforts in the months leading up to the conference. Delegates will work together to educate themselves, develop policy priorities, acquire skills in effective lobbying, and engage youth across the country on climate change. Delegates will be required to stay in regular email contact and engage in research and conference calls, which will occur weekly or bi-weekly as needed. On average a delegate can expect to commit at least 5 hours most weeks, and more nearing the conference, to keeping up with emails, being on conference calls, and working in sub groups on projects in relation to policy, communications, and fundraising. At COP14, delegates will collaborate with each other and other international youth to participate in areas of interest to them, which include: policy, media, lobbying and logistics while taking part in other conference activities.

**CYD-Poznan will make every effort to secure funding for delegates. However, due to the high cost of traveling to Poland, your funding cannot be guaranteed.** As part of the CYD Poznan delegation, individual donations that you solicit to support your participation (donations that you arrange from family, friends and smaller organizations) will be eligible for a charitable receipt. As a group, we will also be working on group fundraising that will support collective delegation costs or support costs of specific delegates. While best efforts will be made, group fundraising is not guaranteed and will be allocated as it is obtained.



While it is difficult to balance commitments such as work and school, we are looking for individuals who will make every effort to be available for the length of the conference, plus arrival in Poznan 2-3 days early for a planned conference of international youth.

CYD-Poznan is a project of the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition (CYCC). The Coalition was founded in the fall of 2006 in response to the lack of climate leadership demonstrated by Canada's government. The Coalition is comprised of 18 diverse youth organizations and seeks to promote youth engagement and action on climate change issues. It is non-partisan and seeks strong political leadership on climate change from all parties. All potential delegates should understand and agree with the CYCC Declaration, which outlines the basic goals and values of the CYCC. The Declaration is available online at: [www.petitiononline.com/CYCC/petition.html](http://www.petitiononline.com/CYCC/petition.html)

For more information on the CYCC visit [www.ourclimate.ca](http://www.ourclimate.ca)

**Important Note:** Like the coalition, the CYD is a strictly non-partisan project. While we welcome and encourage the active participation of youth in civic life, we are not able to accept paid representatives or official candidates of any political party as members of the CYD.

Delegates choose to participate at their own risk and *CYCC* and *CYD Poznan* are not responsible for personal safety or other liabilities. Although we will make every effort to provide assistance and minimize travel risks, responsibility lies with the individual. We will however make every effort to assist delegates by helping the team get there, as well as providing the tools, knowledge, and connections necessary for a successful trip.

If you have limited familiarity with youth involvement at COP you are encouraged to visit [www.cydbali.org](http://www.cydbali.org) and review previous youth COP experiences and plans for COP14.

### Supporting Diversity

To support the engagement of all Canadian youth, the CYD will be offering a series of scholarships to facilitate participation from traditionally underrepresented groups. In particular we aim to support youth from remote, Northern, Indigenous and low-income communities. This will bring important perspectives to the CYD and help ensure that our work is more representative of young Canadians as a whole. Specific scholarships are currently under development – please stay tuned for opportunities!



**Seeking:** 25 youth from across Canada, diverse in culture, age, and experience

**Eligibility:** Canadian citizens or permanent residents 18-26 years of age

**Estimated cost:** \$2800CDN (airfare, accommodation, food, etc). Airfare to Poznan from Toronto is approximately \$1200. This may increase before the conference due to the price of oil and fuel surcharges.

**Selection Criteria:**

CYCC is committed to selecting a skilled, diverse, and passionate delegation. Applicants are required to be between the ages of 18 and 26 as of December 2008 and to either (a) be a Canadian citizen or (b) study or work in Canada for more than six months. Applicants who can attend the entire conference will be given preference.

**Additional selection criteria are as follows:**

- **Commitment to Climate Change Advocacy:** Applicants must demonstrate a serious commitment to reducing the impacts from climate change and mitigating greenhouse gases. Previous experience in the field of climate change policy is an asset.

- **Diversity:** Preference will be given to those who can contribute something unique to CYD-Poznan.

If you have experience, perspectives or skills in a certain area that can assist the delegation as a whole, please note this in your application.

- **Leadership and Teamwork Skills:** Preference will be given to those who have experience in leadership and teamwork, such as student or grassroots organizing, event or project planning, or peer-to-peer education. Please describe your leadership and teamwork skills in your application.

- **Previous CYCC Involvement:** Applicants are not required to have been involved with CYCC or any of its member organizations. However, previous involvement will be given some consideration in selection process. In order to achieve a decent level of institutional memory we will be trying to strike a balance in the delegation between experienced CYDers and new members.

**Applicant Information**

There are three parts to this application. Please compile your responses to all three parts into one Microsoft Word document and submit it, along with a recent copy of your CV via email, to [CYDpoznan@gmail.com](mailto:CYDpoznan@gmail.com). Please write your full name in the subject line.

**Submission Deadline:** 6:00pm EST, August 14<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Applicants will be notified of their selection and (where possible) eligibility for scholarships by August 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be required to confirm their involvement shortly after notification.

## **PART I – Basic Information**

1. Full name
2. Full address
3. Date of birth
4. Phone number(s) – please specify home, cell, work, etc
5. Email address
6. Gender
7. Are you a member of a First Nations or Aboriginal community?
8. Where will you be based over the next six months?
9. Will you be able to attend the entire conference from December 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2008? If not, what dates are you available? Are you available to attend the pre-summit (three days before the conference?).
10. Are you willing to invest approximately 5 hours a week (and more closer to departure) towards working with the team to prepare for the Conference and to participate in any conference calls and meetings?
11. If you are presently attending school do you foresee any problem in deferring your exams or other assignments you may have during this period? If so, what are they?
12. Please state any organizational affiliations (if applicable).
13. What college/university do you attend (if applicable).
14. What is your educational background?
15. Please identify your language skills and proficiency.

## **PART II – Skills and Experience**

Using the examples below, please briefly outline in order of importance, any relevant skills/experience you have in the following areas:

- Communication Skills (public speaking, writing, blogging, etc.)
- Computer skills (interactive web forums, publishing software (e.g. Adobe), website maintenance, etc.)
- Media skills (writing press releases, giving interviews, blogs etc.)
- Networking and relationship building with delegates and government stakeholders
- Cross-cultural communication skills
- Group facilitation and team building skills/experience
- Experience and knowledge of climate policy (within Canada, or internationally)
- Experience creating and executing creative actions/demonstrations
- Experience planning and managing logistics (such as organizing group transportation, accommodation, fundraising, etc.)
- Experience advocating for social/environmental issues (not necessarily climate) to government or the public
- Other relevant knowledge, experience, or skills.

## **PART III – Essay Questions**

Please write your responses in a word document and include them in your application.

### **1. Statement of Interest**

Why do you want to attend COP14/CMP4? What do you hope to accomplish while at the meeting (individually and/or as part of the group)? (300 words max)

### **2. Your role**

What do you see as your role in the delegation? What special skills do you bring to the table? (e.g. media contact, blogger, policy work) (200 words max)

### **3. Policy Question OR Canada and Climate Change Question**

Please answer only one question from either Part A or Part B (300 words max). If you are not the essay writing type, we welcome other creative ways of sharing your responses, we are up for videos, audio recordings, cartoons, and any other taste of your creativity you want to share! If you have any questions, feel free to email [cydpoznan@gmail.com](mailto:cydpoznan@gmail.com).

#### **Part A – Policy Question**

Outline a policy recommendation you would want to make at COP14 on one of the following issues:

- Mitigation by Annex I parties
- Bunker Fuels (emissions from international marine and aviation sectors)
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Article 9 review of the Protocol
- Emissions Trading, CDM and other project-based mechanisms
- Finance mechanisms
- Financing and implementing Adaptation
- Land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF)
- Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries (REDD)
- Engaging advanced developing (rapidly industrializing) countries in the climate change regime
- Technology Transfer and the diffusion of renewable energy technologies
- Current Canadian policy related to climate change and energy

**OR**

#### **Part B – Canada and Climate Change**

*Please answer one of the following:*

1. How can the Canadian public – and especially youth – be engaged in a vision to support a just transition to a more sustainable Canada? How does this tie in to the work of the delegation?
2. Do you feel Canadian/international media has objectively developed the climate change debate for the general public? Does CYD-Poznan have a role in reframing the debate?
3. What demographic do you feel has been excluded the most from the climate change debate in Canada? What would be your proposal to engage them?

Please note that we do not expect everyone to be a policy expert and we highly encourage applicants who are brand-new to the process. We recommend that you write your response on one of these topics. However, if you would like to write on a different topic, or would like assistance with one of the suggested topics, feel free to email [cydpoznan@gmail.com](mailto:cydpoznan@gmail.com) and we will do our best to assist you!

Thank you for your interest in joining CYD Poznan. We will be a delegation of youth with diverse experience, skills, and backgrounds from across Canada carrying our message Canadians across the country, to the Canadian government and delegates from around the world. If you are seeking a challenge, an unforgettable experience, and a chance to make change, this opportunity is for you!

If you have any questions about this application, please contact [cydpoznan@gmail.com](mailto:cydpoznan@gmail.com)