



Hip-Hop Musical Connects Human Rights Education to 30,000 Youth in Schools Across Canada

Oct. 6, 2005. Toronto – Music has the power to motivate and educate youth - empowering musicians to influence youth intrinsically. Facilitated by Canadian non-profit organization **The 411 Initiative For Change (411)**, young Canadian musicians and educators are using their music as a medium to provide human rights legal education to high school students within the academic system to empower youth to become active members of the global community. This highly effective program is delivered via the successful musical **“The Barbershop Show”**, and will reach **30,000 youth** in rural and urban centers across Canada as part of a national concert tour into high schools between **Oct 17 – Dec 9, 2005**. The production blurs the lines between concert and hip-hop musical by using contemporary music to interest youth on issues which affect their peers internationally including **conflict and armed violence, poverty, education, violence against women and girls, refugees and discrimination**.

“This program affords Canadian youth with the opportunity to learn about the experiences of young people around the world faced with common realities which have shaped the lives of their classmates and neighbor’s who are immigrants and refugees,” explains Anita Wong, 411 Director of Programs. *“Many of the issues discussed on armed conflict, violence against women and girls, and child poverty frame the lives of many Canadian youth – addressing these issues promotes increased understanding.”*

The production features powerful songstress **Melanie Durrant**, whose performance challenges abuse and violence against women in our communities, as well as discussing the importance of equal access to education for all children. Hip-hop artist **Shohn Boothe (Rikoshay)** uses his music to explore the effects of poverty on children around the world and explores how youth can live responsibly to protect the human rights of their peers. The production is hosted by music industry veteran and former professor on hip-hop culture **Will Strickland** and features a variety of guest poets who discuss the realities of being a refugee and experience of children in armed conflict and wars. The production originally developed by **won-by-one Records**, revolves around the atmosphere of an urban barbershop – using skits and songs to introduce discussion related to human rights education. Following the performance, the musicians interact with the students in discussion sessions and challenge youth to take an active role in their collective futures while encouraging them to develop their own individual forms of self-expression through art or action. Drawing from the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** and the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, this program provides the platform for academic discussion and curriculum support to teachers to introduce human rights education, and its supporting legal instruments, into the classroom.

“411 school programs motivate youth to work individually and collectively to effect change in their communities in Canada and globally,” comments Ms. Wong. *“We provide support, networks and resources to strengthen young people’s projects and ideas through our online community (www.whatsthe411.ca).”*

The 411 Initiative For Change works on development projects aiming for viable long-term impacts through bridging education, arts, culture and heritage to social development. 411’s ‘Best Practice’: Youth Teaching Youth - Using Music as an Educational Tool for Empowerment and Civic Education, has been nominated for the **Canadian Race Relations Foundation Award of Excellence** for its ‘best practice’ in diversity management and towards combating discrimination in schools over 30 schools in Ontario.

The unique nature of **The 411 Initiative For Change’s** model of using artists and music as key agents in social change – from within the education system, demonstrates innovative, timely and effective response to the growing need to practice sustainable models for social development.

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Performances open only to members of the media in the following cities: Toronto, Guelph, Kitchener, Windsor, Ottawa, North Bay, Sudbury, Barrie, Huntsville, Montreal, Charlottetown, Halifax, Calgary and Winnipeg.
*Refer to following page for dates, times and school information

Contact:
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This program is supported in part by:



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The 411 Initiative For Change
Tel: 647-438-9436 / Email: connect@whatsthe411.ca

**Human Rights Education Tour Schedule**

City	Date	School	Address
Toronto	Oct. 17	9:00 Parkdale CI	209 Jameson Ave
Toronto	Oct. 19	9:00 AM Thistletown CI	20 Fordwich Cres, Etobicoke
Oshawa	Oct. 20	9:30 Paul Dwyer Catholic School	700 Stevenson Rd N
Toronto	Oct. 21	1:00 Northview Heights	550 Finch Ave West
Guelph	Oct. 24	9:00Am College Heights	371 College Avenue West
Guelph	Oct. 24	1:00PM Guelph Collegiate VI	155 Paisley Street
Kitchener	Oct. 25	8:23 Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate	787 King St. W.
Kitchener	Oct. 25	9:25Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate	787 King St. W.
windsor	Oct. 27	1:00 W.F Herman SS	1930 Rossini Blvd
Windsor	Oct. 28	9:30 AM McAllam	4195 Milloy
Windsor	Oct. 28	1:00 Sandwich Secondary	7050 Malden Road, Lasalle
Ottawa	Nov. 7	9:00 Sacred Heart HS	5870 Abbott Street, Sittsville
Ottawa	Nov. 7	12:30 Sacred Heart HS	5870 Abbott Street, Sittsville
Ottawa	Nov. 8	9:00 St Patricks HS	2525 Alta Vista Road
Ottawa	Nov. 8	1:00 PM Woodroffe HS	240 Georgina Drive
Ottawa	Nov. 9	9:00 West Carleton	3088 Dunrobin Road, RR2,
Ottawa	Nov. 9	11:40 West Carelton	3088 Dunrobin Road, RR2,
Ottawa	Nov. 10	9:30 Colonel By SS	2381 Olgilvie Road
Ottawa	Nov. 10	1:00 Colonel BY SS	2381 Olgilvie Road
North Bay	Nov. 15	9:00AM Silver Birches P.S.	65 Marshall Ave
Sudbury	Nov. 16	9:00 Mary Mount Academy	165 D'Youville Street
Sudbury	Nov. 16	1:00 Bishop Alexander Carter HS	539 Francis Street, Harnmer
Hunstville	Nov. 17	9:00AM Gravenhurst HS	325 Mary St S
Barrie	Nov. 18	9:00 AM Barrie North CI	125 Dunlop St. W
Montreal	Nov. 28	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM TBA	
Charlottetown	Nov. 29	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM TBA	
Charlottetown	Nov. 30	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM TBA	
Halifax	Dec. 1	9:30 Lockview High School	148 Lockview Road, Fall River
Halifax	Dec. 1	1:00 PM TBA	
Halifax	Dec. 2	9:00 AM Tantallon Junior High	3 french Village station Road, Tantallon
Halifax	Dec. 2	1:00 TBA	
Calgary	Dec. 5	9:00 Central Memorial	5111- 21 St. S. W.
Calgary	Dec. 5	1:00 Lord Shaughnessy	2336 53rd Ave SW
Calgary	Dec. 6	9:30 AM Dr. Norman Bethune	315-86 Ave
Calgary	Dec. 6	1:30PM West Island College	7410 Blackfoot Trail SE
Winnipeg	Dec. 7	9:00 Balmoral HS	630 Westminster Avenue
Winnipeg	Dec. 7	1:00 Chapman School	3707 Roblin Blvd
Winnipeg	Dec. 8	9:30 John Pritchard	1490 Henderson Highway
Winnipeg	Dec. 8	1:00PM Ecole Viscount Alexander	810 Waterford Avenue
Winnipeg	Dec. 9	9:00 St. Boniface Diocesan HS	282 Dubac Street
Winnipeg	Dec. 9	1:00 PM Youth Conference	University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Ave

This program is supported in part by:

Department of Justice
CanadaMinistère de la Justice
CanadaCanadian
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FoundationONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIOAmnesty
International**The 411 Initiative For Change**Tel: 647-438-9436 / Email: connect@whatsthe411.ca**Bridging Education, Arts, Culture & Heritage to Social Development**