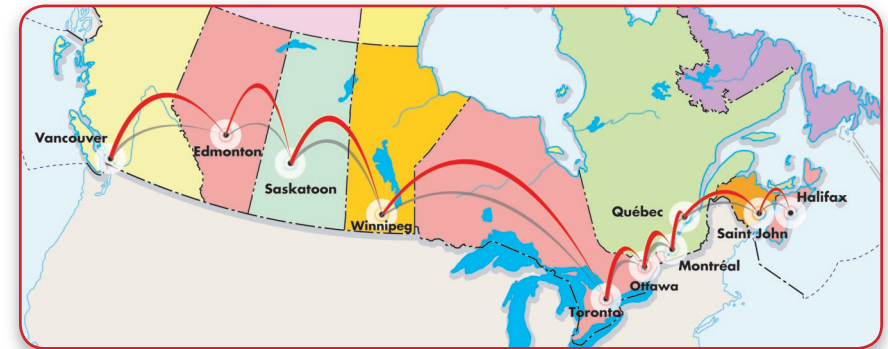


TakingITGlobal is an international organization led by youth and empowered by technology. TIG inspires, informs and involves young people around the world to create positive change in their local and global communities.

www.takingitglobal.org

 <p>MAKE CONNECTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Boards e-Cards Member Stories Newsletter TIGblogs 	 <p>TAKE ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide to Action Open Forums Projects Workshop Kit 	 <p>BROWSE RECOURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events Organisations Professional Oppurtunities Financial Oppurtunities Toolkits and Publications
 <p>EXPRESS YOURSELF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Gallery Panorama TIG Magazine 	 <p>UNDERSTAND ISSUES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the Issues Featured Themes 	 <p>EXPLORE THE WORLD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Sites

CROSS-CANADA MAPPING OF YOUTH-LED INITIATIVES



◉ <http://projects.takingitglobal.org/mapping>

Welcome to An Open Forum on Youth Participation in Canada

Vancouver	BC	05 Jan 2006
Edmonton	AB	09 Jan 2006
Saskatoon	SK	12 Jan 2006
Winnipeg	MB	16 Jan 2006
Toronto	ON	19 Jan 2006
Ottawa	ON	23 Jan 2006
Montréal	QC	26 Jan 2006
Québec City	QC	30 Jan 2006
Saint John	NB	02 Feb 2006
Halifax	NS	06 Feb 2006

This Open Forum is part of our **Cross-Canada Mapping of Youth-led Initiatives** project, a five month capacity building and research project with a focus on youth-led/highly youth-engaged initiatives in Canada.

The purpose of this session is to provide a forum for discussion on youth participation among Canadian youth at the local and national level.

The eventual goal of the project is to increase youth participation in Canada. The results of this mapping and needs assessment will contribute to the development of a Canadian portal to support youth engagement that will build on TakingITGlobal's existing Canada Country Site.

◉ <http://canada.takingitglobal.org>

The portal is intended to strengthen channels of communication and collaboration, bringing together the best possible tools to enhance the work of youth. We hope to support the success of current and future projects by researching best practices and working closely with leading youth-led/highly youth-engaged initiatives.

Principles for the Open Forum

- ⦿ The **personal growth** of an individual in a team environment is integral to the creation of positive global change.
- ⦿ The **ideas and beliefs** of all people are equally valuable in the process of positive change and are to be respected.
- ⦿ The **potential for youth** to effect positive change is enormous.
- ⦿ The **best time** to take initiative is now.

Working Definitions for the Purpose of Discussion

youth *n.* **1** there is no standard definition of youth. **2** the definition of youth varies depending on subject matter, context, the organisation and/or the objective of the classification. **3** youth can be defined as a particular life stage that people are situated in while in transition from being dependents to being independent. **4** youth can also be defined by age, for our purposes we are loosely defining youth as persons under 30.

youth participation *n.* **1** participation has multiple meanings for many people. **2** you can participate simply by reacting as a member of society, or you can participate to connect with others and make social change. **3** at its most basic, participation means making a contribution. **4** when discussing engagement/meaningful participation, we must consider the role of youth in a particular activity and sustained involvement.

Goals for the TakingITGlobal Canada Site

- ⦿ To **create** a platform that inspires young people to make a difference while showcasing local ideas, expressions and perspectives.
- ⦿ To **grow** a resource that allows young people to connect to opportunities that relate to their interests.
- ⦿ To **enable** youth to develop local projects that address community concerns with the support and recognition of a global network.
- ⦿ To **foster** cross-cultural understanding through connecting young people to the world through other country sites and online community initiatives.

The screenshot shows the TakingITGlobal Canada website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'English', 'Logout', 'Edit Profile', 'About Us', and 'Site Map'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Canada', 'My TIG', and 'Home'. The main content area features a 'Welcome to TakingITGlobal Canada!' message, a 'Quick Facts' section for Canada (9,624 members, Capital: Ottawa, Population: 32,507,874, Area: 9,984,870 km², GDP: 2147483647), and a 'New Project: Cross-Canada Mapping of Youth-led Initiatives' announcement. A search bar is located in the top right corner.

Youth Participation in Canada

There are a wide variety of forms that youth/youth initiatives can be involved in to enable change and have an effective impact in their communities. We will explore a multitude of areas and levels that youth have or can participate to be agents of change and influence, such as, activism, volunteerism, voting, etc....



Part One

⦿ DISCUSSION

The workshop will present a forum for open discussion to address local/national assets and needs of youth/youth initiatives in Canada.

⦿ LOCAL FOCUS

- 1** What resources currently exist in your local community or group that support youth participation?
- 2** What are the key challenges to youth participation faced by your local community or group?
- 3** What steps can be taken to further inspire, inform and involve youth in your local community?

⦿ NATIONAL OUTLOOK

- 1** How can we increase opportunities for youth to participate at the national level?
- 2** Is there a need for a website that promotes information sharing among Canadian youth?

Part Two

⦿ CAPACITY BUILDING

Participants will be introduced to the TakingITGlobal Canadian portal and familiarized with the various tools targeted at developing and promoting information sharing and collaboration possibilities among youth/youth initiatives in Canada.