

Building bridges: Forum brings youth and community together to improve services

May 27 forum will focus on gaps in services for youth from 16 to 24

Ottawa, March 31, 2010—The Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa (YSB) will host a conference on March 27 to engage the community and youth in finding solutions for service gaps for young people in Ottawa. The agency wants to know more about the needs of young people between the ages of 16 to 24 who are transitioning from youth to adulthood.

“Between the ages of 16 and 24, young people may find they are either too young or too old to be eligible for the support they need,” said Alex Munter, Executive Director of YSB. “We are very excited to host this event, bring the community together, and attract wonderful speakers like Justin Trudeau, Lia Grimanis and Matte Babel to inform the discussion on how to bridge this gap.”

Speakers at the conference include:

- **Justin Trudeau, MP** – Mr. Trudeau will talk about youth engagement and youth empowerment.
- **Lia Grimanis** – At a young age, Lia found herself homeless and in need of support. Now, she is successful businesswoman and community advocate.
- **Matte Babel** – Matte is a former VJ with Much Music and current host of CP24’s Morning Show. He grew up in some of the most impoverished areas of Toronto. He will be speaking about diversity and self-esteem.

Event Details:

Building bridges to a promising future: Youth to adulthood

May 27, 2010 -- 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

University of Ottawa – Fauteux Hall

Registration takes place at <http://www.ysb-bsj.on.ca>



YSB invites social services providers, youth, and community members to come and share their expertise on the needs of transitional youth. Workshops will address mental health delivery models, services for homeless youth, creating employment opportunities for marginalized youth, youth justice services, and youth engagement using a “power with” model. Experts from a variety of fields as well as youth will be on hand to lead workshop discussions.

YSB is one of the most comprehensive non-profit youth-serving agencies in Ottawa. Every month, YSB serves between 2,500 and 3,000 youth and families in the areas of housing, mental health, community services, youth employment and youth justice.

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