

Ruckus!

Youth Activism and Anti-Racism
conference

November 23-24, 2007

November 14, 2007

Dear Teacher,

On behalf of the Youth Action Network (YAN), I would like to invite you and your students to attend the Fifth Annual "**Ruckus!**" **Youth Activism and Anti-Racism Conference** to be held **Friday, November 23 and Saturday, November 24** at New College – University of Toronto.

Ruckus! is a FREE conference held over two days for high school age youth of Colour, Aboriginal youth, Immigrant youth and all other youth concerned about racism. The conference provides safe space for youth from across the GTA to discuss racism and provides an introduction to existing community work and social justice movements.

Each workshop during the conference takes a different approach to combating and eliminating racism: from discussions on current social justice campaigns and grassroots social movements, to explorations of creative resistance and arts-based activism, to identifying systemic barriers to equality in Canada, to cutting through cultural stereotypes to improving interpersonal communication skills and de-escalating conflict.

Teachers from throughout Toronto are accompanying students to the conference and extra-curricular youth groups supervised by facilitators will also be attending. If your students approach you to attend the conference and you have any questions, I can be reached at 416-368-2277 or ruckus07@gmail.com.

If you would like to register your class for Ruckus, please submit the early registration form (attached) by **November 16**. Groups and classes registering early will be able to sign up for workshops before the conference, guaranteeing spots in the most popular workshops.

Please feel free to contact me with your questions.

Best Regards,

Michelle Newton
Program Coordinator
Youth Action Network



An initiative of the Youth Action Network



Funded by City of Toronto Access, Equity and Human Rights Community Partnership Investment Program (AEHR-CPIP)

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Ruckus! 2007

INFORMATION

1. TIME / DATE / LOCATION

Friday, November 23-Saturday, November 24

9:30am (Registration)

10:30am-4:30pm

New College

University of Toronto

45 Wilcocks Street (Between College and Harbord, East of Spadina)

TTC Directions: Take subway to Spadina station, take Spadina streetcar to Willcocks Street

2. FOOD

Lunch provided. Please register early with dietary restrictions / allergies

3. REGISTRATION

To Register early by email or fax: Please fill out the attached EARLY registration form in full and send to Youth Action Network by November 16.

To Register at the Conference: Conference registration takes place at the Registration Desk at 9:30AM, Friday, November 23 and 9:30AM, Saturday, November 24.

3. SAMPLE OF TENTATIVE 2007 WORKSHOP TOPICS (ALL WORKSHOPS ARE YOUTH-LED)

- *Creative resistance: Arts and Activism (Asian Arts Freedom School)*
- *HIV/AIDS stigma in the Black Community (Black Coalition Against Poverty (Black-CAP))*
- *Talking about Stereotypes and LGBTQ Issues among communities of colour*
- *Public Speaking: Being an Advocate for Your Cause (Project Equity International)*
- *Racial Identity in the Media: Borat? Russell Peters? Dave Chappelle? Who Controls your I.D.? (Harmony Movement)*
- *Islamaphobia: Anti-Islam Attitudes in Canadian Media and Popular Culture (Toronto Women's City Alliance)*
- *Immigration and Refugee Issues (No One Is Illegal – Education Not Deportation Campaign)*
- *Dating, Violence and Healthy Relationships (Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre)*
- *Genocide and International Conflict: Darfur (Project Equity International)*
- *Stalking: Love or Obsession? (METRAC)*
- *Power Plays: Queer and Trans Youth Resist Hate (ReachOut)*

This year Ruckus! will also premiere 3 short youth-created films that talk about identity and racism from the point of view of youth of colour.

4. TENTATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Time	Friday	Saturday
9:30am-10:30am	Registration + Information Tables	Registration + Information Tables
10:30-11:30	Workshop 1 (I, II, III)	Workshop 1 (I, II, III)
11:30am-12:30pm	Workshop 2 (I, II)	Workshop 2 (I, II)
12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch + Information Display	Lunch + Information Display
1:30-3:00pm	Workshop 3 (I, II)	Workshop 3 (I, II)
3:00-4:30pm	Screening of short films made by youth from the “Digital Storytellers” project Closing Discussion	Performances + screening of short films made by youth from the “Digital Storytellers” project Closing Discussion

5. BACKGROUND

About Ruckus

Ruckus! is a FREE two-day youth-led conference that started in 2002 as a response to the lack of inclusion of youth of colour into current social justice and environmental movements. Our goal is to introduce participants to existing activism and community work, to provide safe spaces for youth of colour to develop a critical analysis around race and racism in Canada and provide practical skills and tools for youth to take action in their communities. Ruckus! is an initiative of the Youth Action Network with support from the City of Toronto Access, Equity and Human Rights Community Investment Program.

About the Youth Action Network (YAN)

Youth Action Network (YAN) was established in 1989 as a national charitable organization run entirely by youth for youth. Our mandate is to motivate and empower young people to take action on social justice and environmental issues. As a fully independent youth-run organization, YAN is committed to ensuring that young people play an integral role in their communities. YAN acts as a catalyst by providing the spark that encourages youth to become more knowledgeable and socially aware. We do this by collaborating with other organizations on youth-driven events and projects and through the operation of our four core projects:

- **Ruckus! Anti-Racism Conference** (two days of workshops for high school aged youth of Colour and other youth concerned about racism)
- **International Youth Week** (a week of events celebrating youth activism and achievements)
- **Youth Action Forum Magazine** (a nationally distributed youth magazine www.youthactionnetwork.org/forum)
- **Resource Action Centre** (an extensive library of print and online resources).