



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNA-Canada marks World Habitat Day

ASK YOUR GOVERNMENTS FOR DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL

29 September, 2006 (Ottawa, ON) The United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) marks World Habitat Day and recognizes the pressing need for people around the world to have access to decent shelter and adequate living conditions.

The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October as World Habitat Day. This year's theme is "Cities, magnets of hope", to reflect the heavy migration trends worldwide from rural to urban and the need to address the poor living conditions of many of the world's city dwellers.

It is a basic human right of every person to have access to shelter, clean water, sanitation, electricity and social services. UNA-Canada, through its *Youth of Today, City of Tomorrow* programme empowers Canadian youth to critically analyze and reflect on the current state of Canadian cities and make international connections to cities in developing nations.

Kathryn White, the Executive Director of UNA-Canada says "*chances are every Canadian who is reading this has access to decent, affordable housing. They would be shocked to know the number of Canadians in our own cities who are homeless in 2006. We can change this. Let's use this day to ask our governments to ensure decent housing for all.*"

Youth of Today, City of Tomorrow is an innovative outreach programme aimed at educating secondary school students across western Canada on the issues of urban development and sustainability the central themes of the World Urban Forum (WUF). A step-by-step resource guide has been created for educators based on eight discussion papers commissioned by Western Economic Diversification (WD). Youth are participating in the Western Canadian Mural challenge and a Model UN Assembly based on the concept of "cities without slums". Youth of Today, City of Tomorrow's strives towards "putting the future of cities in young peoples' hands."

UNA-Canada is a national charitable organization celebrating its landmark 60th anniversary. As a 'think and do' organization, the Association supports a network of seventeen volunteer branches and local contacts across the country, with a National office in Ottawa and a Western professional office in Vancouver. Our mandate is to engage Canadians in the work of the UN and the critical global issues which affect us all; through innovative projects, policy research, and on-going communications with Canadians.

For any questions feel free to contact:

Jason Oliver

Communications Officer

United Nations Association in Canada

+ 1(613) 355-3654 ♦ jason.oliver@unac.org ♦ www.unac.org

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