Defence For Children International Canada

is inviting youth to apply for

The Les Horne 'Rights in Action' Award for Youth

Presented by Defence for Children International - Canada

(DCI-Canada. DCI Canada (dci-canada.org)

This award

The Les Horne 'Rights in Action' Award for Youth – DCI Canada (dci-canada.org)

funds youth who have project proposals that will further the rights of children as outlined in one or more of the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

https://www.unicef.org/media/56661/file

and/or

the UNDRIP on Rights of Indigenous Peoples https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html

And the UNCPD on Rights of Peoples with Disabilities https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd

And the Universal Declaration of Human Rights https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights

regarding any clauses in that pertain to children

The Les Horne 'Rights in Action' Award for Youth



About Les Horne

Les Horne was a founding member of Defence for Children International-Canada and served as our volunteer Executive Director. As Ontario's first Child Advocate Les had a long history of dealing with some of the most challenging children in the province. When the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations, Les was there as one of the champions of the Convention. Les dedicated his life to furthering the rights of children and to ensuring their voices were heard. After his death in 2011, to honour his memory, the Les Horne "Rights in Action" Award was created to encourage young people to establish their own projects to support the rights of children

About Les Horne "Rights in Action" Award:

The Les Horne Rights in action award is an award presented by DCI-Canada to honour the late Les Horne, Ontario's first Child Advocate and a strong supporter of children's rights in Canada and across the world.
The award was created in 2014 and has been running since.

The award is given to youth who have project proposals that will further the rights of children as outlined in one or more of the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The best proposal receives recognition on DCI Canada`s web site and an amount of up to $1000 to make it happen.

This year's proposals are to be submitted by July 30, 2024

Award Details

Who can apply?

Any young person or group of young people may apply. The term “young person” is somewhat flexible and could apply to anyone up to age 25.

What do I have to do to apply?

Write up your idea and explain how it is related and helps improve/address child rights on no more than three pages (or provide a brief video).

When do I need to send in my proposal?
Proposals are to be received by July 30, 2024

Where do I send my proposed idea?

E-mail it to **contact@dci-canada.org**. We will send you back an e-mail saying we have received it.

If you do not have access to e-mail you may send your idea by mail to Defence for Children International Canada at 20 Spadina Rd., 3rd floor, Toronto Ontario M5R 2S7. Attention: Bill Sparks. Please include your contact information.

Note: We will contact you using the information you have provided when we receive your submission.

Who decides on the best proposal?

All proposals will be reviewed by a panel of young people who will recommend the best proposal to the DCI Canada Board of Directors.

How will I be notified with results?

The recipient of the award will be contacted and the name (s) of the award recipient (s) will be posted on the DCI Canada website.

I still have questions, who can I contact?

You can leave a message with your name and your phone number at **416-907-7432.** You may also e-mail **contact@dci-canada.org** or use the mailing address above.

What resources are available after during and after applications received or award decided?

The Committee will have one or two mentors available to support the winner though the next steps if needed on setting timelines, progress reports, project outcome, finances needed and spent. DCI Committee Board Members and Treasurer are also available .

For applicant winners and for those with great ideas but did not win, a section with links on how to prepare a successful proposal like these below can be offered and feedback given.

Laidlaw Foundation guide for how to prepare successful proposal

Logon - Grant Lifecycle Manager (grantinterface.ca)

https://laidlawfdn.org

Grantee Tools (laidlawfdn.org)

ArtReach

https://www.artreach.org/

YouthREX: Program Evaluation (youtube.com) 2 hour you tube

Grant Writing 101 (youtube.com) 1 hour 20 min.

Program Planning and Evaluation - Youth Research and Evaluation eXchange (youthrex.com)

What about accessibility?

Most of the committees' **meetings** and applications will be on-line. If any in-person meetings are needed they can be at Community Living Toronto which is fully accessible. For **domestic or international applications not in English or French**, the committee will attempt both electronic and in-person translation.

Our previous winners:

Domino Fx project receives the first Les Horne "Rights in Action" award.

A diverse group of youth from Georges Vanier Secondary School put together the winning proposal that earned them the first "Rights in Action" Award. Students from Ryerson University reviewed all of the proposals before recommending Domino Fx for the award. The reviewers were particularly impressed with the work already accomplished by the group. Their successful initiatives included a full week of Mental Health Awareness events , a girl's empowerment Summit, an Anti-Victim Blaming Campaign and a boy's Summit aimed at challenging gender stereotypes.

Many of the Georges Vanier group also participated in the Gay-Straight Alliance meetings at the school.

Building on these successes the group wanted to expand their work into the community. **The proposal,** Domino Fx, was to host a series of focus groups in the community to engage others outside of the school setting and to build a data base of information about the priorities and

concerns of youth in the neighbourhood. Work had also been underway for several months to develop a community based thrift shop which would help provide funding for some of the community initiatives identified in the focus groups. The shop could also serve for the development of youth skills and provide some youth employment. A worthy proposal for the first "Rights in Action" Award!

Northern Starfish project proposal wins the second Les Horne "Rights in Action" Award

When Wes Prankard first learned about the conditions in Attawapiskat, he was touched by the fact that other kids in Canada did not have enough food, lived in crowded, inadequate houses and attended school in cold, mouldy portables. Some might have been overcome with a feeling of hopelessness but for Wes it was a challenge that became a driving force in his life

Although only a young boy, he decided to take action, raising funds, gathering food and clothing, and even found a way to visit Attawapiskat. It was then he discovered that children had no safe place to play, and by age 12 he had formed a project called Northern Starfish, raising sufficient money to build a playground in Attawapiskat. This was just a beginning of his mission to build playgrounds in remote First Nations communities. Wes has continued this work involving other young people over a number of years. **His proposal** for the use of the "Rights in Action" Award funds was to begin matching young people in Northern communities with groups of youth from the South. In this way the work could be expanded and young people could support and learn from each other.

The proposals for this Award were reviewed by the Canadian Students Association for Children's Rights-Ryerson branch and the group selected the Northern Starfish proposal for this Award. A great choice

HairStory Rooted project proposal receives the third Les Horne "Rights in Action" Award

The Hair Story young folks at **https://www.hairstory.ca/** had developed a PPT and presentation for Centennial College on the history of black folks hair and why it was different from other folks and linked it to their various cultures and current issues facing diverse children, teens and youth today . They proposed a project where they would travel and present a workshop and facilitated questions to various social service agencies and schools. They sent in their power-point presentation, , proposed workshop outline and question guide and travel schedule and agencies. They proposed that the results would raise awareness and link youth across the province to help increase diversity inclusion and alliances. A sample of their workshop planning included: the **Theme: STRENGTH 1. Questions to ask youth**- What would you change about the youth justice system?- Who would you say you are? What is something you want everyone to know about you?- Where did your strength come from?- Do you feel like being Black has

affected your experiences with YCJS and the Police- Are you able to share any memorable moments, good or bad, from when you were inthese systems? **2. Video Blueprint (10-15mins)**i. Locations Windsor, GTA ,London, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, ii. Equipment needed- Voice recording mics- HairStory Shirts- Reports iii. Direction Invite these participants to dinner at a restaurant or Airbnb and have food catered. The goal is to have meaningful conversations and introduce the project & have it recorded. Second step is to shoot in their environments and have the dialogue continue from there.** Things to consider: Consent forms? **3. Outreach** i. Virtual flyer- connect with his network by- Incentive = Dinner, Hairstory clothing, network/connect- Tentative date/place **4. Next steps**- Outreach (Find videographer, Mics, Dinner location and shooting space (Airbnb or community space). A great choice and need.

We look forward to your Proposal!

Bill Sparks for the

Les Horne Rights in Action Award Committee 2024