



An Innovative HIV/AIDS Educational Youth Conference

**Presented by: Alice-Simone Balter, Peel Public Health
Monday, October 27th, 2008**

Ontario Public Health Association: Niagara Public Health Summit

Agenda

- RUAware? (RUA?) Goals & Objectives
- History & Progression of RUA?
- Educational Elements
- Evaluations
- Future Directions



What is the purpose of RUA?

- **HIV/AIDS Awareness Youth Educational Conference**
- **Goals**
 - Inform and educate youth about HIV/AIDS
 - Engage youth to become peer leaders and take action by planning a school event for AIDS Awareness Week & World AIDS Day



History of RUA?

“It takes a community...”

- Need for an HIV/AIDS Awareness event
- Peel District School Board (PDSB) initiative 1999
- Collaboration with Peel Public Health and Peel HIV/AIDS Network (PHAN)



RUA? Progression

- **Information Model**
 - Speakers with National and Peel relevance
- **Educational Expansion**
 - Workshops incorporated
 - Move to a capacity building model
- **Youth Empowerment**
 - Youth Involvement Initiative: RUInvolved? A Youth Perspective



Edutainment

- Spoken word artist – Dwayne Morgan

http://ca.youtube.com/results?search_query=Dwayne+Morgan+%2B+emales&search_type=&aq=f

- Forum Theatre – School of Mayhem
- MTV – Nicole Holness
- Blakka Ellis



Educational Workshops

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire” ~ William Butler Yeats ~

- Theory for Behaviour Change: IMB
- HIV/AIDS Facts: The Basics
- Experiential Learning: Watch it Spread
- Behavioural Skills: Condom Negotiation
- Take Action: Event Planning



Student Evaluations

Overall, how would you rate today's workshop?

	2005	2006	2007
– Excellent	71.5%	57.14%	74.4%
– Good	25%	42.86%	25.6%
– Fair	3.85%	0%	0%

How effective was this event in helping you learn more about HIV/AIDS?

	2005	2006	2007
– Excellent	67.3%	50.57%	67.5%
– Good	30.77%	47.15%	27.5%
– Fair	1.92%	2.3%	5%

Do you plan to organize AIDS awareness week events at your school?

	2005	2006	2007
– YES	100%	88.5%	98.8%
– NO	0%	11.49%	1.2%



Future Directions

*“Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember.
Involve me, and I'll understand”.*

~ Ancient Proverb ~

- **RUInvolved? A Youth Perspective**
 - is about empowerment and ultimately to engage youth in their learning and understanding of HIV.
 - youth focused initiative bringing youth creativity to the forefront...youth address the question “What does HIV mean to you?” through creative mediums.
 - Student submissions will be exhibited at RUA? 2009

Youth Voices; Youth Perspectives; Youth Empowerment



Questions?



Contact

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