



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

N E W S R E L E A S E

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For Immediate Release

Opening Doors Conference: High School and University Students Tackle World Peace Issues

WINNIPEG — Students from The University of Winnipeg’s Menno Simons College and Seven Oaks School Division #10 are tackling issues of world peace head-on at *Opening Doors: A Youth Conference for Discovery, Awareness, and Activism*. This annual, student-led conference will take place on The University of Winnipeg campus on **Thursday, February 19 starting at 9 a.m.**

The focus of the “Opening Doors” conference is on international development and conflict resolution issues. Designed to raise young people’s awareness of the challenges faced by youth in other parts of the world, and proactive ways students can help address these challenges, some students will experience exile first-hand. In one of the workshops, militants - volunteers in character – will march student participants through the campus to simulate the experience of cramped conditions, cold, and the threat of violence.

As a student-led conference, high school students took part in selecting the theme of the conference and workshop topics. University of Winnipeg students from Menno Simons’ International Development Studies and Conflict Resolution programs assisted in organizing the conference, and will be facilitating a number of the workshops.

Approximately 200 students from 14 Winnipeg high schools are expected to attend. There are ten different morning and afternoon workshops for students to choose from, as well as displays by community and volunteer organizations and a special wrap-up session in which students plan follow-up events and activities in their own high schools. The event will also feature two keynote speakers; Aiden Enns will share from his experience as former managing editor with Canada’s own *Adbusters*, while Heather Unger (International Development Studies Graduate, Class of ’03) brings perspective on HIV/AIDS work in Botswana.

A complete agenda of the day’s events is attached.

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To arrange an interview with coordinator Ruth Taronno or a student presenter, contact:
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