

Media Alert

Toronto's under-served students break barriers to improve local communities

Gang violence, poverty and drug abuse are on the rise for Toronto's youth in priority neighbourhoods. Despite having the odds stacked against them, students participating in **GO Local**, a program delivered by Free The Children with the generous support from the Ron White Foundation and RBC, have taken action to face these challenges and create solutions to improve their own lives and the communities around them. On **May 17th**, these fearless young leaders from schools in resource-poor neighbourhoods across Toronto will gather at The University of Toronto (OISE) for the first **GO Local** Conference to share, learn and celebrate these truly life-changing accomplishments.

The **GO Local** Conference will be hosted by MuchMusic VJ and Free The Children ambassador Sarah Taylor, and **GO Local** program champions such as, RON WHITE, CEO & Creative Director of RON WHITE SHOES, Marc Kielburger, co-founder of Free The Children and Sally Hakim, **GO Local** speaker and facilitator who will address the students with messages of encouragement and praise.

Participating students will have an opportunity to showcase the successful community campaigns they've launched throughout the school year. Some of these campaigns include:

- "Pink Day" to raise awareness about equality
- School wide buy-outs to speak out against racism and discrimination
- Volunteering with local community organizations

The conference will also give students a chance to network and celebrate as well as further their learning by participating in workshops on:

- Race and discrimination in Toronto
- Poverty in Toronto
- Aboriginal women's issues in Toronto
- Youth homelessness in Toronto ...and many more

When: Monday, May 17th
9:00 a.m. Media registration opens
9:30 a.m. Opportunity for one-on-one interviews with students or speakers
10:00 a.m. Conference begins
Where: Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), Main Auditorium (Bloor Street Entrance)
University of Toronto
252 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON

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To RSVP for the Go Local conference or to book a one-on-one interview please contact:

Lindsey Coulter
Director PR & Publicity
416-528-9134
lindsey@freethechildren.com

Lauren Stasila
Media Relations & Publicity Coordinator
647-259-3468
lauren.stasila@freethechildren.com

About Free The Children

Free The Children is the world's largest network of children helping children through education, with more than one million youth involved in our innovative education and development programs in 45 countries. Founded in 1995 by international child rights activist Craig Kielburger, Free The Children has a proven track record of success. The organization has received the World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child (also known as the Children's Nobel Prize), the Human Rights Award from the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations, and has formed successful partnerships with leading school boards across North America. Visit www.freethechildren.com to learn more.