

For Immediate Release

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS HONOURS PHILANTHROPIC WORK OF QUEBEC YOUTH

**Prince Edward, The Earl of Wessex, Joined Free The Children
Founder Craig Kielburger for a Special Event in Montreal**

MONTREAL, OCTOBER 10, 2007 – His Royal Highness, The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex honoured Quebec student leaders today for their efforts to raise awareness about social justice issues and their fundraising initiatives to support development opportunities for children around the world, at a special event held at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal. Hosted by Free The Children, the largest network of children helping children through education, the event brought together more than 40 student leaders from numerous high schools in Montreal who are actively involved in the organization’s youth volunteerism and leadership initiatives.

The Earl was joined by Craig Kielburger, Founder of Free The Children, in recognizing the efforts of socially active youth. “We are honoured to host His Royal Highness and share with him the outstanding accomplishments of Quebec youth,” said Craig Kielburger. “We are very proud of what these students have accomplished and we are constantly amazed and inspired by their creativity and determination to affect positive change in the world. They are setting an example for others to follow in demonstrating that youth really can make a difference in the world.”

At this time last year, Free The Children established a permanent office in Quebec to provide youth programming in both official languages. Since then, throughout the Province, the organization – known as Enfants Entraide in French – has established dozens of Youth in Action Groups and attracted thousands of youth through motivational speaking tours and outreach activities.

Making a difference for marginalized youth around the world

The combined actions and efforts of these students, representing schools across the city, have helped provide educational opportunities and develop alternative income and water sanitation programs for marginalized children and their families in developing countries around the world. Students from each high school prepared a booth about their social action efforts and had the opportunity to present their projects to the Earl. Prince Edward visited each booth, interacted with the students and presented them with an award to celebrate and recognize their achievements.

The celebration, supported by National Bank Financial, brought together Free The Children representatives, educators and special guests to recognize the efforts and actions of students. As an avid supporter of youth-focused organizations and a patron for many charitable organizations, His Royal Highness publicly applauded the fundraising, volunteerism and public awareness initiatives of local students. This was the second year that he supported the work of Free The Children.

The 10 Montreal area schools that participated in today’s event are: Laurentian Regional High School, Stanislas, F.A.C.E, Westmount High School, Laurier Macdonald High School, Margaret Manson School, Wilder Penfield Elementary School, Collège St. Anne de Lachine, École Lucien Pagé, Académie François Labelle/École de L’Assomption.



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 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. Through the energy and passion of youth, Free The Children has built more than 450 schools around the world, shipped more than \$11 million US in essential medical supplies, and provides education for 40,000 children everyday. 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 Canada as well as Oprah's Angel Network in the United States. For more information please visit www.freethechildren.com

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Please visit www.freethechildren.com for official photos and background information on the schools and students who were honoured today.

Interviews with Free The Children spokespersons and youth participants are available upon request.

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