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Memorandum To: Directors of Education, Chairs of School Boards and Principals

From: Minister of Education
Mitzie Hunter

Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
Laura Albanese

Date: January 19, 2017

Subject: 2017 ChangeTheWorld - Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge

The ChangeTheWorld - Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge is a program of the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration that aims to empower youth aged 14-18 to be a force for good in their school and/or local community. Last year, approximately 67,300 youth volunteered an astounding 376,073 hours across the province through this program. We encourage you to share information about this year's campaign with your school leaders, engage the students in your school, and help keep the momentum going.

Thank you for sharing this information with your school leaders. Participation in the ChangeTheWorld campaign is open to all secondary school students across the province. Students can count their hours from ChangeTheWorld towards the 40 community involvement hours required to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Secondary students can also count volunteer hours from a 2016-17 *SpeakUp* Project towards the 2017 ChangeTheWorld campaign. By doing this, students can contribute to the success of the campaign **and** earn their community involvement hours.

[SpeakUp Project Grants](#) are one part of the Ministry of Education's [Student Voice strategy](#) which also includes the [Minister's Student Advisory Council](#). Each year, sixty students in grades 7 to 12 from across Ontario meet with the Minister of Education to share their ideas and perspectives about the publicly funded education system.

[Applications for the 2017-18 council are open now!](#)

Students who participate in the ChangeTheWorld campaign have the opportunity to volunteer with their friends, learn and develop new skills, and be part of an exciting province-wide initiative that showcases their contributions to communities in Ontario.

Now in its tenth year, ChangeTheWorld kicks off during National Volunteer Week and runs for six weeks from April 23 through to June 3, 2017. The 2017 ChangeTheWorld campaign is being delivered through a partnership with the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network and 23 of its local volunteer centres.

Students can learn more about ChangeTheWorld participation and event information at www.ctw.ovcn.ca. We look forward to having your students join their peers across the province as they take up the ChangeTheWorld - Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge.

Sincerely,

[Original Signed by]

Laura Albanese
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

[Original Signed by]

Mitzie Hunter, MBA
Minister of Education