



# CYD-Cancun



Canadian Youth Delegation to COP 16

## Canadian Youth Delegation Application for New Members

United Nations Climate Change Conference

*UNFCCC COP 16*

*November 29 – December 10, 2010*

*Cancun, Mexico*

---

The **Canadian Youth Climate Coalition (CYCC)** is now accepting applications to join the **Canadian Youth Delegation (CYD)** to the 16th annual Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16).

**A Canadian Youth Delegate is inspiring, active and passionate. They are leaders, learners and listeners. But most importantly they are team players that form close bonds by uniting in a common cause. If you are committed to working tirelessly for Canada's youth and having the impact of a lifetime, please apply to the CYD.**



Alex Doukas, CYD-Copenhagen

*"Never before have I had the privilege of working with such a dedicated and inspiring group of young people as with the Canadian Youth Delegation to COP15. The CYD this year was incredibly impressive, accomplishing more than I could have imagined in the lead-up to and during the negotiations in Copenhagen. Many of the youth were more effective at creating change and shaping Canadians' understanding of our country's role in climate change negotiations than some of the full-time paid environmental NGO staff. Connecting with youth from across Canada, and building these personal links and networks across the country has enormously strengthened the ability of Canadian youth to take unified action on climate change at a national level."*

There's no question that solving the climate crisis requires international cooperation. Only by working together can countries line up the requirement of science, development and global justice to create a deal that sharply reduces emissions, safeguards the basic right to development and protects the world's most vulnerable peoples and nations. The window is fast closing for global emissions to peak and begin declining if we are to keep climate change to manageable levels (ie. well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels). Meeting this goal while lifting many millions out of poverty requires urgent and coordinated action. In Cancun, the world will attempt just that.

COP16 will attempt to move the international climate negotiations forward after they stalled so spectacularly last year in Copenhagen. Building from the Bali Roadmap and the Copenhagen Accord nations will work together to attempt to forge a new global agreement to tackle climate change. This agreement will chart the course of international action on climate change after the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol ends in 2012. The new deal will be based on four pillars – Mitigation (reducing emissions), Adaptation, Technology Transfer and Financing – and underpinned by a new 'Shared Vision.'

Youth from around the world have played a powerful moral role in the talks, and the **Canadian Youth Delegation** continues to be critical in supporting the international youth climate movement, engaging Canadians and checking the often-errant Canadian Delegation. In Cancun, as the world struggles to come to an agreement on the very substance of our futures, these tasks will be more crucial than ever.

### **Why Form a CYD?**

Youth must build on their success and involvement in the UNFCCC process to date and demand that Canada play a constructive role in forging the new global agreement moving forward. Youth from around the world have mobilized a significant presence at previous COPs, and this year we must demonstrate that youth have an important voice on the fate of our climate. In the recent past, youth have organized participation in Montreal (COP11/CMP1 in 2005), Nairobi (COP12/CMP2 in 2006), Bali (COP13/CMP3 in 2007), Poznan (COP14), and Copenhagen (COP15). **Canadian youth have a history of being one of the largest, loudest, and most effective groups at the climate negotiations.** Last year's CYD to Copenhagen was enormously successful and influential. Canadian youth received high praise for their hard work and dedication.

It is again time for Canadian youth to demonstrate leadership and mobilize our delegation to Cancun, Mexico. In joining the CYD-Cancun team, you will have official accreditation with the UN as a conference participant, and access to funding supports and resources through the delegation's fundraising efforts. As a CYD delegate to Cancun, you will have the unique opportunity to represent Canadian youth at international negotiations by developing policy platforms, lobbying delegates, engaging with media and working with international youth to affect change in climate change policy. Strong leadership skills, and more importantly, the ability to work collaboratively as a team are critical for Canadian youth delegates.

## What are the Expectations of Delegates?

- Delegates will be expected to engage in substantial preparation, community engagement, and fundraising efforts in the months leading up to the conference.
- Delegates will work together to educate themselves, develop policy priorities, acquire skills in effective lobbying, and engage youth across the country on climate change.
- There will be a heavy emphasis on domestic engagement prior (June – Dec) to the negotiations and delegates will be expected to be active in their communities doing related education and campaign activities.
- Delegates will be required to stay in regular email contact and engage in research and conference calls, which will occur weekly or bi-weekly as needed. On average a delegate can expect to commit at least 5 hours most weeks, and more near Cancun, to keeping up with emails, being on conference calls, and working in sub groups on projects in relation to policy, communications, fundraising, and community education and mobilization.
- At COP16, delegates will collaborate with each other and other international youth to participate in areas of interest to them, which include: policy, media, actions, lobbying and logistics while taking part in other conference activities.
- While it is difficult to balance commitments such as work and school, delegates are expected to be available for the three-day Fall CYD Summit in Canada (date TBD) as well as the length of the conference in Cancun (November 29 – December 10, 2010), plus arrival in Cancun 2-3 days early for the 6th Annual COY (Conference of Youth) – a conference for the youth delegates coming from around the globe. CYCC will provide letters for team members who require them to reschedule exams or work responsibilities.

***Delegates selected for CYD-Cancun who are unable to meet these expectations will be asked to leave the team to allow someone from the waitlist who is able to make the necessary commitments for the program's success to join.***



### **Mentorship**

*Feeling lost with all these acronyms but still passionate about making a difference? Don't worry! CYD-Cancun is committed to welcoming and supporting those new to the process. This year, the CYD will benefit from an incredible Mentor Network, bringing the perspectives of a diverse group of experienced Canadians to delegates through a series of online trainings and an in-person capacity building summit in the months prior to departure for Cancun. New delegates will also benefit from support from more experienced members of the team and regional alumni across the country ready to help you settle into the world of climate negotiations.*

## How much will it cost?

*CYD-Cancun will make every effort to support delegates to secure funding for travel to Cancun. Due to the uncertainty of how much funding can be centrally secured through CYCC, your funding cannot be guaranteed and delegates will be expected to participate in substantial fundraising efforts.*

As part of the CYD-Cancun delegation, individual donations that you solicit to support your participation (donations that you arrange from family, friends, community members, and smaller organizations) will be eligible for a charitable receipt. As a group, we will also be working on group fundraising that will support collective delegation costs or support costs of specific delegates. While CYD fundraising has always been successful in the past and best efforts will be made, group fundraising is not guaranteed and will be allocated as it is obtained.

**The estimated cost per individual for participation in CYD-Cancun is \$2500-\$3500, depending on where in Canada you will be travelling from.** This estimate covers airfare; accommodation; food; and participation in and travel to the Fall CYD Retreat. Example airfares from major Canadian cities to Cancun are: Halifax (\$1200), Toronto (\$1000), Vancouver (\$1300), Whitehorse (\$1700), and Winnipeg (\$1300). The organizing team for CYD-Cancun will also be investigating more sustainable forms of transportation to Cancun for team members who have the available time to use a slower means of transportation (bus, bike, train, carpools, etc.).

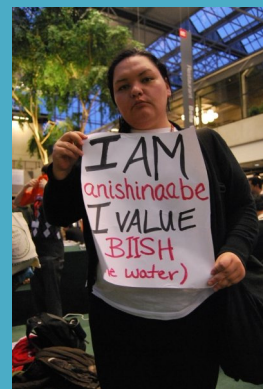
## Who organizes the CYD?

CYD-Cancun is a project of the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition (CYCC). The CYCC is a united front of youth from across Canada tackling the biggest challenge of our generation, the emerging climate crisis. Acting locally, provincially, federally, and internationally, we combine our forces to organize actions, influence government and implement concrete solutions. Working in schools and communities from coast to coast to coast, we are calling for and building a just and prosperous transition to the new Canada we all need to see.

For more information on the CYCC, our structures, project and campaigns, please visit:

[www.ourclimate.ca](http://www.ourclimate.ca)

*“Being a part of the CYD was such an amazing opportunity, not only to travel internationally and stand up for what I believe in, but to meet and work alongside 34 other extraordinary youth from across Canada. It will be the connections that we made in the 4 months prior to COP 15 and the three weeks we we're there together, which I believe will give us the strength and inspiration to continue standing up and raising our voices for respect and climate justice. Miigwech for the opportunity!”*



**Lyndsay Taibossigai, CYD-Copenhagen**

### Important Notes:

**The CYD is a strictly non-partisan project.** While we welcome and encourage the active participation of youth in civic life, we are not able to accept paid representatives or official candidates of any political party as members of the CYD.

**Delegates choose to participate at their own risk and CYCC and CYD-Cancun are not responsible for personal safety or other liabilities.** Although we will make every effort to provide assistance and minimize travel risks, responsibility lies with the individual. We will however make every effort to assist delegates by helping the team get there, as well as providing the tools, knowledge, and connections necessary for a successful trip.

If you have limited familiarity with youth involvement at COP you are encouraged to visit these sites to review previous youth COP experiences and plans for COP16:

<http://www.ourclimate.ca/wordpress/projects-campaigns/canadian-youth-delegation/>

[www.cyd copenhagen.org](http://www.cyd copenhagen.org)

<http://youthclimate.org/>



## **Selection Criteria:**

CYCC is committed to selecting a skilled, diverse, and passionate delegation. **Applicants are required to be between the ages of 18 and 30 as of December 2010 and to either (a) be a Canadian citizen or (b) have studied or worked in Canada for more than six months.** Applicants who can attend the CYD summit in Canada as well as the entire conference will be given preference.

**Please note that we do not expect everyone to be a policy expert and we highly encourage applicants who are brand-new to the process**

Additional selection criteria are as follows:

- **Commitment to Climate Change Advocacy:** Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of the environment, reducing the impacts from climate change and mitigating greenhouse gases. Previous experience with climate change policy, media, peer education or community organizing is an asset. Experience could range anywhere from organizing an event to forming a club to being active in environmental issues in your school or community.
- **Diversity:** Preference will be given to those who can contribute something unique to CYD-Cancun. If you have experience, perspectives or skills in a certain area that can assist the delegation as a whole, please note this in your application. Members of communities most impacted by climate change, such as Northern, low-income, and Aboriginal communities, will be given priority. In addition, CYD-Cancun will have an active Francophone component to its programming. Therefore a portion of delegation positions will be reserved for Francophone team members.
- **Geographic Representation:** CYD-Cancun aims to have representatives from every province and territory as part of the delegation to ensure that the diverse perspectives of Canadian youth can be better represented at COP16.
- **Leadership and Teamwork Skills:** Preference will be given to those who have experience in leadership and teamwork, such as student or grassroots organizing, event or project planning, or peer-to-peer education. Please describe your leadership and teamwork skills in your application.
- **Previous CYCC Involvement:** Applicants are not required to have been involved with CYCC or any of its member organizations. However, previous involvement will be given some consideration in selection process. In order to achieve a decent level of institutional memory we will be trying to strike a balance in the delegation between experienced CYDers and new members.

***CYD-Cancun will be made up of a group of 25 diverse young people from across the country plus the leadership and mentorship team for this year's delegation.***



9. Where will you be based over the next six months?

10. Will you make every effort to attend a three-day CYD Summit in Fall 2010 (date TBD)?

11. Will you be able to attend the entire conference from November 29 – December 10, 2010? If not, what dates are you available? Are you available to attend the Conference of Youth (three days before the conference?).

12. Are you willing to invest approximately 5 hours a week, June-December (and more closer to departure), towards working in your community to educate and organize around the negotiations, working with the team to prepare for the COP16, and participating in any conference calls and meetings?

13. Specifically, can you commit to being active in your community doing related education and campaign activities? Explain.

14. How do you see incorporating what you would learn from the CYD experience into the work you do in your community?

15. If you are presently attending school do you foresee any problem in deferring your exams or other assignments you may have during this period? If so, what are they?

16. Please state any organizational affiliations (if applicable).

17. What college/university do you attend (if applicable).

18. What is your educational background? (formal and/or informal)

19. Please identify your first language. What other languages do you speak and how proficiently (ie. basic, intermediate, fluent)?

20. If not selected for the CYD-Cancun, would you be interested in joining the CYD-Home Team Leaders? This group will work very closely with CYD-Cancun throughout the lead-up to and during COP16 to move the climate agenda forward in Canada. They will be integral members of the CYD program, will join CYD-Cancun at the Fall Retreat, and will be instrumental in getting the word home to Canada while CYD-Cancun is on-the-ground at COP16.

## **PART II – Skills and Experience**

Using the examples below please briefly outline, in point form, any relevant skills/experience you have in the following areas. Please also include briefly the skills you would hope to build through the CYD experience.

- Communication Skills (public speaking, writing, blogging, photography, videography, etc.)
  
- Computer skills (interactive web forums, publishing software (e.g. Adobe), website maintenance, etc.)
  
- Media skills (writing press releases, giving interviews, blogs etc.)
  
- Networking and relationship building with delegates and government stakeholders
  
- Cross-cultural communication skills

- Group facilitation and team building skills/experience
- Experience and knowledge of climate policy (within Canada, or internationally)
- Experience creating and executing creative actions/demonstrations
- Experience planning and managing logistics (such as organizing group transportation, accommodation, fundraising, etc.)
- Experience advocating for social/environmental issues (not necessarily climate) to fellow community members, government or the public
- Other relevant knowledge, experience, or skills.

### **PART III – Essay/Video Questions**

#### **1. Statement of Interest**

Why do you want to attend COP16? What do you hope to accomplish while at the meeting (individually and/or as part of the group)? (300 words max)

#### **2. Your role**

What do you see as your role in the delegation? What special skills do you bring to the table? (e.g. media contact, community organizer, blogger, policy work) (200 words max)

### **3. Unique Perspectives**

What unique perspectives or points of view could you bring to the delegation? (e.g. background or experience) (300 words max)

### **4. Please answer ONE of the following questions:**

#### **A. Climate change policy**

In 200 words or less, outline a policy recommendation you would want to make at COP16 on one of the following issues:

- Key elements and obstacles to securing a global deal
- Moving forward from COP15
- The role and nature of non-Annex I commitments (NAMAs, MRV) in the post-2012 agreement
- Fairly apportioning the overall Annex I mitigation effort ('burden-sharing' / target-setting)
- The role of flexibility mechanisms and the carbon market in the post-2012 agreement
- The role of forests - both tropical (REDD) and Annex I (LULUCF) - in the post-2012 agreement
- The role of technology transfer and financing in the post-2012 agreement

#### **B. Media**

In 200 words or less; a one page graphic; or in a video 3 minutes long or less, outline a creative idea for an effective media stunt, action, or campaign prior to or during COP16 that is designed to affect policy outcomes.

## C. Organizing

In 200 words or less, or in a video 3 minutes long or less, talk about the role that community organizing plays in effective and positive change in climate change policy.

**Please note that we do not expect everyone to be a policy expert and we highly encourage applicants who are brand-new to the process.** We recommend that you write your response on one of the above topics. However, if you would like to write on a different topic, or would like assistance with one of the suggested topics, feel free to email [cycd.director@gmail.com](mailto:cycd.director@gmail.com) and we will do our best to assist you!

Thank you for your interest in joining CYD-Cancun. We will be a delegation of youth with diverse experience, skills, and backgrounds from across Canada carrying our message to our fellow Canadians, to the Canadian government and to delegates from around the world. If you are seeking a challenge, an unforgettable experience, and a chance to make change, this opportunity is for you!

Applicants who are not invited to join the Delegation will be strongly encouraged to join the **CYD-Home Team** of youth who will be educating and campaigning on the ground in the months leading up to, and during, COP16. If you are not planning to apply to join the delegation, and want to get involved in organizing here at home, please send us an email and join the Home Team.

If you have any questions about this application, please contact [cycd.director@gmail.com](mailto:cycd.director@gmail.com)

**Thank You!**

