

**Ministry of Citizenship,
Immigration and
International Trade**

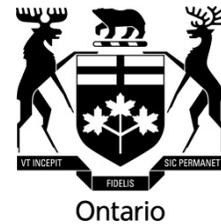
Minister

400 University Avenue
6th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2R9

**Ministère des Affaires civiles,
de l'Immigration et du
Commerce international**

Ministre

400, avenue University
6^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2R9



Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

January 13, 2016

The *ChangeTheWorld: Ontario Youth Challenge* is a program of the Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade (MCIT) that aims to empower youth aged 14 – 18 to be a force for good in their school and /or local community. Now in its ninth year, the *ChangeTheWorld* challenge will see students from across Ontario be part of a provincial campaign that encourages them to see the value of civic responsibility. They learn that the contributions they make support and strengthen their communities.

Participation in the campaign is open to all secondary school students across the province and contributes to the 40 community involvement hours required to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students who participate in the campaign have the opportunity to volunteer with their friends and to be part of a larger provincial initiative that demonstrates their contribution to communities in Ontario. We encourage you to engage the students in your school. Throughout Ontario last year, almost 41,400 youth volunteered an astounding 226,982 hours. Let's keep the momentum going.

ChangeTheWorld also allows secondary students to count volunteer hours from a *SpeakUp* Project towards the *ChangeTheWorld* campaign. Since 2008, *SpeakUp* Project grants from the Ministry of Education's Student Voice initiative have been open to students in grades 7-12 at publicly funded schools. These grants are for student-led projects designed to strengthen student engagement (academically, socially, and intellectually) and have a lasting impact in the school community. The deadline to apply for this year's funding is February 5, 2016. For information on the Ministry of Education's Student Voice initiative, visit www.ontario.ca/speakup.

ChangeTheWorld 2016 kicks off during National Volunteer Week and runs for six weeks from April 10 through to May 22, 2016. *ChangeTheWorld* is delivered through a partnership with the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN) and its 24 local volunteer centres.

Thank you for sharing this information with your school leaders. They will be interested to learn more about 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 Challenge*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Chan".

Michael Chan

Minister of Citizenship,
Immigration and International Trade

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Sandals".

Liz Sandals

Minister of Education