CALL FOR PAPERS
“Young People and the Future of Philanthropy”

For publication in the journal, THE PHILANTHROPIST

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About the Journal

The Philanthropist is a quarterly journal for practitioners, scholars, supporters and others engaged in the nonprofit sector in Canada. It publishes articles and useful information about the sector's important contributions to our communities, our country, and our world. See the journal’s website for further information www.thephilanthropist.ca

About the Special Edition - “Young People and the Future of Philanthropy”

It is an incontrovertible truth that Canada’s future rests in the hands of our children and youth. As young people learn, grow and become active participants in Canadian society they will shape our values and determine our future social and economic course. The care we demonstrate, the investments we make in young peoples’ development and the connections we create for them to become civically engaged will have a great long-term impact on society and the common good.

Our collective future well being depends, as it always has, on the creation of strong bonds between the generations. However, in the current climate of fiscal constraint those involved in policy and grant making in the public, private and philanthropic sectors who want to help young people, families and communities forge those bonds are forced to confront ever more difficult choices every day. How can new investments be made in our communities when it’s a struggle to sustain what we have now? When immediate needs seem so pressing, should we put planning for the longer term on the back burner? Can we afford to act out of short-term interest when what is at stake are the conditions that affect our social safety net, positive youth development and the wellness of our communities?

It is increasingly evident that conventional ways of thinking about philanthropy and civic engagement do not work for many young people. It is challenging for young people to think about “giving” or “volunteering” when they are struggling to find a way to participate in the economy, pay for their education or establish independent lives. What young people are experiencing are not the cyclical ups and downs in the economy faced by the boomer generation. They are witnessing a remarkable shrinking of the economies of the developed world, unprecedented levels of government debt that is leading to cuts to the services we need to protect and preserve our social capital. Young people caught in this squeeze desperately want and need things to change and an opportunity to contribute to the debate about solutions. Their frustration at being left out is palpable though they are far from being acquiescent.

For example, while young people may not be voting, giving money or volunteering the way their parents’ generation did, they are creating their own organizations, promoting activism, and engaging in
social movements that are transforming their schools, communities and immediate social environments. They demonstrate passion and a willingness to get involved. What they need is more opportunity to contribute, resources to help them organize their efforts and working alliances with supportive adults who are open and receptive to sharing power and decision-making in the spirit of active citizenship. The challenge for the philanthropic sector is to say “yes” to these young people and to ask how it can be of assistance.

We need to bring young people into conversations about transforming philanthropy as equal partners to tap into their ideas about policy, leadership, civic engagement and how to revitalize the philanthropic sector to keep it relevant to the times in which we live. This special issue of the Philanthropist will provide an opportunity for young writers/thinkers/change-makers with bold new ideas to share their thoughts with others. Below are some of the key topic areas for which we are seeking submissions.

**Topic Area 1: Taking Care of Taking Care: The Need for the Longer View in Building Communities that help Children, Youth and Families Thrive**

This article will help build the case for why policy makers, private sector funders and the service system need to revision the way they work together in an interdependent way to make up for the shortfall as resources become scarce. In other words, we need to “do differently” in order to do more with less and preserve and expand the sources of “resources, connection and voice” that help create the optimal conditions for child and youth development. Issues for exploration could include: a brief overview of macro-economic issues that create place barriers for young people who are struggling to find jobs, fund an education or establish themselves in the world. A brief analysis of how short-sighted policy barriers make it difficult for the philanthropic sector to work with government and the service sector to form working alliances. A discussion of barriers that prevent young people from being involved as equal partners with adults at the tables where issues affecting their lives are discussed.

**Topic Area 2: Returning the Gaze: How Young People in all their Diversity see the World Around Them**

What are young peoples’ hopes, dreams, aspirations and their view of working alliances with older generations? How do young people experience life in 2012? What is their definition of a “good life” and the challenges, frustrations, barriers they face as they try to build a positive and independent life for themselves? What do they need from adults, government, the philanthropic sector and social institutions to help them achieve their dreams, realize their potential and build strong families, communities and webs of support? What can the philanthropic sector do to be more attractive, and relevant to the X/Y generation?

**Topic Area 3: When Adults and Young People Work Together As Equals for Social Change**

This article will demonstrate what can happen when adults work as coaches and mentors to support young peoples’ efforts to transform their communities. The article will provide an example of how young people with a need for change in their community can work with adult coaches, mentors and supportive community members to realize their vision.

**Topic Area 4: New Media – New Voices: Using Social Networking and other Technologies in Philanthropy and Civic Engagement**
This article will provide examples of the ways new technology and social networking are being used to reach out to and engage young people and invite them to become more involved in their communities and charitable activity.

**Topic Area 5: Imagining Philanthropy Differently**

What are some of the drivers forcing transformation in the philanthropic sector? What do young people think the philanthropic sector could do to become more attractive and relevant to the X/Y generation? What are some examples of how private sector funders have adapted their philanthropic work to successfully engage young people and grassroots youth or help support young people’s own initiated and designed civic engagement work, leadership building projects or community development work. What are the outcomes young people and adults want from philanthropy working for and with children and youth?

**Topic Area 6: The New Face of Civic Engagement - When Young People Take the Lead**

Examples of youth designed and led activism or social projects dedicated to transforming their communities, changing the policy development process, altering the conditions of their lives, supporting civic engagement or building the next generation of leaders.

**Instructions for Authors**

If you are interested in writing an article for this special issue of the Philanthropist, please email a 1-2 paragraph synopsis of your idea, along with your contact information, to Dr. Fred Mathews, at the Advocate’s Office on or before November 5th, 2012. Dr. Mathews’ email address is fred.mathews@provincialadvocate.on.ca. You will be notified in writing shortly after that date if your proposal has been accepted. Preference will be given to young writers between the ages of 16-29 reflecting a diversity of cultural and other backgrounds. However, adult or youth/adult co-writers with youth-friendly, bold, transformational ideas are also welcome to submit an article. We are interested in hearing from writers across Canada. Completed articles must be received at the Advocate’s Office no later than January 4th, 2013. The Philanthropist may provide assistance or honourarium of up to $500.00 to youth writers only to cover out-of-pocket expenses or other costs associated with producing an article. If you are interested in obtaining a honourarium, please email editor@thephilanthropist.ca. Your email should include an explanation for why you are making the request.

Articles accepted for publication in the Philanthropist should be no longer than 2,500 words. Topic related opinion pieces of 1,000 words of less will also be considered. Manuscripts must be typed, double spaced and submitted electronically. Supporting quotes, references or statistical data must be acknowledged and properly sourced. Preference will be given to articles/authors that address the topics and meet the criteria above. The Advocate’s Office and the Philanthropist reserves the right to edit all submissions accepted for publication.
If you have any questions or are interested in making a submission, please contact Dr. Fred Mathews by email at the address below. For young writers, please visit our website http://www.provincialadvocate.on.ca/main/en/events and click on “the Philanthropist” for more information about submitting an idea for an article.

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