

**Appendix C**  
**Identify 'N Impact Investment Fund**  
**Descriptions of 2007 Recommended Projects**

**Africans in Partnership Against AIDS: Young, Black and Living with AIDS**

The project seeks to address the issues related to being a Black youth living with AIDs in Canada. The project will provide training to 16 youth to understand the basics of photography; understand the power of the image in shaping attitudes, behaviours and expectations; develop a portfolio of their lives as Black youth living with HIV/AIDS and use the photos to generate awareness and discussion of AIDS in the community. This project targets youth from Regent Park, Jamestown and Lawrence Heights neighbourhoods. The youth development component of the project will focus on the youth learning the technical skills associated with traditional and digital photography. The youth leadership component will focus on developing facilitation and community development skills among the youth. The youth will use these skills to promote, organize and facilitate seminar on living with AIDS for other youth and the community.

**Albion Catalysts: Rexdale Leading Youth Through Empowerment**

The project works to build the group's capacity and forge a new vision and identity separate from the library which the group has been associated with in the past few years. By providing training activities, the group will develop skills and knowledge in the areas of leadership, communication, interpersonal relations, teamwork and conflict management. This will also provide a chance for the group to restructure, to understand members' roles in relation to the community and other existing youth groups/councils and to engage youth in the neighbourhoods.

**Beyond the Lyrics Youth Resource Centre Inc: The Leaders of Tomorrow  
Community Collaborative**

The project works to provide leadership/mentorship program that promotes life skills for youth aged 14-24. The project is designed to be implemented at two stages. The first stage will be a 12 week leadership training series targeted to youth in the priority neighbourhoods. Participants will use the skills that they acquire to create an on-line zine for youth living in the City of Toronto. The second stage is the creation of an on-line zine by participants to give them a voice to speak on issues that they feel are important, relevant and reflective of their experiences as youth of colour in Toronto. In the end of the project, an event to launch the on-line zine will be organized by participants. As a result of the training and implementation activities, participants will gain a sense of empowerment and gain a larger understanding of youth issues in the city. Participants will be supported by a youth worker and mentored by a 5 member steering committee comprised of older youth from the organization.

**Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre: Community Matters**

The project works to increase youth leadership skills and help integrate Tamil youth into the mainstream community. Under the facilitation of the organization's Youth Advisory Council, Canyd Youth Councils will be set up in different high schools. Training will be provided to members of the Youth Councils and the organization will provide the youth with an opportunity to interact with others in understanding their issues and struggles. Youth will also be involves in identifying issues that are similar to issues faced by other youth within the community. The goal

of the project is to engage youth in a more diversified group of peers, and provide the opportunities to get involved in helping out in the mainstream community. The youth who come together for the Council will lead the meetings and discussions, and have a leadership role in relation to all decisions. Activities include training, meetings and discussions, youth forum, special events and workshops.

### **Children's Peace Theatre: One Earth Collective**

The project works to increase awareness of issues affecting the youth of Crescent Town and surrounding areas, to build the capacity of the participants and to increase the influence of youth leaders in Crescent Town, Flemingdon Park and Victoria Village. This is achieved through the engagement of youth in a youth-led leadership and theatre performance company that will theatricalize issues of importance to youth, including issues of violence, peace and social justice. The project is socially inclusive and integrative in nature, and provides opportunities for artistic experiences, enrichment and performance.

The youth in the project will run the project with administrative and management oversight provided by the organisation. The youth will hire artists of their own choosing to assist them to develop their skills and presentations, and will also hire workshop leaders who will provide a deeper context for the work and a further opportunity for broader youth engagement. They will make all decisions regarding the form and content of their theatrical creations, and will promote and produce their performances.

### **Community Microskills Development Centre: Student Leaders at NACI**

The project works to support 14 student leaders of North Albion Collegiate Institute (NACI) to develop and practice leadership skills by planning and delivering a program to the 2007 grade 9 students. This group of leaders will work with the 2007 grade 9 students to plan and deliver sessions to grade 8 students. 40-50 NACI students of the 2007 grade 9 cohort will be oriented to high school life and learn important information for their lives. Between 12 and 20 of this group will develop leadership skills by working with the 2006 grade 9 student leaders to plan and deliver sessions to grade 8 students. Activities include workshops, drama, music and recreations. The project will take place in the Jamestown-Silverstone-Mount Olive neighbourhood, in particular for African Canadian youth.

### **Doorsteps Neighbourhood Services: Falstaff Girls Club - Leaders for Today**

This project works to develop the leadership skills of girls in the Falstaff area and to increase the community leadership capacity in the community starting with an enthusiastic, energetic group of female youth. The project also aims at researching various leadership development models to identify the most effective one. This is a partnership with the Toronto Public Health and the Black Creek Community Health Centre. The project works to create a supportive environment to help girls reach the maximum respect and leadership potential. By starting this group with support from older youth and adults, the project works to build a strong foundation for a continuing Falstaff Girls Club.

### **Dorset Park Youth Advisory Council: Live and Educate Against Anti-oppression Right Now**

The project works to run a leadership program for racialized (African Canadian and Tamil) youth in Dorset Park. The project works to teach leadership/life skills to underserved youth, equip

them with skills that they need to be successful in the society which include problem solving, conflict resolution and employment readiness. This project works to create a program that would share life skills, provide alternatives to drug use/dealing and help youth avoid violence and gangs. Using an anti-oppression framework, the project will support youth to make decisions about their actions and goals that will have a positive impact on their lives. Activities include workshops, training, meetings and special events.

### **Gordonridge Youth Committee: Gordonridge Youth Committee Project**

The project works to engage youth living in the Gordonridge community with the objective to provide support to at-risk youth, particularly African Canadian youth, to develop their voice and undertake activities to contribute to a safe community; to develop youth decision-making and leadership skills; and to contribute to the development of a youth-led body that is able to identify youth issues and solutions. The project activities will connect neighbourhood-specific youth concerns, solutions and initiatives to specific community-based agencies and institutions. Activities include a youth retreat/educational field trip, workshops, training, meetings and discussions, civic engagement activities and a youth-led action-fashion show.

### **GTA Somali Community Development Organizations: Youth Initiative**

This project works to improve educational achievement to urban youth and improve understanding between young adults and their children. The project targets youth 10-26 years of age and young adults in the Malvern community. The project also works to offer youth opportunities and provide positive reinforcement to their careers. The end result is to improve their quality of life and keep youth involved in community programs. Volunteer opportunities are also provided through the project. Activities include tutorial services, heritage and language study, apprenticeship programs, workshops, conference, Black history forum, drop-in programs and career day. The funding is provided to the group to develop its focus, involve more youth in the process of identifying priorities and strengthen the group's ability to make an impact in the community.

### **HOODLINC Youth Organization (In collaboration with Banyan Tree Community Initiatives)**

This project works to allow youth from the Malvern community to lead a participatory design process in accessing building sites and architectural know-how to design a youth friendly community base to demonstrate what can work for Malvern and East Scarborough youth and other priority neighbourhoods. This is a partnership with Banyan Tree Community Initiatives, a group committing in educating at-risk youth to build cost-effective sustainable communities. This group will work to bring architects, designers, students, urban planners, constructors/builders, unions representatives and affordable housing experts to the table to work with the youth of Malvern and East Scarborough to design and create a total space plan that the youth can make changes. As a result, this project will pilot a potential showcase of alternative space that teaches and inspires young people from different backgrounds, communities and living environments to take leadership in developing their communities. A core group of 10 young people have been involved in the development of this project and they will function as the core group leading the implementation

### **Midaynta Community Services: Midaynta Youth Roundtable**

This project works to create an inclusive, sustainable strategy to bring young people to the decision-making table. The organisation will work with a group of young women, in particular from the Lawrence Heights area to get youth involved in the work of the systemic change and community empowerment. This project was developed by a group of young women and they plan to train 15 youth to mobilize the community and work on the issues of civic engagement. The project works to allow the participants to come together in a safe space to explore ideas and learn how to be part of a movement that will foster changes in their communities. The project adopts a mentorship model and provides training and mentoring to female youth. It is expected through workshops and seminars on political education and social justice issues, the youth will acquire skills for advocating for social changes. Activities include workshops, seminars and mentoring.

### **North York Community House: Leadership Training Program**

This project works to build the capacity of youth in the Trethewey community to address community needs and build upon community assets. The project works in 2 phases. Phase 1 is an eight weeks in-house training session in which life, leadership and critical thinking skills will be developed through workshops. 10-12 participants will be recruited and one of these members will be a volunteer-leader-in-training who will support the coordinator of the program.

Phase 2 is a practicum which includes 20 hours of leadership training in the community. This will provide a forum for youth to develop sustainable skills and carry these into their daily lives and engaged in long-term social action. Youth who graduate from this program will have input in the curriculum development for the next year of the program. They are encouraged to return to coordinate and facilitate the program modules in future years. Phase 2 will include a community mapping project, a community programming and social action. In the process, youth input will play an important role in shaping the content of the practicum.

### **Rexdale Community Health Centre: Youth Empowering Minds**

The project works to reach the youth in the Jamestown area and help them get involved in the community. This project is led by a collective of youth evolved from the For Youth By Youth Council in the community and looks for a new approach for youth engagement. The project works to educate and elevate the minds of youth and empower youth to make decisions for themselves and motivate youth in daily life to work for excellence. This project also works to enhance youth leadership skills and organizational skills to effectively plan and implement future youth-led activities for their peers and makes a difference in the community. Participants will be divided into 2 groups, 13-16 yrs old and 16-24 yrs old. The project adopts a mentorship model to help build skills for the younger youth. Activities include a retreat, economic development workshops, field trips, mentorship, crisis response and safety training.

### **Road to Success: Road to Success Project**

The project seeks to reduce the barriers that youth with criminal records face by supporting them as they complete their community service hours. This project works to minimize the societal barriers that young offenders face by advocating for access to employment, education, and other essential services that will impact on the future success. Through a combination of youth engagement, peer mentorship, skills building and advocacy, this project provides a supportive and empowering environment in which young people will feel supported and encouraged to explore a wide range of opportunities and build positive relationships within their

communities. This project is youth led as all members of the coordinating committee are youth and targeted youth who live in either Jamestown or Jane-Finch.

### **San Romanoway Revitalization Association: Youth 'N charge**

The project works to provide youth from the San Romanoway neighbourhood and the wider Jane-Finch community with positive alternatives to violence. The project focuses on improving literacy, cooperation and collaboration. The project has several objectives. It works to provide an opportunity for the group leaders to organize different community events for youth residing in the San Romanoway neighbourhood and the wider Jane-Finch area. The group also takes this event to memorialize the youth that have lost to violence recently and in the past. A commemorative scholarship fund has been set up by the organisation and this project works to celebrate community's success and facilitates the community to look forward for positive changes. The youth involved in this project will be between the ages of 13-25 years old and is completely youth led. The entire experience of the project will help build authentic youth leadership opportunities and build the skills and capacity of young people to be decision makers and problem solvers.

### **Somali Youth Association of Toronto (SOYAT): Spreading Knowledge Through the Mic.**

This project works to continue to support and expand the success of the Radio Program to include a mentorship component. The Radio program was started in Spring 2007 by identifying issues to be made into stories, followed by hands-on workshops covering interviewing techniques, editing, sound boarding and spoken word skills. This program was facilitated by the spoken word coordinator and a technical assistant from CHRY. Majority of the current participants want to outreach to younger youth in the community to pass on the skills they have learned and address some of the issues that arose for them in the audio pieces they worked on this year. They are aware of the consequences of the lack of positive youth space and role models in their community and the need to recognize the pressures that youth face. This project works to provide youth with a positive role model in a space that acknowledges their experiences and perspectives as relevant with skills that they can use to communicate. CHRY will air these perspectives to the community from a local radio station. As a result, mentors and participants will also be actively addressing the negative depictions of youth in Rexdale.

For more information:

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