

Appendix C
Identify 'N Impact Investment Fund
Descriptions of 2008 Recommended Projects

Birchmount Bluffs Neighbourhood Centre: Focal Point

This project works to build youth leadership and mentorship skills through a photography project centred in Kennedy Park and Scarborough village with the final photo projects displayed at the CONTACT photography festival. This project has been created and designed by the agency's Youth Advisory Group. Goals of the project include developing youth skills (leadership, mentorship and photography), enhancing the participant's knowledge of their community, providing opportunities to youth to explore social issues, and the use of photography as a medium for self expression. Project activities include: project curriculum development; gallery selection; mentor recruitment and training; photography skills training; photo shoots; and public exhibition. This project will be offered in 2 phases with the second phase being led by participants/mentors from the first phase.

Black Ribbon Organization: Helping youth achieve goals

This project works to organize a fashion show that will be created by youth and community driven. The youth will take part in creating T-shirt designs and get them printed on T-shirts. The project will engage 30 youth in brainstorming activities and provide opportunities to develop leadership skills and gain practical skills and experience that they will be able to apply in the future. The goal of this project is to show the community, the youth and their families that there are individuals that want to help the youth reach their goals and to build trusting relationships through collective decision making and team work. Project activities include: mentorship for youth; workshops; a field trip and a fashion show.

Building Blocks Youth Group: Community-building events

This project works to bring youth from the Queen's Plate area together to start talking to each other, to develop a sense of community and to promote unity in the community. This project will address the lack of youth programming in the neighbourhood and will create a safe place for youth to gather. The goal of this project is to build a healthier and happier community by providing access to services, resources and support. Project activities include: community BBQ; car wash fundraiser; skill-building workshops; and a basketball drop-in.

Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples: Le Centro resource area

The project works to establish a resource area in the community space of the Centre to provide educational resources for Latino youth in the community. This space will allow Latino youth to explore their cultural background in the absence of ethno-specific education in the school system. The resource area will function as a workspace for youth to access educational materials, complete homework assignments and apply for jobs and will allow youth to develop subject specific work groups that meet the interests and concerns of local youth. The goal of this project is to provide the resource area as a safe, inclusive, interactive space for youth and their families. Project activities include: space design and implementation and project launch.

DreamNow: NeighbourhoodOne

This project takes a community development approach to engaging youth in the NeighbourhoodOne activities of the organization. NeighbourhoodOne assists community groups that are working for social change across Toronto to coordinate their activities. The goal of this project is to capture the enthusiasm of a group of youth and to provide them with the opportunity to use the existing resources of the organization. Ten to fifteen diverse youth will be recruited, and provided with technical and leadership skills enabling them to take ownership of the NeighbourhoodOne website and shape the program for the future. Project activities include: preparing materials for youth; recruiting youth; electing a chair; holding a leadership retreat; monthly meetings; and ongoing outreach.

For Youth Initiative in Toronto: Life Skills and Youth Empowerment Workshop Series

This project works to provide 16-week life skills workshops to 20 youth aged 15 - 24 from the community. This will motivate youth to learn about the importance of achieving and setting goals, learning how to cook, use computers and money management. The project also teaches youth how to make better life choices, be better decision makers, problem solvers and community members. This project has been designed for youth by youth who have received feedback through consultations and are now responsible for the project implementation and direction. From taking the initiative to start the project and to be a mentor for the youth in the community, youth will have many chances to learn new skills.

Frontlines: Frontlines Youth Council

This project works to create a council of young men and women who would like to explore what it means to be a Black youth. Lessons learned and experiences gained will be applied by designing a workshop and programming by youth for younger youth. This project will use the influence of older youth to support other youth and children. The goal of this project is to give youth a voice to explore what it means to be an Afro-Canadian youth and what they can do to right the wrongs they identify.

Glendower Demanding Change: Exposure

This project works to develop a photography program for African Canadian youth from the 3 main communities that make up Steeles- L'Amoureux. This project will hire youth from the community to staff and be the youth leads in the program where they will be trained on the essentials of photography. They will then return to their communities to teach these skills to their peers, and the project will end with an exhibit of all the work gathered from the program at East Metro Youth Services Studio Two. The goals of the project are to give youth a better understanding of where they and their peers are coming from, to provide them with a portfolio of work they can include with their resume, and to highlight the talent of these youth to the community at large, in order to make them aware of the talent and to be able to better support them. Project activities include: outreach and recruiting youth to staff the project as well as to be participants; training facilitators; and planning and executing 4 photo exhibits.

Rated Entertainment Artistic Promotions Group of Canada:

This project will put on a youth arts festival and to make the event an annual event in the city's north-west communities. This project builds on the success of a previous project. Through

organizing and training for this event, there will be a variety of artist development opportunities including workshops and trainings on both technique (stage presence, appearance, projection and pitch) and the professional aspects of planning an event (networking, professionalism, organization, and audience geared performances). The goal of this project is to show Black youth that their contribution to the arts is valued, while providing a range of leadership and skill building opportunities. Project activities include planning and development of Urban Arts Festival, marketing and promotions, auditions and artist development, and festival evaluation.

Recognize the Real Life and Skills Education: Real Skills

The project works to address the issues of black male youth in the community that present barriers to them reaching their full potential. The project has identified the Jane and Finch neighbourhood as an area with many Black male youth facing significant risks and where youth have indicated an interest in participating in life skills and culturally specific healing sessions. The youth will take the lead in organizing trips, outings and events. Activities include: life skills workshops; field trips; healing sessions; mentoring; and forums.

Rexdale Adolescent Warriors (RAW): Men 2 Men

The project works to address the issues arising from the lack of positive male role models for young men in Rexdale. This project works to foster intergenerational relationships where adult black males mentor young black males. By providing a positive role model to young black males in an informal setting, adults will share their experience and knowledge to guide the youth to grow and develop their leadership skills and as a result, a support system will be established. Activities include: orientation and training to mentors; outreach and recruitment; mentorship and workshops.

San Romanoway Revitalization Association: United music fund publishing

This project works to provide a youth run initiative to help create sustainable long-term employment and skill development for youth residing in 4 priority neighbourhoods, using music publishing as a tool. The project has two phases. The first phase involves providing a musical publishing curriculum for 26 weeks to teach participants the workings of music publishing. The second half of the program places participants in a practicum where they administer music publishing services for their community artists peers. The goals of the project are to increase youth employment opportunities, the number of youth leaders in the community and positive peer mentorship opportunities and to decrease the staggering youth drop out rates. Project activities include: curriculum development; workshop delivery; ongoing meetings; staff professional development; practicum; music publishing; and program analysis.

Somali Sports & Cultural Association: Soccer and Somali girls

This project works to pilot a soccer training program for Somali girls. The project will provide 150 girls with soccer coaching and 12 others with training to be recreational soccer leaders. The goal of the project is to work with the community to promote acceptance of physical exercise for girls, and as a result, to provide another avenue for girls to integrate into Canadian society. Project activities include: outreach; team building; leadership training; soccer skill development; and community education/awareness.

The Pulse: Project Egale

This project works to examine the issue of Somali youth violence in Toronto through the development of a documentary film on the root causes of youth violence facing Somali youth, and through other events including seminars, anti-violence workshops, tutoring and mentoring. The goals of the project are 1) to create a documentary focusing on the root causes of violence and issues facing Somalis, 2) to build the self worth of Somali youth to realize their full potential and become community leaders and 3) to realize, disseminate, analyze and discuss the issues and to develop alternatives to violence. Project activities include: 4 community events; creation of online groups; launch of a website; leadership workshops; and documentary production.

Tropicana Community Services Organization: Jane-Finch Involve Youth

This project works to support the Involve Youth Jane-Finch group to create collaboration and cohesiveness amongst the youth population in Jane-Finch. This group was started in October 2007 and currently has a membership of 13 youth aged 13 - 24. The youth have identified integration into the larger community as a key component of their workplan. The project works to support them to help other established youth groups in the community develop and build ideas through consultation and delivery of special projects. The group has identified a number of key partners in the community that include Black Creek Community Health Centre, Jane-Finch Family Centre, Recognize the Real, Yorkwoods Library and TCHC and plans to involve them in the workplan. Activities include: community outreach; community events planning; field trips; and an arts expo and arts night.

Youth Led By Faith: Knowledge is Our Cure

This project works to support the members of Youth Led By Faith to become effective peer educators through training. The group received INI funding in 2007 and based on the result of those activities proposes to provide continuous training and development to the members of Youth Led By Faith in the area of sexual diseases, healthy cooking and training, capacity training, African drumming and dancing. The group will develop their own training materials and work with the youth in Jamestown. The project will outreach to hard to reach youth population and provide training on HIV/AIDS, STIs AND STDs.

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