



United Way
Toronto

**Update: Youth Policy: What Works and
What Doesn't?**

November 2009

Purpose and Background

- In February 2008 United Way Toronto released a report titled: **Youth Policy: What Works and What Doesn't? A Review of Youth Policy Models From Canada and other Jurisdictions**
- This report reviewed youth policy models in several jurisdictions in Canada and internationally, collecting data through interviews with senior government and NGO staff, review of existing literature, and in-depth document analysis

Purpose and Background Cont'd

- To ensure that the findings of this research remain up to date and relevant, a brief update was conducted in November 2009.
- The aim of this update was to clarify key changes that have occurred in youth policy since the original research was being conducted in 2007.
- The information contained here is intended to act as a supplement to the original research review, and capture new developments that are relevant.

Update findings

- It was found that the vast majority of youth policy models had remained consistent since 2007
- Key changes were noted in three jurisdictions:
 1. Province of Quebec
 2. England, UK,
 3. State of Victoria, Australia
- In addition, several new youth policy initiatives have been developed since this time that are worth consideration.
 1. City of Ottawa and United Way/Centraide Ottawa
 2. National collaboration for Youth, USA.
 3. MCYS/ CYS Planning and Alignment Council



Key changes to existing Youth Policy Models

- Québec Secrétariat à la Jeunesse
 - The Quebec Youth Policy (2001) and the Quebec Youth Action Strategy (2006-2009) were both featured in United Way Toronto's 2008 inter-jurisdictional review.
 - Since then, Quebec has continued its commitment to youth policy with the release of the **2009-2014 Youth Action Strategy** in March, 2009.
 - Six key challenges were identified to guide strategic priorities: Education and Employment Challenge; Entrepreneurship Challenge; Health Challenge; Regional Challenge; Diversity Challenge; Environmental Challenge



Key changes to existing Youth Policy Models, cont'd

- England, U.K.
 - The central goals of England's children and youth policy are set out in **Every Child Matters**, followed by **Youth Matters**. These programs are highlighted in the 2008 review.
 - The Every Child Matters agenda has been further developed through the publication of **the Children's Plan** in December, 2007 .
 - The 2005 Youth Matters green paper led to the release of another important report, **Youth Matters: Next Steps** in 2006
 - Both are concerned with improvements in: being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, and achieving economic well-being



Key changes to existing Youth Policy Models, cont'd

- State of Victoria, Australia
 - In 2002 the State of Victoria released a policy framework entitled **Respect: The Government's Vision for Young People**. Since then, several reports outlining progress for young people have been released.
 - The most recent youth policy, **Future Directions: An Action Agenda for Young Victorians**, was not elaborated on in the 2008 Review. This policy reflects the range of activities and initiatives going on across government for young Victorians aged 12 to 25 and outlines how these initiatives build on and closely align with the 2002 framework



New Youth Policy Initiatives for consideration

- City of Ottawa & United Way/Centraide Ottawa
 - This partnership worked to facilitate a **Framework for Promoting Healthy Child and Youth Development** in 2008.
 - The framework includes community-identified priorities related to the levels of Public policy, Community School and Neighbourhoods, Family caregiver and peers, and the level of individual child/youth.
 - The four domains outlined in the framework are: Safe and Caring Environments; Meeting Fundamental Needs; Opportunity to Develop Competencies; Stable and Nurturing Relationships



New Youth Policy Initiatives for consideration, Cont'd

- National Collaboration for Youth (NCY), U.S.A.
 - Since the 2008 Review, NCY has developed a policy agenda entitled **Toward a Brighter Future: An Essential Agenda for America's Young People**
 - This Agenda promotes a comprehensive, unifying, and asset-based strategy for the federal government on issues facing children and youth.
 - The agenda focuses on policy recommendations across a variety of areas related to youth including education, health, justice and youth development



New Youth Policy Initiatives for consideration, Cont'd

- MCYS/ CYSPEC Toronto Region
 - Since the 2008 review was published, the Government of Ontario has developed the following initiatives in the area of Youth Policy:
 - **Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services Strategic Framework** (2008-2012). The MCYS has developed a strategic framework for providing services to Ontario's young people and their families. The framework is intended to improve policy development, program design, program management, and frontline delivery.
 - **Strategic Plan for Children and Youth in the Toronto Region.** The strategic plan was developed with the Children and Youth Services Planning and Alignment Council (CYSPEC) is comprised of members from a range of organizations in the child and youth-serving sector and led by MCYS Toronto Region