

The Second Annual National Conference On Youth and Development

We going right up in there!



Putting our stamp on the decision making process.

Conference Summary

November 25, 2008
Paradise Cove Resort

NCYD-2008: Conference Summary

Introduction

The National Conference on Youth and Development was first hosted by the Ministry of Social Development, Department of Youth and Culture in September 2007 as a component of the department's youth participation and governance initiative ONSTREAM. The primary objective of ONSTREAM is to facilitate the incorporation of a youth perspective into all levels of decision making. Other components of the initiative include, strengthening the capacity of the Anguilla National Youth Council for effective management and governance, development of a National Youth Ambassador Corps and the provision of support for the development of youth governance structures such as student councils, youth managed community development initiatives and a National Youth Parliament.

The NCYD seeks to incorporate a youth perspective into decision making by creating a mechanism whereby young people can be informed about selected national development issues and be directly engaged in the formulation of public policies and programmes to address these issues. Young people are engaged when they are afforded the opportunity to provide constructive feedback to policy makers in the form of position papers and recommendations for action.

The inaugural edition of the conference received an overwhelming response from young people; it was two long days of presentations and deliberation, and several weeks of follow-up work by the appointed spokespersons culminating in the presentation of a series of recommendations to the Honourable Minister of Social Development that today continue to inform decision making in the areas of child protection, access to education, crime and violence and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Rationale for the NCYD

The conference is designed within the context of The Anguilla National Youth Policy. The policy recognizes that, ***“Young people therefore have the right to: Participate in the formation of policy, decision-making, leadership and national development.”*** The principle behind the NCYD is also consistent with principle of participatory democracy, which emphasizes the wide involvement of citizens in decision making and is one of the current government's the stated guiding values.

When the principle of participatory democracy is cross referenced with the 2001 census data, a powerful justification is provided for initiatives such as the NCYD. The data shows that fifty three percent (53%) of Anguilla's population is under the age of 30; based on the National Youth Policy's 13-30 definition of youth, twenty nine percent (29%) of the total population and approximately thirty percent (30%) of persons eighteen years and older are considered youthful.

NCYD-2008

The Issues

The issues proposed for selection were compiled by interviewing various public and private sector agencies about policy, legislation and programmes currently under development that require public consultation and feedback. This approach sought to ensure that that the issues discussed are relevant to the current development agenda.

In a poll administered to approximately three hundred young people during the period 3-7 November, 2008, five issues were selected for the NCYD-2008 to address. Land availability topped the polls, having been selected

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by 38.8% of respondents while 34.2 % selected The New Education Act and Regulations; 33.9 % Labour and Immigration Policy; 33.9 % Strategies for Managing the Impact of the Global Financial Crisis and 30.3% selected Sustainable Tourism Development Policy.

These five issues were further reduced to three taking into consideration their poll ranking, the availability of resource persons. Another factor considered when making the final selection was the suitability of the issue for the conference format particularly as it regards the time required to do justice to the issue. The final three selected for NCYD-2008 are labour and Immigration Policy, Land Availability and Strategies for Managing the Impact of the Global Financial Crisis.

The Conference Format

The Issue Roundtables: There will be two Issue Roundtables occurring simultaneously and addressing different issues. One will address the Labour and Immigration Policy while the other will examine the Land Availability issue. Each will comprise a team of twenty (20) young people managed by a lead facilitator an assistant and supported by a rapporteur. During the allotted two and a half hours, each roundtable will engage in teambuilding exercise, view a short audio visual presentation on the issue, listen to and interrogate two position papers; one presented by a government expert and the other by a young person, engage in discussion and the formulation of recommendations on the issue at hand. It is expected that each roundtable will produce a report to be presented to the conference in plenary and which will be included in the NCYD-2008 Conference Report.

Emergent Regional/International Issues: This element of the conference will broaden its' scope; delegates will examine a global issue with a local impact. The format of this element is similar to that of the roundtable with the following exceptions: it is conducted in plenary and there will be only one presentation, to be made by a youth expert. The issue selected for deliberation is, 'Strategies for Managing the Impact of the Global Financial Crisis'; in the one hour and forty minutes allocated for this session, delegates will be expected to produce a ten point plan outlining strategies to be implemented as part of Anguilla's response to the crisis.

Straight Up Conversations: This element returns from NCYD-2007 under a different name. 'Straight up Conversations' emphasises straight to the point' conversation between young people and Ministers of Government on the issues selected for discussion at the conference. The rules of engagement will be developed along the lines of those adopted by the 'Open Mic' panel, debate, discussion on constitutional reform hosted by the National Youth Ambassador Corps and the Chief Minister's Office, though the time allocated for responses will be relaxed.

Agenda 8:30am – 4:30 pm

08:30 – 09:00 - Opening

Welcome

Invocation

National Song

Overview of NCYD-2007

Overview of NCYD-2008

Remarks – President ANYC

Remarks – Permanent Secretary Ministry of Social Development

Closing Remarks

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09:15 - 09:20 – Housekeeping

09:25 – 11:55 – Issue Roundtables (Including Break)

Housekeeping and Teambuilding

Introduction to Issue

Presentation of Position Paper 1

Presentation of Position Paper 2

Clarification of Salient Points

Discussion and Formulation of Recommendations

12:00 - 12:45 - Lunch

12:50 - 01:10 - Reporting from Roundtables (Plenary)

01:15 - 02:50 - Emerging Regional/International Issue (Plenary)

Audio Visual Presentation (Introduction of Issue)

Expert Presentation

Discussion/Clarification of Salient Points

Formulating a 10 Point Plan

Reporting and Consolidation of Points

02:50 - 03:05 - Break

03:10 – 03:55 - Straight Up Conversations

04:00 – 04:30 - Closing and Evaluation

Registration of Delegates

Registration for NCYD-2008 will take place from the 17-24, November 2008. It will be conducted through various national and community organisations both public and private. If you are interested in registering independent of an organisation or if your organisation has not been invited to send a representative, you can submit your registration form independently to ncyd2008@gmail.com, though you are required to state, **‘Independent’** in the space on the registration form allocated for **‘Sponsoring Agency’**.

Delegates and persons sponsoring organisations are asked to note the following:

1. NCYD-2008 is for young persons between the ages of 13-30.
2. Space at NCYD-2008 is limited. To guarantee a space ensure that your registration form is returned ASAP.
3. If your registration form has been submitted after capacity has been reached, you will be notified of this and your registration put on standby in the event that a space becomes available.
4. If you register and are unable to attend for whatever reason, please indicate this so that another young person can be afforded the opportunity to attend.

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The NCYD Planning Team

The Ministry of Social Development – Department of Youth and Culture: Is the Public service agency responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of policies and programmes in the areas of youth development, promotion of the arts, and preservation of ICH. This is reflected in the Mission of the Department;

“In collaboration with national, regional and international partners, we facilitate the empowerment of young people and promote the arts and Anguilla’s cultural heritage as critical components of sustainable social and economic development.”

The Department has identified four priority areas for action:

1. Cultural and artistic promotion and development
2. Preservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage
3. Sustainable livelihoods
4. Youth wellbeing
5. Youth participation and governance

The Anguilla National Youth Council: The ANYC was established as a national body to protect the interests of all youth, youth groups, and affiliated organizations: and to advance and promote the general welfare and social progress of young people and the people of Anguilla. This is still reflected in its’ mission, which defines the organization as follows:

“We are an autonomous, non-partisan organization which seeks to be the voice of Anguilla’s youth, promoting youth empowerment through advocacy, capacity building and strategic partnerships.”

The National Youth Ambassador Corps: Like the NCYD, The NYAC was established as a component of the Department of Youth and Culture’s ONSTREAM initiative and works closely with the ANYC. The function of the Youth Ambassador Corps is to:

1. Represent the interests of young people in various for a
2. Research and document youth perspectives on development issues
3. Educate young people about development issues
4. Act as a consultation mechanism for policy makers and development agencies.

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NCYD-2008 DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

Instructions: Please complete in full and return to ncyd2008@gmail.com or fax 497-7999. To select a check box in Microsoft Word, double click on the box and in 'default value' select 'checked'.

Mr <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs <input type="checkbox"/>	Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
First Name:			Surname:		
Gender: Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>			Age:		
Mailing Address:			Email:		
			Tel (Personal):		
			Tel (work):		
Special Dietary Needs: <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetic <input type="checkbox"/> Hypertensive <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			Roundtable Preference: (See Roundtable description in conference overview.) SELECT ONE ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> Roundtable 1: Labour and Immigration <input type="checkbox"/> Roundtable 2: Land Availability		
Name of Sponsoring Organisation:			Name and Job Title of Organisation Head:		
Organisation Mailing Address:			Email:		
			Tel:		
Signature of Delegate and Date:			Signature of Organisation Head and Date:		

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