



The YouthScape project in Thunder Bay is a three year initiative, which is also taking place in Halifax, Regina, Calgary and Montreal. Supported by the McConnell Family Foundation, the purpose of this project is to help youth to become involved in planning and implementing community development initiatives. These youth often face exclusion just because they are different.

By encouraging and supporting youth United Way is creating new leaders. Giving these youth real opportunities to develop and implement their skills will allow them to show their leadership and encourage others.

In the spring students at Dennis Franklin Cromarty worked with YouthScape to plan and begin to create a culturally appropriate memorial green space in the school court yard. Students planted trees and erected a teepee. This space will be used for cultural activities & give the students a place to meet outdoors.

## *Imagine seeing marginalized youth as problem - solvers instead of problems.*

Through the assistance of YouthScape, summer activities were carried out by a diverse group of young people from the Multicultural Youth Centre. The neighbourhood areas, Limbrick Place, Academy Park, Windsor Place and the Thunder Bay South Core were chosen. During activities information was gathered from young people and parents to bring out their perspective on safety and other concerns within their community.

This fall YouthScape has selected 5 new youth led projects. These projects were selected by a committee of community youth and adults. The project areas were identified and developed by young people 15 -29 and look at ways of engaging youth who do not traditionally participate in



community building activities.

A video project will follow the day to day lives of two very different young people. The final story will help the community better understand how life circumstances, cultural background, social and economic standing impact the lives of youth today and how the community perceives these youth.

A community greenhouse project will help young people learn how to grow fruit and vegetables and understand the importance of producing their own local food. The project hopes to support itself by selling plants and produce in a longer growing year from early spring to late fall.

Three community youth forums hope to attract youth who would not traditionally attend this type of event. The organizers hope to build leadership and advocacy skills and promote unity among the diverse groups of young people within our community.

A group of young women will be encouraged to explore how they can be involved in the

community; look at ways to address safety and create partnerships to carry out project activities.

Through the use of photography and telling their story, youth who have come to Thunder Bay from First Nation Communities will be able to give insight into the experience of what it is like to move from their home communities to an urban centre. This project will help develop understanding around some of the challenges and struggles faced by these youth as well as highlight positive influences that have helped ease this transition.

