

economies and their personal choices. A number of youths are concerned that the system can exploit youth labour and lead to continued youth poverty.

With the modern world have come conveniences like snowmobiles and canned food, which also mean high importing and transporting prices and waste. There needs to be a positive merging of the traditional ways and the modern world. (Project Coordinator, Youth Service Canada, Northwest Territories)

Every time a forest is clear-cut, the GNP goes up. There is something wrong with our way of measuring wealth. (Youth for Habitat II Canada, Bioregional Coordinator—Atlantic Region)

It is this socioeconomic aspect of the global economy that concerns youth. This lack of control over their own economic future limits their ability to contribute toward sustainable development.

Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment and lack of meaningful work is a concern for many young Canadians. Many jobs provide little opportunity for personal or professional development. The changing workplace has left many young people among the poor, especially young single mothers and members of cultural minorities.

Sometimes the only way for street kids to get money is to get involved in parallel activities. (Street youth in Montreal cleaning car windows)

Youth and Government Initiatives

One solution for some young people is participation in local economic efforts such as cooperatives. Others are trying to redefine the idea of work so that everyone can be considered a valued member of society. They are learning to cooperate,