

Workshop B - Children's Rights

Two high school students, Cinzia DiFranco and Chris Longtin, developed and conducted a workshop in which they gave participants information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its importance for improving the situation for children around the world. Participants were given the opportunity to brainstorm and demonstrate their awareness of the rights to which they are entitled. Videos and skits were used to further explain the different types of rights and how they are essential for children. Discussion took place concerning the importance of each right and the ways in which they are interconnected.

Workshop C - Sweatshops

Provided by Andrea Towler and Grace Chirico of OPIRG McMaster this workshop introduced participants to the complexity of a global economic system and its importance in explaining why people, and especially young women, are often forced to work long hours under poor conditions for low wages. This workshop provided important information on the links between young people in Canada and especially their role as consumers, and the work that many young people do in other parts of the world for multinational corporations. Importantly, this relationship was discussed in terms of what young people in Canada can do and have done to improve the situation for others around the world.

Workshop D - Confronting the Problems

Doug Blackburn from World Vision Canada used videos, discussion and role playing to examine the situations that many young people around the world face. Role playing and discussion in this workshop in particular were designed to facilitate an understanding built from the central question "what would you do if you were in a similar situation?".

Workshop E - Canadian Issues/Foreign Policy

Lauren Woods, Shobita Ravindram and Vikram Ravindram, all high school students, conducted a workshop addressing Canadian issues and especially Canadian foreign policy. With the guidance of OWAHC staff, they introduced participants to a wide range of topics including Canada's involvement in organizations such as the International Labour Organization and how this impacts Canada's approach to child labour issues. Discussion involved examining proposed ideas for how foreign policy could be used to end problems associated with child labour. Suggestions included developing a system that would certify goods were not made with child labour and encouraging the development of the role of a children's commissioner.

The second workshop session provided participants with the opportunity to increase their skills. Again five options were presented with the focus on increasing participants capabilities to address the problems they were beginning to understand.

Workshop F - Leadership

High school student Sean Zimmer used several techniques to encourage participants to develop their leadership potential. Drawing from his own experiences and leadership training, Sean outlined the key components of leadership and provided participants with the opportunity to discuss what it means to be leaders. Participants took part in various activities designed to build trust and encourage positive risk taking.