

**CANADA WORLD YOUTH  
HOSTING A CANADA'S WORLD COMMUNITY DIALOGUE  
Shauna Sylvester**

This handbook has been designed for Canada World Youth participants as a tool for engaging communities in a dialogue about Canada's place in the world. As a former group leader (B.C. - Ecuador 1988) and past participant (Nova Scotia - Bolivia 1983) I know how Canada World Youth can provide a window on the world – how it can introduce participants, host families and community members to the global community. In some ways that happens informally just by having participants from across Canada and from other countries living in communities. In other ways it can happen more formally through the activities and the conversations that you initiate within your community.

In this handbook, I outline a more formalized activity that is led by Canada World Youth participants and engages host community members. The activity is called a **Canada's World Community Dialogue** and it can be initiated with as few as twenty people or as many as 200. It all depends on the will of the group in trying to connect with your host community and the resources you have available to make those connections.

There are several parts to this handbook. In the main section I outline the step-by-step process of how to organize a community dialogue. In the attached appendices I provide a series of tools to help you with the logistics of organizing the event and I provide you with some resources that can be used as handouts for participants.

**CWY and Canada's World**

In hosting a Canada's World Community Dialogue, your group is participating in a much larger process of building a new story for Canada in the world – a story that is written by citizens and reflects who we are now as a country, not who we were 50 years ago. This larger process is called Canada's World and it is going on in communities across the country. At Canada's World, our focus is on creating spaces where people can feel comfortable enough to share their ideas about Canada's role in the world. We focus on dialogue as opposed to debate (see Appendix \*\*\*), and we try to create an environment where learning and exploration are

## **STEP #1     DETERMINING THE SIZE OF YOUR COMMUNITY DIALOGUE**

Hosting a Canada's World community dialogue can be a fun and educational group activity that involves everyone in the group and members of your host communities – this can include host

[Note: If you are hosting a large event, some group members may have to do more than one task e.g. facilitation and logistics or registration and reporting].

- Logistics:** The logistics team takes care of booking the space, ensuring that it is set up in an appropriate manner and that it is cleaned up at the end of the event. The Logistics team is also responsible for ensuring that all of the materials are available in the room (e.g. flip chart paper, markers, post-it notes etc) at the opening of the dialogue. 2 to 6 people
- Promotions:** The promotions team takes responsibility for promoting the event (if it is a public event) and/or developing the invitation list, inviting people and confirming their attendance (if it is a private event). The promotions team makes sure that the participants list is complete prior to the event with names, email addresses and phone numbers of expected guests. The promotions team may also liaise with the local media if the group wants coverage of the dialogue. 2 to 3 people
- Registration/Hosting:** This team works closely with the promotions group to ensure that once guests are confirmed that they are treated well through the community dialogue process. The registration team puts together the dialogue packages, sets up a table at the entrance of the dialogue room to greet guests, ensure that they receive any handouts for the session and that they find their assigned groups. 2 to 3 people
- Catering:**

Report:

The reporting team takes notes through the session and ensures that the

## **STEP #4      DEVELOPING YOUR INVITATION LIST**

The ideal number for a small dialogue is fifteen people. If a dialogue gets any bigger than fifteen people around a table, then it is difficult for people to fully explore issues together. As you grow beyond fifteen people, it is best to break the group into small discussion circles (of 8 to 10 people) so that real interaction and exchange is possible.

For example if in Step #1 you had decided that your dialogue could accommodate your group plus 60 community members then you would need to have space with ten roundtables accommodating approximately

You may also decide that you want to target a specific group, like young people for your dialogue. If that is the case, you may need to reach out to youth where they congregate eg. at schools, church youth groups, the community centre, environmental groups, clubs, the video arcade or the local mall or commercial area. If you are able to invite a few key youth leaders from the community to attend, they may be successful in drawing other young people to the dialogue. If you are not sure what is the best way to approach young people in your community, ask for help and advice from local youth or people who work with young people.

When you invite people, ensure that you follow-up with them by phone to confirm their attendance.

## **STEP #5 DEVELOPING THE PROGRAMME AND HOSTING THE DIALOGUE**

The programme that I have outlined below is based on a four hour community dialogue that would take place over a Saturday or Sunday. It is based on some of the elements that we used in our Canada's World regional dialogues. A full facilitators guide for this agenda is provided in Appendix \*\* .

### **Food:**

A nice way to open the dialogue is with a potluck community lunch. This part of the evening or Saturday 0.2 (T Q



- Community members are asked to go up to the sheet of paper and note those historical events or decisions that are important to them in defining Canada's role in the world. (Some will note events that precede 1931 and that is fine)
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session. The facilitator should prompt participants to be relatively brief in their comments to enable everyone a chance to speak.

4:55pm

A group member (the same person who did the opening) provides the final closing for the session. S/he outlines:

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Within the first 14 days after the community dialogue, the reporting team compiles the notes from each of the tables and summarizes them in the reporting template provided in Appendix \*. Once the reporting template is complete, the reporting team checks it for accuracy with the other CWY group members.

After it has been checked and proofread, the group:

1. makes it available to the participants of the session by email.
2. forwards it through the Project Supervisor to CWY's \_\_\_\_\_ and;
3. forwards it to Reilly Yeo at Canada's World by:  
email to: [reilly@canadasworld.ca](mailto:reilly@canadasworld.ca);  
fax: 778-782-7895 or;  
by mail to: Canada's World, SFU Centre for Dialogue, Suite 3303, 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5K3.

## **CONTACTS:**

If at any point your group has questions about the Canada's World Community Dialogue process or this handbook, they can contact the Canada's World Outreach Coordinator: Tasha Nijjar at [Tasha@canadasworld.ca](mailto:Tasha@canadasworld.ca) or by telephone at 778-782-7694.

If any questions arise that require the advice of a Canada World Youth's staff member, please

## Appendix

### Facilitator's Guide<sup>i</sup>

Time	Activity	Notes
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Prior to

dialogue that is about creating a new story for Canada in the world – a story that reflects who we are now as a country, not who we were 50 years ago. The world has changed and so has Canada.

As many of you know Canada World Youth is committed to promoting awareness and understanding about our global community and we can think of no better way to do this than by working with young people to create cross-cultural experiences – real life

- Ensure that everyone has a visible name tag
- Invite people to “self

Facilitator  
#2

- Introduce this activity noting that it's important to take some time to appreciate Canada's history in terms on its place/contribution in the world (international policy timeline 1931- 2008) and what aspects of this history are important to you.
- It will also serve as an ice breaker, helping you get to know each other
- On the wall, you'll see there is a timeline with some milestone dates.
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*What name would you give to different  
decades or time periods that make sense to*

*would you hope it might say in terms of important things  
Canada has achieved since 2008; is recognized for; plays  
a role in?*

Imagine we are in the year 2020 – 12 years in the future  
from today. You are reading a front page newspaper  
article on line or at your kitchen table (fill in the name of



	<p>4:10 Clustering the ideas</p> <p>Frame the exercise: We are now going to work together in a Plenary exercise to create Vision Themes from the 4 cards that your small group agrees you would like to have in your collective Preferred Future of Canada’s role in the World in 2020.</p> <p>Ask one of the groups to present an idea – post the card and then ask other groups if there have any other cards that are similar. Invite participants to ask each other questions to be sure idea is clear. Facilitators cluster cards as you go, creating loose families of ideas.</p> <p>If there is time, ask the group if they can provide a title to the cluster that captures the ideas presented in that grouping of headlines.</p> <p>4:20 Wrap up</p> <p>To wrap up the activity – ask the group the following questions:</p> <p>How would you characterize the vision we have created?</p> <p>Are there any patterns?</p> <p>What does this say about us as Canadians?</p>	
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4:35

Facilitator  
#1

Closing Round

Today we have had a chance to explore our history, some issues related to our identity and our visions for the

facilitator. At the end of the session the facilitator invites the project supervisor or CWY participant to come forward to close the day.

individual and ask them at the end if you can use it in the report.

