



## **Canadian Post-Secondary Access Partnership Open for Business at the YMCA**

Montreal – November 28, 2008 – Today, Stéphane Vaillancourt, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Montreal, officially threw open the doors of the YMCA's Canadian Post-Secondary Access Partnership (CPSAP) – You Can Go services in the greater Montréal area. The Partnership aims to help Canadians under-represented in post-secondary education, those from Aboriginal, first generation and low-income families, go beyond high school.

At a time when two out of every three new jobs created requires post-secondary training, four out of ten Canadians do not finish high school, do not go on to post-secondary education or drop out of post-secondary studies. In Montréal about 32 % of high school students do not graduate. In the city's low-income neighbourhoods, the drop-out rate can be as high as 56 %. In Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, 17 % of youth aged between 15-24 drop out. In Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, 30 % of families live under the low income cutoff. Research shows that financial barriers are not the only obstacles to post-secondary studies. Misconceptions about the benefits, cost and financing of higher education abound. Six in ten high school students believe university tuition is double the actual cost. While 84% of parents talk to their children about post-secondary studies, only 38% discuss how to pay for it. Information and mentoring are fundamental to addressing all forms of post-secondary barriers faced by youth and adults. Students and their parents need accurate and timely information to prepare for post-secondary studies and students need the motivation and encouragement to proceed.

At the YMCA, the Post-Secondary Access Partnership You Can Go sites will lower barriers by providing information through workshops and one-on-one advising to students and their families, helping them navigate the post-secondary system from program selection to accessing financial aid and beyond. In Montreal, the YMCA Hochelaga-Maisonneuve and YMCA Notre-Dame-de-Grâce will integrate CPSAP into their existing network of programs.

In addition to Montréal, services are available in YMCAs in Toronto and in Edmonton at several local high school sites and recently opened YMCA locations in Prince George, Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg and Québec City. Sites at YMCAs in Halifax, Fredericton, St. John's and Sudbury will come online in 2009.

### **Canadian Post-Secondary Access Partnership Services at YMCA centres in Montréal**

*YMCA Hochelaga-Maisonneuve*  
4567, Hochelaga st  
Montréal, Qc  
H1V 1C8  
514 255-4651

*YMCA Notre-Dame-de-Grâce*  
4335, Hampton ave  
Montréal, QC  
H4A 2L3  
514 486-7315

### **About the Canadian Post-Secondary Access Partnership**

The Canadian Post-Secondary Access Partnership, the brainchild of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, aims to address the challenges of post-secondary access now and in the future. The goal of the Partnership is to build the capacity of community organizations across Canada to provide access services to students and families by transferring knowledge about best practices and exemplary community-based initiatives, and providing training, professional development opportunities and tools for new and existing programs and centres. The Partnership will extend to schools, post-secondary institutions and employers, developing local, provincial and territorial access networks. The Foundation announced its association with the YMCA of Quebec in December 2007. Ernst & Young and Ryerson University announced their support for the Partnership in April 2008. For more information about the Canadian Post-Secondary Access Partnership visit [www.youcango.ca](http://www.youcango.ca).

### **About the YMCA of Greater Montréal**

The YMCA is a charitable organization dedicated to the development of people in spirit, mind, and body, and to the empowerment of individuals, families and communities. It reaches over 100 000 people in Quebec and offers activities in 9 community centres, at camp Kanawawa, at the international school of language and its residence. It also acts in exterior sites in Montréal, Québec, Joliette, Longueuil and more. By making connections, collaborating, and mirroring our region's diversity, the YMCA believes it can become the network that binds many neighbourhoods into one city, one country, and one world. For more information, visit [www.ymcamontreal.qc.ca](http://www.ymcamontreal.qc.ca).

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