
**Northern Community Development Services (NCDS) receive national recognition for
Shape Your Future Career Fair & Training Expo Innovation**

(Collingwood) – October 15, 2014 – First Work and the National Youth Employment Coalition are pleased to announce the recipients of the fourth annual National Youth Employment Innovation Awards, presented October 8th, 2014. This contest recognizes and shares transferable, innovative programs, projects and practices from across Canada that lead to youth employment success. This year, the contest theme was Employer Engagement.

The purpose of this contest is to continue to bring national recognition to different types of initiatives. National Youth Employment Innovation Awards Committee Members suggested criteria for selecting the innovations. Awards Committee Members then screened the submissions. Canadian community-based organizations applied and were selected based on criteria that included:

- Innovations that engage employers and at-risk youth in employment activities
- Employer engagement innovations from rural and remote communities
- Socially responsible employer initiatives
- Technological innovations

In the category of Small Communities Innovation, the Northern Community Development Services (NCDS) of Fort Frances, ON received an award for their *Shape Your Future Career Fair & Training Expo*, which encouraged hands-on engagement with youth attending the expo.



Other winners included Grand Prize winner Youth Live program from Community & Recreation Services in Halifax, NS for their *Youth Live* innovation. The Wood Manufacturing Council (WMC) in Sussex, NB, received an award in the category of Socially Responsible Innovation, for their innovation *Women in Non-Traditional Trades*. The Sobey School of Business Development Centre in Halifax, NS, received an award in the category of Multi-barriered Youth Innovation for the program *Options: Overcoming Poverty*.

The awards were presented by Jeff Surridge, Chair of the National Youth Employment Coalition Steering Committee and First Work's Vice President on the Board of Directors from Community Employment Services in Woodstock. Laura Dutton, Employment Advisor at the Centre for Skills Development & Training in Burlington, Ontario and National Innovation Awards committee member also helped to present.

The Awards committee members included: Dion Muphy of Lutherwood in Kitchener, ON, John Coward in Vancouver, BC, Donnalee Bell from the Canadian Career Development Foundation in Toronto, ON, Laura Dutton from The Centre for Skills Development & Training in Burlington, ON, Tracy Isenor from Futureworx in Truro, NS and Meghan Laube from Career Trek Inc. in Winnipeg, MB.

For more information on the National Youth Employment Innovation Awards, please contact Michelle Haddad by email at mhaddad@firstwork.org.

Attached images:

1. Grand Prize Winner: Halifax – Courtney Matheson (centre) of Community & Recreation Services with Jeff Surridge (left) and Laura Dutton (right) of The National Youth Employment Innovation Awards Committee.
2. Multi-Barriered Youth Innovation Winner: Sobey School of Business Development Centre as represented by Kaitlyn Touesnard (centre) with Jeff Surridge (left) and Laura Dutton (right) of the National Youth Employment Innovation Awards Committee.
3. Small Communities Innovation Winner: Northern Community Development Services represented by Nicke Baird (centre) with Jeff Surridge (left) and Laura Dutton (right) of the National Youth Employment Innovation Awards Committee.