

Seeing is Believing

Host: Groupe Aeroplan Inc.

October 7 2009: Building Bridges – Employment Training and Mentorship for Youth-At-Risk

Leaders:

Rupert Duchesne, President & CEO, Groupe Aeroplan Inc.

Delegates:

Paul Atkinson, Chair, Toronto International Film Festival Inc.

Pierre Blouin, Chief Executive Officer, MTS Allstream

Tania Carnegie, National Director of Community Leadership, KPMG LLP

Bill Cilluffo, President, Capital One Canada

Phillip Crawley, President & Publisher, The Globe and Mail

Alden Hadwen, Manager, Community Investment, Groupe Aeroplan Inc.

Sean Miller, President, Motorola Canada Ltd

Denise Pickett, President & CEO, Amex Bank of Canada and Amex Canada Inc.

Jeff Smith, General Manager, Hill & Knowlton Toronto

Omar Tucci, Managing Director, PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) LLP

Andrea Waines, Partner, Heidrick & Struggles

Across Canada, youth unemployment reached a high of 16.3 per cent this year. Nowhere have the effects of this spike in unemployment been felt more profoundly than amongst Toronto's marginalized urban youth. This tour explored innovative ways the business community can support employability amongst marginalized youth, from basic skills training, to short-term work placements and mentorship.

The tour began at **Covenant House Toronto**, where delegates visited a newly installed rooftop garden before meeting youth accessing both emergency and long-term housing services. Youth participants explained the necessity of having basic life supports in place before beginning the search for employment.

The tour continued to **Eva's Phoenix** where delegates toured the Phoenix Print Shop, a social enterprise which provides at-risk youth with valuable job training and experience. Delegates met with several youth who had transitioned off the street to find both shelter and employment at Eva's and learned about their plans to continue working towards their financial independence.

Lastly, delegates visited **Schools Without Borders** where they spoke with youth involved in the Emerge Young Leaders Program and the My Story: Creative and Cultural Arts Initiative. Delegates were inspired by the social initiatives spearheaded by young program participants and learned about the value of having a professional mentor to provide support and guidance along the way.



Rupert Duchesne meets with a young leader from Schools Without Borders.

CBSR recognizes Coast Capital Savings for its contribution to the Seeing is Believing program.



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