

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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Subject: Just Us Youth Day 2007
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Hundreds of Grade 10 Students “Go Green” for Just Us Youth Day 2007

Kemptville, ON – The second annual Just-Us Youth Day held November 14, 2007 for Grade 10 students is being called a resounding success by organizers and those in attendance. The annual symposium focused on current and future environmental issues that society is facing.

The day brought together representatives from all 10 CDSBEO secondary schools from across our eight counties.

“The symposium wasn’t only about environmental awareness,” said Catholic Student Trustee James King, “We know what the issues are, this is about taking the next step by taking what we learn here today back to our own Catholic school communities and becoming leaders in protection and preservation efforts.”

Keynote speaker Lisa Glithero reiterated that same message in her address. Ms. Glithero has dedicated her professional and personal life to education, youth and the environment and serves as the Education Director for *Students on Ice*, an organization that leads educational expeditions for youth to Antarctica and the Arctic.

“It is always amazing to see how the students react to what they see on our trips,” said Ms. Glithero. “At the end of our expeditions, they are always determined to become a leader and to help educate others on environmental issues and preservation. You (the students in attendance) have a fantastic opportunity to become the leaders that your communities need and I commend you for taking this important step.”

Following Ms. Glithero’s address, the students broke off into workshops. The sessions taught the students how to become more active participants as stewards of the Earth. Topics varied greatly in the presentations offered. The delegates learned about such things as the extensive effects of strip mining for uranium, and how environmental changes are affecting common needs, such as the world’s water supply.

CDSBEO Director of Education, Bill Gartland, said Grade 10 students are at the perfect age to further develop their leadership skills. “I am very proud of all of our students’ efforts to help the

environment across the Board. Our schools and our Board are proactive in helping to preserve the environment by minimizing the overall impact that we have by reducing, reusing and recycling. This symposium is affording its delegates the opportunity to further change their world, and to share the message of becoming stewards of the earth just as we were taught by Jesus.”

The CDSBEO Social Justice Committee and the Student Senate worked together to plan the event. The Student Senate, which has representation from all CDSBEO Catholic secondary schools under the leadership of Catholic Student Trustee James King, facilitated throughout the day, giving them the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills.

CDSBEO Principal of Religious and Family Life Education, Tom Jordan, said the symposium complimented the Board’s current theme, *Called to serve...as disciples of Christ!* “Our Board theme is a perfect example of what this day is about. We are each called to serve in a way that draws from our unique talents. The message being sent to the students today through Ms. Glithero’s address and the workshops is that they can use their talents to help guide others as we work together to preserve our planet.”

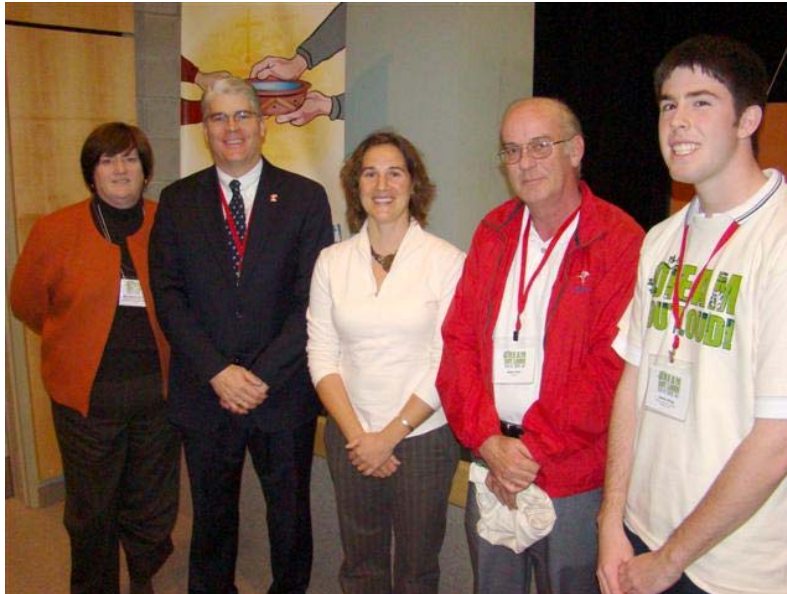
This is the second year for this interactive and fun day. The Just-Us Youth Day was created specifically for CDSBEO Grade 10 students who are at a point in their Catholic education that is ideal to learn key leadership skills as they continue down the road to becoming Catholic graduates.

For more information, please contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Bob Perreault at 613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206.

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 40 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.

Attached Photographs:

Just Us Youth Day 1.jpg – Superintendent of HR and Religious Education Marg Shea-Lawrence, CDSBEO Director of Education Bill Gartland, Keynote Speaker Lisa Glithero, Leeds Trustee Robin Reil, and Catholic Student Trustee James King at the Just-Us Youth Day, held November 14, 2007 in Kemptville



Just Us Youth Day 2.jpg – Members of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario's Student Senate at the Just-Us Youth Day, held November 14, 2007 in Kemptville

