

"Inspiring, engaging and celebrating youth through community participation".



PRESS RELEASE

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RECOGNIZING CALGARY'S YOUNG COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Last year, 15-year-old Toney Bedell was recognized for his dedication to making Calgary greener at the 2016 Cadillac Fairview Youth of Distinction Awards (YODA). At the awards ceremony we heard about Toney's work advocating for the environment and dedicating himself to changing environmental ideologies.

This year Toney joined the YODA Steering Committee, when asked what motivated him to join the committee he commented, "Being nominated last year was a great honor. It showed me an entirely new side of leadership, advocacy and genuine dedication to the community that are separate from traditional academic or school related recognitions. I enjoyed the atmosphere set by last year's committee and admired the leadership they demonstrated. I wanted to get involved and bring to light youth in Calgary otherwise unrecognized for their commitment to community."

Toney believes that Calgary is teeming with thousands of unrecognized youth who work tirelessly every day to improve their city. There are many youth with a deep drive and vigorous commitment to community outreach. Toney feels the YODA program highlights their work and combats the apathy and disinterest towards the efforts of youth.

For the past 14 years, the Cadillac Fairview Youth of Distinction Awards have provided an opportunity for Calgarians to nominate youth (12-18 years of age) who they believe deserve recognition. You can nominate youth for being leaders, environmentalists, advocates, athletes, team players, dedicated artists, or outstanding volunteers. The deadline for the Youth of Distinction Awards is February 22nd, 2017. For more information and nomination forms, visit www.youthcentral.com/yoda/.

The Cadillac Fairview Youth of Distinction Awards is a program of Youth Central. Youth Central is a charitable non-profit, established in 1992, offering nine programs to the young people of Calgary. We build Calgary's leaders of today and tomorrow. We provide a place for youth to find meaningful volunteer experiences. We help youth make a difference and be active caring citizens. We support youth in building valuable skills for future employment. We give youth a voice. We grow young people's understanding of their community.

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