

**Open Doors for Lanark Children & Youth Collaborates with Perth, Smiths Falls and Carleton Place
Chambers of Commerce in Celebration of Youth**

Lanark County, ON - Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth, in partnership with the Carleton Place, Smiths Falls and Perth Chambers of Commerce and the financial support of the Aviva Community Fund Better Together grant program announces a community event in celebration of youth.

“**TEENS WHO LEAD, CREATE AND INNOVATE AND WHY BUSINESSES SHOULD CARE**” is an event that will celebrate youth as innovators in the arts, sciences, technology and environment and will include displays of local youth projects. The important connection between youth engagement and successful communities is significant and Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth wants the innovative passion of local youth to have opportunity to be recognized. The event will spark the development of innovations in products, services and civic engagement that can make Lanark a place to celebrate engaged youth and young adults committed to improving our social experiences. It is a complete experience in itself and also serves as the launch of additional projects that will build upon this one.

This project builds upon the Art of Resilience project that Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth presented during the summer that highlighted the art of youth from across the county. The highlight of this event will be a community gathering scheduled for 7:00 p.m., September 27th at the Carleton Place Arena (Upper Hall) during which youth will display and engage adult participants in stories of their skills, aptitudes and how these are significant for the well-being of a community.

We are pleased also that the Chambers of Commerce have agreed to collaborate on this project and have come together to assist in organizing for the event and inviting their members to join the celebration. We believe that business leaders are often overlooked when discussion of social and healthcare resources are raised. That businesses are front and center for this event shows how the Chambers regard their place in the creation of environments for youth development.

The Aviva Community Fund “Better Together” grant program that encourages communities to come together for the betterment of everyone likewise saw the potential for this event to successfully bring together community elements to learn from each other. The grant that they have proposed for this event will be delivered when Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth submits a short video of event experiences. This video will appear on the Aviva Community Fund website later. This event will also serve as a voting station and “official launch” event for our larger Aviva Community Fund Campaign to help support the development of a Youth Innovation Space for Lanark County.

For information on the event, campaign or Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth please contact admincp@opendoors.on.ca.