



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**for immediate release**

### **Life-Changing Experience, Available To Local Youth** **17-21 year-old local youth invited to take part in an all-expenses covered program**

Montréal, May 13, 2008 – **Katimavik** today announced that **space is still available for September and October 2008 departures. During this 9-month volunteer service program**, participants experience a life changing adventure that will take them to two English-speaking communities and one French-speaking community in 3 provinces.

Local youth that submit their application could gain valuable skills that will prepare them for a successful future. Katimavik participants benefit from group living, volunteer work and the learning programs included in the program.

**Group living:** Participants lives with 10 other youth from across Canada together with a project leader for the duration of the program.

**Volunteer work:** Participants engage themselves to provide 35 hours of volunteer work per week to non-profit organizations. Projects vary and offer a variety of tasks suited to their skills and interests.

**Learning programs** in: Leadership - Second official language – Environment - Healthy lifestyle - Cultural discovery

Katimavik allows young people to gain practical work experience and improve their resume - define their academic and professional objectives - explore their potential - increase their self-confidence - develop a sense of civic engagement - discover Canada and its cultural diversity - create lasting bonds and friendships with people from across the country.

“Taking part in this program was not only the most fun I’ve ever had but it made me realize what I wanted to do with my life,” says Valerie Loxterkamp, a recent participant from North Vancouver, B.C. “My volunteer placement at Pembina Institute in Drayton Valley, Alberta, working on research and development on solar energy, as well as volunteering with the Nordic Ski Club, gave me the incentive to enroll in Capilano College’s outdoor recreation management program.”

Katimavik pays for meals, travel and lodging, as well as all program-related activities. Participants receive a modest daily allowance and \$1,000 upon completion of the program. To be eligible, youth must be between 17-21 years of age when the program begins, a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, and have never participated in Katimavik previously..

Youth interested in living the Katimavik experience can register online at [www.katimavik.org](http://www.katimavik.org) under the **APPLY NOW** section.

– 30 –

#### **About Katimavik**

Since 1977, more than 28,000 young Canadians have participated in the Katimavik program, developing their sense of civic responsibility and gaining self-confidence. Katimavik aims to form responsible citizens who will contribute significantly to Canadian society. For more information or for registration: [www.katimavik.org](http://www.katimavik.org)

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[DOING. LEARNING. BUILDING A NATION... ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME.]

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