

STOM Movie Premiere Night Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

Opening Remarks given by Kalsang Dolma, Youth Project Manager and Settlement Worker

Hi My name is Kalsang Dolma. As youth project advisor and settlement worker, on behalf of Parkdale Community Information Centre and Parkdale Intercultural Association, I welcome you all to this inspiring youth-led event to support Smoke-Free Media. I would like to start with this quote by [John W. Gardner](#) ([American Writer](#) and [Secretary](#) of Health, Education and Welfare, [1912-2002](#))

[“Much education today is monumentally ineffective. All too often we are giving young people cut flowers when we should be teaching them to grow their own plants.”](#)

Two years ago I started as a youth settlement worker kind of by accident since I was looking forward to working as a settlement/community development worker and I was offered a temporary position to be a youth settlement worker instead. I took this job to get my foot in the door as they say but I got stuck! In a good way of course!

In November 2009, we found out about youth grant at Toronto Public Health and with a number of youth, we wrote a proposal and failed in getting that grant. In Feb 2010, we got invitation to the HEY – Healthy Empowered Youth Conference organized by the Lung Association and about 10 of our youth participated in this wonderful conference and took some great workshops on youth health advocacy.

After that, we got invitation to apply for the second round of youth project grants by TPH which we did on Tobacco and several of our youth, ( a few are still here today!) went to present the proposal to a panel as well. And guess what? We got the grant and worked on the Parkdale Youth 4 Tobacco Free Sports & Recreation which you will see in the first screening today.

And this year, we started with STOM – Shake Tobacco off Movies in January and this event today is the major event to premiere the documentary and AD of the project.

Our youth STOM project leader, Tsewang will say more about the Smoke Free Media Project. There will also be a Q & A session at the end of screenings today.

I would like to give special thanks to Toronto Public Health in providing such wonderful project grants for youth teens 14 to 19 – a project grant like this gives the youth with meaningful real life experience where they can apply what they learn in their class rooms all day! (Acknowledge with special thanks to Miranda, Janvere, Grace and Sara!)

Also, I would like to mention our funders and supporters for the newcomer youth program whose support has made our youth projects successful and possible. CIC, United Way, Toronto Public Library, City of Toronto, Cancers Society and YATI of Lungs Association (Ontario Coalition 4 Smoke Free Movies)

“It is not about getting it right always; what it is about is having the right opportunities and plenty of them to work with for the youth to fail in order to succeed “ that is my original quote.

But I would like to end with a quote by a famous and influential artist, Pablo Picasso

[“It takes a long time to become young.”](#)

~ [Pablo Picasso quotes](#) ([Spanish Artist](#) and [Painter](#). [1881-1973](#))

Thank you!