

Speech by Tsewang Dhargyal, Youth project co-leader for STOM
On Thursday June 2nd 2011

Good Evening Everyone!!!

It's my pleasure to welcome you all on this wonderful evening. It feels great to see you all being a part of this much awaited event.

So, I would like to talk a little bit about this project. STOM, that is Shake Tobacco Off Movies is a project led by youth i.e. all the dedicated members and volunteer of this project. Let me start by asking you all why are we doing this Project?? ANYONE WANTS VOLUNTEER?

The intense research and studies have said it all.

Applied to a Canadian Content, an estimated 130,000 Canadians aged 15-19 became addicted to tobacco industry products due to exposure to on-screen smoking, of whom 43,000 will eventually die of tobacco caused diseases. *We all are aware that smoking is a very serious public health issue. It is the number one killer. Comparing to alcohol, drug use, sexual subject matter which are some factors for movies to be PG 18, why can't they make tobacco as one of them and take this issue seriously???*

So, as an initiative and a youth led group, we have worked on the following goals: 1= To make an anti-tobacco ad

2= To make a Documentary on how smoking in movies is a problem

3= To Collect signatures for the online petition with the goal of 2000 signatures

So, I would like to specially thank our supervisor Kalsang Dolma for assisting and guiding us throughout this whole project, all the members and volunteers who worked together as a GROUP to achieve these objectives which led us to this FINAL EVENT!

As a Project Leader, it is an honor for me to have you all; the most amazing group of youths I've ever worked with. I know that I have not been the best leader for you all and would like to apologize you all for any inconvenience but I am very happy to tell you that I have learned a lot through this experience with every mistake have made and every works that we have done.

GUESS WHAT? Research also shows that 73% of the Canadians support this movement of ONTARIO SMOKE-FREE MOVIES COALITION and I believe you all are included in this 73%.

Finally, I would like to thank you all again for your support and I will be looking forward to seeing more great works being done with the projects to come!! Have a great Evening!!