

Chalk Talk

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

Happy New Year to all! The first decade of the new millennium has now passed into the history books. In 2000, Adrienne Clarkson was Governor General, the first of three appointees who would hold that post before the end of 2010, and, Jean Chretien's tenure as Prime Minister was in its 7th of 10 years. Mr. Chretien would be succeeded by Paul Martin whose Liberal Party would lose power in 2006 to Stephen Harper and the Conservatives who have governed with two consecutive minority governments. In a single decade, Canadians have gone to the Polls in four federal elections.

It's difficult now to believe that our biggest preoccupation as the decade began was widespread concern over Y2K. While the anticipated threat of computer chaos never materialized, the unimaginable horror of September 11, 2001, which followed, was to change our world. That August marked the end of a wonderful visit from relatives from Europe. Just days after they returned home, the four, now infamous, planes crashed into the World Trade Centre, the Pentagon and a farmer's field in Pennsylvania. In January, 2002, the role of our military -- which had been primarily involved in 'peace-keeping' activities since WWII -- changed to an active combat role in Afghanistan, with over 150 Canadian lives lost to-date.

What goes on in Ottawa on Parliament Hill in the Senate and in the House of Commons is vital to our democracy. 2011 will see many provinces hold elections and there is some serious talk of a federal election in the offing. **Chalk Talk** will feature new classroom resources and programs designed to motivate students to learn about their government and become active, informed citizens. We invite you to visit our website at www.4edu.ca to view the many resources on offer. [Feedback?](#)

Mary Kovack

FORUM FOR YOUNG CANADIANS



Thirty-five years ago a group of idealistic educators had the great idea to create a bilingual, non partisan youth education program to promote the understanding of the role and function of our National government and the meaning of Canadian citizenship. Over the past 35 years, the **Forum for Young Canadians** program has provided the opportunity for over 16,000 young Canadians to share their voices and their opinions while giving them a place network with the decision-makers of the day, share their thoughts and acquire tools for engagement in their communities upon their return. [More on the 35th anniversary, see below]



The experience of a lifetime!

The students selected to represent their province/territory spend 5 days with up to 100 other young leaders arriving from coast to coast. Their classroom revolves around Parliament Hill and their teachers are Ministers, Members of Parliament, Senators, senior public servants, members of the national media and business leaders ... **and FORUM is FUN!** [Program details and application information, *below*]





Apply Online for 2011 at www.forum.ca



BE a Voice!

The FORUM experience brings students to Ottawa for a one-week intensive academic adventure that immerses them in the exciting world of national politics and public affairs. FORUM is a bilingual, non-partisan and AMAZING program to develop **leadership** and to learn about parliamentary democracy, how government works and how YOUR STUDENTS can make a difference in shaping Canada's future.

Spend a week on Parliament Hill. Learn How Government Works.

WHO: Up to 100 students (aged 15-19) from across Canada, at each session. Groups of 15 students are escorted and supervised throughout by adult Team Leaders.

WHERE: In Ottawa, Canada's capital. Most seminars and simulations are held on Parliament Hill. [Accommodations are in a downtown hotel.]

WHEN: Students participate in one of three Spring 2011 sessions: February 27, March 20 or March 27. Each session is 5 days long.

Application forms are now available online for the Spring 2011 sessions at www.forum.ca. Space is limited. **Apply NOW!**

FORUM is a program of the [Foundation for the Study of Processes of Government in Canada](http://www.foundationforthestudyofprocessesofgovernmentinCanada.ca).



Here's what STUDENTS say about FORUM ...

"Forum was an excellent life experience. I've created a strong passion for politics and I owe it all to FYC. It is a great place to meet people who share similar interests."

"I have learned people skills and social skills here at Forum. I plan on volunteering more in my community."

"I will definitely go and vote in a municipal/provincial/federal election the first chance I get. I'll encourage my friends and fellow student to attend Forum and I'll share my experiences and new gained knowledge with my school, family, sponsors, etc."

"I loved the week! I believe Forum changed my life, and I cannot stop talking about it. I only wish it was longer!"

"Visiting Parliament Hill means more than just witnessing history. It means looking at the future and knowing that this is potentially a place where some of us may create history. It goes beyond magnificent carvings, and makes me most grateful to be part of such a beautiful nation."

"I learned that leadership and being involved in your community will open many doors in your life. I will look for more community groups to get involved in."



November 2010 Session -- A First!

For the first time in 35 years, **Forum for Young Canadians**, welcomed 72 students from across the country to a special Fall session. Students shared their ideas and experiences first hand with MPs, Board Members and others attending the 35th anniversary event. The highlights of the week included visiting the House of Commons where students met with the Speaker of the House, attended Question Period and even had a special Dinner with MPs, many from the students' own ridings. Also on the program was a visit to Rideau Hall where some of the students had the opportunity to meet His Excellency Mr. Johnson. Students participated in activities that ranged from a Cabinet Simulation to an Elections Canada voting simulation exercise, complete with selection of candidates and presentation of party platforms. **Encourage your students to picture themselves at Forum in 2011!**



Here's a peak at what your students could experience at Forum. **Make sure they don't miss this FUNtastic opportunity!**



Education News

[Teacher wins award for bringing history to life](#) -- Louise Brown, EDUCATION REPORTER, Parentcentral.ca, Toronto Star, January 6, 2011

Toronto history teacher Diane Vautour plays former Canadian prime minister Robert Borden in a play that won her the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History, for bringing history to life.. ([read more](#))

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📞 416.955.9526

📞 416.955.0815

THE COMPANY FOR EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS INC.

66 George St., 3rd floor • Toronto, ON, Canada, M5A 4K8 • www.4edu.ca • info@4edu.ca