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For Immediate Release
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Youth Artists Give Plaza a Makeover!

This summer Mural Routes has partnered with Action for Neighbourhood Change, Eglinton East to run a summer youth mural project in the Eglinton East area of Toronto. This is a youth summer employment and education program in mural art. Seven youth have worked under the mentorship of Rob Matejka, the projects' lead artist. These students were hired based on their interest in the arts to create a public mural over the summer months of July and August.

The Official Launch of the mural will take place at 4 p.m. on Thursday August 28, 2008 at the mural site 2682 Eglinton Avenue East.

The mural is painted on panels and will be installed on the West facing wall of the former Shoppers Drug Mart at on the North East corner of Eglinton and Brimley. Community outreach was made to ensure our mural provides an aesthetically pleasing and meaningful image for the community.

The mural is part of Amnesty Internationals' Project Urban Canvas and focuses on Article # 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Chosen by a group of residents called Mid Scarborough Community Initiatives (MSCI) Article # 28 states: **"Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration can be fully realized"**

The design for the mural was created by the youth and images are based on youth perspectives and community input of envisioning rights and freedoms. For more information about Project Urban Canvas, please see www.aito/urbancanvas.

Our youth have enjoyed meeting members of the community as they work and look forward to meeting those interested during the unveiling of the mural held on August 28, 2008 at 4:00pm.

Mural Routes is a not-for-profit charitable organization, dedicated to the promotion and development of wall art for the benefit of communities and artists. It is a membership based organization that works with many individuals, volunteers, groups and agencies to achieve its goals. Mural Routes has been responsible for numerous murals in Scarborough through youth employment and training projects. The Mural Routes network stretches across the globe and provides opportunities for those who share an interest in mural art to access information and learn from each other. Mural Routes receives funding support from the Toronto Arts Council, and Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Action for Neighbourhood Change-Eglinton East is a project of the United Way, led by West Hill Community Services. ANC-EE aims to engage youth, within the larger goal of organizing residents, businesses and social service agencies towards creating a stronger neighbourhood.

This project is supported by grants from the City of Toronto Economic Development, Graffiti Transformation and Clean & Beautiful Secretariat. Youth Employment is funded by Focus on Youth Summer Employment Program through the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board and the Ministry of Culture Summer Employment Program.



Detail of the *Entitlement*, by Maggie Chan

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