










2015-16 Minister’s Student Advisory Council

Photo	Student Information
	<p>Emma H., Grade 7, Thunder Bay</p> <p>I am a Grade 7 Métis student from Thunder Bay who likes to have a voice. I enjoy taking on new challenges and speaking up for my rights and the rights of others. I like sharing my ideas and my culture with people. I volunteer in my community at our local food bank, Girl Guides of Canada and other local events. I look forward to being a part of the Minister's Student Advisory Council.</p>
	<p>Hayley Z., Grade 7, Richmond Hill</p> <p>I applied for MSAC because I believe students’ voices are important, not just within their own school, but within the community as well. I’m passionate about making school a place for students to feel they belong and feel safe; safe to express their thoughts, emotions, and passions without the fear of being judged. I think MSAC will give me an opportunity to reach this goal. I also want to show students that being a leader doesn’t make a person “bossy”, because that is what I see is holding many students back from taking on leadership roles. I am determined to encourage students to step up to leadership roles, because if this trend continues there will no longer be any leaders to voice their thoughts to create change. I hope my input will make a difference in students’ lives across Ontario.</p>
	<p>Preston S., Grade 7, London</p> <p>My name is Preston aka SWANNY! I am very excited to have been selected for the MSAC. Four years ago, I was diagnosed with Juvenile Type 1 diabetes (T1D) and my life was changed forever. I have been on a mission to find a cure; I have written a book about Type 1 diabetes, was the 2014 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Youth Ambassador, and went to Parliament for Kids for a Cure. A year after I was diagnosed with T1D, my sister had a seizure at school and was diagnosed with epilepsy. No one knew what to do. I now help at events that promote seizure first aid to teach others what to do if someone has a seizure. I am an athlete and crazy for sports, a die-hard Leafs fan (don’t judge me LOL), but my true passion is to be a voice to those who are sometimes too afraid to have one.</p>




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	<p>Roman J., Grade 7, Markham</p> <p>I have lived in Markham for most of my life with my parents and younger sister. I struggled in school at an early age, being passed from one school to another until I found a school that understood my needs. I was inspired by my grade 5 teacher who served in Afghanistan. I then decided to focus my energy on being a leader. Now, I work with younger kids with Autism and Asperger’s at school to help them have a voice and to understand their needs. It makes me proud to understand others. Outside of school I attend the Royal Canadian Air Cadets which teaches me leadership skills. My goal in joining MSAC is to speak for kids who don’t have a voice or who won’t share their opinions.</p>
	<p>Takoda C., Grade 7, Oshawa</p> <p>Hello, I'm Takoda, a 13 year old from Oshawa. I applied because I'm very interested in helping people, especially minority youth. I'm Mexican, Aboriginal and German. I'm interested in human rights, preforming arts and engineering. I have two adopted brothers, Deven and Johnathan, two moms, Kirsten and Liz, and two dogs, Duffy and Rascal.</p>
	<p>Christopher B., Grade 8, Whitby</p> <p>I applied for MSAC because I believe that the student voice is the most important voice in the education system. Also, as a foster child, I aspire to champion the views of students who are foster kids. As an MSAC leader, I will be able to inspire other foster kids, many of whom are bullied because of their status. MSAC will enable me to make a difference.</p>



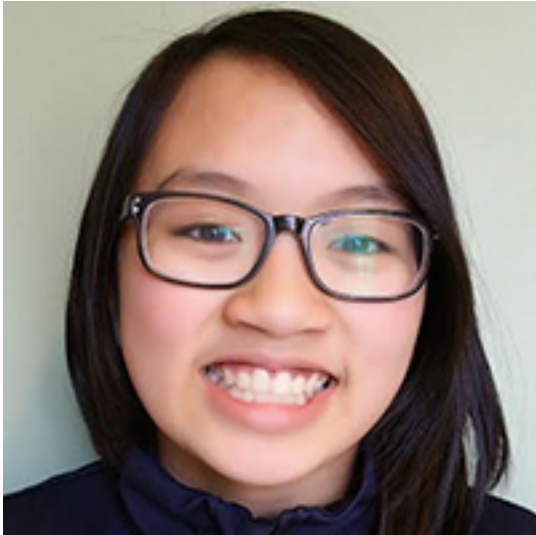
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	<p>Clarissa G., Grade 8, Auburn</p> <p>Hi, I’m Clarissa and I am in Grade 8. I applied to MSAC to give a voice to all students from rural schools. Due to school closures, I have been in 3 different school buildings over the past 4 years. I am currently in a grade 7 to 12 school. I feel that the quiet leaders in our school communities need a voice as well as our special education students. I enjoy playing hockey, drawing, reading and playing the piano.</p>
	<p>Denzel A., Grade 8, Toronto</p> <p>My name is Denzel and I am a Grade 8 student attending school in Northwest Toronto. I applied to MSAC because I believe that every student deserves to be heard. I want to share my ideas on how to improve student learning experiences and provide ideas on how we can all help inspire students to strive for better achievements. I want to be an advocate for other students who have special needs and let everyone know that it's okay to be different. Lifelong learning and education are key factors to our future successes. I want to help other students reach their greatest potential. MSAC will be a great place for me to start sharing my ideas with other like-minded students.</p>
	<p>Hannah K., Grade 8, Beamsville</p> <p>My name is Hannah! I am a French immersion student from the Niagara Region. I am a dedicated and competitive rope skipping athlete and I have skipped across North America. For the past two years, I have volunteered for the Public Health's Youth Advisory Council providing input on a variety of health initiatives. I applied for MSAC because I believe that it is important for youth to have a voice on their education and future. I have to follow a strict gluten-free diet because I have celiac disease. I am interested in expressing my experiences and thoughts towards food provision at schools to the council. Allergies and food intolerance causes setbacks in social settings for students. I have experienced the effects of bullying towards people with mental illnesses and I am aware of the stigma around it. Through MSAC, I hope to contribute the youth perspective.</p>



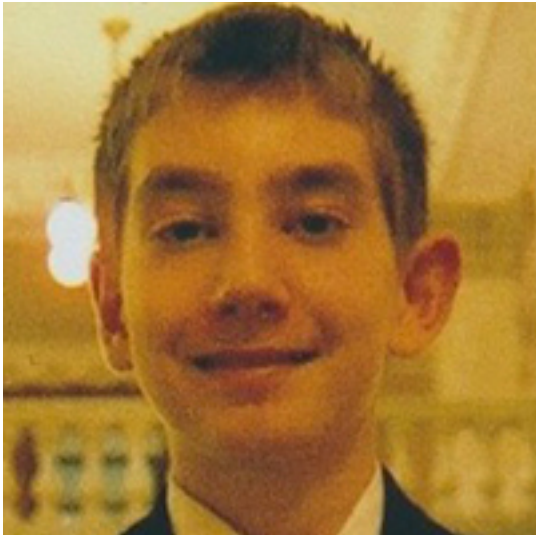
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	<p>Jaimi P., Grade 8, Thunder Bay</p> <p>I applied for the Minister’s Student Advisory Council because I am interested in assisting the Ministry of Education with making beneficial decisions for all schools. The people who are on the board are not able to witness the everyday problems that both staff and students endure. It might be quite eye-opening for them to see what the schools are like from a student's perspective. If they were provided with the necessary knowledge to see what was happening, they could both address and solve the issues. I have always thought of other’s needs before my own, so I know that thinking of the needs of everyone at my school would be easy. The most important reason for my interest in applying would be that we young students will actually be able to make a difference on all schools across the province, which is quite extraordinary if you ask me.</p>
	<p>Jaydon D., Grade 8, Sault Ste. Marie</p> <p>I applied for MSAC because I want to make a change in my school system. I'm on my school's Speak Up team and we are trying to make a change. We want to help the students who are disengaged in their learning. I learned about MSAC from my elementary school teacher. I became very interested in MSAC because I want to have a voice in my school system and bring a voice to the students who don't have a voice. Also I want to address different problems within my school system and find ways to fix those problems.</p>
	<p>Natalie M., Grade 8, Kingston</p> <p>Hi I'm Natalie. I am actively engaged in school by participating in activities such as student council and volley ball. I am the captain of the basketball team and I have served dinner at other schools. I have traded in countless lunch hours to help out around my school; whether it's to help in the office by filing papers or by helping to prepare a lesson plan for a teacher. I look forward to voicing the importance of engaging students in school and building a sense of community.</p>

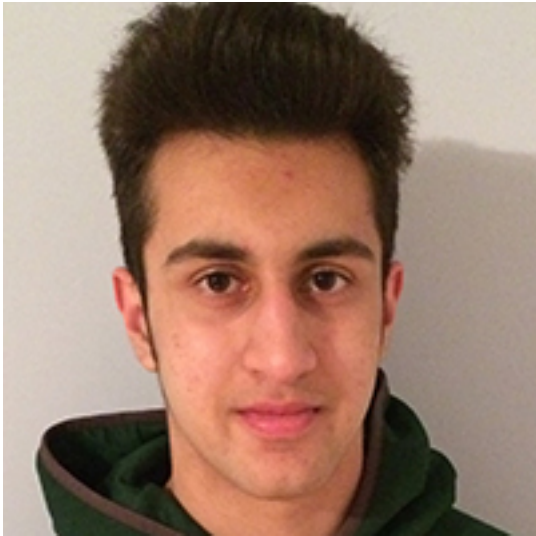


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	<p>Nick H., Grade 8, Greely</p> <p>I applied to participate in the Minister’s Student Advisory Council to make a difference. I see kids who are having problems in school, such as being victims of bullying, not caring about their education, and wishing that things would be different. But they do not know what to do. They do not know where to start. They do not know whom to go to for help. I want to see what other schools do to solve similar problems so I will know what to do in my school. By working with other members of the council, and with my Principal, I’m confident that an action plan can be developed to help others at my school. Education is a team effort. Students, parents and teachers must work together so every student has an equal opportunity to do their best.</p>
	<p>Parween T., Grade 8, St. Catherine’s</p> <p>I have a love for photography and nature. It gives me more of an open mind and a creative look on things. This allows me to look at topics in ways that could bring a different perspective to light. I applied for MSAC because I believe that everyone’s opinion matters and hopefully my voice could bring about positive change.</p>
	<p>Tanya N., Grade 8, Woodbridge</p> <p>I’ve always hungered for equity and success for all students in the school environment. When I found out about MSAC this year, I knew that this would be the perfect opportunity to implement my ideals and socialize with like-minded individuals around the province. I hope that with my ideas, students will feel happier and get better results in school. I want to bring an end to sexism, racism, homophobia, etc. in the classroom and find a way to encourage everyone to try hard and think about the future a little bit more. Outside of school, I enjoy swimming, reading, making art, and doing TV show marathons. I’m a proud francophone but I’m still very passionate about the English language.</p>


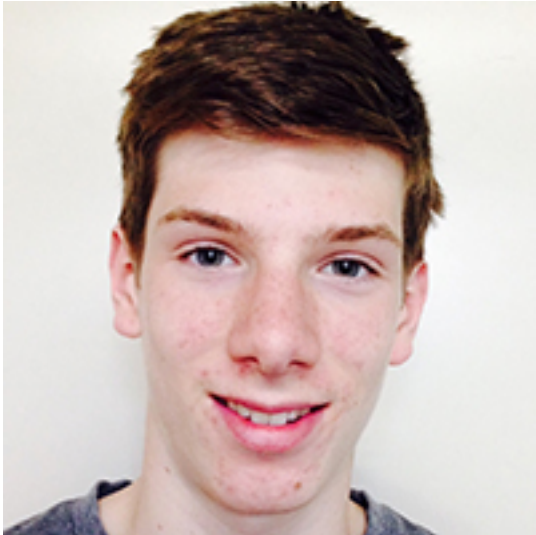
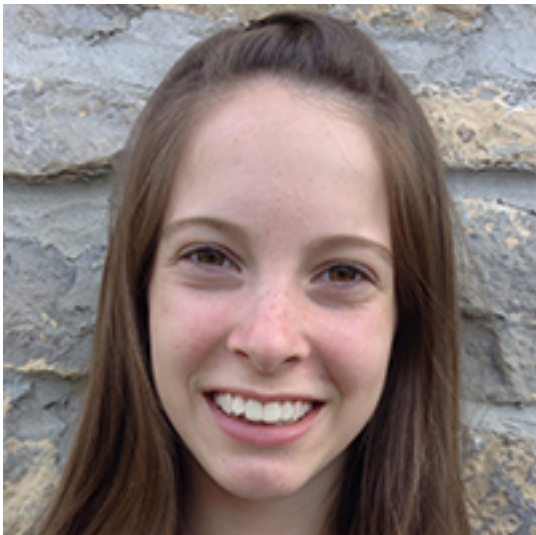
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	<p>Victoria C., Grade 8, Ingersoll</p> <p>My name is Victoria and I'm really excited to be on MSAC this year. I was first introduced to it by my teacher who thought it would be a great experience for me. I applied because I see it as an awesome opportunity and a good way to build my leadership skills. I've always wanted to be someone who kids can look up to and giving them a voice may help me do just that.</p>
	<p>Emma L., Grade 9, Kingston</p> <p>Hello, my name is Emma. I am a former MSAC 5 member. I'm joining again because I know I didn't take full advantage of the opportunity that I was given. I feel as though I did not express my own ideas, I just added onto the ideas of others. Now I'm ready to voice my opinion on learning disabilities and mental health. In my first year of high school, I've witnessed a lot of teens suffering from depression and anxiety. Many of them being my friends. I believe that these teens are not being supported enough in schools. I would also like to help students with learning disabilities find coping strategies to help them work better. I have a learning disability and I believe people need strategies to fit their personality and learning style, for example, making Individual Education Plans personal.</p>
	<p>Evan T., Grade 9, Tecumseh</p> <p>Hello, my name is Evan. I am a Grade 9 pre-International Baccalaureate student living in the Windsor area. For as long as I can remember, I have had a keen interest in politics and the political system. This has led me to opportunities such as being a Legislative Page at Queen's Park, the Prime Minister of my school's Student Council, and now a member of the Minister's Student Advisory Council. While serving, I hope to represent issues regarding student health and well-being. I would like to be a voice for Windsor and Southwestern Ontario, an area that is sometimes underrepresented, as well as speak to issues significant to the entire province, such as the amalgamation of the Public and Separate school boards. I look forward to meeting students from across the province. I know this unique experience will give me valuable skills that will serve me all my life.</p>



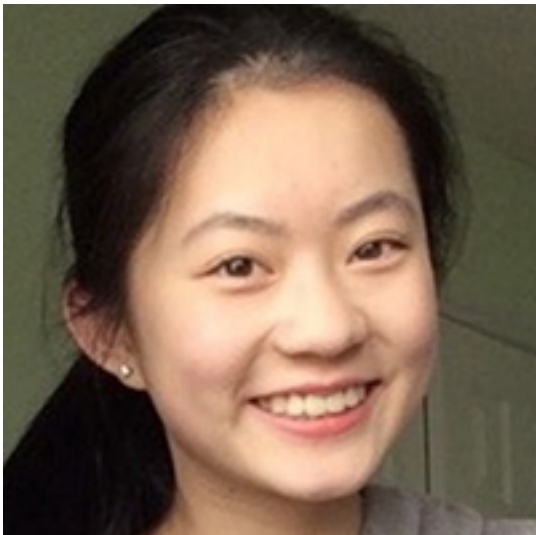
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	<p>Gabriel D., Grade 9, Ajax</p> <p>My name is Gabriel. I am 14 years old and an AAA hockey player for Pickering/Ajax. I am also a soccer referee for the town of Pickering. I love sports! I am currently on the Principal’s Council at my high school. I am a part of a youth engagement advisory committee for the town of Ajax. I wanted to be a part of MSAC to learn from my peers on how to get kids my age more involved and invested in the community and to be a positive role model.</p>
	<p>John G., Grade 9, Orangeville</p> <p>All my life, I have struggled with a learning disability. I know what it is like to be bullied, teased and put-down. I applied to be on MSAC because I felt that as a Grade 9 student, I could offer the point of view of someone who has been impacted significantly by a language-based learning difference. I would like other students like me to know that they have safe places to go in school and trusting adults to speak with without feeling singled out. Over and above academics, I would like students to know that everyone in their schools is genuinely interested in their feelings and want to recognize them as people rather than just see their disabilities. No one should have to mask their true selves in order to survive school.</p>
	<p>Laura R., Grade 9, Sudbury</p> <p>Hi! My name is Laura. I see myself as a strong leader and I aspire to help make a difference inside and out of my school community. I recognize and embrace the diversity in the world and use this knowledge to accurately voice my opinions. I look forward to a fantastic year!</p>



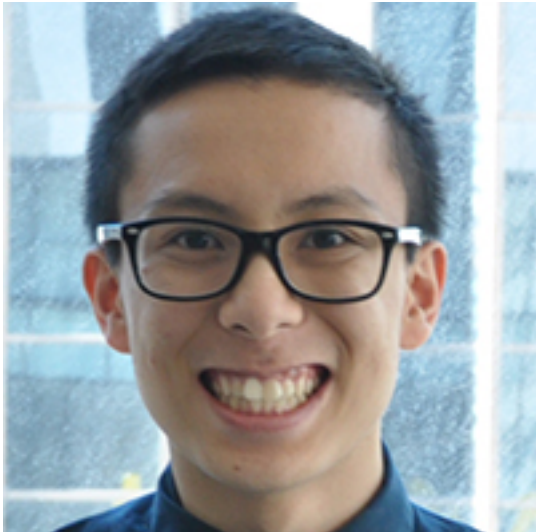
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	<p>Lizzy F., Grade 9, Peterborough</p> <p>I applied to MSAC because I have an interest in taking on leadership roles. I have experience on the student council as the Grade 9 representative and I hope this opportunity will help me become a better leader. For me, celebrating equity and diversity is important; it is my belief that we are strongest when we celebrate the differences we have. It is important to have students’ voices heard and to help get students involved in shaping a school community. I am excited to take this opportunity to work with others who have the same passion for getting involved as I do. We can help students from across the province have a voice. I applied to MSAC because I hope to help encourage students get involved and to help the Ministry of Education understand the needs of high school students.</p>
	<p>Matthew M., Grade 9, Owen Sound</p> <p>I am a Grade 9 student who is currently attending a Provincial Demonstration School for students who have learning differences. Throughout my academic career, I have struggled with dyslexia. Although I have the same potential as everyone else, reading and writing are very difficult for me. As a result of my experience, I applied to MSAC to offer the perspective of students with learning differences who can succeed if the right programming is put into place. I would like to specifically help disengaged students become reinvested in their education through the problem solving and inquiry-based education that worked for me. I have a great future ahead of me and I would like to share my story of hope and optimism with others.</p>
	<p>Peyton H., Grade 9, Merrickville</p> <p>I hope to be a strong voice for accessible and inclusive education for every student. I want to represent the needs of the strongest student and the student who is struggling the most. As an agent of change, I have received the Presidential Environmental Youth Award from President Obama for my work on the BP oil spill cleanup, I have been named a TVO Kids SuperCitizen, I was featured in Owl Magazine and I have collected 1000 pounds of aluminum cans for Habitat for Humanity. I also served for 5 weeks as a Legislative Page at Queen’s Park. All of these opportunities have provided me with the experience I need to be an effective, engaged and enthusiastic member of MSAC! I believe kids CAN make a difference and I look forward to working with MSAC to make positive change in our education system!</p>




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	<p>Rachael B., Grade 9, Orangeville</p> <p>I applied to MSAC because I wish to better the conditions of education at schools across Ontario for as long as I am able to in my stay on the council.</p>
	<p>Spencer J., Grade 9, Toronto</p> <p>I attend an arts school where I am majoring in Film. I am currently a Deputy Council Youth Commissioner with Scouts Canada. I have received awards from Toronto International Film Festival and the Scholastic Arts & Writing Awards in recognition of my work in the arts. I want to focus on the relevancy of gender and sex education and how we can adapt learning for people with mental illnesses.</p>
	<p>Wendy W., Grade 9, Thunder Bay</p> <p>My name is Wendy. I am a Grade 9 student in the International Baccalaureate program and I have studied in both catholic and public schools. I am an active member in my school and my community. I am a member of the Regional Multicultural Youth Council of Thunder Bay and the school board’s Ontario Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy. As a student leader, I have obtained experience in promoting diversity. I applied for MSAC because it would give me a unique opportunity to speak up for the students in my school and community - especially for students with disabilities, those living in poverty and cultural minorities. Furthermore, I would like to share my ideas and experiences with other MSAC members to raise the issues that are generally overlooked in our schools to improve the learning atmosphere in schools throughout Ontario.</p>

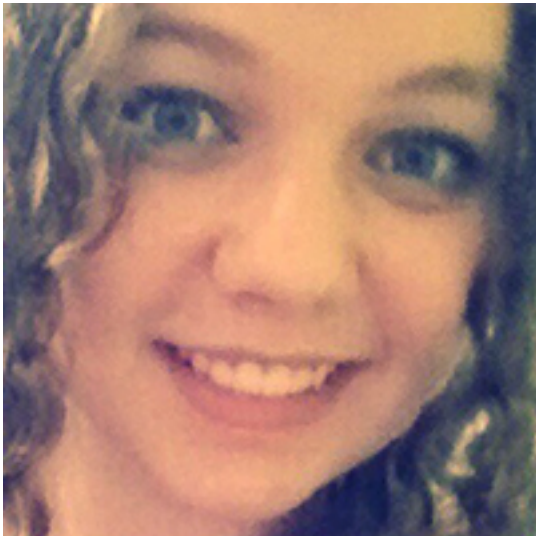


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	<p>Babacar F., Grade 10, Mississauga</p> <p>My name is Babacar and I grew up in Mississauga where I attended a French-language elementary school. I have been on my student council since Grade 7. Now in Grade 10, I am student council president. I am actively involved in leadership activities, including the Jeux Franco-ontariens and various leadership camps held by the Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne (FESFO) and by my school board. My favourite pastimes are writing and sports, and my favourite sport is soccer. One of my achievements that I am most proud of is completing the Grande traversée, a 240-kilometre bike-a-thon. I consider myself to be a discreet leader. I wanted to be a member of the Minister's Student Advisory Council because I want to show people that, despite my age, I can make or influence changes around me.</p>
	<p>Branden T., Grade 10, Thunder Bay</p> <p>As an active Grade 10 student, I am honoured to be a student advisor to the Minister of Education. I have a keen interest in advocating for student voice initiatives and a strong passion for politics. Living in Northern Ontario, I enjoy fishing, mountain biking, flying old bush planes, and boating during the summer. Whereas in the winter time, I often find myself at the local ski hill. I am a Natural Helper, Common Bonds member, Peer Mentor, Beyond the Hurt facilitator, We Day Committee executive, and committed volunteer for numerous local organizations. As one of the founding students of my School Board's Student Voice Focus Session and a student representative on our Safe and Accepting Schools Committee, I have many opportunities to share ideas with administration. Being actively involved within my school community has provided me with a strong student voice.</p>
	<p>Dawson P., Grade 10, Kitchener</p> <p>In a society where many voices are misrepresented or silenced due to fear and social norms, advocating for positive change is the one thing that can make a difference. I joined MSAC to represent those who are too scared to go against the status quo or popular opinion and change the lives of those who feel worthless in the education system. I want to be the one to say that education is about learning, not grades, and actually reinforce this ideal throughout Ontario. For those who struggle to get up every day, for those who feel like they do not belong because of who they are, for those who are wronged by the lack of support they get from education as an institution, I hope to fight for these people. I want to take this as an opportunity to lead our society so that everyone's voice is heard.</p>

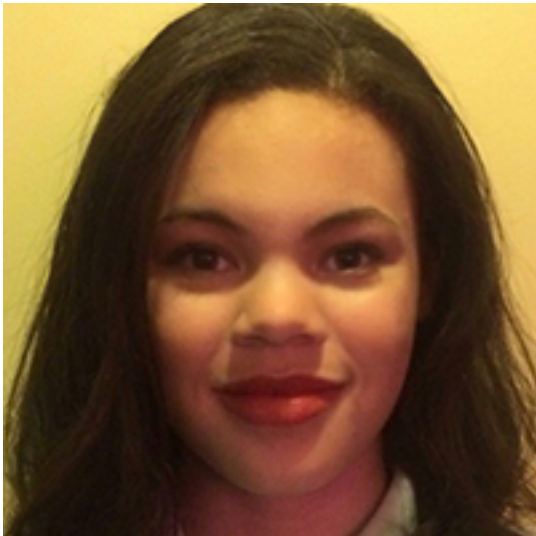


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	<p>Esegent L., Grade 10, Belleville</p> <p>Acceptance of others and learning to work together in harmony no matter what differences may get in the way, is an essential part of creating an open and hard working environment not only within our schools but in our education system as well. During my term in MSAC, I hope to work together with others to offer positive advice and become a voice for my peers who feel like they do not have one. I am very much involved in social justice and bringing about positive change. Being an immigrant myself, I understand just how precious freedom and education is. That’s why maintaining equality rights for everyone not only in my community but also around the world is extremely important to me. My passion is to help others while meeting outstanding people and making great memories.</p>
	<p>Gabrielle C., Grade 10, Thunder Bay</p> <p>My name is Gabrielle and I am Franco-Ontarian, so I am part of that cultural and linguistic minority. I live in Thunder Bay and I am passionate about the French language, which is why I am on the Conseil de Représentation (CR) of the Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne (FESFO).</p>
	<p>James G., Grade 10, Fenwick</p> <p>My name is James. I am a Grade 10 student who is 16 years of age. I am a competitive rower and lacrosse player. I've competed for my school's rowing team for two years. Our team has won 3 gold medals, 1 silver and 1 bronze. I applied to MSAC to educate others about Indigenous people in Ontario. I am a member of Haudenosaunee Nation near Brantford, Ontario. I have been in foster care for about 3 years now and have really thrived and grown to be a mature young adult. I reside in Fenwick, Ontario which is where I go to school. I represent the Haudenosaunee people with pride. I applied to MSAC because I want to share my view, challenges and insights with the Ministry of Education as a student, athlete and a Haudenosaunee person.</p>

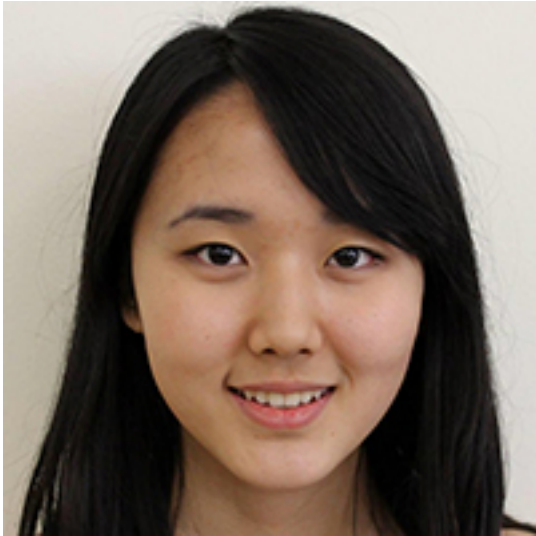


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	<p>Karlee R., Grade 10, Sault Ste. Marie</p> <p>I take an active role in my school’s student community through Student Council, Project ABCD (Action for Building a Community that is Drug-free) and Student Senate. I applied for MSAC because I would like to see more opportunities for learning that are connected to real-life situations and activities so that students can see relevance in what they are learning. This council will give me the opportunity to ensure that challenges (such as drug use among teenagers, mental health etc.) are being recognized so that the education system can better learn how to support students with these difficulties.</p>
	<p>Olivia L., Grade 10, Mississauga</p> <p>I am an International Baccalaureate student. Since being diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder at 12 years old, I have been a strong advocate of eliminating the stigma behind mental health. I hope to reach out to students who are suffering from mental disorders but are afraid to speak about it. In addition to my focus on mental health, I have been privileged to be involved in sports like swimming and triathlons from a young age. As an avid swimmer and two-time OFSAA athlete and medallist, I am saddened to see the number of physically unfit children who are leading unbalanced lives. As part of this year's MSAC, I am set on leading change in the areas of mental health and fitness in the education system. Waiting for others to do so would be doing a disservice to my community. I cannot wait to get started!</p>
	<p>Samuel Y., Grade 10, Whitby</p> <p>There is a quote that says that “the foundation of every state is the education of its youth”. For youth, education is not only about the present but about the distant future. My name is Sam and it’s because of my interest in representing students that I applied for MSAC. I am a passionate and dedicated student who is interested in business, math and technology. On the council I want to represent Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and entrepreneurship; topics that I excel at. Having started my own summer tutoring business with a grant from the Ontario government, I believe that schools should strive to promote entrepreneurship and life skills such as personal finance. I am involved in my community where I’m a member of the Whitby Youth Council and the Durham Youth Council. I also write for my local newspaper called the Brooklin Town Crier, on youth topics.</p>



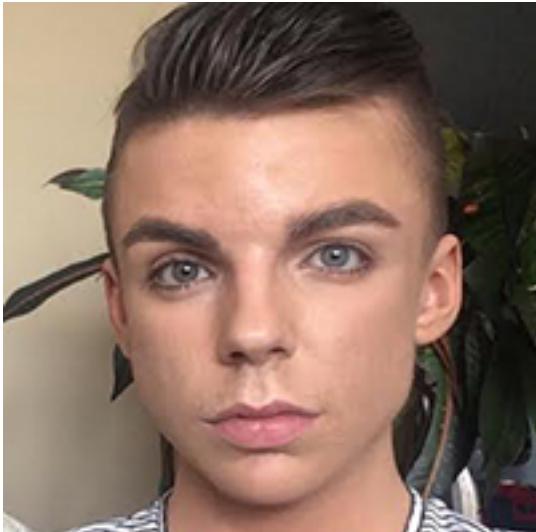
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	<p>TiCarra P., Grade 10, Sudbury</p> <p>I'm TiCarra. I am a Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and I take pride in my culture, and enjoy participating in various events related to the motivation of First Nation awareness. I strive for academic excellence by consistently being on the honour roll. I partake in a variety of extracurricular activities and I've worked in cooperation with several non-profit organizations. Such as, Sudbury Minga for Maasai, Pet Save, and CIBC run for the cure. I am a published poet, with works included in a few anthologies. I applied for MSAC because I believe in student empowerment. I think that students of the system working with the system results in a better overall academic experience. MSAC is a great opportunity and I am excited to contribute the best I can to bring a more diverse outlook.</p>
	<p>Tsahai C., Grade 10, Markham</p> <p>My name is Tsahai. I am largely interested in politics and foreign affairs and I hope to one day work as a diplomat or work overseas. At my school, I work to inspire positive change and help marginalised students. I am the president of my school's Gay Straight Alliance. I am a member of the West Indian Students Association and I participate in many equity related events at my school and community. I strongly believe in equality and I hope that I can continue to inspire change after high school. In my free time, I enjoy reading and spending time with friends. I also hold a passion for the arts. I love to write, sing and play the tuba in the school band. I often volunteer in my community and I'm always happy to help others.</p>
	<p>Benjamin B., Grade 11, Ameliasburgh</p> <p>My experience with student voice initiatives has come in many forms; <i>SpeakUp</i> conferences, leadership camps, school board meetings, and research forums to name a few. Working with other passionate students like myself, and devoted staff, I have been able to identify that I, as a student, and we, as a student population, need a school environment that we are all comfortable and engaged in. I applied to MSAC because it would provide me with the opportunity to expand my efforts in helping students resolve their issues within their school environment. Now that I have been accepted, I will further support my own school with the skills I develop through MSAC and I will also support all of my fellow students across Ontario to assure that they have a comfortable and fun environment to work in!</p>


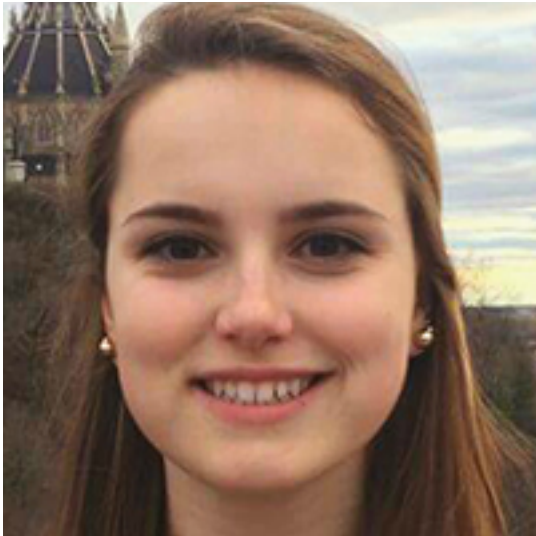

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	<p>Cindy W., Grade 11, Richmond Hill</p> <p>It hit me in the middle of Grade 11 that I had one year left of high school. At that moment I knew I wanted my last year to be meaningful. I want to finish high school knowing that I left a lasting and positive mark on Ontario’s education system. I want younger kids to have a better experience than I did. I was already on Student Council and the Organization for Ontario Secondary Students, but they didn’t have a direct connection to the Ministry of Education. They weren’t the right platforms to effectively share my opinions and ideas to obtain tangible results. I saw MSAC as the perfect opportunity to spark real change for Ontario students. Through MSAC, I hope to address issues on gender equality and mental health. I also hope to improve and increase the support that schools provide for students facing personal crises.</p>
	<p>Claire P., Grade 11, Kitchener</p> <p>I applied for MSAC because I want to work towards creating equal, safer and more accepting school environments for all students. Advocating for gender equality, working to destigmatize mental illness, and creating schools that are fully inclusive of LGBTQ+ students are key priorities for me. In addition, I am interested in engaging people who do not view themselves as leaders in the school community and encourage quiet leaders to step up in their school communities. As a part of MSAC, I want to use my voice to bring attention to these issues and take action to accomplish change. I love to dance; I do ballet, modern, and jazz. I am a member of my school’s Arts Council and Student Council. I also love to read, and I am a part of Kitchener Public Library’s Youth Advisory Council. I am looking forward to being a member of MSAC!</p>
	<p>Eden B., Grade 11, Fergus</p> <p>Most people know me as the quirky knee sock wearing girl who is good at math and science. Or the petite girl who had to stand on a box to be seen over the podium during school elections. However, they don’t see the girl with an anxiety disorder that struggles in everyday situations; who wants to improve the world through science. I applied to MSAC because I have attended 6 different schools so far and I have seen the need for change. A lack of resources, bullying, and prejudice, plague our schools although we strive for equality. I think there is a need for an environment where students feel they can be heard, understood, and supported. One where they feel involved and engaged. I applied to this council because it would be awesome to be part of a team working toward an improved educational experience for all students in Ontario.</p>

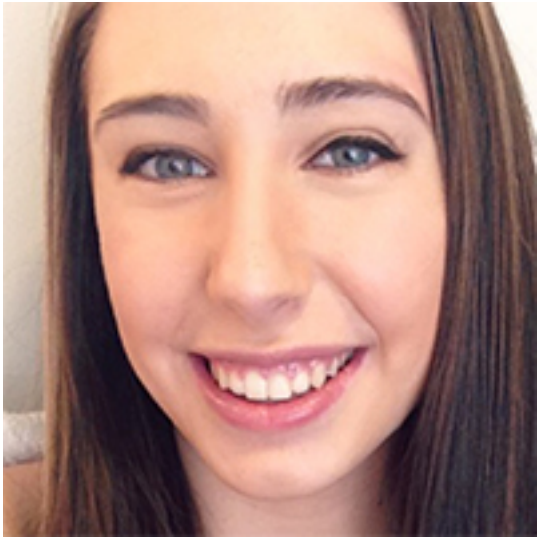
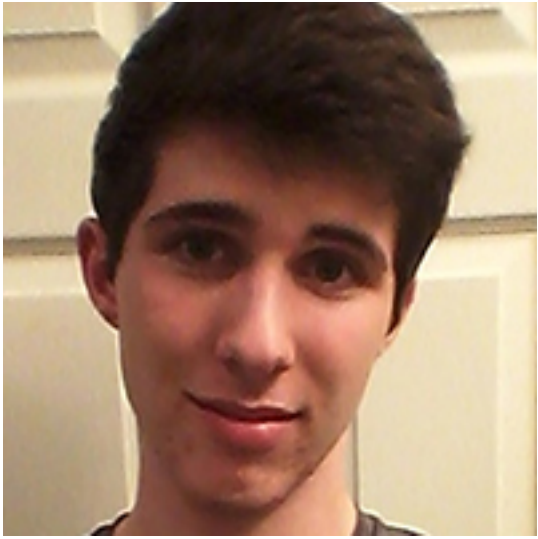

2015-16 Minister’s Student Advisory Council

Photo	Student Information
	<p>Francis L., Grade 11, Toronto</p> <p>My name is Francis and I am a budding professional. I spent the majority of my childhood in hospitals fighting disease and disability, while cultivating my curiosity and affinity for the sciences. Currently, I work in a research laboratory to gain a better understanding of Kawasaki Disease, an illness I once had. In addition, I take an active role in my community coordinating, organizing and leading councils and events. I enjoy dressing dapper, and charismatically presenting ideas and issues. Especially those pertaining to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), the environment and social justice. Considering my past experiences, leadership skills and scientific passion, I joined MSAC to represent STEM and advocate for the new sexual education curriculum as well as for those with diseases and disabilities. In the future, I hope to become a skilled toy wizard, fight stigmas, and apply my scientific prowess to help others.</p>
	<p>Hannah S., Grade 11, Shuniah</p> <p>As the Student Trustee for the Lakehead District School Board, education has always been a passion of mine and has inspired me to get involved in any way I can. Being a Student Trustee means finding new and innovative ways to champion the student voice and ensure their voice is always heard; which is my biggest priority. I believe that my experience in this role as well as my contributions to many school activities gives me a broad spectrum and understanding of the education system. I am very enthusiastic about being a part of this year’s Minister’s Student Advisory Council as it will provide me with a further opportunity to immerse myself in the education system and provide input to ensure all students in Ontario are receiving the best education possible. I strongly believe an education gives students the power to conquer their dreams.</p>
	<p>Jacob M., Grade 11, Kirkland Lake</p> <p>My motivation to be a part of MSAC stems from my desire to implement positive change in small town schools. I am actively involved with a variety of school activities. Although I am grateful for every opportunity to make a difference, I can only do so much within the organizations at my school. MSAC grants me the opportunity to make an impact province wide and speak on behalf of the students living in smaller towns. I applied to MSAC to use my leadership skills and personal experiences to help make a real difference in Ontario students’ learning.</p>




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Photo	Student Information
	<p>Jean-Sébastien B., Grade 11, Casselman</p> <p>My name is Jean-Sébastien. I am a dedicated and tenacious student and I am very proud of my culture. This is what prompted me to get involved in the Minister’s Student Advisory Council. By being on the council, I hope to make an impact and make Ontario better for future Franco-Ontarians, the Métis and First Nations people, and for the young people of today and tomorrow. I participate in a number of cultural activities and leadership camps like L’Écho d’un peuple. My cultural and leadership experience has allowed me to learn from the First Nations and travel across Ontario. Being involved in the Ontario Educational Leadership Centre, the Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne and the Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française helped me to develop positive leadership skills and use my ideas to protect the Francophonie and young people's future.</p>
	<p>Katherine M., Grade 11, Ottawa</p> <p>My name is Katherine. I have distinguished myself at school through my leadership and participation in school activities. I am involved in my school's student government as the minister of external affairs. I am a part of the Réseau des élèves of the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est, and I am the contact person for the Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne. I have also participated in the Jeux de la francophonie canadienne and the Ottawa Regional Science Fair. I plan to bring my exciting and fresh ideas about the promotion of the Francophonie, education in the 21st century and mental health awareness to the Minister’s Student Advisory Council. I am passionate about the world of teaching and plan to pursue social science studies before beginning work on a Bachelor of Education degree.</p>
	<p>Kerrigan I., Grade 11, Hearst</p> <p>Hi, I'm Kerrigan! I'm honoured to be a part of MSAC this year. I applied because I hope to share my thoughts, ideas, and experiences with the council to better our education in schools. Not only did I apply for myself, but I applied to act as the voice for my school. MSAC offers a wonderful opportunity for youth to voice their opinions on challenges they may face which will help eliminate any problems encountered in the school system. I hope to make a strong difference in areas such as, Aboriginal education and poverty. Being Aboriginal myself, I feel like we're not heard as much as we should be. I believe with determination and confidence, we can achieve anything!</p>

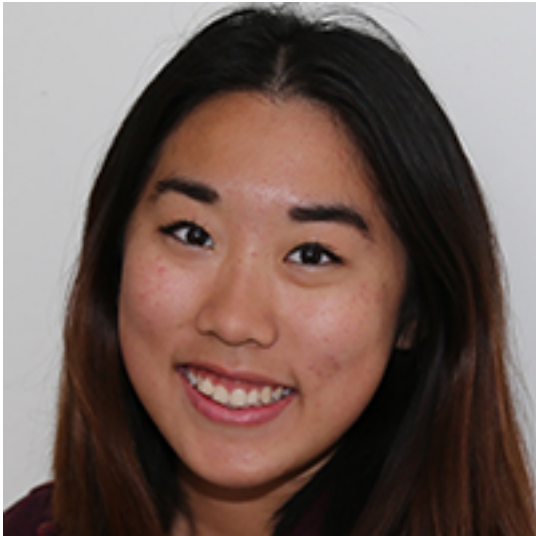


2015-16 Minister’s Student Advisory Council

Photo	Student Information
	<p>Mackenzie B., Grade 11, North Bay</p> <p>My name is Mackenzie and I am a Grade 11 high school student. I applied to MSAC for the opportunity to share my thoughts and opinions with people who can help me take a step towards change! I believe that there is no better expert on student behaviour than students. I am excited to put myself out there and meet like-minded individuals!</p>
	<p>Marc L., Grade 11, Toronto</p> <p>My name is Marc. I go to a French Catholic school in Toronto. I strive to be active in every aspect of my community’s development. I am a member of several sports teams (volleyball, curling, swimming, cross-country, track, badminton, table tennis and softball), a member of the improv team, the school board student association, and I am the Greater Toronto Area representative for a Franco-Ontarian youth-led organization. I have been blessed with the opportunity to visit many schools throughout Ontario. I feel as though students are one big community and MSAC is a great tool to express that community’s voice.</p>
	<p>Mary Z., Grade 11, Toronto</p> <p>I applied to be a member of MSAC because of its opportunity to make a difference. I want to focus on poverty and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Having seen the impact that poverty can have on people firsthand, I would like to discuss how poverty prevents students from achieving their best. I would like to look for solutions by improving the learning and engagement of students. My passion for STEM provides me with the opportunity to make a lasting impact on others. I’m an alumna of the Shad Valley program, and I am also involved with the Science Expo, the Ontario Science Centre Youth Council, DECA and my school’s Student Council. I believe being a part of MSAC will allow me to not only share my ideas and opinions, but also interact and hear the points of view of those with different experiences.</p>




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Photo	Student Information
	<p>Mathumithira C., Grade 11, North York</p> <p>I applied for MSAC because I saw it as a great opportunity to represent students and give them the chance to be heard. I felt that this would be the place to share my perspective as a student and encourage positive change in our school system. I hope that we can address issues regarding the mental well-being of students because it determines the extent of effort they put towards their studies and education. Overall, as someone who is invested in getting the voices of students heard, I felt that MSAC would be a great place to start. I hope that by joining MSAC, I can work with the other members to encourage all students to take their education seriously while actively participating in school activities. In general, I would like for all students to enjoy going to school and experience great things during their learning career without any worries!</p>
	<p>Sifar H., Grade 11, Niagara Falls</p> <p>Hi, I'm Sifar and I am currently a Grade 11 student. I speak English, Hindi, Gujarati and French. I am the Vice-President of my school's Student Council and I am the Promotions and Marketing Representative on the Niagara Falls Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee. I am also a Director of the youth organization, Bridges Through Inspiration. I applied to MSAC because I felt I needed to do my part in helping to make this world the best place it can be. There are many difficulties we all face, and each one of us has our own story to tell. I believe that by being a part of MSAC, I will be able to help these stories be told. When people have a desire to do something together, it's amazing what can happen. After all, we are the youth, the world is our playground, and life is pushing our swing.</p>
	<p>Tyler C., Grade 11, Bluevale</p> <p>I am an active participant at my school. I grew up on a farm with my parents, and I am the second born of six children. I play hockey, rugby, soccer, and water sports in my spare time. I am very active in my parish community working with the youth. I am serving my second year in the student cabinet and I enjoy bringing together students that would generally stand back. After a mission trip to Haiti that kindled a desire to make a difference in the school, parish and community, I thought MSAC seemed like a fit. I will bring a rural perspective to the council and stress the importance of bringing people together for the greater good with perseverance and a positive attitude. I believe that a strong Ontario starts with engaging students and helping them to achieve success.</p>

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Photo	Student Information
	<p>Wendy W., Grade 11, Guelph</p> <p>As a student entrepreneur who got the opportunity to start two of my own businesses before graduating high school, I got to see education in a whole different light. I believe that you can gain as much knowledge as you can at school, but what really matters is the experiences you get when you take those skills and apply them outside of the classroom. I have dabbled in many different fields of interests from business to music to the arts. Being a part of MSAC gives me a chance to bring my unique perspective on education to the traditional ways. I believe that everyone has the ability to do what they love and be good at it - and my goal is to bring diversity back to the classroom.</p>
	<p>Alexander C., Grade 12, Waterloo</p> <p>From working in a francophone urban farm with predominantly high school dropouts serving court-ordered community service hours in Laval, QC with Enfant D'Abord to being part of a team attempting to send a Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) satellite to space at the Institute of Quantum Computing. I've always been fascinated with education. It's what prompted me to ask a simple question - what choices motivate someone to drop out of high school or commit to higher education? There are many sad answers: socioeconomic status, connections, simple chance. But public education is the great equalizer. My strongest tenet is that where we're born should not define where we go. And it is our public education's job to not let it.</p>
	<p>Darian C., Grade 12, Murillo</p> <p>My life experience as a student with special needs in rural Northwestern Ontario has provided me with a unique voice that represents a vastly underrepresented population of students. I am an advocate for myself and for my peers. I have always asked questions and sometimes challenge authority to come up with out of the box solutions to problems. I would like to see a peer program put in place that would help students with any school issues that relates to their disability. I am a natural helper and would like to represent issues surrounding students with disabilities. I am kind, helpful and always learning and trying new things. I don't have a disability but an ability to always do my best. I think that I should be able to at least try anything and I would like to share this enthusiasm and interest with my peers.</p>

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Photo	Student Information
	<p>David B., Grade 12, Ajax</p> <p>Hi, my name is David and I am a Grade 12 student. I applied for MSAC because I am hoping to change the curriculum to better include LGBTQ and marginalized students. I grew up in a broken home and I was bullied in elementary school. Those experiences taught me it isn't alright to stand by when you feel something could be done better. I've worked hard to be a positive role model to the people around me. I work with people in my community to help them through their problems. In St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he tells us “Love is patient; love is kind... It does not insist on its own way”. I believe that message can be expanded into our curriculum to foster a culture of love, inclusiveness, and kindness for all students.</p>
	<p>Mackenzie K., Grade 12, Orillia</p> <p>Hey, I'm Mackenzie. Throughout my education, I always noticed a difference between people with and without money. That's why when I read about MSAC through my school's newsletter, I wanted to try and figure out a way to fix that. People aren't always equal, however, we should aim for equal opportunities despite those differences. While on MSAC, I hope to help youth who experience poverty and make sure their voices are heard even within individual schools. Isolation is the worst feeling you could have in high school so I want to help eliminate that feeling. I've been told that I see the world through a different lens and I'm excited to share that with everyone!</p>
	<p>Nathan J., Grade 12, South River</p> <p>Student voice is an important item in Ontario's education system, and to be a leader on this item is a privilege. Through my work with MSAC, I would like to ensure that the voices of rural students are heard. I have been a student in both metropolitan and rural school boards, so I understand the different challenges students in Ontario face. Being a Student Trustee for my school board (Near North DSB) and working on the Ministry of Education Student Voice initiatives like, Students as Researchers and <i>SpeakUp</i> grants has also helped me to become a strong advocate for student voice. My experiences and passion for making positive change led me to apply for MSAC. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to represent the voices of Ontario students.</p>