

October 20, 2015

Dear Teacher,

You may be aware that from November 30 to December 11th, the world's governments will convene in Paris for a high-profile United Nations conference on climate change. The aim of this conference will be to reach a universal agreement that will enable us to combat climate change effectively and boost the transition towards resilient, low-carbon societies. The Paris conference will have a profound impact on the lives of every single young person alive today, and on all generations to come.

It is with a sense of the urgent need to protect the well-being of Canadian children and youth that we, the board of directors of *Cool it for the Kids*--- a local non-profit devoted to giving Ottawa/Gatineau children and youth opportunities to speak up about climate change --- together with CHEO's Green Team, are contacting elementary and high schools throughout the Ottawa/Gatineau region, seeking student participation in an inspiring event that will take place one week before the Paris conference begins.

Specifically, on **Sunday, November 22 at 4pm, 250 Ottawa/Gatineau children and youth will come together at dusk on Parliament Hill to create a solar lantern-powered artistic event called "Solar Youth Power"**. That is, each child and youth will be given a solar lantern to hold, and together with the other lantern bearers, will light up the dark by forming an image of the sun. The image will symbolize the importance and urgency for the newly elected Canadian government to transition our country to 100% renewable energy.


We will have a 25' ladder on hand to allow our photographer to take an aerial photo of the solar formation. This powerful image will then be circulated widely on social media and form part of a global effort to shine the light of hope for a sustainable future.

We write with keen awareness of just how hard you work as a teacher. And don't want to add to the list! All we ask, therefore, is that you contact Gaye Taylor, Executive Director of *Cool It for the Kids*, to find a mutually agreed upon time in which Gaye and/or other members of the group could give a 5 to 10 minute in-person presentation to students whom you think might be interested. A sign up sheet would be circulated so that we could send more information about the event to the students (and their parents) directly.

You can contact Gaye at the following email address: taylorgayel@gmail.com, at her home at 613-744-6346, or text her cell: 613-868-7155.

Thank you simply for taking the time to read this letter. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will consider helping your students to participate in this hopeful and inspiring event.

Very best wishes,


Gaye Taylor, Executive Director of Cool It for the Kids.
Board Members: Julie Cook, Peter Fawcett, and Curtis Lavoie