

New foundation will foster exchange between religious and non-religious Canadians

Granting program will support initiatives that bring young people together for community building

Toronto, May 3, 2012 - Announced today, the Inspirit Foundation is a new grant-making organization that encourages engagement and exchange between Canadians, particularly young people, of different religious and non-religious beliefs.

Religious diversity is the top unresolved issue for multiculturalism in Canada, according to a 2010 study commissioned by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The new foundation aims to support initiatives, such as community programs, activities and research projects, that contribute to the public discussion on religious diversity and pluralism.

"At the Inspirit Foundation, we see pluralism as a key building block in creating a society that is inclusive and based on Canadian values," said Dale Godsoe, Chair of the Board of Directors, Inspirit Foundation. "We envision a stronger Canada, where people of different beliefs not only tolerate but also actively engage and work with each other for the common good."

The foundation's two funding streams are:

- **Inspirit Bridge Building Grants:** This pilot program will support initiatives that bring together young people, aged 18 to 30 and of different religious and non-religious beliefs, to address a need in their community. Eligible initiatives include: arts, culture and media projects; community and civic service efforts; local environmental initiatives; and knowledge and skills development programs. In June, the foundation will start accepting applications for these grants, which range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Registered Canadian charitable organizations interested in applying are encouraged to visit www.inspiritfoundation.org for more information.
- **Inspirit Breakthrough Funding:** These grants identify and sponsor a select number of initiatives that help advance the foundation's vision. Eligible initiatives include: media products and platforms, events and research projects. Among the first initiatives supported under this funding stream are a partnership with Hot Docs for the creation of the Inspirit Foundation Pluralism Prize, and Innoversity Creative Summit's award for storytelling through existing and emerging technology and platforms.

"There is robust work related to pluralism being done in Canada in areas such as political participation and representation, public policy, research, and inter-faith exchange," said Andrea Nemtin, President and CEO, Inspirit Foundation. "We look forward to collaborating with organizations nationwide to support young Canadians in all their wonderful diversity as they create a truly pluralist Canada."

(more)

About the foundation

The Inspirit Foundation is a grant-making organization that encourages engagement and exchange between Canadians, particularly young people, of religious and non-religious beliefs. Inspirit was founded in May 2012 by S-VOX, the registered charity that operated Vision TV until its sale in 2010.

For more information, visit www.inspiritfoundation.org. You can also follow us on Twitter [@InspiritFdn](https://twitter.com/InspiritFdn).

###

Applicant contact:

Gwen Joy:
gjoy@inspiritfoundation.org
416-644-3600, ext. 4

Media contact:

Luciana Tuzino
ltuzino@inspiritfoundation.org
416-644-3600, ext. 5
Mobile: 647-802-1296