

# Youth Matters

fostering  
civic  
participation

CEN's Annual Teacher Symposium 2011  
October 17, 2011 ~ Toronto City Hall

Keynote Speaker



Councillor Mike Layton  
*Ward 19, Trinity-Spadina*

A day of speakers,  
workshops and  
resources for teachers  
of civics and politics

**C**ivics  
**E**ducation  
**N**etwork

## About the Event

Now in its fourth year, the Civics Education Network's annual teacher symposium is an opportunity for teachers of civics and politics to learn from both experts in the field and each other. This year we return to the Toronto City Hall Council Chambers with a new collection of workshops and the continuation of our 'best of' resources on USB Drives.

The title this year "Youth Matters: fostering civic participation" reflects what we all know and why we are in this incredible profession. Every day, we as educators work to engage our students as citizens and harness their energy and enthusiasm. In this way they will be empowered to make real change in our shared environments.

## About CEN

The Civics Education Network is a non-profit charitable organization whose purpose is to support teachers of civics and politics. We provide access to professional development, resources and a variety of supports and programs. Our programming enriches the work of teachers and the experience of the students in our public schools.

CEN works hard to examine novel ways of reaching youth and teaching them the skills they need to become active citizens. We welcome anyone who wants to get involved in our work.

# Symposium Schedule

monday, october 17th  
toronto city hall ~ council chambers  
100 queen street west, at bay st.

8:30 am	Arrival, Registration and Coffee
9:00 am	Keynote Speaker - Mike Layton
9:30 am	Project Citizen Girl
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am	Elections Panel
11:15 am	YPI (Youth Philanthropy Initiative)
11:45 am	Catered NGO Lunch
12:45 pm	Look Ma, I'm Teaching Civics
1:45 pm	Share and Discuss
2:15 pm	Youth Action Network
2:45 pm	Closing Remarks

## **Keynote** | councillor mike layton ward 19 trinity-spadina

Before being elected on October 25, 2010 to serve as one of Toronto's youngest Councilors, Mike worked for political change from the other side of the table, as an environmental leader and community organizer. As Deputy Outreach Director for Environmental Defence, one of Canada's leading environmental groups, he championed a variety of successful initiatives including the Green Energy and Green Economy Act, green building standards, water conservation and source water protection.

Son of former NDP Leader and City Councillor Jack Layton, Mike has been active since an early age on a variety of issues and causes including fundraising for the White Ribbon Campaign to end male violence against women, and working with special needs children.

## **Panel** | elections agencies

This session brings together representatives from the three elections agencies – Elections Canada, Elections Ontario and Elections Toronto. Moderated by Taylor Gunn of Student Vote, the three agencies will speak about the process of elections, and share with you the resources they have been developing for the classroom. Also, this is your opportunity to let them know what you need to better teach elections in your classroom.

## **Presentation** | student action projects

Engaged citizenship is what it's all about. However, how do you effectively bring that into the classroom? How do you bring it alive and make it real for your students? Three different sessions (Project Citizen Girl, YPI and Youth Action Network) across the day give you access to organizations and people who have strategies to give you new ideas on how to really get your students engaged in their community and your course.

## **Workshop** | share and discuss

What have you found to be particularly challenging? What have you done well? One of the best things about getting together with colleagues is the opportunity to learn from one another. This session will facilitate sharing of challenges and successes between the various participants. You'll get an opportunity to learn from each other and work together to solve common issues.

## **Workshop** | look ma, i'm teaching civics

Teaching an open course is difficult at the best of times. It becomes more difficult when the content is Civics and some of the teachers teaching it are not history or social science teachers. This workshop promises to deliver strategies that have been used successfully in a civics course. Strategies such as the use of current events, editorial cartoons, debates, and simulations will be explored as well as methods that will make your students more active and engaged citizens.

## **Network** | ngo lunch

We're bringing back our popular NGO lunch this year. Not only will you be receiving a delicious catered lunch, but representatives from various NGOs will be on hand to chat, network, and share resources for your classroom.

## **Best of Resource Sharing**

Shared resources are in many ways the lifeblood of any good professional development, and are vital to our success as teachers. The Civics Education Network understands this, therefore part of our program this year includes the sharing of resources among the participants.

To do this, we are asking that each participant submit ahead of time their 'best of' resource or lesson that they are willing to share. All of the collected resources will be put on USB Drives which will be distributed to all teachers attending the symposium. In this way, we can all share from our collective knowledge and experience.

Please send your resources no later than October 13 to [contact@civicsnetwork.ca](mailto:contact@civicsnetwork.ca) to ensure their inclusion.

## Registration

To ensure an engaging and intimate experience, the number of participants in the symposium is very limited. To ensure your spot, please register as soon as possible.

\$50 for the day, including lunch and resources

\$40 for each faculty of education student

Registration this year is via Eventbrite. You may pay ahead or at the door. 'Best of' resources should be sent via e-mail no later than October 13.

To Register: [cenyouthmatters.eventbrite.com](https://cenyouthmatters.eventbrite.com)

Resources: [contact@civicsnetwork.ca](mailto:contact@civicsnetwork.ca)

CEN is a registered charity and as such relies on donations to continue its work. We regret that we cannot issue tax receipts for conference fees, however, we will issue them for any donation above \$20. Please consider donating to help us continue our work.

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