

## Mid-term report RC34 North America

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North America has historically contributed few members to RC34. Currently, we have 4 members in the United States and 8 in Canada. In fact, the sociology of youth has not had much of a presence on this continent. Adolescent Psychology has been much more vibrant, with some 1200 members in the Society for Research on Adolescence (the SRA,<sup>1</sup> based in the United States), a number of whom are sociologists.

Against this background, as VP for North America, I have attempted to draw attention to the field and our organization in several ways. In 2007, I organized a session at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Emerging Adulthood in Tucson, Arizona, with an invitation to RC34 members to contribute to a critique of this new approach to the transition to adulthood.<sup>2</sup>

In Canada, I have been attempting to generate interest in conferences on youth policy. Both Canada and the United States lack coherent policies, so there is an urgent need to make governments aware of this deficit.

- Toward this end, I have made overtures to the Government of Canada through the Policy Research Initiative in Ottawa as part of participation in several policy roundtables<sup>3</sup> and a paper titled *Changing dynamics of youth integration/inclusion in Canada: Emerging pressures*. The Policy Research Initiative is considering holding a policy conference as part of its research programme *Investing in Youth*.<sup>4</sup>
- At the Provincial level, I have been in negotiations with the Ontario Minister of Children & Youth Services (a friend and colleague from my home university) to hold a regional youth policy conference, which would involve the invitation of RC34 members to share their knowledge of policies in their home countries.
- In addition, I have offered the resources of RC34 to the Canadian Education Association, an NGO that is launching *Rethinking Youth, Rethinking Learning*, an initiative that will produce several focus/working papers exploring the realities of young Canadian's lives and what this means for learning. They are planning an international symposium that would take place in the summer of 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.s-r-a.org/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ssea.org/program.htm>

<sup>3</sup> [http://policyresearch.gc.ca/page.asp?redir=on&pagenm=rp\\_iy\\_ev&project=Youth](http://policyresearch.gc.ca/page.asp?redir=on&pagenm=rp_iy_ev&project=Youth)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.policyresearch.gc.ca/page.asp?pagenm=rp\\_iy\\_bkg](http://www.policyresearch.gc.ca/page.asp?pagenm=rp_iy_bkg)