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Opening Worlds



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
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BEEDIE SCHOOL  
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For Immediate Release

## 6 STUDENT TEAMS WIN \$1,000 TO LAUNCH SOCIAL VENTURES

(Vancouver) December 8, 2011 – Ashoka Canada, the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University are pleased to announce the winners of the youth social venture competition, Be a Changemaker Challenge. The Challenge involved training and incubating teams of student venturers eager to make a social impact in their communities and beyond. The six winning teams that will receive \$1,000 of seed funding, incubation support and access to a global network of peers are:

**Nyumbani Social Enterprises** – Matt Whiteman and Team (UBC)

**SFU Bags for Kolkata Women's Empowerment** – Lindsay Belvedere, Christine Lukac, Martyna Purchia, Silvia Mora, Alex Hayer and Bar Lianado

**Fusion Kitchen** – Chantelle Buffie and Sonam Swarup (SFU)

**Healthy Homes** – Kelvin Kwok, Samantha Paulson and Money Gill (SFU)

**Green Dirt** – Adam Wizinsky, Alexis Dalzell and Alee Furman (SFU)

**Aspire** – Alice Chen and Robbie Hseih (SFU)

The two schools launched the Be A Changemaker Challenge, powered by Starbucks, to find the best student-led social initiatives from Vancouver. The components of the Challenge were a bootcamp, which took place at SFU on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> and a venture pitch selection panel, held at UBC on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

On Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, about 70 students attended the Be A Changemaker Bootcamp, delivered by Ashoka Canada and Ashoka's Youth Venture and powered by Starbucks, UBC and SFU. The student changemakers gathered for this daylong training to learn how to build and fund their sustainable social ventures that they will subsequently launch, lead, and implement in their communities.

The Be a Changemaker Challenge Selection Panel brought together five business and social entrepreneurs who selected the winners: James Tansey (ISIS, Sauder School of Business, UBC), Tom Lawrence (Beedie School of Business, SFU), Shannon Vanderwoerd (Starbucks Canada), Elisha Muskat (Ashoka Canada) and Ashoka Fellow John Richardson (Party X, Pivot Legal Society).

### Be a Changemaker Challenge - Overview

This exciting opportunity was delivered by Ashoka Canada and Ashoka's Youth Venture, hosted by University of British Columbia (UBC) & Simon Fraser University (SFU) and powered by Starbucks, with the vision to enhance the social entrepreneurship experiences of all students.

This challenge consists of:

- *University-wide call to action across the SFU & UBC campuses for students to create, launch and sustain social ventures.*
- *Action plan development by students with resources such as, a user-driven online learning platform, staff support, and mentorship.*
- *Selection of up to 10 teams for the seed funding of \$1,000 at the Be a Changemaker Challenge Panel*

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- Ongoing post-launch support and fellowship for students' social ventures as well as changemaker skills development and leadership with a global movement of 100,000+ Changemakers in the global Youth Venture network

### About Ashoka's Youth Venture

Ashoka's Youth Venture® leads an international community of young people who are powerful now, changemakers now. Ashoka's Youth Venture inspires and invests in teams of young people to create and launch their own sustainable, community-benefiting Ventures. Ashoka's Youth Venture then connects them into a global movement of young changemakers who are together redefining the youth years as a time of leadership and positive social change. This is the foundation of an Everyone a Changemaker™ world – the key factor for success in every part of society. Ashoka's Youth Venture currently operates in 17 countries and online at [www.GenV.net](http://www.GenV.net)

### About Ashoka

Ashoka is the global association of the world's leading social entrepreneurs – individuals with system-changing solutions for the world's most urgent social problems. We are redefining the global citizen sector by creating a system of collaborative entrepreneurship. Connecting the work of individual social entrepreneurs to business, academic and public sector partners, we create a network effect driving the sector forward and developing new solutions to global problems.

To date, we have elected more than 2,700 social entrepreneurs as Ashoka Fellows, in 72 countries in five continents. Across Canada, we have elected 40 Fellows since 2002. By working with our network, we have identified the key principles of transformation. We are working with business entrepreneurs, corporations, government agencies and universities to create a new reality. For more information, visit [www.canada.ashoka.org](http://www.canada.ashoka.org)

### For more information please contact:

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