



For Immediate Release  
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## **Dhalla Empowers Students at 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 'Culture Shock' Youth Concert**

Brampton, ON –Hundreds of Brampton youth gathered on Friday April 16th at Turner Fenton Secondary School for the Brampton-Springdale Youth Advisory Council's (BSYAC) 2nd annual 'Culture Shock' concert.

The Brampton-Springdale Youth Advisory Council was created in 2008 by Member of Parliament for Brampton-Springdale, Dr Ruby Dhalla, with a goal to empower youth to actively participate in designing and developing solutions for issues that confront them at school, home and in the community. This year's 'Culture Shock' was hosted in partnership with Free the Children Canada with proceeds from the event going to support the victims of the Haitian earthquake.

Organized by youth, for youth, the concert featured Brampton's finest youth talent including break-dance performances, spoken word poetry, bollywood dancing and motivational speeches.

"Youth are our future. Their hopes, dreams, beliefs, ideas and vision are the future of our community, our country and our world. Congratulations to BSAYC for their hard work and dedication in empowering youth to make a positive impact in their community" said Dhalla.

BSYAC is composed of a group of dedicated students from schools throughout Brampton who have been successful in creating a dialogue between young people, community members, teachers, principles, parents, and elected officials on the issues such as poverty, gangs, and racism. Recently BSYAC also hosted a successful forum to address youth violence, which had the participation of Brampton youth, peel police and government officials.

Of special importance to this year's 'Culture Shock' was the presentation of the BSYAC "Rising Star" award which was presented to two Brampton youth for their dedication to social activism and commitment to providing youth with the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Dhalla thanks all volunteers and members of BSYAC who helped make this year's 'Culture Shock' a success.

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