

NEIGHBOURHOOD CLEAN-UPS – PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

Taking care of the environment is appealing to many people, but it is a challenge to prevent individuals from littering to preserve Mother Earth. It is a great task to mobilize residents in community housing neighbourhoods to rally together and volunteer their time and services to organize collective anti-littering and clean-up campaigns.

The Regional Multicultural Youth Council (RMYC) organizes barbecues and socials to bring children and parents from diverse backgrounds together and build community spirit. Food brings them out and we use the occasions to encourage them to participate in activities that will improve their lives, the areas where they live and make a difference. We have learned that children are much easier to involve in the neighbourhood clean-ups and they will bring along their parents to pick up garbage in order to participate in the feasting as a reward for their effort.

Initiatives such as community gardening complement the campaign to enhance cleanliness by keeping grounds well tended growing food and plants. Families are always proud when it is time to harvest and organize community Thanksgiving Feasts.

The goals and objectives for neighbourhood clean-ups include:

GOALS:

Bringing children and their families together to take care of their social environment and learn about the benefits of living in clean neighbourhoods -- to take care of Mother Earth and contribute to creating a neat, tidy and healthy society.

OBJECTIVES:

- To organize barbecues to bring together children, youths and parents to work as a team and take responsibility to pick up litter around their yards. collect garbage in communal areas, and get rid of hazardous substances such as needles, broken glass, and dangerous objects that hurt kids.
- To collaborate with other community groups and pull resources together to teach children to break the cycle of littering, promote recycling and involve them in activities that prevent environmental degradation for future generations.
- To connect with youths as stakeholders in community development and advocates for a clean environment, support them to acquire the resources they need to be champions for protecting Mother Earth, beginning ny regular neighbourhood clean-ups to enhance the anti-littering campaigns.
- Expand neighbourgood clean-ups to all areas and involve the whole community.