



Youth Against Landmines

Mission Statement

Youth Against Landmines is an organization of active, passionate students committed to the eradication of the terrible manmade epidemic of landmines. Through the creation of an interactive website, we plan to proactively unify and organize youth landmine groups throughout Canada as “member groups” and establish a platform from which they can directly work towards the removal of minefields via the United Nations program Adopt-a-Minefield®. It is our promise to develop and administer this interactive website, equipped with a wide variety of features aimed at producing an online community of progressive youth for the ultimate purpose of collective, organized action. The action will include periodic, collective fundraising for the removal of minefields through Adopt-a-Minefield® and also awareness campaigns to be carried out in each member group’s respective community. Youth Against Landmines will act as an umbrella from which member groups across Canada will operate under.

Justification for the establishment of such an organization is quite simple. There are a great number of grassroots youth/student groups across Canada who are well-intentioned but lack well-defined goals to work towards. Youth Against Landmines will provide not only specific objectives and deadlines, but also guidance towards how these goals can be accomplished. The organization will operate under a “for youth, by youth” basis and emphasize co-operative action, while at the same time serving as center of operations.

Through the collective efforts of youth groups across Canada there is tremendous potential for making quick, effective progress in the international struggle for the eradication of landmines.

YAL Founder
Damon Ramsey

YAL Coordinator
Rachel Hedley



Youth Against Landmines

Objectives:

1. To unify and connect member groups* throughout Canada through an interactive website, equipped with features aimed at creating an online community.
2. To develop and administer a collective fundraising system in conjunction with the United Nations program Adopt-a-Minefield® for the periodic removal of minefields

* A member group will be defined as a landmine activist group anywhere in Canada that has committed to joining Youth Against Landmines. For now member groups will be limited in scope to Canada to prevent overwhelming management duties.



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Fundraising for Adopt-a-Minefield®



Background on Adopt-a-Minefield®:

Adopt-A-Minefield® is a program of the United Nations Association of the USA, which engages individuals, community groups, and businesses in the United Nations effort to resolve the global landmine crisis. The Campaign helps save lives by raising funds for mine clearance and survivor assistance and by raising awareness about the landmine problem.

The Campaign seeks national and international sponsors to adopt minefields that the United Nations has identified as being in urgent need of clearance. Sponsors raise funds in their communities to clear their adopted minefields and return land to productive use. The cost of clearing these areas ranges from thousands to millions of dollars, depending on the size and type of minefield and the complexity of the demining task. Sponsors may adopt entire minefields (typically between \$25,000 and \$40,000) or contribute smaller amounts (as little as \$5), which are pooled with other contributions. Every dollar raised is forwarded to the United Nations for mine clearance. *Every dollar raised is forwarded to the United Nations for mine clearance.*

The collective fundraising system is at the heart of Youth Against Landmines' mission to eradicate landmines around the world. Adopt-a-Minefield® provides a simple, practical way to remove minefields, but is rather expensive for youth groups. \$50,000 is quite a sum of money to raise for highschool students. That is why Youth Against Landmines plans to develop a practical collective fundraising system following the engagement of a sufficient number of member groups. Essentially the fundraising system works as follows:

1. Members will vote online to remove a particular minefield off of the Adopt-a-Minefield® website.
 2. The cost of the minefield will be divided equally by the number of member groups signed up.
 3. Each member group will be assigned their equal share and given a specific deadline to raise that amount of money by.
 4. Each member group will be sent a fundraising booklet for suggestions and ideas on how to raise that amount of money.
 5. The money will be collected, added up, and if the fundraising goal was reached, sent off to Adopt-a-Minefield® for the removal of that particular minefield.
 6. This process will be repeated every two or three months depending on the number of groups in the database.
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Collective Fundraising Example:



* This example assumes that Youth Against Landmines contains 100 member groups across Canada.

1. An online poll is conducted and members, based on the urgency of the situation, choose the minefield ATC-07-07 in Kabul, Afghanistan. As you can see from the following screenshot, the Adopt-a-Minefield® website provides detailed information on the location and condition of the minefield:



Since September 11th, ATC Team #7 has been focusing most of their efforts on emergency mine clearance following coalition strikes in the Central Region, which left cluster munitions and UXO behind in many instances. In addition to clearing emergency areas, ATC Team 7 is also working on the existing mine threat in agricultural areas and communities throughout the Central provinces.

In the past several months, ATC's teams have undergone training for recognizing and removing the cluster munitions that were deployed during the strikes. Handling these new threats as well as removing pre-existing landmines is the reality throughout the region for the teams. The importance and urgency of their work is underscored by the rapid change in the areas surrounding Kabul and Jalalabad. Thousands of refugees have already returned to the country, with more expected this summer. Ensuring that areas are safe for these returning residents and that fields can once again be cultivated is critical.

ATC-07-07 covers demining activities carried out during September and October of 2003.

http://www.adopt-a-minefield.com/campaign/cam.asp?id=adnafrm&minefield_id=ATC-07-07



[Go Virtual Map](#)

[Go Minefield List](#)

Status: Available-Adopt Now!

ID: ATC-07-07

Location: Kabul, Kapisa Central Region

Description:

Size: 60,000 m²

Demining: Manual

Duration: 8 weeks

Cost: \$33,920

[Go Photo Gallery](#)

Did you know that you can donate as much or as little as you want?

[Internet](#)

2. The cost of ATC-07-07 is \$33,290; therefore, each group will be assigned the same fundraising target of \$339.20 and a deadline of 2 months.
3. Youth Against Landmines will send a fundraising booklet to all member groups with detailed information on fundraising and how to raise the money.
4. At the end of 2 months the member groups will be directed to send their funds to Youth Against Landmines, who will then total the amount and determine if it reached the fundraising goal of \$33,290.
5. If all goes well, the money will be sent to Adopt-a-Minefield® and there will be one less minefield on the planet.

The beauty of the collective fundraising idea lies in its potential to periodically remove minefields. Imagine if every 2 months enough money was raised for one minefield!



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Administrator of Funds

The Canadian Landmine Foundation (CLF) was formed as a registered charity with a mission to raise awareness & funds to end the human and economic suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines. Officially introduced by The Hon. Lloyd Axworthy on June 28, 1999, the Canadian Landmine Foundation is a registered charitable organization and is governed by a Chairman, a Board of Directors comprised of prominent Canadians from across the country and is led by a President & CEO.

As the official campaign partner of Adopt-a-Minefield® for Canadian operations, CLF will act as the administrator of all funds for Youth Against Landmines. CLF will provide a transparent and accountable system, and assume costs of maintaining records, receipting, etc. Additionally, CLF can issue tax receipts to donors of Youth Against Landmines.



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Contacts

Damon Ramsey
YAL Founder & Manager

1355 Cambridge Rd.
West Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V7S 2M7

Telephone: (604) 925 4107
Cellular...: (604) 614 9429
Facsimile.: (604) 926 3477

E-Mail: damon@youthagainstandmines.org

Matthew Robert Smith
YAL Coordinator

mattr_smith@hotmail.com