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**NCC'S CALL TO CANADIAN YOUTH:
"RAISE YOUR VOICES!"***Calling all teachers of Grades 5 to 8! Your students' art could be flying high in
Canada's Capital Region!*

Canada's Capital Region — The National Capital Commission (NCC), in partnership with Classroom Connections, is kicking off the second year of an amazing cross-Canada classroom banner contest and public art project.

Students in Grades 5 through 8 (Elementary 5 through Secondary 2 in Quebec) are being asked to create and submit a one-of-a-kind banner design to the **"Raise Your Voices!" National Student Banner Contest 2011**. Designs should represent an issue or topic of importance to Canadian youth. The deadline for entries is **February 18, 2011**. The seven winning banners will be professionally produced by the NCC and flown in Major's Hill Park from May to October 2011.

"The NCC is asking young Canadians to express their views in their own inspiring way," said Marie Lemay, Chief Executive Officer of the NCC. "Through this contest, our youth can share the events, people and symbols that they identify with, and we're looking forward to reflecting their ideas and values in Canada's Capital Region for all residents and visitors to enjoy."

In the pilot year of the contest, seven winning banners were chosen from over 800 submissions from coast to coast to coast. Those winning designs from students across Canada continue to fly high in the Capital until the end of October.

For details about how students can participate in this exciting challenge, visit canadascapital.gc.ca/bannercontest.

For more information about the NCC's youth programs, classroom resources or other NCC programs, the public can contact the NCC at 613-239-5000, 1-800-465-1867 (toll-free), 613-239-5090 (TTY) or 1-866-661-3530 (toll-free TTY), or visit the NCC's website at www.canadascapital.gc.ca.

Classroom Connections is a non-profit organization dedicated to initiating positive societal change by producing progressive educational resources for Canada's youth. To learn more about its programs and services, visit www.classroomconnections.ca.

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