

## Career Lounge

### Preparing for a Job Fair

Youth Employment Services (downtown) and the Youth Employment Resource Centre (Bell's Corners) host job fairs throughout the academic year. These "fairs" are specific to youth and the employers who are present usually have a variety of positions to fill – all of which focus on the skill sets that youth tend to possess.

### Reasons to Attend

Regardless of your major, year in college, or future goals, there are numerous benefits to taking the time to come to a job fair. It is an opportunity for you to come face-to-face with a potential employer. You can:

- Investigate career fields you can pursue with your major or background
- Meet individuals from organizations for whom you may be interested in working.
- Get more information about specific companies and organizations.
- Gain valuable interview experience.
- Increase your chances of interviewing with an employer.
- Receive feedback on your resume from company recruiters.
- Develop your network of contacts.

### What to do prior to the job fair

- Check here (web site) for a current list of participating organizations.
- Choose the employers you are most interested in speaking to.
- Research the organizations using the Internet before attending.
- Review and update your resume before handing it out to employers.
- Clarify your own career goals so that these can be communicated to an employer.

### What to take with you to the job fair

- A pen and paper for notes.
- Plenty copies of your resume.
- A folder or portfolio to organization materials and brochures.
- A positive attitude and a strong willingness to succeed.

### Follow-up after the fair

Send a brief thank-you note, especially if you are interested in the organization. Reiterate your interest in the organization and the position, and enclose another copy of your resume.

