**Celebration of Canada’s 150th Anniversary**

**VOICE your thoughts –**

You deserve an opportunity to be heard!

Through ‘VOICE' Progressive Action for Community Empowerment (PACE), the younger generation will be encouraged to put on their thinking caps and articulate their flow of beliefs. VOICE is inviting students of high schools and universities to submit their creative works in two categories, two minutes video message (mobile shoot accepted) or an essay (minimum 600 words, maximum 1200 words) about Canada. Students can include any positive aspect of their life in Canada and their concerns, challenges, dreams, and thoughts to make Canada the best country in the world.

Youth perspective helps us to identify and understand our real concerns, challenges, weaknesses, strength, opportunities, threats and hopes. Apart from winning fabulous prizes, the top ten winners video message and essays (five from each category, video and essay) will be posted on the PACE website and disseminated through social media to create greater awareness and suggested ways how to make Canada the best country in the world through upholding its values.

According to the contest guidelines, the winning pieces will most effectively show how a specific challenge or concern affects you or others at your age groups and your ideas to improve the situation and make Canada the best country in the world. The video or the essay is expected to inspire, encourage, and entertain besides being effective at creating some social media buzz.

Any student who lives in Ontario is eligible to take part in the contest. Limited editing facilities/help can be provided, if required. One student can send maximum 3 videos. Mentorship opportunities are available upon request. Please submit your video/videos to PACE through email at **info@pacecan.org** or emamul.haque@gmail.com by **Friday, 19 May 2017.**

***Win fabulous prizes (to be announced later) while enjoying the joy of talking about Canada.!!***

Rules:

* No application is required. Contest is open to students of Ontario. The language of the creative work (video or essays) should be English only.
* Entrant must be in the high schools or universities (undergrad & postgrad) at the time of the current contest deadline. Verification of school/university enrollment will be required for all winning entrants.
* To avoid disqualification, mailed-in essays or videos must include a stapled cover sheet with the following information:

1. your name and address;

2. your email address (if available);

3. the name and address of your school/university;

4. your current grade level; and

6. (optional) the name of the teacher who assigned the essay/video if you are completing it for classroom credit.

* Essay must be no fewer than 600 and no more than 1,200 words in length, double-spaced.
* One entry per student per contest.
* Essay or video must be submitted online or postmarked by May 19, 2017.
* PACE has the right to provide contest deadline extensions when deemed appropriate.
* Essay or video must be solely the work of the entrant. Plagiarism will result in disqualification. Essays/videos must not infringe on any third-party rights or intellectual property of any person, company or organization. By submitting an essay/video to this Contest, the entrant agrees to indemnify PACE for any claim, demand, judgment or other allegation arising from possible violation of someone’s trademark, copyright or other legally protected interest in any way in the entrant’s essay/video.
* Decisions of the judges are final.
* All entries become the property of the PACE and will not be returned.
* Winners, finalists, semifinalists and all other participants will be notified via email and/or by mail by June 15, 2017.
* Winners are responsible for providing their mailing addresses and other necessary information under the law in order to receive any prizes. Contest winners agree to allow PACE to post their names on PACE website.