

# Peel teens attend smoke-free summit

A group of Peel-area teens took the first step in what they see as an effort to see their peers butt out, or better yet, avoid smoking in the first place.

The 14 students joined the group of 300 Ontario students at a province-wide Smoke-Free Youth Summit at the Doubletree International Plaza, held March 3-4.

The students are part of "Extinguish," a youth-led advocacy group that focuses on education, prevention and the tools for smokers to quit. The group will take its "They Trick. They Kill. They Lie. Let's Extinguish the Source" message to Brampton and Mississauga middle and high school students over the next year, as part of a Peel grassroots initiative.

"The tobacco industry in Canada targets youth every day," said Mohsin Yousuf, a Grade 9 student at Turner-Fenton Secondary School in Brampton, Ont. "This tobacco youth summit really motivated me to take a stand against the tobacco industry and to stop the manipulation."

"It was impactful to be with 300 youth with a strong and clear message of rebellion against the tobacco industry," said Ryan Chang, a Grade 11 student at Turner-Fenton. "We were able to show we will no longer be a statistic to these companies – we will take action!"

"Extinguish" is a peer-to-peer education and advocacy program of Peel Health. For more information, call 905-799-7700.