

Dec. 2010

### **Central Tech Students Lead Justice Panel**

By Stan Klich's 12U Social Justice Class

The Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> Fundamental Freedoms Conference at Central Technical School was concluded by a student led panel addressing issues related to justice. "What's Not Fair and How Can We Change It?" was the title of the discussion session that took place in the school auditorium.

The panel, a cooperative effort between the students in the 12U Social Justice: Canadian Issues and World Politics course, the Law in Action Within Schools Program, and the Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust, closed the day's activities.

After several periods of work with the director of education for the Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust, Danielle McLaughlin, the students prompted a discussion about justice issues through questions they formulated and researched.

"Is everyone getting equitable and fair access to services such as public transport and health care?" and "should students be paid a lower wage than people over 18 who are doing the same work?" were some of the questions to which audience members responded.

With the help of participating lawyers on the panel, 11 student-panelists discussed and responded to legal issues associated with equal access to TTC, universal health care, and student wages.

"Students realize the injustices in our society and they demand change. They were very passionate about the issues discussed," said panelist Joseph Viscomi.

Unfortunately, the 45 minute discussion was over just when the pace was picking up.

"Many great ideas were exchanged," said panel member Rene Buttery. "The only subject that was not prevalent [*sic*] to social justice was the amount of time to discuss all of the issues."



Panelists Joseph Viscomi, Sarah Karim, and Erin Fitz-James



Panelists Chineyre Fidel, Joseph Viscomi, and Sarah Karim answer questions



The Fundamental Freedoms Conference panel with Director of Education Danielle McLaughlin and CCLA Program Directors Graeme Norton and Cara Zwibel