



**GLOBAL 4-H NETWORK SUMMIT
OTTAWA 2017**

Global 4-H Youth Statement

***As presented at the 2017 Global 4-H Network Summit Closing Ceremonies, in Ottawa,
Canada on July 14, 2017.***

Good afternoon 4-H'ers from around the globe. We represent every single youth delegate here at the 2017 Global 4-H Network Summit. We have had an unbelievable time, and look forward to sharing our experiences this past week, as well as our hopes for the future Global Summits. 4-H represents over 7 million youth on a global setting and while not all could attend this phenomenal program we know that they have been well represented by their countries, regions and fellow 4-H'ers. As a global movement we are united and witnessing this event has proven that no matter the obstacle 4-H members have the ability, capacity and network to succeed.

We have had such an incredible time being part of this once in a lifetime opportunity, and we hope that the youth voice and input is something that will be valued and included in the future.

We really live the philosophy in every single moment and that shows how involved we feel. We cannot describe how grateful we are. Canada has been amazing. To the organizing committees, staff and volunteers we will be



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forever grateful for all of your hard work and dedication to developing the 4-H movement globally.

During this entire week we have demonstrated patience and tolerance while living in a multicultural space sharing different experiences. Together we are stronger and keeping it that way is how we will change the future.

We are a global 4-H culture, and **together we move forward.**

Together, we have formed an international 4-H network.

Amid the fun and educational workshops, signature events, and inspiring keynote speakers that we've enjoyed throughout the Summit, we have also had the opportunity to connect with those around us. Throughout the Summit we have been able to tap into the outstanding network of individuals who are dedicated to promoting and preserving the 4-H legacy within their clubs, communities, countries, and the world.

At the Summit, we have literally had the world at our fingertips with passionate 4-H representatives from 35 countries in attendance. Having this opportunity to connect and collaborate with those around us on such a



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magnificent global-scale has enabled us to truly realize the global 4-H footprint.

Comparing and contrasting 4-H in each of our countries has exposed the numerous differences that exist between our 4-H programs, but it has also connected us as a greater 4-H community. We have exchanged ideas, stories, and 4-H experiences. We have acquired the confidence to step outside of our comfort zones and to form partnerships that will help to expand the reach of our 4-H programs. We have gained a network of contacts, but above all, we have gained a global network of friends who all share a mutual passion for 4-H and a dedication to making a positive difference.

This passion for 4-H that has become evident as we have connected with others has left us inspired and has reinvigorated us to make as positive impact within our communities and to take this desire to aspire towards greatness back to our homes.

We have gained confidence in our individual and collective ability to positively shape the communities and even the world that surrounds us.



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As the Summit concludes, we are committed to supporting one another in our aspirations towards greatness and will strive to maintain this vast network of individuals that we have established during the 2017 Global 4-H Network Summit. As the Summit ends, the Global Youth Village will no longer refer to the building in which the youth delegates have stayed during our time together, instead it will represent the network of international youth who are all working to expand the reach of 4-H beyond their communities and around the world.

Together, we will share our culture. This past week, we have had youth and adults from across the world represented. This experience has allowed us to learn about the diversity of global 4-H, and through this, we have gained an appreciation of other countries, their 4-H programs, and their diverse cultures. By attending sessions and speeches by 4-H members and leaders from all over the world, we have broadened our horizons and we have been able to gain a deeper understanding of what 4-H really is.

We, the youth of Global 4-H movement, would like to make 4-H a worldwide cultural organization, where 4-H is its own culture, and our own cultural



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barriers no longer exist. We would like to be one 4-H, and include the entire 4-H community under one name. This would allow us to grow closer as an organization, and would make it easier for all of the youth and adults involved in 4-H now, in the past, and the future, to be connected and included. One of the highlights of the Summit was the ability for everyone to feel comfortable wearing their cultural and traditional dress attire to the High Level Dinner. This was an incredible event that allowed everyone to share their cultures and diversity in a comfortable and inclusive environment. Seeing everyone in their native and cultural attire really represented the distance 4-H has travelled, and how many different people of different ages, nationalities, and backgrounds are involved in the organization that we all feel represents us. This is what makes the Global 4-H Culture excellent and supportive.

We have all made so many new friends this past week, and we know that every single one of them would love to open their doors to us and welcome us into their communities and homes to experience what 4-H is to them. 4-H friendships, both professional and social, are one of the most important aspects that we as 4-H youth can gain from events like this, and the diversity of the new relationships makes our gains even more impressive and



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important. We hope that the cultural inclusion will continue to grow, and that we can share the new 4-H culture at the next Global Summit.

In the past few days, we have all witnessed the power of youth. We have heard from powerful youth figures such as Ann Makosinski and we have shared our countries' stories with each other here and the world through social media. All of our 4-H programs are different and diverse and we have taken different paths and worked hard to get here, with more than 7 million members in 70 countries worldwide.

We have undertaken challenges that our peers do not usually undertake. We have chosen to solve the problems that our countries face, and that requires a tremendous amount of courage. That does not mean that we are not afraid to fail. That means that we are looking at failure right in the eyes and going through the challenge anyway. And that is where our power lies. It lies in the positivity that we have, which allows us to see the world as what it could potentially be instead of how it currently is. It allows us to see solutions instead of problems, and light instead of darkness. It lies in the energy that we have, which allows us to tackle these problems from all different perspectives and not give up until we solve them. It lies in the persistence



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that we have, which gives us the patience and understanding to work towards making long-term change in our communities. After all, you cannot beat the person that does not give up. It lies in our sense of belonging, not just as citizens of our community and country, but as citizens of the world, thus giving us the feeling of responsibility towards our fellow 4-H partners and the youth of the world. And this feeling is even bigger now as we are approaching the end of our Summit.

As we reflect on our time spent at the 2017 Global 4-H Network Summit, it is easy to just focus on the now. The friends we have made, the cultures we have experienced, and the lessons and ideas we have learned. But now more than ever we need to take our experiences here and use them to implement change for a better future... a future shaped by the positive momentum gained from this conference and from the 4-H community.

This summit has created a strong foundation from which the global 4-H community will continue to grow. While the pledge may differ from country to country the essence of what this program represents remains universal. Because as 4-H members we embody the traits represented by the ever constant symbols of head, heart, hands and health. As youth we will strive to



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lead with intelligence. We'll be patient in our academic pursuits and our efforts to better understand the world that we live in. We will volunteer with compassion and remember in times of defeat or stress the numerous reasons why we love this program. We will set noble goals and work towards them with dedication and a hands on approach. We will not shy away from the issues that plague our world or allow pessimism to cloud our judgement.

It was a great privilege to listen and learn from the many different keynote speakers and presenters that shared their passions and inspired action. As youth it was empowering to work alongside and network with leaders who treated us as equals. To the professionals at this event, we want to extend the most sincere of thank yous as you not only spoke about the importance of youth leadership but you demonstrated your belief through action. You spoke to us with respect and admiration, which has solidified our belief in our ability as youth to make change. This concept was proven over and over as we attended youth led sessions and listened to the achievements of our peers. It will be an honour to watch this event grow and evolve as the efforts of like-minded individuals continue to promote the importance of youth engagement on a global scale.



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We have an obligation to the youth of the world, and that is to share the information and use the connections that we have gained here in the last four days. To not only advance the youth programs in our countries but to even further promote the 4-H spirit around the world. It is our duty to let our peers know that they possess the power to initiate change, no matter where they are. Leading by example, and learning by doing.

We aren't the youth of the future, we aren't the leaders of tomorrow. We are the leaders of today! The drivers of change... as together, we move forward, together, we have the power to make true and lasting change; for our clubs, our communities, our countries, and our world.

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