



**Brampton
Bicycle Advisory
Committee**

Biking in Brampton Builds Our Community

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Press Release

Brampton Bike Clinic Program

COMMUNITY YOUTH TO RECEIVE BICYCLE MAINTENANCE TRAINING

Brampton Ontario, December 1, 2014: In order to illustrate the benefits of cycling and make the important link between health, equity and inclusion, The Brampton Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee have teamed with the City of Brampton and the Boys and Girls Club of Peel to deliver a bicycle repair training pilot program for young adults in the Fair Oaks / McHardy Court Community of Brampton this month.

Mirrored on current projects in cities such as Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton the program focuses on skills building, leadership, mentoring, cycling awareness and safety. "It is very important that every young person in this city has access to a safe and working bicycle", says David Laing, Chair of the Brampton Bicycle Advisory Committee. "Our goal is to train the young leaders in this community so that they can not only fix their own bikes but also help other area youth to be independent, healthy and mobile".

BBAC will run six two hour training sessions throughout the month of December in the community room at 31 Fair Oaks Place near Brampton's downtown. Six young men and women in their late teens have signed up to be the first participants and will receive a certificate and a free universal bike repair tool at the completion of the course.

The Bike Clinic Program will be led by Gerald Pyjor, a Toronto Firefighter and member of BBAC who received his bike mechanic training at, the Barnett Bicycle Institute in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Pyjor, who often rides his bike to work says, "A bike is a fast, easy and inexpensive way to get around

For Immediate Release

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town. But all too often they sit in the garage gathering dust because a part is broken or they are not 'tuned' properly. They are easy and cheap to fix if you have a little know-how."

The Brampton Bicycle Advisory Committee is a voluntary group of citizens who support, encourage, promote and advocate for increased safe recreational and transportation cycling in the City of Brampton. Their goal is to have Brampton obtain Bicycle Friendly Community status. The Committee believes that increased cycling will lead to better health outcomes, reduced healthcare costs, reduced traffic congestion, reduced road infrastructure costs, and helps to improve the environment. Increased cycling grows the local economy and leads to a strong, healthy, vibrant community.

The Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee is a multi-stakeholder collaboration comprised of advocacy networks, not for profit, public and private sectors, and co-chaired by the United Way of Peel Region and Region of Peel. The committee was created to increase awareness of poverty and its impact on individuals, families and communities in Peel; to collectively address poverty and reduce its impact. The committee has a three year strategy focused on five core issues: affordable/accessible transportation, income security, food security, economic opportunities and affordable/accessible housing.