



National Youth Leaders' Message “Shine as the

Congratulations on the holding of our first ever virtual Youth Festival! Today we're creating a new history together as SGI Canada youth! We'd like to thank all of you for your great efforts this year, in particular toward the success of our monthly Young Phoenix Group meetings held throughout the year, and today's historic event. We've emerged victorious in living out the theme “Shine as the Rainbow of Hope!” amid the many challenges in our lives and in society. Congratulations!

The Young Phoenix Group was established earlier this year—which means that all of you, Young Phoenix Group members attending today, are the first class of this precious group. Please have pride in this!

Ikeda Sensei shared seven points for us to bear in mind in what is called the Wings of the Future Declaration.

1. A life of earnest and sincere striving is beautiful.
2. A life of inner calm and generosity is truly rich.
3. A life of optimism and good cheer is strong.
4. A life of harmony and friendship is bright.
5. A life of pride and self-respect is noble.
6. A life of cherishing one's parents is happy.
7. A life of learning is victorious.

As we continue to construct the foundation of our lives as youth, let's always refer to and apply these points as our treasured guideline in life.

In October 1960, Sensei came to Canada for the first time while embarking on his first international trip to transform society through the spread of Buddhist humanism. He was greeted at the Toronto airport by Mrs. Elizabeth Akiko Izumi. Touched by Sensei's sincerity, the encounter would change her life forever. She later took the lead in our movement of happiness and peace in Canada.

As Sensei gazed solemnly at the thundering Niagara Falls on October 12, 1960, Sensei said to the youth leader accompanying him:

The rainbow above this waterfall would disappear in an instant if the water were to stop flowing. Similarly, the rainbow of hope in our lives shines only when we advance energetically toward kosen-rufu. People who never lose hope have the strength to remain undefeated by any difficulty. (*The New Human Revolution*, vol. 1, p. 183)

From a single individual, the SGI Canada movement has grown tremendously. There are now over 10,000 members in SGI Canada, each determined to transform society and spread the humanistic principles of Nichiren Buddhism with the same spirit as our mentor, Ikeda Sensei.

Near the end of the 30th and final volume of *The New Human Revolution*, Sensei wrote,

As long as there is a core of youth—no, even a single true disciple—we will achieve kosen-rufu... I would like you, my young friends of the youth division, to staunchly carry on the solemn spirit of the first three Soka Gakkai presidents, who are eternally linked by the bonds of mentor and disciple. Those who do so will be the ultimate victors. (FROM TODAY ONWARD, Feb. 2019, p. 136)

Never succumbing to the harsh winds of adversity, let's stand up with the spirit: “I am the protagonist of The New Human Revolution Generation! I am that One Disciple!”

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of kosen-rufu in Canada, we begin a momentous new dawn of Canadian kosen-rufu. Let's set our sights toward the summit of ultimate victory as we embark on our next 60-year journey! From today, as we strive to transform our lives through chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo while encouraging others to do the same, let's promise each another as “friends in the orchid room” to continuously

for October 2020 Youth Festival Rainbow of Hope™

strive for kosen-rufu so we can “Shine as the Rainbow of Hope!”

Congratulations once again to you, the precious torchbearers of justice, the key leaders of “The New Human Revolution Generation!” ■

In commemoration of October 12, SGI Canada Day,

Ryan Brouwer, SGI Canada Youth Leader
Mai Ogushi, SGI Canada Young Women’s Leader
Alex Meers, SGI Canada Young Men’s Leader
Chris Sunagawa, SGI Canada Young Phoenix Group Leader



Shine as
the Rainbow
of Hope



YOUTH SGI Canada
FESTIVAL
October 2020

CITIES

Vancouver

Saturday, October 3 at 1pm PT

Ottawa

Sunday, October 4 at 10:30am ET

Toronto

Sunday, October 4 at 2pm ET

Montreal

Sunday, October 4 at 2pm ET

Edmonton

Sunday, October 4 at 12pm MT

Winnipeg

Sunday, October 4 at 1pm CT

Calgary

Sunday, October 4 at 2pm MT

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