MEDIA RELEASE

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Pearson College UWC Student Joins Prime Minister's Youth Council
Burnaby native second Pearson student to join advisory group

VICTORIA, B.C. — Incoming second-year student David He of Burnaby, B.C. was recently named as the second Pearson College UWC student to join the Prime Minister's Youth Council.

He, a Year 47 student at the Victoria-area United World College, was introduced by the Right Hon. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as one of 10 new members of the Youth Council, an advisory body originally set up in 2016. Council members are appointed for 18 to 24-month terms.

"It's an absolute honour and a privilege to represent my peers to the federal government and advocate for them," said He. "I'm excited to have this opportunity to advocate for policies that would help Canadians of all backgrounds -- especially as we collectively recover from the pandemic.

The council is intended to be representative of young Canadians who provide non-partisan advice to the prime minister and Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth the Hon. Bardish Chagger on national issues such as employment, access to education, building stronger communities, climate change, youth service and clean growth.

Chagger said earlier that he believed listening and learning from young leaders is the only way to build a better future for all Canadians. "I'm pleased to welcome the newest council members == their intersectional identities and unique perspectives will be key to building a consciously more inclusive Canada."

"David is active in both student life and in the wider -- sometimes worldwide -- community," said Craig Davis, Head of College at Canada's only United World College. "He represents the student voice on a number of campus working groups and is regularly called upon to speak at virtual international conferences and events."

He said he had several goals for his time on the council. "For example, it's becoming increasingly difficult for young people to afford post-secondary education or housing," he added. "I'm hoping our council will provide important advice to federal programs to tackle these challenges.

"I'm also looking forward to using this seat to advocate for those left behind by the pandemic as well as focusing on anti-racism initiatives. Since my appointment, I've been reaching out to community leaders and looking at ways where we can tackle these issues."

Pearson College UWC (www.pearsoncollege.ca) is one of 18 United World Colleges across the globe. More than 200 students from across Canada 83 countries are set to learn and live on Pearson's residential campus in Metchosin this year. Pearson opened in 1974 to use education as a force to unite people, nations cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

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David He

Born and raised in British Columbia, David is passionate about making Canada more inclusive and equitable for all. In 2017, he founded a global initiative that transforms youth into changemakers through stories and mentorship. Since then, David has led numerous community projects, including human libraries, conferences, and town halls. As a part of Junior Team Canada, he served as a delegate at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation to advocate for inclusive pandemic recovery policies. Having gone through a series of personal transformations, David believes that change comes from within. He has proudly shared his story through 3 TEDx talks, hoping to inspire others to stand up for themselves and their community. Today, David is currently studying at Pearson College UWC alongside students of over 150 nationalities to develop a more peaceful and sustainable world. In his free time, David enjoys hiking, canoeing, and is an avid DJ of music from all cultures.