



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014

### Afternoon Sitting - Member Statement STREETFRONT ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM AT BRITANNIA SECONDARY SCHOOL

**J. Kwan:** Determined, resilient, self-disciplined, responsible, dedicated — that's how I would describe the students of Britannia Secondary Streetfront alternative program.

Despite having faced great adversities in their young lives, with the support of family and friends, staff and community partners, the students have shown great determination to succeed. The successes of the students challenge the all-too-common perception of inner-city and at-risk youth and replace them with stories of hope and significant achievement.

The Streetfront teaches the importance of positive lifestyle choices, mental and physical fitness, leadership, team and community spirit, and mobilizing around a core goal. It aims to continue to provide opportunities both within and beyond the classroom, designed to foster socially responsible behaviour for all. To quote one student: "Streetfront made me discover myself."

For 2015 the students plan to travel beyond the downtown core of Vancouver and connect with other youth internationally, volunteer at an orphanage and to take on the Street 2 Peak challenge to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

Through this journey, they will gain a perspective into the wider world, broaden their relationships with the global community and gain the unparalleled learning experience of international exchange. It will also give the students the chance for direct experience in achieving milestones through hard work, team building, mental and physical fitness.

However, for the students, meeting the cost of the trip is a bigger challenge than climbing Mount Kilimanjaro itself. It is Streetfront's hope and mine that sponsors will be able to assist in ensuring that students can access this incredible learning opportunity.

I know that the Britannia staff and team, with the community's support, has the experience and the ability to take on this venture. I ask all members of this House to join me and lend their enthusiastic support to this unique opportunity and life-transforming experience for the students at Streetfront.