

## The Conversation Piece Podcast: Sara Abdessamie

### ADVERTISEMENT:

HOST: Most of the decisions about Canada's future are being made by the current leaders in government. To Sara Abdessamie, there's another voice that needs to be included in the conversation: Canada's youth.

Abdessamie is an alumna of the Prime Minister's Youth Council and a graduate of the medical sciences program at Dalhousie University.

She spoke at The Walrus Talks National Tour: We Desire a Better Country in 2017.

### SARA ABDESSAMIE:

My name is Sara Abdessamie, I'm 18 years old and I'm currently studying medical sciences at Dalhousie University. It is a great pleasure to be here with you, and it is an honour to have been invited, to be part of The Walrus talks tour, and to be able to share my vision on the Canada of tomorrow. I'm also very happy to be back in Fredericton, the city that I call my home, although I'm studying in Halifax, I am a graduate from Ecole St. Ann, and Fredericton is very close to my heart.

This year, we all know that Canada is celebrating its 150th anniversary. It is a great event for all Canadians from east to west and from north to south. This is a moment that will allow us to commemorate the impact that Canada has had on the rest of the world. But also a moment that reminds us how beautiful this country has evolved over the years. Several very important figures have marked the history of our country. They fought to make Canada the country it is today. A country with values that make us proud whether it is at home or, or around the world.

And that allows us to feel safe. On this special occasion, it is a matter of paying tribute to those pioneers known or unknown who have built the homeland and express to them all our gratitude and that of the generations to come.

### FRENCH

Since a young age, I have been a great advocate for youth rights and equality. Not only our young people, the next generations of leaders. They're also the leaders of today as a member of the prime minister's youth council, I work with 25 other youth on issues that young people face in our communities. I represent the youth in my community, so New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, to ensure that the youth are heard. I organise and participate in events to listen to the opinions and concerns of youth on issues, such as mental health, the environment, and accessibility. And within the council, we participate in meetings directly with the prime minister and other ministers to discuss the future of our country. As young people it is a great opportunity for us to be part of these conversations in order to be prepared for the world of

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tomorrow. It is a first in the history of Canadian politics to have a youth council that is consulted by the federal government on issues that affect us youth.

### FRENCH

So no matter what your identity is, I tell you to find a cause that matters to you, something you would like to change a dream, a vision you would like to bring to your community, your or the world over the course of these 150 years, Canada has certainly passed through ups and downs, but without teamwork and diversity, we would never have been able to become the country we are today. Although Canada is one of the best countries, we still have many challenges to overcome. Who knows what our country will look like in 5,100 or even 150 years from now. But one thing is for sure, for more prosperous country, we will need to get everyone involved. Thank you. Merci.

HOST: Sara Abdessamie spoke at The Walrus Talks National Tour: We Desire a Better Country in 2017. And she's just one of the over 800 fantastic Canadians who have walked and wheeled, or virtually zoomed onto the stage at The Walrus Talks and The Walrus Talks at Home.

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