

Fiona Morrison

Hi, I'm Fiona Morrison and I did the Community Care Programme, which went to Kitchener in Canada. I'd just like to start by saying I was delighted to speak here tonight. For those of you who don't know me I love Talking especially in public, so good luck to anyone who tries to take the mic off me. No but I was honoured you'd think I'd won an Oscar.

Anyway down to the important stuff ME!! Last year I was a student at BIFHE now known as Belfast M.E.T (Its went up in the world) I was studying performing arts. Can you tell? I applied to go to uni in September but sadly didn't get into the one I wanted. Everyone say Aaahhhh!! So I thought I'd take a gap year. Then it hit me Springboard! Well it didn't hit me so much as my friend who was beating her boyfriend with the newspaper to try to get him to get a job. The point is it was sitting right in front of me.

Springboard, Canada, Community Care. Well I am a very caring person and I planned to go and find a gorgeous Canadian to take care of. Little did I know it would change my life forever. Three little letters for you all NLP. At the start I was like yeah right but now I tell myself everyday that I'm one sexy girl. So maybe Springboards made me a bit deluded but there's hope for us all.

Canada was amazing. It's a really friendly and easygoing country and when we were there it was autumn so there were some of the most beautiful colours I'd ever seen. The leaves were so crisp that they crunched under your feet like something out of a film and the whole two months we were there it was like one big adventure. Everywhere we went the people we met even going to the local was exciting. I lived with a wonderful host family who treated me like one of their own from day one. And I also lived with another Springboarder and if I don't mention her name she'll kill me so everyone say hi to Bronagh Croakin. And I can't lie they loved us two. Who wouldn't? I worked in a kindergarten and the best work to describe it was interesting. At the start the kids found it quite hard to understand my accent. I was working with one kid, Colouring and I asked him to colour in a wee bit more for me and he looked at me strangely and said, "Why are you telling me to wee?" I don't need to wee." I explained to him that wee were I was from meant a little. The poor kids probably still confused about a little and going to the toilet. The canoeing trip was interesting especially since I fell into the water. I'm very proud of the fact that I went into a Canadian bar in my pyjamas. Don't worry it was Halloween and I was dressed as a psycho-child, I was inspired by the kindergarten kids. I really did love Canada it's the nicest place I've ever been, it just felt comfortable and I'd go back tomorrow if they'd let me back in the country.

I'm currently doing a youth work course and plan to go to uni in September. Springboard has made me realise my goal in life and that's to work with children and young people around different communities and just try to make a difference. Some people say everything happens for a reason, your destiny or fate. Last June I was heartbroken about uni but now I've met some of the most interesting people ever and I've gained friends who I know are for life and will always be there for me. Also I've had an experience some people can only wish for I owe that to all the staff. I want to say thanks to the staff at springboard who have dedicated their careers to helping each of us here tonight.

I'd just like to end on one of my favourite quotes "to the world you are one person but to one person you are the world." I think in some way springboard has made us all feel like we're the world.