

# Rendez-Vous

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## Coordinator's Report

By Jennifer Sloom

The following is a short update of ACIC's office activities since the last edition of Rendez-Vous came out in May 2003.

The summer has been very busy for ACIC, with many changes in staffing and board representation. It began with a very successful Annual General Meeting and Symposium in May, held in Conception Bay, NFLD. The event was well attended, and members gave positive feedback.

### ACIC's Board of Directors

Neil Tilley has officially stepped down from the Board of Directors. We wish Neil the best in the future and thank him for his passion and commitment to ACIC. The

2003 Board of Directors was elected at the ACIC AGM and is listed in the box on page 2. New working group members include: **Membership** – Maureen Larkin, Marion White, Jon Weaver; **Financial** – Leona Arsenault, Debra Hawkins; **Policy** – Maureen McLean; **Programs** – Jean Arnold; **Personnel** – Carolyn Davison, Joan Campbell, Rick McDaniel.

One board meeting and two conference calls took place over the summer. Discussions included staffing changes, the status of the Nigeria Project, and membership requirements.

### ACIC Staff

It is with sadness that we wished the best to Sarah Shima, as she left ACIC at the end of July.

Sarah looks forward to traveling and working with two NGOs over the

## Rapport de la Coordinatrice

Par Jennifer Sloom

Ce qui suit est une brève mise à jour des activités du bureau du CACI depuis la parution du dernier numéro de Rendez-Vous en mai, 2003.

L'été s'est avéré très occupé pour le CACI, y compris les nombreux changements au niveau du personnel et de la représentation sur le Bureau de direction (BD). Le tout a commencé avec une Assemblée générale annuelle fructueuse et un bon Symposium au mois de mai, à Conception Bay, Terre-Neuve. La rencontre a attiré beaucoup de gens et les membres ont donné une rétroaction (feedback) positive.

### Bureau de direction (BD) du CACI

Neil Tilley a officiellement démissionné du BD. Nous souhaitons tous à Neil un avenir merveilleux et nous le remercions pour sa passion et son engagement auprès du CACI. Le BD pour 2003 fut élu lors de l'AGA du CACI et les membres sont indiqués à la deuxième page. Parmi les nouveaux membres des groupes de travail, on retrouve : **Adhésion** – Maureen Larkin, Marion White, Jon Weaver ; **Finances** – Léona Arsenault, Debra Hawkins ; **Politiques** – Maureen McLean ; **Programmes** – Jean Arnold ; **Personnel** – Carolyn Davison, Joan Campbell, Rick McDaniel.



Neil Tilley, Sarah Shima and Bev Rose at ACIC's AGM / Neil Tilley, Sarah Shima et Bev Rose à l'AGA du CACI.

Une rencontre du BD et deux téléconférences ont eu lieu durant l'été. Les discussions portaient sur les changements au niveau du personnel, l'état actuel du projet au Nigéria et les exigences en matière d'adhésion.

### Personnel du CACI

C'est avec tristesse et regret que nous avons exprimé nos meilleurs vœux à Sarah Shima alors qu'elle quittait le CACI à la fin de juillet.

Sarah a hâte de voyager et de travailler avec deux ONG au cours de la prochaine année. Elle va déménager à Ottawa en septembre afin de travailler avec la Section du développement international

## INSIDE/A L'INTERIEUR

Page 6-7

Justice in a Cup

Page 8

CESR Update for Summer 2003

Page 9

Arriving in the Gambia

Page 10-11

In the Gambia with NSGA

Page 12-13

Beating AIDS in Africa

Page 13

World Youth Congress

Page 14-15

Jamaica - An Internship

Perspective

Page 15

The Global Education Project

Page 16-17

Meet the Board /

Rencontrer le Conseil

Page 18-19

Bouchées double à l'international au CCNB Edmunston

Page 20

Member Profile: Regional Co-operative Development Centre




Atlantic Council for International Cooperation  
Conseil Atlantique pour la Coopération Internationale

## Rendez-vous

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next year. She will be moving to Ottawa in September to work with the Canadian Cooperative Association's International Development Unit. Through this short-term position, she intends to improve her knowledge of cooperatives and their application overseas, and to build her skill set in the international development sector. In January 2004, Sarah will begin work with another non-profit organization in France, where she will be building on her French skills and learning about European NGO organizational development.

Sarah has commented, "As the Coordinator of ACIC, it has been an honour to work with such innovative and dedicated individuals and organizations. Thank you for the opportunity to learn from each of you, for your support over the last three years, and for the inspiration provided by the essential and exceptional work being done in Atlantic Canada."

She can be contacted at:  
sarah\_shima@yahoo.ca.

It is with great excitement that I begin where Sarah left off, and know that I have a unique opportunity to work with a large coalition of NGOs that are doing exceptional work. I look forward to learning more about international cooperation through ACIC's member organizations, and think you will find that I will provide a professional, enthusiastic voice in this work.

My background is in Development Studies, with a Masters degree from the University of the South Pacific, in Fiji and an undergraduate degree in

de l'Association canadienne de la coopération. Durant ce poste à court terme, elle souhaite améliorer ses connaissances à propos des coopératives et de leur mise en application à l'étranger, ainsi que d'améliorer ses capacités vis à vis le secteur du développement international. En janvier 2004, Sarah va commencer à travailler avec un autre organisme à but non lucratif en France ; elle va y améliorer ses capacités en langue française et s'informer sur le développement organisationnel des ONG européennes.

Le commentaire de Sarah était que, "En tant que Coordinatrice du CACI, ce fut un honneur de travailler avec des individus et des organisations tellement innovateurs et dévoués. Un gros merci pour cette opportunité d'apprendre de chacun d'entre vous, pour votre appui au cours des trois dernières années, ainsi que pour l'inspiration engendrée par le travail essentiel et exceptionnel qui se fait au Canada Atlantique."

On peut la rejoindre au :  
sarah\_shima@yahoo.ca.



ACIC's new Co-ordinator Jennifer Slood / La nouvelle coordinatrice du CACI Jennifer Slood

C'est avec grand enthousiasme que je prend la relève, là où Sarah déposait son fardeau, et je sais qu'il s'agit d'une occasion unique de travailler avec une grande coalition d'ONG qui fait du travail exceptionnel. J'ai hâte d'en apprendre encore plus à propos de la coopération internationale par l'entremise des organisations membres du CACI ; j'ose croire que allez découvrir que je serai une voix professionnelle et enthousiaste dans ce genre de travail.

Mes antécédents : des études sur le développe-

ment, avec une maîtrise de l'Université du Pacifique Sud, à Fiji, ainsi qu'un diplôme de premier cycle en développement international de l'Université de Guelph. J'ai une expérience de travail assez vaste, y compris du travail auprès du Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés et un poste en développement communautaire auprès de United Way (Centraide) dans la région d'Halifax, et financé par Développement des ressources humaines Canada.

J'ai bien hâte de rencontrer d'ici peu encore plus de volontaires et le personnel des or-

### ACIC Board of Directors Conseil d'Administration du CACI

- Carolyn Davison, Chair and NS Representative (Nova Scotia Gambia Association)
- Beverly Rose, Secretary and Newfoundland-Labrador Representative (Newfoundland-Labrador Federation of Cooperatives)
- Leona Arsenault, Treasurer, Francophone Representative and Member-at-Large (PEI Environmental Network)
- Jean Arnold, NB Representative (Falls Brook Centre)
- Maureen MacLean, Member-at-Large (Canadian Cooperative Association)
- Marian White, PEI Representative (CUSO)
- Jennifer Slood, Coordinator

International Development from the University of Guelph. I have had a broad range of work experience, including work at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and a Human Resource Development Canada-funded community development position at the United Way of Halifax Region.

I look forward to meeting more of ACIC's member organization's staff and volunteers in the near future and to have the opportunity to work together, sharing knowledge and experience, and providing support for each other's work.

Carly Chunick has recently returned from her 3-month internship placement in Jamaica, where she had the opportunity to work in Jamaica's environmental sector through the Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT). Most of her activities focused on eco-tourism activities at the Royal Palm Reserve, a wetland conservation area just outside of the popular tourist destination of Negril. Carly says that she would like to thank ACIC for the wonderful opportunity and wishes ACIC the best in its future endeavors. We wish her the best in her next adventure!

Jessica Dubelaar joined ACIC in August as our new CIDA International Youth Internship Program Intern. She will be working at ACIC until November when she will depart for Nigeria to work with ACIC's partner NGOCE.

Jessica is a recent graduate of the University of Waterloo where she studied Politics and Peace and Conflict Studies. She spent her third year of University studying International Development in Ghana and is excited to return to West Africa.



*Participants at ACIC's AGM / Les participants à l'AGA du CACI*

### **ACIC's Annual General Meeting, May 3, 2003**

The ACIC AGM was a big success. Thanks to all who contributed to the planning and organization of this event.

The meeting touched on a number of challenges and opportunities we have as a coalition of NGOs.

Robert Derouin, Director General, Voluntary Services Division, Canadian Partnership Branch, CIDA, gave a presentation that addressed the current changes to CIDA's Canadian Partnership

organisations membres du CACI, ainsi que d'avoir l'occasion de travailler ensemble, de partager nos connaissances et expériences, et d'appuyer mutuellement le travail des uns et des autres.

Carly Chunick revenait récemment de son internat de 3 mois en Jamaïque où elle a eu l'occasion de travailler dans le secteur environnemental de la Jamaïque par l'entremise du "Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust" (NEPT). La plupart de ses activités étaient axées sur des activités d'écotourisme dans la "Royal Palm Reserve", une zone de conservation de terre humide tout juste à côté d'une destination touristique populaire de Negril. Carly déclare qu'elle désire remercier le CACI pour cette merveilleuse opportunité et qu'elle transmet ses meilleurs vœux au CACI dans son travail futur. Nos meilleurs vœux l'accompagnent dans sa prochaine aventure !

Jessica Dubelaar s'est jointe au CACI au mois d'août en tant que notre nouvelle stagiaire du Programme de stages internationaux pour les jeunes de l'ACDI. Elle va travailler au CACI jusqu'en novembre pour ensuite aller au Nigéria et travailler avec la NGOCE, le partenaire du CACI.

Jessica vient de terminer ses études à l'Université de Waterloo où elle a fait des études en politiques, paix et conflits. Elle a consacré sa troisième année universitaire à étudier le développement international au Ghana et elle a hâte de retourner en Afrique occidentale.

### **Assemblée générale du CACI, le 3 mai, 2003**

L'AGA du CACI fut un grand succès. Un gros merci à tous ceux et celles qui ont contribué à la planification et à l'organisation de cet événement.

La rencontre a soulevé une série de défis et d'opportunités pour nous en tant que coalition d'ONG.

Robert Derouin, Directeur général, Section des services volontaires, Direction générale du partenariat canadien de l'ACDI, fit une présentation qui abordait les changements actuels au sein de la Direction générale du partenariat canadien de l'ACDI ; une discussion et une période de question firent suite. Le CACI a envoyé une lettre de remerciements qui soulevait également certains points d'intérêts à Robert Derouin, avec copies conformes à Josée Touchette et Ralph Roberts.

Le président du BD, la coordinatrice du CACI et les groupes de travail ont présenté des rapports sur l'année qui se terminait et il y eut l'élection du BD pour 2003.

### **Ateliers :**

- ✓ **Atelier sur les voyages et le tourisme culturellement et écologiquement appropriés (VTCÉA):** Maureen McLean animait cet atelier. Carly Chunick, jeune stagiaire internationale du CACI, parlait de son rôle avec le projet VTCÉA et de son travail auprès du "Negril Environmental Protection Trust" (NEPT). Le YMCA de Fredericton, CUSO-PEI, Rising Tide Cooperative, Extension Community Development Cooperative et Falls Brook Centre ont également fait des présentations. Une discussion fit suite avec des recommandations de changements à la Phase du II du projet VTCÉA.

Branch; discussion and questions followed. ACIC has sent a thank you letter with points of concern to Robert Derouin, and carbon-copied it to Josée Touchette and Ralph Roberts.

The Chair of the board, ACIC Coordinator and Working Groups gave reports about the past year, and elections of the 2003 Board of Directors took place.

#### Workshops:

- ✓ **Culturally and Environmentally Appropriate Travel and Tourism Workshop:** Maureen McLean facilitated the workshop. Carly Chunick, ACIC international intern, spoke about her role in the CEATT project, and her work with the Negril Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT). YMCA of Fredericton, CUSO PEI, Rising Tide Cooperative, Extension Community Development Cooperative, and Falls Brook Centre also made presentations. Discussion followed, with recommendations made for changes to Phase II of the CEATT project.
- ✓ **Signs of Change Workshop:** Lynette Shultz facilitated this workshop, which focussed on evaluating public engagement projects. Strengths and challenges were brainstormed, the impact chain of the RBM process was discussed and a participatory approach to evaluation and impact assessment was presented. Discussion and questions followed.
- ✓ **Results Based Management and Working with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA):** Facilitated by Ralph Roberts, Director, Atlantic Region, Canadian Partnership Branch, CIDA. A brief overview of CIDA and the RBM programs was given and group discussions and hand-on exercises on PPF followed. An explanation of the link between CIDA-RBM programs with the World Millennium ensued, with a subsequent discussion of the Life Cycle Management Approach to RBM programs.
- ✓ **The Changing Face of ACIC Membership:** Maureen McLean and Marian White facilitated. The objective of the workshop was to look at changes to ACIC membership for the Annual General Meeting and provide some guidance to the Membership Working Group. Three types of additional membership were introduced in role-playing format: for-profit, individual and cooperatives. Group work studied criteria, benefits of broadening the partnership base, guidelines for the Membership Working Group, and issues that may arise.
- ✓ **Serving the World's Poor, Peacefully:** Guest speakers included Chief Bassey Archibong of NGOCE, Eunice Kayang of Ghana Cooperative Credit Unions Association Limited and Beverly Rose of Newfoundland-Labrador Federation of Cooperatives. Chief Bassey discussed the context in which the NGOCE works in Nigeria, the relationship with ACIC and the importance of a global effort – what happens in the forest in Nigeria matters in Canada, and people can impact decisions. Eunice Kayang was then invited to speak about the credit union mentorship program and the HIV/AIDS awareness programs in Ghana. Beverly Rose spoke on

- ✓ **Atelier - Signes de changements :** Lynette Shultz animait cet atelier axé sur l'évaluation des projets d'engagement du public. On fit un remue-méninges sur les atouts et les défis, la chaîne d'incidences du processus GAR fut discutée et une approche participatoire à l'évaluation et l'étude d'impact fut présentée. Discussion et questions firent suite.
- ✓ **Gestion axée sur les résultats (GAR) et le travail avec l'Agence canadienne du développement international (ACDI) :** Animé par Ralph Roberts, Directeur, région Atlantique, Direction générale du partenariat canadien, ACDI. On fit un survol de l'ACDI et des programmes GAR ; ceci fut suivi d'une discussion de groupe et d'exercices pratiques sur le CRP (cadre de rendement des projets). Une explication fit suite concernant le lien entre les programmes GAR-ACDI et le Millénaire mondial, ainsi qu'une discussion subséquente concernant l'Approche de gestion du cycle de vie pour les programmes GAR.
- ✓ **Le visage changeant des membres du CACI :** Maureen McLean et Marian White animaient. L'objectif de l'atelier était d'examiner les changements au sein des membres du CACI dans le cadre de l'AGA et de fournir un peu d'orientation au Groupe de travail sur les adhésions. Trois nouveaux types d'adhésions furent introduits par l'entremise d'un jeu de rôle : but lucratif, individus et coopératives. Le travail en groupe était axé sur les critères, les bienfaits d'élargir la base du partenariat, les lignes directrices pour le Groupe de travail sur les adhésions, ainsi que les questions que cela pourrait soulever.
- ✓ **Servir les pauvres du monde, d'une manière pacifique :** Les conférenciers invités étaient : le Chef Bassey Archibong, de la NGOCE ; Eunice Kayang, de la "Ghana Cooperative Credit Unions Association Limited" ; et, Beverly Rose, de la "Newfoundland-Labrador Federation of Cooperatives". Le Chef Bassey discuta le contexte du travail de la NGOCE au Nigéria, la relation avec le CACI et l'importance d'un effort mondial – ce qui se passe dans les forêts du Nigéria affecte le Canada et le fait que les gens peuvent affecter les décisions. Eunice Kayang fut invité à parler du programme de mentorat



*Claire Trépanier, Bassey Archibong and Maureen MacLean at ACIC's AGM / Clair Trépanier, Bassey Archibong et Maureen MacLean à l'AGA du CACI*

behalf of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Cooperatives regarding their micro credit system.

#### **ACIC's Partnership with NGOCE**

As part of a consortium of Canadian and Nigerian organizations, ACIC continues to work with the NGO Coalition for the Environment (NGOCE), a group based in Calabar, Nigeria. Chief Bassey Archibong, whom many of you met at the ACIC AGM last May, will be working closely with us to discuss the role that ACIC and its members might play in developing professional development workshops for NGOCE's members.

#### **Culturally and Environmentally Appropriate Travel and Tourism Public Engagement Project**

ACIC continues to focus on the issues surrounding culturally and environmentally appropriate travel and tourism. A proposal will be submitted to CIDA in the fall.

This year, we will continue to engage stakeholders in the Atlantic Canadian travel industry on issues of tourism and international cooperation, taking into account the recommendations that were made by participants in last's year's workshops and at the AGM.

ACIC plans continued collaboration to develop long-term strategies for increasing consumer awareness of international cooperation and tourism issues.

We thank all those who made these workshops a success, through presentations, facilitation and participation, and look forward to seeing you all at next year's AGM in Cape Breton!

#### **Meetings/Events**

- ◆ **Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC)**  
Carolyn Davison, Chair of ACIC Board of Directors, has become a CCIC Board Member. Carolyn will represent ACIC in this position.
- ◆ **CIDA Meeting – "How to Form Successful Partnerships to Secure Business in Developing Countries"**. Held in Charlottetown, PEI on June 10 2003. ACIC sent 125 pamphlets in English and French to be included with the participants' packages. Sarah Shima spoke by telephone during a session on "Introductions to Host Companies, NGOs, Academic Institutions, Other Development Partners" participants who were interested in ACIC's work.

If you would like further information on any of the items listed above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

des caisses populaires et des programmes de sensibilisation au problème du VIH/sida au Ghana. Beverly Rose aborda la question du système de micro-crédit de la "Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Cooperatives".

#### **Partenariat du CACI avec la NGOCE**

Dans le cadre du consortium d'organisations canadiennes et nigériennes, le CACI continue à travailler avec la "NGO Coalition for the Environment" (NGOCE), un groupe basé à Calabar, au Nigéria. Le Chef Bassey Archibong, que plusieurs d'entre vous ont rencontré en mai dernier à l'AGA du CACI, va travailler de très près avec nous afin de discuter le rôle que pourrait jouer le CACI et ses membres pour développer des ateliers de perfectionnement professionnel pour les membres de la NGOCE.

#### **Projet d'engagement du public vis à vis les Voyages et le tourisme culturellement et écologiquement appropriés**

Le CACI continue à mettre l'accent sur les enjeux entourant les voyages et le tourisme culturellement et écologiquement appropriés. Une proposition sera soumise à l'ACDI durant l'automne.

Cette année, nous allons continuer à engager les intervenants de l'industrie touristique au Canada Atlantique quant aux enjeux du tourisme et de la coopération internationale, en tenant compte des recommandations qui furent présentées par les participants lors des ateliers de l'an passé et lors de l'AGA.

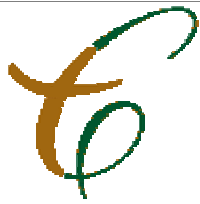
Le CACI prévoit continuer à collaborer afin de développer des stratégies à long terme pour accroître la sensibilisation des consommateurs vis à vis les enjeux de la coopération internationale et du tourisme.

Nous remercions tous ceux et celles qui ont contribué à la réussite de ces ateliers, soit par des présentations, par l'animation et par la participation ; nous espérons bien vous voir tous et chacun à l'AGA de l'an prochain au Cap Breton !

#### **Rencontres/événements**

- ◆ **Conseil canadien de coopération internationale (CCCI)**  
Carolyn Davison, présidente du BD du CACI, est devenue membre du BD du CCCI. Carolyn va représenter le CACI dans ce poste.
- ◆ **Rencontre avec l'ACDI – "Comment former des partenariats fructueux afin d'assurer des affaires dans les pays en développement"**. Cette rencontre avait lieu le 10 juin, 2003, à l'IPÉ. Le CACI a fait circuler 125 brochures en français et en anglais pour inclusion dans les trousseaux des participants. Sarah Shima participait par téléphone durant une session sur "Introductions aux compagnies-hôtes, ONG, institutions académiques et autres partenaires en développement" afin de parler aux participants intéressés au travail du CACI.

Si vous aimeriez recevoir de plus amples renseignements sur un ou plusieurs des sujets abordés ci-haut, n'hésitez-pas à communiquer avec moi.



## Justice In A Cup

By Lisa Roberts

*“No, no, it’s not enough to pray. There’s a lot of work left to do before we have peace.”*

So goes the chorus to a Latin American standard, “No Basta Rezar.” The song conjures feelings like “The Times They Are A-Changin’” did, before it became a jingle for a bank.

In 1999, I rode with about 15 Maritimers in the back of a pick-up truck, over a dusty road in the highlands of Guatemala, as they belted it out. Whether they quite got the accent, or even all the words, years later they’ve shown – through a joint venture that’s brought a new variety of fair trade coffee to the Maritimes - that they understood the sentiment.

They were on a delegation of the Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network, a group of people committed to solidarity work with the Central American country, just south of Mexico, which has suffered the most heinous human rights abuses on the continent.

The network organizes delegations a couple times each year, offering students, church-goers, union workers and others a chance to learn about the suffering, the struggles, and the occasional hard-won triumphs of Guatemalans. The majority of the population is made up of Mayan indigenous peoples, who suffered disproportionately during the 36-year civil war that ended, at least officially, in 1996. Some 200,000 Guatemalans were killed or disappeared during the war, including through massacres that wiped out whole villages.

The Breaking the Silence network has invited Guatemalans to Canada to speak to audiences in church halls and university lecture theatres across the region. But last year, it brought something different to the Maritimes: 6000 pounds of coffee, thanks to a partnership with Just Us! coffee roasters of Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

Clambering out of the pick-up that day, we were welcomed by the families of Chitulul, a small community on a coffee plantation near beautiful Lake Atitlan and its surrounding volcanoes. It’s just one of about 90 communities affiliated with the Peasant Committee of the Highlands (CCDA), at that time a new partner of the network. Kathryn Anderson, who coordinates the Breaking the Silence Network from the United Church’s Tatamagouche Centre near Truro, remembers the visit.

“One of the leaders of the CCDA said, ‘Would you like to look and see where the people pick the coffee?’ So we all walked to the edge of a mountain and looked down to the bottom, and realized that everyone in that community in order to pick the coffee would go down that mountain and up that mountain every day. And no one in our group on that first trip felt actually capable of walking once up and down the mountain. And we began

to realize where people were growing the coffee, picking it... and carrying it up to be sold at a pittance, an absolute pittance.

“This is what we’re drinking here, in Nova Scotia.”

That was the turning point for Anderson. “I thought we should go to Just Us! and see what we can do so that people are at least paid a fair price for the work that they’re doing.”

The task of making that dream a reality fell to 25-year-old Caren Weisbart, a native of Antigonish. She went to Chitulul in 2001 as part of an internship program run by the Tatamagouche Centre, with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

“I descended the mountain with the farmers on a daily basis,” she says, remembering with a laugh how, even in her sturdy hiking boots, she stumbled and fell behind little girls wearing plastic sandals.

During six months in Chitulul and another CCDA community, Caren learned everything she could about coffee growing, harvesting and production. She also got to know the people picking the coffee.

“These are people who have been displaced from other communities during the war,” explains Weisbart, “Women who have large families, whose husbands were killed or disappeared during the war. So it’s a sad history. There’s a lot of extended families that you can see are just shattered, women raped, children tortured and taken away. . . .”

“So it’s really hard to see these people struggle and to know that that their efforts - when they’re trying to make a living for themselves, now that the peace accords are finally here - are being thwarted by the fact that the coffee price is so low.”

The international coffee crisis began in 1999. The price of coffee has dropped 70 per cent due to global oversupply after both Brazil and Vietnam dramatically increased their production of low-grade, robusta coffee. New technology for steaming coffee beans, which allows big producers like Nescafé to use lower quality coffee, has also put downward pressure on the price. As a result, some 25 million coffee farmers and their families – according to Oxfam – are facing more extreme poverty around the world.

“On a good day, they’ll see 20 cents per pound,” says Weisbart of the farmers she lived with. “When I was there the international price was hovering around 50 cents per pound, but that’s never the price that the farmers receive.”

Most peasant farmers don’t have access to processing facilities, where coffee “cherries” are washed, dried and shelled to produce green beans that can be sold to exporters. Instead, they often sell their coffee cherries for less than 15 per cent of the international price, and four or five intermediaries pocket profits from the cof-

fee en route to an exporter.

With fair trade, producers organized in cooperatives deal directly with a purchaser in Canada, the United States, or Europe. Fair trade cooperatives currently receive \$1.26 (U.S.) per pound, about five times the price paid by local intermediaries in Guatemala. Weisbart, and the CCDA, were convinced that this made sense for the coffee producers in Chitulul and other CCDA communities.

But it's not easy to become a fair trade producer. Transfair, the international body that regulates fair trade coffee, is reluctant to accept new producers if they don't already have contacts with buyers or if they're not certified organic.

Enter the third grassroots partner of the story.

Jeff Moore is one of the founders of Just Us! coffee, a workers' cooperative that markets fair trade coffees and teas across the Maritimes. Weisbart remembers his visit to Guatemala in February 2002, when Moore sat down with Leocadio Huracan, the coordinator of the CCDA.

"Basically Jeff said that Just Us! would like to invest in the CCDA," says Weisbart, excitement in her voice. "Just Us! agreed to purchase their coffee at fair trade prices, which is really remarkable because they're not [certified] fair trade yet."

The CCDA agreed to move ahead with fair trade and organic certification with the financing provided by the coffee sales. About five months later, the coffee was in Nova Scotia.

"The beauty of it is that it's a grassroots initiative right from the very beginning," says Weisbart of the triangle partnership between Just Us!, Breaking the Silence and the CCDA.

Mary Corbett co-led, along with Kathryn Anderson, the Breaking the Silence delegation that traveled to Chitulul in 1999. A Catholic religious with the Congregation of Notre Dame, Corbett has had a long connection to Guatemala. She lived there from 1980 to 1992, spanning the worst years of its bloody civil

war. She's kept up the connection since she returned to Nova Scotia, including working with the network. She smiles as she thinks of the bags of Just Us! Breaking the Silence coffee.

"Those kind of concrete results are very hard to come by. Much of this solidarity work is about social change, and the transformation of structures that have become unjust and violent... so you don't often see such concrete results, and your efforts can't be guided by that expectation. So it's a real treat when they come!"

Breaking the Silence coffee is produced by about 500 families in Chitulul, who benefit from the higher earnings for their hard labour. Other communities will benefit once the CCDA gets certification and develops its markets.

"That for me is like an actualization of things that you dream of," says Corbett. "It's not about charity; it's about finding ways to do justice."

*Caren Weisbart is currently back in Guatemala, as an unpaid volunteer, helping the CCDA to complete its fair trade and organic certification processes. Coffee from the CCDA can now be labeled "certified organic in transition."*

*A second shipment of 6000 lbs. of "Breaking the Silence" coffee arrived in July. Call Just Us! to order (1-888-NOT-THEM), or contact Beth Abbott in Halifax at 423-3820/ acatil@web.ca.*

*To find out about future delegations to Guatemala with the Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network, contact Kathryn Anderson at kand@ns.sympatico.ca.*

*Lisa Roberts worked in Guatemala as a CUSO cooperant with Project Accompaniment, 1997-1999, and set up the first contact between Breaking the Silence and the CCDA. She smiles as she sips her Breaking the Silence coffee in Halifax.*

## ACIC'S MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS / LES MEMBRES DU CACI

Canada World Youth / Jeunesse Canada Monde  
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace  
Canadian Co-operative Association  
Canadian Crossroads International / Carrefour Canadien International  
CAUSE Canada  
Centre for International Studies (UCCB)  
Clean Nova Scotia  
Coady International Institute  
College of the North Atlantic—International Programs Office  
Cooper Institute  
CUSO  
Ecology Action Centre  
EDGE  
Extension Community Development Cooperative  
Falls Brook Centre  
GPI Atlantic  
International Development Branch — NCCB  
International Family Farm Exchange

Lester Pearson International (Dalhousie University)  
Médecins Sans Frontières—Atlantique  
Mennonite Central Committee, Maritimes  
Newfoundland-Labrador Federation of Co-operatives  
Nova Scotia Gambia Association  
Oxfam Canada  
PEI Eco-Net  
Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (Dioceses Fredericton)  
Regional Co-operative Development Centre  
Society for Corporate Environment and Social Responsibility  
Solidarité Acadie-Haiti  
Tatamagouche Centre  
The United Church of Canada Maritime Conference  
WUSC  
YMCA Canada East—Management Resource Centre  
YMCA Halifax-Dartmouth  
YMCA Fredericton

# CESR Update for Summer 2003

This summer, the Society for Corporate Environmental and Social Responsibility (CESR) organized many exciting events.

On the first Saturday of May, we held our first "Dump & Run" Garage Sale and Environmental Fair. We collected items left behind in the student residences, such as couches, chairs, appliances, tables, books and clothing, and sold them to the community in a huge garage sale. During the sale, we also invited local environmental group to set up educational displays and information booths. We raised almost \$2,000 which was donated to several charities including the Parker Street Food Bank, the Ecology Action Centre, Amnesty International, Sierra Youth Coalition, and the Canadian Parks And Wilderness Society. It was a very successful event, because of the hard work of many volunteers and we were very happy to support great Canadian charities.

Later in May, we hosted a "Potluck & Lecture" with ACIC and Chief Bassey Archibong, an environmental and human rights activist and local leader in Cross River State, Nigeria. Chief Bassey shared stories of the many communities in Nigeria struggling for environmental and social justice from the government and oil and gas companies. The chief broke bread with approximately twenty Canadian activists who brought a variety of delicious dishes.

CESR also organized our second annual "Social and Environmental Responsibility Pledge" on the Dalhousie University campus with many students committing their lives to positive change (<http://is2.dal.ca/~cesr/> Click on the link "Pledge").

In June, our chair, Tamara Lorincz,

was chosen as the Corporate Knights' "National Student Leader" for her work with CESR (<http://www.corporateknights.ca>) and was flown to Toronto to attend an award ceremony and a conference on "The Drivers of Corporate Social Responsibility" where she met Maurice Strong, Ralph Nader, Ken Wiwa, Alex Neve, and many other prominent change agents.



"Dump and Run" Garage Sale and Environmental Fair

Later that month, we were thrilled to finally meet Adam Cormier in Halifax. Adam is the Commerce student who founded a CESR chapter at Memorial University in Newfoundland (<http://www.busi.mun.ca/cesr/main.asp>). It is so inspiring what Adam and his amazing group has done to raise awareness in their school and community on corporate accountability, sustainability, environmentalism and human rights.

We also organized a discussion group and watched a documentary on "Love & Forgiveness" with members of Pioneers of Change (<http://www.pioneersofchange.net/>).

In early August, we arranged a well-attended and informative presentation on sustainability entitled "Transitioning Toward Sustainability: An Introduction to The Natural Step (TNS)" with Chad Park and Pong Leung of The Natural Step

Canada ([www.naturalstep.ca](http://www.naturalstep.ca)).

We are ready for a ready for our fourth year of CESR this fall. Samantha Hill, an MBA student at Dalhousie, is the new chair of CESR-Halifax. The executive council is also comprised of: the treasurer Aaron Booth, an MBA student; the vice-chair internal Janice Ho, an MES student; the vice-chair external Jacques Lopez, an MBA student; the secretary Caroline Canning, an MES student; and webmaster Peter Martin, an MBA student.

This fall, we are gearing up for more great events such as a conference on "Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility" and a book tour and lecture with David Boyd, an environmental lawyer, scholar and author of the recent book "Unnatural Law: Rethinking Canada's Environmental Law and Policy."

The Society for Corporate Environmental and Social Responsibility is a multi-disciplinary student organization based at Dalhousie University and a non-profit society registered in Nova Scotia. We are currently comprised of an 8-member student council and have over 50 regular members. Our members have a shared interest in advancing and acting on issues related to social justice, sustainable development, corporate responsibility, ethics, environmentalism, peace, democracy, good governance and human rights. CESR is an active club on campus and in the community. We organize workshops, lectures, and other events related to our mission. For more information about CESR, please visit our web site at: <http://is2.dal.ca/~cesr/> (Use Internet Explorer) or email us at [cesr@dal.ca](mailto:cesr@dal.ca)

# ARRIVING IN THE GAMBIA

*By Dalhousie nursing student  
Colleen MacNamee*

I was filled with apprehension as the plane landed at Banjul International Airport on June 20, 2003. The Nova Scotia-Gambia Association had hired me, a Dalhousie nursing student in my second year of studies, to work on their Peer Health Education Program in the Gambia and my months of preparation and anticipation were now over. What would The Gambia be like? Who were the people I would be working with? Would I succeed at what I was about to undertake? These thoughts and feelings were rushing through my mind as I disembarked the airplane. Happily, all my apprehension has dissipated since then.

Students in the Gambia who participate in the Peer Health Education Program are taught basic health knowledge on topics such as reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, malaria, diabetes, TB and drug addiction, as well as information on effective presentation skills to disseminate this knowledge to their peers. But information and skills are only part of what's needed to lead healthy lives and make healthy choices; young people also need to acquire sound problem-solving and critical thinking skills and to develop and maintain healthy relationships in their lives. My primary role in the Peer Health Education Program is to assist the stu-

dents in developing these important skills. Since I arrived in the Gambia I have developed a workshop module on healthy relationships in consultation with the NSGA's regional coordinators here. This participatory workshop deals with such issues as identifying healthy and unhealthy rela-

active nature of the workshop and the fact that it was designed to listen to all their ideas and thoughts. Through conducting this first workshop, I was able to identify some aspects that worked well and others that needed improvement. I am finding that teaching and learning is a two-way process and that, at the same time as the students are learning about healthy relationships, I am learning about Gambian culture and traditions and about myself as a health educator and nurse and as an individual.

It is challenging and exciting to be working on this project and to be working in a new culture and country. Everyone in the NSGA office has been very kind and very welcoming to me. I am still at the beginning of my visit to the Gambia but I

am ever more confident that I will be able to have an impact on the young people of the Gambia and that this experience will help me to grow as a nurse. I am looking forward to the rest of my time here.

*Colleen MacNamee is a second-year student at Dalhousie School of Nursing in Halifax, Nova Scotia.*

*Article reprinted from NSGA's Spring/Summer 2003 magazine.*

**For information about volunteering with the NSGA, email us at:**



*Burris Devanney, NSGA office manager Adama Suwareh, Colleen MacNamee, NSGA radio host/producer Emmanuel Konjoh, NSGA regional coordinators Amadu Jalloh and Ansumana Dibba - in The Gambia.*

tionships, self-esteem, violence and abuse, stress and conflict, and finally it introduces a problem-solving model for students to apply in their lives. It uses a combination of large group discussions, small group activities and games and aims to motivate the participants to analyze their own life situation and relationships.

During my first week in the country, I piloted this workshop with NSGA's original 12 member drama troupe with considerable success. They all participated in the activities and seemed to enjoy the inter-

# IN THE GAMBIA WITH THE NSGA: Dr. Kate Evans and Dr. Lana Wicentovich

*Article reprinted from NSGA's Spring/Summer 2003 magazine.*

**Our journey to the Gambia** began in the context of our training as family medicine residents in the Maritimes. In our first year we had the opportunity to participate in sexual health workshops with Aboriginal teens in Nova Scotia. Some of the adolescents who participated in these teaching sessions were part of the Nova Scotia-Gambia Association's Peer Health Education Program. Our involvement led to an opportunity to travel to the Gambia to volunteer with the NSGA in the field. After securing funding through a Professional Leadership Award from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) we embarked on our two month expedition in October 2002.

Our first objective was to determine some of the cultural factors that may influence the delivery of health risk messages to teenagers by conducting interviews throughout The Gambia. We hoped that through these interviews we might be able to identify potentially modifiable factors influencing the health of Gambians as well as broadening our own understanding of the role of cultural factors in the health of individuals and communities.

The second objective of our project was to volunteer our teaching services to the Peer Health Education Program. This time was to be dedicated to providing a curriculum through workshops with NSGA peer health educators from across the country. Health topics that were covered in our half-to-full-day teaching sessions included Reproductive Health, STIs and HIV/AIDS, and Diabetes.

## **Cultural Factors**

In order to meet our first objective we conducted target interviews with more than 50 stakeholders. These were open-ended interviews in which we asked stakeholders to identify the main health problems affecting Gambian youth, cultural factors that they felt were contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs, ideas around gender and health, and their proposed solutions. Interviewees included NSGA personnel,

teachers at a regional high school, a member of parliament, the director of a grass-roots NGO trying to eradicate harmful traditional practices, a religious leader, students, members of the NSGA drama troupe, a UNICEF medical director, and a women's group from a rural community.

Our interviewees identified a number of factors that they believed contributed to the spread of STIs and HIV/AIDS in the Gambia. Poverty was a factor, and, for example, may contribute to the practice of young girls falling victim to so-called "sugar-daddies"- older men who offer them money, cellular phones, clothing or school tuition fees in exchange for sex.

We asked stakeholders to tell us if they believed that gender roles in Gambian society somehow contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS, STIs, and teenage pregnancy. There is frequently a double standard when it comes to the accepted sexual behaviour of male and female teenagers, with the old adage "boys will be boys" readily applied. Dating openly is often discouraged, and so many teens conduct relationships in secret. If pregnancy occurs many girls will be in denial or hide their condition, which contributes to poor prenatal care.

Polygamy and early marriage were also thought to contribute. Some of the women we spoke to expressed their frustration at being in arranged marriages where they were one of several wives. If one partner sought out treatment for an STI, they would be stigmatized and blamed for bringing the disease into the marriage, and if all partners did not seek medical treatment then the cycle of re-infection would continue. Another factor strongly influenced by gender roles was the phenomenon of wife inheritance. In this traditional practice, a widow is "inherited" by one of her deceased husband's relatives (often a brother) and taken on as an additional wife. This is intended to provide ongoing protection and shelter for the woman and her children in the context of the deceased man's



*Kate and Lana teaching in a Gambian classroom*

family. Unfortunately, as pointed out by some of our interviewees, this practice can lead to the spread of infections. If the husband has passed away from complications of AIDS, his wife has a high chance of also being a carrier, and her "inheritance" by a new husband can spread the infection to other members of the family.

### Training Sessions with NSGA Peer Educators

In order to meet our second objective, we were able to become part of NSGA's regular training workshops for Peer Health Educators throughout the country. We conducted workshops on STIs, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and diabetes. Through these sessions we were able to answer questions, impart knowledge and debunk many myths regarding the spread of HIV/AIDS, STIs, pregnancy prevention and harmful traditional practices, while also providing basic information on reproductive health.

Each session was 3 to 4 hours in length and took place in Upper Basic and Senior Secondary schools and communities throughout the country. Senior Secondary schools are equivalent to Canadian high schools and comprise Grades 10 to 12, while Upper Basic schools are equivalent to Canadian junior high schools and include Grades 7 to 9. This sometimes meant traveling by truck and ferry and often staying overnight in the local communities.

Since AIDS in the developing world is primarily spread through sexual transmission, the peak ages of HIV infection are 15 to 40 year. Thus, the Peer Health Education Program is addressing a crucial need in The Gambia. HIV/AIDS is a reality across the African continent. East Africa has high infection rates, and the rates in Southern Africa have been soaring to as high as 25 to 40% in countries such as South Africa and Botswana. Fortunately, the infection rates in West Africa are lower, which places the Gambia in a favorable situation to put in place prevention strategies to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS. Recent statistics report the current rate of overall HIV infection in the Gambia to be 2.1%.

Discussions in classrooms would at times highlight HIV infection rates across the globe. We had discovered during our interviews that some Gambians were quick to engage in debates with respect to where HIV

originated or would try to pinpoint the first case (was it in the USA or in Africa?). With infection rates significantly higher in Africa than anywhere else in the world, some made the claim that there must be a western conspiracy to depopulate Africa. This conspiracy theory included specific details, such as condoms being the actual vector of HIV transmission, and that western society was recommending infected condoms for engaging in sexual intercourse. So, via a simple twist of public perception, the very vehicle meant to save lives becomes - in some people's minds - the instrument of infection.

The NSGA's PHE program teaches the "ABCs" of safe sex. A for "abstinence", B is "be faithful to a faithful partner", and C is "use a condom". Here again, cultural influences become a factor.

If a woman has no power when engaging in a sexual encounter, either in or out of marriage, she may find it exceedingly difficult to follow the ABCs. With more support for the decision-making

capabilities of women at a community as well as an institutional level, there may be ways to enhance effectiveness of this program. The NSGA seems to be tackling this objective by having an equal number of male and female coordinators within the program, as well by insisting on an equal number of male and female participants in the school Peer Health Education programs.

Overall, our time in the Gambia was eye-opening and fruitful. Through our interviews and Peer Educator training sessions we learned about the many health challenges facing young people in this tiny West African nation. With the scourge of HIV/AIDS spreading across the African continent at an alarming rate, intervention programs such as the NSGA Peer Health Education Program represent an important step in prevention. We felt privileged to be a part of such a worthy endeavour and feel that we learned invaluable lessons that will serve us well as we embark on our careers as family physicians.

*Dr. Evans and Dr. Wicentovich are graduates of the Department of Family Medicine at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.*



*Kate and Lana with Gambian students and NSGA Regional Coordinator Ansumana Dibba*

# Beating AIDS in Africa: Uganda Offers Hope

By Murray MacAdam

*AIDS has devastated many Africa countries, and set back development by decades. But Uganda offers hope in the fight against the deadly disease.*

AIDS. Africa. Disaster.

That's the link most of us make when we hear the words AIDS and Africa. And no wonder. It's difficult to overestimate how AIDS has ravaged African societies. Of the 40 million people affected by AIDS around the world, three-quarters – 30 million – live in sub-Saharan Africa.

In a single year, 2001, AIDS claimed the lives of an estimated 2.3 million Africans.

The epidemic has dealt a body blow to many African nations, setting back development by decades. Because of AIDS, average life expectancy has plunged in over a dozen of the continent's countries, and more than 13 million children in Africa are AIDS orphans.

"AIDS in Africa is claiming more lives than the sum total of all wars, famines and floods," warns former South African President Nelson

Mandela, "and the ravages of such deadly diseases as malaria. It is devastating families and communities."

***"Let us not equivocate," warns former South African President Nelson Mandela, "AIDS in Africa is claiming more lives than the sum total of all wars, famines and floods."***

Uganda is one of the African countries hardest hit. Over one million Ugandans out of a population of 22 million are infected with HIV, and about 120,000 have developed AIDS. More than 800,000 people have already lost their lives. An estimated two million children have been orphaned by the disease, losing one or both parents.

As in other African nations, the impact of the pandemic in Uganda has been devastating. Nearly 80 percent of those infected with HIV are between 15 and 45 years old, the most economically productive people in the country. The health system has been strained to the breaking point in a country

where only half of its citizens have access to adequate health care. Half of the country's hospital beds are taken by AIDS patients.

Life expectancy at birth has plunged to 44. It sounds like a grim tale, fitting the stereotype of Africa as a "lost continent." Thankfully it's not all bad news. Uganda is one of the few countries that has succeeded in reversing HIV rates, and the success is nothing less than stunning. An HIV/AIDS rate of 31 percent in the early 1990s – the highest in Africa – now stands at 6.3 percent.

So how did an impoverished country like Uganda achieve this?

The first step was to simply talk about the disease. That may sound so obvious as to be not worth mentioning, but being honest and open is the key to combating AIDS. Leaders of some other hard-hit African countries have been reluctant to sound the warning. In contrast, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni talks about AIDS constantly.

"When a lion comes into your village, you must raise the alarm loudly," says

Museveni. "This is what we did in Uganda; we took AIDS seriously and we achieved good results...If we raise awareness sufficiently, it will stop."

Museveni's example has inspired other leading Ugandans to speak out as well. This both helped spread the word and reduce the stigma and isolation experienced by people with HIV in Africa. Previously, many people shunned those who had contracted the deadly virus, refusing to shake hands with them or even talk to them. Some victims were thrown out of their homes.

The second step on Uganda's path to confront AIDS was to involve as many elements of Ugandan society as possible, including churches, schools, community organizations, youth and traditional healers.

The Ugandan government established a task force on AIDS and kicked off a massive country-wide crusade involving condom distribution and promotion through popular songs, drama groups, counselling and support services. An 'ABC' campaign was launched in 1995 to promote safe sex among young people – the A stands for abstinence, B for being faithful and C for condoms.

The third step was to embrace those most affected – the people living with HIV and AIDS. "We should be involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS," says Rev. Gideon Byamugisha, the first priest in Africa to declare he was HIV-positive. "We are best placed to seek and identify solutions to the problems that affect us and also ways of stopping the spread of the disease." He runs an HIV prevention program for the Protestant Church of Uganda, and was appointed to the board of the Uganda AIDS Commission, the first person living openly with HIV to be affirmed in this way.

There are many others like Rev. Byamugisha who now receive the support they desperately need, and who as a consequence are playing a vital role in encouraging other people to take the HIV test, live positively and support the sick.

Six years ago Rosemary Kityo, 31, discovered she was HIV-positive. Her husband had already succumbed to the disease. Soon Kityo was sick too, and had to look after her remaining three children. Sometimes she survived on just one meal a day. Then a relative introduced her to The AIDS Support Organization (TASO).

"At first I was hesitant," she recalls. "I did not want anybody to know I had AIDS. I thought it was embarrassing. People would despise me." But today she is a member of TASO, which supports people living with HIV/AIDS. Begun by 16 volunteers in 1987, it now has 67,000 members.

"I am happy that I declared my HIV status early," says Kityo. "I have received counselling and I think I can be useful to my fam-

ily and community for a long time.”

Finally, the fourth step was to acknowledge the place women have in fighting AIDS, and to ensure they have a central role in combating the disease. Women are most affected by poverty in Africa and have been hard hit by AIDS. The face of AIDS is an increasingly female one, with women now making up the majority of victims. In Uganda’s male-dominated society, it can be difficult for women to say “no” to unsafe sex that leads to HIV. Women also do nearly all of the nursing and care-taking work involved in families.

More and more, women are on the frontlines in the fight against AIDS, and are benefiting from Uganda’s success in countering the disease. HIV rates among pregnant women in urban areas have dropped from a peak of 30 percent in 1992 to 6 percent in 2001.

And it is for the health of Uganda as a country – and as an economy – that the scourge of AIDS be confronted. A country that is poor to begin with, which then loses young workers and spends scarce resources caring for sick people, won’t be able to improve living standards.

HIV/AIDS has been estimated to reduce Gross National Product (GNP) by up to 2 percent annually in hard-hit countries like Uganda. No wonder the 1999 Uganda Pov-

erty Status Report said that “HIV/AIDS poses the most serious challenge to the future success in reducing poverty.” With so many workers sick, food production has also been hard hit.

Ugandans have a long road ahead of them – there are still many steps to take to not only tackle

the disease, but to also confront the conditions that give rise to it. And there’s a limit to what this impoverished country can do on its own, in the face of such a colossal challenge. That’s why large-scale efforts such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS are needed. Africa alone does not have the resources needed to combat the epidemic and to save the lives of those inflicted by AIDS.

That’s why U.S. President George W. Bush’s pledge to increase AIDS spending by \$15-billion (U.S.) over five years was welcome news. AIDS activists – including Bono, frontman of the popular rock band U2 – were happy that Bush put AIDS in Africa on his map. The musician also applauded the U.S. government’s emphasis on treatment as well as prevention, a shift from earlier policy.

For its part, the European Union has committed \$1-billion (U.S.) a year to the Global Fund. Canada has promised the multilateral

initiative \$150-million (Cdn) through to 2005 while Great Britain announced a one-time donation of \$80-million (U.S.). Still, AIDS activists would like to see more money committed to wiping out the disease.

***“Why can three trillion U.S. dollars be raised in a matter of weeks for the war on terrorism, but not \$65-billion over five years to prevent literally millions of deaths from AIDS?” says Stephen Lewis, the United Nation’s Special Envoy on AIDS in Africa.***

“Why can three trillion U.S.

dollars be raised in a matter of weeks for the war on terrorism, but not \$65-billion over five years to prevent literally millions of deaths from AIDS?” says Stephen Lewis, Canada’s former ambassador to the United Nations and now the UN’s Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in Africa. He has set up a foundation to get money into the hands of the small, local organizations that he sees as carrying out invaluable – and unheralded – work on the ground.

And with that money and commitment, AIDS can indeed be successfully confronted. Uganda is offering hope for victims of AIDS, and a path for other African nations facing the deadly disease.

*The International Development and Environment Article Service*

*To help in the battle against AIDS in Africa, visit [www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)*

## ~ World Youth Congress ~

From the 16<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of August, 1000 youth from various parts of the world convened in the tiny, seaside town of Bouznika on the Atlantic coast of Morocco. They were there to discuss pressing issues of major importance to themselves, their peers and to the world; issues such as eradication of extreme poverty, HIV/AIDS, gender equality, international partnerships for sustainable development, and illiteracy. A key difference that separated this congress from others is the opportunity for each participant to not only engage in plenary sessions, but to actually “do stuff” – Action Projects – for which they have committed themselves – everything from building a well for a village in the desert area, to constructing a school in a mountain village in the High Atlas or working in an orphanage in downtown Casablanca. Over 150 different Action Projects were developed for these young delegates. Of course, it was not all work! There were many chances for the youth to get to know each other, to sing, to dance, and to become engulfed in a very different culture.

At this time of intense international tension, the forum which the World Youth Congress (WYC) presented, could not be more apropos. Lying between two continents and acting as a crossroads where Arab, Western, Mediterranean and African cultures meet, the Kingdom of Morocco is naturally inclined to openness and dialogue, two virtues to which every young person identifies. The country was determined to cover all domestic costs for all the participants, and its young King Mohammed VI is committed to the themes of the Congress: solidarity, tolerance and sustainable development. As well, the event has the full endorsement of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, UNDP and other UN agencies including UNICEF, WHO, UNITAR plus the European Union. There is no question that each and every person who attended the WYC came away with a renewed interest in being part of the future to which they are already its main actors.

*For more information on the WYC, please check out <http://projekt-itm.fh-joanneum.at/~maroc2003>, email: [network@isn.net](mailto:network@isn.net) or contact: Susan Hawkins, National Coordinator, International Steering Committee Member (902) 566-4170 (w) or (902) 566-4760 (h).*

# Jamaica – An Internship Perspective

By Andrea Germann

## Introduction

Luscious. Green. Vibrant. Rhythmic. Fiery. The size, comparable to Connecticut. Inhabitants of 2.7 million, concentration: Kingston. No malaria, no poisonous snakes. Numerous endemic plant and animal species. Tourism is the main industry. Location: Jamaica.

After flying many miles from cold and snow in Canada in January 2003, I fell out somewhere in the south on the land of wood and water known as Jamaica in the Negril area. It was an international youth internship funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through the Youth Employment Strategy (YES) that blew me this way. The great adventure started out in Canada at the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC) and continued through with ACIC's overseas partner, the Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT) in Jamaica. Working with NEPT proved to be quite the experience and learning opportunity.

## Role of NEPT

NEPT is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1994 when sixteen organizations joined forces to protect the environment of the greater Negril area. NEPT's mandate ranges from resource management and community education and awareness to advocating sustainable development.

The Negril area is located on the western end of the island and is one of the top three tourist hotspots in Jamaica. The Negril area is rich with lush, tropical vegetation and graced with beautiful white sand beaches. Both residents and foreigners enjoy the gifts that the area has to offer. It was not so long ago that Negril was once a small fishing village, where palm trees were more frequently seen than people. The image of a serene fishing village has been replaced with hotels, resorts, craft markets and restaurants. The transition of Negril from fishing village to a popular vacation destination over the years has incurred both benefits and costs, in particular to the environment. Some of the impacts include poor water quality, destruction of coral reefs, depletion of fish stocks and deterioration of the white sand beaches.

Tourism is the main industry and largest foreign exchange earner in Jamaica. Organizations such as NEPT are essential to manage

and protect the environment of areas such as Negril, which are highly impacted by tourism.

## Royal Palm Reserve as NEPT's Ecotourism Attraction

The Royal Palm Reserve is owned by the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) and has been managed by NEPT as an ecotourism attraction since 2001. The Royal Palm Reserve was established as an effort to protect 300 acres of the 6000 acres of the

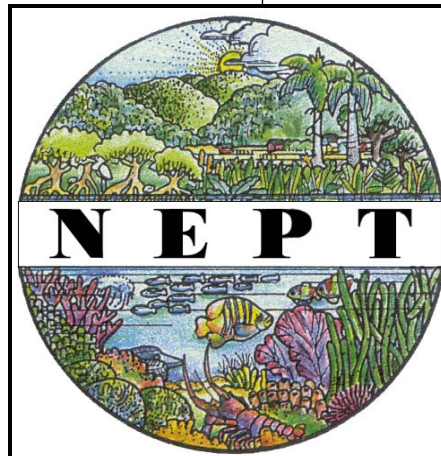
Negril Great Morass, a tropical wetland ecosystem that is an important part of Jamaica's natural heritage. The Negril Great Morass is home to the Royal Palm, *Roystonea princeps*, an endemic tree species to wetlands in western Jamaica meaning they are unique to this area and occur naturally no where else in the world.

The Royal Palm Reserve offers a 45-minute interpretative guided or non-guided tour along half a mile of boardwalk trail that winds through the tropical wetland ecosystem. There is a 30-foot lookout tower in which the observer is able to see the rolling hills to the east and the ocean to the west, as well as observe many of the bird species. Other infrastructure includes an interpretive museum, the Cotton-Tree Lake with the lakeside bar and an administration building. The Royal Palm Reserve is an ideal location for nature walks, bird watching, meditation, school tours and fishing.

The Royal Palm Reserve acts as demonstration site for sustainable tourism and the proper use of wetlands in the Negril area. The Reserve not only conserves and protects the Royal Palm Forest in Negril; but also creates awareness and education for both locals and tourists on the importance of wetlands. In the years to come, as the Royal Palm Reserve attracts more visitors in a sustainable fashion the revenues will be returned to surrounding communities through other NEPT projects that involve conservation and sustainable community development.

## My Main Role with NEPT

So, where did I fit into all of this? Every morning after sipping on my Blue Mountain Coffee, listening to the birds chirping in my yard and soaking up the morning sun, I would venture either to the NEPT office or to the Royal Palm Reserve to listen, observe, talk and get to know NEPT and Reserve staff as well as the communities. After much discussion and surveillance it was quite clear that helping to develop an environmental education program for the Royal Palm Reserve was going to be my main task. The project involved capturing the immense knowledge of the Reserve staff and adding some of my own knowledge and re-



*Dian Brown, Tour Guide at the Royal Palm Reserve.*



*Interpretive Museum and Cotton-Tree Lake*

search; bundling it into an interactive package that could be delivered to school groups at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels as well as to tourists. Topics ranged from the importance of wetlands to waste management to sustainable tourism practices.

The entire experience proved to be rewarding yet challenging at times. During the rough stages what seemed to motivate me was being in the communities talking with teachers and students about the environmental education program to be offered at the Royal Palm Reserve. I witnessed excitement and genuine interest expressed from the teachers and students in wanting to learn more about how to maintain the beauty of their country, Jamaica and



Andrea working at NEPT

improve the environmental quality in which the main industry of tourism and the health of all are so dependent upon.

Working with NEPT and the Royal Palm Reserve enforced that it is not only up to the locals and organizations such as NEPT to care for the enchanting environment of Jamaica, but to the visitors too. Being a responsible tourist involves educating oneself about the host country, supporting local businesses and attractions such as the Royal Palm Reserve, not littering and using resources such as water wisely to name a few. It is through awareness, understanding and action from all, that popular tourist destinations such as Negril will be kept in a state that may be enjoyed presently and in the future.



# The Global Education Project



Since attending the last AGM of the *Atlantic Council for International Cooperation* in Saint John's, Newfoundland, EDGE has been working hard at developing a community-based development project for youths in Nova Scotia. The *Global Education Project* seeks to bring international expertise and experience into the classrooms of secondary schools throughout Nova Scotia, via dynamic workshops on a range of global issues. Workshops will focus on the following core themes: (1) globalization, (2) cross-cultural knowledge, (3) environmental sustainability and (4) peace and conflict. Applying a participatory learning approach, workshops will promote students to explore these global issues through concrete models and clear links to action in their own communities.

## Project Description

EDGE, Oxfam and Heartwood will recruit young adult volunteers (17- to 29-years-old) with international and cross-cultural experience, and work with them to build a menu of dynamic, interactive workshops aimed at secondary school students. The Global Education Project, GEP, will present over 150 workshops, with at least one workshop presented in every Nova Scotia secondary school.

GEP will support global education beyond the delivery of workshops by providing theme-specific Resource Kits for participating teachers. Resource Kits will be tailored to the provincial curriculum and include sample lesson plans, ideas for activities and focus issues, and annotated guides to educational resources available online and elsewhere. Students inspired to take further action will be encouraged to do so by linking up with peers across Nova Scotia exposed to the GEP workshops through a provincial youth network facilitated by EDGE and other committed NGOs. Teachers and students alike will be further supported by the deepening and

broadening of linkages between the provincial public education system and civil society throughout Nova Scotia.

Young people today are not passive or complacent. They are concerned about the destruction of our natural world, that many people go hungry, and that conflict affects lives in both the North and South. By reinforcing the principles of global citizenship in education, the GEP partners hope to enable young people to develop these concerns, challenge poverty and injustice, and take effective action for change. Educating young people to become global citizens will ensure that they are able to work for a more secure and sustainable future.

EDGE would love to get other ACIC members involved in this project! If you have any resources to share on the themes highlighted, or advise to offer on the implementation of such a project, your feedback would be greatly appreciated. EDGE is also seeking funding for this \$58,850 project so any links to funding possibilities would also be very beneficial.

Cheers,

Isabelle LeVert-Chiasson,  
EDGE Coordinator

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED!?!?

Contact the EDGE Coordinator by e-mail at [edgecwy@hotmail.com](mailto:edgecwy@hotmail.com) or by phone at (902) 425-7877 (Mon-Wed) and at (902) 422-7543 (Thurs-Fri).

# Meet the Board **Rencontrer le Conseil**

**For this edition of Rendez-vous we interview  
Maureen MacLean, Member-at-Large of ACIC's  
Board of Directors**

**Pour cette édition de Rendez-vous on a eu une en-  
trevue avec Maureen MacLean, conseillère gé-  
nérale avec le Conseil d'administration de CACI**

*ACIC: Where were you born?*

Maureen: I was born in Edmundston, N.B. and lived in Campbellton, Montreal and Moncton and spent my summers on the Miramichi.

*ACIC: What are you doing now?*

Maureen: I've been in Moncton now since I finished high school where I did various different jobs before starting to work at the Canadian Co-operative Association in 1989. I'm the Atlantic Region Development Education/Member Engagement Co-ordinator. Through my work with CCA I have had the opportunity to work with several NGOs and nonprofits.

I am also a member of a worker co-op Rising Tide Co-operative Ltd. ([www.risingtidecoop.com](http://www.risingtidecoop.com)) and my CCA work is part of that structure. Through Rising Tide I work on many projects. Current ones include Voluntary Sector Initiative and Canadian Health Network promotion. My CCA regional projects include a Dev Ed Retreat this year to be held in PEI on Oct. 18 and 19 and assisting with a credit union women's mentoring program in Canada and credit union managers coaching program in Ghana.

*ACIC: How did you get involved with ACIC?*

Maureen: CCA Atlantic Region joined ACIC when it was first established back in the mid-90s although I personally didn't play a very big role. When ACIC was dissolved, CCA like other NGOs really missed the presence of a co-ordinating body here and so when it was reactivated and I was asked by Marian White of CUSO to become a board member at large I decide to get involved. I'm really enjoying this opportunity to meet so many great people and participating in so many projects.

*ACIC: What are some of your favorite things?*

Maureen: I love my work and I love to travel here in North America and especially in countries where CCA is working. I feel I grow so much as a person on each new trip. This year a long time dream has come true when in September I had a chance to walk on the Great Wall of China. Each place I visit I bring back cassettes or CDs of local music and at home I listen to them again and again. Music is a universal language. I like many kinds of music especially country and soft rock.

*ACIC: How do you like to spend your weekends?*

*CACI: Vous êtes née à quel endroit?*

Maureen : Je suis née à Edmundston, N.-B., j'ai vécu à Campbellton, à Montréal et à Moncton ; je passais mes étés dans la Miramichi.

*CACI: Que faites-vous présentement?*

Maureen : Depuis la fin de mes études au secondaire, je suis à Moncton où j'ai eu différents emplois avant de commencer à travailler pour l'Association canadienne de la coopération (ACC) en 1989. Je suis la Coordinatrice pour l'éducation en développement et pour l'engagement des membres dans la région Atlantique. Grâce à mon travail avec l'ACC, j'ai eu l'occasion de travailler avec plusieurs ONG et organismes à but non lucratif.

Je suis également membre d'une coopérative de travailleurs, Rising Tide Co-operative Ltd. ([www.risingtidecoop.com](http://www.risingtidecoop.com)), et mon travail auprès de l'ACC fait partie de cette structure. Par l'entremise de Rising Tide, je travaille sur plusieurs projets, y compris la promotion de l'Initiative du secteur bénévole et du Réseau canadien de la santé. Mes projets régionaux de l'ACC comprennent la "Dev Ed Retreat" (retraite sur l'éducation reliée au développement) de cette année qui aura lieu à l'ÎPÉ les 18 et 19 octobre, ainsi qu'aider un programme de mentorat des femmes pour les caisses populaires et un programme d'encadrement des gérants de caisses populaires au Ghana.

*CACI: Comment en êtes-vous venue à vous impliquer avec le CACI?*

Maureen : La région Atlantique de l'ACC s'est jointe au CACI lorsqu'il fut mis sur pied vers le milieu des années 1990, quoique je n'y ai pas joué un très grand rôle. Lorsque le CACI fut mis en veilleuse, l'ACC, tout comme les autres ONG, manquait vraiment la présence d'un organisme d'encadrement ; donc, lorsqu'il



Maureen: On the weekend I like to garden a bit, read, visit friends and BBQ. Sometimes work overlaps the weekends but all NGO folks understand that.

*ACIC: Who has really influenced your life?*

Maureen: When I grew up I spent most summers with my grandmother on my mother's side. I only came to realize later on what a strong influence she had on me. She led by example as she went quietly on her way. I only wish she was here today to teach me more.

*ACIC: What do you hope to bring to the Board of Directors?*

Maureen: On ACIC's board I really feel I get much more than I am able to give. The former Coordinator Sarah was a great organization leader and I am so glad to have had the chance to work with her. I am looking forward to working with Jennifer Sloom as she takes over the Coordinator's role in August. My current and past co-board members are so experienced and committed. I appreciate each and every one of them.

What I hope to contribute is some of my experience from working with many co-ops and serving on other boards in the area of policy and by-law task group that I chair. I also really enjoy being part of workshops that engaged the members at the AGM.

I'd encourage any one who has an interest in developing skills around leadership and governance to be more involved as a board member. I'm proud to be associated with ACIC.

### **Mission Statement**

*ACIC is a coalition of organizations, institutions, and branches of such working in the Atlantic region, which are committed to achieving global sustainability in a peaceful and healthy environment, with social justice, human dignity, and participation for all.*

*ACIC supports its members in international cooperation and education through collective leadership, networking, information, training and coordination, and represents their interests when dealing with government and others.*

### **Énoncé de mission**

*Le CACI est une coalition d'organismes, d'instituts et leurs affiliés qui oeuvrent dans la région atlantique et qui sont engagés matière de développement durable à l'échelle mondiale dans un environnement sain et pacifique où tous les êtres humains ont accès à la justice, à la dignité, et à la participation.*

*Le CACI soutient ses membres dans leur travail de coopération internationale et d'éducation par le biais d'un leadership collectif, d'un réseau et de services d'information, de formation et de coordination. Le CACI représente les intérêts de ses membres auprès des gouvernements et du reste de la population.*

fut réactivé et que Marian White de Cuso m'ait demandé de devenir membre du Bureau de direction en tant que membre à titre personnel, j'ai décidé de m'impliquer. J'aime vraiment cette opportunité de rencontrer des personnes merveilleuses et de participer à autant de projets.

*CACI : Quelles sont quelques-unes de vos choses préférées?*

Maureen : J'aime bien mon travail et j'aime voyager ici, en Amérique du Nord, et surtout dans les pays où l'ACC est impliquée. Je sens que je m'épanouis un peu plus lors de chaque nouveau voyage. Cette année, un rêve de longue date s'est réalisé alors qu'en septembre j'ai eu la chance de marcher sur la grande muraille de la Chine. Pour chaque place que je visite, je ramène des cassettes ou des CD de la musique locale ; de retour à la maison, je les écoute maintes et maintes fois. La musique est une langue universelle. J'aime plusieurs sortes de musiques, surtout la musique country et la musique rock légère.

*CACI : Qu'aimez-vous faire durant les fins de semaines?*

Maureen : Durant la fin de semaine, j'aime jardiner, faire de la lecture, visiter des amis et organiser un barbecue. Parfois, le travail empiète sur la fin de semaine, mais tous les gens des ONG comprennent bien cela.

*CACI : Qui a vraiment influencé votre vie?*

Maureen : Durant ma jeunesse, j'ai passé la plupart de mes étés avec ma grand-mère maternelle. C'est seulement plus tard que j'ai compris jusqu'à quel point elle m'avait fortement influencé. Elle menait par l'exemple en faisant tout simplement sa besogne. Je ne peux que souhaiter qu'elle serait ici maintenant pour m'en enseigner encore plus.

*CACI : Qu'espérez-vous contribuer au Bureau de direction?*

Maureen : Au Bureau de direction du CACI, je crois vraiment que j'en retire plus que je suis en mesure de contribuer. Sarah, l'ancienne coordinatrice, était une merveilleuse dirigeante d'organisation et je suis tellement contente d'avoir eu la chance de travailler avec elle. J'ai bien hâte de travailler avec Jennifer Sloom à mesure qu'elle s'inscrit dans le rôle de Coordinatrice au mois d'août. Mes anciens et présents collègues sur le Bureau de direction (BD) ont tellement d'expérience et sont tellement engagés. Je les apprécie bien, tous et chacun.

J'espère pouvoir contribuer une partie de mon expérience de travail auprès de nombreuses coopératives et d'avoir siégé sur d'autres BD en matière de politiques et de règlements pour le groupe de travail dont je suis la dirigeante. J'aime aussi participer aux ateliers d'engagement des membres lors de l'AGA.

J'encouragerais quiconque a un intérêt pour renforcer ses capacités en matière de leadership et de gouvernance de s'impliquer encore plus en tant que membre du BD. Je suis fière d'être associée avec le CACI.

# Bouchées double à l'international au CCNB Edmundston

Avec l'obtention de deux nouveaux projets au printemps dernier, le CCNB Edmundston doit mettre les bouchées doubles dans le domaine des activités à l'international. Ces deux nouveaux projets s'ajoutent à la liste de trois projets déjà en phase de réalisation et finalement, quatre projets sont en phase d'exploration.

Ces deux nouveaux projets sont:

## **République Islamique de la Mauritanie (RIM)**

### **« Frigoristes Professionnels »**

D'une durée de cinq (5) années, le projet a pour but d'améliorer la formation qui s'offre présentement dans le domaine du froid industriel au Lycée de Formation Technique et Professionnelle de Nouadhibou, ville située au Nord-Ouest de la Mauritanie. Les partenaires canadiens sont le CCNB Edmundston Maître-d'œuvre appuyé par le Centre de Formation Pierre-Dupuy de Longueuil au Québec tandis que les partenaires mauritaniens sont « Le Lycée de Formation Technique et Professionnelle, La Fédération Nationale de Pêche et le Ministère de l'Éducation National, division de la formation professionnelle.

C'est grâce à l'appui financier (399 916\$) du gouvernement canadien par l'entremise de l'Agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI) que le projet a pu débuter en juin dernier par une mission de démarrage.



*Réunion des partenaires mauritaniens et canadiens lors de la mission de démarrage.*

Le projet en est un du type Programme de Partenariat des Collèges canadien (PPCC) qui est sous la tutelle de L'Association des Collèges Communautaires du Canada (ACCC).

La deuxième activité consistait à une session de formation pour les formateurs

mauritaniens à Longueuil du 31 juillet au 15 août dernier. Les prochaines activités sont prévues pour 2004, soit par une autre session de formation au Canada et par une mission de suivi par les Canadiens.

## **Burkina Faso**

### **« Les métiers intégrés au non-formel »**

Projet d'une valeur de 532 413\$ 2003-2008

Le CESAB, composante du CCNB Edmundston, en partenariat avec le CCNB Bathurst & celui de Dieppe, auront comme tâche principale de former les formateurs à l'approche modulaire et de développer des modules pratiques intégrant les métiers au non-formel en accompagnement au tronc commun des CEBNF du Burkina Faso.

Le projet a pour but d'implanter un ensemble de modules pratiques au CEBNF de Sakoula conformes aux réalités du Burkina Faso. D'une durée de cinq ans, le projet apportera à 20 formateurs de formateurs, dont 10 femmes, une assistance technique et pédagogique dans l'élaboration de modules pratiques, dans la formation des animateurs de Centres et

dans le suivi-évaluation de ces modules. Le CEBNF de Sakoula, région agricole et péri-urbaine de Ouagadougou, sera le siège du projet pilote. Les acquis de ce projet pourront servir de modèle aux 52 autres CEBNF. Les modules pratiques élaborés dans une perspective de développement local durable seront en harmonie avec les objectifs de formation du tronc commun des CEBNF où prédominent les activités d'agriculture, d'élevage et d'environnement.

Le PPCC aura divers effets sur 100 jeunes (garçons et filles) de 12 à 15 ans fréquentant le CEBNF de Sakoula. En effet, ils seront capables d'améliorer leur milieu et leur condition de vie en appliquant les notions pratiques apprises aux techniques traditionnelles d'agriculture, d'élevage et de sauvegarde de

l'environnement.

## **Projets en phase de réalisation**

### **Partenariat Canada Sénégal en Formation technique et professionnelle**

En partenariat avec le Collège communautaire de Bathurst, le CCNB Edmundston sera responsable de la filière « Électricité d'installation » tandis que le CCNB Bathurst s'occupera de la filière mécanique automobile.

C'est grâce à l'appui financier de plus de 1 million 500 milles dollars du gouvernement canadien par l'entremise de l'Agence canadienne de développement internationale (ACDI) que le projet a pu débuter en 2002. Depuis, le chef de projet à temps plein sur le terrain s'occupe de l'organisation des activités et en 2003, trois missions furent réalisées, soit en février et juin et un autre en août. Les activités se continueront jusqu'en 2005.

### **Appui à l'ITA de Mombele République Démocratique du Congo (RDC)**

Projet valeur de 582 976\$ septembre 2002 à décembre 2005. Le CESAB, composante du CCNB Edmundston, en partenariat avec le collège Shawinigan au Québec, appuiera l'Institut technique agricole (ITA) de Mombele lui permettant d'offrir un nouveau programme de formation en « entrepreneuriat agricole » afin d'accroître la création de micro-entreprises et d'encourager l'entrepreneuriat agricole dans la région de Kinshasa situé en République Démocratique du Congo.

#### **Les buts du projet sont de**

- ❑ Renforcer les capacités de l'ITA Mombele en République Démocratique du Congo dans la formation d'apprenant(e)s en entrepreneuriat agricole;
- ❑ Renforcer les liens du Canada avec la République Démocratique du Congo.

« Focus agro-alimentaire »

**République Démocratique du Congo (RDC)**

Projet d'une valeur de 388,873\$ d'octobre 2000 à la fin de septembre 2004. Le



*Partenaires du projet : Médard Pambi, préfet de l'ITA; Richard Risasi, de l'IPN; Richard Doiron, Directeur du campus d'Edmundston du CCNB; Lambert Kabongo et Grégoire Ntutani, tous les deux de l'INPP. L'établissement partenaire canadien est le Centre d'excellence en sciences agricoles et biotechnologiques de Grand-Sault, une composante du CCNB-Edmundston.*

CESAB, composante du CCNB Edmundston, en partenariat avec le collège Alfred de l'Université de Guelph en Ontario, visent à appuyer la réforme du programme de formation d'Ingénieur Technique Agro-Vétérinaire, le développement de matériel pédagogique ainsi que le perfectionnement d'enseignants de l'Institut Supérieur Agro-Alimentaire Saint Pierre Canisius (ISVA) afin d'accroître la capacité de cette institution congolaise à produire des finissants(es) capables de développer de façon durable le secteur privé Agro-alimentaire de la République Démocratique du Congo.

**Projets en phase d'exploration**

**République Islamique de la Mauritanie (RIM)**

Partenariat entre la Société Nationale Industrielle et Minière de Nouadhibou (SNIM) et une société minière du Canada afin d'améliorer les opérations de la mine de fer de Zouerate en Mauritanie.

**République Islamique de la Mauritanie (RIM)**

Mise en place de nouvelles filières de for-



*République Islamique de la Mauritanie*

mation dans le domaine de la « Production et Santé Animales » « Production et Protection Végétales » « Génie Rural » en par-

tenariat avec d'autres collèges canadiens et avec « L'Institut Supérieur d'Études Technologiques (ISET) de Rosso.

**Cameroun**

Projet d'appui à la foresterie communautaire en partenariat avec la firme SNC-Lavalin et le centre universitaire St-Louis Maillet.

**Tunisie**

Projet en Agro-Alimentaire en partenariat avec le CEGEP de St-Hyacinthe au Québec et avec le Centre Technique De L'Agro-Alimentaire (CTAA) de Tunis. Une première mission a eu lieu en février 2003 et les pourparlers se poursuivent.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS / ANNONCES

## Development and Peace Launches Three year Campaign on Water

ONE IN SIX PEOPLE IN THE WORLD DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER. 95% OF THEM LIVE IN THE SOUTH. JOIN THE GROWING INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT WORKING TO CHANGE THIS SITUATION. THIS MOVEMENT INCLUDES PARTNERS OF DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE IN THE SOUTH SUCH AS THE DEBT COALITION IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE MOVEMENT OF RURAL LANDLESS PEOPLE (SEM TERRA) IN BRAZIL, UNES IN EL SALVADOR AND GROUPS IN THE NORTH SUCH AS EAU SECOURS IN QUEBEC, THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS AND THE WORLD WATER CONTRACT. WE ARE ONE OF MANY GROUPS WORKING TO MAINTAIN WATER AS A HUMAN RIGHT FOR THE COMMON GOOD, RATHER THAN AS A COMMODITY FROM WHICH TO EARN ESCALATING PROFITS.

THIS FALL, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE IS INVITING PEOPLE TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION AND TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO UPHOLDING ITS PRINCIPLES:

- WATER IS A SACRED GIFT THAT CONNECTS ALL LIFE.
- ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT.
- THE VALUE OF THE EARTH'S FRESH WATER TO THE COMMON GOOD TAKES PRIORITY OVER ANY POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL VALUE.

# Regional Co-operative Development Centre Year in Review

# MEMBER PROFILE

In a year when the focus of government and business has been increasingly on "Innovation", it's good to report that the Regional Co-operative Development Centre has been consistently recognized as being at the forefront of innovative co-operative development not only in the region, but nationally as well. Many organizations have contacted RCDC wondering how we accomplish so much with so little, and our staff have been sought out to give input and make presentations for a broad array of publications and events, including the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Co-operative's forum on seniors housing, the Canadian Co-operative Association's "Intersector" feature on health co-ops, and the Rural Secretariat's session on rural Community Economic Development.

It has also been a banner year for the Atlantic Co-operative Youth Leadership (ACYL) program, with Youth Manager, Carole Findlay, making presentations at numerous co-operative and community minded organizations and offering the program to over 600 youth from around the region, a significant increase of 142% from 2002.

They say that a body renews all of its cells every seven years. RCDC now has seven years of activity under our belt and it's worthwhile to look at what has worked well and what has needed renewal. Some initiatives, such as our venture capital fund, have been wound up, but the Youth projects and community-based CED initiatives have gone from strength to strength. The legacy of the past seven years has involved the creation of

many jobs, the motivation of many young leaders, and the continued realization of RCDC's original vision: "the creation of an interdependent network of co-operative enterprises throughout the region."

RCDC worked on a broad range of co-op development projects across the region during the past year. Sample activities included:

- Delivering three local ACYL seminars in Nova Scotia
- Delivering a regional ACYL seminar in New Brunswick, which was attended by youths from the four Atlantic Provinces
- Assisting a vegetable producer co-operative in NB to develop a business plan.
- Assisting a shellfish co-operative in Prince Edward Island with their incorporation, development of a business plan, and arranging financing.
- Created a 'provincial resource inventory' (NB & PEI) to assist in developing an integrated network of support for agri-coop development.
- Assisted a new co-operative that will supervise the construction and management of an interpretive centre at Government House in Charlottetown.

In keeping with the Board's direction, Seniors Co-op Housing has been a major focus throughout the past year. Partnerships have been developed and enhanced, presentations created in French and English, resources amassed, options explored and communities contacted and visited. Without the capital to launch projects uni-

laterally, much of the exploration has been targeted to the area of project financing. The long-awaited announcements on federal-provincial Affordable Housing initiatives have finally been made and RCDC stands a good chance of creating eligible projects that will meet the needs of the region's seniors. We have recently submitted seed funding proposals to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for multiple projects in New Brunswick and PEI.

Perhaps the most significant other development this past year has been the contribution we have made to the evolution of the \$15M, 5 year, Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI). This exciting national project has required a significant amount of staff time but we are now poised for participation in a targeted, national plan to enhance co-op activity, especially within the rural economy that is RCDC's primary concern. Already, the CDI has brought about a breakthrough level of collaboration between key players in the Atlantic region and RCDC is coordinating work on an enhanced region-wide youth project.

Although our budget is a modest one, RCDC has been able to "spin off" work to other co-op colleagues and we are proud of the collaborative nature of our efforts in the past year. From high-tech jobs for young co-operators to contract work for worker co-ops, RCDC has been delivering on our commitment to enhance prosperity within the sector.