

# GLOBAL CITIZEN'S

GUIDE



**“I HAVE NO COUNTRY TO FIGHT FOR; MY COUNTRY IS THE EARTH, AND I AM A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD.”** Eugene Debs (American Labour Organizer, 1855 – 1926)



# WHAT IS A GLOBAL CITIZEN?

We live in a world that seems to be getting smaller every day. Social, economic and political globalization, along with amazing developments in communications technology, means we have greater influence on each other than ever before. It's easy to get caught up in the negative impact of our increased integration, but if you shift your focus you can easily see how we can act as individuals and communities to make a positive impact.

Chances are you already have what it takes to be a global citizen. Just the fact that you're reading this guide is an indication that you want to know how you can make a positive difference in the world. That's what being a global citizen is about. Citizenship includes rights and responsibilities: participating in a community to make it better and benefiting from our collective efforts. Being a Global Citizen means seeing the ways we are connected and acting responsibly, knowing that everything we do can have an impact on our global community.

Sometimes this takes a little work, sometimes it takes a lot. That's what this guide is about — whatever time and investment you're able to give, there are different levels of participation in our global community available to all of us.

We hope this *Global Citizen's Guide* will help you find a way to learn more and get involved — in whatever way makes sense and feels good for you!

## **Global Citizenship is...**

**A way of understanding...** how the world works; links between our own lives and those of people throughout the world.

**A way of seeing...** social justice & equity; other people's reality; diversity; interconnectedness; the way that people can make a difference.

**A way of acting...** exercising political rights; critical thinking; challenging injustice.

Want to get inspired by what youth are doing all over Atlantic Canada? Check out [ACT4globalchange.ca](http://ACT4globalchange.ca) for videos on different ways to get involved!

# PUTTING IDEAS INTO ACTION

If global citizenship is about understanding, seeing, and acting, most often it's the acting part that's the most daunting. But it doesn't have to be. There are many different approaches to active global citizenship, and effective methods for putting your ideas into action can range from small symbolic steps to big elaborate endeavours. No matter the scale or scope of your action, what's important is that we make the connection between thinking and doing, and put our ideas into action.

In this guide, we will provide you with resources to help you to learn about global citizenship, develop your own ideas, and put them into action!

## **Volunteering**

To begin with, volunteering is a fantastic option. Spending time working with others who have experience with global issues is a great way to learn more about what's going on in the world, gain useful skills, and give to a worthy cause. Just about anyone can volunteer, as there are many ways to contribute your time — from general administrative work, to event planning, to travelling overseas to put your skills to use elsewhere. Because the opportunities vary, it's a good idea to do a little research first. You should take time to assess your specific skills, how much time you can donate, and your interests.

Here's a sample of different organizations with volunteer opportunities available to Atlantic Canadians. Once you've learned a little about what programs and projects exist, you can decide how you hope to spend your time, and approach the organizations that interest you the most. Don't know where to start? Give ACIG a shout, and we can make some suggestions based on your interests. Call (902) 431 – 2311.

### **Atlantic Chapter of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan**

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4WAfghan) members work in solidarity with Afghan women affecting change through education and the promotion of social justice/ human rights. Volunteers help with public engagement events, make presentations to community and school groups, and sell Afghan-made products. Find out more: [www.cw4wafghan.ca](http://www.cw4wafghan.ca) or [cw4wafghanatlantic@live.ca](mailto:cw4wafghanatlantic@live.ca).

### **Breaking the Silence (BTS)**

Breaking the Silence ([www.breakingthesilenceblog.com](http://www.breakingthesilenceblog.com)) recruits volunteers for short and long-term placements in Guatemala. Areas include: human rights accompaniment, labour and land rights, food sovereignty, women's rights, resistance to resource extraction, and more. It also hosts delegations that tour Guatemala to meet with BTS partners. Contact [btsguatemala@gmail.com](mailto:btsguatemala@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Canada World Youth**

Want to make a positive difference in the world? The chance to travel? Whether you're a student in high school, in the middle of your post-secondary studies, taking a year off, or working full-time, CWY has the international volunteer experience that's right for you. Visit [canadaworldyouth.org](http://canadaworldyouth.org) to get involved.

### **Canadian Red Cross**

Interested in humanitarian issues? Volunteer locally with the Atlantic Zone Disaster Management Team or internationally as an overseas delegate. Visit [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca) for more information.

### **Chalice**

Chalice is an international aid charity that primarily supports community initiatives in developing countries through sponsorship of children and elderly in need. Volunteers help organize campaigns, packaging and mailing, contacting parishes and data entry. Please contact Randy Spaulding at [randyspaulding@chalice.ca](mailto:randyspaulding@chalice.ca) or (902) 252-3917 ext. 702.

### **Cuso International**

Cuso International recruits skilled professionals, usually with 2 – 3 years of work experience in their field to work overseas. Visit [www.cusointernational.org](http://www.cusointernational.org).

### **Falls Brook Centre**

Interested in work experiences, internships, wwoofing volunteer opportunities at the Falls Brook Centre? Are you a high school student looking for the experience of a lifetime? Find out about the Annual March Break Humanitarian Trip to Central America and other opportunities with the Falls Brook Centre by visiting [www.fallsbrookcentre.ca](http://www.fallsbrookcentre.ca).

### **Farmers Helping Farmers**

FHF carries out projects focused on improving the lives of farmers in Kenya. They have also developed a School Twinning program with the communities they support. Find out more at [www.farmershelpingfarmers.ca](http://www.farmershelpingfarmers.ca).

### **GPI Atlantic**

GPI Youth are active internationally and at home helping to create genuine progress in environmental conservation, sustainable economics, cultural promotion and good governance. To join GPI Atlantic's youth program (age 13 to 30), email [gwen@gpiatlantic.org](mailto:gwen@gpiatlantic.org).

### **International Sustainable Community Assistance (ISCA)**

Do you have specific knowledge or practical expertise with veterinary medicine, agricultural cooperatives, empowerment of women, or microfinance? Would you like to support ISCA-AIDC in Haiti or South Sudan? Be in touch [www.isca-aidc.ca/projects.html](http://www.isca-aidc.ca/projects.html).

### **JUDES (Just Us Development Education Society)**

Spread the word about fair trade as a volunteer Community Educator, help organize the next action or campaign, or lend a hand with research, graphic design, administration, or outreach. Visit [www.judesfairtrade.ca](http://www.judesfairtrade.ca).

### **Mennonite Central Committee Canada (MCC)**

Join a global community of people responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice in the name of Christ. MCC workers serve with

**“NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.”** Margaret Mead

churches and community groups in over 50 countries addressing issues of peace, health, education, migration, justice, food and disasters. Find out more at <http://serve.mcc.org>.

#### **Mikinduri Children of Hope**

Mikinduri Children of Hope works to help relieve the effects of poverty in Kenya, by working with local leaders, churches, government agencies, and international partners. Get involved in one of their many fundraising events or participate in a KENCAN tour to help provide vision, dental, and medical care. [www.mikinduri.com](http://www.mikinduri.com).

#### **Nova Scotia Gambia Association (NSGA)**

NSGA offers volunteer opportunities in both Canada and in The Gambia to people with different skill sets. Volunteers assist with a variety of projects and initiatives, including individuals with public relations and communications skills, IT skills, and health and education backgrounds. Find out more: [novascotiagambia.ca/get-involved/volunteer-with-us](http://novascotiagambia.ca/get-involved/volunteer-with-us).

#### **Uganda Venture**

Uganda Venture organizes a variety of volunteer trips to raise awareness and support their various projects. Get involved and use your skills in Uganda! See [www.ugandaventure.com/get-involved](http://www.ugandaventure.com/get-involved) for more information.

#### **WUSC**

Students Without Borders — An initiative from WUSC offers exciting volunteer and learning opportunities in Latin America, Africa and Asia for Canadian University and College students. Visit [www.wusc.ca/en/swb](http://www.wusc.ca/en/swb).

#### **YMCA Fredericton**

The Fredericton YMCA is currently supporting the work of the YMCA of Honduras and its efforts to ensure that the rights of young people in that country are protected. Find out more here: [www.ymcafredericton.nb.ca/international](http://www.ymcafredericton.nb.ca/international).

## PROFILE

# CATHERINE RONAHAAN

“Justice is what love looks like in public”

*Cornel West, from Call and Response, a documentary on global slavery.*

Catherine Ronahan, living in Charlottetown, PEI is an Islander whose secure and deep attachment to place and people makes her a strong global citizen.

Cathy’s mission terms in the Dominican Republic with the Latin American Mission Program (LAMP) of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlottetown laid a foundation for her life-long commitment. While there she worked on two projects: development of health teams in three Dominican–Haitian communities with an NGO working against racism and discrimination; and coordination of a mentoring program offering micro-credit loans, with the larger aim of eliminating violence against women. She designed and implemented capacity-building courses to assist poor and marginalized people to provide for their basic needs through their own micro-enterprises.

In Canada, with the Cooper Institute, she developed prospects for a system of Domestic Fair Trade for food products in PEI. The project team engaged a number of stakeholders to create a system of production and distribution that is eco-friendly and respectful of farmers’ right to a livable income.

As a writer and researcher, she worked with a team to develop an online Guide for Newcomers to Canada for the PEI Association for Newcomers. The guide includes information on the first steps to getting settled on PEI and is available in seven languages.

Catherine is also a founding member of Friends of Mohamed. This group formed to support Mohamed Mara, a refugee who came to PEI in 2005 after rebels cut off his hands in the civil war in Sierra Leone. They established a funding and awareness campaign for the fitting, purchase and maintenance of Mohamed’s new myo-electric hands.

Finally, Catherine works as a Project Coordinator with Women’s Network PEI, a not-for-profit organization that works to strengthen the efforts of PEI women. She is Program Manager of Trade HERizons, which assists unemployed women to obtain and maintain employment in the trades and industrial technology fields. Catherine works to support women to transition from poverty to a sustainable livelihood through developing and facilitating educational and employment opportunities.





# GOING ABROAD

## **Finding International & Non-Profit Jobs**

Whether you're just out of school, mid career, or approaching retirement, securing work with a non-profit organization in a domestic or international setting can offer rewarding experiences and results. You don't need to be trilingual, with multiple years of work experience to secure an overseas position. You may just need to demonstrate that you are able to excel in a specific setting, that you can work in unpredictable circumstances and that you are interested in being immersed into a new culture and language. But how does one make the transition to get from here to there? The first step is to learn where these job postings exist. Several sites and publications can help you discover your career objective, learn how to target your resume to a specific organization, and transfer your ideas and abilities into a professional resume.

### **International & Non-Profit Job Resources**

<a href="http://www.goinglobal.com">www.goinglobal.com</a>	<a href="http://www.workcabin.ca">www.workcabin.ca</a>
<a href="http://www.charityvillage.com">www.charityvillage.com</a>	<a href="http://www.reliefweb.int">www.reliefweb.int</a>
<a href="http://www.idealists.org">www.idealists.org</a>	<a href="http://www.ccic.ca/resources/jobs_e.php">www.ccic.ca/resources/jobs_e.php</a>
<a href="http://www.planetfriendly.net">www.planetfriendly.net</a>	<a href="http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/acdi-cida.nsf/eng/home">www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/acdi-cida.nsf/eng/home</a>
<a href="http://www.workinnonprofits.ca">www.workinnonprofits.ca</a>	

## **Advice on writing an International Resume**

Once you have a good idea of what jobs are out there and which ones are the right fit for you, it's time to begin updating your resume to cater to this specific job market. Simple tactics such as emphasizing one's overseas experiences, ability to learn new languages, and knowledge of specific working environments can make the difference between having your resume short listed or cast aside.

To build an effective international resume, there are a few proven strategies. Tailor your resume to reflect the job description. It is in your interest to do the analytical work of the recruiter; this may mean that a skills-based resume, as opposed to chronological, is more effective. Emphasize your cross-cultural skills and ability to excel in a variety of work environments. Sometimes specific regions or organizations will have different resume writing etiquette — do the extra research to find out exactly who's receiving it.

## **Books**

*The Big Guide to Working & Living Overseas* by Jean-Marc Hachey

*The Global Resume and CV Guide* by Mary Anne Thompson

*Work Your Way Around the World* by Susan Griffith

## **Internships**

Many students find it difficult to secure employment directly out of high school, college or university. One way of getting involved with an organization while receiving on-the-job training is through pursuing an internship. Internships provide the opportunity for individuals to gain valuable hands-on experience, network and build relationships with those in their field, and often result in an offer for further employment within the organization. While some internships are paid, some are voluntary positions that pay in experience alone.

Internationally, internships are an excellent way for individuals to gain experience working in a different cultural environment, learn a new language, and discover the complexities that often surround field operations within international organizations.

### **Internship Resources**

Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) – International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) is an employment program for young Canadians between the ages of 19 and 30. If you're a post-secondary graduate, you could be eligible for this chance of a lifetime to work in a developing country and contribute to Canada's international development goals. Check out [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/iyip](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/iyip).

The International Aboriginal Youth Internships (IAYI) initiative provides opportunities for Aboriginal youth to participate in international internships in developing countries. Visit [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/iayi](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/iayi) for more information.

DFATD International Youth Programs – If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 and are searching for overseas travel opportunities that will allow you the flexibility to work on short-term contracts (including Working Holidays Abroad) check out [www.international.gc.ca/experience/](http://www.international.gc.ca/experience/)

Youth.gc.ca – A source for information about programs and services available to youth at the community level and beyond. Check out [www.youth.gc.ca](http://www.youth.gc.ca).

## **Exchanges**

AFS Interculture Canada has opportunities for both youth and adults to participate in exchanges abroad and/or to host a foreign student in Canada — check them out at [www.afscanada.org](http://www.afscanada.org).

Find out about youth exchanges with Rotary International at [www.rotary.org/en/youth-exchanges](http://www.rotary.org/en/youth-exchanges).

Through the Exchanges Canada Program, youth can enhance their knowledge and understanding of Canada and connect with other young Canadians by discovering another part of the country. Their website also has an extensive list of other exchange opportunities that might be of interest. Find out more: [www.exchanges.gc.ca](http://www.exchanges.gc.ca).

Many Atlantic Canadian Universities and colleges have student exchange opportunities available. Ask at the international student services office at your school, or look it up online. Here are a few examples:

### **Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus**

DAL AC has had significant involvement in international activities for more than 25 years. Short courses are offered in various countries and students may participate in study abroad programs through mobility projects and student exchanges. Visit <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/international-centre.html>.

### **Saint Mary's University**

Saint Mary's students are involved in study abroad programs which allow them to transfer credits back to Saint Mary's degree programs. Students normally spend one to two semesters overseas either with a Saint Mary's international partner university or with other universities they sought on their own, reflecting individual student's needs and interests. [www.smu.ca/administration/international](http://www.smu.ca/administration/international).

### **University of New Brunswick (UNB)**

UNB plays a lead role in advancing the social and economic agenda of Atlantic Canada, and contributing to Canada's role in international development. UNB is involved in a variety of international development and research projects and initiatives that involve students, faculty and staff in many corners of the world. Visit [www.unb.ca/international](http://www.unb.ca/international) to find out more.

### **Renaissance College UNB**

The core Bachelor program of Renaissance College is the B.Phil Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies that offers an excellent education opportunity that includes Canadian and international internships. Check out [www.unb.ca/fredericton/renaissance](http://www.unb.ca/fredericton/renaissance) for more information.



## PROFILE

### SAA ANDREW

Saa Andrew, self-proclaimed “multicultural artist,” promotes peace, freedom, and human rights through reggae and dance music. Starting with Fredericton, New Brunswick, Saa has hopes of reaching a global audience. He and his family came to Fredericton as refugees after fleeing their home in the Kono District of Sierra Leone, during the diamond-fuelled civil war. Having witnessed political conflict, corruption, and the destruction of his hometown, and later surviving on cornmeal in a crowded refugee camp in the Gambia, Saa finds strength and sees potential for change in music.

Graduating in 2009 with a degree in Human Rights at St. Thomas University, Saa’s approach is inspiring and unique: he uses collaborative creativity in his work, such as fusing Irish dance with his reggae dance music. Through music, Saa aims to create a space for diversity and multicultural unity. His songs express his own struggle and his solidarity with the struggles of others around the world. One track is dedicated to his mother, a nurse who was captured by rebels in Sierra Leone, and to whom he sent the proceeds from one of his first concerts in Canada so that she could buy a house. He often performs for fundraisers and at the Multicultural Association of Fredericton, where he also works as the Youth Facilitator ([www.mcaf.nb.ca](http://www.mcaf.nb.ca)). He is also the President for the New Brunswick African Association ([www.nbaa.ca](http://www.nbaa.ca)).

According to Saa, “For the past years, I have been involved in using the arts to create change in the Maritimes and beyond. The arts has made great change in my life, and the people I come across.” Saa has created a program called Battle Of The Arts; it is a show that he produces to give youth the opportunity to share their talent, while creating global change ([www.battleofthearts.ca](http://www.battleofthearts.ca)).

In late 2013, Saa was a guest speaker at the International Youth Global Conference, organized by the Canadian Council of Refugees and University of Alberta, Edmonton.

In Saa’s words, “My aim is to create positive change through the arts, and help open doors for young stars. I would also like to see [Battle of the Arts] go nation-wide, while making change on global issues.”

For information on organizations that support immigrants in your region, check out [www.peianc.com/content/page/community\\_araisa](http://www.peianc.com/content/page/community_araisa).



## **Ecotourism**

There is no denying that the buzzword ‘ecotourism’ has begun to draw suspicion. So how do we decipher between those who use it to attract business and those who use it as genuine practice? It’s important to understand that ecotourism is an approach to tourism, not a uniform model or solution. It’s about minimizing our impact on the natural environments we visit and increasing awareness, sensitivity and respect for the environment. There are many different ways to do this, from community-run educational conservation tours, to innovative recycling and waste programs at a hotel or resort.

However, ecotourism has met further criticism for contributing to the deeper social and environmental impacts that often accompany tourism development. While environmental impacts may be reduced, actual benefits are questioned, and the commodification of the environment and romanticization of indigenous peoples has been criticized. One solution has been better accountability and standards, which are being developed through a number of new regulation and accreditation systems.

Some groups have opted to use a more broad term to refer to responsible tourism: Culturally and Environmentally Appropriate Travel and Tourism (CEATT). CEATT aims to conserve and protect natural resources, respect local cultures, and increase the socio-economic benefits for communities. Here are a few ways that you can promote and respect CEATT:

- Educate yourself about the host country, community, and environment before travelling, including local customs, etiquette, dress code, and basic language.
- Support local business and employment by choosing locally owned and operated lodges, hotels, transportation and tour guides.
- Select tour operators and guides that minimize environmental impacts through conserving resources, environmentally friendly purchasing policies, and contributing financially to regional conservation efforts.
- Travel in small, low-impact groups, and choose destinations that are not over-crowded or over-developed.
- Appreciate the uniqueness of the people and places you visit.
- Choose carefully — your travel choices will help to make it clear to the tourism industry that responsible practices matter.

For information on CEATT, certifying agencies, and responsible tourism check out the ACIC website at [www.acic-caci.org/our-work/travelling-wisely.html](http://www.acic-caci.org/our-work/travelling-wisely.html).



Through the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) International, tourism students and faculty have traveled to Belize in Central America to participate in a service learning ecotourism project with the local partner, Toledo Institute for Development & Environment (TIDE). While there, they learned how Belize is balancing the growth of their tourism industry while protecting their rich natural environment. A NSCC Photography student also travelled with the group to document the trip.

“The trip is really a capstone of the students’ two years of studying tourism and ecotourism, as Belize is an emerging ecotourism destination. Students were surrounded by living examples of what they studied at NSCC,” said Tourism faculty member Wendi Dewey. “It was amazing to watch the learning take place with the students on a daily basis.”

NSCC Tourism student in Belize (Photo by China O’Brien)



# THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY

Volunteering, working, and studying overseas are just a couple of options to engage in global citizenship. But global citizenship doesn't need to take place abroad, nor do you need to have travelled to understand what it means. Sometimes the most significant actions and experiences take place right in our own communities. Furthermore, if you have travelled, what's important is that you apply that experience back home, bringing the perspective you've gained abroad to local action.

There are all sorts of ways to get involved locally, and even local actions have the potential to make an impact on a global scale. Here we have a few tips and resources for different ways to engage in global citizenship at home.

## **Courses and Educational Opportunities**

- Many universities and colleges across Atlantic Canada offer courses in topics such as international development, international relations, journalism, media studies, environmental sciences, environmental studies, social work, and other related fields. Check online for course calendars at the educational institutions near you.
- The Coady Institute at St. Francis Xavier University specializes in development education, offering a 5-month diploma program, as well as a number of other, shorter certificate programs. For more info, go to [www.coady.stfx.ca](http://www.coady.stfx.ca).
- The Tatamagouche Centre, in Nova Scotia, offers community development and social justice related programs and retreats for all ages throughout the year. For their schedule, go to [tatacentre.ca/programs](http://tatacentre.ca/programs).
- For environmental education opportunities, check out organizations and coalitions such as the New Brunswick Environmental Network ([www.nben.ca](http://www.nben.ca)), the Nova Scotia Environmental Network ([www.nsen.ca](http://www.nsen.ca)) and the Conservation Council of New Brunswick ([www.conservationcouncil.ca](http://www.conservationcouncil.ca)).
- “Free schools” provide great opportunities for people of all ages to come together to learn about various topics, from screen-printing to queer theory. Look for a free school in your community. If one doesn’t exist, gather a group and start one up!
- Check out [globalhive.ca](http://globalhive.ca) for the Global Hive Toolkit, designed to assist the efforts of public engagement practitioners working in Canada: NGO staff, volunteers, international development workers, teachers, youth, campaigners, activists, artists, policy makers – in short, everyone who works to engage others on global issues.
- ACIC, along with its member organizations, offer numerous ways to get inspired, informed and involved. Whether it’s a skill-building workshop, youth symposium, campaign, or travel opportunity, there are lots of ways to take action. Check out [ACT4globalchange.ca](http://ACT4globalchange.ca) and [www.acic-caci.org](http://www.acic-caci.org) to find out what’s going on.

## **Profile**

# JENNIE WILLIAMS

Jennie Williams, artist, performer, traveller, and mother of three, is committed to preserving and continuing her Inuit heritage through the arts. Originally from Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador, she uses various creative mediums to depict the traditional Inuit way of life, including painting, photography and traditional crafts. She also provides workshops in drumming, throat singing, story telling, crafts and Inuit games, teaching others about the unique heritage and culture of Labrador.

In 2007, Jennie participated in First Voices, a collaborative art project that connected young artists from Indigenous communities in the North and South. She and other youth from Atlantic Canada teamed up with youth from Honduras and Guatemala to express positive stories from their communities using art, music, photography and traditional ceremony. They presented their work during a ten-day tour of communities around Atlantic Canada. With First Voices, Jennie later travelled to Guatemala to perform, display her art, and visit the communities of the youth she worked with on the project.

Now based in Nain, Nunatsiavut (an Inuit self-governing region within the province of Newfoundland & Labrador), Jennie works with youth to offer art workshops and continues to volunteer and perform Inuit throat singing. She has her own photography business and is currently working on her first photo book about Labrador culture.

Interested in supporting global indigenous peoples? Interested in learning about Guatemala, and the group that Jennie accompanied there? Check out Breaking the Silence at [www.breakingthesilenceblog.com](http://www.breakingthesilenceblog.com).

For more information on First Voices, go to [www.acic-caci.org/our-work/first-voices.html](http://www.acic-caci.org/our-work/first-voices.html).



## **Fundraising**

Chances are, you've been invited to at least one fundraiser. You've probably been approached on the street, had a donation box passed to you at an event, or received at least one phone call requesting a donation. Fundraising is everywhere because it works! It's fun and effective, and its tactics are as diverse as the issues for which money is raised.

No matter how small your community, how grassroots your group, or how seemingly simple your idea, do not be discouraged — your contribution matters! Contrary to popular belief, the bulk of the money given to non-profit organizations comes from individuals, not foundations or corporations, and the majority of people who give money are not rich.<sup>1</sup>

- More conventional fundraising events include a movie screening, auction, or 24-hour fast. But there's no need to feel limited by convention — the sky is the limit with fundraising ideas, and the most successful tend to be those that are creative and context appropriate, such as cutting your hair for cancer research, or holding an anti-sweatshop fashion show. If you're looking for inspiration, Amnesty International Canada has got everything from Arm Wrestling to Yoga-thons in their A-Z list of creative ideas at [www.amnesty.ca/donate/raise-money-for-human-rights](http://www.amnesty.ca/donate/raise-money-for-human-rights).
- Rather than organize an event, you could also participate in a solo activity, such as running a marathon or a pledge to quit smoking, soliciting sponsorship from friends, family, and/or business. Oxfam Canada provides great tips in their fundraising guide at [www.oxfam.ca/what-you-can-do/fundraise-for-oxfam/fundraising-toolkit](http://www.oxfam.ca/what-you-can-do/fundraise-for-oxfam/fundraising-toolkit).
- For excellent tips on every kind of fundraising, one popular guru is expert Kim Klein. She has written a number of books and publishes the "Grassroots Fundraising Journal" found at [www.grassrootsfundraising.org](http://www.grassrootsfundraising.org).
- For more links related to funding and fundraising guides, check out [www.acic-caci.org/training-material](http://www.acic-caci.org/training-material).

## **Organizing an Event**

If you've got an issue, organization, or idea you're enthusiastic about, organizing an event is one valuable and rewarding option for putting your idea into action. Events are a great way to work with others to develop creative ideas to engage the public around an issue. Whether your goal is to fundraise, raise awareness, protest, advocate, or convene around certain issues, there are a number of tips to keep in mind that will support you through organizing your event.

In their 4-step model for youth groups, the Canadian Red Cross suggests starting by setting goals that broadly describe your overall purpose and desired results. Next comes project planning, in which you outline the steps, timeline, and budget; implementation, which involves delegating tasks, publicity, and logistics; and finally, evaluation and follow-up. The full version of their model can be found at [www.redcross.ca/cmslib/general/lmr\\_events.pdf](http://www.redcross.ca/cmslib/general/lmr_events.pdf).

In planning an event, it is important that no one person takes on a disproportionate or unreasonable share of the responsibility, that consensus is honoured, tasks are delegated fairly, and that everyone is appreciated for their time and effort. *The Accidental Fundraiser*, by Stephanie Roth and Mimi Ho, stresses team building, providing tips on developing a volunteer base and working well together. They also provide extensive guidelines and strategies for planning specific kinds of events, including community dinners and bowlathons. Another great resource to check out is [http://canadaworldyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Public\\_Engagement\\_Cookbook.FULLVERSION.pdf](http://canadaworldyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Public_Engagement_Cookbook.FULLVERSION.pdf).

## **The three Cs of Event Planning**

**Creativity:** Celebrate your ingenuity! People are drawn to original and unique event ideas.

**Context:** Be aware of your topic, message, and desired audience.

**Collaboration:** Draw on the skills, resources, and support from those in your group and community, including organizations, businesses, and individuals.

<sup>1</sup> Klein, Kim. *Fundraising for Social Change*, 7.

## PROFILE

# LOGAN MacGILLIVRAY

“In January 2008 Dr. Thomas and Mary Turray of the Centre for Development and Peace Education (CDPeace), who were working with the Coady Institute at St.FX University, came to speak to my family about a project my mom wanted to do with women in Sierra Leone. They showed us pictures of children, schools and an area where they wanted to build schools and a centre for development and peace education in the northern province of Sierra Leone. Everything was destroyed by rebels.

The pictures they showed me were children my age without food and water, not going to school and working in fields. These pictures were so strong to me that I wanted to help. The idea of sending a container was brought up and I really wanted to do that because I thought it wasn't fair that they had so much less than us. They have been through 11 years of civil war and I thought they needed their spirits to be lifted because they looked very sad in the pictures.

To help fill the container I approached schools and businesses and with help from many people — parents, teachers, my basketball team, businesses, family and friends — the container filled up with educational, building and recreational materials. I raised \$9,000 to ship the container through my basketball team, donations from companies, and some money I had won for a clay animation, and it left in early June.

I wanted to raise the awareness of Sierra Leone by doing a documentary. I thought if there was a song in the documentary it would get the message across better. I approached Terry Kelly and explained what I was doing. He immediately wanted to help and wrote and sang the song. A lot of very helpful people volunteered to help with the production of the film. After several months the film was ready and screened at Atlantic Film Festival in September 2008.

Dr. Thomas Turray is who inspired me. He told me that it is the children that are going to make the difference in the rebuilding of Sierra Leone but they are going to need an education to make that difference. Terry Kelly also inspires me and shows me that there are no limitations in life and if you want to



do something you can do it.”

To find out more and to order Logan’s film, go to [www.listentothechildren.net](http://www.listentothechildren.net).

Logan is now 16 years old and is a grade 11 student at Halifax Grammar School. He raised an additional \$8,500 to send a second container full of donated supplies to fill the Listen to the Children Multipurpose Centre he is currently building in the Mayagba region of Sierra Leone. The centre will have a classroom, music room, art room, computer room, library and outdoor recreational area and will serve 40 villages and thousands of children.

Logan has raised \$28,500 to date for the construction of the centre and hopes to have the centre completed by summer 2014 upon final funding. The Listen to the Children Multipurpose Centre will provide the children with an educational opportunity, a fun place to go to for free and also serve as a teacher’s resource centre. Once the centre is complete, Logan will travel to Sierra Leone for the grand opening.



## Engaging in Democracy

There are a number of easy ways to engage in democracy in Canada, and as an active global citizen, there is also a responsibility to do so. Policy molds the day-to-day operation of Canadian society, as well as Canada's role on the world stage. In theory, Canada's democratic system creates a reciprocal relationship between its politicians and the public — politicians represent us, and, in turn, our support is what keeps them afloat. This relationship should keep politicians accountable to the public, but it only works if we communicate our concerns, priorities, and expectations of them. Three effective and straightforward ways in which to do so are voting, lobbying, and advocacy. As Romeo Dallaire encouraged during a speech at a Global Citizenship Conference at Wilfred Laurier University, it's actually your responsibility to "harass" your politicians!

Let's focus on just one method of this kind of political pestering: letter writing. Writing a letter to your MP is simple, free, and effective.

Here are some tips:

**Be polite:** Address your MP by their full name and title. The prime minister is addressed as "The Rt. Honourable" and the letter should start with "Dear Prime Minister." Cabinet ministers and premiers are addressed as "The Honourable" and their letters should begin with "Dear Minister." Make sure to end with a thank you.

**Be direct:** Include a description of what you'd like to happen, why it matters, questions that require a direct response, a request for their commitment to an action, and a request for response to your letter.

**Be informed:** Make sure you've done your research and have all your facts right.

**Use your own words:** While form letters can be effective in some cases, a personal touch, telling them who you are, is always more likely to garner a response.

**Be brief:** One page should do it.

Amnesty International provides further tips at: [www.amnesty.ca/sites/default/files/urgent\\_action\\_toolkit.pdf](http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/default/files/urgent_action_toolkit.pdf).

To find the contact information for your MP, you can search by name or postal code through the Government of Canada website at [www.parl.gc.ca/MembersOfParliament/MainMPsCompleteList.aspx](http://www.parl.gc.ca/MembersOfParliament/MainMPsCompleteList.aspx). Writing to the House of Commons is free, so you do not need a stamp. Writing your MLA or city councillor does require a stamp; however, emailing is always a good option. Search by name and/or location online.

## **Ethical Consumption**

With scarcity a looming reality, it's important that we think seriously about reducing consumption, both individually and on a global scale. However, while focusing on consuming less, we also need to look at what we do consume and how our choices impact the globe. This is where the concept of ethical consumption comes into play.

Ethical consumption allows us to acknowledge our need to buy stuff, but encourages us to minimize the harmful impacts and exploitation of communities, animals, and the environment as a result of what we buy. It helps us to become better educated about business practices, and in turn, increase awareness and encourage corporate transparency.

Ethical consumption is built on the basic idea of pocket power — that where we choose to put our money makes a difference. It's kind of like voting with your wallet — but instead of politicians, it's products and companies. Instead of the political party system, it's an alternative global economic system.

Of course, sometimes what to vote for is not such a straightforward decision. For example, is it better to buy local or go for the imported organic option? Second-hand or union-made? There are also different types of ethical consumption, such as 'positive' purchasing, which means favouring ethical products, and 'negative' purchasing, which means avoiding or boycotting certain products or companies. Meanwhile, many companies are using 'ethical' as a marketing concept, tacking buzzwords like 'green' and 'co-op' onto the labels of products that just barely meet an 'ethical' standard.

With all these factors, ethical consumption may sometimes seem like a complex and convoluted practice. A few resources that might help you to make some of these decisions include:

[www.sustainabilitydictionary.com](http://www.sustainabilitydictionary.com)  
[en.maquilasolidarity.org](http://en.maquilasolidarity.org)  
[www.ethicalconsumer.org](http://www.ethicalconsumer.org)  
[www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org)  
[www.tenthousandvillages.ca](http://www.tenthousandvillages.ca)

[www.nosweatapparel.com](http://www.nosweatapparel.com)  
[www.fairtrade.ca](http://www.fairtrade.ca)  
[www.oxfam.ca](http://www.oxfam.ca)  
[www.betterworldhandbook.com](http://www.betterworldhandbook.com)  
[www.judesfairtrade.ca](http://www.judesfairtrade.ca)

A good bet is making sure to shop locally whenever possible, choosing farmer's markets and local businesses over big-box options. Also, it's important to understand that ethical consumption doesn't stand on its own, and should be paired with social and political action, and, of course, consuming less.

## PROFILE

# MURIEL DUCKWORTH

“If anyone can do it, Muriel, you can.” That’s what Muriel Duckworth’s husband Jack used to say when she had moments of doubt. It’s amazing anyone achieving what Muriel did in her 100 years of life would lack confidence. But even the founder of Voice of Women (the first women’s peace organization in Canada), winner of the Persons Award, the Pearson Peace Medal and the Order of Canada, and recipient of honorary degrees from 10 universities, had humble beginnings.

Muriel was a shy child from a farm in Quebec. Few might have guessed she would go on to achieve what she did, but we all start somewhere, each with our own source of inspiration. Muriel’s source was the search for truth that began when she joined the Young Christian Movement at McGill University. There she was encouraged to question those things she had previously taken for granted. Muriel uncovered uncomfortable truths about people’s experiences with war, race and gender inequality, and social and political injustices.

Some actions inspired by these truths included withholding the portion of her income tax that would be allotted to military spending; being the first woman in Nova Scotia to run for political office both provincially and federally; participating in a Peace Mission to Central America; and leading protests against militarism. These and many other achievements have culminated in Muriel’s reputation as one of Canada’s leading peace and women’s rights activists.

Muriel Duckworth passed away in August 2009 at age 100. Her legacy lives on in the form of the Jack and Muriel Duckworth Fund for Active Global Citizenship. Oxfam Canada honoured her and her late husband Jack with this fund which celebrates the spirit of leadership exemplified by the Duckworths and supports Oxfam’s work to eradicate poverty and foster social justice ([oxfam.ca/donate/jack-and-muriel-duckworth-fund-for-active-global-citizenship](http://oxfam.ca/donate/jack-and-muriel-duckworth-fund-for-active-global-citizenship)).

Muriel’s many feats are encouraging to all of us who doubt what we are capable of. It takes perseverance and dedication, but every bit counts. As individuals or as organized groups, leadership in fostering peace is something we can all achieve and find solidarity and support in doing so.

Continue Muriel’s legacy; get involved in the Nova Scotia chapter of Voice of Women at [www.nsvow.org](http://www.nsvow.org) or the national group at [www.vowpeace.org](http://www.vowpeace.org).



## **Conclusion**

As this guide has shown, there are lots of ways in which you can engage with the local and global community. Breaking global issues down into manageable pieces and taking action doesn't have to be hard, you just need to take that first step: make the decision to get involved!

You don't have to get on a plane to become an active global citizen. Whether you're at home or abroad, what makes global citizenship meaningful is that you actively engage with the issues and the community. Of the world's most pressing problems, the solutions are rarely imported from afar; they're unique to each community and brought forth from within. It is possible to address broad, structural issues and local, on the ground realities at the same time — in fact, that's what makes global citizenship most effective!

Now that you have explored some of the different ways to get involved... take action! Check out the organizations that exist in your community, make connections both locally and globally, and learn how to address the concerns that speak to you. In a world of receding borders and interconnected problems, there are countless opportunities to engage in global and local issues. The choice to become a global citizen is yours — join the movement!





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