



March 2005

BULLETINS :: CWY NEWS

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The March edition of our bulletin offers you the latest news about Canada World Youth (CWY)!

## Ten Years of Partnership with Cuba—Something to Celebrate!

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Canada World Youth's partnership with Cuba! To highlight this special occasion, a group of thirty people from Canada's business and philanthropic sectors were in Cuba from February 19 to 26 to visit participants and observe them in action in their host communities, host families and work placements. Nine past participants from Cuba exchanges that have taken place over the past nine years served as CWY "ambassadors" to the delegation.



Hébert, the Cuban Minister of Education, Luis Ignacio Gómez Gutiérrez, and the Canadian ambassador to Cuba, Her Excellency Alexandra Bugailiskis.

As part of the 10th anniversary celebrations, CWY also held a draw that brought in a total of \$19,080 in profits to go towards funding this year's Cuba programs. The winner of the grand prize, an all-inclusive trip for two to Cuba, was Isabelle Couture, a CWY past participant from Montreal. Second prize, a Fuji FinePix A330 digital camera, was awarded to Robert Fink from Thornhill, Ontario and third prize, a CWY gift package, went to Michel Taillefer, from Terrebonne, Quebec. We would like to thank the event's three main sponsors: Fujifilm, Varaplaya Tours and Voyage Culture Cuba.

**Photo: Members of the delegation with the Cuban Minister of Education, Mr. Luis Ignacio Gómez Gutiérrez.**

## Africa Now: Untold Stories

The conference "Africa Now: Untold Stories", to be held at Carleton University in Ottawa on March 11 and 12, 2005, will address some of the problems facing young Africans today: HIV/AIDS, the environment, war-affected youth, and childhood development in refugee camps. The conference will be presented by the Canada Fund for Africa (CIDA), and the Carleton University School of Journalism and Communication.

On Saturday, March 12, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Canada World Youth will organize a round table discussion on youth and the environment moderated by Alexandre Trudeau,

journalist, film maker, and Chair of the Board of CWY. The invited panelists include the following:

- Marie-Christine Gélinas, who participated in the CWY 2003-2004 Tanzania/Kenya program, working on a sustainable beekeeping project with [Honey Care Africa](#);
- David Kuria, of KENVO, CWY's partner organization in Kenya, which promotes the preservation of biodiversity;
- Michael Simpson, formerly of the Sierra Club, founder of [OneSky](#), The Canadian Institute of Sustainable Living.

The conference is open to the public free of charge, and we hope to see many of you there! For information and registration: [www.carleton.ca/africanow](http://www.carleton.ca/africanow)

## Donation of medical equipment to Honduras

At the initiative of Ana Chavarría and Alexandra Miles, two participants in the CWY Ontario/Honduras program, fifty-two hospital beds and various pieces of medical equipment from Canada will be delivered to clinics in the southern region of Copán, Honduras, during the third week of March.

Ana and Alexandra were concerned about the alarming health-care situation in Honduras: the outlying regions of this Central American country suffer from a distressing lack of medical resources. The two young women organized a fundraising campaign to cover the cost of transporting hospital beds, provided free of charge by two senior citizen centres in Renfrew, Ontario. The total value of the equipment is about US\$180,000. "These beds will enable health-care centres in the region to provide care to local residents, thereby freeing up hospital beds in the already overcrowded hospitals in major urban centres," explain the project coordinators.

Ana and Alexandra have reached their objective, raising US\$8,000 to transport the equipment and buy bedding and other medical equipment. For information: Alexandra Miles at [agmiles@gmail.com](mailto:agmiles@gmail.com).

## Netcorps Coalition Receives one of the First Canada Corps Grants



The members of the NetCorps coalition (Canada World Youth, Alternatives, Canadian Crossroads International, CUSO, Human Rights Internet, The International Institute for Sustainable Development, Oxfam Quebec, the Canadian Society for International Health and VSO Canada) will soon launch a new internship program for Canadians. This program, which will focus on helping countries develop good governance through information technology, has been made possible by the financial participation of the [Canada Corps](#) initiative.

21, 2004 that a \$1 million grant is to be distributed among the nine members of the coalition. This grant will allow them to send some 50 interns, aged 18 to 30, to developing countries in order to participate in programs that promote online governance.

"The announcement made by the minister yesterday confirms the leadership of our coalition that has already proven its expertise in the area of international youth programs through the NetCorps coalition initiative", said Matthew Pearce, President of CWY. "This program is funded by Industry Canada, and to date has benefited more than 1,200 Canadians with skills in information technology."

## Canadian Communities Welcome the World

Every year, at least 50 Canadian communities open their doors to CWY participants. This kind of extraordinary support is key to the success of our programs, because the contact participants have with their host communities is a critical part of their learning experience! This year, the first phase of one of our Cuba programs took place in Windsor, Nova Scotia. Anna Allen, the city's mayor, describes the positive impact the CWY program had on the community:

*"We were very pleased that our community was chosen to host the Canada World Youth/Cuba program (...) The comments I received from the community were very, very positive! To say that the participants left a lasting impression would be an understatement. It is my hope that Windsor may one day be chosen again to host a CWY program and that more youth from our country will be able to participate in Canada World Youth. This can only help in our mutual quest to understand and respect all people of the world."*

Your community would like to host a CWY program? Please contact us at [cwy-icm@cwy-icm.org](mailto:cwy-icm@cwy-icm.org).

## Participants Meet Prime Minister Paul Martin's Delegation in Beijing

Some twenty Canadian and Chinese participants in the Canada World Youth program in China met with members of Prime Minister Paul Martin's delegation during its visit to Beijing on January 21, 2005. The young people took this opportunity to talk about their experiences as volunteers participating in work projects in the Chaoyang region.



"We are one of the links in the chain of good will and cooperation connecting our two nations," explained Ben Crompton, the group's Canadian supervisor. The team, composed of equal numbers of participants from China and various regions of Canada, spent three months in Powell River, a municipality north of Vancouver, before travelling to Beijing last December. In China, the young people organized a fundraiser for tsunami relief efforts and a concert dedicated to a hundred seasonal workers in the Chaoyang region.

**Photo: Participants Daniela Gasca and Aurélie Couture-Boissinot with the Honourable Roy Cullen, during the delegation's visit to Beijing.**

## GIT en Amérique Program: For a Second Year!



For the second consecutive year, CWY and the Montreal-based organization, *Groupe Information Travail (GIT)*, are offering an extraordinary international experience to ten young people who have overcome challenges related to employability, housing or social integration. From February 21 to May 13, 2005, participants in the *JCM-GIT en Amérique 2* program will take part in structured community projects in Quebec and Mexico, in order to develop their social and professional skills and prepare themselves for integration into the job market. The first *JCM-GIT en Amérique* program was an unequivocal success for the young people who took part in it: Most have either gone back to school or found a job since the program.

CWY needs to raise \$45,000 to ensure the program's success again this year. Individuals or businesses interested in supporting this innovative project are welcome to make donations! We would like to thank the *Fondation Jean-Louis Lévesque* and *Groupe Cirque du Soleil* for their

generous support. For more information about the *JCM-GIT en Amérique 2* program, please contact [Stéphanie Boyard](#).

**Photo: Sébastien Légaré working on a mural in an elementary school in Costa Rica as part of the first JCM-GIT en Amérique program.**

## Fundraising News

To date, Canada World Youth received \$1,005,050 for the following campaigns:

- CWY participants' fundraising activities: \$812,566
- Other fundraising activities (special events, annual campaign and revenue from endowment funds): \$192,484

We would like to extend a special thank you to the following donors, whose outstanding generosity has made it possible for CWY to provide hundreds of young participants from Canada and around the world with a truly unique non-formal educational experience:

- The Cloverleaf Foundation: sponsoring our Honduras program
- Power Corporation: sponsoring CWY in general
- Legendre Lubawin Marketing, inc.: for CWY in general
- Groupe Cirque du Soleil: sponsoring the *JCM-GIT en Amérique 2* program
- Fondation Jean-Louis Lévesque: sponsoring the *JCM-GIT en Amérique 2* program

Your ever-growing enthusiasm makes it possible for CWY to continue providing young people with the opportunity to become leaders and active global citizens. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

To make a donation to CWY, please visit our [Web site](#).

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This bulletin is produced three times a year by the Development and Communications Department of Canada World Youth.

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**Attention CWY Alumni!** We do not trade, rent or sell any of our names to other organizations. If you do not want your name and address shared with other CWY past participants for alumni activities such as group reunions, please contact [Betty-Jo McCarville](#) (phone: 1-800-605-3526).

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