

CWY receives \$12 million for new programs in Africa

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced last month that Canada World Youth will receive \$12 million to support new programs that will bring African youth together to address pressing development issues on the continent.

The funding is part of the remaining \$60 million in the Canada Fund for Africa, managed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The fund was established in response to Canada's commitment during last year's G8 Summit to areas identified by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Canada World Youth President Matthew Pearce called the announcement a great endorsement by CIDA of Canada World Youth's expertise in international youth programming and providing exceptional learning opportunities in areas of pressing concern to nations.

"We at Canada World Youth have more than 30 years of experience in designing and executing exceptional youth programs in more than 60 countries. This announcement means that CWY will be able to do even more work in Africa, an area of the world where youth can play a critical role in addressing many significant development issues," said Mr. Pearce.

The funding will be used over the next four years to initiate programs in Mozambique, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Senegal, Mali, Ghana and other African nations. The programs will involve youth from Canada and these nations sharing knowledge and expertise on issues of mutual concern including the environment.

A glimpse at the past year

It was another stellar year of programming for Canada World Youth in 2002-2003, as we continued to provide young people with an exceptional learning experience in Canada and in more than 20 countries around the world. The following events and activities are among our annual highlights:

Winner of the Huguette Labelle Award

Canada World Youth was recognized this year by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters for its outstanding youth programs. The **Huguette Labelle Award for Excellence in Youth Programming** was presented to CWY during the 11th Annual Canadian Awards for International Cooperation in February. The awards recognize the achievements of Canadian business and organizations supporting sustainable economic growth and social programs to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Fujifilm/Canada World Youth Photo Contest

For the third year in a row, CWY participants were given single-use cameras and film from **Fujifilm** to participate in the Fujifilm/Canada World Youth Photo Contest. As a team, they were asked to capture images that best represented their team's interpretation of interest or beauty in everyday situations. Fuji provided cash prizes to the top-three winning teams, who designated the money to a charity/organization of their choice.

Kateri/Canada World Youth Fund

Following a decision to close its doors, the Kateri Foundation

decided to transfer its assets to Canada World Youth. (The foundation had been named after **Kateri Melançon**, a former CWY participant who passed away in 1986.) A new fund has been created, the **Kateri/Canada World Youth Fund**, the interest of which will be spent on financing small projects to assist women in Latin America. A small committee at CWY will be set up to choose the projects to be financed. The fund will be housed and managed by the Foundation of Greater Montreal.

Trilateral program focuses on North America

Canada World Youth launched its first trilateral pilot program last year called the **North American Community Service (NACS)** program. The program involved three Canadians, three Americans and three Mexicans working on community-based projects in all three nations. The objective was to help participants identify their common interests as residents of the same continent, while developing their skills and attitudes to become active leaders in promoting a sustainable North American community. Plans are under way to expand the program this year.

www.cwy-jcm.org gets a face-lift

Canada World Youth's website was completely redesigned this year with the objective of making it easier to navigate and more interactive for users. The site boasts a new youthful colour scheme, more photographs and new content that will ensure visitors are returning often to see what's new.

Good Morning Cuba! An unusual account of an extraordinary trip - an excerpt

The Honourable Jacques Hébert, former senator, prolific author and founder of Canada World Youth, has written a book about a recent visit to CWY's programs in Cuba. Illustrated with 70 photographs, the book — titled Good Morning Cuba! — relates the experiences of members of CWY's Board of Directors as they observe participants living and volunteering in the communities of Camajuaní and Caibarién. The author's royalties and profits from the sale of the book will go to Canada World Youth. The following is an excerpt:

Beneath a blazing sun bearing down hard on the patio, strange and pleasant to hear a loving description of far-off Miramichi, New Brunswick, where participants spent the first three and a half months of the program, of the arrival in Camajuaní last November, "our second home, where we were greeted with much joy and enthusiasm... We're an integral part of this community, and the people here will never forget Canada World Youth."

Ariel Machado from Camagüey and Francis Bernier from Beloeil, Quebec, insist... In Miramichi, Ariel discovered how members of a small community manage to preserve their traditions... "Particularly the aboriginal and French cultures, their own language, there's even a Miramichi dictionary!" Well now!

Smiling, intense, almost with fondness, Francis Bernier talks about Camajuaní... "all these historic sites which helped us learn a little about Cuba's past... People here are sociable, proud to have us among them. When I walk through the streets of Camajuaní, people make me feel like a movie star... Camajuaní rocks!"

A key part of the program: living with host families in Canada and the exchange country. Erlena Cruz from Villa Clara and Emily Kortierk, an Inuit from Igloolik, tackle the subject. "Since I live with an extended family of 14 people back home, it's quite a change to live with a family of four... and in another country to boot! My Cuban family treated me as though I was their daughter, teaching me everything, taking care of me..."

Her counterpart, Erlena, had a very different experience, since her own family is limited to a mother and a grandmother, whereas in Miramichi, "... I lived with my father, mother, brother, and sister, not to mention the two cats and the dog. I helped with the housework; it facilitates communication and understanding. I felt I was an important part of my Canadian family."

The extraordinary integration of participants into their host families, likely the most moving part of the program, as Tom Axworthy (a member of the board) observes: "The highlight of the trip for my family and me, was seeing the bonding between all participants and their host families. Cubans in Canada and Canadians in Cuba spoke of their 'family,' and they meant the people they were living with, not their 'blood' relatives. It is so difficult to put teenagers together from different cultures and have them live with host families that the impact was tremendous."

Royal Commonwealth Society donates to CWY

The Royal Commonwealth Society, Ottawa Branch, has donated the net proceeds from its 16th Annual Humanitarian Dinner to one of Canada World Youth's newest programs.

The dinner, which took place in May at the Ottawa Congress Centre, showcased Canada World Youth's programs. The Honourable Jacques Hébert, retired senator and founder of Canada World Youth, was the guest speaker.

The proceeds will go to the Equator Initiative, a new collaborative program between Canada World Youth and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that will involve young people from Kenya, Tanzania and Canada.

Fundraising update

In the past fiscal year (2002-2003), all three components of our fundraising program rendered impressive results. Participant fundraising totalled \$866,456, co-funding reached \$1,127,112 and the annual campaign raised \$119,449.

We want to again thank all our donors across Canada who generously supported our efforts.

This year, we will again focus on strengthening our ties with our current donors while trying to sensitize new donors to the value of our organization.

Visit our online *bulletin* at
www.cwy-jcm.org

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