

Canada World View

ISSUE 21 • WINTER-SPRING 2004

Africa Forging a future

- Stephen Lewis:
Canada's Moral
Imperative
- The Commonwealth
Scholarship at 40



Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et du Commerce international

Canada

About *Canada World View*

Canada World View provides an overview of Canada's perspective on foreign policy issues and highlights the Government of Canada's international initiatives and contributions. *Canada World View* is published quarterly in English and French by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Mary Gooderham
Managing Editor

You can reach us at:

Canada World View
Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade
125 Sussex Drive, BCS C-2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
Fax: (613) 992-5791
E-mail: rsm-cwv@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Current subscribers:

Help us keep our records up to date. If you are moving, receiving duplicate copies or no longer wish to receive *Canada World View*, simply amend your address label (on back cover) using block letters and return it to us at the above address or fax number. Be sure to include your personal client code when you do.

Subscribe on-line:

Canada World View can be found at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada-magazine. E-mail subscriptions are available through our on-line subscription service on this site.

Subscribe by mail:

To receive free copies of our magazine and other DFAIT publications by mail, contact: Enquiries Service (SXC1)
Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
Tel.: 1-800-267-8376 (toll-free)
or (613) 944-4000
Fax: (613) 996-9709
E-mail: enqserv@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Our cover

In Tamale, Ghana, a plant supported by Canadian development assistance produces replacement parts for machinery used in mining and farming that would otherwise have to be imported. The Ghana Regional Appropriate Technology Industrial Service was established to promote small-scale industrial growth, improve incomes and employment opportunities and enhance the development of Ghana, which is a country of focus for Canada.

photo: CIDA-ACDI/Pierre St-Jacques

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

In the last two issues of *Canada World View*, we asked you to let us know what you think of and want from this publication: its ability to present Canada's foreign policy, represent its cultural and linguistic diversity and document its international programs and activities. We were pleased by how many took the time to send us such thoughtful replies. Readers appreciate the magazine's presentation of Canada's international involvement and foreign policy, its concise writing, attractive layout, theme issues and diverse topics. You want more balanced and in-depth coverage of a range of topics, personal stories of Canadians abroad and perspective not available elsewhere.

Beginning with this issue of *Canada World View*, almost entirely devoted to Canada's initiatives in and relationship with Africa, you will see the results of some of your comments and suggestions. Our theme responds to the results of a recent national survey undertaken by this Department in which Canadians identified Africa as being vitally important to Canada (29 percent of respondents identified the region as mattering most to them, only slightly less than those who chose the Americas). Two years after the G8 Summit at Kananaskis, we examine what's happening on the ground in Africa—and look critically at what more there is to do. We bring you into courtrooms, refugee camps, university campuses, a Canadian High Commission and even to outer space to see first-hand Canada's international contributions and initiatives. We highlight Canada's unique cultural ties to Africa, including a long literary tradition that has produced critically acclaimed new works. And to start, we present a new feature, ViewPoint, which provides some additional perspective on Canada's world view.

Many thanks for offering yours.

photo: CIDA-ACDI/Roger LeMoine

IN THIS ISSUE

ViewPoint: A Vision for Canada in the World	3
"Photo Ops are No Substitute for Political Will"	5
Cover story: Taking Action on Africa ...	6
Africa by Number	7
A Continent in Flames	8
Canada, Africa and La Francophonie ..	10
Diplomacy: Africa Hand	11
Human Security: Conflict Diamond Process Enters Key Phase	12
Justice Comes to Sierra Leone	13
Health: HIV/AIDS in Africa—Canada's Moral Imperative	14
HIV Positive: AIDS Through a New Lens	15
Friends of the Great Lakes	16
Dispatches: Remembering Rwanda	17
Trade: Brighter Days for Trade	18
Focus on Algeria	19
Science and Technology: Building Sustainable Cities	20
Managing Water from 800 Kilometres Out	20
Tuning in on Wildlife	21
Culture: Black and White and Read All Over	22
Education: The Power of Giving Back	24
Africa Journal	26
In Brief: Canada-France 2004	26
Update on Afghanistan	27
Adventure Starts Here!	27
Street Scene	28

A VISION FOR CANADA IN THE WORLD

When Paul Martin became Prime Minister of Canada last December, he identified three priorities for his incoming government. The first is strengthening the social foundations of Canada. The second is building a modern, efficient economy. The third—and for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the most central—is ensuring a place of “influence and pride” for Canada in the world.

For Mr. Martin, who fondly recalls the role his father played as Minister of External Affairs in the government of Lester Pearson in the 1960s, it is imperative that Canada be an active, engaged citizen of the world. For

him, this means understanding, first and foremost, the power and impulses of the United States, our closest neighbour and friend. But it also means running a *global* foreign policy that supports multi-lateral institutions (which Canada helped to found and shape) and that is alive to commerce and trade (which generates about a third of our wealth).

“Canada is best when we exercise a strong and independent voice in the world,” said the Prime Minister, a view that will shape what his government does abroad. In fact, when he and his new cabinet were sworn in on December 12, the government announced that it would conduct the most comprehensive review of the country’s foreign and defence policies in a generation. At the same time, it announced that it would restructure the machinery of government, establishing new cabinet committees and creating a separate Department of International Trade.

“Canadians want their country to play a distinctive and independent role in making the world more secure,

“Canadians want their country to play a distinctive and independent role in making the world more secure, more peaceful, more cooperative, more open. They want to see Canada’s place of pride and influence in the world restored.”

—Speech from the Throne

The Canadian Peacekeeping Monument in Ottawa.

photo: CIDA-ACDI/Pierre St-Jacques



A kindergarten in Mali is improved through Canadian aid.



photo: Mcpl Frank Hudon, Canadian Forces Combat Camera

more peaceful, more cooperative, more open,” the Government said in its Speech from the Throne in February. “They want to see Canada’s place of pride and influence in the world restored.”

The international review will try to find the ways and means of doing that. Broader than previous reviews, it will be comprehensive and integrated, looking at all elements of Canada’s internationalism—defence, diplomacy, aid and trade—and how they fit together. This integration reflects more recent trends such as the “3D approach” (see *Canada World View* Issue 20), which is bringing unprecedented levels of coordination among government departments and agencies involved in diplomacy, defence and development in Afghanistan.

Still, why this? And why now? The review is essential today because the world has changed dramatically in recent years. The last time Canada examined its foreign policy in any way was in 1994, as the world was still adjust-

ing to the fall of Communism and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Now, since the attacks on September 11, we are adjusting to the rise of terrorism. New perils, challenges and uncertainties have emerged—and they demand new answers.

A year ago, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham launched a Dialogue on Foreign Policy, a discussion that took place in 15 town hall meetings across the country, in round tables, through the Internet, in formal

hearings, and among youth and community groups. Canadians expressed their desire for an engaged, committed presence in the world.

Now the review will examine how to address what Canadians told us they want. It will look at the scope and impact of international aid; the future of the Canadian military, its new roles and the resources it will need; the new challenges of dealing with the United States as it wages war against terrorism around the world; the commitment to public diplomacy as Canada promotes



Canadian assistance brings electric motor recycling to Senegal.

its culture and values; and the enhancement of trade and commerce.

In the near future, the government is expected to act in areas that don’t require a review, such as providing inexpensive medicines to combat disease in the developing world, establishing the ambitious Canada Corps and supporting the reform of international institutions, especially the United Nations, which is still organized in much the same way as it was when established in 1945.

In setting a new course for Canada in the world, of course, the greatest challenge will be matching the rhetoric with available resources. Strengthening the military, increasing international assistance and expanding our representation abroad will not happen without cost, time and effort. In the long run, the country will have to make choices, and they will not always be easy. 🍁



Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham meets UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The New Team

As part of the commitment to strengthen Canada’s influence in the world, the foreign affairs and international trade portfolios are being reorganized. A distinct Department of International Trade is being created to provide support for integrated federal trade and investment promotion. The Minister of International Trade is now supported by a new Minister of State (New and Emerging Markets). Expanded roles for parliamentary secretaries include a focus on Canadians abroad and resource promotion. A Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister with special emphasis on Canada-U.S. relations has also been appointed. Please visit the DFAIT Web site at www.dfaite-maeci.gc.ca for up-to-date information on these changes.

"PHOTO OPS ARE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL WILL"

Prime Minister Paul Martin delivered a keynote address to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on January 23, 2004, speaking on "The Future of Global Interdependence." The following are excerpts.

At its best, which is not always the case, the domestic political process is open and full of energy. It is about making the right choices among competing interests and priorities, choices that reflect the way ahead. Debates and trade-offs occur—in our cabinets, in our legislatures, in town halls with our citizens. Eventually decisions are reached.

When we look at the international scene, it is strangely unpolitical. To a remarkable extent, the dialogue among nations is technocratic and indirect rather than open and free ranging. It is often concerned more with preserving a process than with breaking new ground. It is a dialogue that, in the great international meetings, too often proceeds from set pieces read aloud, meetings that are closed to consultation from the outside—and far too frequently closed to new ideas. This is not to say progress doesn't occur. It's just that it is so painfully slow.

The debate between political leaders must be lifted from the page—must go from *pro forma* to real commitment. We have to broaden our traditional ideas about the responsibilities of sovereign states, not only the responsibilities of rich nations toward poor ones, but of all countries to each other.

The first obligation of sovereign states is to their own citizens. That is clear. But even just to do that properly in an interdependent world, states have to be engaged beyond their borders. Further, all states today have a real and legitimate stake in the welfare of other countries, and that confers a special obligation on political leaders to make our international systems work for the welfare of all.

We need multilateral institutions that work. Not as ideological ends in themselves, but as indispensable instruments of national well-being. No one nation can manage the consequences of interdependence on its own. We can work with our neighbours, with our friends and allies, with our regional and global partners. But work together we must.

The problem with many of today's international organizations is that they are not designed to facilitate the kinds of informal political debates that must occur. The mandates, structures and voting procedures of the UN system largely reflect the geopolitical landscape that emerged from World War II. If they are not reformed to reflect today's realities and tomorrow's challenges, they will be increasingly bypassed.

Very occasional meetings across a divide are not what I'm suggesting. If you believe, as we do in Canada, that progress on these tough issues is in everybody's interest, then we have to get the right mix of countries into the same room at the same time, and most importantly on a regular yet informal basis. We need some soul searching, some head knocking, and—above all else—some honest talk about what kind of world we want five or 10 or 20 years down the road. We are not going to do that with 100 countries around the table—nor in small groups, if leaders are absent.

In short, photo ops are no substitute for political will. Political leaders must work with each other internationally the way they work at home, when they work well—debating, exploring, searching for value-driven solutions that are inclusive rather than divisive, stabilizing rather than destructive, pragmatic rather than ideological.

We all have a stake in seeing international systems work well, and I firmly believe they cannot work unless they work for all the people of the world. If we fail to make interdependence work, the consequence will be dire and our children and grandchildren will rightly lay the blame at our feet. 🍁

For the full text of the Prime Minister's address see www.pm.gc.ca.



TAKING ACTION ON AFRICA

At their Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta in 2002, leaders of the G8 countries pledged to support a groundbreaking initiative to rebuild Africa. Nearly two years later, Canada is achieving concrete results in policy forums, long-range programs—and on the ground.

In July 2001, at the G8 Summit in Genoa, Italy, a group of African leaders presented a bold vision to transform their continent from poverty to prosperity. Unlike earlier strategies, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was a made-in-Africa approach that promised to hold the continent's leaders accountable before their people—and the world—for their progress. "Africans declare that we will no longer allow ourselves to be conditioned by circumstance," they stated. "We will determine our own destiny and call on the rest of the world to complement our efforts."

G8 leaders, led by Canada, welcomed the new initiative at their next Summit in Kananaskis, where they approved the Africa Action Plan, a package of more than 100 commitments that addresses such NEPAD priorities as governance, peace and security, education and health, agriculture and water, and trade and investment. "NEPAD represents the best chance in a generation to further Africa's development," says Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham. "Canada is leading the international community in responding to this opportunity."

At Kananaskis, the Canadian government launched a number of initiatives in support of the G8 plan, including the \$500-million Canada Fund for Africa, which is focusing on stimulating economic growth and innovation, strengthening African institutions and improving the well-being of African peoples.

A commitment to Africa

Canada's renewed commitment to Africa began long before Kananaskis. In September 2000, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) launched the Social Development Priorities, a five-year plan to increase support for programming in health and nutrition, basic education, HIV/AIDS and child protection. The plan was partly a response to the United Nations Millennium Development



Canada's Right To Play program: teaching leadership and coaching skills and delivering health messages to young Africans.

Goals, a road map to measure the commitment of both donors and developing countries to halve global poverty by 2015. To that end, Canada committed to doubling its investment in basic education in Africa to \$48 million. At Kananaskis this commitment was again doubled to \$100 million by 2005.

In March 2002, at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, Canada committed to increasing official development assistance by at least 8 percent every year, doubling the level of Canadian aid by the end of the decade, with half of the new funds allocated to Africa. Canada has also been a leader in debt relief, enabling African governments to devote precious resources to services and economic growth.

At Kananaskis, with the new Canada Fund for Africa and with increases in aid announced at Monterrey, Canada had committed \$6 billion in new and existing resources for Africa over a five-year period. In addition, in the spirit of improving market access, Canada committed to extending duty-free and quota-free access to most imports from the 48 countries the UN calls "least developed countries," 34 of which are in Africa. Moreover, in December 2002, as part of its commitment to strengthen aid effectiveness, CIDA singled out six low-income African countries for additional aid investment: Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal and Tanzania.

Now Canada's commitments to Africa are generating concrete results in a broad range of areas, from political and economic governance and social development to



human security. “Canadians can take pride that they are making a difference in Africa,” says Aileen Carroll, Minister for International Cooperation. “There are prospects for real change.”

Health

Relatively small investments in primary health care, proper nutrition, clean water and adequate sanitation can reap huge dividends, reducing poverty and improving quality of life. Canada supports such efforts in Africa and is working with other donors and partners on larger-scale programs in areas such as HIV/AIDS research and the eradication of polio. The Canada Fund for Africa is providing \$50 million to support the work of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and the African AIDS Vaccine Programme, and a further \$50 million toward the goal of eradicating polio by 2005.

While physical health is crucial for quality of life, emotional well-being is equally important. An international organization based in Toronto called Right To Play is using sport to teach leadership and coaching skills and deliver health messages to young Africans in refugee camps.

Together with two colleagues from Austria and Australia, Right To Play volunteer Grace Miskiewicz ran workshops in Sierra Leone for six months last year for refugees fleeing the violence in neighbouring Liberia. One young woman left a particularly strong impression. “Doris had a disability and walked with a stick for a crutch,” Miskiewicz recalls. “When we started the workshops, she was quiet and unsure of herself. You could see her gaining confidence slowly. By the end, she was playing Ultimate Frisbee and volleyball. Nothing stopped her.”

AFRICA BY NUMBER

Challenge

- 1 in 2 Africans lives on less than US\$1 a day.
- 45 million African children are not in school.
- More than 26.6 million people are HIV positive.
- 1 in 5 Africans is affected by conflict.
- 14 countries suffer water scarcity; 11 more will join them by 2025.
- About 500 million hectares of land, 65% of it agricultural, has suffered soil degradation since 1950.
- Africa has 13% of the world's population, but about 2% of global trade and 1% of global investments.



Sierra Leone
refugee camp

photo: CIDA-ACDI/Clive Shirley

Progress

- Since 1990, 42 of the 49 countries in sub-Saharan Africa have held multi-party elections.
- Tanzania is surpassing its enrolment targets for primary-school-age children and has built some 16,000 new classrooms and more than 2,000 houses for teachers.
- In Uganda, the HIV infection rate has dropped from 14% to less than 8% in the last decade as a result of a national prevention and education program.
- After generations of conflict over water, 10 countries bordering the Nile River have come together to manage this precious resource for the benefit of all, especially the poorest, and the environment that sustains them.



Young student
in Niger

photo: CIDA-ACDI/Roger LeMoine

Source: *New Vision, New Partnership, The Canada Fund for Africa, 2004*

photo: Satellite image
taken by RADARSAT-1,
Canadian Space Agency

For Miskiewicz, too, the experience was enriching. "I saw how so many people in the developing world have so many skills and capacities already. They just need some support and resources."

Education and digital opportunities

The needs in terms of education are daunting. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world where the number of children out of school is increasing. To achieve the goal of universal primary education by 2015, the region needs nearly 80 million new places in schools. In countries that have eliminated primary school fees, the influx of previously out-of-school children is crippling. In Kenya, average class sizes have risen to 120 from 40.



photo: CIDA-ACDI/Stephanie Colvey

Computers in schools: harnessing the opportunities offered by technology.

Canada is helping to meet the challenge. Having doubled its support for basic education in Africa, Canada has allocated \$35 million for initiatives to help Africa take advantage of information and communications technologies for economic and social development. One of these, Connectivity Africa, managed by Canada's International Development Research Centre, supports innovative uses of technology through several projects, including a program called Computers for Schools Kenya.

Inspired by Computers for Schools Canada, an Industry Canada initiative launched in 1993 to solicit surplus computers from government and the private sector, refurbish and then distribute them free to schools, the program has provided about 1,000 computers to some 50 Kenyan schools and other institutions, including a home for street children.

"Africans are determined to harness the opportunities offered by technology," says Computers for Schools Kenya coordinator Tom Musili. Apart from supplying refurbished computers, the program has developed related curriculums, trained teachers and principals in the recipient schools and offered instruction at the Kenya Science Teachers College, with good results.

"The students are quite responsive," says Daniel Muturi, a teacher at Naivasha Day Secondary School in Nairobi. "There are students who are very eager to learn."

Agriculture and water

Most of Africa's poor depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. For the architects of NEPAD, improved agricultural performance means not only promoting food security, but also planting the seeds of economic development. Canada has revitalized its support for agriculture in many

A CONTINENT IN FLAMES

When Irish rock star Bono appeared in Toronto last fall, he had a provocative message for Canadians and the rest of the world about working together to help solve Africa's problems. *Canada World View* provides excerpts of what this "rock star with a conscience" had to say.

These are nervous times; they're dangerous times. Things are falling apart, really, for the unlucky many who have to survive on less than a dollar a day. But also for us, the lucky few, because, whether we like it or not, our fate is bound up in their futures.

We need to understand what's going on here. Let's stop for a second to remind ourselves that six and a half thousand Africans died today from a preventable, treatable disease called AIDS. Six and a half thousand died yesterday, and six and a half thousand will die tomorrow. Every day, without a

break for Christmas. That's more people than in this whole room. This is not just a rock star's pet cause, this is an emergency, and this is really why I'm here. Africa is a continent in flames. And, as we all know, fires tend to spread.

Canada is a country that's starting to do something about this. Some of you may know that there's a move to get cheap generic drugs from here to Africa. This is great news. If you follow through on this promise, other countries will have to follow you. This is great news.

In his Nobel address, the great Lester Pearson said that "poverty and distress—especially with the awakening of the submerged millions of Asia and Africa—make the risks of war truly greater." And I would like to add to that the risks of terror. AIDS creates a vacuum. And in that vacuum breeds despair. Despair is the next-door neighbour of anger. Anger is the next-door neighbour of violence.

OK, can any one country make a difference? Yes, Canada can. Canada already has...I have a feeling Canada

parts of the developing world, pledging to more than triple investments in the sector to \$300 million by 2006. In Africa, Canada has provided humanitarian aid to relieve famine and is supporting efforts by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to enhance agricultural productivity.

With support from Canada, one of CGIAR's research institutes, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, is helping farmers in four African countries adopt a new high-protein variety of maize. "This has the potential to increase nutrition, improve health and contribute to the food security of farming families in East Africa," says Doug Tanner, a Canadian agronomist who heads the center's Ethiopian office. "The increased protein quality may also strengthen immune systems and help people with HIV to better withstand related illnesses."

Water is abundant in Africa, but is poorly distributed. More than 300 million people do not have access to safe water and sanitation services, while close to half of the population suffers from water-related diseases. Canada is providing \$50 million to improve water management through groups such as the Global Water Partnership, the African Water Facility, the African Development Bank and UN-HABITAT's Water and Sanitation Trust Fund.

Governance and trade

One of NEPAD's key priorities is to strengthen the capacity of Africa's public institutions, from improving transparency and participation in government to attracting investment. In fact, Africans are increasingly committed to improving the way in which their government, volunteer and private sector institutions are run.

understands something that the rest of the world doesn't. Well, not yet anyway. The idea is interdependence. We're tied to each other, whether we like it or not.

I'd like history to record that a vast and unusual cast of characters got together to say, "enough of this madness." And not just rock stars and activists, but church people, soccer moms... People who don't even like each other are going to have to work with each other, because this is that big, and it's that serious.

This is our moment in the history books. Our age will be remembered for only about three things, I promise you: the Internet, the war against terror and how we stood around with watering cans as a whole continent, Africa, burst into flames—or not.

For a full transcript of Bono's speech visit the Canada World View Web site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada-magazine.



photo: CIDA-ACDI/David Barbour

With support from Canada, farmers in four African countries are adopting a new high-protein variety of maize.

Canada is supporting the African Capacity Building Foundation to help individual African countries improve public-sector policy. The pan-African foundation, based in Harare, Zimbabwe, focuses on areas such as financial accountability, economic policy and public participation in governance.

Canada has provided funds to help the African Development Bank finance infrastructure improvements to help countries attract more public and private investment, with projects in such sectors as transport, energy, water, sanitation and information and communications technologies. Canada is supporting initiatives by the United Nations International Trade Centre in Geneva and the Trade Facilitation Office to enhance African exporters' capacity to be more effective and ready to trade. Canada is also establishing the \$100-million Canada Investment Fund for Africa to promote private-sector investment on the continent (see page 19).



photo: Dave Chan, PMO

Peace and security

Peace, security and respect for human rights are cornerstones of sustainable development. While NEPAD commits African leaders to take greater responsibility for their own affairs, it also recognizes the need for external help.

As part of its support for strengthening African peace and security, Canada has named special envoys to support peace processes in both the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan, and has been active in efforts to prevent illicit trade in diamonds from fuelling armed conflict (see page 12). Through the West Africa Peace and Security Initiative, Canada is working in the critical areas of policing, peace support operations and addressing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

To this end, Canada is supporting the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, Ghana. While the centre officially opened in January, officials from Canada's Pearson Peacekeeping Centre taught the inaugural course there last November on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. For two weeks, 42 mostly African participants covered topics ranging from crowd control to the destruction of unwanted weapons using sledgehammers, oxyacetylene torches and grinding machines.

"The course materials draw on a wide range of actual peace support exercises," says Kees Steenken of the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, who led the training sessions. Some lessons from previous peace support missions in

Namibia, Mozambique and Angola, for example, were applied in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The Central American experiences in turn influenced practices in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

"The African participants noted that Africa was the source for much of the course information, and that many had endured or experienced the issues first-hand," Steenken says. "There are many who specialize in the field, but the information is not readily available."

Leadership in action

Canada is delivering on its commitments to NEPAD and, in the year ahead, will keep Africa on the global agenda through the Africa Partnership Forum, a Canadian initiative that for the first time brings together high-level representatives of the G8 and other donor countries, multilateral agencies and African partners.

"Our role is to support the continent's priorities because it's the right thing to do, but also because it's in Canada's best interests," says Minister Graham. "With increasing globalization, Canadians cannot remain safe in an unstable world—or prosperous in a world stricken by poverty." ❁

For more information on Canada's initiatives in Africa, see www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/canadafundforafrica and www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/africa.

CANADA, AFRICA AND LA FRANCOPHONIE

Member countries of La Francophonie have accepted the New Partnership for Africa's Development as a historic opportunity to strengthen partnerships within Africa—and between Africa and the rest of the international community—to promote democratization, economic growth and people-centred development in Africa. In addition, says the new Minister responsible for La Francophonie, Denis Coderre, "there is a tremendous sensitivity that Canadians and our government have regarding Africa. We need to help those most in need, but in the way of a partnership, and to provide them with tools."

Minister Coderre travelled to Paris last December to meet with his colleague ministers from La Francophonie to plan the upcoming biennial summit of Francophonie-member heads of state and government. The summit will be held in Ouagadougou,

Burkina Faso in November, with a theme of sustainable development. "It is a new era for La Francophonie," notes Minister Coderre, "And anything that we work on today will have a tremendous impact over the next 10 years."

And for the first time in the organization's history, the Secretary General of La Francophonie is African. Abdou Diouf, the former President of Senegal, was elected to the position in December 2002. ❁

Canada World View will have coverage of the Burkina Faso summit in an upcoming issue.

In the meantime, for more information on La Francophonie have a look at www.canada-francophonie.gc.ca.



AFRICA HAND

Events once conspired to pry her out of a diplomatic posting there, but Janet Graham has found rewards in helping Africa strive toward its potential.

She's spent a quarter of a century witnessing and experiencing the trials and triumphs of Africa, but apparently nothing has beaten down Janet Graham's ardour for the continent—or for Canada's ongoing efforts there.

"One of the best jobs in the world is to be a Canadian diplomat in Africa," says Ms. Graham, 53, currently Canada's High Commissioner to Tanzania, "because we're very trusted and welcome and respected for our independent views, our constructive engagement in development and our fair approach."

Born in Bombay, the grandchild of United Church of Canada missionaries, Ms. Graham spent her childhood in India, Pakistan, Liberia and finally Canada, where she lived in Mississauga, Ontario. However, the Toronto suburb stood little chance for her permanent commitment and, after attaining a Bachelor's degree in Geography at McMaster University and doing graduate work at Carleton University, a first career as an urban planner there was short-lived. Instead, inspired by Pierre Trudeau's embrace of the developing world and "very different approach to Africa," she joined Canada's Foreign Service in 1977.

Desk work in Ottawa was followed by a posting as Third Secretary in Pretoria, South Africa, from 1978 to 1980, when the struggle against apartheid was reaching a fevered pitch. "It was the most incredible two years of my life," says Ms. Graham, who reported on the activities, campaigns and political trials of dissidents fighting apartheid and shared their passion and commitment. "It was very easy to get emotionally involved, which you don't usually do as a diplomat."

Her assignment in South Africa was followed by positions as First Secretary in Trinidad and Counsellor in Zimbabwe. Her first experience as Head of Mission was as Acting High Commissioner to Nigeria in 1996. However, Canadian diplomatic staff, including Ms. Graham, were forced to quit Lagos six months later, when General Sani Abacha's displeasure with Canadian criticism of his rule became pronounced and the Canadian presence unwelcome.

Characteristically, Ms. Graham and family pulled up stakes for all of a year's sojourn in Canada before she



photos: courtesy of World Vision

Passionate about the continent: Canadian High Commissioner Janet Graham visits aid projects in rural Tanzania.

returned, unruffled, for her next appointment as High Commissioner to Ghana and finally her current assignment in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The challenges of Africa can seem insurmountable to those lacking passion about the continent. Ms. Graham anchors the Canadian presence in the third poorest country in the world, a nation almost entirely dependent on an agricultural sector subject to devastation by drought and flooding alike. Yet, noting the political stability and good macro-economic management lately achieved in Tanzania, she declares: "This is a country that deserves to succeed."

With a nascent civil society and commitment to tackle poverty, Tanzania's economy grew by more than six percent last year, "not good enough but certainly in the right direction," Ms. Graham remarks. The country is among Canada's six key African aid recipients, with Canadian aid efforts directed largely at primary education and support for key government reforms including the micro-finance sector. As Tanzania has worked diligently with the World Bank and opened its doors to foreign investment, major Canadian mining interests have extended operations there for gold.

Ms. Graham herself has uncovered rewards below the surface all over Africa, where she met her South African architect husband, John Shearman, and which has offered new horizons as a long-time home to their three children, now between the ages of 15 and 20.

Ms. Graham will soon move back to Ottawa to give her youngest child some Canadian exposure. But the diplomat who has found nothing to match the satisfaction of working with African societies striving toward their potential would like to return to Africa again.

"I'm quite optimistic about this place, which it was difficult to be 25 years ago," she says. "These countries have a long way to go, but they're heading in the right direction." ♦

CONFLICT DIAMOND PROCESS ENTERS KEY PHASE

Rough diamonds

The Kimberley Process is aimed at ending conflict fuelled by diamonds in Africa. With a new certification scheme in place, Canada's challenge as Chair will be its implementation.

The international community, with Canada in a lead role, is poised to take major steps toward turning "conflict diamonds" into "prosperity diamonds."

Illegally traded rough diamonds used for tax evasion and money laundering represent as much as 20 percent of annual world diamond production. The scope of this illicit trade has particularly fuelled the spread of diamonds used by rebel armies to pay for weapons. Over the past decade, these conflict diamonds have contributed to the massive displacement of civilians and untold deaths, primarily in Angola, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but also in Guinea, Liberia and elsewhere (see *Canada World View* Issues 16 and 19).

The Kimberley Process—named for the meeting in Kimberley, South Africa, where it was established in 2000—set up an international certification scheme for rough diamonds that went into effect in January 2003. This scheme will essentially allow the international community to keep track of diamond production in each participating country. At a meeting last October in Sun City, South Africa, participants made major progress on the sticky issue of how to monitor compliance with the scheme. They approved a peer review system for diamond producers based on the submission of annual reports and voluntary review visits, which will involve industry and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as host governments.

At Sun City, Canada was chosen to succeed South Africa, which has managed the Kimberley Process since its inception. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has established a secretariat in its Peacebuilding and Human Security Division to handle the country's duties as Chair.

Diamond prospectors sift through earth in a mine: the illicit trade in rough diamonds is used by rebel armies to pay for weapons, leading to the massive displacement of civilians and untold deaths.

"Canada has always taken a human security approach to the question of conflict diamonds," says Tim Martin, a Canadian diplomat who represents Canada in its new role. "Diamonds have contributed to conflicts in Africa and have had a devastating impact on people. Our goal is to ensure that diamonds start to support, rather than undermine, human development."

Working closely with the Russian Federation as Vice-Chair, Canada will manage various working groups and committees that oversee activities such as collecting diamond production statistics and monitoring compliance.

Martin identifies two key priorities for the Kimberley Process with Canada as Chair this year. First, it must effectively monitor the implementation of the certification scheme, including analyzing annual reports and identifying countries to receive review visits. He says that several countries have already indicated their willingness to participate in these voluntary missions. Second, it must put together reliable statistics on the global production and trade in rough diamonds based on the certification scheme. "Our performance here is a key element of evaluating how the system is working, and identifying any anomalies that allow conflict diamonds to pass through unnoticed," Martin adds.

Martin's concerns are echoed by Partnership Africa Canada (PAC), a coalition of African and Canadian NGOs working to end diamond-related conflict. "Without good trade and production statistics, you just can't track the movement of diamonds," says Ian Smillie, Research Coordinator for PAC's Diamonds and Human Security project.

"We're entering a new phase of the Kimberley Process," says Smillie. "We're no longer creating the systems, we're starting to implement. As the new Chair, Canada will have the difficult job of making sure countries do what they said they would do." 🍁

For more information about conflict diamonds, visit Partnership Africa Canada on-line at www.pacweb.org and DFAIT's Human Security Web site at www.humansecurity.gc.ca.

JUSTICE COMES TO SIERRA LEONE

With strong support from Canada, a unique tribunal is working to bring justice—and peace—to a war-torn country.

Edward Conteh was walking down a street in Sierra Leone's capital of Freetown last spring when he saw the man who had entered his urban neighbourhood at the height of the country's civil war and hacked off his left arm with a machete. Conteh, a schoolteacher, rushed home to tell his son, who immediately wanted to search out and kill the man. But his father held him back. "No more revenge," he said. "What we need is justice."

One of the countless survivors of his country's bloody 1991-2001 civil war, Conteh is watching justice begin to unfold in the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Set up in 2002, the Court has a three-year mandate to prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed since a peace agreement signed in 1996 failed.

The court has 11 standing indictments against the leaders of all three warring factions, as well as the former president of neighbouring Liberia, Charles Taylor, now living in exile in Nigeria. The crimes range from murder, rape and acts of terror to sexual slavery and the conscription of children into an armed force.

As a member of the UN Security Council in 2000, Canada helped to establish the Special Court for Sierra Leone and continues to be instrumental in its operation, contributing both funds and personnel. According to Chief Prosecutor David Crane, Canadians make up 21 percent of staff at the Office of the Prosecutor, the largest international contingent. Six lawyers in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's (DFAIT) Young Professionals International initiative have worked at the

Court in the past two years. And Brigadier-General Pierre Boutet, a retired judge advocate general in Canada's Department of National Defence, serves as a trial judge.

Mora Johnson, a former political officer with DFAIT and now a University of Toronto law student who interned at the Court for three months last summer, says that it's not enough to deliver justice; it's also important

to show the people who suffered so much in the war that justice is being done. To this end, the Court has held "town hall" meetings all over the country, where role-playing exercises and question-and-answer sessions attempt to explain the role of the Court to victims and perpetrators alike.

"If one of the Court's goals is to bring a sense of justice and accountability, it's

important that ordinary people know what's happening," says Johnson.

It was during a visit to an amputee camp that Johnson met Edward Conteh, whose arm had been mutilated. Later, she ran into the schoolteacher again in the Court, where he was watching the early proceedings. Conteh's decision to seek solace in the process unfolding before him rather than to pursue a personal vendetta left a deep impression.

"He knew that revenge would only perpetuate the cycle of violence," Johnson says. "In a way, Edward's response encapsulated the philosophy behind the creation of the Special Court: there can be no peace without justice." 🍁

For more information on the Special Court for Sierra Leone, see www.sc-sl.org.



Mora Johnson and Edward Conteh in a Freetown amputee camp: no peace without justice

photo courtesy of Mora Johnson



HIV/AIDS in Africa

CANADA'S MORAL IMPERATIVE

photos: UNICEF/HQ97-0062/Roger LeMoine



Stephen Lewis's tireless work and eloquent entreaties as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa have touched Canadians and the world. The former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF and leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario, Mr. Lewis at 66 has found perhaps the most passionate undertaking of his career: addressing the pandemic that has taken 15 million lives in Africa, with tens of millions more infected. In conversation with *Canada World View*, the recently invested Companion of the Order of Canada and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Stephen Lewis Foundation praised Canadian efforts in Africa—while exhorting his country to do more.

The struggle

I see this as part of the struggle against injustice. I'm a democratic socialist; this is part of a deeply believed ideological mindset. In a sense for me it's a very political thing. It just gives expression to what I have believed all my adult life. It happens to be applied to HIV/AIDS and that happens to be a particularly difficult struggle, and it's international rather than domestic, but it is for me an extension of an ideological conviction, of a political position. It's not some moral aura.

Love of Africa

My first contact with Africa was Ghana two years after independence [working as a young schoolteacher in 1959]. You can only imagine the excitement in the country about future prospects and overthrowing the yoke of colonialism and all that stuff. There's just something so exhilarating and invigorating. Now I wander through the rural areas of these countries where the decimation from disease and poverty is just horrific, and yet there's such a resilience, there's so much solidarity. People extend themselves so strongly to each other when they are asked to help. There's so much music, there's so much liveliness and life. I'm just totally captivated by the continent.

Why Canada has responded

It's part of the Canadian tradition on the one hand, and it's part of an absolute moral imperative on the other. There are all kinds of practical reasons, from security to

trade, that can be invoked. For myself it's enough to feel moral obligation, a kind of decent compassion for the struggles of other people who are light years away from the Canadian standard of living. If you don't deal with AIDS, then all of the UN Millennium Development Goals in Africa and all of the social and economic improvements you're throwing Canadian money behind are going to disintegrate in front of your eyes.

What Canada is doing

Canada, like other Western countries, is involved in fighting the pandemic in a great many ways. We are among the biggest contributors to the search for an AIDS vaccine in the developing world, which I think was an exemplary decision on the part of the government, because if anything is ever found it will probably be under the rubric of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. We support a number of NGOs and initiatives in many countries dealing with prevention and care, in ways that are not particularly different from what other governments do, but that are very helpful. I think that the most dramatic initiative will come if and when the legislation on the generic manufacture and export of drugs passes the House of Commons.

More is needed

I agree with the Parliamentary Standing Committee [on Foreign Affairs and International Trade] that unanimously felt that the contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria should be tripled. A second



area is the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. There are places where Canada's clout can become quite memorable when historians look back on the pandemic. I think we took such a dramatic step in giving \$50 million to this, but it would be appropriate to double the Canadian contribution. Finally, I think Canada has been remiss in not making a significant contribution to the International Partnership for Microbicides to develop female-controlled HIV prevention methods. HIV/AIDS truly is a women's issue, it's a gender issue with which Canada has always felt itself associated. Microbicides are within probably five to seven years from emerging but they do give women an opportunity to prevent infection.

Applying leadership

There are individual issues, like the abolition of school fees, that would make a huge difference to the numbers of AIDS-orphaned children who are now prevented from going to school because they can't afford the fees or the books or the uniforms. If a country like Canada were to take the lead in the campaign to abolish school fees in Africa, it would be a magnificent contribution. The World Bank has already indicated that it's prepared to raise the funds to compensate the governments for the loss of funds that school fees yield. Therefore, Canada's role might well be a brokerage role between governments and the Bank. What is missing is a voice and some political leadership. For a country like Canada, that is something that doesn't require expenditure, it requires the clout of a G7 country.

Doing what matters

I feel best when I know that public advocacy, which is always necessary in generalities, is translated into the mother you meet in a clinic who has received treatment as a result of advocacy. There she is: she was at death's door and now she's alive, and her two kids are playing at her feet. Or you go to the home of a child-headed household where a little girl of 12 is looking after her three orphaned siblings and you find a way, in working with the community, to get a really nice foster family arrangement for those kids so they're no longer on their own. Or you're part of an effort to bring blankets to a village where people are freezing at night or they simply don't have anything in the hut for those who are ill to cover themselves with. These absolutely concrete matters are what sustain me personally and make me feel that life is not merely ephemeral. I can say to my children as my father said to me, "Not in my lifetime son, but perhaps in yours," meaning the triumph of a more just society. ♣

You can find out more about the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS at www.unaids.org and contribute on-line to the struggle against HIV/AIDS through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria at www.theglobalfund.org.

HIV Positive: AIDS Through a New Lens

When a group of Canada's top photographers called PhotoSensitive travelled to Zambia to document the AIDS pandemic, they knew they would encounter suffering. But they were not prepared for what else they found: hope. They documented their discoveries in moving photographs that were grouped into four categories: crisis, courage, hope and future. PhotoSensitive joined with CARE Canada through the assistance of the Canadian International Development Agency to create a widely travelled exhibit of photographs called HIV Positive.

- 1 These three AIDS orphans are among more than 10 million children worldwide who are left vulnerable by the disease.

photo: Andrew Stawicki, PhotoSensitive/CARE

- 2 **Crisis**
Lusaka's mortuary is overloaded. The PhotoSensitive photographers could not recall meeting a single Zambian who had not lost friends or family to HIV-related illnesses.

photo: Steve Simon, PhotoSensitive/CARE

- 3 **Courage**
Grandmothers are raising a second generation in Africa. Children are often left in the care of the elderly when parents grow sick or die. On the day the photographer visited, this grandmother was feeling ill. She worried about what would happen to her grandchildren after she was gone.

photo: Dick Loek, PhotoSensitive/CARE

- 4 **Hope**
Youths are key in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The message—Be Proud! Abstinence "ili che" is one of the HEART campaign messages that is becoming popular and receiving acceptance among youth.

photo: Tony Hauser, PhotoSensitive/CARE

- 5 **Future**
AIDS has allies in Africa, chief among them poverty. But the stigma surrounding the virus is deadly too. Myths about transmission, derogatory attitudes toward women, taboos that prevent sex education for children—each helps AIDS infect the next generation. These are social hurdles that Africans can and must overcome in their own way. There is no time to lose.

photo: Dick Loek, PhotoSensitive/CARE

View the HIV Positive photo exhibit at www.care.ca

FRIENDS OF THE GREAT LAKES

Canada co-chairs an organization to support the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

Canada is taking a leadership role to support an African-led process for peace, security, democracy and development in the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

The process, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, co-sponsored by the United Nations and the African Union, primarily involves Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. This troubled

region is home to one fifth of the world's 25 million internally displaced people. It is also among the hardest hit by the AIDS pandemic, with 4 million people living with HIV/AIDS and 3.2 million AIDS orphans. The issue of food security—complicated by conflict, arbitrary violence and displacement—remains a major challenge as well.

In June 2003, the core countries involved in the Conference held their first meeting and defined four themes: peace and security; democracy and good governance; development and economic integration; and social and humanitarian issues. Among its

objectives, the Conference aims to reinforce regional integration through commerce, communications and other common development projects, such as energy grids, leading to closer regional ties. Progress could also be made on the longer-term goals of free trade, the free movement of people and other community-building measures.

The countries of the region are looking to the international community to accompany them

as partners in this long-term process by providing political, diplomatic, financial and technical assistance. Following consultations with the UN and the African Union, Canada created the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region, which will ensure that the international community provides adequate support to the Conference and the core countries.

The Group is composed of 28 countries and 10 international organizations. Canada, which allocated an initial amount of \$1.5 million to the Conference, manages its activities and operations jointly with the Netherlands.

Canada has been closely involved in the region's peace process for many years. It led the Multinational Force to the eastern Congo and Rwanda in 1996 and participated in the UN-mandated European-led Operation Artemis, an interim emergency multinational force deployed around Bunia in the northeastern DRC. This was in addition to its normal contribution to the UN Observer Mission in the DRC.

On the diplomatic front, Canada helped in the negotiation of a peace agreement in Burundi, which led to the Arusha Accords. It was also active in the Lusaka Accord, which officially ended the war in the DRC. More recently, Canada supported the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, which provided for the creation of a transitional government and parliament in Kinshasa, which is now in place, and a commitment to hold national elections in 2006. 🍁



REMEMBERING RWANDA

Allan Thompson travelled on assignment with the *Toronto Star* to Arusha, Tanzania, in late January 2004 to report on the testimony by Romeo Dallaire in the landmark trial of Theoneste Bagosora and three other senior military officers accused of orchestrating the 1994 Rwanda genocide. Dallaire, the retired Canadian general who commanded the ill-fated United Nations force in Rwanda, was left traumatized by the horror and by his helplessness in the face of the 100-day killing frenzy, which left some 800,000 minority Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus dead. On the 10th anniversary of the genocide, Thompson, a former Parliament Hill correspondent for the *Star* and now a professor of journalism at Carleton University, reflects on the horrors behind and the way forward for Dallaire, Canada—and the world.

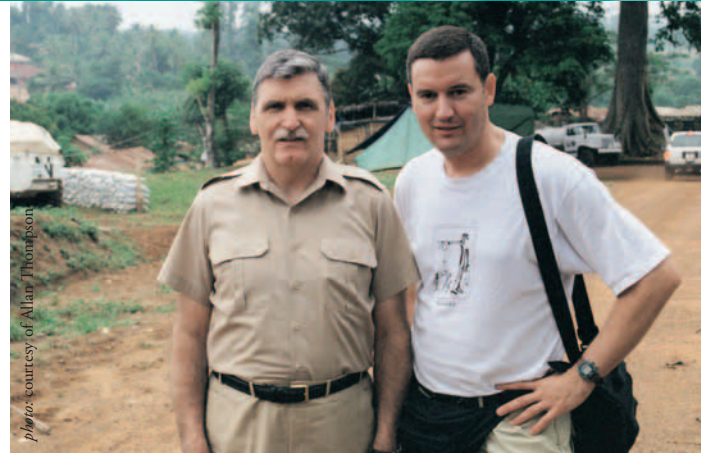


Photo courtesy of Allan Thompson

As the world returns its gaze to Rwanda, however briefly, Romeo Dallaire still stands front and centre. In some ways, it is as if he never left.

For nearly two weeks in late January, Dallaire resumed his role as commander of the UN mission to Rwanda, as the Western world's conscience, the touchstone for the grief and remorse of those who stood by while nearly a million people were slaughtered. This time, Dallaire returned to Africa to testify against one of the alleged masterminds of the genocide, former Rwandan army colonel Theoneste Bagosora.

For years, Dallaire anticipated his chance to testify against Bagosora. But he also dreaded the encounter. The ordeal finally over, he told me he found himself rooted to the spot in the courtroom, unable to move, his eyes fixed on Bagosora. "It was very difficult for me to say that it was over. I just didn't want to let him go," Dallaire said in an interview after he completed seven days of testimony.

While staring at Bagosora, he says, he was once again transported back to Rwanda. "All I saw were bodies and bodies and bodies, so many of the horrific scenes. It was just sort of

like fast forward, when you put a million pictures together and try to watch it."

But maintaining his composure and concentration during seven days on the witness stand was testament to the fact that Dallaire is making progress. In recent years, he has begun to rebuild his life, publishing his Rwanda memoir, *Shake Hands with the Devil*, and gearing up for a research fellowship this fall at Harvard University's prestigious Carr Center for Human Rights Policy.

Dallaire said that he left Africa this time feeling better than when he arrived and that he is ready for a pilgrimage to Rwanda in early April, along with his wife, Elizabeth, for the commemoration ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the genocide. But he is also ready to move beyond Rwanda and plans to use the fellowship at Harvard to research and write a new book on conflict resolution.

"We can't defuse these conflicts with methodologies that come from pre-1989, Cold-War, nation-state concepts," he said. "I feel that so much of the writing is still fiddling with known methods. We need pure, innovative thought, to get ahead of the nature of conflict."

But there are still moments when his mind travels back to Rwanda. His return there this spring is not to be confused, he said, with the extended, personal pilgrimage he still hopes to make as his final step in coming to terms with the genocide, mourning the dead and "re-establishing contact with the spirits."

"I mean, it's always spring in Rwanda. There is food in the trees. There are always extra beans or some goat's milk. And there are a thousand hills and a thousand valleys."

"The strongest feeling of being in a whole different dimension is usually in the morning. On the high roads, you would have clouds or mist below you... It was like the mist was forming, dissipating, moving down the valleys, like an entity. And then it would disappear."

"It is just an extraordinary place to sit and watch paradise." 🍁

Read the proceedings of a symposium entitled *The Media and the Rwanda Genocide*, held at Carleton University in March 2004, at www.carleton.ca/mediagenocide.

Allan Thompson (right) first reported from Rwanda in 1996 during the mass exodus of Rwandan refugees from eastern Zaire. He has chronicled Romeo Dallaire's career in a series of reports for the *Star*, including a special section on Dallaire's journey to Sierra Leone in 2001 for CIDA on a fact-finding mission on war-affected children, when this photo was taken.

BRIGHTER DAYS FOR TRADE

Canadians find risks and rewards in African trade and investment.

Seeing the light isn't always easy. But it's getting much simpler, cleaner and safer for people in the most remote areas of Africa through the products of Canada's Glenenergy Inc.

The small Pembroke, Ontario, company specializes in solar-powered lighting products, such as a reading lamp called the Edulight that is charged during the day to provide six hours of light each night. Glenenergy president Glen MacGillivray says the lights have a long life, reduce eye strain, accidents and harmful environmental effects that can result from using candles and oil lamps, and are

"perfect for a place where there's a shortage of electricity and an abundance of sunshine." Africa would appear to fit the bill: Glenenergy has shipped Edulights to Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, with plans to expand into more markets and other types of solar lighting in the coming months.

Glenenergy's business with Africa is typical of the innovation and expertise that Canadians are bringing to the continent in the engineering, telecom and medical fields, among others. But technology is just one facet of Canada's trade with a market that presents both challenges and vast, unexplored potential.

Canada sold \$1.3 billion in goods such as cereals and machinery to African countries in 2003. In turn, we bought \$4.2 billion worth of goods, mostly commodities such as hydro-carbon fuels, fruit and cocoa. In the late 1990s, it was estimated that more than 50 percent of African mining ventures included Canadian participation, making Canada the largest non-African investor on the continent.

Despite burgeoning reforms and high returns on foreign investment, Africa remains economically marginalized. Home to some 13 percent of the world's people, the continent is involved in about 2 percent of global trade and 1 percent of investment.

"The problems of investing in Africa are myriad and well known," Ibrahim Gambari, the UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, told a recent conference in Montreal. The infrastructure essential for business is often less than desirable,

he said, while the legal framework, financial services, capital markets and public sector cooperation found in more developed regions of the world are not always there.

Glen MacGillivray agrees. "Doing business in Africa is never, ever easy," he says, with challenges ranging from cultural differences in managing relationships to requests for unconventional payments that "sometimes force you outside your comfort zone."

Home to some 13 percent of the world's people, the continent is involved in about 2 percent of global trade and 1 percent of investment.

Helping Canadian firms navigate the challenging but promising business climate in Africa is at the root of Canada's trade strategy with Africa, which links trade goals to longer-term foreign policy objectives aimed at helping Africans reduce poverty and become larger players in the global economy.

Canada's commitment to helping Canadians do business with Africa is a two-way street. Last year, for example, Canada eliminated tariffs and quotas on almost all imports from the 48 countries the UN calls "least developed countries" (LDCs), 34 of which are in Africa. This makes Canada's market access provisions among the most generous in the world.

The Canada Fund for Africa is also providing support for a series of initiatives designed to help Africa



Making machine parts in Ghana: attracting public and private investment is key for trade.



Focus on Algeria

Most people think of couscous as a somewhat exotic dish. But check out the ingredients and country of origin on a box of this traditional North African staple the next time you're grocery shopping. Chances are it's made from Canadian wheat.

Algerians enjoy couscous as well, and much of theirs is Canadian in origin too. In fact, the durum wheat that the North African nation buys from Canada each year to produce couscous as well as the other commodities we trade make Algeria by far Canada's leading trade partner in the entire Africa and the Middle East region.

Exports and imports between Canada and Algeria accounted for more than \$2.7 billion in 2003. Gas and oil make up almost all of Canada's imports from the country, while cereals dominate Canadian sales there. Algeria is one of the top five markets in the world for Canadian durum wheat.

The two countries have maintained diplomatic relations since Algeria became an independent nation in 1962. These ties continued throughout the recent 10-year period of political turbulence marked by internal terrorist violence, from which Algeria gradually appears to be emerging.

Stability is slowly returning and Algeria's government, aided by Canadian initiatives, is attempting political and economic reforms as a vehicle toward a more prosperous market economy. Since 1964, \$150 million in Canadian aid has flowed to Algeria. The Canadian International Development Agency recently signed a new agreement under its private-sector development fund to support economic reform programs there.

Evidence of Algeria's increasing global political engagement abounds. Currently the representative of Arab countries on the United Nations Security Council, Algeria has supported various Canadian-led international initiatives. Algeria signed and ratified the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines and took part in the Winnipeg Conference on War-affected Children. And Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika is an outspoken champion of NEPAD.

For more information about Trade with Algeria, start at the Trade Commissioner Service at www.infoexport.gc.ca and search for Algeria.

Improving infrastructure and increasing trade capacity is essential for Africa.

increase its trade capacity, both within the continent and with the rest of the world. The Fund is also being used to increase the capacity of Africans to more effectively represent their own interests in negotiating international trade agreements.

Helping to address social problems such as the human toll from diseases such as HIV/AIDS is the goal of proposed changes to Canadian laws that would allow the export of low-cost pharmaceuticals to LDCs. Amendments to Canada's Patent Act and Food and Drugs Act, currently under scrutiny by Parliament, will allow the generic manufacture and export of patented drugs for the purpose of responding to grave epidemics in these impoverished countries.

"The need for intellectual property rights is undeniable," Prime Minister Paul Martin told the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January, "but there is also a moral

obligation to help relieve someone's suffering if we are able."

In terms of Africa's long-term development, Gambari says that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the related African Peer Review Mechanism, which will monitor the progress of African governments toward sound economic management and transparent political processes, are providing "an enabling environment for investment."

As one of its commitments under NEPAD, the Canadian government will establish the Canada Investment Fund for Africa, a \$100-million fund intended to leverage at least an equal amount of private-sector investment in commercial ventures and partnerships.

For Glen MacGillivray, the challenges of such investment are many, but the opportunities are there too. "We're talking about wonderful markets and huge needs," he says. "These are interesting times." 🍁

To read the latest news on trade with Africa, see the April 1 and April 15 issues of *CanadExport*, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's biweekly investment and trade publication. See the issues and search the *CanadExport* archives for more Africa trade news at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canadexport.



BUILDING SUSTAINABLE CITIES

With estimates that two thirds of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2030, cities have become a focal point for ensuring sustainable development on a global scale. Programs such as Industry Canada's Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI) are at the forefront of helping citizens to improve their cities, using a network of experts for analysis, planning, action and support to mitigate the impact of current and future development.

Durban, South Africa, is one of four African cities currently working with the SCI to implement a number of initiatives aimed at sustainability. This bustling port city has started cleaning up and planning the restoration of a popular beach resort and has looked at Canadian models for

improving the electronic connectivity of its government. Progress is also being made to establish a clean technology centre to assist Durban businesses in identifying cost-effective solutions to reduce dangerous emissions.

In Algiers, Algeria, following a recent earthquake, the SCI helped to carry out a high-priority risk assessment of damaged housing structures and review of rehabilitation procedures. In Dakar, Senegal, SCI projects include a plan for storm-water management, measures to relieve traffic congestion and the development of proposals to improve city lighting while promoting energy efficiency. The SCI's newest participant, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is currently developing projects focused on public transportation,

solid-waste management, municipal safety, urban planning and land use.

The SCI concept of engaging different sectors, including governments, non-governmental organizations and private companies, is proving to be an effective formula in building the cities of tomorrow, says Durban Mayor Obed Mlaba. "The expertise of the Sustainable Cities Initiative is in assessing what the city needs and mobilizing efforts toward implementing solutions," he says. "The SCI is able to deliver results that would take us years to achieve." 🍁

For more information about Industry Canada's Sustainable Cities Initiative, see www.sci.ic.gc.ca.

Durban, South Africa: cities are a focal point for ensuring sustainable development on a global scale.

photo: CIDA-ACDI/Peter Bennett

MANAGING WATER FROM 800 KILOMETRES OUT

Space exploration efforts focused on the quest for water on far-off planets may be getting a lot of attention these days, but the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) is looking a little closer to home.

The CSA's satellite, RADARSAT-1, has the most powerful technology in the world for collecting information on the location and movement of water on Earth. It was developed in 1995 for ice tracking and land-boundary identification in the Canadian Arctic. Now the CSA is working to join forces with the European Space Agency to implement the recommendations of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable

Development by using space-based techniques to improve water management in developing countries. Called the TIGER Initiative, the project aims to develop Earth observation information services for the surveillance and management of water resources, with a focus on Africa.

"Space can contribute to initiatives with developing nations," says CSA Project Manager Yves Crevier. The Agency expects the technology to significantly improve the ability of Africans to manage and improve their water usage, consumption, distribution and quality. This includes everything from reporting on the general water

supply to investigating water-borne diseases, storm protection, erosion and irrigation used in agriculture. Collecting satellite data to monitor and manage African wetlands where malaria-infected mosquitoes thrive is just one of the many uses of CSA technology, Crevier says. "The TIGER Initiative provides the CSA with an excellent opportunity to confirm the usefulness of space technology in support of sustainable development." 🍁

For more information about the work of the Canadian Space Agency, visit www.space.gc.ca.

TUNING IN ON WILDLIFE

Canadian provinces are known for running highly effective wildlife conservation programs. However, this involves increasingly sophisticated equipment and advanced strategies to out-manoeuvre the ever-more wily poachers and vandals who illegally hunt wildlife for gain or sport. So, when Dave Harvey, Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Branch of Environment Saskatchewan, considered the question of how to put some soon-to-be-retired field communications equipment to good use, he was determined to send it to where it was needed most.

The idea sparked a mission to transfer radios used for surveillance and patrolling in Saskatchewan to far-away Africa. Illegal wildlife trade worldwide is a \$6 billion-a-year industry, according to the non-profit group WildAid, and a large part of this activity is based in Africa, where

elephants and rhinoceros in particular are hunted for their tusks, horns, meat and hides. African conservation authorities have little equipment in some African countries, Harvey says, "Sometimes nothing more than a .303 rifle and a pair of shoes." The 228 surplus Motorola PT 300 radios will have a significant impact on patrolling and surveillance practices and strategies and will improve operations to circle in and apprehend poachers.

Transferring the radios to wildlife-threatened areas of Africa was a collaborative effort by an extensive network of partners in Canada and abroad. First, the radios were made available for donation by the Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers, which purchased them from the province for a nominal fee. The Government of Saskatchewan ensured that the radios were technically ready and then sent them to Environment Canada, where the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) set up the necessary African connections for the transfer. Soon the CWS had also enlisted the help of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, a wildlife protection group, which donated 110 antennas and 7,524 batteries so that the radios

would be available to African wildlife authorities in complete, ready-to-use packages. The CWS then joined with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to deliver the goods to their final destinations through the Department's diplomatic mail system.

The radios are now in use by conservation authorities in 11 African countries, including Chad, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania, and there are plans to create permanent channels for the transfer of surplus field equipment from Canada to wildlife protection agencies all over the world to fight illegal hunters. "These guys are very, very organized," says Yvan Lafleur, the CWS Director for wildlife enforcement. "We can only combat this kind of crime by working together." 🍁

For more details about the radios for wildlife program, tune in to Environment Canada's Planet Update at www.ec.gc.ca/pu-ec/0310_e.htm.



photo: courtesy of Environment Canada

| Motorola PT 300

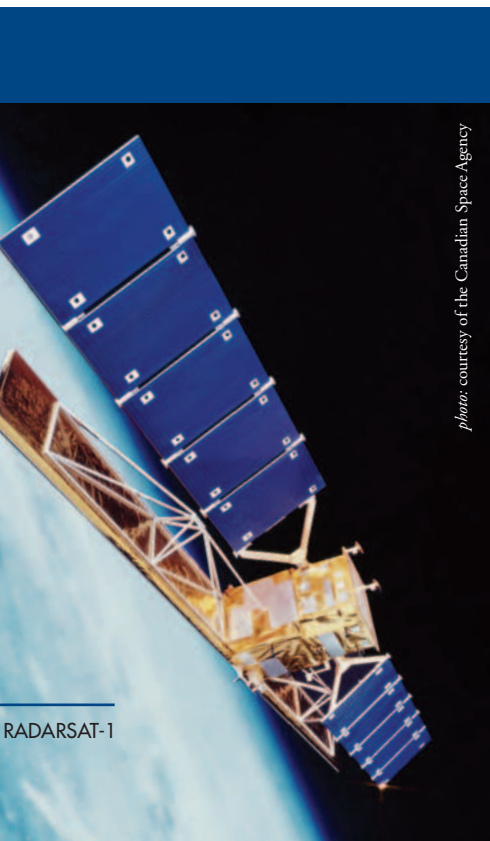


photo: courtesy of the Canadian Space Agency

RADARSAT-1



photo: CIDA-ACDI/David Barbour

BLACK AND WHITE AND READ ALL OVER

For more than a generation, Canadian writers of all backgrounds have been exploring Africa. The transatlantic traffic in ideas and books has never been richer.

When writer Ken Wiwa stares outside his office window in search of inspiration, he sees an empty white space like a blank sheet of paper—the snow-covered quadrangle of Massey College at the University of Toronto. “It’s hard to imagine Africa,” he says.

Yet that is what Wiwa, an accomplished non-fiction writer and columnist for *The Globe and Mail*, is currently trying to do: develop his first novel, an exploration of tribal memory and dislocation set amid the

brilliant tropical sunshine, the honking and shouting cacophony, the pollution, exuberance and heat of his family’s native Nigeria. “I’m consistently finding that reports of Africa in the Canadian news media are all about issues, about trouble,” says Wiwa. “It makes you wary of Africa.” And yet, he points out, a recent British poll found that Nigerians rated themselves as the world’s happiest people. “The troubles are real enough, but from the outside, it’s hard to get Africa’s complexity right.”

Nevertheless, a surprising number of Canadian writers have attempted to do just that—some of them with considerable success.

Two of the most recent are Toronto-based M.G. Vassanji, two-time winner of The Giller Prize (most recently for his 2003 novel about Kenya, *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall*), and Gil Courtemanche, the Quebec author of *A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali*. The latter, a best-seller in both French and English Canada, has been translated into 15 languages—the latest being Danish and Croatian, says Carole Boutin, who handles rights for publisher Les Éditions du Boréal.

Canada plays a minor role in these books. Vassanji’s narrators recount their stories from the security of Toronto, but the action takes place in Kenya. His *The Book of Secrets* is partly set in East Africa’s colonial past of railway building and land-clearing.



Vikram Lall takes place mostly during Kenya’s bloody struggle for independence, when the Mau Mau waged war on white colonists, while Indian Kenyans—like the Vassanji family, descendants of indentured workers brought over by the British—waited anxiously in between.

Courtemanche also sets his action in Africa, in Rwanda’s capital city in the period of the Hutu-Tutsi genocide. At the centre is a Québécois journalist and aid worker who is in love with a Hutu woman and dismayed at the failure of a Canadian major-general working for the UN to stop the coming genocide. The cast of characters includes some bumbling Canadian diplomats. So cynical is Courtemanche’s portrait of his compatriots, some might ask why the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) has underwritten some of the novelist’s promotional touring.

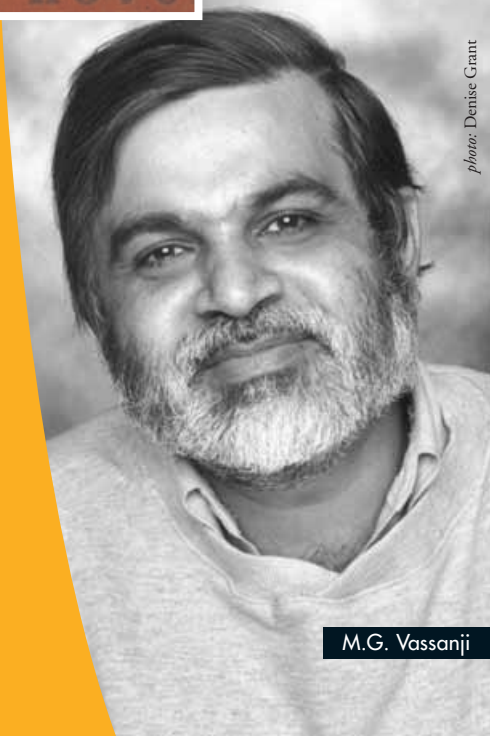
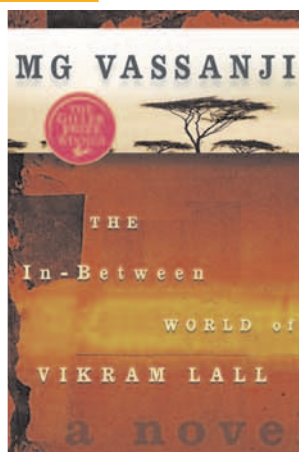


photo: Denise Grant

M.G. Vassanji



Ken Wiwa: "It's hard to imagine Africa."

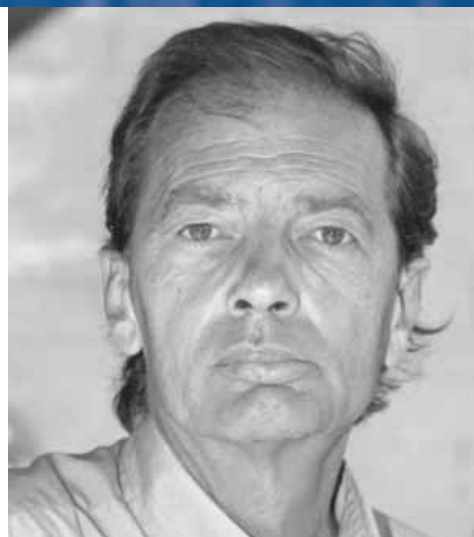
"Courtemanche is just one example of the genre of Canadian authors who are writing so eloquently about Africa," explains Peter Stephens, Program Director for Literature with DFAIT. "While his book is a fictional account of the events in Rwanda, it points to disturbing and uncomfortable facts that may from time to time not cast Canadians in the best light. However, this in no way diminishes the literary merit of the work."

Indeed, these Canadian novels are only the latest in a list that goes back decades—at least to 1970, when Dave Godfrey won the Governor General's fiction award for his novel about Canadian aid workers in West Africa, *The New Ancestors*. (Godfrey also was a founder of the House of Anansi publishers—in fact, he took the name from the great spider trickster figure of West African legend.)

Then there was Margaret Laurence, who wrote of her years with her husband in Somalia and Ghana in *The Prophet's Camel Bell* and in short fiction. Audrey Thomas explored the politics of aid in Ghana in *Coming Down From Wa*. Isabel Huggan set several stories in Nairobi in her collection *You Never Know*. Barbara Gowdy imagined life as a she-elephant in *The White Bone*. Among French-language books, there is Hubert Aquin's *Blackout* and Jean-Jacques Ferron's *Saint Elias*.

These are white writers, preoccupied with the guilt-laden relationships between First- and Third-World people trying to solve Africa's development and justice conundrums. Another group of Canadians, writers of African background, are more concerned about exorcising the traumas of the past, addressing issues of emigration and building a post-colonial identity—people such as Ugandan-born playwright George Seremba; poet and playwright David Odhiambo; and Calgary writer Esi Edugyan, whose debut novel *The Second Life of Samuel Tyne* is being published this year by Knopf Canada.

Whatever their perspective, when writers sit down to create, the vivid tones of Africa tend to transcend the subdued colours of Canada. And yet there's much in these books that parallels Canada's own stories: tales of survival in vast and inhospitable landscapes; dramas of indigenous peoples' contact with Europeans; accounts of the opening of the land



Gil Courtemanche

photo: Pierre Longtin



by railways and capitalists; and, of course, the modern saga of learning to live in multicultural, multilingual communities. Such themes run like subterranean veins through the bedrock of Canadian literature; no surprise that writers working in Canada can detect similar literary gold in other lands.

From his office overlooking a snowy landscape, Ken Wiwa notes, "The only way I can access Africa from Toronto is through memories and music. Perhaps, though, writing from here has its advantages. Once you're there, it's hard to stay distanced." 🍁

THE POWER OF GIVING BACK



Academic dream: Kolawole Olaiya is studying for a PhD in Canada through the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

For more than four decades, African students educated at Canadian universities through the Commonwealth Scholarship have enriched the academic, cultural, business and political life of their home countries—and Canada.

Kolawole Olaiya grew up dreaming of a career as a professor. But it seemed like a long shot. The eldest of seven children born into a family of modest means in western Nigeria, Olaiya spent his early years moving around with his father, who was posted throughout the country as a soldier in the Nigerian army. However, Olaiya's father valued education and made sure his son stayed in one place for high school. From there, Olaiya went to university, earning degrees in dramatic arts and African literature before joining the Nigerian Television Authority to teach scriptwriting.

Still, he dreamed of becoming a full-fledged academic. In 1999, he

applied to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and won a coveted spot. Olaiya could have pursued his studies in more than half a dozen Commonwealth countries, but chose Canada for its high quality of life. This year, as he heads home with a PhD in drama studies from the University of Toronto, he credits the prestigious scholarship with helping to fulfill his dream.

"I am on a mission for knowledge," says Olaiya, 40, who will rejoin the Nigerian Television Authority and also plans to teach at the University of Jos in central Nigeria. "Now it's time to complete my mission and go home and start making use of my knowledge for others."

His ambition is what the architects of the Commonwealth Scholarship had in mind when they established the post-graduate study program. First proposed by Canada and presented by then Secretary of State for External Affairs Sidney Smith at a 1958 meeting of Commonwealth officials, the award enables high-achieving scholars to expand their academic horizons through study abroad at a

Commonwealth university. Participants receive about \$25,000 per year of study to cover tuition, travel for research or conferences and living expenses.

Equally important, though, scholars are expected to return to enrich the academic, cultural, business and political life of their home country.

"Now it's time to complete my mission and go home and start making use of my knowledge for others."

After more than 40 years, the Commonwealth Scholarship is a landmark achievement in Commonwealth cooperation. There are some 500 scholars in the program each year and more than 22,000 scholarship alumni around the world. Some of them are the first PhDs in their countries, becoming leaders in academia, research, business and government. A distinctive feature is the two-way flow of students: Canadians travel abroad to study, for example, while scholars from Commonwealth nations come here.

"It's a proud tradition," says Alan Bowker, Director of International Academic Relations for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). "It's part of a bigger picture of encouraging the freer movement of people, information and ideas in the world."

Canada's participation in the Commonwealth Scholarship, the flagship of several major academic studies programs financed by DFAIT, complements Canadian foreign policy, Bowker says. Canada promotes its identity abroad by assisting foreign scholars, but also gains from the culture, values and experiences of the international students who come to study. "This is the human dimension of foreign policy."

Of the 180 Commonwealth scholars currently at Canadian universities, 51 come from more than a dozen countries in Africa, with the remainder from 30 other nations.

In 2002, a DFAIT-sponsored evaluation of the Commonwealth Scholarship and a similar program offered in non-Commonwealth countries called the Government of Canada Award found that more than 90 percent of recipients credited Canada with assisting their career aspirations. Some 72 percent had returned home following their studies.

Even when they do not return home to stay, Commonwealth scholars find other ways to give back to their homeland. When an attempted coup closed Kenya's universities in 1982, first-year student Njeri Marekia-Cleaveland won a scholarship to complete her undergraduate education at a small private college in upstate New York. There, at the urging of a Canadian-trained teacher,

she applied for and was granted a Commonwealth Scholarship to complete a post-graduate program in environmental studies at York University in Toronto.

"It's part of a bigger picture of encouraging the freer movement of people, information and ideas in the world."

Marekia-Cleaveland later earned two law degrees in Britain and the United States, before returning home to teach at Nairobi's Kenyatta University in the mid-1990s. Now married to an American, she is currently an African specialist at the International Center for Democratic Governance at the University of Georgia in Atlanta, where she conducts specialized training programs for government officials in several African countries.

A highly decorated academic, Marekia-Cleaveland says that her experience as a Commonwealth scholar in Canada shaped her world view. She recalls the pleasant shock of rubbing shoulders at York with a diverse student body—a first in her academic career. During her scholarship-sponsored field research in Alberta and British Columbia, she also witnessed conflicts between development and conservation similar to those at home.

"When I talked about urban issues in the global sense, I could see that Canada was suffering from the same things as Kenya," she says, "and I could see that some of the things that worked in Canada might work in Kenya, too."

Her former mentor at York, Ted Spence, now a senior adviser to the university's president, sees the reciprocal benefits of the Commonwealth Scholarship. "Someone like Njeri enriches the experiences of Canadian students, just as she was enriched by coming to Canada."

Though they come from different countries and academic disciplines, Commonwealth scholars say the award's value extends far beyond the immediate educational benefit.

"It's been a liberating experience," says Olaiya, who is grateful for several years of uninterrupted study that would have been impossible at home. Beyond honing his academic mission, Olaiya says that his exposure to Canadian values, such as respect for diversity of people and ideas, has paid an unexpected dividend. "It has taught me to give back," he says. With Canada in mind, he plans to set up a scholarship for Nigerian students in the name of his late father. ♣

York University:
Commonwealth
scholars encounter
a diverse student
body on campus.



To find out more about the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and other Canadian and international scholarship programs, see www.scholarships-bourses-ca.org.

AFRICA JOURNAL

Each year, hundreds of young Canadians work in Africa as part of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy (YES). The YES Career Focus program gives post-secondary graduates aged 19 to 30 the opportunity to gain international experience in such fields as social development, agriculture, the media, human rights, business and law. Through the magic of the World Wide Web, these youths are sharing their work experiences, observations, challenges and opportunities via on-line journals and success stories presented by DFAIT and CIDA. *Canada World View* brings you some examples of their prolific, colourful—and thought-provoking—on-line writings.

To read more of these stories and to find out about career opportunities for young Canadians through CIDA's International Youth Internship Program and DFAIT's Young Professionals International, visit CIDA's Youth Zone at www.cida.gc.ca/youthzone and DFAIT's site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/ypi-jpi. For information about other government departments participating in Career Focus, visit www.youth.gc.ca.



Dan Garrison
Victoria, BC
eThekweni Housing
Department,
South Africa

Durban is an incredible place. Under the apartheid system, segregation characterized the city. Since apartheid ended in 1994, that segregation has begun to break down. This means the city centre is now bustling with informal markets and street sellers. Mini-bus taxis have completely taken over downtown streets. They drive wildly to the thump of hip-hop music.

I work as a HIV/AIDS and housing program officer with the eThekweni Housing Department. HIV/AIDS is probably the most serious challenge facing "the new South Africa." KwaZulu-Natal is at the centre of the AIDS epidemic. Around 35 percent of adults in this province are HIV-positive. With those levels of infection, I expected to see the impact of the disease everywhere. Strangely, life here seems to be proceeding more or less as normal. There's only one way I can tell I'm in the middle of an epidemic, and that's the number of children on the streets of Durban. AIDS tends to claim the lives of people aged 20 to 40. That's the age when they would be caring for their children. As a result of HIV/AIDS, it is estimated that there will be 470,000 orphans on the streets of KwaZulu-Natal by 2010. Yes, 470,000! Ways must be found to house these children in a caring and community-oriented environment. This is one of the biggest challenges to come.

IN BRIEF

Canada-France 2004

This year, Canada and France are commemorating the 400th anniversary of the first French settlement in North America, and everyone's invited to the celebration. The countries are marking four centuries of continuous relations dating back to 1604, when Pierre Du Gua de Monts settled on Sainte Croix Island with famous cartographer Samuel de Champlain.

The Canada-France 2004 Programme aims to promote Canada's cultural, tourism and economic interests in France, as well as to

commemorate four centuries of dialogue and discovery between the two countries.

The program features a number of activities, including an exhibition on contemporary Canada at the *Cité des sciences et de l'industrie* in Paris, two *Maisons d'interprétation* in Normandy and Charente-maritime, a genealogical research program, the digitization of the archives common to Canada and France and a high-tech installation called the cyber/explorer.

CANADA-FRANCE
1604-2004

CANADA, UN ESPACE POUR L'
A SPACE FOR IMAGINATION



In Canada, the year will also be marked by an exhibition of valuable artifacts from the New France period, which opens in June at the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Find out more about Canada-France 2004 and the year's special events at www.canada-2004.org.



Hannah Cooper
Montreal, QC
United Nations
Development
Programme, Namibia

Namibia is divided into privately owned lands and communal lands. Conservancies unite groups of farmers and rural communities who live on these communal lands. Because the lands are not privately owned, the people who live on them have limited rights over their natural resources. Conservancies provide a management structure. They grant communities certain rights over their natural resources.

At the end of the week, I got a lift with my colleague Sonja from Namibia Nature Foundation out to Khoadi Hoas Conservancy. The project there in part involves minimizing conflicts between elephants and humans over water. I visited one of the water points that the Conservancy will protect from elephants. I met the farmers who will directly benefit from the project. Because the land is so arid, elephants and farmers compete fiercely for water. Apparently, a thirsty elephant is a dangerous elephant. Many farmers have seen their livestock killed, their water points destroyed and their homesteads seriously damaged. Using funds from the Small Grants Program, the Conservancy will protect existing water points. It will also build additional water points exclusively for elephants to use.



Geneviève Asselin
Bellechasse, QC
CONGEH (HIV/AIDS
and gender project),
Cameroon

I wanted to set up a little vegetable garden in the front yard of our apartment. That's when I realized how much we residents of the neighbourhood could do to improve our living conditions.

The neighbourhood has a serious problem: managing waste and making residents realize the importance of sanitation. My friend and I are two enterprising and innovative women who have responded to this problem by starting to reuse our organic waste to make compost. We set up a community composter in the yard of our apartment for all tenants to use. We then launched a clean-up campaign with the tenants of the building. We sought to make them aware that waste was piling up in a space that could be used as a vegetable garden to meet their food requirements. Some laughed mockingly. Some were pessimistic. Others were doubtful. Eventually, some tenants got involved in clearing, fertilizing and setting up the garden.

Thanks to the tenants' involvement, we now have a community vegetable garden. We have planted pistachio nuts, sugar cane, beans, watermelons, yams, sweet potatoes, papayas, mangoes and bananas. We have a composter that will enrich the soil for future crops. Change begins at home, and development starts with involvement at the grassroots level.



Graham Willis
Toronto, ON
Ministry of Justice
and Supreme Court,
Cape Verde

It's just a matter of days now [until I finish my human rights work here.] Days until the dusty streets, toothless smiles, shoeless children, cobbled streets, a waterless home and Krioulu are behind me, becoming a place so far away, distant and mythical. And the concrete, skyscrapers, consumerism, human coldness and greed will surround me once again, oblivious to that place where a soccer ball or bicycle rim provides all the happiness in the world.

What is this place that was so foreign and alien for four months, this place where children sit on your lap when there is no more room on the bus, where a rural subsistence farmer gives you his last egg, where kindness and care have no limits, not for money, not for property or goods, not for anything?

Suddenly I see the ignorance in the world, and where it lies, it lies in me, in my desire to leave this place, to abandon it, to return to bigger things and a secure life. Suddenly I see why this place remains so polarized from my land. What do I leave behind here? What have my efforts resulted in? What have I done? And of those back home? How will I ever explain this to them? Do they care to listen? Do they have the time? Will the reality of my experiences even hit home for someone else? Will they ever care to open their eyes to the rest of the world?

Update on Afghanistan

Canada's 3D—diplomacy, defence and development—effort continues in Afghanistan (see *Canada World View* Issue 20).

Canadian Lieutenant-General Rick Hillier has assumed command of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul, Afghanistan. In addition, a new contingent of Canadian Forces has assumed responsibilities there, renewing Canada's involvement in the ISAF mission to help maintain security in Kabul and the surrounding area so that the

Afghan Transitional Authority and UN agencies can function.

See lots of new features and get the most up-to-date news on Canada's involvement in Afghanistan at www.canada-afghanistan.gc.ca.

Adventure Starts Here!

Thinking of working, studying or visiting abroad? A new Web site called Youth...On the Move! offered by DEART's Youth and Academic Mobility Unit for Europe makes it easy for young people to look for exciting job, educational and travel opportunities overseas.

The 21st century brings with it possibilities for young Canadians and Europeans to work or travel on both sides of the Atlantic. The new Web site is designed to promote youth and academic programs in both Canada and Europe. Find out more about international work and volunteer opportunities, internships and apprenticeships, scholarships, grants and bursaries, travel tips, the experiences of others abroad—and much more!

Start on your road to adventure at www.youthonthemove.gc.ca.



Help us keep our records up to date. If you are moving, receiving duplicate copies or no longer wish to receive *Canada World View*, simply amend your address label using block letters and return it to us.

You can send changes by fax to (613) 992-5791, e-mail at rsm-cwv@dfait-maeci.gc.ca or write to:
Canada World View, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 125 Sussex Drive, BCS C-2, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0G2

Post Office: If undelivered, please return to above address.

Street Scene

When she moved to Nairobi, Kenya in 2001, Ottawa photographer Tania Turner became fascinated with street artisans and the rich burst of colour they bring to the urban landscape as they make and sell their wares, and she began photographing them. The result is an exhibition of photographs called *Wasanii Wa Kenya* (Artisans of Kenya).

Turner, a photo editor and archivist in Nairobi, says that her “perennial interest in creative individuals and their artistic output draws me into their environments. Their work—in contrast to that of many Canadian artists—takes place in public, often in open shops or by the side of the road. This affords us the opportunity to interact with them and to see how they transform wood into striking sculptures, papyrus plants into furniture, beads into works of art and adornment, nylon into vibrant baskets and recycled glass into brilliant murals.”

- 1 Mary Wanjiru
Wool carpets
- 2 (left to right) Martin Joroge
and Samuel Njoroge
Painted terra cotta pots
- 3 (left to right) Nasieku Shakuru,
Naisoi Rasha and Talash Ngai
Bead necklaces
- 4 John Kiongora
Wood sculpture
- 5 Amos Wanchira
Stained glass
- 6 Mutheu Mwangangi
Grass baskets

photos: Tania Turner

